

Howard County, Maryland

Sparrow Big Days

Bonnie Ott and Joanne Solem

Sparrow Big Day 2 October 10, 2004. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Total participants: ?. (Emmalyn Holdridge, Joanne Solem, all names not available), Weather: Mostly cloudy, fog until mid-a.m., a little sun then overcast again; high of 76 F.; cold west wind increased during a.m. Time: 7:30 a.m. – late a.m. Total sparrow species: 9. Meeting site: UMDCF. Notable bird species: American Black Duck, Nelson's Sparrow – UMDCF. Purple Finch – Mt. Pleasant.

The best bird of the trip was a Nelson's Sparrow in vegetation on the north side of pond 2 at the UMDCF. Initially, it did not appear very brightly colored under the cloudy sky. When it flew to the east side of the pond, not only was that a better viewing angle, but the sun had emerged so the face appeared much brighter.

The group went on to Mt. Pleasant where Purple Finches were spotted, but viewing conditions were neither particularly pleasant nor productive so there was no enthusiasm for going elsewhere. The "day" ended before noon.