

# Maryland Biodiversity Project Highlights

## February 2018

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### Introduction

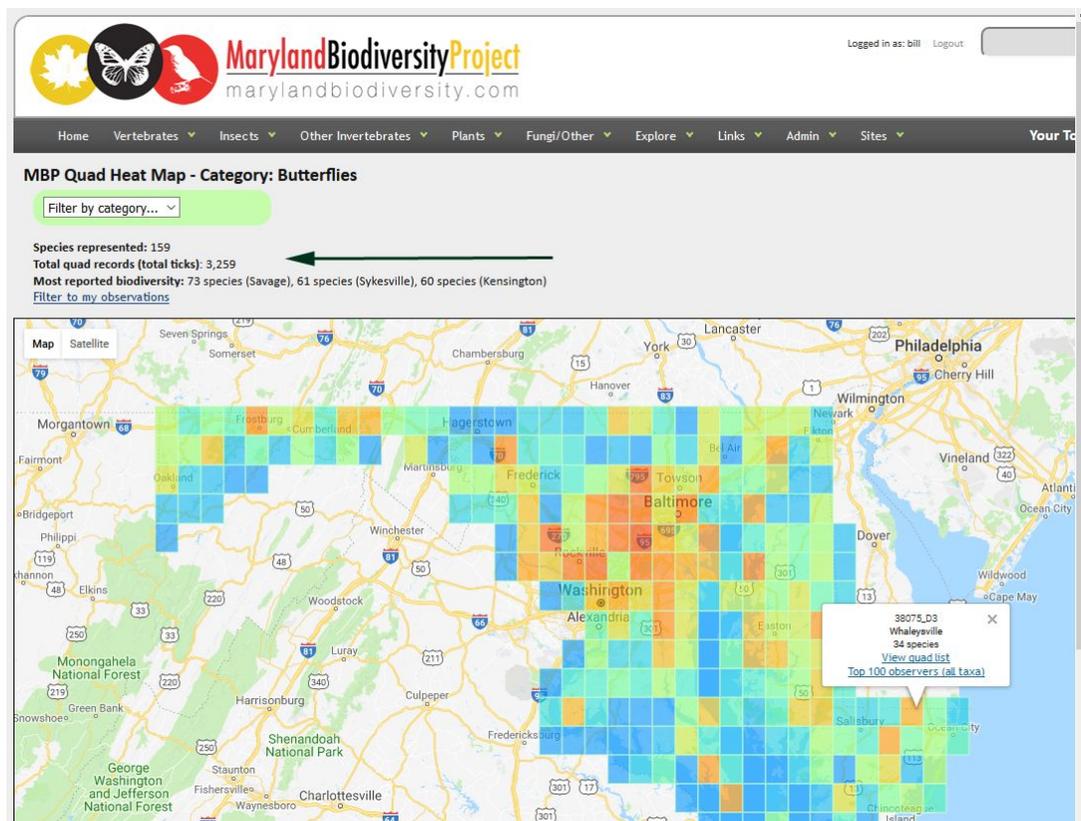
Thank you as always to our amazing team of [contributors](#) and [editors](#)! It was another exciting and productive month. Below are our highlights from February 2018.

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## Highlights

- We held the annual MBP board meeting on 27 February. Most significantly, we voted to add Dr. John Hall to the board! See the full board meeting minutes linked on MBP home page.
- Added additional quad heat map features. For any taxonomic level, you can see the total quad records and top quads for data collection to date. You can also filter to see quad heat maps for any observer at any taxonomic level!



- Optimized the thumbnail page queries to load large photo sets much more quickly.
- Nancy Magnusson completed a thorough review of the MBP lichen checklist and lichen taxonomy - an impressive and greatly appreciated undertaking!
- Began ingesting scale insect data from scale insect expert John Davidson.
- Worked with Jackson Means and mined the Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network (SCAN) database for many new millipede species and specimen records.

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- Continued collaboration with Adkins Arboretum on their Living Collections Database.
  - Coordinated with Rick Borchelt on features to assist with the Lepidoptera field season.
  - Finalizing ingest of Patuxent Research Refuge data courtesy of Bill Harms. Our process to do so also prepares MBP to easily ingest additional data in Symbiota format in the future.
  - Participated in the 3rd annual "I Bird, I Vote" bird conservation summit.
  - Coordination about exciting upcoming events such as the 2018 Southeast Biodiversity Conservation Forum (Jim presenting) and Appalachian Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Watershed Moments presentation (Bill presenting). We're also coordinating about 2018 and 2019 BioBlitz plans!
  - Planning a 2018 bat data collection effort using Echo Meter Touch bat detector software.
  - Purchased two portable dissecting scopes for use in photographing small insect and plant details, especially for use in BioBlitz and outreach events.
  - We processed 2,553 records and 1,548 photos, of which 594 photos were taken during the one-month window.
  - "New Stuff" for each month - new state, county, quad, and month records by observer. You can now click any contributor's name to filter by that observer:  
<https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/services/checkForNew.php?year=2018&month=2>.
  - We wrote daily Maryland natural history posts on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MarylandBiodiversity>) and regular posts on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MDBiodiversity>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/mdbiodiversity/>). Our Facebook posts reached over 50,000 people!

### Stats (since last highlights report)

- Species/taxa featured: **17,646** (+32)
- Species with photos: **9,715** (+48)
- Total Records: **391,674** (+2,531)
- Total Photos: **102,058** (+1,529)
- Contributors: **1,000+**
- Facebook Page Likes: **8,934** (+241)
- Twitter Followers: **346** (+14)
- Instagram Followers: **416** (+64)

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- Photos in the MBP Flickr queue: **1,239**

## **Donations**

Donations are greatly appreciated and help keep up project growth and momentum. Click "Donate" in the top-right corner of any MBP page.

## **Tags**

#marylandbiodiversityproject | #marylandplantatlas | #winter | #february | #marylandbirds | #citizenscience | #marylandinsects | #marylandbirds

## **Suggested Citation**

Hubick, William J., and James D. Brighton. 2012-present. Maryland Biodiversity Project. Website. Available at: <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/>.

## **Photo Credit**

This month's cover photo shows emerging Skunk Cabbage in Howard Co., Maryland courtesy of Nancy Magnusson.



