

Howard County Fall Count 2025

by Chuck Stirrat and Lilian Saul

The thirty-second annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 20th, 2025, with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be slightly above average with numbers for the total birds near the average, but the number of warblers broke a downward trend and set the 2nd highest ever number of warblers. The total number of bird species (including Traill's Flycatcher (Alder/Willow) was up two from last year, while the number of individuals was down 151. For the warblers, the species count was up two while the number of individual warblers was up 453. There were 19 species that had new high counts, in part reflecting increasing coverage. Highlights include Cape May Warbler 86 (prior high 26 last year), Swainson's Thrush 58 (prior high 25 in 2021), and the continuing increase of Common Raven 34 (prior high 25 in 2023, first ever in 2007).

The number of participants, parties, and the overall effort as measured by the hours and miles continued to still be strong with new highs in counters and parties. Effort showed an increase in hours to a new high and a decrease in miles for the count (primarily in car mileage). Noteworthy effort was put in by a group of Young Birders at the Howard County Conservancy spending approximately 13 hours in the field.

2025 Count Data

	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
Numbers	132	15,288	25	816	
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	124.91	15,110.8	23.13	440.06	
Counters : Parties					100:65
Counters : Parties Averages					58.63:38:28
Counters Hours : Miles					293.9:516.9
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					206.2:440.9

Saturday's temperature started in the high 50s to low 60s [dew point 59.3 °F] at 7:00AM with considerable variability in cloud cover across the county. The temperature rose to 77.5 °F [dew point 65.6 °F] in late afternoon. Winds were light from the NNE early, shifting to from the East in the afternoon but remained below 10 mph. The day could be described as an enjoyable but humid warm Fall day that was comfortable when you were not in full sun.

Bird count participants are: Dianne Aguilera, Peter Ashley, Cris Ausin, Everett & Virginia Behr, Debbie Belchis, Karan Blum, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Jane & Mark Chandler, Ken Clark, Mary Lou Clark, Stephanie Coakley, Lisa Colangelo, Jonathan Comeau, Dennis Coskren, Ben Costello, Lauren Crocker, Jeff & Karen Culler, Ralph Cullison III, Guy DiRoma, Susan & **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Rose Eicker, Tim Frye, Lynn Gregg, Cathy Hallam, Joe Hanfman, John & Meg Harris, Bill & Gayle Hill, David Holmes, Crystal Konny, Clayton Koonce, **Russell Kovach (Area 2 Coordinator)**, Wren Kreinar, **Meghaan Lane (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Yi-Ying Lee, Shashi Lengade, Mike Leumas, Jessica Leung, Vitus Li, Kathie Lillie, Richard Love, Felicia Lovelett, Steve Luke, Matthew Lustig, Janet Lydon, Sara & Teddy Macri, Mary Maxey, **Mike McClure (Area 4 Coordinator)**, Karlyn McPartland, Kent Middlehauff, Barry Miller, Brian Moyer, Colin & TC Moynihan, Joanna & Mila Mulligan, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Richard Orr, Bonnie Ott, Steve Parr, Brittany Parsons, Vincent Paul, Pam Perna, **Gregg Petersen (Area 3 Coordinator)**, Suzanne Probst, Mary Prowell, David Richardson, John Henri & Melody Rorabeck, Brett Rowland, Russ Ruffing, **Lilian Saul (County Co-Co-coordinator)**, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, **Thomas Seivert (Area 6 Coordinator)**, Mark Shavers, Hsiao (Mei) & Wen-Jong Shyong, Naylayini Sivaraman, Jo Solem, Jessi Steere, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (County-Co-coordinator)**, Valerie Swan, Tim Thompson, Robin Todd, Sherry Tomlinson, Lisa Troutman, Roshan Vignarajah, Pam Villanyl, Mark Wallace. A special thanks to **Cathy Hallam** who stepped forward again to host the in-person tally rally.

The table with species results and supplemental data displayed for each area is on the following pages.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and, if possible, attend the tally as well. The 2026 Fall Count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 19th.

HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT 2025

BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season:	Fall	Type:	Regular	Area:	Howard	Date:	9/20/2025
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Canada Goose	A	518	502	417	133	38	193	271	2,072
Wood Duck	B	22		10			2		34
Mallard	A		1		18	18	10	2	49
Wild Turkey	* C	29		6					35
Rock Pigeon	A	80	12	28	81	2	40	52	295
Mourning Dove	A	161	25	98	56	15	25	64	444
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A			2		1	2		5
Common Nighthawk	B			8			1		9
Chimney Swift	A	5	2	138	4	12	5	6	172
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	18	3	23	5	2	2	8	61
Killdeer	A	5	2	1	1	2			11
Least Sandpiper	B					4			4
Semipalmated Sandpiper	* C		1			2			3
Wilson's Snipe	* C				1				1
Spotted Sandpiper	B		2					2	4
Solitary Sandpiper	B			1		4	1		6
Double-crested Cormorant	B		3	2	3	2	2	13	25
Green Heron	A	2	3	2	5	1	6	2	21
Great Egret	B		1						1
Great Blue Heron	A	8	17	1	6	9	4	10	55
Black Vulture	A	58	36	43	10	3	5	11	166
Turkey Vulture	A	79	80	122	34	48	45	70	478
Osprey	B	1	4	4		2	1		12
Northern Harrier	B			1	1				2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	4	1	9					14
Cooper's Hawk	B	2	3	13		1	1	2	22
<i>accipiter species</i>				1					1
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	B	7	12	8	2	1	1	7	38
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	19	19	20	13	10	14	18	113
Broad-winged Hawk	B	142	36	642	12	62	22	7	923
Red-tailed Hawk	A	5	2	7	1		4	1	20
Eastern Screech-Owl	B		3	6	1				10
Great Horned Owl	B							1	1
Barred Owl	B		2	4	3		1	1	11
Belted Kingfisher	A	4	10	6	2	4	1	2	29
Red-headed Woodpecker	* C	6		8					14
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	68	53	57	24	30	36	47	315
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	@ B			1					1
Downy Woodpecker	A	20	30	37	23	15	15	25	165
Hairy Woodpecker	A	7	4	13	4	6	7	7	48
Northern Flicker	A	21	29	72	7	17	50	22	218
Pileated Woodpecker	A	14	18	24	6	7	5	5	79
American Kestrel	A	2	2	9	2	1			16
Merlin	* C			1		1			2
Peregrine Falcon	** C			2					2
Great Crested Flycatcher	@ A		1	1				3	5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	8	13	23	3	4	7	7	65
Acadian Flycatcher	* A		1				1		2
<i>Traill's Flycatcher</i>	* B		2	2					4
Least Flycatcher	* B			1					1
<i>Empidonax species</i>		4		1	3				8
Eastern Phoebe	A	14	12	13	5	7	2	15	68

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Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
White-eyed Vireo	A	2	2	4	1	3	3	1	16
Yellow-throated Vireo	B		1	1					2
Blue-headed Vireo	B	1							1
Philadelphia Vireo	* C		2	3	2				7
Warbling Vireo	B			1		2			3
Red-eyed Vireo	A	5	20	27	12	4	4	10	82
Blue Jay	A	133	120	263	31	44	113	146	850
American Crow	A	163	86	186	81	54	46	227	843
Fish Crow	A	6	11	4	1	3	16	58	99
American/Fish Crow		39	5	4	5	5	15	1	74
Common Raven		2	5	16	3	1	3	4	34
Carolina Chickadee	A	45	33	64	20	19	18	48	247
Tufted Titmouse	A	50	23	66	16	19	28	41	243
Horned Lark	C				3				3
Tree Swallow	A			3					3
N. Rough-winged Swallow	@ A			2					2
Purple Martin	@ A			1					1
Barn Swallow	A			10	1				11
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	@ A	2	1	1			2		6
Cedar Waxwing	A	34	33	161	1		36		265
Red-breasted Nuthatch	* C		2	2		1		2	7
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	37	32	55	16	13	17	24	194
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A		2	5			3	2	12
Carolina Wren	A	75	39	77	25	38	37	86	377
Northern House Wren	A	3	5	19	4	9	3	2	45
Gray Catbird	A	49	33	89	31	47	59	77	385
Brown Thrasher	A	3	2	3	2	2	4	4	20
Northern Mockingbird	A	9	12	37	3	6	36	25	128
European Starling	A	165	127	494	90	65	386	212	1,539
Eastern Bluebird	A	68	47	110	25	21	45	36	352
Veery	B		1	4					5
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* C			4		1			5
Swainson's Thrush	B	1	7	43	2	3	1	1	58
Wood Thrush	A	2	11	4	1	1		2	21
American Robin	A	41	39	144	1	26	24	63	338
House Sparrow	A	30	41	85	23	26	15	75	295
House Finch	A	9	16	67	11	11	28	22	164
American Goldfinch	A	22	26	114	18	32	31	31	274
Chipping Sparrow	A	38	17	43	4	14	18	10	144
Field Sparrow	A			8	1			1	10
White-throated Sparrow	** A					3			3
Savannah Sparrow	B			4	5				9
Song Sparrow	A	9	3	9	16	3	3	4	47
Lincoln's Sparrow	@ C		1		1				2
unidentified sparrow		1		1					2
Eastern Towhee	A	13	6	8		10	2	3	42
Yellow-breasted Chat	A	1		1			2		4
Bobolink	B			2	1				3
Eastern Meadowlark	A			3				4	7
Baltimore Oriole	A	1		2	1				4
Red-winged Blackbird	A		3	8	2	7	4	12	36
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	14	1	36	1	78	1		131

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Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Common Grackle	A			3	1	2	6		12
unidentified blackbird				100			11		111
Ovenbird	A	1	8	4		1	3		17
Northern Waterthrush	B			1		1			2
Blue-winged Warbler	@ B						1		1
Black-&-white Warbler	A	6	21	24	10	19	6	6	92
Tennessee Warbler	B	6	6	10	1	1		1	25
Nashville Warbler	B		2	1			1	1	5
Connecticut Warbler	** C			2					2
Common Yellowthroat	A	5	2	38	15	30	8	8	106
Hooded Warbler	A		1						1
American Redstart	A	5	17	23	6	16	13	11	91
Cape May Warbler	B	30	9	40	1	2	4		86
Northern Parula	A	2	6	30	5	13	5	5	66
Magnolia Warbler	A	7	16	58	12	14	14	11	132
Bay-breasted Warbler	B	1	2	3			1		7
Blackburnian Warbler	B		1	5		3			9
Yellow Warbler	@ A				1	1			2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	2	4	14	1		3		24
Blackpoll Warbler	B	2	1	3		1	2	1	10
Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	A	2	8	4	4	1		1	20
Palm Warbler	@ A	5	1	11	7	1	1	1	27
Pine Warbler	B	1	2	1		1	3		8
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	A				2	2	2	2	8
Yellow-throated Warbler	@ B						1		1
Prairie Warbler	A			1			1		2
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	B	5	6	12	3		2		28
unidentified warbler		26		2		6	6	4	44
Summer Tanager	** C			1					1
Scarlet Tanager	A	3	1	7		1	2	1	15
Northern Cardinal	A	103	60	165	43	68	57	148	644
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	1	4	9		4		12	30
Blue Grosbeak	B			6	1		1		8
Indigo Bunting	A	11	1	12	3	8	1		36
Area Total Birds:		2,630	1,941	4,776	1,046	1,098	1,669	2,128	15,288
Area Total Species:		79	93	115	81	83	84	72	132
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Supplemental Data									
Time Start:		6:30 a	4:30 a	3:15 a	6:40 a	5:47 a	2:25 a	5:15 a	2:25 a
Time Stop:		7:45 p	6:20 p	4:35 p	10:00 p	7:00 p	4:45 p	5:27 p	4:35 p
Hours on Foot:		36.3	26.6	51.2	22.8	20.7	23.6	32.2	213.4
Hours by Car:		17.7	9.9	6.3	.5	1.2	2.6	2.5	40.7
Hours by Boat:									
Hours Other:									
Miles on Foot:		21.3	22.6	35.7	13.5	16.3	15.2	38.3	162.9
Miles by Car:		124.0	109.9	49.3	5.8	25.0	20.7	15.5	350.2
Miles by Boat:									
Miles Other:					1.0				1.0
Hours Feeder Watching:		4.0	1.0	1.0	1.3				7.3
Hours Stationary:		4.6		12.1	6.0	2.0	.5	2.0	27.2
Hours "Owling":			1.5	2.3			.3	2.0	6.1
Miles "Owling":			1.0	1.0				2.0	4.0

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BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO.		Season: Fall		Type: Regular		Area: Howard		Date: 9/20/2025	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
County Weather		Temperature		%Clouds		Wind (Speed & Dir.)		Precip.(Type & Amt.)	
Dawn		60.6 ° F		100%		calm		none	
AM		60.1 ° F		60%		NNW 2		none	
Noon		73.2 ° F		30%		E 9		none	
PM		76.5 ° F		35%		E 5		none	
Dusk		72.8 ° F		50%		E 3		none	
Comments on Weather:		Comfortable day when not in full sun. Cloud cover varied widely							
(e.g amount of ice, fog, etc.)		across the county,							
Area Code:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Total Observers in Area:		13	14	23	12	11	13	16	100
Total Parties in Area:		10	9	13	5	6	10	12	65
Total Party-Hours (Reg.):		54.0	36.5	57.5	23.3	21.9	26.2	34.7	254.1
Tot. Party Hours (Feeder Watch):		4.0	1.0	1.0	1.3				7.3
Total Party-Hours (Station'y):		4.6		12.1	6.0	2.0	.5	2.0	27.2
Total Party-Hours (Owling):			1.5	2.3			.3	2.0	6.1
Total Party-Hours:		62.6	39.0	72.9	30.6	23.9	27.0	38.7	294.7
Total Party-Miles:		145.3	133.5	86.0	20.3	41.3	35.9	55.8	518.1
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

¹ Traill's Flycatcher is counted as a species