

The 2022 Howard County Fall Count

by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat

The twenty-ninth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 17th, 2022 with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be notably above average with numbers for the total birds and warblers mostly up countywide. The total number of bird species was up 13 from last year while the number of individuals was up 3,608. For the warblers, the species count was up 5 while the number of individual warblers was up 203.

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 with notable increased effort in hours and miles for the count.

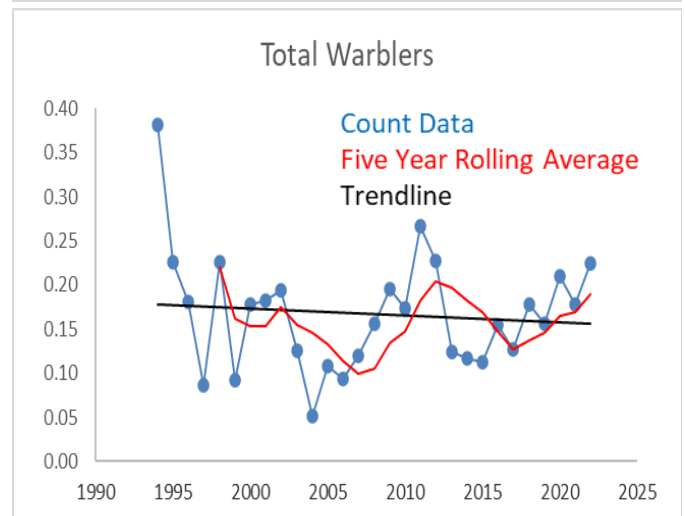
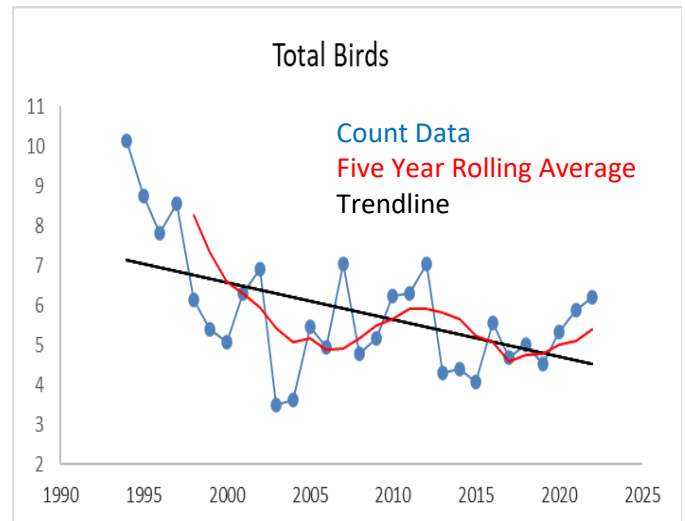
2022 Count Data

	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
Numbers	125	15,248	23	553	
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	124.34	15,059.62	23.00	429.31	
Counters : Parties					70 : 50
Counters : Parties Averages					55.3 : 36.0
Counters Hours : Miles					259.2 : 709.5
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					196.7 : 434.2

Saturday's temperature started in the mid 50 degrees [dew point 53] at 6:00AM with light cloud cover. The temperature rose to 80 degrees [dew point 63] in late afternoon. Winds were light to nonexistent from morning until early evening. The temperature and dew point made for mildly uncomfortable conditions when in full sun.

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 16 species [up 5] for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and 8 species [down 2] for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. There were 8 species showing moderately high numbers (>500) and their change from last year are: Canada Goose 1,420 [+576] : Broad-winged Hawk 823; Blue Jay 862 [+100]; American Crow 589 [+38]; Grey Catbird 527; European Starling, 1.355



[+473]; American Robin, 644 [+117]; and Northern Cardinal, 685. Note, for those species without a quoted change indicates that species was not part of the >500 group last year. Also, there were 525 crow species sighted.

Bird count participants are: Dianne Aguilera, Karan Blum, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Donna Carollo, Ken Clark, **Mary Lou Clark (Area 6 Coordinator)**, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis Coskren, Jeff & Karen Culler, Ralph Cullison III, Bob & Jan Depuy, Susan & **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Marti Elenbrock, Lynn Gregg, Joe Hanfman, John & Meg Harris, Bill & Gayle Hill, David Holmes, Arlene Kerber, Brenda Kidera, Clayton Koonce, Andrew & **Russell Kovach (Area 2 Coordinator)**, Yi-Ying Lee, Shashi Lengade, Mike Leumas, Allen Lewis (**Area 7 Coordinator**), Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Brigitte Lund, Mary Maxey, **Mike McClure (Area 4 & County Co-coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Karlyn McPartland, Barry Miller, Brian Moyer, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Wendy Ormont, Bonnie Ott, Steve Parr, Howard Patterson, Pam Perna, Gregg Petersen (**Area 3 Coordinator**), Kate & Matt Plough, Suzanne Probst, Mary Prowell, Russ Ruffing, David Sandler, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Clare Sebok, Jo Solem, Teresa Spencer, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator)**, Valerie Swan, Robin Todd, Sherry Tomlinson, Lisa Troutman, Kristin Trouton, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Michele Wright..

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count, and if possible, attend the tally as well if held. Next year the 2023 Fall Count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 16th.

Howard2022 WebTable Final County Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:		Type:		Area:		Date:	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		Fall	Regular	Howard	Totals	9/17/2022			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Canada Goose	A	319	255	116	125	100	165	340	1,420
Wood Duck	B	8	4	16		5			33
Mallard	A		3	16	35	20		32	106
Wild Turkey	* C		2	16				1	19
Rock Pigeon	A	56	4	39	33	17	11	12	172
Mourning Dove	A	107	29	142	8	15	40	111	452
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	5	6	10				1	22
Common Nighthawk	B			3					3
Chimney Swift	A	30	3	345	10	2	4	22	416
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	18	2	11	4	5		2	42
Killdeer	A	2		1	18				21
Spotted Sandpiper	B		2						2
Solitary Sandpiper	B		1						1
Ring-billed Gull	A							1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	B	1		2	1	27	1	4	36
Great Blue Heron	A	6	15	8	3	4		7	43
Great Egret	B	1							1
Green Heron	A	3	4	4		1		1	13
Black Vulture	A	34	14	47	4	1	1	6	107
Turkey Vulture	A	52	47	136	16	7	3	21	282
Osprey	B	1	2	2	1				6
Northern Harrier	B	1							1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	2	1	2			2		7
Cooper's Hawk	B	5	1	13					19
<i>accipiter species</i>				1					1
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	B	4		4				4	12
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	21	9	23	8	16	4	16	97
Broad-winged Hawk	B	195	3	614		5		6	823
Red-tailed Hawk	A	5	1	7	1	1		4	19
Eastern Screech-Owl	B					2			2
Great Horned Owl	B	1	5						6
Barred Owl	B		3	3			1	1	8
Belted Kingfisher	A	6	5	8	2	6		3	30
Red-headed Woodpecker	* C	1	1	1					3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	60	38	56	19	28	17	49	267
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	@ B			1					1
Downy Woodpecker	A	38	37	38	8	27	10	39	197
Hairy Woodpecker	A	9	8	12	1	7	3	9	49
Northern Flicker	A	20	10	27	8	14	9	29	117
Pileated Woodpecker	A	13	9	15	6	8	1	12	64
American Kestrel	A	2		16	1	1			20
Merlin	* C			2		1			3
Peregrine Falcon	** C	1							1
Great Crested Flycatcher	@ A	3	3	3					9
Eastern Kingbird	@ A	1							1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	39	15	35	1	6	3	6	105
Acadian Flycatcher	* A			3		2		3	8
<i>Trail's Flycatcher</i>	* B	1							1
Least Flycatcher	* B					1			1
<i>Empidonax species</i>		18		2					20
Eastern Phoebe	A	31	11	22	3		1	5	73
White-eyed Vireo	A	4	2	2	3	4			15
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	3	2	4					9

Howard2022 WebTable Final County Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:		Type:		Area:		Date:	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		Fall	Regular	Howard	Howard	9/17/2022			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Blue-headed Vireo	B		3			1			4
Philadelphia Vireo	* C			2					2
Warbling Vireo	B				3	2			5
Red-eyed Vireo	A	12	38	18	8	17	1	7	101
Blue Jay	A	174	122	187	64	110	51	154	862
American Crow	A	141	116	147	32	41	19	93	589
Fish Crow	A	79	8	156		7	2	6	258
<i>crow species</i>		300	6	165	22	1		31	525
Common Raven		3	1	2					6
Carolina Chickadee	A	47	54	40	33	40	8	52	274
Tufted Titmouse	A	37	54	35	4	43	12	54	239
Horned Lark	* C			2					2
Tree Swallow	A		24						24
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	@ A		1	3					4
Cedar Waxwing	A	63	12	16		2			93
Red-breasted Nuthatch	* C	3	5			1		1	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	64	44	52	12	34	5	37	248
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A		6	5	8	1		3	23
House Wren	A	13	4	15		5	2	5	44
Winter Wren	@ B	1							1
Marsh Wren	* C			1					1
Carolina Wren	A	98	44	99	49	59	27	113	489
Gray Catbird	A	94	49	125	64	71	55	69	527
Brown Thrasher	A	4	3	14	1	2		2	26
Northern Mockingbird	A	63	18	54	3	6	12	29	185
European Starling	A	479	132	499	15	34	19	177	1,355
Eastern Bluebird	A	149	59	98	7	18	7	35	373
Veery	B		8	1		1			10
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* C		1		1				2
Swainson's Thrush	B	1	10	7		2	1	4	25
Wood Thrush	A	2	11	1		4	1		19
American Robin	A	155	60	127	23	84	42	153	644
House Sparrow	A	155	28	28		14	20	95	340
House Finch	A	55	34	43	9	6	7	23	177
American Goldfinch	A	147	53	110	44	33	24	36	447
Grasshopper Sparrow	@ B			1					1
Chipping Sparrow	A	55	28	35		11		8	137
Field Sparrow	A	7	8	7					22
Savannah Sparrow	* B			1					1
Song Sparrow	A	16	9	8	8	6		1	48
Swamp Sparrow	@ B	1							1
<i>unidentified sparrow</i>		20							20
Eastern Towhee	A	23	24	21	2	4	6	3	83
Yellow-breasted Chat	A			2					2
Eastern Meadowlark	A			5					5
Red-winged Blackbird	A		5	4		51	1		61
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	39	276	2				2	319
Common Grackle	A		1	7				64	72
Ovenbird	A	1	7			1			9
Black-&-white Warbler	A	10	14	16	2	10	2	5	59
Tennessee Warbler	B	2		4		5		1	12
Nashville Warbler	B			2					2
Kentucky Warbler	@ A							1	1

Howard2022 WebTable Final County Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:		Type:		Area:		Date:	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Common Yellowthroat	A	11	13	19	1	16	2	15	77
American Redstart		15	19	24	5	24		11	98
Cape May Warbler	B	1	5	3					9
Northern Parula	A	8	9	8	9	3		4	41
Magnolia Warbler	A	6	12	31	4	11	3	12	79
Bay-breasted Warbler	B	5	5	3		1			14
Blackburnian Warbler	B	5	3	2		1			11
Yellow Warbler	@ A	2							2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	1	4	12	1	4		2	24
Blackpoll Warbler	B	1	4					1	6
Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	A	2	3	1		2		1	9
Palm Warbler	@ A	6	1	1				2	10
Pine Warbler	B		1	2					3
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	A	1	2		8		2	3	16
Prairie Warbler	A			4		1			5
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	B	6	13	24	1	4	1	6	55
Canada Warbler	B	1	1	2					4
Wilson's Warbler	B	1							1
<i>unidentified warbler</i>								6	6
Scarlet Tanager	A	3	3	4				2	12
Northern Cardinal	A	166	50	134	56	81	55	143	685
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	10	2	9		1			22
Blue Grosbeak	B	3	3	5		1			12
Indigo Bunting	A	46	7	6		9	2	1	71
Area Total Birds:		3,940	2,097	4,289	818	1,219	665	2,220	15,248
Area Total Species:		93	93	101	53	75	45	70	125
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Supplemental Data									
Time Start:		6:30 a	5:05 a	6:10 a	7:00 a	5:50 a	6:45 a	5:45 a	5:05 a
Time Stop:		8:00 p	6:49 p	7:16 p	6:35 p	4:30 p	1:56 p	3:00 p	8:00 p
Hours on Foot:		41.3	21.9	56.6	12.6	17.5	11.3	32.3	193.5
Hours by Car:		26.6	4.9	5.8	2.2	2.0	1.0	3.6	46.1
Hours by Boat:									
Hours Other:									
Miles on Foot:		17.6	20.5	48.4	11.9	17.2	9.6	39.1	164.3
Miles by Car:		145.0	95.5	117.1	44.2	53.0	16.9	71.0	542.7
Miles by Boat:									
Miles Other:									
Hours Feeder Watching:		2.5		.8				4.0	7.3
Hours Stationary:		2.0	1.5	4.4		.5		1.5	9.9
Hours "Owling":		.5	1.4					.5	2.4
Miles "Owling":		.3	1.2					1.0	2.5
County Weather		Temperature		%Clouds		Wind (Speed & Dir.)		Precip. (Type & Amt.)	
Dawn		54 ° F		10%		calm		None	
AM		60.6 ° F		15%		3 WNW		None	
Noon		77.3 ° F		50%		6 SSE		None	
PM		80 ° F		25%		8 SE		None	
Dusk		71.6 ° F		25%		5 SE		None	
Comments on Weather:		Overall, pleasant day. A sunny day, a bit stuffy with dew points in the							
(.e.g amount of ice, fog, etc.)		mid 60's for most of the day.							
Area Code:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

Howard2022 WebTable Final County Totals

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO. Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:	Season: Fall		Type: Regular		Area: Howard		Date: 9/17/2022	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Total Observers in Area:	14	6	19	5	8	8	12.0	70.0
Total Parties in Area:	11	4	12	3	5	5	10.0	50.0
Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	67.9	26.8	62.4	14.8	19.5	12.3	35.9	239.6
Tot. Party Hours (Feeder Watch):	2.5		.8				4.0	7.3
Total Party-Hours (Station'y):	2.0	1.5	4.4		.5		1.5	9.9
Total Party-Hours (Owling):	.5	1.4					.5	2.4
Total Party-Hours:	72.9	29.7	67.6	14.8	20.0	12.3	41.9	259.2
Total Party-Miles:	162.9	117.2	165.5	56.1	70.2	26.5	111.1	709.5
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals