

2018 Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count

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The annual Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count was held 20 January through 3 February 2018. Results were submitted from Frederick, Carroll, Howard, and Baltimore Counties. Data were also submitted from the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal for seven of its nine count days.

The C&O Canal locations included Montgomery County miles 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 31 and 32; Frederick County (none for the actual count, but miles 46 and 58 were originally submitted as part of the Frederick County Mid-winter Count); Washington County miles 59 through 65, 68, and 70 through 72, with milepost 99 as a stationary count; and Allegany County miles 172 through 174, and mile 184 to Canal Terminus. Additional C&O Canal count compilation information can be found on eBird at: <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44128936>.

The weather on the count days was typical for the end of January into February. Temperatures ranged from 33–55 °F (0.6–12.8 °C) with a one-day high of 60 °F (15.6 °C). The skies were overcast with intermittent light rain. Winds were light around 5 mph (8 kph) and the area waterways were open or had slight icing along the edges.

Table 1. 2018 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Participating counties, county codes, dates, and compilers.

County	County Code	Date	Compiler
C&O Canal (Allegany, Washington, Montgomery)	C&O	27 January– 4 February 2018	James Speicher & Frank Boyle
Frederick	FR	28 January 2018	David Smith
Carroll	CA	20 January 2018	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	27 January 2018	Joe Hanfman
Baltimore	BA	27 January 2018	Kevin Graff

A total of 181 field observers comprising 121 parties reported 112 species for a total of 95,876 birds. The observers spent 327.68 hours on foot covering 272.05 mi (437.0 km). During the two-week count period, the observers also spent 162.58 hours traveling 1,941.8 mi (3,125.0 km) by car. Three counties reported time owling. These groups covered 42.3 mi (68.1 km) in 9.35 hours. A total of 39.2 hours was spent feeder watching.

Table 2. 2018 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Summary.

	C&O Canal	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County
Total Species	63	91	70	88	92
Total Birds	3,006	28,561	18,299	31,508	14,502
Start Time		0500	0600	0210	0645
Stop Time		1740	1815	2315	1600
Parties	15	12	11	55	28
Number of Observers	24	33	19	74	31
Hours Driving		91.03	29.05	41.4	1.1
Miles Driving		972	383.5	530.8	55.5
Hours Walking	26.93	35.75	41.2	166.7	57.1
Miles Walking	22.5	25.65	41.3	150.5	32.1
Hours Owling		2.5	1.75	5.1	
Miles Owling		20	0.5	21.8	
Feeder Hours		3.5	9	19.7	7
Stationary Hours	1		1	1.9	

As usual for this time of year, over 20 species of waterfowl were observed during this year's count. Canada Geese comprised the largest group with 26,364 individuals counted followed by Mallards with 1,846. Eleven species of sparrows were also observed this year. (Table 3).

The 9.35 hours spent owling produced four species for a total of 44 owls. This year's count included a high of 21 Barred Owls followed closely by 13 Great Horned Owls. Howard County had all four species represented including the lone Long-eared Owl recorded this year.

Observations of note in this year's count:

Several species of geese were recorded in the western counties this year. Snow Geese were recorded in Frederick and Carroll Counties. Two Ross's Geese were recorded in Frederick County and a total of 9 Greater White-fronted Geese were included in the C&O Canal and Frederick and Carroll Counties. Also included in this year's count was a Trumpeter Swan in Howard County.

One Great Cormorant was spotted in Baltimore.

All seven woodpecker species were represented this year. Frederick County had a high count of 12 Red-headed and 267 Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

Table 3. 2018 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Observed species.

Species	C&O Canal	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County
Snow Goose		2	1		
Ross’s Goose		2			
Greater White-fronted Goose	6	1	2		
Cackling Goose		6			
Canada Goose	493	7269	8514	8313	1775
Mute Swan		1			
Trumpeter Swan				1	
Tundra Swan		15			5
Wood Duck		4		5	2
Northern Shoveler		12		6	40
Gadwall		8	5	8	44
American Wigeon		7		1	9
Mallard	139	731	217	314	445
American Black Duck	18	89	7	9	59
Northern Pintail	3	1	4		
Canvasback		1			602
Redhead	2		18		8
Ring-necked Duck	228	15	14	41	31
Greater Scaup					26
Lesser Scaup	6			1	1287
scaup sp.					140
Bufflehead	74	1		16	327
Common Goldeneye	63	2			
Hooded Merganser	22	19	4	55	43
Common Merganser	111	133	2	242	133
Red-breasted Merganser				1	8
Ruddy Duck			11	5	891
Ring-necked Pheasant			1		1
Wild Turkey		48	2	25	
Pied-billed Grebe				3	10
Horned Grebe					6

Species	C&O Canal	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County
grebe sp.		1			
Rock Pigeon	22	723	178	140	334
Mourning Dove	6	846	248	1322	119
Virginia Rail					2
American Coot		4			24
Killdeer		1			4
American Woodcock				1	
Wilson's Snipe				1	
Bonaparte's Gull					48
Ring-billed Gull	78	8	72	429	3473
Herring Gull	1				277
Great Black-backed Gull					177
gull sp.				1	32
Double-crested Cormorant					277
Great Cormorant					1
Great Blue Heron	9	10	2	16	26
Black Vulture	27	95	131	364	140
Turkey Vulture	43	132	234	419	123
Northern Harrier		2	1	3	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	5	6	10	3
Cooper's Hawk	4	14	5	10	7
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.				3	
Bald Eagle	8	5	7	21	29
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	67	21	95	20
Red-tailed Hawk	10	73	45	65	18
<i>Buteo</i> sp.					1
Eastern Screech-Owl		6	2	1	
Great Horned Owl		3		10	
Barred Owl	3	2	3	13	
Long-eared Owl				1	
Belted Kingfisher	4	16	4	9	8
Red-headed Woodpecker		12	3	3	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	63	267	115	262	56

Species	C&O Canal	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12	16	2	6	3
Downy Woodpecker	46	113	61	190	45
Hairy Woodpecker	10	32	16	39	5
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker					3
Northern Flicker	25	134	35	89	31
Pileated Woodpecker	31	35	22	56	8
American Kestrel	1	23	11	12	1
Merlin	1	3		1	1
Peregrine Falcon					1
Eastern Phoebe	1	1		1	3
Blue Jay	12	564	170	550	93
American Crow	104	702	1942	1372	198
Fish Crow	3	161	80	233	148
crow sp.	4	101		1066	187
Common Raven	4	12	2	7	
Horned Lark		90	178	27	
Carolina Chickadee	135	432	204	518	101
Tufted Titmouse	83	313	149	465	96
White-breasted Nuthatch	52	116	88	220	57
Brown Creeper	4	8	4	7	2
Winter Wren	4	8	6	10	4
Carolina Wren	93	351	108	316	66
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	29	3	21	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	5		2	9
Eastern Bluebird	78	282	97	426	30
Hermit Thrush	2	3	2	8	7
American Robin	146	1479	12	184	96
Gray Catbird		2	1	1	1
Brown Thrasher				5	4
Northern Mockingbird	2	148	103	115	35
European Starling	31	7624	1633	2761	747
Cedar Waxwing	155	477	79	181	1
House Sparrow	3	588	142	475	183

Species	C&O Canal	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County
American Pipit		101			
House Finch	14	308	134	393	84
American Goldfinch	23	152	138	223	44
Eastern Towhee	1	26	23	57	16
American Tree Sparrow		4			4
Chipping Sparrow		3		7	9
Field Sparrow	1	23	12	83	5
Savannah Sparrow		9		47	6
Fox Sparrow			8	8	8
Song Sparrow	31	360	166	653	78
Swamp Sparrow		25	6	22	6
White-throated Sparrow	193	1142	607	1823	259
White-crowned Sparrow		73		21	1
Dark-eyed Junco	93	808	370	892	197
sparrow sp.					21
Eastern Meadowlark		4		33	
Red-winged Blackbird		205	62	4502	238
Brown-headed Cowbird		12	1500	289	22
Rusty Blackbird		35		39	
Common Grackle		1		83	80
blackbird sp.	17			87	
Pine Warbler				1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	56	28	6	25	34
Northern Cardinal	64	731	238	611	172

I hope the readers find this information interesting and informative. Thank you to all the observers and compilers for their time and effort. - - Mary Anne.