

Summary of the 2024 Howard County Fall Count

by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat

The thirty-first annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 21st, 2024, with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be slightly about average with numbers for the total birds near the average, but down again for warblers. The total number of bird species was the same as last year while the number of individuals was down 649. For the warblers, the species count was down two while the number of individual warblers was down 80.

Species that were write-ins are highlighted in yellow in the species table at the end of this article. The two Northern Shovelers at Wilde Lake and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Hollifield Station had not been seen on any of the 30 prior counts. The 16 Red-headed Woodpeckers was a new high count. The new high of 232 Northern Flickers shattered the prior high of 181 set in 1995, The new high of 20 Cliff Swallows at the Triadelphia dam suggests the possibility the colony had not departed in contrast with prior years since the prior high was 2. The 26 Cape May Warblers were a new high, with the prior high of 10 reported last year. The two Summer Tanagers were the first ones reported since 1995.

The number of participants, parties, and the overall effort as measured by the hours and miles continued to still be strong with new highs in counters and parties. Effort showed a slight increase in hours to a new high and a decrease in miles for the count (primarily in car mileage).

2024 Count Data

	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
Numbers	130	15,439	23	363	
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	124.71	15,105.03	23.06	427.09	
Counters : Parties					99 : 61
Counters : Parties Averages					57.3 : 37,4
Counters Hours : Miles					261.2 : 491.9
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					203.4 : 438.5

Saturday's temperature started in the low 60s [dew point 63 °F] at 7:00AM with considerable variability in cloud cover across the county. The temperature rose to 80 °F [dew point 69 °F] in the late afternoon. Winds were light early, increasing slightly as the day progressed. The day could be described as an enjoyable but humid warm Fall day.

Bird count participants are: Jillian Adams, Andy & Dianne Aguilera, David Azambawk, Everett & Virginia Behr, Debbie Belchis, John Blaisdell, Karan Blum, Megan Bolcar, Marilyn Brinkley, Donna Carollo, Andrew Christiansen, Ken Clark, Mary Lou Clark, Stephanie Coakley, Jonathan Comeau, Ann Coren, Dennis Coskren, Ben Costello, Lauren Crocker, Jeff & Karen Culler, Ralph Cullison III, David Cummings, Bob & Jan Depuy, Kumar & Rej Dixit, Susan & **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Rose Eicker, Tim & Cathy Forrester, Cathy Hallam, Joe Hanfman, John & Meg Harris, Bill & Gayle Hill, David Holmes, Steve Jones, Arlene Kerber, Michael Kerwin, Clayton Koonce, **Russell Kovach (Area 2 Coordinator)**, **Meghaan Lane (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Yi-Ying Lee, Shashi Lengade, Mike Leumas, Allen Lewis, Vitus Li, Kathie Lillie, Richard Love, Felicia Lovelett, Steve Luke, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Jeremy Mawhinney, Mary Maxey, **Mike McClure (Area 4 & County Co-coordinator)**, Karlyn McPartland, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Kevin Omland, Richard Orr, Bonnie Ott, Steve Parr, Brittany Parsons, Pam Perna, **Gregg Petersen (Area 3 Coordinator)**, Suzanne Probst, Mary Prowell, David Richardson, John Henri & Melody Rorabeck, Brett Rowland, Russ Ruffing, David Sandler, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Nancy Schweiss, **Thomas Seivert (Area 6 Coordinator)**, Hsiao (Mei) Shyong, Wen-Jong Shyong, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (County-Co-coordinator)**, August & Eva Sunell, Valerie Swan, Tim Thompson, Ashley Tipton, Sherry Tomlinson, Lisa Troutman, Roshan Vignarajah, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Hilary & Sam Yarmus. A special thanks to **Cathy Hallam** who stepped forward to host the in-person part of the tally rally.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible, attend the tally as well. Next year the 2025 Fall Count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 20th.

The species table below shows results for each of the seven areas.

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:		Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/21/2024
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	Fall 2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Canada Goose	A	463	235	135	92	114	222	525	1,786
Wood Duck	B	38	5	17				1	61
Northern Shoveler	** B					2			2
Mallard	A	1	1	16	14	14	27	3	76
Wild Turkey	* C	1	1				4	10	16
Pied-billed Grebe	* B				1				1
Rock Pigeon	A	73	25	26		13	72	2	211
Mourning Dove	A	86	40	107	3	15	34	52	337
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	1	5	5			1	1	13
Common Nighthawk	B	7		1					8
Chimney Swift	A	14	12	60	13	18	18	19	154
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	18	4	6	1		3	2	34
Killdeer	A		1	13			6		20
Spotted Sandpiper	B		1						1
Solitary Sandpiper	B		2						2
Double-crested Cormorant	B		1	1	1	21		6	30
Great Blue Heron	A	4	5	5	2	6	3	12	37
Great Egret	B	2					2		4
Green Heron	A	1		4	1	2	3	3	14
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	** D			1					1
Black Vulture	A	32	34	38	9	12	15	35	175
Turkey Vulture	A	105	96	89	14	16	33	56	409
Osprey	B		3	1				6	10
Northern Harrier	B			1	1			1	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	1		7		1	2	1	12
Cooper's Hawk	B	3	3	10	1	2	2	3	24
<i>accipiter species</i>		1	2				1	3	7
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	B	6	4	6	1		1	3	21
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	13	9	20	3	9	13	15	82
Broad-winged Hawk	B	58		37				2	97
Red-tailed Hawk	A	3	3	11			3	3	23
Eastern Screech-Owl	B	1	2	6	1				10
Great Horned Owl	B			1				1	2
Barred Owl	B	4	2	1	4		1	2	14
Belted Kingfisher	A	10	7	8	3	4	2	6	40
Red-headed Woodpecker	* C	5	1	9				1	16
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	95	44	76	16	38	50	68	387
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	@ B	1		1					2
Downy Woodpecker	A	33	14	26	8	25	18	45	169
Hairy Woodpecker	A	11	1	11	1	10	4	9	47
Northern Flicker	A	42	21	64	9	11	48	37	232
Pileated Woodpecker	A	17	7	18	2	6	6	5	61
American Kestrel	A	3		16			2		21
Merlin	* C			1					1
Peregrine Falcon	** C			1					1
Great Crested Flycatcher	@ A		5	1					6
Eastern Kingbird	@ A		2						2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	10	12	18	4	3	1	7	55
Acadian Flycatcher	* A	1				1			2
Least Flycatcher	* B			2					2
<i>Empidonax species</i>		4		3					7
Eastern Phoebe	A	22	19	19	3	2	9	8	82
White-eyed Vireo	A		2	3		3			8

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:	Fall	Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/21/2024
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	1	2	1					4
Blue-headed Vireo	B			2					2
Philadelphia Vireo	* C			1					1
Red-eyed Vireo	A	7	12	13	1	4	1	3	41
Blue Jay	A	247	136	444	59	146	202	196	1,430
American Crow	A	117	93	218	21	39	160	148	796
Fish Crow	A	26	5	57	6	2	2	5	103
<i>crow species</i>		10	42	7	3	2	19	13	96
Common Raven		5	2	5		1	1	5	19
Carolina Chickadee	A	48	26	45	23	37	24	46	249
Tufted Titmouse	A	50	38	62	18	39	30	44	281
Horned Lark	C		1						1
Tree Swallow	A		3	1				1	5
N. Rough-winged Swallow	@ A			2					2
Barn Swallow	A		7	1					8
Cliff Swallow	** B		20						20
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	@ A	3		4					7
Cedar Waxwing	A	2	54	8	20				84
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	45	26	43	10	24	19	29	196
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	1	10	1			1	2	15
Carolina Wren	A	69	45	78	21	52	70	114	449
House Wren	A	1	9	7	2	5		3	27
Gray Catbird	A	52	41	75	23	60	58	58	367
Brown Thrasher	A	6	3	8		2	5		24
Northern Mockingbird	A	52	35	61	3	5	32	44	232
European Starling	A	744	156	612	6	629	211	293	2,651
Eastern Bluebird	A	139	52	100	10	17	48	44	410
Veery	B			2		1			3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* C	1		2		1			4
Swainson's Thrush	B	1		8	1	2			12
Hermit Thrush	** B			1					1
Wood Thrush	A	1		3				1	5
American Robin	A	74	54	144		44	60	58	434
House Sparrow	A	25	18	54	70	28	23	97	315
House Finch	A	26	28	56	4	14	40	59	227
Purple Finch	* C	1							1
American Goldfinch	A	84	29	68	21	32	37	32	303
Chipping Sparrow	A	59	46	59	1	18	10	8	201
Field Sparrow	A	1	2	6					9
White-throated Sparrow	** A		2						2
Savannah Sparrow	B			2					2
Song Sparrow	A	18	4	5	3	3		10	43
Swamp Sparrow	@ B	2							2
<i>unidentified sparrow</i>		1							1
Eastern Towhee	A	11	12	13	1	10	5	8	60
Bobolink	B	50							50
Eastern Meadowlark	A			13					13
Baltimore Oriole	A		2	2					4
Red-winged Blackbird	A	55	7	72		16	1	11	162
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	39	10	7			4		60
Common Grackle	A	100		7		4	7	2	120
<i>unidentified blackbird</i>							3		3
Ovenbird	A		2	1					3

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:	Fall	Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/21/2024
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Northern Waterthrush	B		1	2					3
Black-&-white Warbler	A	6	3	13	2	6		6	36
Tennessee Warbler	B	1	1	1					3
Nashville Warbler	B			2					2
Connecticut Warbler	** C			1					1
Common Yellowthroat	A	15	10	23		13	6	8	75
American Redstart	A	5	5	19	4	9	4	4	50
Cape May Warbler	B	18		6				2	26
Northern Parula	A	1	7	16	4	5		2	35
Magnolia Warbler	A	6	3	21	3	6	6	3	48
Bay-breasted Warbler	B	2		3					5
Blackburnian Warbler	B	1							1
Yellow Warbler	@ A			1					1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	1		3	2	2		1	9
Blackpoll Warbler	B			4					4
Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	A	5	4	1	1	1		1	13
Palm Warbler	@ A	2		1					3
Pine Warbler	B	2	1					1	4
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	A	6							6
Prairie Warbler	A	1			1			1	3
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	B	4		10					14
Canada Warbler	B		1				1		2
<i>unidentified warbler</i>		7		1			4	4	16
Summer Tanager	** C	1						1	2
Scarlet Tanager	A	2	1	3					6
Northern Cardinal	A	105	78	89	23	86	92	141	614
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B		2	9		2	1		14
Blue Grosbeak	B	4		3					7
Indigo Bunting	A	19	8	5		3		1	36
Dickcissel	** D	2							2
Area Total Birds:		3,580	1,790	3,520	575	1,718	1,793	2,463	15,439
Area Total Species:		93	84	109	54	61	59	72	130
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Supplemental Data									
Time Start:		5:40 a	4:59 a	4:05 a	6:45 a	7:00 a	6:00 a	7:09 a	4:05 a
Time Stop:		8:00 p	3:49 p	6:50 p	5:00 p	5:00 p	4:55 p	3:17 p	8:00 p
Hours on Foot:		31.5	19.6	38.2	15.0	21.8	28.0	32.9	187.0
Hours by Car:		17.8	5.7	3.0	.3	.5	7.8	7.8	42.8
Hours by Boat:									
Hours Other:									
Miles on Foot:		14.5	16.3	26.8	11.4	20.5	21.6	38.3	149.4
Miles by Car:		117.0	44.7	30.0	3.0	5.0	61.0	76.9	337.6
Miles by Boat:									
Miles Other:									
Hours Feeder Watching:		8.5				8.4		.5	17.4
Hours Stationary:		2.8		1.2			3.1		7.1
Hours "Owling":			2.1	2.8			1.5	.5	6.9
Miles "Owling":			1.0	2.1			.8	1.0	4.9
County Weather		Temperature		%Clouds		Wind (Speed & Dir.)		Precip.(Type & Amt.)	
Dawn		66 ° F		70%		None None		None	
AM		66 ° F		70%		5 SSW		None	
Noon		77.7 ° F		40%		3 S		None	

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season: Fall		Type: Regular		Area: Howard		Date: 9/21/2024	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
PM	79.6 ° F		30%		4	WNW	None		
Dusk	78.3 ° F		50%		4	E	scattered light rain		
Comments on Weather:		Temps fairly stationary, sunny with increasing cloud through the day.							
(.e.g amount of ice, fog, etc.)									
Area Code:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Total Observers in Area:		11	10	20	11	14	15	18	99
Total Parties in Area:		8	5	10	3	10	12	13	61
Total No. of Feederwatchers:									
Total Party-Hours (Reg.):		49.3	25.3	41.2	15.3	22.3	35.8	40.7	229.8
Tot. Party Hours (Feeder Watch):		8.5				8.4		.5	17.4
Total Party-Hours (Station'y):		2.8		1.2			3.1		7.1
Total Party-Hours (Owling):			2.1	2.8			1.5	.5	6.9
Total Party-Hours:		60.6	27.4	45.2	15.3	30.7	40.4	41.7	261.2
Total Party-Miles:		131.5	62.0	58.9	14.4	25.5	83.4	116.2	491.9
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals