

Howard County Midwinter Count, February 1, 2025

Joe Hanfman

A cool and 75% cloudy day with temperatures 37 to 43° F, winds 10 mph and no precipitation. The ponds were 95% frozen and rivers were flowing. We recorded 91 species which is slightly above the average of 88.3 species recorded in the last 39 years. The total number of individual birds was 27,037 which is 19,231 below the average number of birds recorded and 137,863 below the maximum number of birds recorded.

The top birds were Eastern Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Loon, and a Baltimore Oriole was seen for the eighth time on the count.

All-time high counts were recorded for Cackling Goose (8), Double-crested Cormorant (5), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Northern Saw-whet Owl (3), Peregrine Falcon (2) and Common Raven (32).

All-time low counts were Ring-billed Gull (128).

47 of the 90 species tallied have been seen on all 39 Midwinter Counts. 79 of the 90 species tallied have been seen on at least 50% of all 39 Midwinter Counts.

The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Mute Swan (not expected), Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Pine Siskin, and American Tree Sparrow.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. 67 parties of 92 observers spent 172.4 hours and covered 156.6 miles on foot and 388.0 miles by car. Another 6.9 hours were spent feeder watching, plus 6.6 hours stationary and 4.1 hours of owling.

Chuck Stirrat updated the taxonomic order, summarized the area worksheets, and provided field and feeder checklists. Area leaders arrange coverage, do follow-up if necessary, and compile area totals. Their names are in boldface below (*anyone who counted in more than one area or also at a feeder is listed just once*). The tally was done in person thanks to Meg and John Harris.

Land permission from Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and many private property owners assure good coverage—we are extremely grateful.

Observers: *Area 1.* **Wes Earp**, Jon Boone, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Susan Earp, Tom Feild, Geraldine King, Kathie Lillie, Connie McRill, Woody Merkle, Kent Middlekuff, Pam Perna, Mary Prowell, Jay Sheppard, Lisa Troutman, Bruce Woodward, Mark Wallace; *Area 2.* **Russell Kovach**, Ben Costello, Jeff & Karen Culler, David Holmes, Yi-Ying Lee, Vitus Li, Mary Maxey, Hsiao (Mei) & Wen-Jong Shyong, Ashley Tipton, Roshan Vignarajah; *Area 3.* **Chuck Stirrat**, Jane & Mark Chandler, Ralph Cullison III, Michele DeMuisis, Guy DiRoma, Joe Hanfman, Steve Jones, Felicia Lovelett, David Richardson, Russ Ruffing, Lilian Saul, Valerie Swan; *Area 4.* **Mike McClure**, Sandra French, Mike Leumas, John Henri Rorabeck; *Area 5.* **Thomas Seivert**, Debbie Belchis, George and Teresa Berkheimer, Mary Lou Clark, Rose Eicker, John & Sue Greer, Clayton Koonce, Shashi Lengade, Allen Lewis, Gregg Petersen, David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson, Doug Wassmer; *Area 6.* **Dianne Aguilera**, Jillian Adams, Bob & Jan Depuy, Mandy Elder, John & Meg Harris, Andy & Ralph Geuder, Liz Guertin, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Richard Orr, Bonnie Ott, Steve Parr, Suzanne Probst,

Tim Thompson, Laura Wolf; *Area 7*. **Kurt Schwarz**, Ken Clark, Dennis Coskren, Meghaan Lane, Rosa Lubitz, John McKitterick, Brian Moyer, Sue Neri, Brittany Parsons, Brett Rowland, Jo Solem, Jim Wilkinson, Hillary Yarmus.

Howard Mid-winter Count 2025

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD Species / Area No.:	Season: Winter		Type: Regular		Area: Howard		Date: 2/1/2025	Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Cackling Goose		2	6					8
Canada Goose	4,301	3,587	849	785	948	524	2,371	13,365
Gadwall	12							12
Mallard	19	38	19	2	8	2	23	111
American Black Duck	2	6	6					14
Northern Pintail		2						2
Green-winged Teal	6	1						7
Redhead		21						21
Ring-necked Duck	16	30		25	9		2	82
Lesser Scaup		1						1
Bufflehead	7	10			2			19
Hooded Merganser	13	13		29	2		19	76
Common Merganser		74	6				44	124
Ruddy Duck		6					4	10
Wild Turkey		1	1					2
Pied-billed Grebe		4						4
Rock Pigeon	38	7	22	3	1	2		73
Mourning Dove	107	12	46	33	7	47	69	321
Killdeer	1		1		1			3
Ring-billed Gull		60		11	42	4	11	128
Herring Gull							2	2
<i>gull species</i>		2				39	2	43
Common Loon					1			1
Double-crested Cormorant		4					1	5
Great Blue Heron	3	5		2	2	1	4	17
Black Vulture	128	75	50	6	4	38	46	347
Turkey Vulture	141	81	80	10	33	46	27	418
Northern Harrier			1					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk						2	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	2	2	2		1	3	1	11
<i>accipiter species</i>	1							1
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	4	11	1		2	4	5	27
Red-shouldered Hawk	24	9	11	4	9	9	14	80
Red-tailed Hawk	12	12	16	1		3	4	48
Eastern Screech-Owl	11	1						12
Great Horned Owl	6	1		2				9
Barred Owl	5	1		3			1	10
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3							3
Belted Kingfisher	5	5		2	1	1	2	16
Red-headed Woodpecker					1			1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	18	34	15	24	14	28	184
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	1	5	7	1	3	6	31
Downy Woodpecker	40	8	23	9	18	18	34	150
Hairy Woodpecker	10	5	8	2	6	5	3	39
Northern Flicker	8	5	24	5	6	7	6	61
Pileated Woodpecker	13	6	8	2	8	7	8	52
American Kestrel	2	2	2					6
Merlin					1			1
Peregrine Falcon			1			1		2
Eastern Phoebe				1			2	3
Blue Jay	97	37	79	23	28	43	49	356
American Crow	476	192	240	29	59	126	105	1,227
Fish Crow	25	225	130	67	2	13	4	466

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
American/Fish Crow	34	43	1	29	12	19	3	141
Common Raven	5	11	12			3	1	32
Carolina Chickadee	111	39	63	30	48	46	55	392
Tufted Titmouse	119	31	65	24	41	47	81	408
Horned Lark	3	1	4					8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4			1		2	5	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	12	8	3	5	3	11	46
Cedar Waxwing	17					8		25
Red-breasted Nuthatch							1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	61	23	42	8	23	18	45	220
Brown Creeper	1	6	3		2	4	3	19
Carolina Wren	73	22	30	21	27	22	78	273
Winter Wren	4	4	2	1	2		5	18
Northern Mockingbird	47	29	48	3	8	23	25	183
European Starling	210	225	501	29	187	121	224	1,497
Eastern Bluebird	143	61	111	23	24	67	38	467
Hermit Thrush	4	1	1				2	8
American Robin	450	9	54	77	32	84	64	770
House Sparrow	10	47	70	6	26	14	164	337
American Pipit		6						6
House Finch	85	27	80	20	33	29	78	352
Purple Finch	3		1	4	1		2	11
American Goldfinch	46	13	25	10	6	7	23	130
Chipping Sparrow	7		5	2		2	1	17
Field Sparrow	7	6	18		2	10		43
Fox Sparrow		1	3			2	2	8
Dark-eyed Junco	259	63	136	49	116	33	151	807
White-crowned Sparrow	8		2					10
White-throated Sparrow	213	56	363	56	67	211	216	1,182
Savannah Sparrow			2					2
Song Sparrow	47	34	77	8	19	31	54	270
Swamp Sparrow			2		1		2	5
Eastern Towhee	4	3	6		4	5	2	24
Eastern Meadowlark	3							3
Baltimore Oriole			1					1
Red-winged Blackbird	12	3	47	10	44	119	98	333
Brown-headed Cowbird	36	4					4	44
Rusty Blackbird	36							36
Common Grackle	2					200		202
<i>unidentified blackbird</i>				30		25		55
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	3		2					5
Northern Cardinal	154	41	107	42	71	74	129	618
Area Total Birds:	7,824	5,408	3,557	1,564	2,028	2,191	4,465	27,037
Area Total Species:	68	67	58	46	51	50	59	91
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Supplemental Data								
Time Start:	4:48 a	5:46 a	7:00 a	7:00 a	7:30 a	7:20 a	5:30 a	4:48 a
Time Stop:	6:15 p	6:09 p	5:10 p	7:05 p	1:37 p	5:45 p	4:00 p	7:05 p
Hours on Foot:	43.0	13.4	33.5	10.3	18.4	21.1	32.9	172.4
Hours by Car:	17.5	7.0	6.5	.8	.1	1.3	8.9	42.0
Hours by Boat:								
Hours Other:								
Miles on Foot:	29.6	13.5	33.6	9.7	17.9	17.3	35.1	156.6

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Species / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Miles by Car:	153.0	63.5	61.3	17.6		9.0	83.6	388.0
Miles by Boat:								
Miles Other:								
Hours Feeder Watching:	3.3		.6	2.0			1.0	6.9
Hours Stationary:	2.5		1.0		1.3		1.8	6.6
Hours "Owling":	2.0	.7		.1		.3	1.0	4.1
Miles "Owling":	7.0	.1						7.1
Area Code:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Total Observers in Area:	18	10	17	5	14	19	16	92
Total Parties in Area:	12	7	10	5	10	10	13	67
Tot. Field Pty-Hrs (Reg.):	60.5	20.4	40.0	11.1	18.5	22.3	41.8	214.4
Total Party-Hrs (Feeder):	3.3		0.6	2.0			1.0	6.9
Tot. Pty-Hrs (Stationary):	2.5		1.0		1.3		1.8	6.6
Total Party-Hrs (Owling):	2.0	0.7		0.1		0.3	1.0	4.1
Total Party-Hours:	68.2	21.1	41.6	13.2	19.8	22.6	45.6	231.9
Area Code:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals