



# The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club  
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society  
[howardbirds.website](http://howardbirds.website)



## President's Welcome

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Welcome all to the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Howard County Bird Club. The organizational meeting of the club took place November 1972, with the first public meeting in December. We are in the midst of making plans for a remarkable celebration. The festivities will start in January 2022 and will culminate with a grand celebration in October 2022. Keep an eye out on our website and Newsgrams for more information. If you would like to volunteer for this or any other activities, please fill in the members survey on our website (<https://howardbirds.website/member-survey/>). We are always looking for new ideas and new people to get involved. It is a great way to meet people. We are looking for all types of skills. You need not be an expert birder to be involved.

It has been a great summer with breeding bird activity and rare birds. Though many of our activities were curtailed due to the pandemic, this year saw the opening of the Waterford Flats at Sharp's at Waterford Farm. A place for shorebirds to rest and feed during migration, the Flats will be open until September 30 for the fall migration. Visitors must be HCBC members, and must have reviewed the [visitation protocol](#) on the website. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we plan to resume field trips in the fall and to continue our monthly club meetings virtually. I hope you will join us for all of these activities. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Mary Maxey

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



by Mary Lou Clark

Pres. Mary Maxey presented Hank Stanton a Certificate of Appreciation May 11, 2021 for hosting the Rufous Hummingbird at his home in Ellicott City. Hank provided heated hummingbird feeders that sustained the bird through the winter of 2019-20.

### CLUB MEETINGS - BY MARY LOU CLARK

**Thursday, September 9, 2021** "Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird" by Katie Fallon. Vultures are often overlooked, underappreciated, and unloved, despite the vital role they play in healthy ecosystems. Worldwide, vultures are more likely to be threatened or endangered than any other group of raptor, but in the United States, Turkey and Black Vultures may be increasing in number. Based on Katie Fallon's recent book, this fun presentation will discuss the life and times of the noble Turkey Vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions.

(Meetings continued on page 2)

## 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. **Depending on the COVID situation at the time, there may be restrictions imposed.** 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](mailto:auk1844@gmail.com). HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

### Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

September 2, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Half day. Meet at the Trotter Road entrance. Moderate walking on wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails.

Leader – John Harris, [jaybee.harris@gmail.com](mailto:jaybee.harris@gmail.com), 843-592-4051

### Rockburn Branch Park

September 4, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Half day. Meet at the parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn Elementary School. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available

Leader – Mary Lou Clark, [doctorfx\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:doctorfx_99@yahoo.com)

### Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk

September 5, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. 2-3 hours. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery, wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities.

Leader – Linda Hunt, [raven10322@hotmail.com](mailto:raven10322@hotmail.com)

### Birding and Biodiversity

September 15, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. Half day. Meet at the Long Gate Park and Ride. Join Bonnie for an easy morning of birding strolling along the paved paths of Meadowbrook Park. Bonnie will explain the habitat and what to expect through the upcoming seasons. Focus will be on identifying birds by field marks, behavior, and flight patterns. She will also share how to look closely and carefully to see myriads of other creatures that inhabit the mixed field, wetland, and second-growth habitat. Perfect for beginning birders and folks interested in learning more about the biodiversity of Howard County. Expect to go at a leisurely pace with frequent stops. Cameras welcome. Facilities available.

Leader – Bonnie Ott, [sparrowdamsel@gmail.com](mailto:sparrowdamsel@gmail.com)

### Fall Count

September 18, Saturday.

Please go to the following link to sign up. <https://howardbirds.website/birding/seasonal-bird-counts/fall-count/>

### Birding and Biodiversity

October 4, Monday, 8:00 a.m. Half day. See September 15 entry for details.


### Birding and Biodiversity

October 17, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Half day. See September 15 entry for details.

### Howard Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant Farm SkyWatch

November 6, 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 a recent year a half-day sky watch 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, and light-colored sunglasses. There are benches at the site, but if you prefer your own lawn chair, recliners are best. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if skywatching proves non-productive. Facilities available.

Leader – Russ Ruffing, [ruff2@verizon.net](mailto:ruff2@verizon.net)

 = Great for beginning birders

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*(Meetings continued from page 1)*

Katie Fallon is the author of the nonfiction books [Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird](#) (2020, 2017) and [Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird](#) (2011), as well as two books for children. She is a founder of the [Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the region's wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation, and has served as president of the [Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society](#). She is a member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators. Her first word was "bird." For more: [www.katiefallon.com](http://www.katiefallon.com).

**Thursday, October 14, 2021** "Ecotourism and the Asa Wright Nature Center" by Larry Zoller. Hear how ecotourism has benefited the natural ecosystems of Trinidad by the establishment of the [Asa Wright Nature Center](#). Starting as a plantation high in the Trinidadian mountains, the Asa Wright Nature Center has fostered scientific research, championed land conservation, and supported local environmental education from the funds generated by ecotourism. Of course there will be photos of many fantastic tropical birds, too.

Larry Zoller is a retired biology and environment science teacher. He taught in Anne Arundel County for 40 years. He is also a past president of Anne Arundel Bird Club and a past president of Wake Audubon Society (WAS) in Raleigh, NC, where he currently resides. Along with his wife, Diane, he has traveled to all seven continents in search of birds, culture and natural ecosystems. He is currently the Educational Outreach Chairperson for WAS.

## SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 – MAY 31, 2021

BY [JOANNE SOLEM](#)

What a difference a year makes! During the spring of 2020, a once-in-a-century pandemic was sweeping the world. As protective measures were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, birders increasingly turned their attention to their yards and neighborhoods, sometimes with surprisingly productive results.

A year later, with the distribution of vaccines beginning to have a noticeable effect, spring 2021 brought cautious optimism. Slowly, ever so slowly, the darkness began to lift. With interaction outdoors deemed reasonably safe, birders increasingly ventured to favorite spots—at first alone with masks and at safe distances—then, with one or a few fully vaccinated friends. By the end of the season, as numbers of vaccinated people increased, time spent outside was on the rise.

For the second successive year, March produced well above-average temperatures—and no snow. April was chilly and windy, while May's weather swung dramatically between downpours and dry periods, midsummer heat and early spring chill until the very last days of the month.

Whatever the conditions, birders scoured the county and found good birds. Seasonal specialties included Trumpeter Swan, an unidentified out-of-range hummingbird, Forster's Tern, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Northern Goshawk, Mississippi Kite, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Evening Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Summer Tanager, and Painted Bunting.



Sedge Wren

by Kristin Trouton

Eight **Snow Geese** over the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) 3/8 (**J/MHr**) were one of the few reports and the season's last. The final **Cackling Geese** were five at Scott's Pd, S. Trotter Rd 3/10 (**WE**). A major **Canada Goose** migration day was 3/3: Cyprus Cedar 900 (**BO**), Mount Pleasant (MTPLT) three flocks (**MKw**), MPEA 161 (**CFr**), and, interestingly, of three flocks over Etchison Rd, half the birds in one flock were white (presumed **Snows**) (**NMcA**). March 9-10 was the last major push with reports totaling several thousand birds. Local **Canadas** started breeding early. Adults with downy young were noted at Daedalus Pond 4/17

(**CKc**), Lake Elkhorn (LKEK) 4/19 (**KCK**), and Broken Land Pkwy 4/19 (**TRy**).

Sightings of **Trumpeter Swans** are becoming annual. One was at Waverly Pd 4/4 (**LGg**); singles were also seen at LKEK 4/5 (**MSt**) and at Centennial Pk (CENPK) 4/14 (**JHf**). Three were at Wilde Lake 4/17 (**GDR**, ph.). **Tundras** were on the move on 3/10 (**CKc**; **LGg**; **BCt**); 32 were spotted at Big Branch 3/16 (**JWd**).

**Wood Duck** breeding was highly successful. A female with nine ducklings at CENPK 4/23 (**BO**) was the first of multiple broods there, along with young at both Race Road Wetlands (RACRW) and MTPLT. The brood of 18 following a female in the river at MPEA 5/11 (**TFy**, ph.) almost certainly fledged from a parasitized nest. Hats off to that little duck for incubating so many eggs successfully!

**Blue-winged Teal** are uncommon migrants that turned up at four locations. The largest group was at two ponds visible from a yard on Barberry Way: initially eight on 3/26 (**VSw**) with a high of 11 the same day on one of the ponds also visible from Underwood Rd (**KS+**). Four were a bonus at the new Waterford Flats 4/17 (**J/MHr**) with two still there 5/3 (**JHf**). Four **Northern Shovelers** 3/3 at Big Branch (**MLC**, **SRm**) and two at LKEK 3/29 (**KCK**) were notable away from RACRW. Two **Gadwalls** were present 4/11 at one of the Barberry Way ponds (**VSw**); the high was 36 at RACRW 3/8 (**KS**).

One **Canvasback** was at Scott's Pd 3/2 (**WE**); one appeared at CENPK 3/9 (**KS**), and one showed up at Wilde Lake 4/7 (**MKw**). A **Redhead** was spotted at Lake Kittamaquidi (LKKIT) 3/6 (**RVg-f.**) with one at CENPK 4/8 (**GPn-m.**). A **Ring-necked Duck** hung on at WATFD until 5/1 (**JHr**). The last **Greater Scaup** was at Larriland Farm 3/25 (**KS**). A **Bufflehead** at WATFD stayed until 5/20 (**KCK-f.**). The last three **Common Mergansers** flew over MPEA 4/26 (**J/MHr**), while the final **Red-breasted Merganser** was at CENPK 3/6 (**BO**). The only **Long-tailed Ducks** were picked up at night by listening live via NFC equipment: a flock over Cavey La 3/10, three flocks there on 3/29, and one flock on 3/30 (**RRf**).

Spring **Wild Turkey** sightings were widespread including Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 3/1 (**RTd-4**), Brighton Dam 3/9 (**SMu-1**), W. Friendship Pk (WFRDP) 4/3 (**CPr-1**), Long Corner Rd 4/5 (**MPw-1**), WATFD 4/11 (**J/MHr-1**), Circle D Club, Carrs Mill Rd 5/19 (**LCg-1**), Oakland Mills Rd/Dobbin Rd 4/15 (**MSt-1**), Nat'l Resources Div. parking lot O. Mills Rd 4/16 (**KCr-1**), and Belmont 5/8 (**KTn-1**).

A **Horned Grebe** arrived at LKEK 3/2 (**MSt**); it moved to LKKIT 3/5 (**GPn**). The first **Common Nighthawk** appeared over Sarasota Ct 5/5 (**KTn**); a perched bird at MPEA 5/12 (**KTn**) rested there all day; and the last three swooped over a vehicle on US 29 at 9:07 p.m. on 5/27 (**DSn**).

Most vagrant hummingbirds turn up in mid to late fall, often on the heels of strong weather systems. The timing of one at CENPK 5/14 (**JKn**, ph.) was odd. Joe Hanfman's

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communication with Bruce Peterjohn, retired head of the Bird Banding Lab, indicated only in-hand examination would provide a positive ID. It could be a *Selasphorus* sp. (Rufous?), but it could as likely be a North American rarity.

A **Virginia Rail** was present at MTPLT 4/10 (RRf). The individual at Font Hill Wetland Park 4/19 (BO) was not noted after that day dashing hopes for a repeat performance of last year's pair. The April Big Day team turned up a **Sora** at MTPLT 4/30 (RRf, JHr, KTn). Single **American Coots** appeared at Warfield's Pond Park 3/13 (MLC, MMx) and at LKKIT 3/4 (MOr).

The season's major shorebird news was the opening on April 1st of constructed wetland habitat at WATFD designed to assist migrating shorebirds and other waterbirds. Waterford Flats was open, but would the birds come? Did they ever! A **Glossy Ibis** on 4/8 (CSh) demanded attention. True, it's not a shorebird, but it was a fitting species to initiate the project. Shorebirds followed including **Semipalmated Plover** 5/14 (KCK-2), **Least Sandpiper** 4/21 (BHi-1) with a high of 43 on 5/10 (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk), **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/14 (JHf-1), **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/14 (JHf-1), and a high of 21 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/4 (KTn). An exciting beginning! For a description of the project, photos, and visitation protocols, visit [Waterford Flats](#).

Elsewhere, shorebirds of note were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Marshalee Pd 5/4 (DZk-1) and one at Meadowridge Bus. Pk 5/26 (JW-1). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was in the Davis Branch wetlands at MTPLT 5/10 (KS-1). Notably, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** in a damp field at Brighton Dam Rd/Ten Oaks Rd 3/1 (SLk, ph.) was so far ahead of its cohorts it broke an almost 50-year-old record [3/4/72 Dorothy Rauth]. **American Woodcock** continued their displays at multiple sites: Broccoli Way 3/7 (HMz-5), 3/9 Watersville Rd (DSm-1), Warfield's Pond Pk 3/14 (BHi-1), TRIRS between Pigtail/Big Branch (JWd-1), 5/12 Day Rd (RRf-1). The popularity of Gateway, RACRW, and Hipsley Mill continued with a high of six birds at Hipsley 3/2 (HPt, KS). **Wilson's Snipe** numbers were modest with seven at Underwood Rd 3/31 (GPn) and eight at the Alpha Ridge Landfill (ALRGL) 4/3 (JHf+).

The first **Bonaparte's Gull** appeared at Pigtail 4/2 (JWd) with the last four at CENPK 5/15 (LGg). No large flocks were recorded. A **Great Black-backed Gull** picked out at the Jessup Trash Transfer Station 3/1 (GPn) was the last of the season. **Caspian Terns** drifted through in the low single digits from 3/31 CENPK (HPt-2) to 5/1 CENPK (HPt-1) with a high of five at LKKIT 4/16 (CSp). **Forster's Terns** are scarce migrants, not seen annually and most often present in August at TRIRS. Surprisingly, spring produced two: one that visited both Wilde Lake 4/14 (HPt-a.m.) and LKKIT (LGg-p.m.) and a second at Brighton Dam 5/10 (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk).

**Double-crested Cormorants** were regular at the central lakes. Singles also turned up at Fulton Pd 4/25 (J/MHr) and Guilford Pk 5/4 (KCK), both infrequent locations.

The only **American Bittern** was an early bird at Alpha Ridge Pk 3/9 (BO). (She missed breaking her 3/8/82 record by a single day.) There are two active **Great Blue Heron** colonies in the county. The Vantage Point heronry contained 24 active nests on 3/23 (JS, MLC, SMu). The second colony, below Brighton Dam along the Patuxent River had ~25 nests 3/17

(Jtm). The modest **Great Egret** high was five at RACRW (JVk). Two were unusual at Gorman Stream Valley NRA-Kindler 5/13 (JGg, HPt, KTn, GPn). An adult **Little Blue Heron** at CENPK 4/21 (MNT) was a highlight. Spotted in late afternoon, it stayed the evening. A **Green Heron** was an interesting visitor to a deck at Brightwood Ct on 5/14 (DMs). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported in low numbers at CENPK, Wilde Lake, and a few ponds. Although the **Glossy Ibis** at WATFD 4/8 (CSh) stayed into the evening (MPw, Ltm), it was a one-day wonder.

**Ospreys** were early with the first at RACRW 3/4 (ALw). By 3/10, one was carrying nesting material near the Murphy Rd cell tower (JHf), where they nested again. Increasingly, Ospreys, **Bald Eagles**, and **Common Ravens** are using county cell towers as nest sites. **Northern Goshawks** are a rare wintering species. One was photographed over Norris La the first week of April (DZk). This is a MD/DCRC reviewable species. If accepted, it would be the latest county record. On 5/10, PFC Charles Toler of HC Police Dept rescued an injured adult eagle at the MD 32-W. Friendship park-and-ride. The bird was delivered to rehabilitators. An adult **Mississippi Kite** over Allview 5/21 (JMcK) coincided with high emergence of Brood X periodical cicadas. This abundant food has attracted kites in the past so additional sightings were expected. Sure enough. An immature bird appeared over Clegg Meadow, MPEA 5/31 (SLk, ph.) and hung around much of the morning. A nice spring count of 61 **Broad-winged Hawks** was caught high over Cavey La 4/18 (RRf).

A single **Barn Owl** was heard on 3/29 while listening live via NFC equipment at Cavey Lane (RRf); the bird passed over giving its classic scream at 10:18 p.m. Barn Owls are surprisingly vocal while migrating at night. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were well-reported with the breeding bird atlas a factor. A gray phase was seen in a cavity entrance at Shaffersville Rd 3/2; not far away on Long Corner Rd a red phase that had been heard was seen on 3/8 to establish two different individuals (MPw). Two screech-owls fledged from a box at Hallmark Rd on 5/12 (Web, ph.). (Ward's experiences with these small owls will appear in a future newsletter.) On 3/9, a pair was located at Meadowridge Memorial Pk (DZk); one was heard at MTPLT 4/13 (MKw). A **Great Horned Owl** was incubating in an old **Red-tailed Hawk** nest along Old Columbia Rd 3/12 (TRY). An evening walk from Allview to the central section of the Patuxent Branch Trail 5/14 turned up an astonishing three different **Barred Owl** families (T/GRy).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Cavey La 4/8 (RRf) was the first of many. A sampling included at least three individuals on 4/22, one at the Dunloggin Stream Restoration Project 4/29 (BCs), one at WATFD in late May (many observers), and a Clarksville bird on 5/30 (SLk). One at Bon Secours, Marriottsville Rd 5/31 among dead trees provided no breeding evidence (RCu). A **Pileated Woodpecker** digging in mulch at Hallmark Rd in early May (Web) was apparently feasting on cicadas still in the ground.

Four **American Kestrels** were at ALRGL 3/30 (JHf). The last **Merlin** was seen along Folly Qtr Rd 5/10 (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted at Dorsey Hall 3/12 (MKz-1) and at Cavey La 4/18 (RRf-1)

The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** appeared at LKKIT 4/20

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(CKc). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** are always a special sighting. Individuals were at Henryton, Patapsco Valley SP (HENPV) 5/18 (RHI, ph.) and MTPLT 5/31 (LGg, ph.). A report of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at HENPV 5/21 (KTn) was accompanied by definitive photos. **Willow Flycatchers** took their time returning with the first birds reported on 5/10 from both Gorman NRA-Kindler (JGg) and Folly Qtr Rd (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk). Of at least eight **Least Flycatchers**, the first was at Sewell's Orchard Pk 5/3 (BMy); one was spotted at seldom-birded Whipp's Garden Cemetery 5/14 (BCs); and the last was present at Annapolis Rock 5/21 (JHf)

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Long Corner Rd 4/15 (MPw) was a fine early record [4/18/93 Scott Atkinson]. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was at N. Laurel Pk 4/8 (Kck). Not one, but two **Warbling Vireos** arrived record early: 4/15 N. TRIRS (BHi) and 4/16 CENPK (BO) [4/18/15 Russ Ruffing]. **Red-eyed Vireos** flooded in the first week of May with a peak of 40 along the S. Wind Trail, MPEA 5/7 (JHf).

An **American Crow** at Oakland/Vantage Pt 5/31 was observed not only cawing, but also making Great Horned Owl-like hoots (CKc). The sound may be part of this species' repertoire or it may be an imitation. It is either heard infrequently or, perhaps when heard, seldom attributed to a crow. Great Horneds are the most nocturnal of local breeding owls; don't assume daytime hoots are owls. A pair of **Common Ravens** nested for the second consecutive year on the Dorsey Search cell tower 3/10+ (KS). A pair of ravens along Norris La were carrying food to young in the adjoining atlas block (a new county breeding area for this species!) 5/14 (DZk). The nest under the Woodstock Rd bridge (barely in Baltimore Co) contained four young on 3/31 (RRf).

A **Horned Lark** nest with two eggs was spotted at ALRGL 4/3 (RCu). **Bank Swallows**, as usual, straggled through in small numbers with a high of four on 5/12 at CENPK (BMy) and 5/14 at ALRGL (RCu) with a final sighting at WATFD 5/24 (ALw). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at RACRW 3/17 was the season's first (SLk). A pair was using a pipe along the Cascade Trail, PVSP in mid-May (DZk). Forty over the river at Savage Pk 4/12 was an unusual number for that location (Kck). The most interesting **Cliff Swallow** colony was observed in an open shed at WATFD. On 5/4, up to 14 birds were working on at least seven nests, a hopeful sign (Kck; ALw).

A **Brown Creeper** visited a deck at LKELK mid to late March picking up crumbs of peanut suet dropped by other birds (MSt). A **Sedge Wren** was a great find in long grass among second-growth adjacent to deciduous woods at Belmont 5/8 (KTn, ph.). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted at CENPK 4/4 (CSp); by 5/2 their high, buzzy song was background noise with 28 counted at MPEA (J/MHr, RRf, KTn). Thrush migration was unremarkable. The few **Gray-cheeked Thrush** sightings were strongly clustered: 5/18 HENPV (JCu), 5/19 Robinson Nature Center (HHb), 5/21 Belmont (JW), and 5/22 Martin Rd, W. Col. (JHf). A nest-building **Cedar Waxwing** at CENPK 5/30 (HPt) was a great find.

A continuing parade of boreal visitors entertained observers well into spring. The **Black-capped Chickadee** at MTPLT was last seen 3/8 (JW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely scattered, usually consistent at a location since fall; one in a Woodbine yard 5/14 was the season's last (PPr). **Evening**

**Grosbeaks** teased birders with a few fall appearances, mostly disappeared during winter, then reappeared in May: at Hilltop La 5/7-12 (GPn, m./f., ph.), Parrot Dr 5/9 (RHI, f., ph.), and Fulton 5/24 (DCS, f., ph.). **Purple Finches** tended to favor a few winter locations with the expected April jump in numbers. A flock of at least 15 were at HENPV 4/30 (RRf, JHr, KTn) with a high of 25 at Duval Rd 4/17 (Ktf), a favorite site over the years. The final spring bird was at Thornbrook, 5/30 (JCu, ph.).

A female **White-winged Crossbill** at Hermitage Dr 3/20 (C/HPt) was a star. Initially appearances were infrequent; by 4/5, they had become more regular so birders were invited to visit. At least 48 availed themselves of Howard's hospitality. Notably, it was one of the few individual of this species recorded in Maryland during winter/spring! For historical background, check [The Goldfinch, Vol. 36, No. 4, page 5](#). (No, Howard can't vouch for the flavor of his.) **Pine Siskins** continued to be the most widespread and numerous boreal visitor with dozens in some flocks; the last four were at Hermitage Dr 5/18 (HPt).



White-winged Crossbill

by Howard Patterson

**Grasshopper Sparrows** arrived on 4/21 at both WFRDP (LCg) and WATFD (JHf). A scattering of **American Tree Sparrows** stayed into March: 3/7 MTPLT (RRf), 3/9 Alpha Ridge Pk (MHr), and 3/23 Blandair (WVm). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was tallied at Hilltop La 5/13 (RSs). Sharp-eyed birders spotted **Vesper Sparrows** at ALRGL 3/30 (JHf+-3) to 4/6 (RCu-4), MTPLT 4/5 (LGg, JHf) to 4/16 (RRf), CENPK 4/19 (BO), and at WATFD 4/7 (GPn-1), a high of three on 4/14 (JHf), the last on 4/21 (Kck-2). A nice count of 31 **Savannahs** was reached at ALRGL 5/8 (RCu). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were present rather briefly: 5/10 MPEA (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk), 5/14 both ALRGL (RCu) and Norris La (DZk), and 5/19 MTPLT (JWd).

A single **Bobolink** at WFRDP 4/28 (RHI) was quickly followed by 25 at WATFD 4/29 (JHf); flocks topped out at 60 at Underwood Rd 5/9 (KS). The final three were at WATFD 5/20 (Kck). The male **Baltimore Oriole** that wintered in the Thornbrook Rd neighborhood was last tallied 4/17 (4/19 in 2020) (JCu). Will it appear for a third consecutive winter? A **Brown-headed Cowbird** egg was photographed in an **Eastern Phoebe** nest along the Patuxent Branch Trail 4/23 (Kck). Spring brought **Rusty Blackbird** sightings in the vicinity of woodland pools and the thick,

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soggy leaf layer they favor. Of the half dozen reported locations, 12 birds were noted at both Tarbay Pd 4/3 (SMu) and at Dorsey Woods 4/4 (SMu, DZk).



Rusty Blackbird

by Allen Lewis

Spring warbler migration was rewarding. The Big Day team (RRf, KTn, GPn, SLk) tallied 25 species on 5/10 at multiple sites. Twenty-one species at single locations were notched at MPEA 5/9 (RRf, JHr, KTn), Gorman NRA-Kindler 5/13 (JGg), and Norris La next to PVSP 5/14 (DZk), nicely delineating the peak days.

An **Ovenbird** appeared at Long Corner Rd 4/15 (MPw). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Brown's Bridge 4/27 (ALk). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard at Norris La 3/26 (DZk); as usual **Northern Waterthrushes** follow weeks later—this year at CENPK 4/23 (BO). A **Blue-winged** appeared at CENPK 4/27 (KTn) where they are not known to nest; they also showed up at Annapolis Rock 5/25 where they *do* nest (J/MHr). The first **Black-and-white** was spotted at HENPV 4/18 (RHI); 21 were counted at MPEA 5/2 (J/MHr, RRf, KTn). A male **Prothonotary** east of Woodstock Rd along the river on 4/10 (RRf) set a new early date [4/13/01 Grazina McClure]; one was singing at RACRW 4/29 (JW) until at least 5/18 (JW)—with no evidence of nesting; one at HENPV 5/18 was east of the road (MKw); and one appeared at Marriottsville (MARPV) 5/25 (JW). The first **Tennessee** was at MTPLT 5/4 (DCm).

**Mourning Warblers** attracted attention at MARPV 5/11 (MAF) to 5/25 (SLk), Norris La 5/14 (DZk), and Belmont 5/18 (JW). **Kentuckys** took their time arriving with the first at MPEA 5/7 (KS); in contrast, a **Hooded** at Woodbine Rd 4/18 (MPw) was the second earliest. A **Cape May** at HENPV 5/1 was on the early side (DCm). **Ceruleans** were few. The first was one of 16 warbler species at CENPK 5/12 (BMy); other **Ceruleans** were at MARPV 5/14 (JW) and near the parking lot at HENPV 5/17 (EHn). **Bay-breasteds** made a good showing starting with one at MPEA 5/6 (SLk). Sewell's Orchard Pk scored both the first **Blackpoll** on 5/3 (BMy) and the high count of eight on 5/9 (BMy). **Black-throated Blues** reached a peak of 20 at MPEA 5/10 (J/MHr, MLC, MMx). **Palm Warblers** arrived on 4/2 at both Barberry Way (VSw) and CENPK (RHI) and on 4/3 at WFRDP (CPr). The 65 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at CENPK 4/27 (BO) were the season's high, a modest number for this abundant species.

In late March, birders visit MARPV searching for the first

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – this year 3/31 (KS, ph.). The species also nests at HENPV (nest building on 5/18-JWd); birds were also seen at Brighton Dam 4/11 (KTn), MPEA 5/1 (GPn), and 5/19 LKKIT (CKc). Skulking **Wilson's** were tracked down in at least 10 locations including Maple Lawn powerlines 5/11 (TFy), Owen Brown paths 5/14 (DCm), and Brush Run near LKELK 5/16 (JW), as well as more popular birding sites.

**Handsome Summer Tanagers** are a special sighting. Two males were verified this spring: one at Annapolis Rock (horse trailer lot) 5/20 (J/MHr, ph., audio); and MARPV (downstream) 5/25 into summer (JW, ph.).

The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** showed up at Hermitage Dr 4/28 (HPt), a **Blue Grosbeak** at MTPLT 4/27 (BCs), and two **Indigo Buntings** at Jessup 4/29 (R/RnPr). All three species appeared frequently at feeders. For the second winter, an unpredictable female **Painted Bunting** wandered the east-central part of the county. It stayed into spring and was last seen at Stone Hill Dr 3/24 (KLz).

*Appreciation: Many thanks for the comments and corrections by Joe Hanfman, Howard Patterson, and Russ Ruffing. Their assistance is essential.*

**Observers:** KCK – Ken Clark, MLC – Mary Lou Clark, LCG – Lisa Colangelo, BCs – Benjamin Costello, KCr – Kyle Crouse, DCm – David Cummings, GDR – Guy DiRoma, WE – Wes Earp, CFr – Cheryl Farfaras, MAF – Mary Ann Fluke, TFy – Tim Frye, JGg – Joe Gallagher, LGg – Lynn Gregg, JHf – Joe Hanfman, JHr – John Harris, MHR – Meg Harris, EHn – Elaine Hendricks, RHI – Russell Hillsley, HHb – Hans Holbrook, MKm – Mara Kaminowitz, MKw – Mike Kerwin, CKc – Clayton Koonce, JKn – Jeremy Krasnick, ALw – Allen Lewis, KLz – Kathy Litzinger, ALk – Anne Looker, DMs – Dean Mahlstedt, MMx – Mary Maxey, NMcA – Nancy McAllister, JMCK – John McKitterick, HMz – Helen Metzman, BMy – Brian Moyer, MOR – Maya Oslander, BO – Bonnie Ott, CPr – Cynthia Parr, CPT – Craig Patterson, HPt – Howard Patterson, PPn – Pam Perna, RnPr – Renee Peters, RPr – Richard Peters, GPs – Gregg Petersen, MPw – Mary Prowell, GRy – Grace Ray, TRy – Tim Ray, SRm – Sarah Romero, RSs – Ryan Salsman, DSn – David Sandler, KS – Kurt Schwarz, CSh – Chuck Sharp, DCS – Debbie Colman Smith, DSm – David Smith, JS – Jo Solem, CSp – Cathy Starpoli, MSt – Michelle Stewart, VSw – Valerie Swan, MNT – MarkNhu Tewell, JTM – Jim Thomas, LTM – Lisa Troutman, KTn – Kristin Trouton, RVn – Roshan Vignarajah, JWd – Josh Ward, WWm – William Wortman, DZk – David Ziolkowski.

**Abbreviations:** ALRGL – Alpha Ridge Landfill, CENPK – Centennial Park, f. female, HENPV – Henryton, PVSP, LKELK – Lake Elkhorn, LKKIT – Lake Kittamaqundi, m. – male, MARPV – Marriottsville, PVSP, MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, MTPLT – Mt. Pleasant, NFC – Night Flight Call equipment, PVSP – Patapsco Valley State Park, RACRW – Race Road Wetlands, TRIRS – Triadelphia Reservoir, WATFD – Waterford, WFRDP – W. Friendship Park.

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your membership in the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Howard County Bird Club for the 2021-22 season. Click on the [Join Us](#) link at the top of the HCBC website home page for details.

## TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE

The Howard County Bird Club's annual Fall Count, scheduled each year on the third Saturday of September, will be on September 18, 2021. Mike McClure 410-531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417 (home) or 443-462-8234 (mobile) are the county co-coordinators. Holding the count in the presence of the novel coronavirus pandemic caused a few changes in how the count will proceed:

*While the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 may be remote, participation is at one's own risk and neither MOS, nor its chapters, can guarantee that attendance will not result in contracting this virus. You must agree to wear a mask and practice social distancing when anyone other than immediate family is present. Do not share binoculars or telescope, or in any manner endanger others in your field party or others met while counting by exposure to the novel coronavirus. Note, the delta variant is out there and looking for you regardless of vaccination status.*

- Participants will be expected to obey current official guidance on COVID-19 practices present on count day.
- Count parties should be kept to the minimum size, preferably one person. Two individuals are acceptable so long as they are already within your sphere of exposure (immediate family, etc.) If you choose to bird with someone else or a larger group please employ social distancing, wear masks, hand sanitizer, etc. Please be careful.
- Parties will email electronic inputs to coordinators (eBird reports, scans or photos of completed field sheets, phone in results to coordinator).
- Coordinators will complete the coordinator area spreadsheet for their area. Both an Excel and PDF version of the input sheet will be available. If they complete the PDF version coordinators can provide a scan or photo of the form sheets **no later than September 27**.
- There will be no in-person tally.

Counts in prior years have set an average of 125 species. Spend the day, or however much time you have, birding with us and help raise the average! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate and if you are a beginner or do not wish to have your own territory let coordinators know. Unfortunately the number of individuals that will be willing to have others join them will be less than normal due to the pandemic. We will attempt to find someone willing to bird with you but at a minimum people who count in their neighborhoods or watching their feeders are welcome. The county is divided into seven areas (shown below) which are used for all annual counts. **A 2021 fall season field sheet for Howard County will be available on the Club's website.** Species that require a writeup include those identified with a double asterisk (\*\*), as well as any write-ins. Others that may require a writeup or oral amplification (\*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated. Also, plan on helping out with the butterfly, dragonfly, and damselfly count. Check sheets for them are also available on the website.

The following area coordinators have been named:

Area 1) Mark Wallace 301-725-6370 and Wes Earp 410-531-3197

Area 2) Brian Moyer 410-441-9901

Area 3) Gregg Peterson 202-256-8166

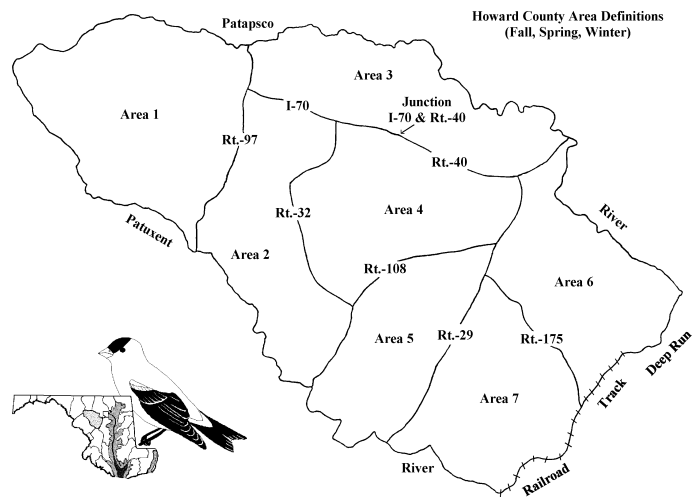
Area 4) Mike McClure 410-531-2780

Area 5) Kurt Schwarz 443-538-2370

Area 6) Mary Lou Clark 410-465-4061

Area 7) Allen Lewis 443-774-4210

You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer.



### SEEKING NEXT EDITOR FOR *THE GOLDFINCH*

After eight years as editor of *The Goldfinch*, Howard Patterson would like to transition out of that duty during the upcoming birding year, with a new editor taking over with the September-October 2022 issue.

Volunteers should have basic computer skills, including familiarity with Microsoft Word or other word processing software. Experience with MS Publisher or another publishing software program is helpful, but not required. Howard will provide hands-on training and a transition package with past files and details on preparation of the newsletter. There are five issues published each birding year, each issue covering two months; there is no issue for July-August. The job does not require that the editor write articles (sometimes a paragraph or an introduction).

At one time in the past, there were co-editors for *The Goldfinch*, reducing the workload on a single individual, so consider that possibility also. For most of its history, the position has been filled by one person.

If you wish to volunteer, contact President Mary Maxey at [maximom11998@gmail.com](mailto:maximom11998@gmail.com). If you would like more information, or to spend a couple of hours observing the preparation of an issue of *The Goldfinch*, contact Howard at [howard21042@verizon.net](mailto:howard21042@verizon.net).

## HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS, MAY 8, 2021

BY GREGG PETERSEN AND AMY ANDERSON

Sixty-six birders participated in this annual May Count in Howard County on May 8, 2021 (74<sup>th</sup> statewide and 48<sup>th</sup> compiled by the Howard County Bird Club). The day dawned calmly enough but with a red sky presaging a dynamic day of weather. The temperature ranged from a cool 38°F. in the morning to 54°F. by dusk, with light rain in the mid-morning, followed by clearing around noon with increasing wind, then thunderstorms in some areas with wind gusts of up to 21 mph and rain or hail depending on where you were in the early afternoon, followed by clearing at the end of the day. The early afternoon storm prevented at least one site from being completely surveyed.

We tallied 138 total species which is tied for 31<sup>st</sup> and the total number of birds (12,971) ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in the 48 years of the count. A total of 231 species have been seen over the 48 years, with 76 species seen every year, while 21 have been seen only once. No species was missed or seen for the first time this year. This year's top bird was the single Sedge Wren spotted for only the third time ever on the count.

Six other species exceeded or tied all-time high counts: Red-shouldered Hawk (77), *Red-headed Woodpecker* (5), Fish Crow (95), Common Raven (10), Purple Martin (112), and Eastern Bluebird (227). An additional 11 species matched or tied ten-year high counts: Blue-headed Vireo (7), Bank Swallow (5), Evening Grosbeak (1), House Finch (408), Purple Finch (12), Pine Siskin (20), Eastern Towhee (196), Cape May Warbler (9), Palm Warbler (5), Yellow-rumped Warbler (232), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (30). This was quite a bounce-back for the Eastern Towhee, which had an all-time low count (111) in the 2019 May Count; a 56% increase. Finally, after seeing Bald Eagle just once in the first 18 years of the count, it has been seen 30 years in a row! No species had an all-time low count, but three species had ten-year low counts: Wood Duck (17), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1), and *Worm-eating Warbler* (5). The birds in italics were listed in their respective category on the 2019 count (the last regular count) as well. The Bufflehead (two of the last three years) and Common Ravens (nine of the last 14 years) were seen for just the tenth year all time.

Purple Finch was seen 13 of the first 14 years (when the count was the first weekend in May) but only in five (four times in last nine years) of the last 32 years (after the count moved to the second weekend in May). We tallied 29 warbler species (the average is 30). Sightings of just a single Prothonotary, Wilson's, and Nashville Warbler kept that number from going lower. The total number of warblers observed (1,130) ranked 30<sup>th</sup> out of 48.

A table summary of the May Count is on page 9. More comprehensive tables showing results by area for this count and a [compilation spreadsheet](#) of the May Count data from 1974 through this year can be found on the Howard County Bird Club website.

112 White-tailed Deer were tallied on count day.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. First, thanks to the former May Count coordinator of 15 years, Kevin Heffernan for a smooth transition and detailed educa-

tion for our first year as May Count co-coordinators. Thanks especially to the long time Howard County Bird Club compiler, Chuck Stirrat, for doing the complex work to create, update, and distribute checklists and spreadsheets, and to collect, correct, and compile the data in addition to being Area 3 Coordinator! Special thanks as well to our other Area Coordinators, Wes Earp (Area 1), Brian Moyer (Area 2), Mike McClure (Area 4), and Allen Lewis (Area 7), who arranged their respective coverage, did follow-up if necessary, and compiled area totals. Amy and Gregg also served as Areas 5 and 6 Coordinators respectively.

Access permission from Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Howard County Conservancy, and many private property owners assured good coverage—we are extremely grateful for that support as well.

Most importantly, thanks to the rest of our 66 participants who spent 222.1 hours observing and covered 177 miles on foot and 563.4 miles by car. They spent another 29.3 hours feeder watching, plus 10.8 hours stationary and 4.4 hours of owling. Due to COVID-19 protocols, this year's Tally Rally was again virtual with the expectation that next year we will return to a potluck event. Area leaders' names are in boldface below (*anyone who counted in more than one area or also at a feeder is listed just once*).

Observers: **Area 1. Earp**, Mark Wallace, Jay Sheppard, Mary Prowell, Lisa Troutman, Kathie Lillie, Lisa Colangelo, Kate Tufts, Jim and Marilyn Brinkley, and Susan Earp; **Area 2. Moyer**, Jeff and Karen Culler; **Area 3. Stirrat**, Karlyn McPartland, Sarah Wiesbrock, Russ Ruffing, Mary Lou Clark, Mary Maxey, Kimberly McDowell, Steve Jones, Felicia Lovelett, David Sandler, Woody Merkle, Ralph Cullison III, Joe Hanfman, Valerie Swan, Robin Todd, and Kevin Heffernan; **Area 4. McClure**, Mike Leumas, Patsy Kennan, Leslie Geist, and Cathy Staropoli; **Area 5. Anderson**, Clayton Koonce, Sherry Tomlinson, Howard Patterson, John Harris, Suzanne Probst, Russell Hillsley, Steve Luke, and Ginny Walker; **Area 6. Petersen**, Janet Lydon, Tim Thompson, Brigitte Lund, Karan Blum, Meg Harris, Scott Guzewich, Kristin Trouton, Kurt Schwarz, and Cyndy and Steve Parr; **Area 7. Lewis**, Michelle Stewart, Barry Miller, Stan Arnold, Dennis Coskren, Sue Muller, Jo Solem, Ken Clark, Karen Osteen, Sue Neri, and Ben Newton.

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

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Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235  
[howard21042@verizon.net](mailto:howard21042@verizon.net)

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The September 23 and October 28 board meetings will be held by teleconference or videoconference. If you have input or questions, please send an email to Mary Maxey at [maxeymom-11998@gmail.com](mailto:maxeymom-11998@gmail.com).



## Howard County May Bird Count - May 8, 2021

	Totals		Totals		Totals
Canada Goose	685	Blue-headed Vireo	7	Eastern Towhee	196
Wood Duck	17	Warbling Vireo	12	Yellow-breasted Chat	4
Mallard	66	Red-eyed Vireo	281	Bobolink	34
Bufflehead	1	Blue Jay	461	Eastern Meadowlark	13
Wild Turkey	6	American Crow	293	Orchard Oriole	31
Rock Pigeon	45	Fish Crow	95	Baltimore Oriole	100
Mourning Dove	288	<i>crow species</i>	137	Red-winged Blackbird	562
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Common Raven	10	Brown-headed Cowbird	163
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Horned Lark	10	Common Grackle	106
Common Nighthawk	1	Bank Swallow	5	Ovenbird	112
Chimney Swift	154	Tree Swallow	231	Worm-eating Warbler	5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	17	N. Rough-winged Swallow	104	Louisiana Waterthrush	24
Killdeer	17	Purple Martin	112	Northern Waterthrush	12
Least Sandpiper	4	Barn Swallow	367	Blue-winged Warbler	2
Wilson's Snipe	1	Cliff Swallow	34	Black-&-white Warbler	59
Spotted Sandpiper	14	Carolina Chickadee	116	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Solitary Sandpiper	44	Tufted Titmouse	188	Tennessee Warbler	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Nashville Warbler	1
Common Loon	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	65	Kentucky Warbler	3
Double-crested Cormorant	8	House Wren	112	Common Yellowthroat	185
Great Blue Heron	49	Sedge Wren	1	Hooded Warbler	9
Green Heron	16	Carolina Wren	260	American Redstart	74
Black Vulture	108	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	125	Cape May Warbler	9
Turkey Vulture	194	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	Northern Parula	143
Osprey	21	Eastern Bluebird	227	Magnolia Warbler	13
Northern Harrier	3	Veery	15	Bay-breasted Warbler	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Swainson's Thrush	14	Blackburnian Warbler	4
Cooper's Hawk	8	Wood Thrush	149	Yellow Warbler	50
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	6	American Robin	434	Chestnut-sided Warbler	14
Red-shouldered Hawk	77	Gray Catbird	373	Blackpoll Warbler	18
Red-tailed Hawk	23	Brown Thrasher	25	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	92
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Northern Mockingbird	137	Palm Warbler	5
Great Horned Owl	5	European Starling	457	Pine Warbler	4
Barred Owl	10	Cedar Waxwing	161	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	232
Belted Kingfisher	14	House Sparrow	282	Prairie Warbler	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	5	Evening Grosbeak	1	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	244	House Finch	408	Canada Warbler	4
Downy Woodpecker	102	Purple Finch	12	Wilson's Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	20	Pine Siskin	20	Scarlet Tanager	51
Northern Flicker	39	American Goldfinch	346	Northern Cardinal	785
Pileated Woodpecker	36	Grasshopper Sparrow	13	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	30
Great Crested Flycatcher	93	Chipping Sparrow	278	Blue Grosbeak	10
Eastern Kingbird	72	Field Sparrow	36	Indigo Bunting	90
Eastern Wood-Pewee	26	White-crowned Sparrow	6	<b>Total Birds</b>	12,971
Acadian Flycatcher	16	White-throated Sparrow	360	<b>Total Species</b>	138
Eastern Phoebe	71	Savannah Sparrow	40		
White-eyed Vireo	21	Song Sparrow	160		
Yellow-throated Vireo	14	Swamp Sparrow	4	Write-in species in yellow	



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

P. O. BOX 1323

COLUMBIA MD 21044-1323

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Seeking Editor

BBA3

## MD/DC BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 3

BY SUE MULLER

As this newsletter comes out, the breeding season has slowed down considerably. We have had a great year in Howard County for our second year of the five-year atlas. There have been 251 people submitting more than 11,000 checklists through the atlas portal! More than 90 species have been confirmed breeding in the county. The late part of the spring season was exciting for atlasers, noting what birds were eating all those cicadas and which birds were carrying them away to feed their young. New confirmations this year included Red-headed Woodpecker, Dickcissel, Kentucky Warbler, Savannah Sparrow and Yellow-throated Vireo.

Howard County has been assigned 24 different map blocks to survey. One of the aspects of the project is to map the distribution of breeding birds in each block. So far, we have confirmed four species in all blocks; Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Chipping Sparrow and Eastern Bluebird.

Speaking of Eastern Bluebirds, follow this link to see how the distribution of Eastern Bluebird has changed in the County over the decades:

<http://howardbirds.website/breedingbirdatlas/EasternBluebird.pdf>. These maps show how the impact of providing artificial nest boxes has increased nesting success of this species. The information to produce these maps was collected by volunteers.

If you haven't joined the atlas effort yet, no worries! We have three more years ahead of us gathering breeding information. If you would like to get involved but don't know where to start, drop a line to your County Coordinators at: [howard@mdbirds.org](mailto:howard@mdbirds.org). Atlasing in your own yard can be fun, you may even have an exciting confirmation like a colony of Purple Martins or even owls!