

Maryland Biodiversity Project Highlights

May 2018



Introduction

Thank you as always to our amazing community, especially our hard-working [contributors](#) and [editors](#)! May 2018 was an exciting month. Our bat monitoring efforts got some momentum. We kicked off the S3 Initiative to drive data collection for Watch List (S3-ranked) plants. We supported two major birding fundraisers in the Mid-Atlantic. And we processed a TON of data. Consider this - in the month of May alone we added 116 new “photo species”, species with a photo on the MBP site (now 9,866 of the 17,729 species!). That’s incredible work by our ever-growing (in size and skills) community. Please read on and spread the word! As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

Highlights

- Our 2018 bat monitoring efforts are going great. MBP volunteers have collected data from many locations around the state and all the data is being archived for expert review and for posterity. We are collaborating with partners at Maryland DNR Natural Heritage Program and the Appalachian Laboratory on a variety of related topics.
- We kicked off the “S3 Initiative”, a collaboration between MBP, the Maryland DNR Natural Heritage Program, and the Maryland Plant Atlas Working Group to highlight species ranked as S3 (Watch List), aimed at finding new populations of these species in need of more attention.
- Jim led a productive MBP field trip to Rocky Gap SP and Green Ridge SF in Allegany County.
- Jim did MBP presentations for the Federated Garden Clubs of the Eastern Shore and the Royal Oak Garden Club.
- Bill participated in the Maryland/DC Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) Birdathon, a 24-hour fundraiser that raises funds for top MD/DC bird conservation priorities. ([Support](#))
- Jim coached the Youth Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) Mighty Merlins for their awesome job in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey.
- Ingested Battle Creek Cypress Swamp plant data from Brent Steury (1998) and noteworthy plant collections by Steury, Tyndall, and Cooley (1996). Processed by Nancy Magnusson.
- Ingested “Annotated List of Vascular Plants from a Nontidal Barrier Wetland along the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, Maryland” (Steury, 1999). Processed by Nancy Magnusson.
- Ingested “The Vascular Flora of Cove Point, Calvert County, Maryland” (Steury, 2002). Processed by Nancy Magnusson.
- Working with web developer on possible new mobile app to facilitate looking up location data in the field, which we might expand into other mobile use cases. Stay tuned!
- We processed 4,776 records and 3,077 photos, of which 2,363 photos were taken during the one-month window.

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- “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=5>.
 - 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 40,000 people.

Stats (since last highlights report)

- Species/taxa featured: **17,728** (+39)
- Species with photos: **9,748** (+116!)
- Total Records: **405,898** (+5,211)
- Total Photos: **110,186** (+3,392)
- Contributors: **1,000+**
- Facebook Page Likes: **9,470** (+205)
- Twitter Followers: **383** (+12)
- Instagram Followers: **513** (+25)
- Photos in the MBP Flickr queue: **1,946** (keeping up with field season so far)

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 | #spring | #may | #marylandbirds | #citizenscience | #marylandinsects | #bats | #batmonitoring | #marylandbats | #ibabirdathon | #ymos

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Photo Credit

This month's cover photo shows a patch of blooming Yellow Lady's Slippers by Richard Crook. This was one of the species highlighted as part of the S3 Initiative this month.

