

# Howard County, Maryland

## Sparrow Big Days

Bonnie Ott and Joanne Solem

**Sparrow Big Day 11. October 13, 2013.** Leader: Bonnie Ott. Recorders: Joe Hanfman and Josh Emm. Total participants: 11. Tom Feild, John Harris, Karen Darcy Heffernan, Howard Patterson, Kurt Schwarz, Chuck Stirrat, + 2. Weather: Not recorded. Time: 7:15 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Total sparrow species: 11. Meeting site: Mt. Pleasant. Notable bird species: Northern Pintail, Wilson’s Snipe, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, a strangely-plumaged Savannah Sparrow - Alpha Ridge Landfill. Merlin – Fox Chase Wetlands. Marsh Wren – Western Regional Park. Blue-winged Teal, Wilson’s Snipe, Northern Harrier – Waterford Farm.

The Short-eared Owl at the landfill was the high point of the trip for most participants. The other notable bird was a strangely-plumaged Savannah Sparrow described on Joe’s photograph as having “reddish wing primaries and coverts and bold white outer tail feathers.” A long, but highly productive day.