

2013 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 chapter and/or compiler. In 2013, eleven of Maryland's 23 counties submitted results. Eight counties counted on 21 September, two on 22 September, and one counted the prior weekend on 14 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 23rd count for Allegany, 20th for Howard, and 18th for Dorchester.

With counts held on multiple days, more variation in weather conditions could be expected; however this year the weather was similar for all counts. Most counties reported increasing clouds during the day, and light to moderate rain beginning in mid- to late-afternoon. Temperatures were generally mild, ranging from the mid 50s °F to the high 70s °F.

A total of 188 field observers in 136 parties turned up 190 species and 69,991 individual birds. They spent a total of 426.2 hours and covered 296.6 miles on foot and spent 48.8 hours stationary. Birders spent 186.9 hours and 1815.7 miles birding by car. One observer covered 8 miles in 3 hours by bicycle. Nine observers in 6 parties reported spending 4.8 hours owling. Feeder watchers spent 27.5 hours (Table 2).

The following highlights were noted. A write-in single American White Pelican was observed in Dorchester. Bald Eagle sightings were high with a total of 266 (148 in Dorchester). Forster Tern numbers totaled 789 in 6 counties (Dorchester: 492, Calvert: 262). Merlin (total 15) was observed in 8 counties with a new high of 8 in Dorchester. The disparity in reports for Eastern Phoebe (total 244 found in all 11 counties) were unusual (even accounting for coverage differences) with a high of 74 found in Howard, a very low 2 observed in Dorchester, and none at the hawk watch in Cecil (Table 3).

In addition to the American White Pelican, other species with only a single individual found statewide included Lesser Scaup (Dorchester), Little Blue Heron (Dorchester), Baird's Sandpiper (Prince George's), White-rumped Sandpiper (Prince George's), American Woodcock (Caroline), Lesser Black-

backed Gull (Dorchester), Black-billed Cuckoo (Howard), Barn Owl (Prince George's), Common Nighthawk (Dorchester), Brown Creeper (Howard), Gray-cheeked Thrush (Allegany), and American Pipit (Howard) (Table 3). A tentative report of Yellow Rail in Dorchester was subsequently not accepted by the Maryland/DC Records Committee.

I want to offer my thanks to all the participants and compilers. The 2014 Fall Count report will appear in the Fall 2015 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. I look forward to the count in 2015 (19 or 20 September) and hope that additional counties will participate and submit results.

Table 1: 2013 Maryland Fall Count: participating counties, county codes, survey dates, and compilers.

County	Code	Survey Date	Compiler
Allegany	AL	14 September 2013	Chuck Hager
Washington	WA	21 September 2013	Doris Berger
Carroll	CA	21 September 2013	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	21 September 2013	Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	21 September 2013	Joel Martin
Cecil (Hawk watch)	CE	21 September 2013	John Taylor
Prince George's	PG	22 September 2013	Dave Mozurkewich
Anne Arundel	AA	21 September 2013	David Gillum
Calvert	CT	22 September 2013	Sherman Suter
Caroline	CN	21 September 2013	Debby Bennett
Dorchester	DO	21 September 2013	Harry Armistead

Table 2. 2013 Maryland Fall Count: summary.

	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	CE	PG	AA	CT	CN	DO	Total
Total Species	87	68	97	129	108	31	130	56	124	112	148	190
Total Birds	3428	2589	7345	13,130	3002	288	14,067	363	4537	8006	13,236	69,991
Start Time			6:30	5:50		7:00		7:15	6:05	5:00	5:00	
Stop Time			19:00	19:15		13:30		12:00	19:00	20:00	20:00	
Parties	5	5	9	35	21	1	29	3	10	9	9	136
Individual People	7	7	19	58	24	1	19	4	15	13	21	188
Hours Driving	6.5	25	26.7	25.6	6.5		10		3.1	22.5	61	186.9
Miles Driving	52	251.5	276.5	346.6	20		109		23.1	217	520	1815.7
Hours Walking	12	3.8	32	159.3	30.8	2.5	74	8	33.8	34	36	426.2
Miles Walking	6.5	2.5	27.5	114.6	28.6	3.6	54	4	27.3	11.5	16.5	296.6
Stationary Hours			7.3	11.2	9.9	4	8		6.4	2		48.8
Feeder Hours		3	9.5	2.5			7.5	3		2		27.5
Hours Owling:				0.7			1.4		1.20	1.5		4.8
Miles Owling:				2.3			0.4			20		22.7
Hours on Bicycle	3											3.0
Miles on Bicycle	8											8.0
Total Hours												697.2
Total Miles												2143.0

Table 3. 2013 Maryland Fall Count: observed species.

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	CE	PG	AA	CT	CN	DO	Total
Canada Goose	22	177	558	898	266		801		51	487	732	3992
Mute Swan									3			3
Wood Duck	25	3	8	21	3		103		1	31	101	296
American Black Duck				1	6					5	56	68
Mallard	45	48	93	181	245		207	3	57	40	496	1415
Blue-winged Teal							17				8	25
Northern Shoveler							6				3	9
Northern Pintail										6		6
Green-winged Teal					13		47				95	155
Lesser Scaup											1	1
Ruddy Duck											12	12
Northern Bobwhite										5		5
Wild Turkey	31	24		5					1	42	33	136
Common Loon					1						3	4
Pied-billed Grebe				1			2			1	1	5
Double-crested Cormorant			4	8	239		27	5	163	13	248	707
American White Pelican											1	1
Brown Pelican											20	20
Great Blue Heron	1	14	13	33	20		27	3	24	14	62	211
Great Egret				5	21		4	1	4	2	72	109
Snowy Egret									15	1	40	56
Little Blue Heron											1	1
Tricolored Heron											6	6
Green Heron		1	5	19	2		7		1			35
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1	7		2				4	14
Glossy Ibis										3		3
Black Vulture	2	12	41	153	11	1	119	3	30	48	36	456
Turkey Vulture	47	90	106	275	19	16	83	8	65	223	280	1212
Osprey			2	6	5		7		16	2	7	45
Bald Eagle		1	3	8	5	13	25		51	12	148	266
Northern Harrier							2			1	8	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	10	3	2	26	3		3	1	4	57
Cooper's Hawk	2	3	6	15	4	4	8	1		4	3	50
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	2	9	56	9		29	2	5	3	3	121
Broad-winged Hawk	18		6	1	1	2	177		1		1	207
Red-tailed Hawk	1	3	9	18	2		12		13	13	10	81
Clapper Rail											27	27
Virginia Rail							2		2		24	28
Sora							10	5	1		1	17
Common Gallinule											3	3
Semipalmated Plover							2				13	15
Killdeer	34	3	33	60	9		85		1	31	75	331
Spotted Sandpiper				1	8		2			7	2	20
Solitary Sandpiper				3	2						6	11
Greater Yellowlegs			2	2			17			40	29	90
Willet											2	2
Lesser Yellowlegs			6	6			16			26	27	81
yellowlegs sp.											2	2
Sanderling							3				20	23
Baird's Sandpiper							1					1

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	CE	PG	AA	CT	CN	DO	Total
Least Sandpiper			10	17	3		29				32	91
White-rumped Sandpiper							1					1
Pectoral Sandpiper				4	4		13				13	34
Semipalmated Sandpiper					10		13			6	60	89
Western Sandpiper											3	3
peep sp.											11	11
Short-billed Dowitcher											2	2
Wilson's Snipe							10		2	3		15
American Woodcock										1		1
Laughing Gull					363		702	1	196	618	1777	3657
Ring-billed Gull					180		71	1	141	222	65	680
Herring Gull					76				147	4	151	378
Lesser Black-backed Gull											1	1
Great Black-backed Gull									263		79	352
Caspian Tern				2	14		3		3		11	33
Common Tern						1				17		18
Forster's Tern					14		12	1	262	8	492	789
Royal Tern									74		105	179
Rock Pigeon	145	59	118	308	100		309		2	107	9	1157
Mourning Dove	101	39	212	390	47		588	49	97	124	190	1837
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			1	5	2		11		4	1	4	28
Black-billed Cuckoo				1								1
Barn Owl							1					1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	2	1	1			2		2	3	17	31
Great Horned Owl	1		1	1			2		1	8	18	32
Barred Owl		1	2	4			3		4	11	7	32
Common Nighthawk											1	1
Chimney Swift	10	34	14	154	54	9	59	4	24	110	27	499
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	25	6	23	21	4		17	1	9	19	14	139
Belted Kingfisher	2	9	11	38	4		13		13	7	15	112
Red-headed Woodpecker			5	2			1	1	5		4	18
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	29	64	210	15	3	99	15	77	46	26	625
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1		1	2		4
Downy Woodpecker	20	8	46	122	26	2	59	8	68	30	41	430
Hairy Woodpecker	13	1	10	27	6		8	1	12	3	19	100
Northern Flicker	14	7	30	117	15	33	56	3	19	41	51	386
Pileated Woodpecker	14	12	12	52	3	2	19		16	20	20	170
American Kestrel	3	9	14	10		2	9		3	7	29	86
Merlin		1		2		2			1	1	8	15
Peregrine Falcon					2		2					4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	5	9	43	8	2	16	3	34	5	15	143
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher							2					2
Acadian Flycatcher				8			8		8		1	25
Least Flycatcher					2		2		1		1	6
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.			3	14	3		9		1	1	9	40
Eastern Phoebe	23	12	29	74	7		60	6	21	10	2	244
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	1	2	6	1		2		2		4	21
Eastern Kingbird		1		1					1	1	4	8
White-eyed Vireo	1		8	8	1		21	2	15	1	13	70
Yellow-throated Vireo	3			3			2		5		1	14
Blue-headed Vireo	1						1		1			3
Warbling Vireo	3			2	4							9
Philadelphia Vireo				2	2				1			5

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	CE	PG	AA	CT	CN	DO	Total
Red-eyed Vireo	14		22	25	9	2	39	2	57	5	10	185
Blue Jay	140	87	294	823	49	86	298	28	192	137	162	2296
American Crow	108	245	522	748	35	22	184	5	177	336	248	2630
Fish Crow		1	5	80	9		63	6	7	149	32	352
crow sp.				286	51		32			103	20	492
Common Raven	8	4					3					15
Horned Lark				12						93	89	194
Tree Swallow		207	4	4		3		1		1025	791	2035
N. Rough-winged Swallow		20			1		2	7	1			32
Barn Swallow				13	4		6				26	49
Carolina Chickadee		28	141	366	49	3	141	9	254	124	170	1285
Black-capped Chickadee	26	12										38
Tufted Titmouse	61	43	132	228	23	4	130	10	186	72	95	984
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		2									3
White-breasted Nuthatch	34	16	45	117	6		38	3	37	7		303
Brown-headed Nuthatch									6		61	67
Brown Creeper				1								1
House Wren	6		14	39	10		7	2	14		19	111
Winter Wren	1								2			3
Marsh Wren				2					1		8	11
Carolina Wren	47	37	134	445	53	1	206	16	149	104	97	1289
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			4	8	3		6		2		23	46
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	1		1								11
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			4	1			3		6		1	15
Eastern Bluebird	16	53	147	301	10		143	11	137	91	114	1023
Veery	1		2	2					2		3	10
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1											1
Swainson's Thrush	12		1		2		2		5		3	25
Hermit Thrush									2	2		4
Wood Thrush	5		1	13	6		4		9	1	1	40
American Robin	41	31	168	570	59		272	4	27	70	136	1378
Gray Catbird	30	13	165	410	67	3	158	23	24	7	30	930
Brown Thrasher	4		2	15	8		23	2	21	7	11	93
Northern Mockingbird	1	17	63	128	19	1	98	15	37	71	49	499
European Starling	1387	686	2930	2062	177		2645	10	450	1476	1084	12,907
American Pipit				1								1
Cedar Waxwing	240	39	92	58	11	23	206		7	26	47	749
Ovenbird	1		3	1	4			1		3	3	16
Worm-eating Warbler				1			1		1		1	4
Northern Waterthrush				1			3		2		1	7
Black-and-white Warbler	2	3	4	30	8		7	5	14	10	29	112
Tennessee Warbler	3		1	12	3		4			1		24
Nashville Warbler	1	3		1	3		3		1			12
Kentucky Warbler			1	1								2
Common Yellowthroat	4	3	30	90	29	1	31	3	38	10	36	275
Hooded Warbler	5											5
American Redstart	4	3	13	33	14		27	2	9	16	36	157
Cape May Warbler			1	9			2		5	3	1	21
Northern Parula			2	9	4		7	1	9	10	17	59
Magnolia Warbler	2	4	18	69	41	2	27	1	8	6	19	197
Bay-breasted Warbler	4			4	1		2		1	2	1	15
Blackburnian Warbler				3	1		2		2	4	4	16
Yellow Warbler			1	1	2				3		2	9

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	CE	PG	AA	CT	CN	DO	Total
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	2		13	8		7		2	1	5	41
Blackpoll Warbler	6		1	1	1		2		1			12
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1		8	17	1				3	3	2	35
Palm Warbler			1	13	4		6		2	3	7	36
Pine Warbler	3		2	1	2		12	1	14	7	86	128
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3		6	1			1		6	8		25
Yellow-throated Warbler				1					1		1	3
Prairie Warbler	1			2	1				2		3	9
Black-throated Green Warbler	12	10	23	38	3		7		4			97
Canada Warbler	1			1			2					4
Wilson's Warbler	2	1					2					5
Yellow-breasted Chat warbler sp.							1		1		1	3
	5			27	1		3		3			39
Eastern Towhee	31	6	15	59	7		21	7	14	3	4	167
Chipping Sparrow	60	63	105	221	33		83	4	56	121	60	806
Field Sparrow	5		10	27	1		5		3	4	3	58
Savannah Sparrow				9	1					1	3	14
Grasshopper Sparrow				2					1			3
Seaside Sparrow											20	20
Song Sparrow	16	2	29	92	9		13		3	7	2	173
Swamp Sparrow			7		1		1					9
White-throated Sparrow sparrow sp.				2								2
Summer Tanager									2	1	8	11
Scarlet Tanager	5	5	3	13	3		8		5	2	4	48
Northern Cardinal	42	45	168	522	64	5	182	12	186	107	98	1431
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6		3	6	1		5					21
Blue Grosbeak			1	16	2		3		1	44	35	102
Indigo Bunting	3		8	67	10	1	49	1	29	48	30	246
Bobolink			1	80	16		5		19	144	341	606
Red-winged Blackbird			3	39	77	7	2877	25	104	40	1111	4283
Eastern Meadowlark		2	2	17					2	3		26
Common Grackle	1	2	185	416	4		740	1	3		1228	2580
Boat-tailed Grackle										68	4	72
Brown-headed Cowbird blackbird sp.		40	3	301			824		12	559	462	2201
										115		115
Baltimore Oriole				4							2	6
House Finch	5	23	64	99	46		50	8	26	19	3	343
Purple Finch	1		1	1								3
American Goldfinch	79	167	108	245	28	7	84	9	42	36	48	853
House Sparrow	255	46	81	319	25		160	1	22	210	106	1225

[Editor's Note: If your county does not conduct an annual Maryland Fall Count, please consider starting one. Contact Chuck Stirrat at ChuckS20@verizon.net for additional information.]