

# Abstract of the 2021 Howard County Fall Count

by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat

The twenty-eighth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be below average with results down countywide with the one exception noted below which barely changed. The total number of bird species was down 14 from last year while the number of individuals was down by 43 [ $< 0.05\%$ ]. For the warblers, the species count was down 8 while the number of individual warblers was down by 110.

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

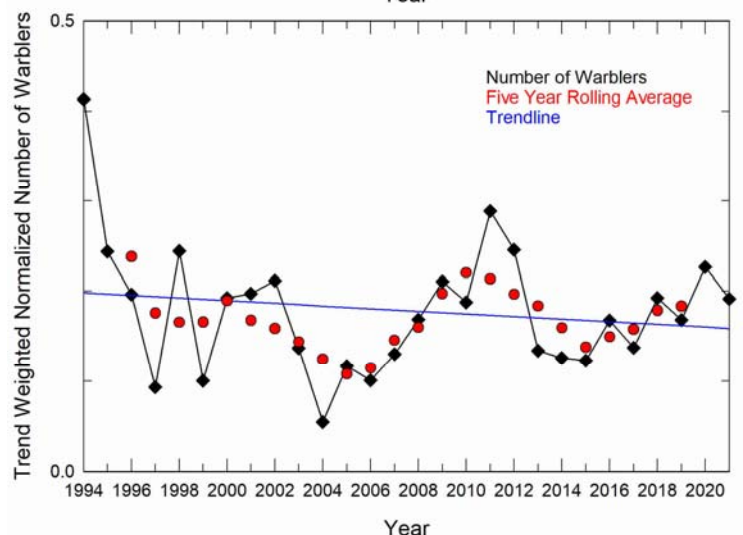
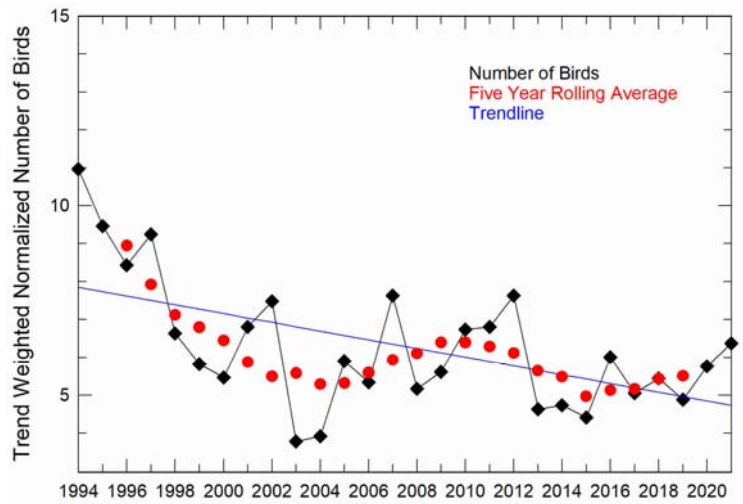
## 2021 Count Data

	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
Numbers	112	11,640	18	350	
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	124.39	15,056.04	23.43	425.32	
Counters : Parties					54 : 50
Counters : Parties Averages					54.5 : 34.1
Counters Hours : Miles					211.5 : 531.8
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					195.8 : 419.2

Saturday's temperature started at 66 degrees [dew point 64] at 6:00AM with full cloud cover and fog reported in some areas. The temperature rose to 84 degrees [dew point 76] in late afternoon. Winds were light to nonexistent from midmorning until early evening. Areas with morning fog were clear by noon while the cloud cover remained throughout the day. The temperature and dew point made for uncomfortable conditions; imagine how much worse it would have been with full sun for the day.

The graphics for the total number of individual birds and warblers observed countywide is represented by their Rolling Five Year Average [RFYA]. 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. However, close examination of the trendline suggests that the total birds are in decline. Note that the first four years of bird data appear to be higher than the other years and is accounted for by the active county dump off Marriottsville Road that easily added 3,000 to 4,000- gulls on each count. Excluding those years would flatten the trendline but it would still be in decline. The warblers are also in borderline decline. It is worth noting that the RFYA and the trendline are by design slow to change direction and requires several years of sighting increases or decreases to respond.

There were 11 species [down 9] for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and 10 species [no change] for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. Species showing moderately high numbers (>500) and their change from last year are: European



Starling, 882 [-478]; Canada Goose, 844 [-25]; Mourning Dove, 764 [+321]; Blue Jay, 762 [+49]; American Crow, 551 [+108]; and American Robin, 527 [+91].

Bird count participants are: Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Lenore Charnigo, Ken Clark, **Mary Lou Clark (Area 6 Coordinator)**, Julia Cooper, Dennis Coskren, Jeff & Karen Culler, Ralph Cullison III, Susan & **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Joe Hanfman, John & Meg Harris, Bill & Gayle Hill, Michael Kerwin, Clayton Koonce, Russell Kovach, Mike Leumas, **Allen Lewis (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Rachael Mady, Mary Maxey, **Mike McClure (Area 4 & County Co-coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Kari McPartland, Karlyn McPartland, **Brian Moyer (Area 2 Coordinator)**, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Karen Osteen, Steve Parr, Howard Patterson, Pam Perna, **Gregg Petersen (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Suzanne Probst, Mary Prowell, Russ Ruffing, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Jay Sheppard, Jo Solem, **Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator)**, Marcy Stutzman, Valerie Swan, Robin Todd, Laura Van Faasen, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Kelsey Wellons, Sarah Wiesbroch.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well if held. Next year the 2022 Fall Count will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September which will be the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Howard2021 WebTable Final County Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:		Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/18/2021
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	Fall 2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Canada Goose	A	201	99	126	73	102	25	218	844
Wood Duck	B	11		4	2	1		12	30
Mallard	A	1		18	16	37		7	79
Wild Turkey	* C	12						20	32
Pied-billed Grebe	* B			1		1			2
Rock Pigeon	A	92	4	29	21	20	2	35	203
Mourning Dove	A	273	53	212	29	59	25	113	764
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	5		2					7
Common Nighthawk	B		2	14					16
Chimney Swift	A	6		9		2	4	39	60
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	11	1	13	3	10	1	7	46
Common Gallinule	** C			1					1
Killdeer	A	2	3	2					7
Spotted Sandpiper	B		3	1					4
Greater Yellowlegs	B		1						1
Double-crested Cormorant	B	1		2	2	4		3	12
Great Blue Heron	A	10	5	9	4	5		6	39
Great Egret	B		1					1	2
Green Heron	A	3	3	9	6	4	1	3	29
Black Vulture	A	33	2	21	2	3	3	6	70
Turkey Vulture	A	280	5	70	7	44	4	14	424
Osprey	B	1		1	2				4
Cooper's Hawk	B	4		2			1	1	8
<i>accipiter species</i>				2					2
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	B	4	3	4	2				13
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	27	5	21	4	12	1	18	88
Broad-winged Hawk	B	30		27				1	58
Red-tailed Hawk	A	6		2		2		4	14
Eastern Screech-Owl	B	1		1	3	1			6
Great Horned Owl	B	2							2
Barred Owl	B	1		2	2				5
Belted Kingfisher	A	10	4	7	2	2	1	1	27
Red-headed Woodpecker	* C			2					2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	91	15	65	17	35	8	41	272
Downy Woodpecker	A	56	7	52	8	24	3	33	183
Hairy Woodpecker	A	7	3	11		3	2	5	31
Northern Flicker	A	19		32	7	20		30	108
Pileated Woodpecker	A	25	7	19	1	6	1	12	71
American Kestrel	A	2		5					7
Merlin	* C		1		1				2
Peregrine Falcon	** C	1							1
Great Crested Flycatcher	@ A		1		1			1	3
Eastern Kingbird	@ A	1		2				2	5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	31	7	23	2	10	1	7	81
Acadian Flycatcher	* A	1	1	7					9
<i>Trail's Flycatcher</i>	* B			1		1			2
<i>Empidonax species</i>		4		4					8
Eastern Phoebe	A	16	1	20	6	4		10	57
White-eyed Vireo	A	3	2	11	1	9	4		30
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	6		4				1	11
Blue-headed Vireo	B	1		1					2
Philadelphia Vireo	* C							1	1
Warbling Vireo	B					1			1

**Howard2021 WebTable Final County Totals**

<b>BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.</b>		<b>Season:</b>		<b>Type:</b>		<b>Area:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Species &amp; Codes (1) / Area No.:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Red-eyed Vireo	A	22	14	36	3	29		6	110
Blue Jay	A	162	24	198	89	74	27	188	762
American Crow	A	182	28	102	41	64	13	121	551
Fish Crow	A	34		33	2	4		14	87
<i>crow species</i>		213		23	7	1		72	316
Common Raven		6	2	1				1	10
Carolina Chickadee	A	75	2	96	9	34	10	52	278
Tufted Titmouse	A	53	5	91	7	38	3	46	243
Horned Lark	* C			4	50				54
Tree Swallow	A	4						4	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	** A							1	1
Cedar Waxwing	A	10	1	33	1			4	49
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	59	7	67	13	38	1	39	224
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	4		2	1			3	10
House Wren	A	9	1	16	2	11		10	49
Winter Wren	@ B	1							1
Carolina Wren	A	82	12	96	32	66	13	100	401
Gray Catbird	A	64	19	103	42	54	38	50	370
Brown Thrasher	A	10		15		3	3	1	32
Northern Mockingbird	A	36	6	46	4	14	17	35	158
European Starling	A	204	78	310	18	65	6	201	882
Eastern Bluebird	A	138	15	109	30	34	25	45	396
Veery	B	3		3		3			9
Swainson's Thrush	B	2	1	1		2			6
Wood Thrush	A	7	3	2	1	2			15
American Robin	A	71	16	141	10	52	101	136	527
House Sparrow	A	47	6	63		30	9	89	244
House Finch	A	46		59	3	18		20	146
American Goldfinch	A	41	16	162	50	46	7	32	354
Grasshopper Sparrow	@ B			1					1
Chipping Sparrow	A	40	16	69				2	127
Field Sparrow	A	2	3	12	2				19
Savannah Sparrow	* B			3					3
Song Sparrow	A	12	1	18	7	6		6	50
Eastern Towhee	A	26	8	23		2	5	2	66
Eastern Meadowlark	A			3					3
Red-winged Blackbird	A	34				8		62	104
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	65	25	130				5	225
Common Grackle	A			1	100			1	102
Ovenbird	A	12	4	3			1		20
Northern Waterthrush	B							1	1
Blue-winged Warbler	@ B	1					1		2
Black-&-white Warbler	A	12		17		10		4	43
Tennessee Warbler	B			1					1
Nashville Warbler	B			1					1
Common Yellowthroat	A	7	6	13	3	23		9	61
American Redstart	A	21	2	31	4	17	5	9	89
Northern Parula	A	4		19		3		11	37
Magnolia Warbler	A	8	2	8		5	1		24
Bay-breasted Warbler	B		2						2
Blackburnian Warbler	B	1		1					2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	2		5			1	2	10
Blk.-thrted. Blue Warbler	A	1		4				1	6

**Howard2021 WebTable Final County Totals**

<b>BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.</b> Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:	<b>Season:</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Area:</b>	<b>Howard</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9/18/2021</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Palm Warbler @ A			3					3
Pine Warbler B			2		2			4
Prairie Warbler A	1		1					2
Blk.-thrted. Green Warbler B	5		5					10
<i>unidentified warbler</i>	28		4					32
Scarlet Tanager A	6	2	10		1		3	22
Northern Cardinal A	118	28	111	20	60	19	91	447
Rose-breasted Grosbeak B	2		3					5
Blue Grosbeak B		1	4				3	8
Indigo Bunting A	7		2		14		6	29
<b>Area Total Birds:</b>	3,291	595	3,191	775	1,255	393	2,140	11,640
<b>Area Total Species:</b>	87	58	95	52	59	38	70	112
<b>Area No.:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Supplemental Data</b>								
<b>Time Start:</b>	6:00 a	6:15 a	6:29 a	7:00 a	6:50 a	7:34 a	7:00 a	6:00 a
<b>Time Stop:</b>	8:00 p	10:45 a	6:30 p	5:30 p	6:48 p	7:10 p	5:28 p	8:00 p
<b>Hours on Foot:</b>	36.7	5.8	45.8	12.1	13.9	6.1	27.8	148.2
<b>Hours by Car:</b>	25.5	.9	5.8	1.3	1.1	.5	7.0	42.1
<b>Hours by Boat:</b>								
<b>Hours Other:</b>							1.5	1.5
<b>Miles on Foot:</b>	19.1	7.8	43.9	12.1	14.7	6.9	29.1	133.6
<b>Miles by Car:</b>	162.0	20.0	64.9	24.3	37.0	10.0	64.5	382.7
<b>Miles by Boat:</b>								
<b>Miles Other:</b>							5.2	5.2
<b>Hours Feeder Watching:</b>	1.2		1.2		2.7		.5	5.6
<b>Hours Stationary:</b>	8.3	.2	1.5				.8	10.8
<b>Hours "Owling":</b>	2.3		.6	.5				3.4
<b>Miles "Owling":</b>	10.0		.4					10.4
<b>County Weather</b>	<b>Temperature</b>		<b>%Clouds</b>		<b>Wind (Speed &amp; Dir.)</b>		<b>Precip.(Type &amp; Amt.)</b>	
<b>Dawn</b>	66 °F		100%		calm		Fog early	
<b>AM</b>	69 °F		100%		very light		None	
<b>Noon</b>	77.6 °F		50%		very light		None	
<b>PM</b>	83.3 °F		15%		very light		None (brief sprinkle	
<b>Dusk</b>	76.6 °F		20%		very light		None at 3 pm in 3F	
<b>Comments on Weather:</b> (.e.g amount of ice, fog, etc.)	Day was warm to hot and uncomfortable. Dew Point started at 64 in the AM, rose to 76 at 3:pm, & dropped to 72.8 at 6 pm.							
<b>Area Code:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Total No. of Feederwatchers:</b>								
<b>Deer Seen</b>	24	10			NA			34
<b>Total Observers in Area:</b>	12	4	14	5	7	2	12	54
<b>Total Parties in Area:</b>	8	5	13	2	6	4	12	50
<b>Total Party-Hours (Reg.):</b>	62.2	6.7	51.6	13.4	15.0	6.6	36.3	191.8
<b>Tot. Party Hours (Feeder Watch):</b>	1.2		1.2		2.7		.5	5.6
<b>Total Party-Hours (Station'y):</b>	8.3	.2	1.5				.8	10.8
<b>Total Party-Hours (Owling):</b>	2.3		.6	.5				3.4
<b>Total Party-Hours:</b>	74.0	6.9	54.9	13.9	17.7	6.6	37.6	211.5
<b>Total Party-Miles:</b>	191.1	27.8	109.2	36.4	51.7	16.9	98.8	531.8
<b>Area No.:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>