

# WHAT'S HATCHING?

Official Newsletter of the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3

ISSUE NO 7 | AUG 2020



Photo credit: George Jett

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## BIRD OF THE MONTH

Learn about the biology of a bird found in 96% of BBA2 blocks: the Downy Woodpecker.

## TIPS AND TRICKS

The first season of BBA3 has been incredibly successful—read about how to make sure that continues next year.

## OUT OF THE ARCHIVE

Cabot's Tern, anyone? In the late 40s, Robert E. Stewart wrote several articles about the distribution of Maryland birds. In the first of his mini-series, we learn about the first Maryland records of five species.

On July 5, 2020, George Jett found a pair of Black Vulture eggs in the Bristol SW block, in a barn in Prince George's County. This represents the latest date that Black Vulture eggs have been found in Maryland or DC. Black Vultures were first recorded in Maryland in 1895, but the first nest was not found until 1922. Fast forward to 1988, and the latest Black Vulture eggs had been found was May 22. By the end of the second atlas 18 years later, the late date had been extended to June 30—also a find by George Jett.



“It can be difficult to accept the fact that a lot of birds have to be identified as ‘possible’ or ‘probable’.”

- David Sibley

Confirming every species in every block would be great—but it is also unrealistic. Instead, focus on finding Probable codes; this approach is more efficient and will result in finding more species per block.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***Maryland Ornithological Society Membership Benefit!***

*MOS has joined with Cornell Lab of Ornithology to offer a **20% discount** to Birds of the World and Cornell’s online bird and song identification courses. This discount is open to MOS members and is good for one year, starting July 1, 2020.*

*You may join MOS or request the discount code at <https://mdbirds.org/join/member-information-restricted/birds-of-the-world/>.*

# From the Coordinator

*What a first season!*



I can hardly believe the Atlas's first breeding season is largely wrapped up—and what a success! Together we handled the learning curve of new atlasing methods, a change in technology, and a pandemic. As of the end of July, over 50,000 checklists had been submitted to the Atlas with over 250,000 coded observations. To put that into perspective, the entire BBA2 project collected just over 182,000 coded observations.

Now, of course, the additional 68,000

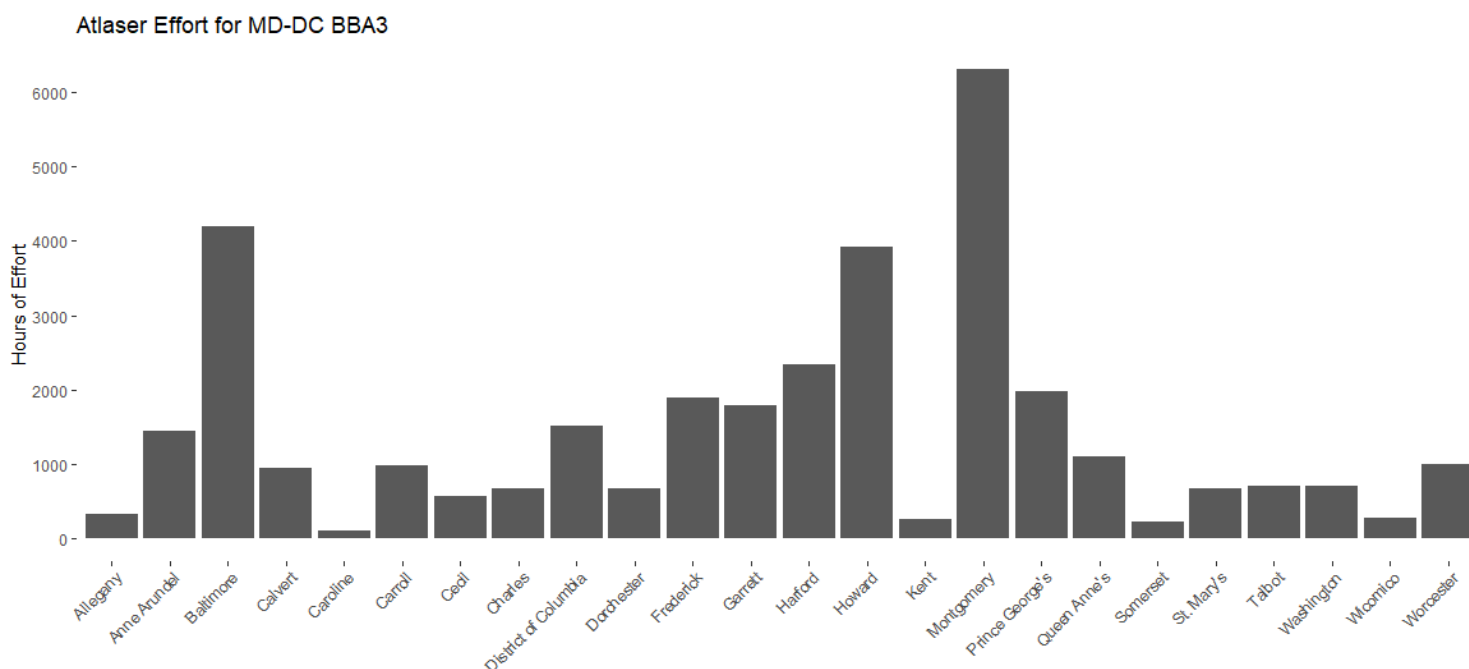
breeding codes in BBA3 reflects a difference in how the data were collected. In BBA2, only the highest code per species per block was recorded. For BBA3, all observations of breeding behavior should be recorded, regardless of what has already been recorded for the block. But that notwithstanding, the effort recorded for this Atlas shows that hundreds of you have collectively donated nearly 35,000 hours of effort—over half of the 61,000 hours recorded for the entire five years of BBA2. That is remarkable, and it

reflects the outstanding enthusiasm and dedication of the Maryland and DC bird community.

That community is you, so congratulate yourself. Whether you submitted one Incidental checklist, or you're Staszing it up and approaching a thousand coded checklists, you made the first season of the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 a resounding success.

Well done, and I sincerely thank you for your hard work.

--Gabriel



Hours of atlaser effort per region from January 1 to July 31, 2020. Only checklists with breeding codes that were submitted to the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 eBird portal were included.

bird of the month:

# DOWNY WOODPECKER

Photo credit: Jordan Rutter

North America's smallest woodpecker, the Downy Woodpecker also happens to be the most common and one of the most widespread. In previous atlases, it was found in nearly every block and fledglings provided a high proportion of Confirmations. Anywhere open, deciduous forest is present, Downy Woodpeckers will also be, especially where trees are small and canopy heights are low. Insects—primarily beetles, ants, and caterpillars—make up three-quarters of their diet. Prey are captured by probing bark crevices and shallow excavations on trees and other woody plants. The remaining quarter of their diet is largely poison ivy and sumac berries, and hard mast like acorns. In the winter, they will also feed on the larvae within goldenrod galls. In preparation for its spring emergence, the larva bores an exit through the gall; by locating and completing that tunnel, Downy

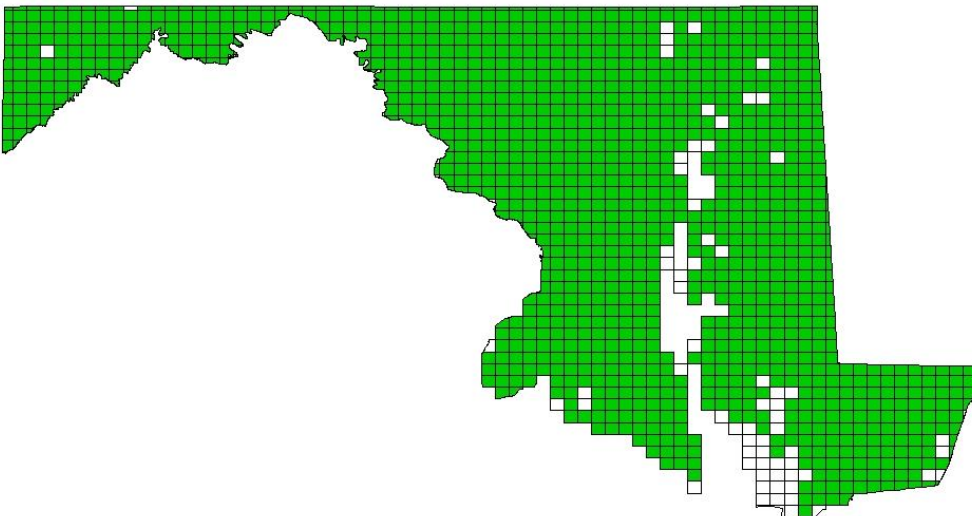
Woodpeckers reduce the difficulty of extracting the gall's larva.

Male and female Downy Woodpeckers can be found in their 5–30 acre home range year-round, but each sex occupies different foraging niches. Males tend to forage higher and lower than females, and on smaller branches. Conversely, females tend to forage more on trunks and large branches. This appears to be related to male dominance; in an Ohio study, males were experimentally removed and females shifted their foraging to sites typically occupied by males. This suggests that females may be relegated to less optimal foraging sites, which may account for the female-dominated long-distance dispersals observed. If food availability is limited, females may disperse from a male's territory in

## DOWNY WOODPECKER

***Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers look almost identical—but there's a surprise.***

The Downy Woodpecker looks like a diminutive version of the Hairy Woodpecker. If the bill length is less than half the width of the head, you're looking at a Downy Woodpecker. You can also consider the size (Downy is much smaller), the outer tail feathers (Hairy has white feathers), and a more obvious black 'comma' below the throat of Hairy Woodpeckers. Given the similarities, it would be natural to think they're closely related. Indeed, they have traditionally been placed in the same genus. But Lester Short, author of the 1982 book *Woodpeckers of the World*, had his doubts, based largely on behavior. He suggested that instead, Downy Woodpeckers were more closely related to Nuttall's and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers. In 2015, a phylogenetic study was published that supported this, and the Downy Woodpecker was moved into the *Dryobates* genus with Nuttall's and Ladder-backed and away from Hairy Woodpecker.



Downy Woodpecker distribution map from the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 2.

early to midwinter.

Socially monogamous pairs are established or renewed in late winter and early spring. On warm, sunny days, pairs engage in flight displays with each other. The male and female will follow each other through open spaces in the trees with a slow, weak flight, reminiscent of a butterfly. Once the pair bond has been established, they will forage together. By foraging together, the woodpecker pair reduces the chance that their partner will copulate with a



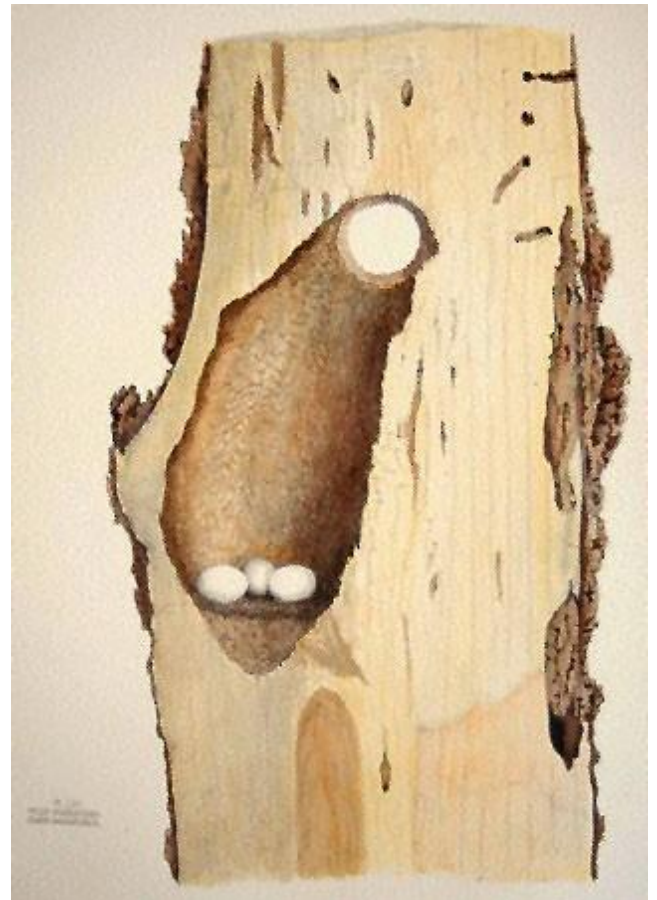
Female Downy Woodpecker (right) feeding a juvenile male (left).  
Photo credit: George Jett

different woodpecker. The pair's territory is defended from other Downy Woodpeckers, but each sex drives off intruders of the equivalent sex: males drive off males, and females drive off females. When engaging an intruder, they raise their crest, fan their tail, and wave their upraised bill. If this display fails, a physical altercation between the two individuals may occur.

Unlike roost cavities that are typically constructed in the fall, the pair begins to excavate the nest cavity about two weeks before egg-laying begins, often in red maple, oak, or sweet gum. Together, they alternate excavation effort in 20-minute intervals, usually on the underside of a dead

stub or branch. The nest cavity is 6–12 in deep and the symmetrically round entrance is 1–1.5 in—small enough that the adult may struggle to exit or enter. On average, cavities are inside 8 in diameter limbs with heartrot, 15 ft high. Other woodpeckers like Hairy, Red-bellied, and Red-headed Woodpeckers will usurp the Downy's cavity and enlarge it for their own use—sometimes after the Downy Woodpecker's clutch is complete. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was recorded taking over a nest and eating the eggs, while a Hairy Woodpecker usurped a nest and ate the nestlings! Downy Woodpeckers create a new nest cavity each spring and do not reuse old nest cavities. This behavior provides an essential service for small secondary cavity nesters (species that do not create their own cavity) like nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, House Wrens, House Sparrows, and flying squirrels.

Once the cavity is complete, the female begins laying 4–6 white eggs. In Maryland, eggs were laid between April 5 and June 5, but 90% of eggs recorded were laid after May 8. This means most nest cavities are constructed in late April or May. Both sexes begin incubation after the clutch



Cross-section of a Downy Woodpecker nest. Photo credit: Genevieve Estelle Jones, N.E. Jones, and Eliza J. Schultz in *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of Ohio*, 1879-1886.

is completed; the male incubates and broods the clutch at night, but the duties are shared during the day. Like all woodpeckers, the incubation period is relatively short; the eggs hatch twelve days after incubation has commenced. This shortened incubation period requires the trade-off of a longer nestling period, and the chicks won't fledge for 18–21 days. A few days prior to fledging, the eager chicks can be seen peering out of the cavity entrance and noisily accept any food offered by the adult there. The chicks become more aggressive about accepting the carried food, lunging at the incoming adult. Eventually, the chicks lunge too far, and find themselves outside of the cavity. This may happen with no adult nearby, and the fledgling will wait on a nearby tree for the parent to return.

Fledglings remain with their parents for at least three weeks, begging noisily. This is one of the best ways to Confirm them; if you have a feeder, watch for juveniles there. Juvenile males can be identified by red feathers on the top of the head—not the back of the head, like adult males. Juvenile females sometimes also have a red crown, but if present it is usually reduced. The juvenile plumage for both sexes, which lasts until September, also has a shorter supercilium and white flecks on the forehead. It's unclear how long juveniles will remain in their parents'



Juvenile female Downy Woodpecker.  
Photo credit: Gabriel Foley



Photo credit: George Jett

territory, or how far they will disperse. There is no evidence that Downy Woodpeckers attempt a second brood, although they will likely renest if their first attempt fails.

Downy Woodpecker vocalizations are a familiar forest sound, but their function isn't well understood. All sounds, including drumming, are made by both sexes. The *pik* call appears to be a low-intensity response to disturbance, but when it is rapidly repeated it is associated with courtship. The function of the descending whinny call is more speculative, and may help form a bond between a pair, advertise their location, or express their dominance. Drumming occurs year-round, but it is most frequent from January to May. Walter Ellison, the BBA2 coordinator, described their drum as a "fairly slow evenly spaced roll with audibly distinct taps and short time intervals between distinct drum rolls". Like singing in other birds, drumming may be associated with advertising territories or attracting a mate. This means that drumming should be recorded as code S, S7 or M, but that vocalizations should not be.

Downy Woodpeckers were found in 96% of blocks in BBA2, and Confirmed in half of those. A similar proportion was observed in BBA1. If your block doesn't have Downy Woodpecker yet, you'd best find it!

Author: Gabriel Foley

#### References

Jackson, J.A. and H.R. Ouellet. (2020). Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.  
<https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.dowwoo.01>

# ATLASER SPOTLIGHT

**Keith Rutter is the COO/CFO for the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), a nonpartisan, nonprofit government watchdog organization.**



*How did you become interested in birds?*

I've always been a lover of the outdoors. Then, when my daughter Jordan was a toddler, she became enamored with birds in our backyard and from there we both just started this journey to appreciate and learn more about birds.

*What bird do you think reflects your personality best?*

Barred Owl. I like being secluded. Hanging out observing things. And then randomly just blurting out something loud for no apparent reason. Who Cooks For You!

*If you went atlasing and could only bring binoculars, a field guide, and one other item, what would you bring?*

The Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 Field Edition, of course!

*What MD-DC bird do you particularly like?*

Even limiting it to the MD-DC region is tough. Can I list 50? OK today, at this exact moment, I would say nighthawks. I just had about 35 fly over my house a few days ago. This is a sure sign of fall migration and gets me excited because I know there will be lots more passing through in the next six weeks or so. The randomness of birding is so fun.

*If you could pick anyone to go atlasing with for a day, who would it be?*

So, I am very fortunate that my favorite birders are my daughter Jordan and her partner Gabriel. And I also am fortunate to have so many great birder friends including but not limited to Paul Pisano, Rob Hilton, Lisa Shannon, and Dan Lebbin. I never get to spend enough time with them. But, I feel the question is trying to get me to think bigger and it didn't say living or dead. Living, I'm going to go with Kenn Kaufman. Dead, I'm going to go with Claudia Wilds. I am fortunate to have met both of these people (Claudia when she was alive) and both are not only incredibly knowledgeable about birds, but are also fun and great people.

*Where is your favorite place to atlas?*

Unofficially we call it the Barrie Woods. It is the large property of the Barrie School right across the street from our house.



*What do you think is the best thing about atlasing?*

It is a great opportunity to learn more about birds.

*Have you been involved with any other atlases?*

No, I haven't been.

*What do you think the biggest issue in conservation is today?*

Education. Most public schools have cut back on science classes and it is removing us from our understanding of nature. The less we understand about nature the less we care to conserve the environment.

**Want to show your support of the Atlas with some swag?**



Check out [cafepress.com/mddcbba3](https://cafepress.com/mddcbba3)

# BLOCK PARTY



## Widewater NE, CE, SE, Nanjemoy SW, Charles County

Anyone who has visited the Nanjemoy area in SW Charles County is aware that we have big parties down here, so forgive us for writing about four blocks—this is a BIG block party! Join us for a trip down Rt. 224, Riverside Road, as we explore a beautiful road along the Potomac River. Our outing will reveal an impressive forested riparian landscape that peeks over the river. Charles County has the third highest percentage of forest land in Maryland and it offers us a plethora of nesting birds. Poplar, Swamp Chestnut, Pin and White Oaks, Beech, Sassafras, Sycamores, and Loblolly Pine are some of the dominant tree species in this area.

Much of this forested area is defined as the Nanjemoy Important Bird Area (IBA), which extends approximately 9 miles north to south and seven miles east to west. While public access in some areas can be limited, it is possible to pull off onto the soft shoulders of the road. There are multiple Maryland DNR or BLM areas to look and listen for birds, or you can stop at the numerous bridge crossings, which we highly recommend. Riverside Road itself has light traffic, especially

early in the morning. Walking and atlas along it is quite safe and peaceful, and friendly locals will likely stop to say hello.

The east entrance of Riverside Road is approximately 29 miles south of the Washington DC Beltway exit for MD Route 210, where it intersects with Chicamuxen Road. At Riverside Road mile 1.5, you reach the tip of Widewater NE block. At mile 2.6 there is a place to pull over on the right near Sandy Point Road and check out the woods along the road. At mile 4.1 there is a right-hand entrance into Mallows Bay Park—a Charles County hotspot with 127 species recorded. There are several miles of trails and magnificent views of the Potomac River. Here you can see the infamous WWI ship 'graveyard'—the Ghosts of Mallows Bay. Mallows Bay Park is a must-see on your trip, and has been recently been designated a National Marine Sanctuary. Many visitors view the sunken ships by kayak, and, most importantly, this location has well maintained facilities (the only ones on this journey). Take a look at the overlook area for multiple Osprey nests on the *Accomac* shipwreck. This location also offers up breeding Great Blue



Hérons, and you will enjoy the numerous Bald Eagles flying in the area. The land trail to the left of the overlook is known for Louisiana Waterthrush and numerous Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS). This year the Yellow-throated Warblers were vociferous!

At mile 4.7, Riverside Road intersects with Liverpool Point Road at the southern end of the Widewater NE block. Turning right on to Liverpool Road, there is a parking area on the right at 0.1 miles for an access point into Nanjemoy NRMA and the NE Block. At mile 4.8 you have cross into the Widewater CE block, where there is a parking area for Douglas Point Recreation Area North trail head. The parking area for the Douglas Point South trailhead is a mile further south. At mile 5.9 there is a left-hand parking lot for more access to the Nanjemoy NRMA and an easy walk south along Riverside Road to one of 224's wetland 'dips'. According to eBird, these wetlands have over 120 documented species. There are opportunities to hike trails into the forest, or if you are up for it, you can do some bush-whacking in the NRMA. At 9240-9266 Riverside Road, stop at



# BLOCK PARTY



## Widewater NE, CE, SE, Nanjemoy SW, Charles County

the first bridge of note. This area offers great marsh habitat on both sides of the bridge and gave us the first breeding Northern Rough-winged Swallows for the county, as well as breeding Tree Swallow, Common Grackle, Summer Tanager, and a myriad of other Possible and Probable species. We will have fun Confirming them as we continue with the Atlas.

As you proceed a short distance to 12333 Riverside Rd, you can stop in the road again where wetland areas are visible. Here we had a Red-headed Woodpecker and Confirmed Prothonotary Warbler delivering food to a tree cavity, all while listening to a pair of Barred Owls.

Three more miles south and you cross into Widewater SE. This comprises approximately one mile of Riverside Road, and a half-mile of Smith Point Road. A good parking spot is the corner of Smith Point Road and Riverside Road. Traffic at this location is light—perhaps one car or less per half hour in the morning—so walking along the road is pleasant and you will enjoy a quiet environment, hearing only the insects and birds. Smith Point Road is known for its Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills. From June through July, they can reliably

be heard calling after sunset or before sunrise if there is a half to full moon visible.

You can finalize your journey at our favorite bridge at Thorne Gut, just into the Nanjemoy SW block at 12335-12337 Riverside Road. Stop on the bridge as long as you like, it is wide and safe, and will offer up surprises by the minute. This location gave us breeding Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, and many Possibles and Probables. Immediately south of the bridge we were fortunate to have an intimate view of a Prothonotary Warbler feeding young in the cavity of a Tulip Polar tree. I will not forget that moment of my life.

In sum, this part of southern Maryland may be a day-long adventure for many, but it is well worth a visit for the abundant wildlife and the scenery.



Come on down and enjoy our habitat—it is one big party!

*Author: County Coordinators Lynne Wheeler and Tom Seaton*



# TIPS AND TRICKS

The first breeding season is all but over. Although several species continue to nest for another month or so, it's much more difficult to find breeding behavior. The results from 2020 have put BBA3 in a strong position moving forward; a successful atlasing season in 2021 will be the result of atlasers who identify gaps in the BBA3 results and work towards filling them.

There are 1,302 blocks in BBA3, and nearly all of them now have at least one checklist with breeding codes submitted. Many are nearing their completion goals that include at least 70 coded species, no more than 25% Possible and at least 25% Confirmed codes, at least 20 hrs of diurnal effort and an hour of nocturnal effort, and all breeding seasons and habitats covered. Already, there are nearly 350 blocks that have at least 20 hrs of effort. Most of these are, unsurprisingly, in the I-95 corridor. Over 500 blocks have at least an

hour of nocturnal effort, which is an extraordinary start! By identifying blocks that do not meet these requirements, you will be able to focus your efforts most effectively for next year.

Blocks that have met all of the criteria will be marked as complete on the Atlas portal. This is helpful, but it is only a checkbox, not a progress bar. If a block has all the targets met except, say, the nocturnal effort, we can't mark it as complete, but you should still focus most of your atlasing effort elsewhere (if possible).

Perhaps the most important item to check your BBA3 block results against is the species list from BBA2 and BBA1. Research has shown that atlasers who do this find more species in their block. Download the list from the website and compare your current BBA3 results to past atlas results. Pay particular attention to whether you have found all the priority and cryptic species. For example, if the past atlas

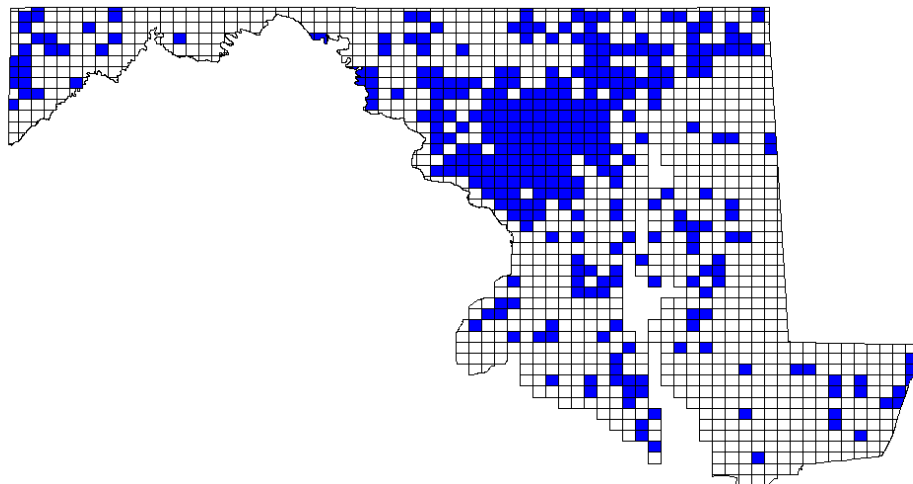
list contains Barn Owl for your block, you should put in a concerted effort to Confirm Barn Owl for BBA3.

When reviewing your block totals, don't be too concerned if you don't have a lot of Confirmations. Although finding Confirmed codes is one of the most rewarding aspects of atlasing, Confirmed and Probable codes are nearly equivalent. On the other hand, you should try to upgrade Possible codes whenever possible, since they do not indicate much more than a bird's presence in the right habitat.

Finally, if you prefer to continue atlasing in a block that has been completed, feel free to do that! Block completion is not a directive to stop atlasing there. Instead, it is simply a suggestion to atlas elsewhere, if you can.

Enjoy your atlasing (and make sure you find goldfinch in your block before the summer well and truly ends)!

*Author: Gabriel Foley*



Atlas blocks that have at least 20 hours of effort recorded are shown in blue. Only checklists with breeding codes submitted to the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 eBird portal between January 1 and July 31, 2020 were considered.

## FROM THE FIELD



Gray Catbird fledgling. Photo credit: Clayton Koonce



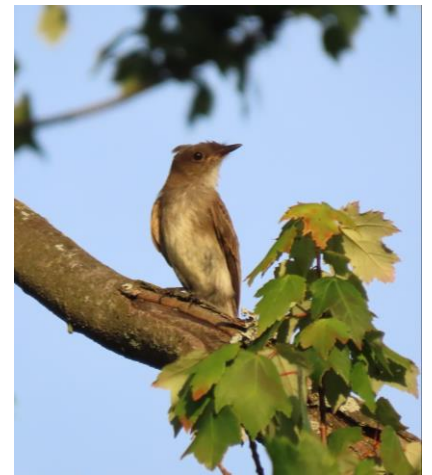
Acadian Flycatcher. Photo credit: Sriram Bala



House Finch nestling. Photo credit: Clayton Koonce



Eastern Bluebird nestlings. Photo credit: Bettye Maki



Eastern Phoebe fledgling. Photo credit: Clayton Koonce



A sign of the times—a nest built using a disposable mask. Photo credit: Jennifer Schiavon-Blake

*Do you have a story or photo you would like to see in What's Hatching?*

*We'd love to hear about it! Send your submissions to the editor at [mddcbba3@mdbirds.org](mailto:mddcbba3@mdbirds.org).*

# OUT OF THE ARCHIVE

## The Distribution of Maryland Birds (#1 of a Series)

Stewart, R.E. 1947. The Distribution of Maryland Birds. *Maryland Birdlife* 3(5):55-57.

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Marbled Godwit. Photo credit: Gabriel Foley

One of the principal objectives of the Bird Records Committee of the Society is to determine the status of the various species of birds found in Maryland. The status of a species involves its breeding or summer range, wintering range, and migration routes within Maryland as well as its relative abundance in various parts of the state.

It is hoped that each member of the Maryland Ornithological Society will cooperate by sending to the committee chairman any pertinent information on the distribution of Maryland birds. In the future any new records that indicate range extensions or records that change the most recent concept of relative abundance of a species will be published in this section of "Maryland Birdlife" and full credit will be given to the contributors. In sending in these

records the following facts are needed: location where observation was made (the more exact the better); date or dates on which observations were made; numbers of individuals or pairs seen; name of observers; any other information that would help to substantiate the record.

The appearance of the new booklet entitled "Preliminary List of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia", by Irving E. Hampe and Haven Kolb, marks a cornerstone in the history of Maryland ornithology and permits us to sit back and take cognizance of what is known as well as what is not known of the birds of the state. As is indicated by the authors, their statements on the status of the species of Maryland birds are based primarily on a compilation of miscellaneous notes which have

appeared from time to time in various journals. The booklet thus performs a very useful service in summarizing the published papers on Maryland birds, paving the way for future work on the birds of the state. This being the chief purpose for which the booklet was written, the authors are to be complimented on a job well done. Many interesting and valuable records are brought to the reader's attention. However, one is also impressed with the paucity of field data that is available for many species, some of which are undoubtedly quite regular in their occurrence within the state. This is a reflection of the relatively small amount of field work that has been done in the past over large parts of Maryland and emphasizes the need for much more field work in the future.

This preliminary list appears at an opportune time in that we will be able to start using it as a base for adding range extensions or for changing our concept of the relative abundance of the various species. It is planned to continue the policy of Messrs. Hampe and Kolb in requiring at least two reliable sight records for a species, before it can be put on the regular list, in case a specimen is not collected or a photograph taken.

Another paper entitled "Recent Observations on Maryland Birds", by R. E. Stewart and C. S. Robbins, appeared in the April, 1947 issue of *The Auk*. This paper is much more limited in scope than the "Preliminary List" but does contain new information on quite a few species. Some of these are new for the state and are listed as follows: gull-billed tern, royal tern, Cabot's tern [Sandwich Tern], marbled godwit and Swainson's warbler. Only one record was made of the Cabot's tern so this species would be relegated to the hypothetical list.

By combining the species listed in these two papers and discounting those in the "Preliminary List" that were recorded only from the District of Columbia, the regular Maryland list would contain a total of 305 species. This total does not include the domestic pigeon or rock dove [Rock Pigeon] but does include the English sparrow [House Sparrow] and starling.

Recent observations have added five new species to the regular state list which brings the total up to 310 species. These are listed as follows:

Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus [Calonectris] diomedea borealis*)

On August 24, 1946 a total of 65 were observed over the ocean off Ocean City within 5 miles of shore, by members of District of Columbia Audubon Society, including J. W. Aldrich, I. R. Barnes, R. T. Peterson, and C. S. Robbins. One bird was collected by Aldrich. On August 8, 1947, a total of 29 were recorded in this same area by R. E. Stewart.

American Eider [Common Eider] (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*)

Brooke Meanley reports that he

mounted an American Eider which had been shot by Mr. H. Matthai on the Chesapeake Bay on November 18, 1933. This species was previously in the hypothetical list on the basis of one specimen reported to have been taken in Charles County and placed in the Maryland Academy of Sciences but which has since been lost.

Wilson's Plover ([sic] *Charadrius [Charadrius] wilsonia wilsonia*)

Several were seen by Brooke Meanley on June 7, 1939 on Assateague Island, a short distance south of the North Beach Coast Guard Station. On May 17, 1947 one was seen on Assateague Island, about 3 miles south of Ocean City by several members of the Maryland Ornithological Society including O. W. Crowder and R. E. Stewart. On August 7, 1947 two were seen and one was collected at the West Ocean City mud flat by R. E. Stewart.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

On December 23, 1946, two were seen in Worcester County near Snow Hill by J. W. Aldrich and D. L. Allen. On December 28, 1946, three were seen

at Port Tobacco, Charles County, by D. L. Allen and I. N. Gabrielson.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

On December 25, 1939, three were seen at Ocean City by R.E. Stewart. This species was previously placed on the hypothetical list on the basis of one record of a flock of 20 seen on February 10, 1895 at Lake Roland, Baltimore County by F. C. Kirkwood.

Still another species, the Greater Shearwater [Great Shearwater] ([sic] *Puffinus [Ardenna] gravis*), may be added to the hypothetical list on the basis of one record: Seven were seen near the shore of Assateague Island about 3½ miles south of Ocean City on May 17, 1947 by members of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia and the Maryland Ornithological Society, including E. G. Davis, O. W. Crowder, R. E. Stewart and Richard Tousey.

Author: R.E. Stewart



Lapland Longspur. Photo credit: Gabriel Foley