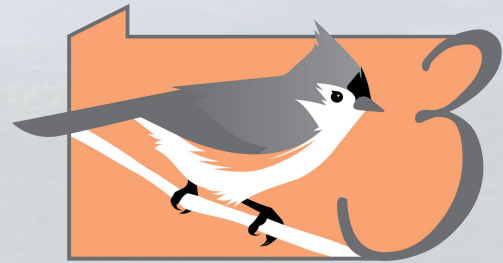


LET'S (TRY TO) COUNT ALL THE BIRDS IN PENNSYLVANIA!

Mapping Pennsylvania birds
through community science





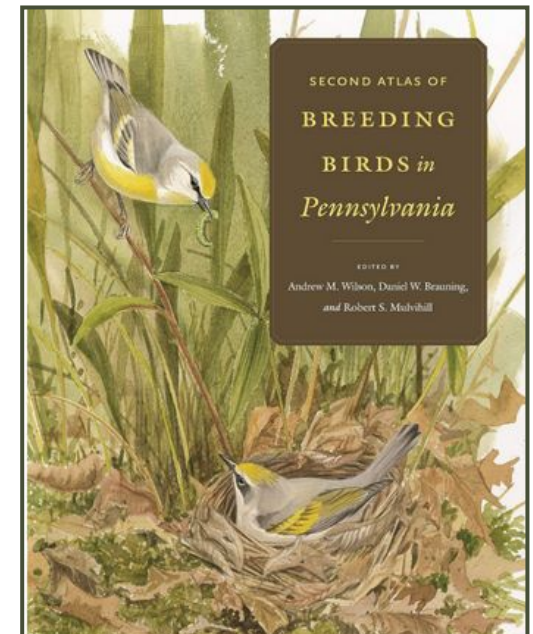
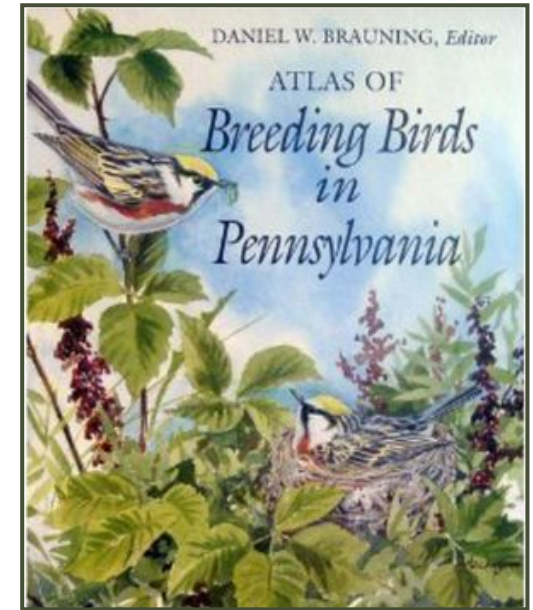
Photos: Bill Moses

WHAT IS A BIRD ATLAS?

- Map distribution and abundance of birds in a defined time and space.
- Repeated every 20 years.
- Invaluable for conservation and management.

PENNSYLVANIA ATLASES

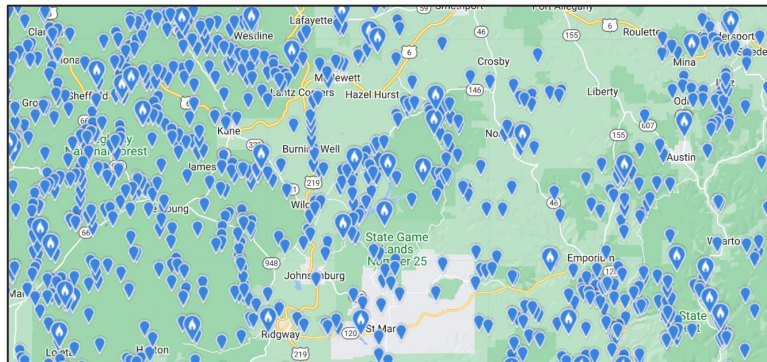
- PBBA1: 1984-1989
- PBBA2: 2004-2009
- PBA3: 2024-2029
 - Breeding Atlas launched Jan 1!
 - Winter Atlas begins Dec 2024.



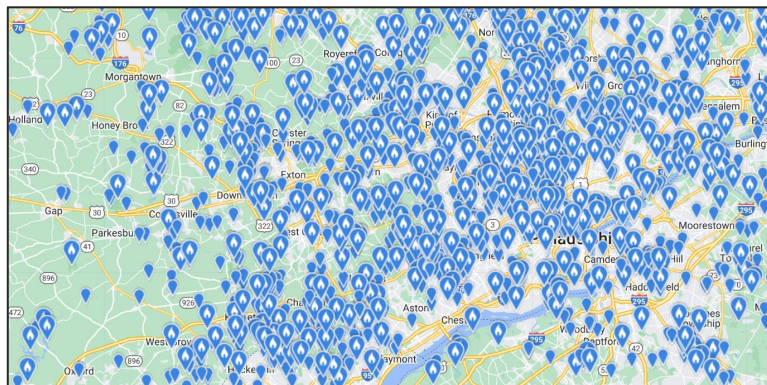
WHY AN ATLAS?

- Atlases are our most comprehensive tool for monitoring bird populations.
- Especially important for rare/low-detection species!
- Breeding knowledge is vital!

ANF



Philadelphia



Black-throated
Green Warbler: Bill
Moses

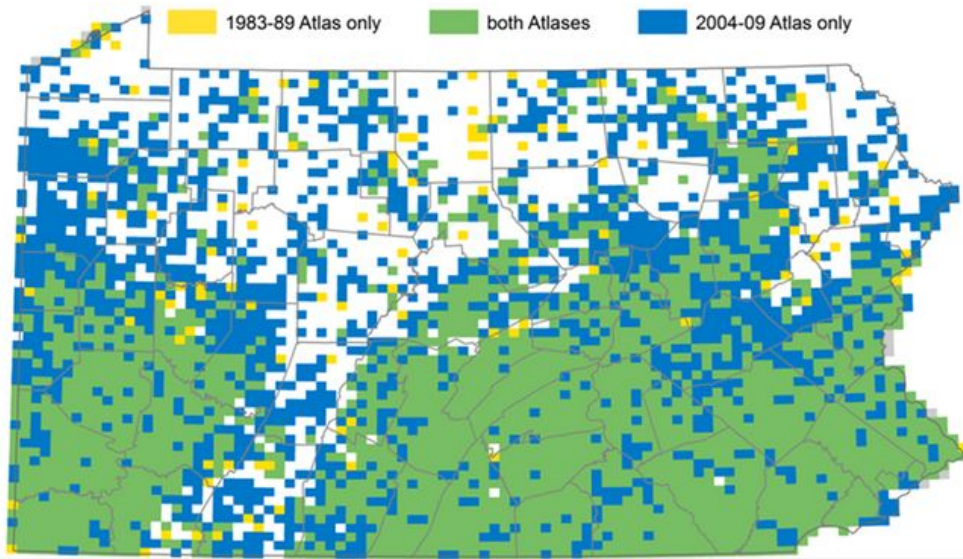
CONSERVATION

- Revise bird conservation statuses
- Update lists of T&E species and species of concern
- Identify important areas/habitats
- Assess responses to land use changes
- Prioritize monitoring, research, and conservation
- Develop an informed birding population!

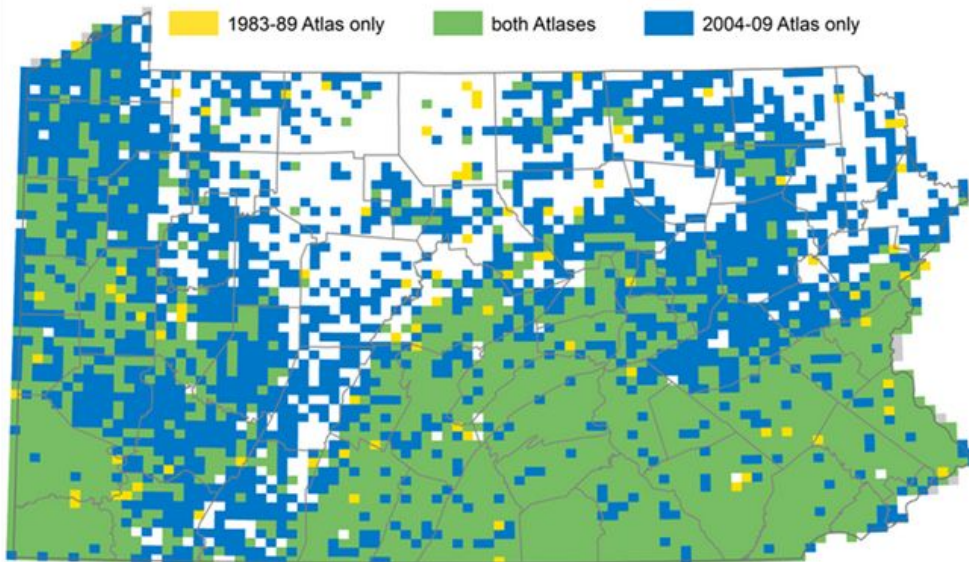


Bobolink: Bill Moses

Carolina Wren



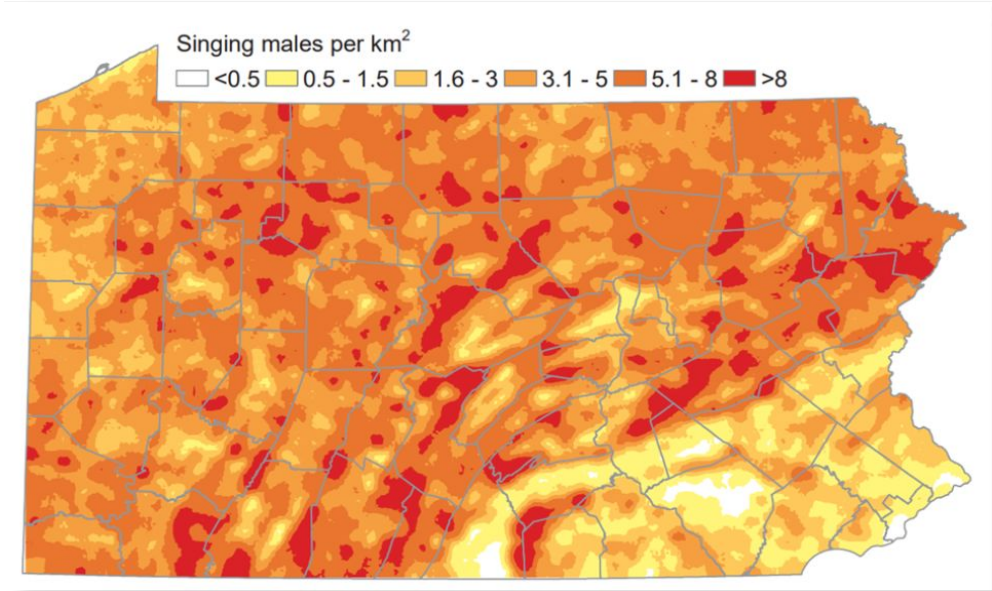
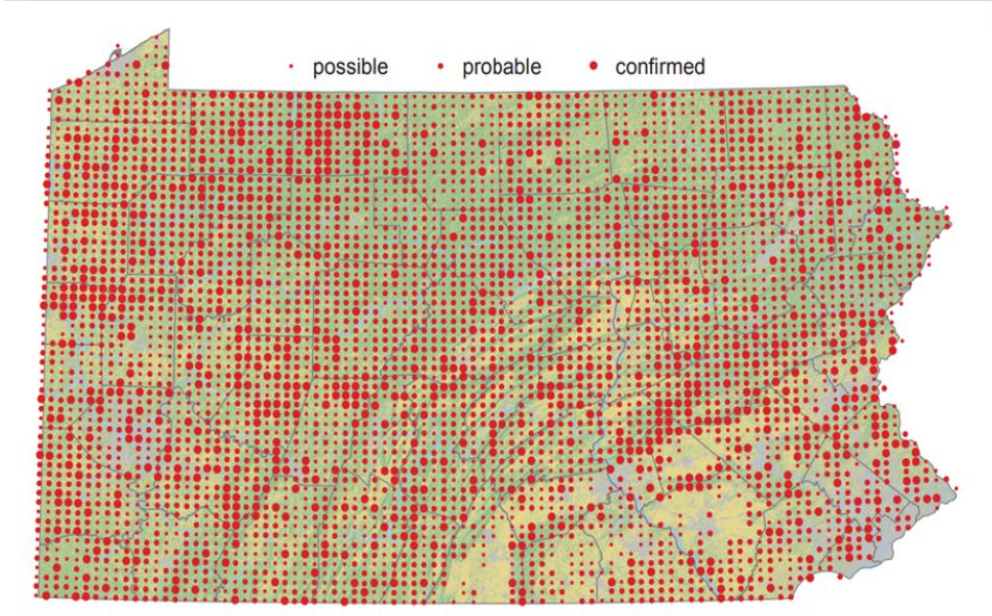
Red-bellied Woodpecker



Photos: Andy Wilson



Scarlet Tanager:
Bill Moses



ATLAS OBJECTIVES

- Uniformly cover the state
- Document all breeding (and wintering) species
- Collect data for distribution & relative abundance estimates
- Educate and engage birders



HOW TO ATLAS

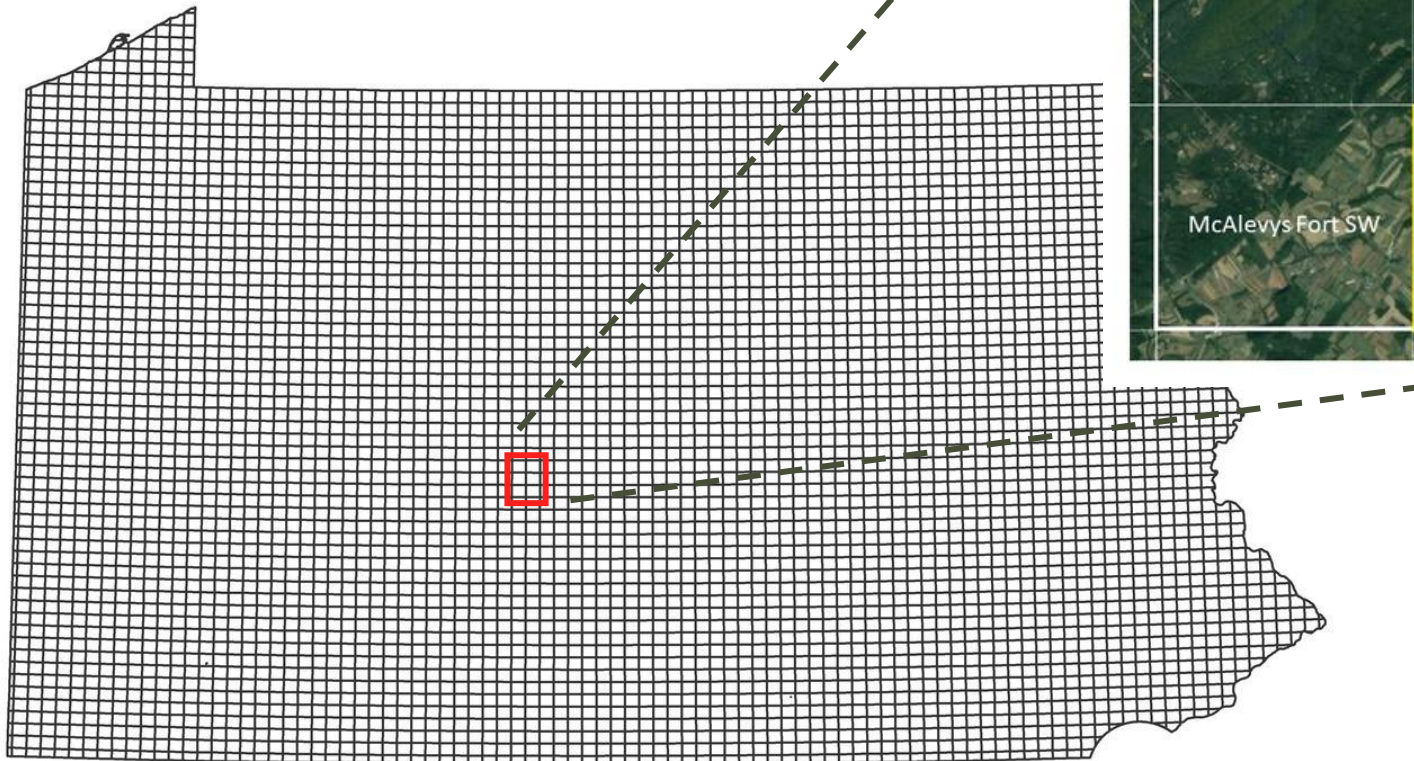
- Go birding! Bird anywhere, or choose blocks to focus on.
- Slow down, take note of birds, look for breeding behaviors.
- Submit data via the PA Bird Atlas portal in eBird.



ATLAS BLOCKS

• 4,938 blocks

• 3x3 miles



BREEDING STATUSES

1

CONFIRMED

2

PROBABLE

3

POSSIBLE

4

OBSERVED



Photo: Bill Moses

4. OBSERVED



Observed (no code)



F - Flyover

3. POSSIBLE



**H - In Appropriate
Habitat**



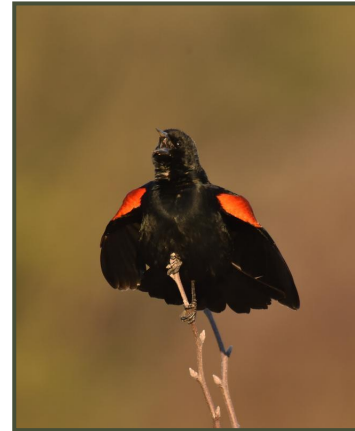
S - Singing Bird

**H and S codes should only be used during
post-migration Breeding Season**

2. PROBABLE



**S7 -
Singing Bird
Present 7+ Days**



**M -
Multiple (7+)
Singing Birds**



**P -
Pair In Suitable
Habitat**



**T -
Territorial
Defense**

2. PROBABLE



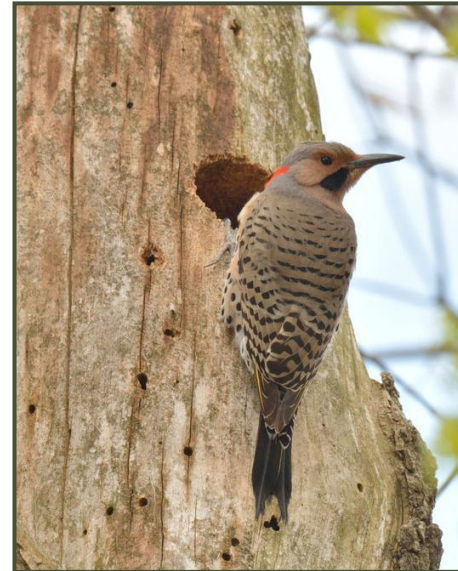
C -
Courtship, Display, or
Copulation



N -
Visiting
Probable Nest
Site



A -
Agitated
Behavior



B - Wren/
Woodpecker Nest
Building

1. CONFIRMED



**PE –
Physiological
Evidence**



**CN –
Carrying
Nesting
Material**



**NB –
Nest
Building**



**DD –
Distraction
Display**

1. CONFIRMED



**UN -
Used Nest**



**ON -
Occupied
Nest**



**FL -
Recently
Fledged
Young**



**CF -
Carrying Food**

1. CONFIRMED



**FY -
Feeding
Young**



**FS -
Carrying Fecal
Sac**

Photo: Alan Vernon

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10658173>



**NE -
Nest with
Eggs**



**NY -
Nest with
Young**



Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Infrequent

DONE

Number Observed

Present



Merlin



BIRD ID

Details

BREEDING CODE



Add breeding code

F

H

S

S7

M

P

T

C

N

A

B

PE

CN

NB

DD

UN

ON

FL

CF

FY

FS

NE

NY

When can I use breeding codes?

Behaviors are only evidence of breeding when they occur in the appropriate habitat and time of year for breeding!

Pennsylvania Breeding Guidelines Chart			Season Key:				Acceptable Breeding Codes:				Date Key:																																							
This chart indicates the time of year when a species is breeding in PA. *Priority species. Additional documentation is requested. See handbook. To learn more about the atlas and submit data, visit: ebird.org/atlaspa			N Non-breeding season				CONFIRMED only				1 =1st-7th																																							
			M Migration				CONFIRMED only				2 =8th-14th																																							
			E Either migration or breeding				PROBABLE & CONFIRMED				3 =15th-21st																																							
			B Breeding season only				ALL codes are OK				4 =22nd-end of month																																							
Common Name	"Probable" safe date	"Possible" safe date	Jan				Feb				Mar				Apr				May				Jun				Jul				Aug				Sep				Oct				Nov				Dec			
Rock Pigeon	1-Jan	1-Jan	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				
Barn Owl*	1-Jan	15-Apr	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E				
Great Horned Owl	1-Jan	1-Jan	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
Red Crossbill*	1-Jan	1-Jan	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				
Barred Owl	15-Jan	15-Jan	N	N	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
American Goshawk*	22-Jan	15-Apr	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N	N	N				
Bald Eagle*	22-Jan	22-Apr	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N	N	N				
Red-tailed Hawk	1-Feb	1-May	N	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N	N	N				
House Sparrow	1-Feb	8-Feb	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Common Raven	15-Feb	1-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Short-eared Owl*	22-Feb	1-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Carolina Chickadee	22-Feb	8-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Wild Turkey	1-Mar	15-Apr	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Eastern Screech-Owl	1-Mar	1-Apr	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Long-eared Owl*	1-Mar	22-Apr	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
American Kestrel	1-Mar	15-May	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	M	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N	N	N				
Canada Goose	8-Mar	1-May	N	N	N	N	N	N	M	M	M	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	N	N	N	N				
Mourning Dove	8-Mar	1-Apr	N	N	N	N	N	N	M	M	M	E	E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	M	M	M	M	N	N	N	N				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	8-Mar	15-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Downy Woodpecker	8-Mar	15-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Hairy Woodpecker	8-Mar	15-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
Tufted Titmouse	8-Mar	15-Mar	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				

SUBMITTING DATA: PA BIRD ATLAS PORTAL

1. Switch to the portal on your phone

2. Submit data at
ebird.org/atlaspa/submit

The screenshot shows the mobile app interface for the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas. At the top, it says "TheCornellLab" with a logo. Below that, it asks for the "DATE" and shows "20 Feb 2024". Then it asks for the "START TIME" and shows "15:49". There are minus and plus buttons for time adjustment. Below that, it says "PORTAL: PENNSYLVANIA BIRD ATLAS". There is a "RECORD TRACK" toggle switch which is turned on. At the bottom, there is a large green button that says "Start checklist". The bottom navigation bar has icons for "Submit", "Checklists", "Explore", and "My eBird".

The screenshot shows the web portal submission page for the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas. The URL in the browser is "ebird.org/atlaspa/submit". The page title is "Pennsylvania Bird Atlas" with navigation links for "Submit", "Explore", "My eBird", "Science", "About", "News", and "Help". The user is logged in as "Amber W". The main heading is "Where did you bird?" with a progress indicator showing step 1 of 3. The instruction is "Identify the location where you made your observations." There are two main options: "Choose from Your Locations" and "Find it on a Map (recommended method)". Under "Choose from Your Locations", there is a dropdown menu showing "1 Bull Run Vista, Waterville, Pennsylvania, US (41.305, -77.383)" and a "Continue" button. Below that is a link "Manage 'My Locations'". Under "Find it on a Map", there is a search input field with a magnifying glass icon and the placeholder text "Enter a region". Below that is another search input field with the placeholder text "Enter a block name...". At the bottom, there is a note: "Please consider using more precise locations when reporting to eBird so that your observations are more valuable for analysis."

PA BIRD ATLAS WEBSITE:

ebird.org/atlaspa

Pennsylvania Bird Atlas

[Submit](#)

[Explore](#)

[My eBird](#)

[Science](#)

[About](#)

[News](#)

[Help](#)

[Amber Wiewel \(anw5db\)](#)

[Language](#)

MY ATLAS STATS PENNSYLVANIA

[My eBird](#)

0

Species confirmed
4 Species coded

26

Complete atlas checklists
29 Total atlas checklists

2

Priority blocks with
complete checklists
9 Total blocks with complete
checklists

1

Days of checklist streak
Best streak: 3 days



Atlas Resources

[Contact Us](#)

[Quick Start Guide](#)

[Atlas Handbooks](#)

[Atlas Essentials](#)

[Breeding Behaviors &
Codes](#)

[Using the Atlas Portal](#)

[Atlas Blocks](#)

RECENT ATLAS NEWS [View all](#)




Species Spotlight: Red Crossbill



By Amber Wiewel | February 15, 2024

Red Crossbill irruption alert! We need your help to document this rare Pennsylvania breeder.

ATLAS MAP TOOL



Pennsylvania Bird Atlas Map

Atlas Block Sign Up >  




Info Species Layers

Port Matilda SE (61B76)

County: **Centre** Priority: **Yes**
Other Counties: **None** Region: **Allegheny Plateau**
Note: The primary County is assigned based on the location of the Block centroid.

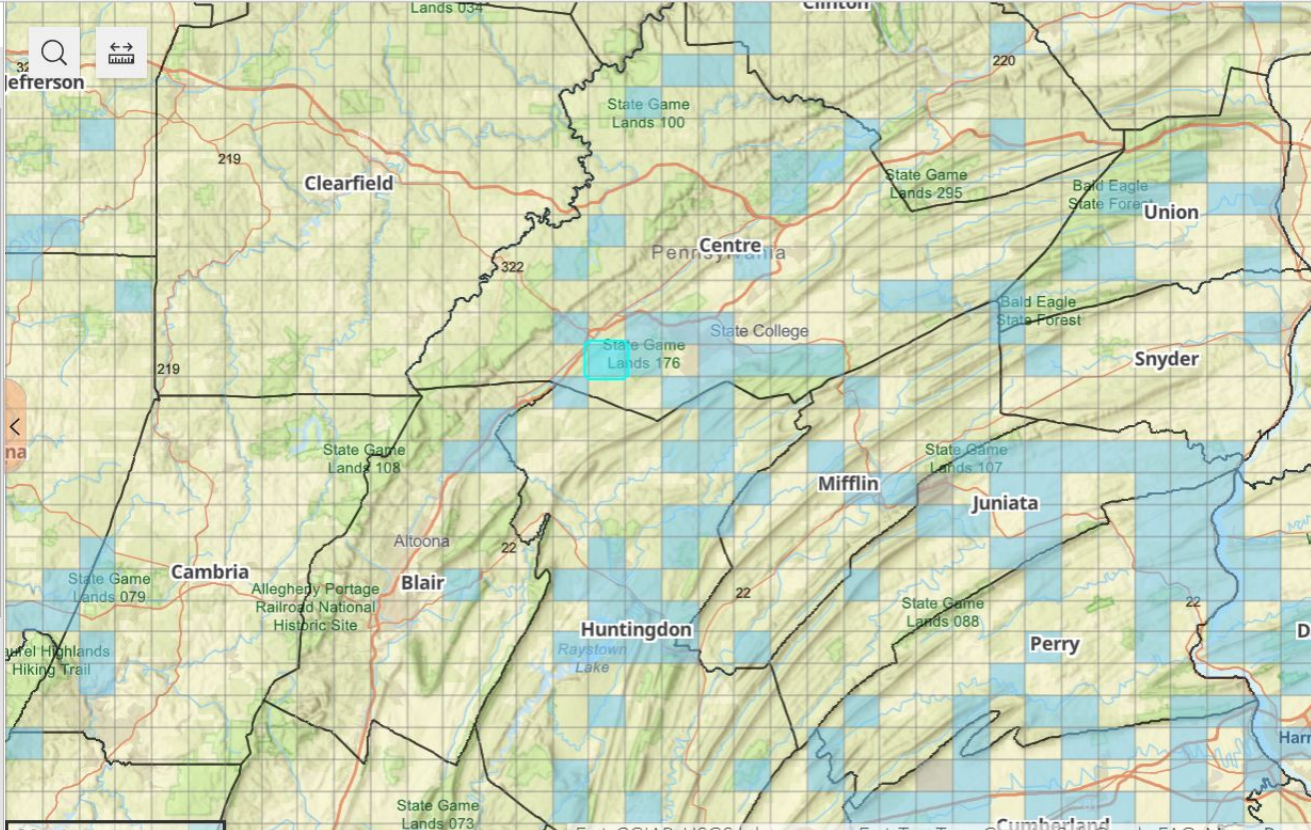
[eBird Block Link](#)

Print Maps and Species List

-  [Block Map](#)
-  [Block Map \(Aerial Imagery\)](#)
-  [Species List](#)

Coordinators

Principal: **M. Brittingham**
Atlaser:
County: **Margaret Brittingham**
Regional: **John Fedak and Julia Plummer**





Photos: Bill Moses and
Amber Wiewel

BLOCK COMPLETION

**70+ CODED
SPECIES**

- Varies by block
- Min. 25% Confirmed
- Max. 25% Possible

20+ HRS
(Apr-Aug)

3+ VISITS

**VISIT
ACCESSIBLE
HABITATS**

**2+ HRS
NOCTURNAL**

HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR?

- 650 atlasers have submitted 18,000 checklists in 2221 blocks!
- ~15 species confirmed

The screenshot shows the 'Pennsylvania Bird Atlas' website. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Submit', 'Explore', 'My eBird', and 'Science'. Below this is a header for 'Pennsylvania' with a 'Change location' button. A tabbed interface shows 'Overview' selected, with other tabs for 'Counties' and 'Recent visits'. The main content area displays '17967 Checklists' and '654 Atlasers' in large green text. Below this is a table with columns for 'ALL BLOCKS' and 'PRIOR'. The table lists four categories: 'Total blocks' (4938), 'Blocks with data' (2221, 44.98%), 'Complete blocks' (0, 0%), and 'Species coded' (81).

	ALL BLOCKS	PRIOR
Total blocks	4938	
Blocks with data	2221 44.98%	
Complete blocks	0 0%	
Species coded	81	

CENTRE & HUNTINGDON

- ~7 total confirmed species

Centre [Change location](#)

Pennsylvania

[Overview](#) [Blocks](#) [Recent visits](#)

1012 Checklists | 64 Atlases

	ALL BLOCKS	PRI
Total blocks	119	
Blocks with data	76 63.87%	
Complete blocks	0 0%	
Species coded	15	
Species confirmed	6 40%	

Huntingdon [Change location](#)

Pennsylvania

[Overview](#) [Blocks](#) [Recent visits](#)

427 Checklists | 30 Atlases

	ALL BLOCKS	PRI
Total blocks	94	
Blocks with data	47 50%	
Complete blocks	0 0%	
Species coded	13	
Species confirmed	4 30.77%	

Use eBird to explore Atlas data!

Pennsylvania Bird Atlas [Submit](#) [Explore](#) [My eBird](#) [Science](#) [About](#) [News](#) [Help](#) Amber Wiewel (anw5db) ▾

Species: **DATE:** Year-round, PABBA ▾ **LOCATION:**

Satellite
 Hybrid

Explore rich media
Only show locations with photos, audio, or video

Show Points Soon
Display points at brood sites when possible (2000 max)

BREEDING CATEGORY

- Confirmed
- Probable
- Possible
- Observed

CHECKLIST GUIDELINES

- Stay within block boundaries.
- Aim for short checklists.
- Code behaviors every time you see them.
- Generally avoid using hotspots as locations.
- Add comments to your checklists.

PENNSYLVANIA ATLAS OF LIFE

- www.inaturalist.org/projects/pennsylvania-atlas-of-life
- No special protocols - just document other flora and fauna while out atlasing



Happy
Atlasing!



Eastern Bluebird: Bill Moses