

## 2017 Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count

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The annual Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count was held on several weekend days between 21 January and 4 February 2017. Results were submitted from Frederick, Carroll, Howard, Baltimore, and Harford Counties (Table 1).

The weather on these count days was typical for this time of year. Temperatures ranged from the low 30°s F to low 40°s F. There was calm to light winds with partly cloudy skies. Patchy fog was noted in Baltimore County. Open water was reported for several count areas.

**Table 1. 2017 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Participating counties, county codes, dates, and compilers.**

County	County Code	Date	Compiler
Frederick	FR	29 January 2017	David Smith
Carroll	CA	21 January 2017	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	4 February 2017	Joe Hanfman
Baltimore	BA	21 January 2017	Kevin Graff
Harford	HA	28 January 2017	Rick Cheicante

A total of 173 field observers comprising 99 parties reported 118 species for a total of 78,612 birds (Table 2). The observers spent 319.08 hours on foot covering 259.8 miles. During the four day count, the observers also spent 190.25 hours traveling 1,835.2 miles by car. All five counties spent time owling covering 73.65 miles in 14.93 hours. A total of 25.48 hours was spent feeder watching.

Typical for this time of year, 22 species of waterfowl were observed during this year's count (Table 3). Canada Geese comprised the largest group with 15,489 individuals followed by Common Mergansers with 1,321.

The 14.93 hours spent owling this year produced 4 species for a total of 60 owls. Frederick County had a high count of 10 Eastern Screech-Owls; 2 Northern Saw-whet Owls were recorded in Howard County.

**Table 2. 2017 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Summary.**

	<b>Frederick County</b>	<b>Carroll County</b>	<b>Howard County</b>	<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>Harford County</b>
Total Species	84	80	88	93	80
Total Birds	23,203	12,733	24,870	11,040	6,766
Start Time	0600	0530	0500	0730	0500
Stop Time	1730	1830	1900	1430	1900
Parties	16	49	7	20	7
Number of Observers	34	30	75	26	8
Hours Driving	80.42	32.65	50.70	2.48	24
Miles Driving	805	352.1	471.4	15.7	191
Hours Walking	48.33	46.25	160.9	48.3	15.3
Miles Walking	46	37.5	130.8	29.9	15.6
Hours Owling	5.53	1.35	5.3	0.5	2.25
Miles Owling	62.35	0.6	9.2	1.5	
Feeder Hours	1.33	17	5.9		1.25
Stationary Hours		2	3.4		

Two Iceland Gulls were recorded this year with Baltimore and Harford Counties each reporting one.

Observations of note for this year's count:

Howard County recorded 2 Long-tailed Ducks and was the only county to record all seven woodpeckers, being the only county with a Red-headed Woodpecker sighting.

Five species of warblers were included in this year's list. Carroll County recorded a Common Yellowthroat, Harford County recorded a Palm Warbler, Frederick, Howard and Baltimore Counties all had Yellow-rumped Warblers. Baltimore County also reported an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Pine Warbler.

Frederick and Baltimore Counties both recorded Peregrine Falcon sightings.

The Rusty Blackbird count more than tripled this year.

The most unusual bird for the 2017 Mid-winter Bird Count was the Painted Bunting in Harford County. First seen in early January, the Painted Bunting stayed in just about the same location for the next several months offering local birders many good viewing and photo opportunities.

**Table 3. 2017 Maryland Mid-winter Count: Observed species.**

Species	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County	Harford County
Cackling Goose		1	2		
Canada Goose	4559	2945	4734	1362	1889
Mute Swan	2				
Tundra Swan	33				69
Wood Duck		5	3		
Northern Shoveler				38	
Gadwall	1	30		82	7
American Wigeon		5		33	6
Mallard	297	162	250	305	167
American Black Duck	12	21	31	11	52
Green-winged Teal			2	8	
Canvasback				146	15
Redhead	1	10		9	1
Ring-necked Duck	19	46	336	140	14
Greater Scaup				4	
Lesser Scaup				213	250
scaup sp.					3
Long-tailed Duck			2		
Bufflehead	2	12	15	104	2
Common Goldeneye	2				2
Hooded Merganser	15	51	54	54	37
Common Merganser	83	218	944	27	49
Ruddy Duck		17	1	656	
duck sp.				1	
Ring-necked Pheasant				1	
Wild Turkey	41	1	1		
Pied-billed Grebe	1	3	4	11	3
Horned Grebe				1	
Rock Pigeon	688	293	350	483	54
Mourning Dove	620	289	319	86	59
American Coot		1	1	12	
Sandhill Crane				26	
Killdeer	2	1	3		1
American Woodcock			2	1	
Wilson's Snipe			1	1	
Bonaparte's Gull				1	
Ring-billed Gull	156	64	231	1675	501
Herring Gull		3		214	47
Iceland Gull				1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull				1	
Great Black-backed Gull				89	10
gull sp.			11		
Common Loon		4			

Species	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County	Harford County
Double-crested Cormorant			1	15	9
Great Blue Heron	8	11	16	14	7
Black Vulture	496	48	298	210	39
Turkey Vulture	681	72	226	17	60
Bald Eagle	10	10	28	11	23
Northern Harrier	4		2	1	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	2		2
Cooper's Hawk	12	9	10	3	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	54	28	85	9	17
Red-tailed Hawk	119	27	62	8	13
buteo sp.			4	1	
Eastern Screech-Owl	10	4	4		
Great Horned Owl	6	2	8		2
Barred Owl	5	5	8	3	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl			2		
Belted Kingfisher	24	12	16	7	4
Red-headed Woodpecker			1		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	152	57	206	44	31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	5	17	5	4
Downy Woodpecker	160	85	204	75	20
Hairy Woodpecker	23	34	39	12	5
Northern Flicker	77	30	68	48	15
Pileated Woodpecker	36	26	46	6	6
woodpecker sp.				1	
American Kestrel	26	12	5	2	1
Merlin	1	1	2	4	2
Peregrine Falcon	1			1	
falcon sp.				1	
Eastern Phoebe	2	3	6	2	
Blue Jay	215	137	294	156	91
American Crow	962	535	1504	178	146
Fish Crow	67	4	83	229	4
crow sp.	100		479	195	
Common Raven	27	3	6	2	
Horned Lark	185	18	22	2	2
Carolina Chickadee	524	312	455	150	73
Black-capped Chickadee	2				2
Tufted Titmouse	275	168	408	108	50
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	7	9	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	207	84	200	53	39
Brown Creeper	13	9	12	13	2
Winter Wren	7	5	17	6	2
Carolina Wren	275	146	234	106	39
Golden-crowned Kinglet	38	37	20	16	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	6		8	2
Eastern Bluebird	330	97	361	55	22

Species	Frederick County	Carroll County	Howard County	Baltimore County	Harford County
Hermit Thrush			12	3	6
American Robin	314	208	315	388	156
Gray Catbird	1		1	2	
Brown Thrasher			1	1	
Northern Mockingbird	105	80	105	52	31
European Starling	6815	3669	2069	658	665
Cedar Waxwing	26	236	64	140	
House Sparrow	791	271	186	144	86
American Pipit	1				
House Finch	334	214	217	76	43
Purple Finch		2	10		
American Goldfinch	324	151	179	82	50
Eastern Towhee	6	29	54	14	6
American Tree Sparrow	7	1	1	6	1
Chipping Sparrow	49		8	14	3
Field Sparrow	9	11	52	28	11
Savannah Sparrow	8		28		2
Fox Sparrow	1	5	7	10	2
Song Sparrow	236	164	595	138	179
Lincoln Sparrow					1
Swamp Sparrow	11	13	19	53	9
White-throated Sparrow	520	626	1677	410	280
White-crowned Sparrow	25	26	29		
sparrow sp.	31		30	3	
Dark-eyed Junco	1069	423	1141	398	473
Eastern Meadowlark	3				
Red-winged Blackbird	212	4	2406	123	517
Brown-headed Cowbird	32	8	536	4	
Rusty Blackbird			30		
Common Grackle	2	3	509	385	110
blackbird sp.	15		1294	100	
Orange-crowned Warbler				1	
Common Yellowthroat		1			
Palm Warbler					1
Pine Warbler				1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7		8	34	
warbler sp.				1	
Northern Cardinal	596	354	520	197	137
Painted Bunting					1

I hope the readers find this information interesting and informative. Thank you to all the observers and compilers for their time and effort. I look forward to next year's count. - - Mary Anne.