

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Field Trip: Howard Waterfowl Search

Trip Leader: Kurt Schwarz

Date of Trip: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Locations: Lake Elkhorn, GE Retention Pond, Wilde Lake, Centennial Lake, Brighton Dam.

Details: The Spring 2016 Waterfowl Search began under cloudy skies, with a temperature of 34 degrees. It rose to about 41 by the end of the trip. We began with a trip around Lake Elkhorn, at variance with the usual procedure of just walking the south shore. We had hoped the Winter Wren and Baltimore Oriole noted on the north shore would manifest themselves, but to no avail. Waterfowl were limited to the ubiquitous Canada Goose, a few Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers, and a Coot. **A Cooper's Hawk caught a cowbird, putting a nice show.** Next stop was the GE Retention Pond, which yielded the male Redhead reported the day before, along with Bufflehead, Ring-necks, and Hooded Mergansers. Wilde Lake was pretty much devoid of anything, aside from the usual Canada Geese, a handful of Mallards, and one Coot. Centennial yielded more variety, with a single drake Canvasback, two Ring-necks, four Bufflehead, eight Ruddy Ducks, and two Pied-billed Grebes. We ended at Brighton Dam, which produced four Common Mergansers, four Hooded, and the only Double-crested Cormorant. Two Common Ravens were a nice surprise at Brighton. No eagles there, however.

- Canada Goose 166
- Mallard 13
- Canvasback 1
- Redhead 1
- Ring-necked Duck 20
- Bufflehead 9
- Hooded Merganser 27
- Common Merganser 4
- Ruddy Duck 8
- Pied-billed Grebe 2
- Double-crested Cormorant 1
- Great Blue Heron 3
- Black Vulture 23
- Turkey Vulture 6
- Cooper's Hawk 2
- Red-Shouldered Hawk 3
- American Coot 2
- Killdeer 1
- Ring-billed Gull 37
- Mourning Dove 4
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
- Downy Woodpecker 3
- Blue Jay 7
- American Crow 8
- Fish Crow 21
- Common Raven 2
- Carolina Chickadee 4
- Tufted Titmouse 8
- White-breasted Nuthatch 3
- Carolina Wren 6
- Eastern Bluebird 4
- American Robin 15
- Northern Mockingbird 2
- European Starling 59
- Dark-eyed Junco 1
- White-throated Sparrow 8
- Song Sparrow 13
- Northern Cardinal 20
- Red-winged Blackbird 25
- Common Grackle 38
- Brown-headed Cowbird 5
- House Finch 3
- American Goldfinch 17
- House Sparrow 55