

**2017 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 2017, data from 12 of Maryland's 23 counties were compiled. Five counties counted on Saturday, 16 September; six on Sunday, 17 September (Table 1). Receiving results from eleven counties is a decrease in participation for Fall Count. For several counties this seasonal count has been a long-held tradition, with this year being the 27<sup>th</sup> count for Allegany, 24<sup>th</sup> for Howard, and 22<sup>nd</sup> for Dorchester. For the first time in over 16 years, Baltimore did not participate in the count. As an experiment, the author collected all eBird accounts from Baltimore on 16 September and compiled the results. The results are included in the results below, but did not exhibit the diversity of coverage and supporting data that an organized count would have.

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**Table 1: 2017 Maryland Fall Count: participating counties, county codes, survey dates, and compilers.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Survey Date</b>	<b>Compiler</b>
Allegany	AL	17 September 2017	Chuck Hager
Washington	WA	16 September 2017	Doris Berger
Carroll	CA	16 September 2017	Don Jewell
Howard	HO	16 September 2017	Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat
Baltimore	BA	16 September 2017	Chuck Stirrat (eBird reports)
Prince George's	PG	17 September 2017	Dave Mozurkewich
Calvert	CT	17 September 2017	Sherman Suter
Kent	KE	17 September 2017	Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin
Caroline	CN	16 September 2017	Debby Bennett
Talbot	TA	17 September 2017	David Palmer
Dorchester	DO	16 September 2017	Harry Armistead
Somerset	SO	17 September 2017	Paul Bystrak

The weather varied over the extent of the state and from Saturday to Sunday, but less than observed in prior counts. Morning temperatures were in the low to mid 60s °F, rising to highs in the low to mid 80s °F. All reported calm to light winds, generally increasing as the day proceeded. Cloud coverage was highly variable with partly cloudy conditions predominating. There were no reports of significant precipitation for either day, except for Dorchester which had a brief but heavy shower late on Saturday afternoon followed by a rainbow.

A total of 277 field observers in 136 parties turned up 199 species and 64,250 individual birds. They spent a total of 480.7 hours and covered 310.3 miles on foot and spent 42.6 hours stationary. Birders spent 186.5 hours and 1698.9 miles birding by car. Observers covered 22.0 miles in 12.8 hours by other modes of transport, including by boat. Participants in seven counties reported spending 23.6 hours traveling 119.9 miles while owling. Feeder watchers spent 24.3 hours (Table 2).

Tundra Swan, a write-in species was found in two counties, Kent (1) and Dorchester (2). Species with only a single individual found statewide included Gadwall (Prince George's), Ring-necked Duck (Dorchester), Common Merganser (Baltimore), Hudsonian Godwit (Dorchester), White-rumped Sandpiper (Talbot), Western Sandpiper (Dorchester), Willet (Talbot), Red-necked Phalarope (Dorchester), Bonaparte's Gull (Caroline), Common Loon (Dorchester), Peregrine Falcon (Calvert), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Dorchester), Swamp Sparrow (Dorchester), Prothonotary Warbler (Howard), Connecticut Warbler (Kent), and Kentucky Warbler (Prince George's)(Table 3).

The following highlights were noted by compilers and the author. Marcia Balestri's visit to Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant (Dorchester) found 28 American Golden-Plovers (Figure 1) and a Hudsonian Godwit (Figure 2). The YMOS (Youth Division of the Maryland Ornithological Society) group located a Red-necked Phalarope on Taylor's Island (Dorchester). Statewide there were 393 Brown Pelicans with the 387 in Dorchester being a new high. Forster's Terns were abundant this count with a total of 1518 (high for prior 4 years was 1039). The Dickcissels, one each in Calvert and Dorchester, were the first reported in the last five counts. A lone female Common Merganser was continuing at Loch Raven Reservoir.

There were 37 species that were observed in only one county. Twenty of these were observed in Dorchester County, with the rest being 4 each in Prince George's and Caroline, 2 each in Calvert, Kent, and Talbot, and 1 each in Allegany, Howard, and Baltimore County. Fourteen species were reported for all 12 counts which is lower than normal largely due to some counties having very limited coverage.

Thank you to all participants and especially the compilers. I urge more participants to enjoy the experience and join in one of the 2018 counts that will be held on 15 or 16 September. I hope additional counties will have volunteers who choose to organize a count in the future and reverse the trend of decreasing interest and participation in organized seasonal counts.

**Table 2. 2017 Maryland Fall Count: summary.**

	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Total Species	79	58	95	123	104	116	126	125	105	103	165	32	199
Total Birds	1903	1514	3895	11,776	3066	9475	6154	4788	4853	4459	12,172	195	64,250
Start Time	0648			0525	0230	0630	0622	0640	0530	0600	0230		0230
Stop Time	1600			2300	2300	1950	1947	1940	2100	1900	1915		2300
Parties Individual People	6		9	46	17	15	12	4	9	7	10	1	136
Hours	6		19	65	82	20	17	7	18	22	19	2	277
Driving Miles	18.3	13.0	18.0	35.4		14.8	6.5	12.0	20.0	14.0	32.0	2.5	186.5
Driving Miles	154.4	98.0	239.0	397.6		104.0	17.6	125.0	31.5	126.8	397.0	8.0	1698.9
Hours	12.5		39.5	168.2	22.4	68.3	34.5	18.0	32.5	27.8	56.0	1.0	480.7
Walking Miles	8.0		27.5	126.8	11.0	39.8	24.6	14.0	12.0	17.6	28.0	1.0	310.3
Hours					5.8								5.8
Boating Miles					5.0								5.0
Stationary Hours	3.0	2.5	0.5	17.7	6.5		12.4						42.6
Feeder Hours			1.5	5.8		6.0			11.0				24.3
Hours			0.5	1.1		1.3	0.9		2.8	2.0	15.0		23.6
Owling Miles			1.0	0.9		0.7	0.3		14.0	20.0	83.0		119.9
Hours			1.3			1.0			3.0	1.7			7.0
Miles			0.0			3.0			2.0	12.0			17.0
Other Miles			0.0			3.0			2.0	12.0			17.0



**Figure 1. Multiple American Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) and one Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).** Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dorchester County, Maryland; 16 September 2017; photographed by Marcia Balestri.



**Figure 2. Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*).** Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dorchester County, Maryland; 16 September 2017; photographed by Marcia Balestri.

**Table 3. 2017 Maryland Fall Count: observed species.**

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Canada Goose	108	120	331	1123	13	520	181	85	241	74	418	23	3237
Tundra Swan								1			2		3
Wood Duck	25	1	4	20	8	95	4	12	17	15	109		310
Blue-winged Teal								6		2	12		20
Northern Shoveler								14		5	43		62
Gadwall							1						1
Mallard	30	3	72	115	28	138	169	60	50	46	597		1308
American Black Duck						10	3	2			25		40
Northern Pintail								2	2		3		7
Green-winged Teal	4					124	2	3		60	38		231
Ring-necked Duck											1		1
Black Scoter							4			1			5
Common Merganser					1								1
Ruddy Duck								1		1	19		21
Northern Bobwhite											3		3
Wild Turkey	28	1		4		5		37	29		3		107
Pied-billed Grebe			1	1		2	2				6		12
Rock Pigeon	105	40	60	110	66	393	8	10	109	70	39		1010
Mourning Dove	72	86	94	464	32	561	83	42	160	67	145	12	1818
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		1	5	6	3	9	8	3	2	1	8		46
Common Nighthawk			2	11	2						5		20
Chimney Swift	76	26	24	116	541	191	1	4	465	340	4		1788
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	7	21	52	12	14	17	13	31	7	21	1	204
Clapper Rail											2		2
King Rail											2		2
Virginia Rail							1	1		1	23		26
Sora							2						2
Common Gallinule											2		2
American Oystercatcher											2		2
Black-bellied Plover											9		9
American Golden-Plover											28		28
Semipalmated Plover											32		32
Killdeer	29		5	50	12	28	6	13	26	2	29		200
Hudsonian Godwit											1		1
Sanderling											4		4
Least Sandpiper				2	5		4	1			40		52
White-rumped Sandpiper										1			1
Pectoral Sandpiper	2				5						19		26
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1							3			34		38
Western Sandpiper											1		1
American Woodcock							1		1				2

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Wilson's Snipe									9				9
Spotted Sandpiper				3					7	2	1		13
Solitary Sandpiper	1			7	2							1	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	3		3		4		1	13				30	1 55
Willet										1			1
Greater Yellowlegs	2		1			1		1				31	7 43
Red-necked Phalarope												1	1
Bonaparte's Gull									1				1
Laughing Gull					10	922	975	625	16	265	884	53	3750
Ring-billed Gull				4	46	111	170	92	110	20	80		633
Herring Gull					2		250	13	2	72	478		817
Great Black-backed Gull					1		593	9	1	8	117	1	730
unidentified gull				3			50					7	108
Caspian Tern				2	1	12	3	7				13	38
Common Tern								25		2	5	45	1 78
Forster's Tern								5	600	133	6	130	644 1518
Royal Tern								64	8		39	102	4 217
unidentified tern								25				2	27
Common Loon												1	1
Double-crested Cormorant			1	15	35	88	480	95	49	1500	617	17	2897
American White Pelican												3	3
Brown Pelican								4			2	387	393
Great Blue Heron	3		13	35	12	24	16	39	12	24	82	1	261
Great Egret			1	4	3	10	3	6	1	8	162		198
Snowy Egret								29	1	2	16	78	11 137
Little Blue Heron												2	2
Tricolored Heron												12	1 13
Cattle Egret								1		50	44		95
Green Heron	1		5	20	2	3	9	1		4	2		47
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1	1	1		2					5
Glossy Ibis												2	2
Black Vulture	6		18	115	37	115	74	31	51	34	33		514
Turkey Vulture	33	30	103	180	32	131	144	225	244	98	304	5	1529
Osprey	2			2	21	2	16	9	6	11	24		93
Bald Eagle	1		2	2	10	16	58	40	15	21	104	3	272
Northern Harrier	1		1	1								6	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1		1	20		1	9	1	7	7	47
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	4	8	3	7	2	3	2	1	8		41
unidentified <i>Accipiter</i>				2	1	1							4
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	3	13	79	8	24	9	2	7			3	149
Broad-winged Hawk	1	75	12	24	50	3				8			173
Red-tailed Hawk	4	5	10	16	5	11	3	5	7			5	71
Eastern Screech-Owl	4		5	3		1	6	5	7	3	45		79

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total	
Great Horned Owl			2	6	1	2	2		3	5	9		30	
Barred Owl			3	2	7	1	3	4	2	8		10	40	
Belted Kingfisher	2	5	8	27	5	12	9	3	4	7	10	1	93	
Red-headed Woodpecker			9	4	1	5	9	1		3	25		57	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	26	19	87	233	21	89	53	41	47	20	30	1	667	
Downy Woodpecker	10	8	36	119	15	55	50	24	26	17	65	2	427	
Hairy Woodpecker	4	1	1	34	9	15	8	10	6	3	11		102	
Northern Flicker	18	6	23	91	15	52	21	23	11	21	31	1	313	
Pileated Woodpecker	11	5	14	53	9	17	19	11	21	13	20		193	
American Kestrel	4	5	1	8	14	19	6	6	5	4	27		99	
Merlin					4		3	1		4			12	
Peregrine Falcon							1						1	
Olive-sided Flycatcher											1		1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	3	16	56	14	36	36	47	12	21	53		298	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				1					1	1			3	
Acadian Flycatcher			3			9	18	2	2		1		35	
Trail's Flycatcher								2					2	
Least Flycatcher				3		1				2	2		8	
unidentified <i>Empidonax</i>			5	11		5					8		29	
Eastern Phoebe	10	3	13	62	7	33	10	8	8	2	7		163	
Great Crested Flycatcher	1		7	5	1	2	4	5	3	1	13		42	
Eastern Kingbird			1	2		1	2	2			1		9	
White-eyed Vireo			8	22	2	17	29	24	6	1	33	6	148	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2			6	3	4	4	1			1		21	
Blue-headed Vireo		3		2			1						6	
Philadelphia Vireo				2		1	1						4	
Warbling Vireo	1		1	4	5		1				1		13	
Red-eyed Vireo	16	5	21	79	8	14	27	47	13	10	24		264	
Blue Jay	88	39	219	631	114	203	102	114	102	130	192		1934	
American Crow	93	54	219	471	21	144	142	28	126	104	173	4	1579	
Fish Crow	2		6	75	2	42	41	11	139	5	2		325	
unidentified crow				198	7	130	8			25	19		387	
Common Raven	9			2	1								12	
Horned Lark				2				12	53				88	
Purple Martin				3	1							6	10	
Tree Swallow			2	48	100	6		321	125	4	50		656	
Bank Swallow											2		2	
Barn Swallow			1	1		2	3	2	4	1	22		36	
Carolina Chickadee			15	96	299	39	86	125	87	91	41	145	9	1033
Black-capped Chickadee	34												34	
Tufted Titmouse	42	9	84	248	18	78	128	79	80	44	101	2	913	
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	4	45	163	20	45	37	11	13	7	1		378	
Brown-headed Nuthatch							10	5		8	128	7	158	

Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total
Brown Creeper	1				1						1		3
House Wren			7	37	6	17	9	8	3	8	31	4	130
Winter Wren						1			1				2
Marsh Wren				1		2		1			8		12
Carolina Wren	43	30	95	383	29	139	139	97	52	50	129	5	1191
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		2		22	1	7		11	2	11	40		96
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				3		1	1				1		6
Eastern Bluebird	10	11	63	346	62	114	61	22	43	45	79		856
Veery			1	4		2	3	6		6	13		35
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1			2		1	1						5
Swainson's Thrush	2		6	10	1	3	7	4		2	19		54
Hermit Thrush									3				3
Wood Thrush	2		12	17	1	11	7	6	1		1		58
American Robin	69	13	67	309	79	148	18	26	109	59	89		986
Gray Catbird	26	8	167	389	44	104	22	44	14	9	43	1	871
Brown Thrasher			10	17	4	22	14	15	19	6	22		129
Northern Mockingbird	7	7	54	131	16	103	38	40	47	22	64	1	530
European Starling	213	440	755	1251	444	725	153	1008	850	178	1478		7495
Cedar Waxwing	162	89	32	155	84	167	13	63	6	32	17		820
House Sparrow	110	14	56	467	42	152	35	12	219	25	31		1163
House Finch	25	10	78	207	33	95	41	4	62		6		561
Purple Finch						3							3
American Goldfinch	78	47	79	505	29	210	47	35	41	48	38		1157
Eastern Towhee	13	3	9	54	4	4	12	11	4		8		122
Chipping Sparrow	49		33	337	51	79	68	47	97	92	131		984
Field Sparrow	13		2	10	2	5	6	8	7	1	6		60
Vesper Sparrow									5				5
Savannah Sparrow				15	1						8		24
Grasshopper Sparrow				1			1						2
Seaside Sparrow											6		6
Song Sparrow	15	1	28	80	21	5	14	11	2		3		180
Lincoln's Sparrow				1								1	2
Swamp Sparrow											1		1
unidentified sparrow				6	20								28
Yellow-breasted Chat							2	2			2		6
Bobolink					1	97	4	9	30	22	212		375
Eastern Meadowlark				7			1				1		9
Baltimore Oriole				2	1	1	2				5		11
Red-winged Blackbird	4		61	14	60	721	47	28	31	45	1027		2038
Brown-headed Cowbird		100	121	525	401	400	50	150	225	57	634		2663
Common Grackle		11	200		3	1009	2	5	1	15	157		1403
unidentified blackbird		100											100
Ovenbird			5	6	3	2	3	3	2		4		28



Species	AL	WA	CA	HO	BA	PG	CT	KE	CN	TA	DO	SO	Total	
Worm-eating Warbler				1			1		1		1		4	
Northern Waterthrush				1	1		1	1	1			3	8	
Blue-winged Warbler				3				1	1			1	6	
Black-and-white Warbler	2	2	3	22	1	8	10	30	14	14	24		130	
Prothonotary Warbler				1									1	
Tennessee Warbler			1		1	1		3		1	6		13	
Nashville Warbler			2	3			1	2					8	
Connecticut Warbler								1					1	
Kentucky Warbler						1							1	
Common Yellowthroat	7		17	72	7	34	36	36	19	25	62	1	316	
Hooded Warbler						5	3				2		10	
American Redstart	6		7	48	5	30	20	52	49	26	71		314	
Cape May Warbler	2		2			1		2			3		10	
Northern Parula			3	16	7	5	10	32	16	11	21		121	
Magnolia Warbler		1	10	52	7	10	4	26	4	11	21		146	
Bay-breasted Warbler			1	2		1	2	1			2		9	
Blackburnian Warbler			2	2		1		1	1	1	2		10	
Yellow Warbler		1		1		2	1		1	2	11		19	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3		2	14	1	4	2	8	1	3	2		40	
Blackpoll Warbler						1	1				2		4	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	3	2	11			3	6					26	
Palm Warbler	1		1	4	3	23	3	3	4	3	2		47	
Pine Warbler			1	2	4	1	1	13	4	8	26	99	2	161
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	1		2	1					6				10	
Yellow-throated Warbler							3						3	
Prairie Warbler				2				1			3		6	
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	1	10	16	1	1	1	2	1	1	3		39	
Canada Warbler								2			1		3	
Wilson's Warbler	1			1									2	
unidentified warbler		5		36	10		1				4		56	
Summer Tanager						1	9		3		18		31	
Scarlet Tanager	9	4	4	9	2	6	8	15	2	3	4		66	
Northern Cardinal	61	21	136	521	71	169	154	206	138	51	91	6	1625	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	2	2	2	3		7	2		4	5		29	
Blue Grosbeak				7	3	33	9	6	35	14	32		139	
Indigo Bunting			4	31	6	77	11	52	24	4	17		226	
Dickcissel							1				1		2	