

2013 MARYLAND MAY COUNT

MICHAEL J. WELCH

*8619 Burnt Hickory Circle, Frederick, Maryland 21704-8100
manddwelch@comcast.net*

The annual May Count was held on Saturday, 11 May 2013. Results were submitted from 14 of Maryland's 23 counties, continuing a declining trend in participation over the last decade. Ten years earlier, 22 counties reported results.

Weather statewide on the count day was unsettled, with most compilers reporting significant rain in part of the day. Temperatures were generally mild, ranging from the low 60s to about 80 degrees.

A total of 304 counters in 188 parties turned up 231 species and 95,893 individual birds. Among the most unusual sightings were: a Red-throated Loon in the Monocacy River in Frederick; a Sandhill Crane at the Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area in Garrett; a Glaucous Gull at Hooper's Island in Dorchester; and a Common Redpoll at a feeder in Garrett. Late stragglers included 5 Black Scoters in St. Mary's, a Common Goldeneye in Talbot, a Horned Grebe in Prince George's, and a Northern Gannet in Somerset.

A comparison of this data set with that of 2003 is in accord with known trends for many species. Overall, the number of individuals was 63% of the 2003 total. The number of counties participating was 64% of 2003 counties, while the effort in terms of miles covered was 70% of 2003 values.

The absolute numbers in 2013 were up substantially over those for 2003 for a number of species and they are listed accordingly. Group A are species with known long term population growth. Group B are species that were unusually abundant in the state in the winter and spring of 2013. Group C are species for which this compiler cannot give a reason for the increase, which may not be indicative of long-term trends. The percentage increase from 2003 to 2013 is shown in parenthesis.

Group A: Wild Turkey (157%); Black Vulture (56%); Bald Eagle (98%); Red-shouldered Hawk (41%); Carolina Wren (107%)

Group B: Red-breasted Nuthatch (340%); Pine Siskin (805%)

Group C: Ruddy Duck (546%); Glossy Ibis (443%); Black-bellied Plover (844%); Semipalmated Sandpiper (119%)

A number of other species had higher counts in 2013, but the numbers were too small to characterize.

The count totals were substantially lower in 2013 as compared with 2003 for many species, even correcting for the relative effort of the two years. Many Neotropical migrants were down, but this may be primarily a function of weather conditions. Species that had the largest percentage declines (lower than 20% of 2013 total compared to the 2003 total) include: Mute Swan (3% — no surprise here); Green-winged Teal (8%); Least Bittern (17%); Snowy Egret (17%); Short-billed Dowitcher (17%); Bonaparte's Gull (14%); Royal Tern (16%); Black-

billed Cuckoo (13%); Veery (16%); Golden-winged Warbler (5% — from 20 in 2003 to 1 in 2013); and Blackpoll Warbler (16%). Again this data set alone is too small to make definitive statements about population trends for most of these species, however, breeding bird survey data shows major declines for Black-billed Cuckoo and Golden-winged Warbler.

Species seen in 2013 but not 2003 include: Common Goldeneye; Northern Gannet; Sandhill Crane; Glaucous Gull; Winter Wren; and Common Redpoll.

Species seen in 2003 but not 2013 include: Snow Goose; Tundra Swan; American Wigeon; Northern Pintail; Canvasback; Greater Scaup; Surf Scoter; Long-tailed Duck; Ring-necked Pheasant; Red-necked Grebe; Northern Goshawk; American Golden-Plover; Upland Sandpiper; Stilt Sandpiper; White-rumped Sandpiper; Western Sandpiper; Red-necked Phalarope; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Peregrine Falcon; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; Alder Flycatcher; Philadelphia Vireo; Sedge Wren; and Bicknell's Thrush. All but two of these were recorded in 2003 in counties that also conducted 2013 counts. The two exceptions were Western Sandpiper and Lesser Black-backed Gull, both found in Baltimore County in 2003, but where no count was conducted in 2013.

Many thanks to all the participants and compilers. I look forward to the 2014 count (10 May 2014) and hope that more counties participate. As I tell the Frederick Bird Club, it is the best day of the year to be out counting birds!

May Count Compilers and County Codes:

Garrett (GA): Connie Skipper
Allegany (AL): J.B. Churchill
Frederick (FR): Michael Welch
Howard (HO): Kevin Heffernan
Prince George's (PG): Fred Fallon
Anne Arundel (AA): Dotty Mumford
Charles (CH): George Jett
St. Mary's (SM): Patty Craig
Harford (HA): Rick Cheicante
Talbot (TA): Les Coble
Dorchester (DO): Harry Armistead
Caroline (CN): Debby Bennett
Wicomico (WI): Ellen Lawler
Somerset (SO): Paul Bystrak

	<u>GA</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>HO</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>CH</u>
Canada Goose	200	53	254	580	658	455	275
Mute Swan			1				
Tundra Swan							
Wood Duck	21		14	24	71	29	15
Gadwall							
American Wigeon							
American Black Duck					2		
Mallard	67	28	80	71	111	97	57
Blue-winged teal	5				2		
Northern Shoveler					1		
Northern Pintail							
Green-winged Teal						1	
Canvasback							
Redhead							
Ring-necked Duck				1			1
Greater Scaup							
Lesser Scaup	1				2	1	
Surf Scoter							
White-winged Scoter							
Black Scoter							5
Long-tailed Duck							
Bufflehead			1				
Common Goldeneye							
Hooded Merganser			8				
Common Merganser	17	6				3	
Red-breasted Merganser	7	1					4
Ruddy Duck	14			3		30	1
Northern Bobwhite							1
Ring-necked Pheasant							
Ruffed Grouse	13	1					
Wild Turkey	35	4	3	5	15	5	13
Red-throated Loon			1				
Common Loon	16	7	1	4	7	5	1
Pied-billed Grebe		1		3	1		1
Horned Grebe					1		
Red-necked Grebe							
Northern Gannet							
Double-crested Cormorant	23	5	4	21	68	271	188
Great Cormorant							
Brown Pelican							43
American Bittern				1			
Least Bittern							1
Great Blue Heron	1	1	36	46	66	133	41
Great Egret			4	2	2	11	4
Snowy Egret					1	4	
Little Blue Heron						2	
Tricolored Heron							
Cattle Egret				1		8	
Green Heron	4	3	14	31	29	10	7
Black-crowned Night-Heron			5	3		2	

	<u>SM</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>TA</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Total</u>
Canada Goose	134	317	10	127	134	54	20	3,271
Mute Swan	8							9
Tundra Swan								0
Wood Duck	12	54	10	24	21	4		299
Gadwall				2				2
American Wigeon								0
American Black Duck		6		32		2	12	54
Mallard	6	29	22	99	50	13	3	733
Blue-winged teal				2				9
Northern Shoveler								1
Northern Pintail								0
Green-winged Teal				2				3
Canvasback								0
Redhead								0
Ring-necked Duck								2
Greater Scaup								0
Lesser Scaup								8
Surf Scoter			4					0
White-winged Scoter								0
Black Scoter	5							5
Long-tailed Duck								0
Bufflehead								1
Common Goldeneye			1					1
Hooded Merganser				5				13
Common Merganser		1						27
Red-breasted Merganser	2							15
Ruddy Duck	3	10	1	578				640
Northern Bobwhite			2	4	3	2		12
Ring-necked Pheasant								0
Ruffed Grouse								14
Wild Turkey	3	58	6	41	48	2	1	239
Red-throated Loon								1
Common Loon	6	2		16				65
Pied-billed Grebe								6
Horned Grebe								1
Red-necked Grebe								0
Northern Gannet							1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	729	638	1,050	114	11	2	8	3,132
Great Cormorant								0
Brown Pelican	43							43
American Bittern		1						2
Least Bittern		1						1
Great Blue Heron	43	129	19	95	39	13	6	668
Great Egret	2	3	6	64		1	6	105
Snowy Egret	3	2	2	18	2		14	46
Little Blue Heron				1				4
Tricolored Heron				8			1	9
Cattle Egret	1		4					14
Green Heron	5	11	1	3	3	2		123
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1				11

(continued)

	<u>GA</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>HO</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>CH</u>
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron					1	1	
Glossy Ibis			1			1	
Black Vulture	5		50	79	218	40	75
Turkey Vulture	48	19	91	146	97	379	124
Osprey	4	2	5	11	61	79	241
Bald Eagle	4			7	27	31	44
Northern Harrier			1	2	4	5	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1		11	1
Cooper's Hawk			2	7	2	9	1
Northern Goshawk							
Red-shouldered Hawk	2		11	61	34	12	9
Broad-winged Hawk	9			4	1	107	
Red-tailed Hawk	10	5	25	23	19	30	10
Black Rail							
Clapper Rail							
King Rail					1		
Virginia Rail				1			
Sora				4		1	1
Common Gallinule							
American Coot			1	1			
Sandhill Crane	1						
Black-necked Stilt							1
American Avocet							
American Oystercatcher							
Black-bellied Plover							
American Golden-Plover							
Wilson's Plover							
Semipalmated Plover			1	2	1	4	1
Piping Plover							
Killdeer	24	29	24	24	20	31	31
Spotted Sandpiper	21	11	14	46	33	31	25
Solitary Sandpiper	9	1	21	67	30	11	19
Greater Yellowlegs	11		1	3	13	4	3
Willet							
Lesser Yellowlegs	13		3	4	24		11
Upland Sandpiper							
Marbled Godwit							
Ruddy Turnstone							
Red Knot							
Stilt Sandpiper							
Sanderling							
Dunlin					1	2	
Least Sandpiper	12	1	31	53	22	27	16
White-rumped Sandpiper							
Pectoral Sandpiper			1		1		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1			10			1
Western Sandpiper							
Short-billed Dowitcher							
Wilson's Snipe				5	2		5
American Woodcock	3						

	<u>SM</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>TA</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Total</u>
								2
	18	8		7	2		1	38
	18	36	6	36	36			599
	82	103	27	151	133	30	9	1,439
	138	38	61	143	37	19	3	842
	13	65	7	105	14	3	6	326
	2	2		3	1		1	21
	1	1			1			16
	1		1		4	1		28
								0
	12	6	2	1	5	2		157
								121
	5	10	1	29	13	7	1	188
								0
	4			47			16	67
		3		9			2	15
				37			8	46
	2	1		1				10
		1		3				4
		1		1				4
								1
				1				2
								0
			3					3
	1			18			151	170
								0
								0
	9	4	9	105	2		4	142
								0
	29	33	11	20	25	3		304
	21	11	14	46	33	31	25	259
	9	1	21	67	30	11	19	189
	11		1	3	13	4	3	101
								28
								25
	13		3	4	24		11	97
								0
								0
								1
								0
								0
								4
								80
	12	1	31	53	22	27	16	58
								14
								3
								9
								6
								26
								9
								2
								4
								1
								4
	3							7
								1
								20
								3
								20
								13

(continued)

	<u>GA</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>HO</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>CH</u>		<u>SM</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>TA</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wilson's Phalarope																0
Red-necked Phalarope																0
Bonaparte's Gull	1					6	3		7			1	2			20
Laughing Gull					407	14	11		251		18	1,206	508	74	72	2,561
Ring-billed Gull	1				19	275	64		27	15	9	23	150		1	584
Herring Gull					52	43	94		21	2	14	132	7	1	8	374
Iceland Gull																0
Lesser Black-backed Gull																0
Glaucous Gull												1				1
Great Black-backed Gull						56			6	2	3	16			1	84
Least Tern						9				36		24				69
Caspian Tern					1	3	1		4	50	4	1	4			68
Black Tern						1										1
Common Tern	1					18	1		1		20				1	42
Forster's Tern	5				8	9	48		3	11	4	81	8		13	190
Royal Tern							5		10		6	4				25
Black Skimmer																0
Rock Pigeon	51	38	147	88	113	134	10			83	5	36	45			750
Eurasian Collared Dove																0
Mourning Dove	112	46	279	252	176	181	145		108	77	21	122	154	75	3	1,751
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	2	16	16	59	13	45		22	14	1	6	4	1		201
Black-billed Cuckoo				2	1											3
Barn Owl			1		2											3
Eastern Screech Owl	1			2		4	2			6		2	3			20
Great Horned Owl		1				2				2	1	6	12	1		25
Barred Owl	3		10	13	10	4	8		2	3		2	17			72
Northern Saw-whet Owl																0
Common Nighthawk		2		7	10	4			1	1			3			28
Chuck-will's-widow							1		3		1	33	1	14		53
Eastern Whip-poor-will		1					1		1	24		2	2			31
Chimney Swift	21	35	76	186	82	73	59		35	36	62	36	140	2		843
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	40	11	10	19	18	19	12		12	13	4	6	27	7	1	199
Belted Kingfisher	7		11	32	5	6	1		5	12	1		6	1		87
Red-headed Woodpecker	8		7	1			7		6	2		14				45
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	17	133	265	98	160	65		49	64	10	21	64	13	2	982
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1															1
Downy Woodpecker	37	11	37	94	40	48	19		12	24	5	9	21	5	2	364
Hairy Woodpecker	17	2	11	27	8	9	1		5	4	1	4	3		1	93
Northern Flicker	23	15	28	55	14	20	13		15	9	2	13	17	4	4	232
Pileated Woodpecker	10	7	19	51	28	12	18		8	16	2	8	17	6	1	203
American Kestrel	4	1	6	4	10	1				3		1	2			32
Merlin							1									2
Peregrine Falcon									1							0
Olive-sided Flycatcher																0
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	3	40	78	54	30	53		33	28	1	12	40	3	5	386
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																0
Acadian Flycatcher			27	85	39	18	64		44	17	2	3	29	1		329
Alder Flycatcher																0
Willow Flycatcher			3	5			1		1				1			11
Least Flycatcher	15			1	1	1				1						19

(continued)

	<u>GA</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>HO</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>CH</u>
Eastern Phoebe	25	20	47	60	44	14	40
Great-crested Flycatcher	5	3	76	98	71	46	47
Eastern Kingbird	14	4	73	109	86	61	35
White-eyed Vireo	2		10	41	63	19	62
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1	8	13	18	9	36
Blue-headed Vireo	37	2	2	6	3	1	1
Warbling Vireo		3	44	31	8	1	
Philadelphia Vireo							
Red-eyed Vireo	72	42	134	445	255	188	300
Blue Jay	88	96	504	485	120	108	57
American Crow	176	57	214	354	113	178	188
Fish Crow		2	36	52	104	24	3
Common Raven	13	6	3		2		
Horned Lark			32	27	5		1
Purple Martin	15		63	73	63	16	240
Tree Swallow	121	41	86	171	274	126	56
N. Rough-winged Swallow	8	14	27	29	25	28	10
Bank Swallow		3				6	
Cliff Swallow	52	10		55	5	2	
Barn Swallow	217	42	192	341	188	256	277
Carolina Chickadee			77	240	157	154	80
Black-capped Chickadee	88	28					
Tufted Titmouse	41	32	128	251	175	196	198
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	1		3		4	
White-breasted Nuthatch	30	16	23	59	35	27	5
Brown-headed Nuthatch							1
Brown Creeper	8					1	
House Wren	32	24	93	103	14	37	7
Winter Wren	4					1	
Sedge Wren							
Marsh Wren				1	3	4	4
Carolina Wren	13	33	220	406	231	165	149
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	10	123	285	184	66	100
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	2	4	1	1		2
Eastern Bluebird	44	13	93	211	129	169	135
Veery	4		4	39	7	2	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush					2		
Bicknell's Thrush							
Swainson's Thrush			1	36	9	5	
Hermit Thrush	14	2		3		1	
Wood Thrush	11	14	120	261	104	46	93
American Robin	366	260	470	661	212	574	179
Gray Catbird	82	112	357	616	152	111	66
Brown Thrasher	19	11	43	42	30	19	58
Northern Mockingbird	2	13	121	158	90	97	120
European Starling	239	131	956	528	688	529	280
American Pipit			54			1	
Cedar Waxwing	24	2	46	157	218	92	28
Ovenbird	73	14	30	174	100	30	122
Worm-eating Warbler	3		2	13	4	3	18

	<u>SM</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>TA</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Total</u>
	11	19	2	1	16	2		301
	74	25	20	139	139	26	14	783
	28	55	5	51	22	9	3	555
	38	15	5	35	30	8	10	338
	5	18	2		2			113
	1	1	1		3			58
		27						114
								0
	159	78	7	42	75	12	5	1,814
	99	74	12	57	63	13	5	1,781
	134	96	17	165	125	27	9	1,853
	27	12	6	33	20	9	3	331
								24
	8	5	2	12	46	2		140
	40	73	64	254	120	76	2	1,099
	16	261	19	106	51	18	11	1,357
	8	65			4	3		221
		55						64
								124
	144	309	46	292	95	48	7	2,454
	48	73	15	36	78	15	11	984
								116
	63	54	13	96	61	17	3	1,328
				2	3			22
	4	8	2	1	11			221
	5		4	28		2	3	43
		1						10
	6	17	3	33	17	14	19	419
								5
								0
	7	7		61			11	98
	132	51	15	94	98	44	12	1,663
	36	120	4	26	3	1	6	971
								16
		2						17
	92	62	23	93	107	8	6	1,185
	8	4		1	1			71
	1							3
								0
	2	2						55
					5			25
	83	49	5	22	27	5		840
	207	136	58	415	374	122	2	4,036
	82	151	16	21	49	12	3	1,830
	31	14	8	10	31	6	1	323
	118	54	17	79	71	21	2	963
	193	319	80	623	302	114	11	4,993
								55
	7	49	44		20			687
	94	31	6	50	38	9	10	781
	27	2	2	15	2	1		92

(continued)

	<u>GA</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>HO</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>CH</u>
Louisiana Waterthrush	5	1	14	43	9	5	11
Northern Waterthrush	9		3	10	2	3	1
Golden-winged Warbler		1					
Blue-winged Warbler		1	1	21	2	1	1
Black-and-white Warbler	16	1	9	36	17	18	27
Prothonotary Warbler			4		27	9	24
Tennessee Warbler			1	4			
Orange-crowned Warbler							
Nashville Warbler			1		1	1	
Mourning Warbler		8					
Kentucky Warbler				6	9	3	8
Common Yellowthroat	138	39	111	417	181	58	117
Hooded Warbler	8	1	3	11	26	10	48
American Redstart	51	19	14	90	57	40	31
Cape May Warbler	3	2	3	2		2	
Cerulean Warbler	2	3		2			
Northern Parula	23	2	47	163	138	65	193
Magnolia Warbler	18	2	6	35	12	9	
Bay-breasted Warbler		1	2		2	1	
Blackburnian Warbler	17			8	4	3	1
Yellow Warbler	38	49	81	155	32	19	15
Chestnut-sided Warbler	32	11	13	37	6	8	
Blackpoll Warbler			6	20	11	13	9
Black-throated Blue Warbler	21	2	23	97	51	36	15
Palm Warbler	1		1	5	1		
Pine Warbler				6	18	5	32
Yellow-rumped Warbler	49	17	35	88	85	103	29
Yellow-throated Warbler				1	6	1	20
Prairie Warbler		1	8	35	53	18	32
Black-throated Green Warbler	42	3	24	38	14	22	2
Canada Warbler	3		1	11	1	3	
Wilson's Warbler			1	1		1	
Yellow-breasted Chat		4	5	19	20	21	32
Eastern Towhee	130	62	66	157	81	51	56
Chipping Sparrow	162	77	277	289	138	205	170
Field Sparrow	29	12	80	96	41	11	24
Vesper Sparrow			2			1	1
Savannah Sparrow	6	5	5	49	40	3	14
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	11	62	53	32	2	25
Henslow's Sparrow	2	5		1			
Nelson's Sparrow							
Saltmarsh Sparrow							
Seaside Sparrow							
Fox Sparrow							
Song Sparrow	116	71	125	178	55	86	31
Lincoln's Sparrow				3			
Swamp Sparrow	23		2	12	11	8	7
White-throated Sparrow	16	1	67	426	141	132	4
White-crowned Sparrow	18	10	8	10	6		
Dark-eyed Junco	8					1	

	<u>SM</u>	<u>HA</u>	<u>TA</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Total</u>
Louisiana Waterthrush	9	7		4	2			110
Northern Waterthrush	4	2	1					35
Golden-winged Warbler								1
Blue-winged Warbler	2	3			1			33
Black-and-white Warbler	28	23	3	3	7	1		189
Prothonotary Warbler		5		9	16	3		97
Tennessee Warbler			1					6
Orange-crowned Warbler								0
Nashville Warbler								3
Mourning Warbler	1	1						10
Kentucky Warbler	14	5			5			50
Common Yellowthroat	115	97	9	157	28	7	51	1,525
Hooded Warbler	16	1						124
American Redstart	50	85	3	3	5	1		449
Cape May Warbler	2							14
Cerulean Warbler		4						11
Northern Parula	74	67	3	12	13	1		801
Magnolia Warbler	16	9			2			109
Bay-breasted Warbler	1							7
Blackburnian Warbler	1	1	1					36
Yellow Warbler	10	64	1	2	17		1	484
Chestnut-sided Warbler		5			1			113
Blackpoll Warbler	16	14						89
Black-throated Blue Warbler	44	33	3	1	11			337
Palm Warbler		1			2			11
Pine Warbler	31		11	67	6	6	16	198
Yellow-rumped Warbler	64	56	7	5	17			555
Yellow-throated Warbler	9	2	1	1				41
Prairie Warbler	25	33		21	16	4	5	251
Black-throated Green Warbler	23	12	2	2				184
Canada Warbler	1	1						21
Wilson's Warbler	1							4
Yellow-breasted Chat	27	31	4	14	7	1	3	188
Eastern Towhee	56	32	1	24	13	4	11	744
Chipping Sparrow	118	120	28	137	133	17	5	1,876
Field Sparrow	14	25		9	20	3		364
Vesper Sparrow					1			5
Savannah Sparrow	6	21		3	1			153
Grasshopper Sparrow	43	43		46	10	2		332
Henslow's Sparrow								8
Nelson's Sparrow								0
Saltmarsh Sparrow				1			11	12
Seaside Sparrow	1			92			84	177
Fox Sparrow								0
Song Sparrow	41	27	2	10	8	2	5	757
Lincoln's Sparrow								3
Swamp Sparrow	4	7		8				82
White-throated Sparrow	28	80	13	23	5	5		941
White-crowned Sparrow		2	1	1				56
Dark-eyed Junco								9

(continued)

