

2014 Maryland Fall Count

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The annual Maryland Fall Count is held on the third weekend in September with the choice of Saturday or Sunday at the discretion of the county and/or compiler. In 2014, eleven of Maryland's 23 counties submitted results. Seven counties counted on 20 September, four on 21 September (Table 1). Participation in the Fall Count is routinely significantly less than the annual May Count. Receiving results from eleven counties is typical, but for several counties it has been a long held tradition, with this year being the 24th count for Allegany, 21st for Howard, and 19th for Dorchester.

Table 1. 2014 Maryland Fall Count: participating counties, county codes, survey dates, and compilers.

County	Code	Survey Date	Compiler
Allegany	AL	21 September 2014	Chuck Hager
Carroll	CA	20 September 2014	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	20 September 2014	Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	20 September 2014	Joel Martin
Harford	HA	20 September 2014	Rick Cheicante
Cecil (hawk watch)	CE	20 September 2014	John Taylor
Prince George's	PG	21 September 2014	Dave Mozurkewich
Calvert	CT	21 September 2014	David Gillum
Kent	KE	21 September 2014	Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin
Caroline	CN	20 September 2014	Debby Bennett
Dorchester	DO	20 September 2014	Harry Armistead

As would be expected weather varied over the extent of the state and from Saturday to Sunday. Temperatures ranged from lows in the high 50s °F to low 60s °F and highs in the 70s °F to the high 80s °F. All reported calm to light winds. Most reported clouds early with clearing in afternoon. There were no reports of precipitation on Saturday, whereas many on Sunday reported early morning fog. The exception was Allegany County on Sunday where there was heavy rain overnight and moderate rain through the morning with clearing in the afternoon and temperatures ranging from 51 °F (10.6 °C) to 62 °F (16.7 °C). Almost all compilers described the days birding as slow with limited migrants.

A total of 192 field observers in 120 parties turned up 191 species and 66,794 individual birds. Observers spent a total of 435.0 hours and covered 298.6 miles on foot and spent 28.8 hours stationary. Birders spent 182.2 hours and 1807.6 miles birding by car. Observers covered 12.5 miles in 7.7 hours by other modes of transport. Participants in five counties reported spending 12.9 hours driving 70.6 miles while owling. Feeder watchers spent 32.0 hours (Table 2).

Table 2. 2014 Maryland Fall Count: summary.

	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KT	CN	DO	Total
Total Species	84	103	121	114	70	36	119	102	99	123	147	191
Total Birds	2896	4337	11027	4105	886	620	9212	3416	5723	10,382	14,190	66,794
Start Time	4:45	6:00	5:45					5:40	6:10	5:00	5:30	
Stop Time	18:00	19:00	20:15					17:00	19:30	20:00	19:45	
Parties	7	10	37	18	4	1	15	6	3	11	8	120
Individual People	10	17	58	20	9	1	20	11	5	20	21	192
Hours Driving	31.5	23.9	29.5				23.0	8.2	16.3	22.8	27.0	182.2
Miles Driving	150.0	225.1	382.0				201.5	43.0	103.0	318.0	385.0	1807.6
Hours Walking	7.0	30.2	161.1	34.9	12.0		64.0	28.8	7.0	48.0	42.0	435.0
Miles Walking	6.5	30.5	112.6	14.3	8.0		46.1	21.9	5.2	11.5	42.0	298.6
Stationary Hours	7.0	6.0				5.0		7.3		3.5		28.8
Feeder Hours	4.5	3.0	10.5				5.0			9.0		32.0
Hours Owling	1.5		0.8				0.5	1.1		2.0	7.0	12.9
Miles Owling			1.2					0.4		20.0	49.0	70.6
Hours Other		2.5								5.2		7.7
Miles Other		4.0								8.5		12.5

The following highlights were noted. A single American Avocet was observed in Carroll County and a single American White Pelican was found in Dorchester County. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Dorchester County were new for that count. Four American Golden-Plovers in Dorchester County had been present for some time. Eight Sanderlings bracketed the state, with 3 in Allegany County and 5 in Dorchester. The 9 Sandwich Terns in Dorchester was a new high count and only the second record for that count. Bald Eagle sightings were high with a total of 364 (187 in Dorchester) and were reported from all counts. Forster Tern numbers totaled 1039 in six counties (Dorchester: 632, Kent: 249). Brown-headed Nuthatches totaled 190 (Dorchester new high of 178). Carolina Chickadees were present in large numbers with a total of 1177.

In addition to the American Avocet and American White Pelican, other species with only a single individual found statewide included Mute Swan (Calvert), Hooded Merganser (Harford), Ruddy Duck (Dorchester), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Calvert), White-rumped Sandpiper (Dorchester), American Woodcock (Dorchester), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Harford), Worm-eating

Warbler (Carroll), Prothonotary Warbler (Howard), Canada Warbler (Howard), and Vesper Sparrow (Carroll) (Table 3).

There were 31 species that were observed in only one county. Fifteen of these were observed in Dorchester County, with the next highest number being four in Carroll County. This reflects in part the excellent coverage in Dorchester, but also is likely due to the absence of other reports from the lower Eastern Shore. Twenty-four species were reported for all 11 counts.

Thank you to all participants and especially the compilers. The 2015 Fall Count will already have taken place by the time the Fall 2015 issue of *Maryland Birdlife* is published, but I look forward to the count in 2016 (17 or 18 September). I hope that more participants will enjoy the experience and additional counties will choose to participate in the future, especially in Worcester and Wicomico Counties.

Table 3. 2014 Maryland Fall Count: observed species.

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Canada Goose	22	477	996	248	55	21	1321	175	1015	325	660	5315
Mute Swan								1				1
Wood Duck	22	2	25	8			99	11	30	13	199	409
American Wigeon							6		7		2	15
American Black Duck			2	1			2		15	7	25	52
Mallard	52	102	139	89	79		421	42	104	37	609	1674
Blue-winged Teal	4			6			4		21		32	67
Northern Shoveler							17				2	19
Northern Pintail									30	4	63	97
Green-winged Teal		2	3	6			2		12		67	92
Hooded Merganser					1							1
Ruddy Duck											1	1
Northern Bobwhite											7	7
Wild Turkey	38				8				3	54	22	125
Common Loon								3		4		7
Pied-billed Grebe		1					4	1	1			7
Double-crested Cormorant		9	22	531	30		43	25	370	44	254	1328
American White Pelican											1	1
Brown Pelican											24	24
American Bittern		1								1		2
Great Blue Heron	3	18	24	18	6		31	24	26	19	71	240
Great Egret		1	4	21	1		41	2	1	3	94	168
Snowy Egret									1	1	81	83
Little Blue Heron											3	3
Tricolored Heron											22	22
Cattle Egret									53			53
Green Heron	6	5	17				2	2	2		1	35
Black-crowned Night-Heron			2	1			1	2	1		1	8
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								1				1
Glossy Ibis										3		3

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total	
Black Vulture	10	66	168	21	10	1	107	52	20	52	25	532	
Turkey Vulture	151	113	272	29	15	35	77	84	79	285	245	1385	
Osprey		3	4	8	2		2	7	6	7	16	55	
Bald Eagle	2	2	4	15	3	17	16	74	33	11	187	364	
Northern Harrier		1	2	6					1	2	7	19	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	5	10	11		13	3				9	55	
Cooper's Hawk	1	6	17	6		11	5	2		7	3	58	
unidentified accipiter sp.			6				3					9	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	15	57	15	4		16	1		12	1	123	
Broad-winged Hawk	220	11	7	2			4				2	246	
Red-tailed Hawk	11	14	15	9	4	2	8	6	3	9	9	90	
Clapper Rail											31	31	
Virginia Rail											18	18	
Sora							5					5	
Common Gallinule											5	5	
American Avocet		1										1	
Black-bellied Plover							1				6	7	
American Golden-Plover											4	4	
Semipalmated Plover			1							4	16	21	
Killdeer	60	26	73	6	2		92	10	29	300	129	727	
Spotted Sandpiper	2	1	4						2	8	4	21	
Solitary Sandpiper		2	11	1			1					15	
Greater Yellowlegs				2			3		1	18	37	61	
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	8		24					9	10	39	92	
Sanderling	3										5	8	
Least Sandpiper	2	4	18	3			4		3		22	56	
White-rumped Sandpiper											1	1	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper											2	2	
Pectoral Sandpiper	5			1			2		11	1	6	26	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2		7	2					6		15	32	
unidentified peep sp.									1		30	31	
Wilson's Snipe										6	1	7	
American Woodcock											1	1	
Laughing Gull				57			1195	194	243	319	1404	3412	
Ring-billed Gull			7	207			4	275	255	84	180	107	1119
Herring Gull			23				1	358	5	6	244	637	
Great Black-backed Gull				6				419	14	1	81	521	
unidentified gull sp.							20	30		71		121	
Caspian Tern				2			22		19		12	55	
Common Tern				4				1	4	2	7	18	
Forster's Tern				11			46	96	249	5	632	1039	
Royal Tern				3				7	38		180	228	
Sandwich Tern											9	9	
Rock Pigeon	122	223	293	160			49	11		125	34	1017	
Mourning Dove	130	238	382	122	22	1	538	122	26	182	182	1945	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		3	4	4	1		6		1	4		23	
Barn Owl							1	2				3	
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	1	3					2	2	10	24	46	
Great Horned Owl	1	1	1						1	13	27	44	
Barred Owl		2	7				3	3	1	11	6	33	
Common Nighthawk			2		1					6		9	
Chimney Swift	17	12	184	289	3	11	291		10	596	2	1415	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	17	30	16	10	1	1	12	4	9	39	12	151	

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Belted Kingfisher	3	17	25	9	5		14	8	5	9	12	107
Red-headed Woodpecker		3	8		3		1	31			13	59
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	66	210	31	21		87	45	28	65	23	590
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1					1		2		4
Downy Woodpecker	15	50	116	24	9	1	72	41	7	39	59	433
Hairy Woodpecker		6	28	2			7	7	5	6	4	65
Downy/Hairy Woodpecker sp.							1					1
Northern Flicker	15	31	111	66	7	26	41	31	37	32	78	475
Pileated Woodpecker	9	16	35	2	5	3	12	23	9	31	14	159
American Kestrel		10	17	4	8		10		10	15	32	106
Merlin				2			1			2	3	8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	23	56	18	11	1	19	12	9	12	20	185
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						1						1
Acadian Flycatcher		1			1		3	3		2	2	12
Willow Flycatcher		2										2
Least Flycatcher				1							1	2
unidentified <i>Empidonax</i> sp.			15	1	1		4	1		2	3	27
Eastern Phoebe	20	22	53	10	6	1	44	10	2	17	1	186
Great Crested Flycatcher			4	5			1			3	1	14
Eastern Kingbird	2	1					2		4	2	4	15
White-eyed Vireo	1	12	2	1			29	9	1	7	4	66
Yellow-throated Vireo			3						1			4
Warbling Vireo		1	1	2			1	1				6
Philadelphia Vireo	1		1	4			1	1				8
Red-eyed Vireo	4	11	42	18	2	1	36	23	3	14	29	183
Blue Jay	48	237	851	227	42	400	219	77	250	200	115	2666
American Crow	288	267	461	37	35	6	156	174	32	145	110	1711
Fish Crow	2	8	8	18	3		63	19	3	194	5	323
unidentified crow sp.			240	43			172	1	9	1	10	476
Common Raven	17	3	3				1					24
Horned Lark			30							96	3	129
Tree Swallow				18		13	12		741	1819	823	3426
N. Rough-winged Swallow									7			7
Barn Swallow				1			1			10	6	18
Carolina Chickadee		155	311	62	27	3	132	97	32	133	225	1177
Black-capped Chickadee	35											35
Tufted Titmouse	30	104	218	48	13		101	100	14	94	83	805
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		1			1					2	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	47	125	15	9		37	23	2	15	3	306
Brown-headed Nuthatch									5	7	178	190
Brown Creeper			1						1			2
House Wren	4	5	29	18	2	2	11	2	8	2	20	103
Marsh Wren				2							2	4
Carolina Wren	16	73	242	55	12	2	118	62	36	99	81	796
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	2	3	5		1	2	1	4	3	22	44
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2			1		1				2	6
Eastern Bluebird	62	99	281	23	20	1	65	49	90		138	828
Veery					1		4	1		115	4	125
Gray-cheeked Thrush			1				1	2				4
Swainson's Thrush		1	1	2	1		2					7
Hermit Thrush	1	2	1							5		9
unidentified <i>Catharus thrush</i> sp.							1					1
Wood Thrush		6	22	1			5	2				36

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
American Robin	27	74	358	195	19		227	9	23	456	156	1544
Gray Catbird	27	192	364	107	21	2	139	7	37	17	47	960
Brown Thrasher		2	19	13	1		21	11	11	10	12	100
Northern Mockingbird	3	26	124	24	7	1	76	17	99	94	54	525
European Starling	319	581	1187	247	24	1	533	124	813	1248	1340	6417
Cedar Waxwing	76	17	145	87	42	11	71	4	7	159	23	642
Ovenbird	2	7	3	5	2		6			2	9	36
Worm-eating Warbler		1										1
Northern Waterthrush				1							1	2
Blue-winged Warbler			1	1								2
Black-and-white Warbler		5	23	7	3		17	23	7	37	54	176
Prothonotary Warbler			1									1
Tennessee Warbler	4						3	1			2	10
Nashville Warbler				1	1		1	2	1	1		7
Connecticut Warbler			1	1				1		1		4
Common Yellowthroat		6	94	30	9		39	21	15	20	50	284
Hooded Warbler	2						1					3
American Redstart		9	32	17	2		22	13	2	56	77	230
Cape May Warbler	10	1	7	4			3	1		1		27
Northern Parula	2	3	9	5			8	6		21	29	83
Magnolia Warbler	2	10	38	31	3	1	43	2	1	4	15	150
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	1	1				1			1	1	7
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	2	2	1			2		2	1	13
Yellow Warbler			1	3				1	2	1	3	11
Chestnut-sided Warbler		2	12	8			8			2	1	33
Blackpoll Warbler	2							1				3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	12	13				10	4		7	2	50
Palm Warbler	1	3	10	14			7			7	6	48
Pine Warbler	5	1	1	4			8	9	4	8	124	164
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)		7	2				3	1		13		26
Yellow-throated Warbler			1					1			3	5
Prairie Warbler			1	1			1			1	3	7
Black-throated Green Warbler	8	6	28	6	4	1	4	3		6	7	73
Canada Warbler			1									1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1		1	1			1			2		6
unidentified warbler sp.	38		11	6			6				20	81
Eastern Towhee	6	8	81	3	4		12	1	4	3	3	125
Chipping Sparrow	152	25	165	27	37		71	12	7	71	109	676
Field Sparrow	4	4	4					1		11	2	26
Vesper Sparrow		1										1
Savannah Sparrow			15				10				1	26
Grasshopper Sparrow			5							1		6
Seaside Sparrow											4	4
Song Sparrow	31	16	57	13	3		18			7	1	146
Lincoln's Sparrow			2	1								3
Swamp Sparrow		1									1	2
Summer Tanager							3	6	1	2	7	19
Scarlet Tanager	4	7	15	4			13	7		1	7	58
Northern Cardinal	44	127	427	84	23	7	143	85	109	129	82	1260
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		8	12	12	2	15	10	4			1	64
Blue Grosbeak			13	2			12		11	25	28	91
Indigo Bunting	2	7	63	9	3		22	10	6	12	16	150
Bobolink			50	6					15	11	128	210

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Red-winged Blackbird		13	101	29	90		127	13	86	139	1448	2046
Eastern Meadowlark	1		13						3	3		20
Common Grackle		200	131	91	20		931	31	230	832	1653	4119
Brown-headed Cowbird		7	121	17	20		100	1	161	548	345	1320
unidentified blackbird sp.	150						6			100		256
Orchard Oriole										2		2
Baltimore Oriole			2	1					4		3	10
House Finch	87	39	195	46	10		52	6	2	39	12	488
Purple Finch	2			2								4
American Goldfinch	145	122	392	60	32	2	66	47	24	65	71	1026
House Sparrow	195	107	296	113	8		61	35	75	202	13	1105

[Editor’s Note: If your county does not conduct an annual Maryland Fall Count, please consider starting one. Contact Chuck Stirrat at Stirrbird@outlook.com for additional information.]