



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, November 10, 2016 "My Lifetime Quest for Extinct and Vanishing Birds," by Chandler Robbins. Chan began birding when declining species were very much in the news: Heath Hens were still being counted on Martha's Vineyard; unconfirmed sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were coming from southeastern states. Rather than pursue a long life list, he concentrated on the rarest birds. His presentation will include pictures of some of the rarest or even (now) extinct, species he has seen in a lifetime of birding the seven continents. Chan is a co-author of the Golden Field Guide that most of us have in our collection of bird books. His many research projects span decades and he has received many awards and honors for his work.

Thursday, December 8, 2016 "Of Rice and Rails," by Greg Kearns, Naturalist, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Greg began his research on Soras in 1987 at Jug Bay Wetlands. After banding more than 4,000 of these secretive marsh-dwelling rails, he and USGS biologist Mike Haramis linked the decline of rails to the increase in Canada Geese, resulting in depleting the Patuxent River marshes of wild rice. Greg will update the results of a management plan begun some 20 years ago. Greg has shared natural history programs in the past as well as set up club field trips to Jug Bay.

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality at 7:00 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 6:45 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call John Harris at 240-755-0183

Red-tailed Hawk



Richard Orr photographed this non-migrating raptor over the Mt. Pleasant Skywatch on September 27, 2016.

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 – JULY 31, 2016

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The county's birds and birders this season were tested by wind, heat, and water. A tornado tore through portions of the western and north-central sections of the county on 6/21; 23 days in July registered 90°F or above limiting field time; and a "perfect storm" the evening of July 30 dumped 6.5" of rain in two hours on Ellicott City causing a devastating flood. The long-term effects of these events on the county's birdlife are, as yet, unknown. In the short term, one unexpected species could be correlated with the tornado, while migrant shorebirds disappeared with the sudden inundation of

[\(Records continued on page 3\)](#)

FALL FIELD TRIPS BY [JOE HANFMAN](#)

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

[Howard County Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm](#) Skywatch

November 5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Half day. *Meet at parking lot.* This trip will be strictly a skywatch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. In 2014, a half-day skywatch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if skywatching proves non-productive. Facilities available.

Leader – Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net

[Centennial Park](#)

November 6, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. (Daylight Saving Time ends) *Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leaders – Karen and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com

SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM

November 12, Saturday 8:00 a.m. (half day). *Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Rte. 97 S. to right on Jennings Chapel Rd., 1 mile to right into farm at sign.* Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads, and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds, and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear is advisable for part of hike. Leader – Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com, 410-531-3197

[Centennial Park](#)

November 13, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at west end parking lot.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader – Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408

[Centennial Park](#)

November 20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at west end parking lot.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leaders – Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

[Centennial Park](#)

November 27, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at west end parking lot.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leaders – Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

[Howard Waterfowl Search](#)

December 3, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Meet at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn.* Plan to visit the Columbia lakes search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available Leader - Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

[Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#)

December 10, Saturday, All day trip. Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly, Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some spots. Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

their habitat coinciding with late July's heavy rainfall. Trumpeter Swan, Hermit Thrush, and Pine Siskin were summer's headline species. Two immature Little Blue Herons, two Mississippi Kite sightings, a Common Raven family, a Prothonotary Warbler singing on territory, a late Mourning Warbler, and a singing Summer Tanager were also noteworthy.

The county's second **Trumpeter Swan** continued to wander within a relatively limited area: 6/1 Fulton Pond (**DCm**), 6/7 So. Trotter Rd (Scott's Pond) (**W&SE**), 6/7 - MD 32/Cedar Lane (flying north) (**KHf**), and a pond in the US 29/Broken Land Pkwy cloverleaf from 6/12 (**DCm**) to at least 8/1 (**JHf**).

A **Wild Turkey** visited a Clarksville yard 6/9 (**RO'C**), and three appeared in a driveway along River Rd, Sykesville 7/28 (**FLv**). Sometimes a **Common Loon** stays into the breeding season. This year Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) hosted one on 6/1 (**DCm**) and two on 6/18 (**DCm**). A juvenile **Double-crested Cormorant** at Wilde Lake 6/6 was photographed in a plumage we seldom see (**ROr**). **Great Egrets** were few with reports of singles from Centennial PK (CENPK) 6/6 (**BO**), Waverly Pd 7/15 (**RRf**), and Browns Bridge 7/30 (**DCm**). Interestingly, two immature **Little Blue Herons** were present the morning of 7/31: one at Browns Bridge (**MKw; JHf, JHr**) and one at Lake Elkhorn (**ALw**). Two **Green Heron** nests with young were watched during the season at Wilde Lake (**RQn**). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at CENPK 6/8 (**EHS**) and one at Wilde Lake 7/25 (**HPt**). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** appeared at CENPK 6/24 (**CKc, ph.**).

Ospreys at the relay tower along Triadelphia Mill Rd had been seen nest building on 3/23 (**MW**). Either they were slow or inexperienced; by mid-May the nest was thought to be abandoned (**KS**). An adult was on the nest on 7/10 (**JS, MLC**), and two adults were present at the nest 7/20 (**KS**). Two **Mississippi Kite** sightings were fine records: a flyover at CENPK 6/2 (**BO, TRy**) and one chased by 15 - 20 crows over Centre Pk Plaza, MD 108 on 6/11 (**AVS**). CENPK normally has at least one **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest annually. A nest with young in a pine tree near pavilion C was reported on 6/5 (**MBa**).

Shorebirds were unremarkable. They were just beginning to appear in variety and numbers when heavy rains at the end of July quickly eliminated mudflats. The **Killdeer** high was 58 at No. TRIRS 7/21 (**JHf**). Fall shorebird migration got underway with a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Big Branch 7/10 (**JS**). Nice seasonal numbers of 32 **Spotted** and 21 **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted 7/26 at No. TRIRS by a kayaking birder (**RRf**). Also on 7/26, a **Greater Yellowlegs** was present at Waverly Pd (**CSt**). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported 7/20 at No. TRIRS (**ALw, DCm**). On 7/20, **Least Sandpipers** were

seen at both No. TRIRS (**ALw, DCm-7**) and Big Branch (**KS-5**). A **Pectoral** was first reported 7/21 at No. TRIRS (**JHf**), with a high of four there on 7/26 (**RRf**); others were noted at Tarbay Pd 7/24 (**KS-2**) and Waverly Pd 7/26 and 7/28 (**RRf-2**). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** peaked at six on 7/29 at No. TRIRS (**JHf**).

Post-breeding gulls appeared in July with a **Ring-billed Gull** at Clarksville 7/16 (**B&GHi**) and a **Herring Gull** over MD 32 on 7/3 (**JHr**). During some years, cuckoos seem ubiquitous. This was not one of those years. Most observers noted low numbers or the absence of one or both species, sometimes until July. One birder noted that in 2015 both species were present at Western Regional Pk and at W. Friendship Pk; this year only a few **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were heard and no **Black-billed** (**LCg**). For another birder, his first **Yellow-billed** was not tallied until 7/24 (in the Mt. Hebron area) (**JCu**). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at Mt. Pleasant 7/11 (**RRf**), and one called at Timberleigh for three days the week of 7/29 (**DNg**). A gray phase **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed in an owl box at Hallmark Rd 6/19, a hopeful sign for the relatively new box, but by 6/27 **Southern Flying Squirrels** were peering from the entrance (**WEb**). An **American Kestrel** at Oxford Square, Coca-Cola Dr 7/14 was a fine sighting of this increasingly scarce species (**JW**).

Warbling Vireos were present at a nest at CENPK 6/2 (**BO, TRy**), while an adult was observed at Henryton 7/30 feeding a fledgling **Brown-headed Cowbird** (**RRf**). The **Common Ravens** carrying nesting material and food during the spring season in the Patapsco River Valley successfully fledged young. On 6/9, a group of two adults and four juveniles rested, fed, and practiced landings at Mt. Pleasant much to the delight of an observer photographing them for more than an hour (**BO**). Perhaps next year someone will locate the nest site. A family of **Horned Larks** was spotted at Western Regional Pk the week of 7/28 (**LCg**).

A **Bank Swallow** flew over Mt. Pleasant 6/30 (**RRf**). Twelve **Cliff Swallows** were foraging over Fulton Pd 7/9 (**EHS**); two were spotted at Browns Bridge 7/31 (**KS**). A **Veery** sang at Long Corner, Patuxent River State Pk 7/9 (**JS**); another was at Henryton 7/14 (**RRf**). The county's first-ever summer **Hermit Thrush** appeared at Mt. Albert Rd the morning following the 6/21 tornado which went through that area. It sang its lovely song morning and evening from 6/22 to 7/3 (**M&GMcC**, recorded). From early July until 7/23, it sang more intermittently (**GMc**).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard at No. TRIRS 7/26 (**RRf**). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was reported at Henryton 7/17, where it may have bred (**RRf**). A male **Prothonotary** was heard across the river in Howard County

on 6/22 by a birder who was near the entrance gate to the Avalon/Orange Grove section of Patapsco Valley State Pk (**BHb**). The bird was heard and seen by many observers for about 10 days, but no evidence of successful breeding was determined for this scarce county species. A **Mourning Warbler** appeared at Manahan Dr 6/6, the third latest spring migration record (**BO**). Two **American Redstarts** were detected at Henryton 7/8 (**RRf**), and a **Cerulean Warbler** was present there (a known breeding location) 6/27 (**RRf**). A **Yellow Warbler** was noted at Waverly 7/26, shortly before many of this species would begin their early migration (**RRf**). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was detected east of Woodstock Rd 7/7, a likely breeding location (**RRf**).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was kept busy feeding a fledgling cowbird at Diversified La 7/24-29 (**K&KnHf**). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Oxford Square, Coca-Cola Dr 6/11 and 7/14 was unusual in the eastern part of the county (**JW**). A **Dark-eyed Junco** that had been detected at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) 5/25 (**DCm**), hung on until 6/3, establishing the second latest record (**JHr**, ph.).

A male **Summer Tanager** singing along the South Wind Trail, MPEA, on 6/4 was a pleasant surprise (**BO**, **JS**).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** at Waverly Pd 7/20 probably wandered across the road from Mt. Pleasant (**RRf**). As usual, nests of both **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** were found at CENPK 6/2 (**BO**, **TRy**). Orchards were seen and heard much of the season at River Rd, Sykesville, but departed by 7/13 (**FLv**).

A **Pine Siskin** appeared briefly at sunflower and nyger feeders at a home on Thornbrook Rd on the astonishing date of 7/2, marking a new county late date (**JCu**, ph.). During invasion years, an occasional individual hangs on far past normal migration. Since siskins did not invade in unusually high numbers during the winter of 2015-16, this bird's presence was even more unexpected.

Thanks to Joe Hanfman and Nancy Magnusson for their careful proofing of this article.

Abbreviations: **CENPK** – Centennial Park, **MPEA** – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, **TRIRS** – Triadelphia Reservoir, ph. - photograph.

Observers: **MBa** – Marty Barr, **MLC** – Mary Lou Clark, **LCg** – Lisa Colangelo, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **DCm** – David Cummings, **SE** – Sue Earp, **WE** – Wes Earp, **WEb** – Ward Ebert, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **JHr** – John Harris, **KnHf** – Karen Heffernan, **KHf** – Kevin Heffernan, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **EHs** – Ed Huestis, **CKc** – Clayton Koonce, **ALw** – Allen Lewis, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **DNg** – Diane Nagengast, **RO'C** –

Ryan O'Colman, **ROr** – Richard Orr, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **HPt** – Howard Patterson, **RQn** – Rod Quinio, **TRy** – Tim Ray, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JS** – Jo Solem, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **AVS** – Anthony VanSchoor, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meeting is a week earlier. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

November 17, 2016

John McKitterick
10018 Maple Avenue
Columbia MD 20146
410-997-3122
mbmck@verizon.net

December, 2016

No Meeting

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to:

Howard Patterson
4209 Hermitage Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235
howard21042@verizon.net

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the January/February 2016 issue is November 25, 2016.


Howard Patterson, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

(Field Trips continued from page 2)

Start Your Year List

January 1, 2017, Start at 8:00 (half day) *Meet at the Howard County Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm.*

Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails at Mt. Pleasant. Possibly muddy and less prepared paths at other locations. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available at some locations. Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

 = Great for beginning birders

SUMMARY OF THE 2016 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE McCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The twenty-second annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 19, 2016 with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be average countywide for the number of bird species but notably below average for the number of birds. For the warblers the species count was near average while the number of individual warblers was notably below average. See the separate table for countywide species totals and the club website for a table with totals by area.

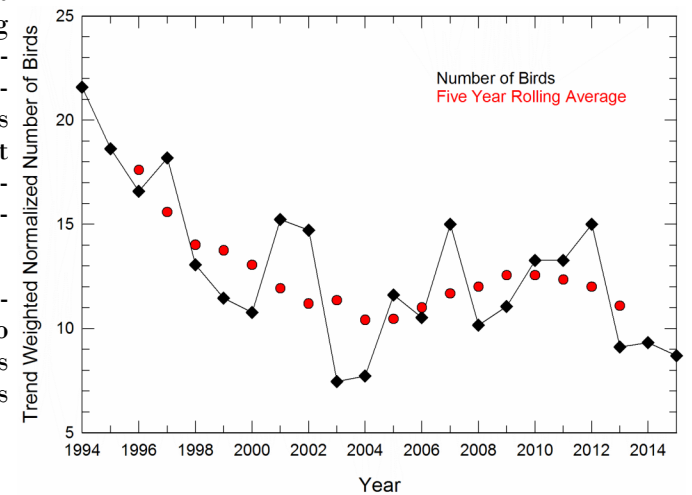
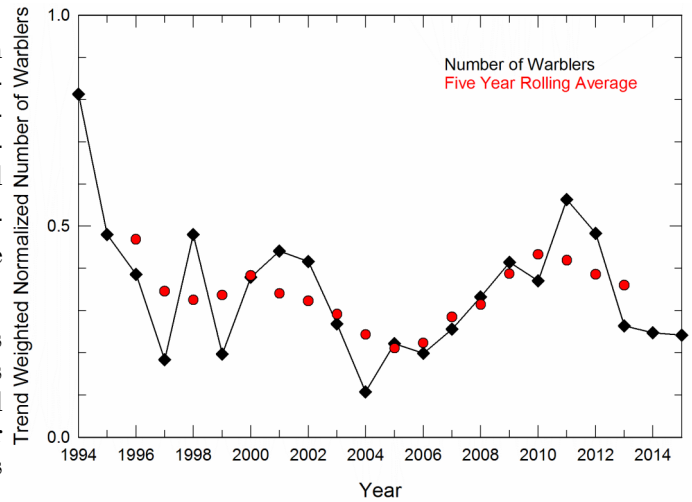
The number of participants, parties, and the overall effort as measured by the hours and miles continues to remain strong in spite of the occasional difficult season with few birds in the field.

| | Observed Birds Countywide | | Observed Warblers Countywide | | Statistics |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Species | Birds | Species | Birds | |
| 2016 Numbers | 125 | 12,651 | 22 | 353 | |
| High:Low | 140 : 108 | 26,651 : 9,293 | 30 : 13 | 1,004 : 130 | |
| Year 's of High : Low | 2014 : 2004 | 1994 : 2004 | 1994 : 2004 | 1994 : 2004 | |
| Averages for Birds & Species | 125.22 | 15,913.70 | 23.61 | 437.70 | |
| 2016 Counters : Parties | | | | | 62 : 47 |
| Counters : Parties Averages | | | | | 53.8 : 32.1 |
| 2016 Counters Hours : Miles | | | | | 223.0 : 392.8 |
| Counters Hours : Miles Averages | | | | | 194.1: 399.4 |

Saturday's temperature started at 62° F at 6:00 a.m. with scattered clouds, rising to 80°F in late afternoon with generally clear skies during the remainder of the day. The morning was comfortable-ish (dew point: 62° F) at 6:00 a.m. becoming marginally uncomfortable in the late morning and afternoon with the dew point rising to 68°F by late afternoon. Winds were light [5-7 mph] from the south during the afternoon.

Counters continue to complain about the lack of birds. This problem is reflected in the data from 23 years of Fall Counts as shown on the graphics for the total number of individual birds and warblers observed countywide as shown by their Rolling Five Year Average [RFYA] data. The RFYAs seems to support that the numbers had reached their lows, began to rise and now seems to suggest a decline is in progress in spite of this year's increased sightings. It is worth noting that the RFYA is by design slow to change direction and requires several years of sighting increases to respond. However, this apparent decline may just be the normal variation as the resident local population declines with several difficult winters in a row. Only additional data will answer the question; are we seeing the beginning of another precipitous decline similar to that of the early Fall Count years?

There were 16 species for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and 11 species for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. The single bird sighting remains high but is down from 19 last year while the two sighting is down from 15 noted last year. Species showing moderately



HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Canada Goose | 1,198 |
| Wood Duck | 27 |
| Mallard | 154 |
| Wild Turkey | 14 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 18 |
| Great Blue Heron | 35 |
| Great Egret | 9 |
| Green Heron | 37 |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | 1 |
| Black Vulture | 106 |
| Turkey Vulture | 205 |
| Osprey | 12 |
| Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk] | 15 |
| Northern Harrier | 1 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 6 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 15 |
| <i>accipiter species</i> | 2 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 59 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 3 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 15 |
| Killdeer | 44 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 1 |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 2 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 1 |
| Least Sandpiper | 25 |
| American Woodcock | 4 |
| Ring-billed Gull | 9 |
| Rock Pigeon | 221 |
| Mourning Dove | 742 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 4 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | 1 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 9 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 |
| Barred Owl | 11 |
| Common Nighthawk | 6 |
| Chimney Swift | 182 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 33 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 35 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 208 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 130 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 26 |
| Northern Flicker | 90 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 54 |
| American Kestrel | 14 |
| Merlin | 2 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 59 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 3 |
| Willow Flycatcher | 1 |
| <i>Trail's Flycatcher</i> | 3 |
| Least Flycatcher | 2 |
| <i>Empidonax species</i> | 9 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 39 |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 3 |
| Eastern Kingbird | 2 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 24 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 4 |
| Warbling Vireo | 2 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 46 |
| Blue Jay | 609 |
| American Crow | 480 |
| Fish Crow | 44 |
| <i>crow species</i> | 311 |
| Common Raven | 4 |
| Horned Lark | 10 |
| Tree Swallow | 1 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 269 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 199 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 7 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 125 |
| Brown Creeper | 1 |
| House Wren | 31 |
| Winter Wren | 1 |
| Carolina Wren | 291 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 17 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 211 |
| Veery | 5 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 6 |
| Wood Thrush | 28 |
| American Robin | 479 |
| Gray Catbird | 343 |
| Brown Thrasher | 6 |
| Northern Mockingbird | 82 |
| European Starling | 2,572 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 93 |
| Ovenbird | 3 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 1 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 6 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 1 |
| Black-&-white Warbler | 29 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 2 |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 119 |
| Hooded Warbler | 1 |
| American Redstart | 73 |
| Northern Parula | 18 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 35 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | 3 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 10 |
| Blk.-thrted. Blue Warbler | 9 |
| Palm Warbler | 10 |
| Pine Warbler | 2 |
| Prairie Warbler | 2 |
| Blk.-thrted. Green Warbler | 10 |
| Canada Warbler | 4 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 2 |
| <i>warbler species</i> | 10 |
| Eastern Towhee | 45 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 191 |
| Field Sparrow | 10 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 3 |
| Song Sparrow | 57 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 1 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 8 |
| Northern Cardinal | 397 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 5 |
| Blue Grosbeak | 6 |
| Indigo Bunting | 91 |
| Bobolink | 75 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 109 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 12 |
| Common Grackle | 6 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 138 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 2 |
| House Finch | 153 |
| American Goldfinch | 490 |
| House Sparrow | 286 |
| Area Total Birds: | 12,651 |
| Area Total Species: | 125 |

high numbers (>500) are: European Starling, 2,572 Canada Goose, 1,198 Crows [American+Fish+species], 835 Mourning Dove, 742; Blue Jay, 609.

Of special note are the two write-in species: a vocalizing Willow Flycatcher seen now four time on the Fall Count and American Woodcock, only the second time seen on Fall Count. The prior woodcock, a single individual in 2004, is joined by this year's sighting of four individual birds seen by two separate parties, one each in Area 1 [3 birds] and Area 3 [1 bird].

Bird count participants: Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Mary Lou Clark, Dennis Coskren, **Jeff Culler (Area 2 Coordinator)**; Ralph Cullison III, David Cummings, **Susan & Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinators)**, Ward Ebert, Tom Feild, John Finedore, Joe Hanfman, John & Meg Harris, **Karen & Kevin Heffernan (Area 3 Co-coordinators)**, Bill & Gayle Hill, Russell Hillsley, David Holmes, Ed Huestis, Michael Kerwin, Brenda Kidera, Geraldine King, Clayton Koonce, Mike Leumas, **Allen Lewis, (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Robert & Sabrina Lovell, Rosa Lubitz, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, **Grazina & Mike McClure (County Co-coordinators)**, John McKitterick, Barry & Sue Miller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Richard Orr, Dave & Elaine Pardoe, Steve Parr, Ron & Susan Polniaszek, Russ Ruffing, David Sandler, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator)**, Tom Strikwerda, Tim Thompson, Robin Todd, Anthony VanSchoor, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Joshua Ward, Tex Wilkins, Michele Wright. Lastly, a very special thanks to **June Tveekrem, who hosted the evening tally.**

For the fifth year counters were given the option to list the species of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies seen as they were counting birds. A total of 18 people turned in a list: Jeff Culler, Tom Feild, Karen & Kevin Heffernan,

| | Obs. Butterflies Countywide | | Obs. Dragonflies Countywide | | Statistics |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Species | Butterflies | Species | Dragonflies | |
| 2016 Numbers | 44 | 2,285 | 15 | 145 | |
| High:Low | 44 : 22 | 2,285: 305 | 15: 12 | 142 : 50 | |
| Year 's of High : Low | 2016 : 2013 | 2016 : 2013 | 2013 : 2014 | 2012 : 2015 | |
| Averages for Ind. & Species | 35.60 | 1,098.80 | 13.80 | 116.60 | |
| 2016 Counters : Parties | | | | | 20 : 15 |
| Counters : Parties Averages | | | | | 15.2: 13.2 |
| 2016 Counters Hours : Miles | | | | | 89.7 : 115.6 |
| Counters Hours : Miles Averages | | | | | 66.6 : 108.4 |

Bill & Gayle Hill, Linda Hunt, Geraldine King, Kathy Litzinger, Grazina & Mike McClure, Sue Muller, Richard Orr, Paul Pethus, Jo Solem, Robin Todd, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson. See the table for greater detail.

The Butterfly Count set new highs for both the number of species and individuals, respectively. There were six species of butterflies with >100 individuals sighted. They were Common Buckeye, 140; Pearl Crescent, 395; Sagem, 240; Least Skipper, 152; Eastern Tailed-Blue, 469, and Cabbage White, 378. To say the least, it was a bang-up day for the butterflies. This year's total sighted individuals, 2,285, increased by a factor of ~1.8 from 1,285 sightings on last year's count. This increase is probably due to a combination of more counters in more parties but also broader countywide coverage with all seven areas reporting results. This is the first count with data from all areas!

The Dragonfly Count tied the prior high species count set in 2013 while the individual sightings were near the prior high [down by five]. For dragonflies, the most abundant species was the Blue Dasher with 35 individuals seen by a single observer. The next most abundant dragonflies were Eastern Amberwing, 23; Black Saddlebags, 27; and Eastern Forktail, 20. Only three areas reported results from five counters!

Special thanks to Linda Hunt, who graciously helped with arranging the butterfly counters.

Complete bird, butterfly, and dragonfly results are posted on the HCBC's website at <http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well. Next year the 2017 Fall Count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 16th.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

PO Box 1323

Columbia, MD 21044

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Mt. Pleasant Skywatch

MT. PLEASANT SKYWATCH

Join Russ Ruffing and others at the Mt. Pleasant Skywatch at 9:30 a.m. November 5 to search for migrating raptors (see [Field Trips](#) on page 2 for details). Perhaps we will be lucky and find a Golden Eagle that day! Also, you will almost certainly find one or more raptor enthusiasts at the skywatch site on other days this fall when conditions are good, ideally northwest winds. Russ, Harry Fink, Mike Kerwin, and others are glad to help visitors find and identify close and distant raptors, along with other migrating and resident species.



More than 2,500 migrating Broad-winged Hawks were observed from the skywatch in September, along with small numbers of other hawks, falcons, and eagles.