

Summary of the 2020 Howard County Fall Count

by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat

The twenty seventh annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 19th, 2020 with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be better than expected. Countywide the total number of bird species was up by 2 while the number of individuals was up by 1,568. For the warblers, the species count was the same as last year while the number of individual warblers was up by 112.

The number of participants, parties, and the overall effort as measured by the hours and miles continued to remain strong in spite of the unusual circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing difficulty experienced with fewer birds in the field.

2020 Count Data

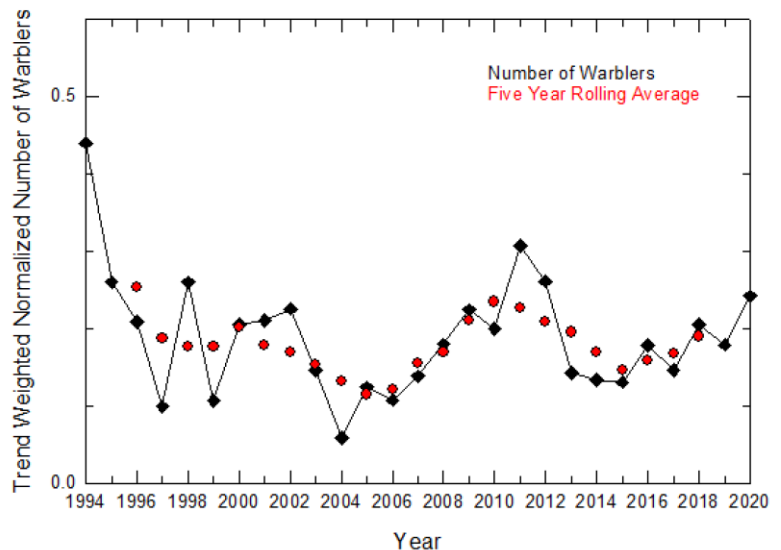
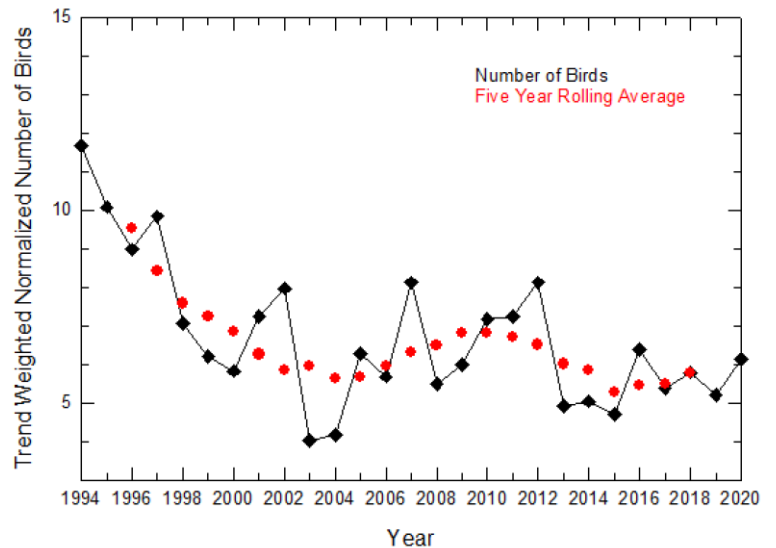
	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
Numbers	126	11,683	26	460	
Historical High:Low	140 : 108	26,651 : 9,293	30 : 13	1,004 : 130	
Year 's of High : Low	2010 : 2004	1994 : 2004	1994 : 2004	1994 : 2004	
Averages for Birds & Species	124.89	15,182.56	23.63	428.11	
Counters : Parties					62 : 57
Counters : Parties Averages					54.6 : 33.3
Counters Hours : Miles					228.4 : 451.2
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					196.4 : 411.1

Saturday's temperature started at 41 degrees [dew point 38] at 6:00AM with scattered clouds. The temperature rose to 64 degrees [dew point 43] in late afternoon. Winds were light from midmorning until early evening staying generally below 2 mph with a single light gust clocked at 14 mph. Parties in the western end of the county reported morning temperatures in the high 30's, with one report of a pocket of frost in a low spot on the Cattail Creek floodplain. A wonderful fall preview.

The graphics for the total number of individual birds and warblers observed countywide is represented by their Rolling Five Year Average [RFYA] data. The RFYA's seems to support that the numbers had reached their lows during the mid 2000's, began to rise, went through another decline, then rising again. A close examination of the graphics suggest that the total birds are very slowly decreasing while the warblers are borderline increasing. It is worth noting that the RFYA is by design slow to change direction and requires several years of sighting increases or decreases to respond.

There were 19 species [up 3] for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and 10 species [down 10] for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. Species showing moderately high numbers (>500) and their change from last year are: European Starling, 1,360 [+83]; Canada Goose, 869 [-314]; Broad-winged Hawk, 849 [+706]; and Blue Jay, 713 [+57].

Bird count participants are Debbie Belchis, Bill & Karan Blum, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Ken Clark, Mary Lou Clark, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis Coskren, Jeff & Karen



Culler, Ralph Cullison III, Susan & **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Jane & Joe Hanfman, Meg & **John Harris (Area 6 Coordinator)**, **Kevin Heffernan (Area 3 Coordinator)**, Bill & Gayle Hill, David Holmes, Steve Jones, Michael Kerwin, Brenda Kidera, Clayton Koonce, Mike Leumas, **Allen Lewis (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Janet Lydon, Mary Maxey, **Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator & Area 4 Coordinator)**, Karlyn & Kevin McPartland, Barry Miller, **Brian Moyer (Area 2 Coordinator)**, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Cyndy & Steve Parr, Howard Patterson, Mike & Pam Perna, Suzanne Probst, Mary Prowell, Adam Rhoades, Ricardo & Sarah Romero, Russ Ruffing, David Sandler, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Jay Sheppard, Sharon Smith, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat County Co-coordinator**, Tim Thompson, Robin Todd, Kristin Trouton, Anthony VanSchoor, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Kelsey Wellons, and Michele Wright.

Due to fact that only one Field Sheet was submitted for butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies the effort is terminated. For those interested in the results please see the Fall Count report submitted in 2019 on the Club's website

The complete table of individual species counts by sub-area is on the next page.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well. Next year the 2021 Fall Count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 18th. Volunteers for area coordinators are needed for some areas for next year.

Howard County Fall Count 2020 Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:	Fall	Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/19/2020
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	
Canada Goose	A	110	163	161	345	58	16	16	869
Wood Duck	B	24	2	7					33
Mallard	A	12	4	4	11	28		14	73
American Black Duck	B	4							4
Rock Pigeon	A	27		3		30		3	63
Mourning Dove	A	251	80	41	15	29	12	15	443
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	5		2					7
Chimney Swift	A		1	112	4	43			160
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	5	5	3	2		1		16
Killdeer	A	1			15	19			35
Least Sandpiper	B					2			2
Pectoral Sandpiper	B					1			1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	* C					1			1
Wilson's Snipe	* C				1				1
Spotted Sandpiper	B	1							1
Solitary Sandpiper	B	1		1	1				3
Double-crested Cormorant	B	1	5	1	1	2		1	11
Great Blue Heron	A	5	5	3	1	3		6	23
Great Egret	B		1		3				4
Green Heron	A	2		2	1	2		1	8
Black Vulture	A	86	14	44	17	8	2	17	188
Turkey Vulture	A	85	61	56	12	17	8	24	263
Osprey	B	1	1	1	1	1			5
Northern Harrier	B	1				1			2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	1		3	1	1			6
Cooper's Hawk	B	5	3	3	1	1			13
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	B	3	6	12	5	1		2	29
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	20	10	18	9	9	3	10	79
Broad-winged Hawk	B	40	495	95	200	4	10	5	849
Red-tailed Hawk	A	7	4	4	4	1		1	21
Eastern Screech-Owl	B					1			1
Great Horned Owl	B	2		1					3
Barred Owl	B	2			4		2	1	9
Belted Kingfisher	A	3	5	3	3	4	1	3	22
Red-headed Woodpecker	* C	1		1				10	12
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	58	35	33	29	23	10	34	222
Downy Woodpecker	A	40	12	17	20	17	8	31	145
Hairy Woodpecker	A	7	6	2	2	3	2	2	24
Northern Flicker	A	29	7	13	18	13	6	8	94
Pileated Woodpecker	A	17	3	3	3	2	7	2	37
American Kestrel	A	2	1	7	3				13
Great Crested Flycatcher	@ A			1		1			2
Eastern Kingbird	@ A			1					1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	23	10	15	4	9	4	5	70
Acadian Flycatcher	* A			1					1
<i>Trail's Flycatcher</i>	* B			1					1
Least Flycatcher	* B			1					1
<i>Empidonax species</i>		4			1				5
Eastern Phoebe	A	9	11	7	9	1	2	8	47
White-eyed Vireo	A	5		2		1			8
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	1				3			4
Blue-headed Vireo	B	1		1		2			4

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Species & Codes (1)	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Philadelphia Vireo	* C			3					3
Warbling Vireo	B	1							1
Red-eyed Vireo	A	16	5	21	8	10	4	10	74
Blue Jay	A	103	125	159	95	88	47	96	713
American Crow	A	120	86	108	18	25	36	50	443
Fish Crow	A	17	1	150					168
<i>crow species</i>		18	40	172	39		11	42	322
Common Raven	*	4	1	2	1	1		1	10
Tree Swallow	A		1	3					4
Barn Swallow	A	1		1					2
Carolina Chickadee	A	33	7	20	32	36	11	36	175
Tufted Titmouse	A	28	12	19	23	17	8	34	141
Red-breasted Nuthatch	* C		1	10		2	2		15
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	52	13	17	12	20	1	13	128
House Wren	A	3	4	7		5		4	23
Marsh Wren	* C					1			1
Carolina Wren	A	99	26	43	35	41	25	65	334
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A		1		1	2			4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	@ A			1				1	2
Eastern Bluebird	A	120	40	53	21	38	32	14	318
Veery	B		1						1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* C	1							1
Swainson's Thrush	B	4	3	3		5		2	17
Wood Thrush	A	3		1		2			6
American Robin	A	148	60	82	18	64	10	54	436
Gray Catbird	A	59	30	73	42	45	41	28	318
Brown Thrasher	A	1	3	5		1	2	2	14
Northern Mockingbird	A	26	9	22	2	17	13	6	95
European Starling	A	674	249	179	135	102	11	10	1,360
Cedar Waxwing	A	14	9	27	14			29	93
House Sparrow	A	77	3	1	7	6	2	36	132
House Finch	A	87	14	22	8	15	14	11	171
Purple Finch	* C	2		2	1				5
American Goldfinch	A	225	28	56	31	30	40	24	434
Grasshopper Sparrow	@ B			2					2
Chipping Sparrow	A	84	37	62		18	4	2	207
Field Sparrow	A	5		7					12
Savannah Sparrow	* B			10					10
Song Sparrow	A	15	3	12	1	1	2		34
<i>unidentified sparrow</i>		9							9
Eastern Towhee	A	26	3	9	7	1	1		47
Yellow-breasted Chat	A						1		1
Eastern Meadowlark	A		1	2					3
Baltimore Oriole	A			1					1
Red-winged Blackbird	A		1	41	2		1	12	57
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	185		2		5		2	194
Common Grackle	A	3	4		7		42	129	185
Ovenbird	A	3		1	1			1	6
Northern Waterthrush	B	1							1
Blue-winged Warbler	@ B	1							1
Black-&-white Warbler	A	8	4	8	2	6	5	5	38
Tennessee Warbler	B	1		3	2			1	7

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Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Nashville Warbler	B				1			1	2
Mourning Warbler	** C			1					1
Common Yellowthroat	A	16	3	12	4	23	4	5	67
American Redstart	A	11		11	5	8	10	8	53
Cape May Warbler	B		2	3				1	6
Northern Parula	A	13	3	11	3	2	3	5	40
Magnolia Warbler	A	5	11	11	6	6	11	8	58
Bay-breasted Warbler	B	2	2	3	2	1			10
Blackburnian Warbler	B	3	1	2	2	2			10
Yellow Warbler	@ A			1					1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	2	1	8		3		2	16
Blackpoll Warbler	B				2				2
Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	A	7	1	6	3	5		1	23
Palm Warbler	@ A	3			2	1			6
Pine Warbler	B	2		2	1			1	6
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	A				7		1		8
Yellow-throated Warbler	B	2							2
Prairie Warbler	A			2					2
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	B	22	2	19	2	4	2	6	57
Canada Warbler	B	1	1	1					3
<i>warbler species</i>		24		4		1	4		33
Scarlet Tanager	A	4	4	1	2	1		1	13
Northern Cardinal	A	127	36	72	75	48	28	71	457
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	5	2	5				1	13
Blue Grosbeak	B			4		2		1	7
Indigo Bunting	A	51	5	9		4			69
Area Total Birds:		3,479	1,849	2,296	1,428	1,057	523	1,051	11,683
Area Total Species:		93	72	100	72	77	47	65	126
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Supplemental Data									
Time Start:		6:40 a	6:30 a	6:55 a	7:30 a	5:36 a	7:33 a	7:00 a	5:36 a
Time Stop:		8:00 p	4:45 p	6:00 p	6:32 p	4:00 p	3:00 p	6:00 p	8:00 p
Hours on Foot:		57.8	15.4	34.0	21.7	15.5	14.1	16.0	174.4
Hours by Car:		16.5	8.9	1.2	1.2	.3		1.3	29.4
Hours by Boat:									
Hours Other:									
Miles on Foot:		26.1	15.7	26.5	17.9	13.2	9.7	14.0	123.0
Miles by Car:		137.0	88.5	5.3	17.0	2.9		76.0	326.7
Miles by Boat:									
Miles Other:									
Hours Feeder Watching:		.5	4.2	.4	1.5	1.7		2.0	10.3
Hours Stationary:		7.2	1.9	.1	3.8				13.0
Hours "Owling":		1.1				.2			1.3
Miles "Owling":		1.5							1.5
County Weather		Temperature		%Clouds		Wind (Speed & Dir.)		Precip.(Type & Amt.)	
Dawn		41	° F	10%		2	SSE	None	
AM		51.6	° F	10%		4	SE	None	
Noon		58.3	° F	10%		9	ESE	None	
PM		63	° F	10%		6	ESE	None	
Dusk		54.9	° F	10%		2	S	None	
Comments on Weather:		Beautiful fall-like day. Some areas had lows in 30's at start.							

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Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
(.e.g amount of ice, fog, etc.)	Pocket of frost, Cattail floodplain 1A							
Area Code:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Deer Seen:	58	1					4	63
Total Observers in Area:	14	10	12	8	11	9	10	62
Total Parties in Area:	11	6	9	7	8	7	9	57
Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	74.3	24.3	35.2	22.9	15.8	14.1	17.3	203.8
Tot. Party Hours (Feeder Watch):	.5	4.2	.4	1.5	1.7		2.0	10.3
Total Party-Hours (Station'y):	7.2	1.9	.1	3.8				13.0
Total Party-Hours (Owling):	1.1				.2			1.3
Total Party-Hours:	83.1	30.4	35.7	28.2	17.7	14.1	19.3	228.4
Total Party-Miles:	164.6	103.9	31.8	34.9	16.1	9.7	90.0	450.9
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals