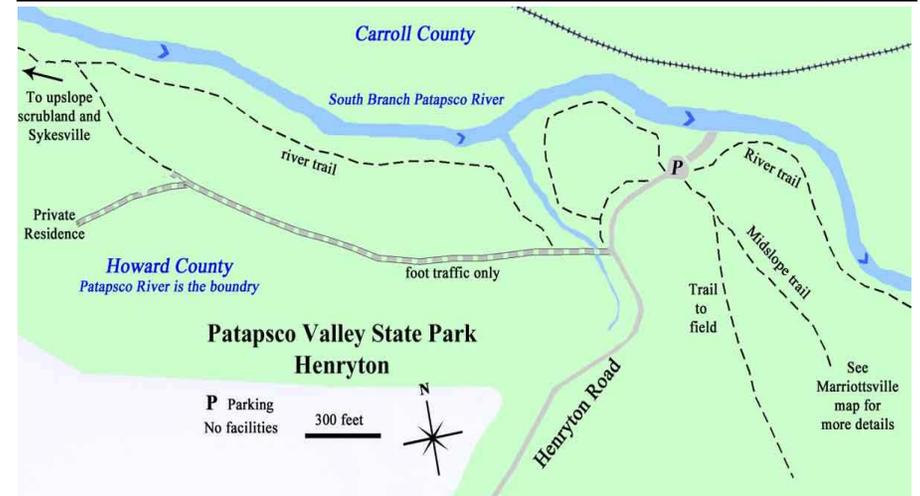


*Howard County Bird Club*

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

**Henryton Site Guide**

**PVSP**  
**Henryton**  
**Road**



**Highlights:** Mature floodplain and upland deciduous forest; some field and edge. Many of the county's rarer birds and wildflowers may be found here. Spring and fall bring waves of Neotropical migrants. From late May into early June, mountain laurel is in bloom. **GPS:** N39 21 01.5 W76 54 51.8

**Size:** Henryton Road accesses a portion of the 14,000-acre Patapsco Valley State Park (PVSP) which runs 32 miles along the Patapsco River.

**Trails/Paths:** The upstream (west) trail is generally level, if sometimes muddy, and runs along the river for several miles before turning upslope into the Sykesville scrubland. The downstream (east) trails have some steep and difficult sections before reaching Marriottsville Road in 1.3 miles.

**Best Time to Visit:** Mid-April through May and September into October for migrants; late spring and early summer for nesting Neotropical warblers.

**Coverage Time:** One hour to a half day or more.

**Notable Birds:** Wild Turkey, Black-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager.

**Amenities:** No facilities. Alpha Ridge Park has the closest public facilities. (Return to the intersection of Henryton Road and Old Frederick Road; turn left for 0.7 miles to the park entrance on the right.)

**Operation and Hours:** State park hours are 8:00 a.m. till dusk.

**Layout:** Henryton Road leads downhill from Old Frederick Road (MD 99) to the South Branch of the Patapsco River, ending almost at the river where a bridge once crossed. The road is narrow with few shoulders. Note: It is often cooler near the river and an extra layer of clothing is often appreciated on spring mornings.

**Handicapped Access:** Parking is on asphalt. There is good birding from the parking area. The upstream road which becomes the main trail has a few gentle grades but is generally level, if sometimes muddy. Downstream trails have moderate to steep slopes and will be difficult for the mobility impaired.

**Birding:** As you turn onto Henryton Road, begin listening for field birds such as Eastern Meadowlark and farther down the road listen for Worm-eating Warblers along the slopes on the left and Louisiana Waterthrushes in the stream valley to the right. Park at the turnaround (deadend near the river) leaving space for others at this popular area. Do not block the road and bridge 100 yards south of the turnaround area.

Generally, the peak migration periods run from April 25 to May 25 and from August 20 to October 15. In the spring, the best dates are usually in the middle of the period.

Nesting birds found in early summer include some of the species which need extensive woodlands. Yellow-throated

Warblers are found high in the sycamores. Cerulean Warblers are also treetop birds. Both species usually nest at Henryton in small numbers. Louisiana Waterthrushes sing along the streams and river. Listen for the fast, high-pitched trill of Worm-eating Warblers near the steeper, deeper woodlands. Acadian Flycatcher, three vireo species, Wood Thrush, Veery, Ovenbird, Kentucky and Hooded warblers, and Scarlet Tanagers should be sought here in late spring and early summer. This is also a good location for Pileated and Hairy woodpeckers. In late spring, watch the high riverbanks on the opposite shore for nesting Rough-winged Swallows. Wild Turkeys have been reported adjacent to Henryton Road and along the trails near the river.

Scan the river for Wood Ducks and listen for the rattle of Belted Kingfishers. You may catch a glimpse of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo or warblers flitting in the trees.

**Deer Hunts:** There may be a deer hunting season in the fall and winter. See the section on Patapsco Valley Hunting Guide on the following website:  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscovalley.htm> or Department of Natural Resources.

**Seasonal Bird List:** A complete seasonal bird list is on the HCBC's web page. There are also butterfly, dragonfly, mammal, amphibian and reptile lists. The URL is [http://www.howardbirds.org/birdinghowardcounty/PVSP/PVSP\\_species\\_lists.htm#bird](http://www.howardbirds.org/birdinghowardcounty/PVSP/PVSP_species_lists.htm#bird)

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This material is a digest taken from the revised version of *Birding Howard County, Maryland* by Joanne K. Solem. More than 40 sites are available at the above website.