

2016 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 2016, eleven of Maryland's 23 counties submitted results. Five counties counted on 17 September, six on 18 September (Table 1). Receiving results from eleven counties is a decrease in participation for the Fall Count. For several counties this seasonal count has been a long held tradition, with this year being the 26th count for Allegany, 23rd for Howard, and 21st for Dorchester.

Table 1: 2016 Maryland Fall Count: participating counties, county codes, survey dates, and compilers.

County	Code	Survey Date	Compiler
Allegany	AL	18 September 2016	Chuck Hager
Carroll	CA	17 September 2016	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	17 September 2016	Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	17 September 2016	Joel Martin
Harford	HA	18 September 2016	Rick Cheicante
Cecil	CE	18 September 2016	Patricia Valdata, Sean McCandless
Prince George's	PG	18 September 2016	Dave Mozurkewich
Calvert	CT	18 September 2016	Sherman Suter
Kent	KE	18 September 2016	Walter Ellison
Caroline	CN	17 September 2016	Debby Bennett
Dorchester	DO	17 September 2016	Harry Armistead

As would be expected weather varied over the extent of the state and from Saturday to Sunday. Temperatures were generally warmer on Sunday with highs in the mid 80s° F (~29° C), with the exception of Allegany at 79° F (26.1° C); whereas the highs on Saturday were around 80° F (26.7° C), with the exception of Dorchester at 86° F (30° C). Lows ranged from 55° F (12.8° C) in Caroline to 71° F (21.7° C) in Calvert. All reported calm to light winds, generally increasing as the day proceeded. Most reported partly cloudy conditions throughout the day. There were no reports of precipitation for either day, except for Allegany which had heavy rain on Sunday afternoon. Many compilers described the birding as slow with limited migrants.

A total of 190 field observers in 127 parties turned up 198 species and 65,447 individual birds. They spent a total of 473.6 hours and covered 334.2 mi [537.8 km] on foot and spent 26.0 hours stationary. Birders spent 135.9 hours and 1723.4 mi [2773.5 km] birding by car. Observers covered 10.5 mi [16.9 km] in 9.5 hours by other modes of transport, including by boat. Participants in 7 counties reported spending 18.7 hours traveling 23.7 mi [38.1 km] while owling. Feeder watchers spent 30.8 hours (Table 2).

Table 2. 2016 Maryland Fall Count: summary.

	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KT	CN	DO	Total
Total Species	92	104	125	93	54	50	114	123	108	97	148	198
Total Birds	1572	6854	12651	1984	540	228	8340	7068	4173	6882	15185	65,447
Start Time	0500	0630	0615	0645	1130	0807	0530	0600	0530	0430	0430	0345
Stop Time	1830	1900	2000	1846	1745	1148	2300	1830	1930	2130	1930	23:45
Parties	8	11	47	16	3	1	11	8	3	9	10	127
Individual People	9	25	62	17	3	1	16	12	5	14	26	190
Hours Driving	10.0	18.5	25.8				7.0	6.6	12.0	17.0	39.0	135.9
Miles Driving	160.0	204.4	258.9				92.4	32.7	109.0	262.0	604.0	1723.4
Hours Walking	23.8	46.8	180.5	29.5	3.0	2.0	52.0	34.0	16.0	34.0	52.0	473.6
Miles Walking	17.7	38.9	133.5	20.6	2.5	3.5	36.8	28.7	13.0	17.0	22.0	334.2
Hours Boating			0.5	3.2			4.5					8.2
Miles Boating			0.4	2.1			5.0					7.5
Stationary Hours		0.5	9.4	2.0		1.7		7.9		4.5		26.0
Feeder Hours	7.3	7.5	3.5		2.5		3.0	3.0		4.0		30.8
Hours Owling	2.5	0.3	2.0				1.5	0.4		5.0	7.0	18.7
Miles Owling		0.1	1.3				1.0	0.3		20.0	1.0	23.7
Hours Other										2.3		2.3
Miles Other										2.0		2.0

There was one species that was a write-in to the distributed checklist for this count, a single Tundra Swan found in Dorchester County. Additional species with only a single individual found statewide included Ruffed Grouse (Allegany), Eastern Whip-poor-will (Allegany), American Coot (Prince George's), American Avocet (Dorchester), Baird's Sandpiper (Allegany), Western Sandpiper (Dorchester), Little Blue Heron (Prince George's), Barn Owl (Calvert), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Caroline), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Prince George's), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Prince George's), Blue-headed Vireo (Allegany), Prothonotary Warbler (Calvert), and Grasshopper Sparrow (Calvert) (Table 3).

The following highlights were noted by compilers in their inputs. The 60 Red-breasted Nuthatches observed across the state (with only two misses) reflects this was a significant irruption year. Calvert observed that the total absence of swallows was unusual, suggesting that perhaps it was too "sultry" for them, however the presence of swallows seemed to be low for all counts west of the

Chesapeake Bay. In Dorchester, an American Avocet was a first record for their count, the 8 American White Pelicans were of note, the 365 Brown Pelicans were a new high (222 last year), and the 2 Orchard Orioles were a very late record. Despite excellent coverage, significant Dorchester misses were Eastern Meadowlark and Song Sparrow. In Howard, the 4 American Woodcocks were only the second record in 23 counts, and new high counts were Wild Turkey 14, Green Heron 37, Bald Eagle 15, and Eastern Screech-Owl 9.

There were 36 species that were observed in only one county. Fifteen of these were observed in Dorchester County, with the rest being 7 in Allegany, 5 in Calvert, 4 in Prince George’s, 2 in Caroline, and 1 each in Harford, Howard, and Kent County. Twenty-two species were reported for all 11 counts.

Thank you to all participants and especially the compilers. I urge more participants to enjoy the experience and join in one of the 2017 counts that will be held on 16 or 17 September. I hope additional counties will have volunteers who choose to organize a count in the future and reverse a trend in decreasing interest and participation in organized seasonal counts.

Table 3. 2016 Maryland Fall Count: observed species.

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Canada Goose	35	589	1198	61	3		581	68	86	171	1247	4039
Mute Swan						2						2
Tundra Swan											1	1
Wood Duck	8		27	28	1		45	71	19	20	33	252
American Wigeon									16			16
American Black Duck		3					2	4	6	4	16	35
Mallard	24	203	154	88			229	96	873	31	562	2260
Blue-winged Teal		1					4	2	9		12	28
Northern Pintail									3	5	2	10
Green-winged Teal	3						12		67		111	193
Ruddy Duck									1		8	9
Northern Bobwhite										6	3	9
Ruffed Grouse	1											1
Wild Turkey	13	2	14				1	1		46	6	83
Pied-billed Grebe		1	1	1			8					11
Rock Pigeon	37	127	221	39	1		83	3	12	72	13	608
Mourning Dove	64	240	742	44	38		299	69	53	199	136	1884
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		4	4	1			3	7			4	23
Black-billed Cuckoo			1					1			1	3
Common Nighthawk			6	1					1			8
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1											1
Chimney Swift	36	43	182	17		4	246	11		15	30	584
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	34	33	1	3	2	8	16	8	24	8	145
Clapper Rail											6	6

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total	
Virginia Rail									2		41	43	
Sora							4				1	5	
Common Gallinule											2	2	
American Coot							1					1	
American Avocet											1	1	
Black-bellied Plover							1				2	3	
Semipalmated Plover				11			3	5			34	53	
Killdeer	5	59	44	45			32	21	16	4	128	354	
Stilt Sandpiper				4							1	5	
Sanderling								13			5	18	
Dunlin											42	42	
Baird's Sandpiper	1											1	
Least Sandpiper	18	7	25	27			24	1	14		85	201	
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	1		18			17				20	62	
Semipalmated Sandpiper		4		14			5	1			53	77	
Western Sandpiper											1	1	
Short-billed Dowitcher											2	2	
Wilson's Snipe										4	2	6	
American Woodcock			4								1	5	
Spotted Sandpiper			1	3			1	1		6	3	15	
Solitary Sandpiper	1		2	3			2		1			9	
Greater Yellowlegs	1	1		7			2		14		25	50	
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1	1	36			28		4		20	91	
unidentified shorebird											100	100	
Laughing Gull				157			2	576	791	284	842	1192	3844
Ring-billed Gull			9	9			112	179	36	45	246	636	
Herring Gull				3			1	186	13		381	584	
Great Black-backed Gull				19			1	1464	15		67	1566	
unidentified gull				200				420		73		693	
Caspian Tern				2		1	10	2	17		45	77	
Black Tern							2					2	
Common Tern								7	39	9	18	73	
Forster's Tern							18	351	322	3	331	1025	
Royal Tern							9	60	30		265	364	
Double-crested Cormorant		5	18	50		15	48	649	153	14	233	1185	
American White Pelican											8	8	
Brown Pelican								6			365	371	
Great Blue Heron	2	10	35	16	1		29	16	26	18	67	220	
Great Egret		2	9				44	4	3	2	108	172	
Snowy Egret							5	8	2		104	119	
Little Blue Heron							1					1	
Tricolored Heron											4	4	
Cattle Egret											40	40	
Green Heron	1	11	37	4	1		11	1	2	1	4	73	
Black-crowned Night-Heron			1	1					1		1	4	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				1			1					2	
Glossy Ibis											5	5	
Black Vulture	3	31	106	13		3	49	37	16	88	32	378	

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Turkey Vulture	24	158	205	29	5	4	76	80	149	240	383	1353
Osprey			12	4		1	6	26	6	9	29	93
Bald Eagle	3	5	15	7	2	1	8	42	69	20	149	321
Northern Harrier	1	1	1				1	1		2	12	19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	3	6			2	1	1	3	1	1	22
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	15	4			5	2	1	3	4	39
unidentified <i>Accipiter</i>			2									2
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	9	59	6			16	6	1	3	5	107
Broad-winged Hawk	3		3				1				8	15
Red-tailed Hawk		15	15	2			13	3	6	7	20	81
unidentified <i>Buteo</i>	2											2
Barn Owl								1				1
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	3	9		1	3	3	2	2	5	22	51
Great Horned Owl		1	1						3	4	24	33
Barred Owl	1	2	11		1			4	5	7	2	33
Belted Kingfisher		26	35	12	1	1	8	7	5	9	14	118
Red-headed Woodpecker		4				1	6	1			20	32
Red-bellied Woodpecker	22	92	208	24	4	2	49	50	49	39	22	561
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker										1		1
Downy Woodpecker	12	57	130	19	3	3	35	57	27	36	50	429
Hairy Woodpecker	5	10	26	3	1	3	10	12	9	7	7	93
Northern Flicker	7	55	90	22	1	4	20	13	23	8	35	278
Pileated Woodpecker	17	18	54	6	3	1	14	17	11	22	22	185
American Kestrel	2	8	14				17	2	8	9	29	89
Merlin			2								6	8
Peregrine Falcon		1									1	2
Olive-sided Flycatcher							1					1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	34	59	10	2	2	30	45	28	14	21	251
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher								1				1
Acadian Flycatcher			3				7	25	1	1	1	38
Willow Flycatcher		1	1									2
Traill's Flycatcher	2		3						3			8
Least Flycatcher		1	2	1		1		1			1	7
unidentified <i>Empidonax</i>		13	9		1	1		3			3	30
Eastern Phoebe	22	32	39	17			26	18	3	9	9	175
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	2	3	2		1	2	7	5	1	14	38
Eastern Kingbird			2		1			1			6	10
White-eyed Vireo		10	24	1		1	18	47	13	8	28	150
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	4	4	2				8	2			21
Blue-headed Vireo	1											1
Philadelphia Vireo	3	2	2	2				2				11
Warbling Vireo	1		2	2				1				6
Red-eyed Vireo	15	26	46	10		5	12	75	22	5	19	235
Blue Jay	53	247	609	80	4	21	105	89	68	126	139	1541
American Crow	104	373	480	52	7	5	99	239	29	133	263	1784
Fish Crow		12	44	7		45	77	39		82	7	313
unidentified crow			311	18			86	4		30	10	459
Common Raven	10		4				1					15

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Horned Lark		40	10						25	18	18	111
Tree Swallow				1					107	569	779	1456
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4								7	4	12	27
Barn Swallow		2									11	13
Carolina Chickadee		151	269	30	7	5	66	144	74	126	148	1020
Black-capped Chickadee	35											35
Tufted Titmouse	31	108	199	18	7	4	55	158	46	98	123	847
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	7	7		2		5	1	10	5	21	60
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	59	125	14	4	2	28	44	8	22	1	332
Brown-headed Nuthatch								5	4		77	86
Brown Creeper			1							2		3
House Wren		15	31	9	1	4	14	10	14	1	27	126
Winter Wren			1	1								2
Marsh Wren											8	8
Carolina Wren	23	96	291	35	2	7	84	109	73	77	112	909
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		7	17				1	6	7	4	2	71
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6											6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1						1				2
Eastern Bluebird	22	177	211	21	6		48	52	40	45	64	686
Veery	1	1	5	1				14	8			30
Gray-cheeked Thrush		1	1									2
Swainson's Thrush	5		6					1	4			16
Hermit Thrush		1								3		4
Wood Thrush	2	13	28	4			4	9	13	2	3	78
American Robin	24	430	479	74			170	31	17	140	402	1767
Gray Catbird	16	273	343	45	2	6	64	25	33	13	34	854
Brown Thrasher	5	9	6	2		1	10	12	24	2	16	87
Northern Mockingbird	4	59	82	5	3		37	17	38	60	52	357
European Starling	77	1319	2572	119			594	37	235	1211	1099	7263
Cedar Waxwing	305	83	93		2	20	21		5	21	14	564
House Sparrow	41	219	286	36	1		183	32	75	168	34	1075
House Finch	12	122	153	7	12	1	58	26	23	40	4	458
Purple Finch	3											3
American Goldfinch	93	178	490	69	18	3	78	54	58	53	49	1143
Ovenbird		2	3	1	1	1		1			2	11
Worm-eating Warbler			1					1				2
Northern Waterthrush			6					5	1		2	14
Blue-winged Warbler			1				3					4
Black-and-white Warbler	1	9	29	4	2	1	12	17	10	7	13	105
Prothonotary Warbler								1				1
Tennessee Warbler	4	2	2	1		3						12
Nashville Warbler	1		1									2
Common Yellowthroat	7	54	119	22	5	9	31	40	43	14	49	393
Hooded Warbler			1					8				9
American Redstart	2	21	73	6	3	1	15	27	36	23	48	255
Cape May Warbler	6					2		1	1		2	12
Northern Parula		5	18	2	1	2	6	9	9	4	6	62
Magnolia Warbler	10	6	35	6	1		6	8	9	7	3	91

Species	AL	CA	HO	BA	HA	CE	PG	CT	KE	CN	DO	Total
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	1										3
Blackburnian Warbler	3	2	2									7
Yellow Warbler			3					2		3	5	13
Chestnut-sided Warbler		2	10	4			4	4	4			28
Blackpoll Warbler	4						2				1	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5	6	9	1		1	1	7		2	1	33
Palm Warbler			10	5	12		2	2	3	3	5	42
Pine Warbler		4	2	2			1	15	7	6	86	123
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)										7		7
Yellow-throated Warbler								3				3
Prairie Warbler	1		2		2				2		3	10
Black-throated Green Warbler	22	9	10			1	2	3	1		1	49
Canada Warbler	1		4									5
Wilson's Warbler			2	2	1							5
Yellow-breasted Chat		2							3			5
unidentified warbler			10	1		3	1				8	23
Eastern Towhee	13	23	45			1	8	22	5	4	9	130
Chipping Sparrow	38	57	191	21	23		48	120	90	68	55	711
Field Sparrow	9	4	10				1	4	7	8	3	46
Savannah Sparrow		1	3		1						5	10
Grasshopper Sparrow								1				1
Seaside Sparrow											14	14
Song Sparrow	14	34	57	14	2		10	5	1	2		139
Swamp Sparrow			1	1							1	3
unidentified sparrow											1	1
Summer Tanager							3	12		2	5	22
Scarlet Tanager	19	8	8	4	2	1	5	7	14	5	1	74
Northern Cardinal	41	217	397	58	10	11	143	183	155	132	86	1433
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5	4	5	1			3	3				21
Blue Grosbeak			6	3	8		6	15	12	37	61	148
Indigo Bunting	3	9	91		9		19	52	22	30	9	244
Bobolink		1	75			2		1	51	1	717	848
Red-winged Blackbird		370	109	24			22	173	4	117	1934	2753
Eastern Meadowlark			12									12
Common Grackle	30		6	45	300		3064	14	26	1050	291	4826
Boat-tailed Grackle											8	8
Brown-headed Cowbird		20	138		3		80	5		125	942	1313
unidentified blackbird							1					1
Orchard Oriole											2	2
Baltimore Oriole		2	2				2	1			1	8