

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Field Trip: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

Trip Leader: Kurt Schwarz

Date of Trip: Saturday, December 5, 2015

Number: 9

Details: Details: Weather: Sunny. High 30s climbing into low 50s. Light north breeze.

We started at the Cambridge Visitor Center, where bird life was sparse, though a **Peregrine** livened things up. After a stop at the Wawa for refreshment, we cruised the Cambridge waterfront and found waterfowl to again be sparse. A Cooper's Hawk posed for lots of photos and admiration at Great Marsh Park.

The trip down Egypt Road was pretty lackluster, only two Horned Larks. Blackwater Refuge was the next stop, and all the expected species were found on the first wooded trail to include Brown-headed Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, and Winter Wren. The Wildlife Loop yielded a whopping **66** (at least) **American White Pelicans**. Lunch at the Visitor Center turned up a handsome male Northern Harrier, but photo ops were elusive. We finished the day with a drive to Hooper's Island, but bird life there was wan as well.

- Snow Goose- 6
- Canada Goose- 1200
- Tundra Swan - 60
- Mallard - 80
- N. Shoveller - 3
- N. Pintail - 55
- Green-winged Teal - 1
- Bufflehead - 81
- Hooded Merganser - 4
- Ruddy Duck - 1
- Common Loon - 2
- Double-crested Cormorant - 1
- Am. White Pelican - 66
- Great Blue Heron - 3
- Turkey Vulture - 12
- N Harrier - 3
- Cooper's Hawk - 1
- Bald Eagle - 20
- Red-tailed Hawk - 1
- Ring-billed Gull - 72
- Herring Gull - 27
- Great Black-backed Gull - 305
- Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
- Peregrine - 1
- American Crow - 1
- Fish Crow - 19
- Horned Lark - 2
- Carolina Chickadee - 5
- Brown-headed Nuthatch - 12
- Brown Creeper - 1
- Winter Wren - 1
- Carolina Wren - 1
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 3
- E. Bluebird - 4
- Hermit Thrush - 1
- Am. Robin - 1
- N. Mockingbird - 1
- E. Starling - 230
- Yellow-rumped Warbler - 3
- Field Sparrow - 2
- Savannah Sparrow - 20
- Song Sparrow - 22
- Swamp Sparrow - 6
- N. Cardinal - 2
- Red-winged Blackbird - 151
- E. Meadowlark - 7

- Downy Woodpecker - 1
- Am. Kestrel - 2

- House Sparrow - 3