



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



CLUB MEETINGS - BY MARY LOU CLARK

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Red-Headed Woodpecker



A welcome visitor to the Perna home in Woodbine this spring. It was a life bird for both Pam and Mike. Photo by Pam Perna.

Thursday, November 12, 2020 “The Birds and the BEES!” by Sam Droege. You know the birds because you are a birder! But did you know that there are more bee species in the state than birds? Do you have bird feeders? What about bee feeders? We will tie all this together, showing that good bee support in your yard equals good bird support and your yard will be beautified by the flowers you will add for both. Follow the Bee Lab on Instagram, Flickr, Tumblr, and Facebook (@USGSBIML) to read all the details as the talk will just introduce you to the wonderful and complex world of native bees.

Sam Droege is a wildlife biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bio-Blitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogWatch USA programs, and works on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently his team is running an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, developing tools and techniques manuals, along with online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org, reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program, and producing public domain hi-resolution photographs of bees, insects, and flowers @USGSBIML.

Thursday, December 10, 2020 “The Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3” by Gabriel Foley. BBA3 has had a tremendously successful first season, and Atlas Coordinator Gabriel Foley is excited to discuss these results with the Howard County Bird Club. Learn about the birds reported in 2020, where this season’s effort was focused, how data quality review works, and how to strategize for a successful atlasing season in 2021. And Gabriel wants to hear from you, the atlaser, as well! Let him know what additional materials you could use, what topics are unclear, or anything else atlas-related that happens to be on your mind.

Gabriel Foley is the MD-DC BBA3 coordinator. He is an avid birder from the prairie province of Saskatchewan, Canada. While at the University of Regina, he researched Common Nighthawk habitat use in Canada’s boreal forest, then he studied White-browed Sparrow-Weaver nest-building behavior at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Please note: Club programs will be held on-line using Google Meet. See the [Club Programs and Field Trips](#) page on the HCBC website for details and registration procedures.

For further information, contact Mary Maxey, maximom11998@gmail.com.

FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS BY [JOE HANFMAN](#)

Field trip procedures have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All trips are limited to ten participants and advance registration is required. Participants must wear face masks. For details and to sign up, see the [Club Programs and Field Trips](#) page on the Howard County Bird Club website.

NOTE: All Centennial Park field trips for the 2020 fall season have been cancelled.

🏠🔥 HOWARD CO. CONSERVANCY C. S. ROBBINS SKYWATCH
November 7, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *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. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sunglasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope (optional), and camera (optional). Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if skywatching proves non-productive. Port-a-pot available. Leader – Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net

🏠 WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK
November 8, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Meet at the parking area by the gray harvesters.* Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have surprises. Expect wet areas. Port-a-pots available. Leader – David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com

🏠 SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM
November 14, Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *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 – David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com

🏠 TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT
December 19, Saturday. For information or to volunteer to participate, contact the compiler, David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com, 410-730-7083

🏠🔥 HOWARD WATERFOWL SEARCH
December 20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Meet at the Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride west side.* Plan to visit the Columbia lakes to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl Easy walking involved. No sharing scopes and **no carpooling except for immediate family members or roommates.** Facilities available at some locations. Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

🏠🔥 START YOUR YEAR LIST

January 1, 2020, Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Meet at the Howard County Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm.* Easy walking on woodland trails. Drive to different locations to find as many species as possible. **No carpooling except for immediate family members or roommates.** (The one day when every bird is new!) Facilities available. Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

🏠🔥 BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

January 9, Saturday (all day trip). Plan to stop at the Chop-tank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee, Duck Stamp, or national parks pass required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. **Limited to six vehicles. No carpooling except for immediate family members or roommates.** Facilities at some spots. Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

🏠 = Reservations required

🔥 = Great for beginning birders

♿ = Wheelchair accessible

FIELD TRIP DURING THE PANDEMIC WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK, OCTOBER 11, 2020



by Mary Lou Clark

Conducting field trips during the COVID-19 pandemic requires special procedures to ensure the safety of leaders, participants, and the general public. That is why the HCBC board of directors limited field trips to ten participants, requires that masks be worn, and prohibits car pools.

November 2020 field trips at Centennial Park were cancelled because of large crowds that are not social distancing.

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 – JULY 31, 2020

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Birders often look on the short summer season as an interlude to be endured between spring and fall migration. This year, despite the restrictions and challenges provided by the COVID-19 pandemic and the record-breaking number of 90° F. days in July, summer was a significant birding season. For the second consecutive season, a new bird species, White-winged Dove, was added to the county list. Other notable species were Broad-winged Hawk, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Dickcissel. A male Hooded Merganser in eclipse plumage was highly unusual. Finally, dozens of birders turned up a host of nesting records during this first year of the statewide breeding bird atlas.

Any season in which a new species is added to the county list is notable. Summer 2020 will be remembered for a **White-winged Dove**. The bird attracted statewide attention when it appeared in a Thornbrook Rd, Mt Hebron yard on 6/23 (JCu). It visited intermittently until the late afternoon of 6/25. Hosts Jeff and Karen Culler generously shared this rarity from the south/southwest with at least 100 people. The dove's presence was a welcome bright spot during the pandemic!



White-winged Dove

by Jeff Culler

Wood Duck broods continued to be reported into late July. A male **Hooded Merganser** in eclipse plumage was photographed at Centennial Park 6/25 (DDy). Males in this plumage are seldom seen south of the northern tier of states (DZk). The bird continued to be photographed into the fall season, providing a rare opportunity to watch the subtle changes taking place in its appearance.

A female **Wild Turkey** with three fuzzy poults at Schooley Mill Park 6/3 was a pleasant surprise (ALk). A hen with four small young along River Rd, Sykesville 7/10 confirmed the species for another atlas block (TRy, TFd).

During the last half of July, **Chimney Swifts** made their mark, thanks to alert atlasers. Three Howard County Bird Club members reported nests in one of their chimneys (RCu, WE, FLv). Each year additional chimneys are being capped which is affecting the swift population. Hats off to those who encourage the species by allowing a pair to nest! More attention-grabbing than nesting swifts are their roosts, sometimes attracting dozens to hundreds of birds. Among roosts this summer were Guilford Elementary School (SMu), Howard County Center for the Arts (MMx), Glenelg High School

(BHi), Vantage Point (CKc), and St. John's E. S. (RTd). The season's high count was 135 at Glenelg H. S. on 7/26 (BHi).

Sadly, there was no indication the pair of **Virginia Rails** at Font Hill Wetland Park nested successfully. They were last reported on 6/1 (HPT).

For shorebirds, the gap between the two migrations is often short. This year the last spring **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at Lake Kittamaqundi 6/4 (CKc, photo); barely a month later on 7/9, a Spotted appeared at Centennial (LGg). The first fall **Solitary Sandpiper** was notched at Waverly Pond 7/20 (RRf). A **Caspian Tern** at LKKIT 7/29 (CKc, photo) was another indication of the turning of the seasons—despite record-breaking heat.

A second-year **Common Loon** lingered at Centennial until 7/6 (LGg; ID: JHf). Occasional **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported as visitors or flyovers at all of the central lakes. **Great Egrets** were few. Some **Green Herons**, like many birds, have adapted to high-traffic areas. Two nests at Wilde Lake (m. obs.) again provided opportunities to observe portions of the life cycle of this species. A nest at Stanford Blvd Pond was also in a public location (CKc). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted at Meadowbrook Pk 6/15 (BO) with perhaps the same one at Centennial 6/16 (CKc, photo). Two adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** in proximity along the Patuxent Branch Trail 6/24 (KCK) raised hopes they might be nesting in the vicinity; but they were not seen again.



Black-crowned Night-Heron at Centennial Park

by Clayton Koonce

For part of the last decade, at least one **Osprey** pair has used a county cell tower as a nest site. This year atlas observers turned up three towers (possibly four) used successfully. A **Cooper's Hawk**, nesting in an adjacent yard at Talbots Landing, produced two young in late June. Watching the process was a treat for raptor enthusiasts (R/JGr). A **Broad-winged Hawk** heading north high over Mt. Pleasant 6/1 was likely a late migrant (MKw). Even more interesting was a sighting from Brighton Dam 7/3 of one flying into Howard Co (RRf). There are no recent county nest records for this species and none from the Triadelphia Reservoir watershed for decades. This sighting was a hopeful sign.

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a Timberleigh yard
([Records](#) continued on page 4)

(Records continued from page 3)

several times between 6/26 and 7/14 (**DNg**). Singles were also reported from Florence Rd 7/22 (**SMu**) and from Mt. Pleasant 7/26 (**MKw**). **American Kestrels** have been a declining species for several decades. A pair chasing a **Red-tailed Hawk** at Underwood Rd 7/14 (**MLC, SRm**) was a welcome indication of probable nesting. A sighting the following day at the same location of four kestrels on a telephone line with at least one fledgling verified breeding (**RRf**).

Acadian Flycatchers can be expected along the county's numerous rivers and streams. Eleven territorial males were counted along the Patapsco River at Henryton 6/8 (**KS**); the same number were on territory along the Patuxent River at Long Corner 6/14 (**MPw**).

Nine **Horned Larks** (two adults) were noted in the fields bordering Underwood Rd 7/15 (**RRf**). A major **Purple Martin** colony at Linthicum Rd contained 40 adults and 105 nestlings on 6/28 according to the homeowner (*fide* **BHi**). Five **Bank Swallows** at Centennial 7/22 (**ACm**) were unusual, although not unprecedented, in summer. **Cliff Swallows**, normally a colonial species, return each year to favored nesting sites. Some of the county's large colonies (Brighton Dam, Duckett Dam, US 29 bridge into Montgomery Co) are not counted annually because of access issues; smaller colonies may be overlooked. More colonies than usual were counted this first year of the statewide atlas. Fourteen birds were under the US 40 bridge into Baltimore Co on 6/20 (**MMx**). Those under the MD 32 bridge at Sykesville are relatively easily accessed from River Rd so that group was checked several times with a high of 42 birds on 6/25 (**SMr**). Outlying small colonies are the most likely to fluctuate in size from year to year. The Browns Bridge Rd Duckett Reservoir colony had a high count of 19 swallows on 7/15 (**JSf**). A few pairs have been present under the MD 32/Cedar Lane bridge since at least the previous atlas. Ten birds at six active nests were counted 6/28 (**JHr**) at this busy crossroads. Eight nests were reported under the I-95 bridge over the Patuxent River 7/20 (**KCk**), an interesting location because it is less than .5 mile downstream from the long-established colony on Duckett Dam. One of the most tenuous locations is the small group on a wooden outbuilding on a farm at Triadelphia Mill/Triadelphia Rd. This year an adult was still present there on 7/21 and there were four "new-looking" jug-like nests (**BHi**).

A **Veery** at Western Regional Pk 6/13 (**BO**) was a great find; four along the Patuxent River at Long Corner 6/14 (**MPw**) were at a known nesting stronghold. While perched on a Long Corner Rd telephone line, a **Northern Mockingbird** was heard to imitate a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** repeatedly 7/6 (**DNg**). The observer noted this wasn't quite as odd as the mocker decades ago she heard repeating a bobwhite's call, along with human laughter! A **Cedar Waxwing** fledgling at W. Friendship Pk 7/9 was a fine sighting (**ACm**). Late-nesting **American Goldfinches** were first noticed collecting nesting material at Allview 7/1 (**JMcK**).

With the dwindling number of large farms in the county, grassland species are also on the decline. It was satisfying to have **Grasshopper Sparrows** confirmed at W. Friendship Pk 6/23 (**LCg**) and at Underwood Rd 7/15 (**RRf**). There is a healthy colony of **Eastern Meadowlarks** at W. Friendship Pk with breeding confirmed (**LCg**). **Orchard Orioles** are one of the

first species to leave their breeding territories. Ten were counted along the powerlines at Maple Lawn 7/27 (**TFy**, photo).

Brown-headed Cowbirds impose on dozens of species to raise their young. Cowbird hosts reported this season were **Acadian Flycatcher** (**TRy**), **White-eyed Vireo** (**RTd**), **Red-eyed Vireo** (**KCk**), **Carolina Wren** (**GMy**), **House Finch** (**JMcK**), **Chipping Sparrow** (**SMu**), **Song Sparrow** (**MO'S; JS**), and **American Redstart** (**MPw**).

Summer warblers fall into two categories: late spring migrants and locally breeding species. Lingering migrants were clustered during the first week of June: 6/1 was the departure date for **Magnolia Warbler** (Cavey La, **RRf**), **Blackpoll** (Breconshire, **RTd**; Cavey La, **RRf**), and **Canada** (Marriottsville, **J/MHr**). Although **American Redstarts** nest in the county, they are late migrants so it is likely that some of the 12 along the Patapsco at Marriottsville 6/1 (**J/MHr**) were migrants. A **Black-throated Blue** lingered until 6/2 at upper Ellicott City (**KS**). The most significant late migrant warbler was a **Chestnut-sided** at Mt. Pleasant 6/25 by two parties (**JMg**, photo; **JRC**). This is just one day shy of a bird observed at Fulton 6/25/51 (**CSR**).

A few **Black-and-white Warblers** still nest in the county. One was seen at the north end of Triadelphia Reservoir 7/15 (**BHi**). A male **Prothonotary** hung on into summer at Race Rd Wetlands. It was last seen 6/6 (**JW**) with no evidence of successful breeding. A **Yellow Warbler** was spotted at the edge of a parking lot at US29/MD 108 on 7/16 (**ESu**), one of the earliest warblers to disperse from its breeding locations.

Dickcissels are of special interest as a result of the bird club's attempts to encourage nesting along Underwood Rd in 2017 and 2018. During late May and most of June 2020, there were continuing reports of one to three birds. The last sighting was 6/25 (**JRC**). Because the birds this year were using a distant field, it was difficult to be certain of their presence. Experienced birders visited the site on 7/14 (**MLC, SRm**) and 7/15 (**RRf**). No Dickcissels were detected.

Staying close to home during the pandemic sometimes had unexpected rewards. This season a lot on Stone Hill Dr with a mix of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants hosted 16 bird species either as nestlings or fledglings (**KLz**).

Appreciation: Many thanks to Joe Hanfman, Howard Patterson, and Ruff Ruffing who edited material and checked records.

Observers: **KCk** – Ken Clark, **MLC** – Mary Lou Clark, **LCg** – Lisa Colangelo, **ACm** – Aaron Coolman, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RCu** – Ralph Cullison, III, **DDy** – Donald Dey, **WE** – Wes Earp, **TFd** – Tom Feild, **TFy** – Tim Frye, **JGr** – Jane Geuder, **RGr** – Ralph Geuder, **LGg** – Lynn Gregg, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **JHr** – John Harris, **MHr** – Meg Harris, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **MKw** – Mike Kerwin, **CKe** – Clayton Koonce, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **ALk** – Anne Looker, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **JMg** – John Manger, **MMx** – Mary Maxey, **JMcK** – John McKittrick, **GMy** – Guy Moody, **SMu** – Sue Muller, **DNg** – Diane Nagengast, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **HPt** – Howard Patterson, **MPw** – Mary Prowell, **TRy** – Tim Ray, **JRC** – John Rice-Cameron, **CSR** – Chandler S. Robbins, **SRm** – Sarah Romero, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **JSf** – Justine Schaeffer, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JS** – Jo Solem, **ESu** – Eva Sunell, **RTd** – Robin Todd, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson, **DZk** – Dave Ziolkowski.

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. 19, 2020 with the count data shown in the table below. This count turned out to be better than expected. Countywide the total number of bird species was up by two, while the number of individuals was up by 1,568. The warbler 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°F [dewpoint 49°F] at 6:00 a.m. with scattered clouds. The temperature rose to 64°F [dew point 43°F] in late afternoon. Winds were light from midmorning until early evening staying generally below two mph with a single light gust clocked at 14 mph. Parties in the western end of the county reported morning temperatures in the high 30s, with one report of a pocket of frost in a low spot on the Cattail Creek floodplain. A wonderful fall preview.

Bird count participants were 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.

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.

Individual species table is on page 6. A full report of the results can be found at the [Seasonal Counts Results](#) page on the club's website.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020-21, go to the HCBC website at <https://www.howardbirds.org/> and click on "Join Us" at the top of the home page.

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 2021 issue is November 25, 2020.

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

HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Canada Goose	869	Acadian Flycatcher	1	Field Sparrow	12
Wood Duck	33	<i>Trail's Flycatcher</i>	1	Savannah Sparrow	10
Mallard	73	Least Flycatcher	1	Song Sparrow	34
American Black Duck	4	<i>Empidonax species</i>	5	<i>unidentified sparrow</i>	9
Rock Pigeon	63	Eastern Phoebe	47	Eastern Towhee	47
Mourning Dove	443	White-eyed Vireo	8	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	7	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Eastern Meadowlark	3
Chimney Swift	160	Blue-headed Vireo	4	Baltimore Oriole	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16	Philadelphia Vireo	3	Red-winged Blackbird	57
Killdeer	35	Warbling Vireo	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	194
Least Sandpiper	2	Red-eyed Vireo	74	Common Grackle	185
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Blue Jay	713	Ovenbird	6
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	American Crow	443	Northern Waterthrush	1
Wilson's Snipe	1	Fish Crow	168	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Spotted Sandpiper	1	<i>crow species</i>	322	Black-&-white Warbler	38
Solitary Sandpiper	3	Common Raven	10	Tennessee Warbler	7
Double-crested Cormorant	11	Tree Swallow	4	Nashville Warbler	2
Great Blue Heron	23	Barn Swallow	2	Mourning Warbler	1
Great Egret	4	Carolina Chickadee	175	Common Yellowthroat	67
Green Heron	8	Tufted Titmouse	141	American Redstart	53
Black Vulture	188	Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	Cape May Warbler	6
Turkey Vulture	263	White-breasted Nuthatch	128	Northern Parula	40
Osprey	5	House Wren	23	Magnolia Warbler	58
Northern Harrier	2	Marsh Wren	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Carolina Wren	334	Blackburnian Warbler	10
Cooper's Hawk	13	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	Yellow Warbler	1
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	29	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	16
Red-shouldered Hawk	79	Eastern Bluebird	318	Blackpoll Warbler	2
Broad-winged Hawk	849	Veery	1	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	23
Red-tailed Hawk	21	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Palm Warbler	6
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Swainson's Thrush	17	Pine Warbler	6
Great Horned Owl	3	Wood Thrush	6	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	8
Barred Owl	9	American Robin	436	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Belted Kingfisher	22	Gray Catbird	318	Prairie Warbler	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	12	Brown Thrasher	14	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	57
Red-bellied Woodpecker	222	Northern Mockingbird	95	Canada Warbler	3
Downy Woodpecker	145	European Starling	1,360	<i>warbler species</i>	33
Hairy Woodpecker	24	Cedar Waxwing	93	Scarlet Tanager	13
Northern Flicker	94	House Sparrow	132	Northern Cardinal	457
Pileated Woodpecker	37	House Finch	171	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	13
American Kestrel	13	Purple Finch	5	Blue Grosbeak	7
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	American Goldfinch	434	Indigo Bunting	69
Eastern Kingbird	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	2	Area Total Birds:	11,683
Eastern Wood-Pewee	70	Chipping Sparrow	207	Area Total Species:	126

DAY OF TREEFROGS

BY WES EARP

On May 23, I walked out after lunch and had the Prius loudly chirp at me several times before I popped the hood and caught the little critter. I finally placed him on a Norway Maple after he had leapt onto my shoulder and crawled to the middle of my back. Contortion city, until I finally reached him.

We located two more in the next few minutes. One was in a Mtn. Laurel. The other, my old friend of five years, hangs out atop the sagging double door to our garden shed.

I caught the first Prius lover on video calling later from his maple perch. Turned out it was a Cope's Treefrog. Noted the other night that there were no pictures of Cope's or Gray Treefrogs on the website. (Editor's note: now there are.)

In addition to the three in known positions, we had three others calling today from our acre.



Cope's Treefrog

by Sue Earp

WINTER FINCH FORECAST

For many years, birders looked forward to Canadian Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast. He retired from making the forecasts after last winter. However, one of his collaborators, Tyler Hoar, is continuing this service. Here is his forecast for the upcoming winter: <https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2020>.

In Howard County, we have already seen Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. We could possibly see some other boreal species this winter.



Purple Finch

by Pam Perna

Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3

by Sue Muller

It is always sad to see the breeding season come to an end. In spite of COVID-19, club members racked up 4,241 survey hours documenting 91 bird species breeding in Howard County. As of September 25th, we had 191 volunteers contributing breeding data through eBird.

During the last Breeding Bird Atlas (2002-2006), there were approximately 60,000 survey hours across the state. As we close the breeding season for our first year of this project, there have been 35,000 survey hours across the state in just the first year. The pandemic sent people looking for safe outdoor activities and birdwatching was one of them, bringing new volunteers our way. Using the eBird platform has also brought new volunteers our way and also has made tracking volunteer time easy.

Howard County is responsible for 24 blocks in this Atlas. We did not have any one species that was documented breeding in all blocks, but several came close:

Northern Cardinal – 23 blocks
 American Robin – 22 blocks
 Eastern Bluebird – 22 blocks
 Red-winged Blackbird – 21 blocks
 European Starling – 21 blocks
 Chipping Sparrow – 21 blocks
 Gray Catbird – 21 blocks
 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 20 blocks

If you are not involved yet, no worries! It is not too late to contribute to this project. A good place to get started is the Howard County Bird Club website and review the resources available to you (maps, FAQ section, Atlas handbook, observation tips and more): <https://howardbirds.website/birding/breeding-bird-atlases/bba3/>. Contact information for your county coordinators can be found here as well.



White-eyed Vireo

by Bonnie Ott

See Bonnie Ott's video of a White-eyed Vireo feeding chicks in the nest [here](#).



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

PO Box 1323

Columbia, MD 21044

November/December 2020 - Inside this Issue

Club Meeting

Summer Bird Records

Membership Renewal

Winter Finch Forecast

Field Trips

Fall Count Summary

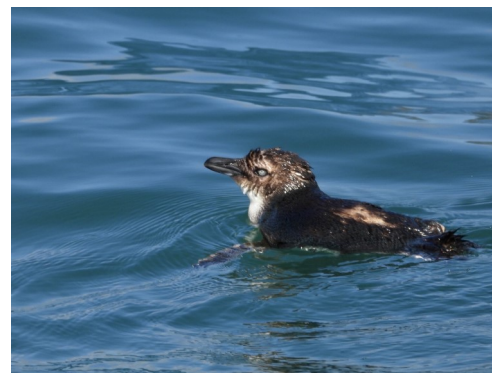
Day of Treefrogs

BBA3

KRISTIN TROUTON VISITED NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA EARLY THIS YEAR. SHE SHARES SOME OF HER PHOTOS BELOW.



Takahe, Zealandia, Wellington, NZ



Little Penguin, Kaikoura, NZ



Tawny Frogmouth, Centennial Park, Sydney, Australia



Laughing Kookaburra, Phillip Island, Australia