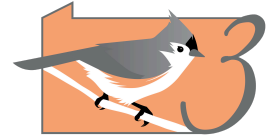


JUNE 2024

# The PennsylvAvian Monitor



*News from the 3rd Pennsylvania Bird Atlas*



Fledgling Louisiana Waterthrush. Photo by Bill Moses.

## Atlas Updates

### Tip:

Check out this resource compiled by the New York Breeding Bird Atlas: [Guide to Fledglings](#). Though from New York, all the species covered in this guide are common and widespread in Pennsylvania as well.

How's the saying go? April showers bring May flowers...bring June baby birds?? June ushered in the peak of breeding season for most bird species in Pennsylvania. Even though some species are already singing less as we enter the latter half of the month, most are still active with second broods, renesting attempts, and feeding recently fledged young. As temperatures increase, the best time of day to see bird activity is usually early in the morning; by 9 or 10am the birds are quickly decreasing in activity and noise.

As of June 15, ALL Pennsylvania species entered 'Breeding Only' weeks (i.e., "safe dates") according to the [Breeding Guidelines Chart](#). This means you can code all behaviors you see without worrying about dates!

If only we could stay in safe dates bliss forever...Alas, species will start to exit safe dates as we enter July and increasingly into August, beginning primarily with shorebirds, wading birds, and swallows. Make sure you start reviewing the Breeding dates again as summer wanes to ensure that you are appropriately assigning codes. But have no fear, June will arrive again before we know it!

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# Point Counts

A huge thanks to the incredible volunteers who have been out conducting point count surveys for the PBA3!

The last day to conduct volunteer point counts is July 5th, or by about June 28th if you're in southern regions of the state. Haven't conducted any point counts this season? That's ok – there will be PLENTY remaining in the coming years of the PBA3!

If you've completed point counts:

- Double check that you've given your checklist the correct name AND that you've shared it with the "PA Bird Atlas" eBird account.
- Make sure you let your County Coordinator know that you've completed your counts!

To learn how to participate in the volunteer point counts, visit this [link](#) (or see the 'Atlas Handbooks' tab on the website).

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Did you know that we also have a trained field crew conducting point count surveys across the state? These surveys are a repeat of those that were conducted during the second Atlas, and are similar to the volunteer point counts but have a few more steps to the protocol.

In conducting these two types of point counts, we hope to assess whether we can obtain enough data from volunteer surveys to cover part or all of the state in future atlases through volunteer efforts alone. Additionally, because the field crew conducts all roadside surveys, we hope that the volunteer surveys will provide more off-road data.



The PBA3 2024 Field Crew during their training at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in May. From left to right: Greg George, Ada Bailey, Alex Clifford, Karter Witmer, Will Stollsteimer (crew leader), and Connor Carnahan. These folks are checking off 20+ point counts most mornings!

# Atlaser Q&A

## Q: What counts as a “Singing Bird?”

**A:** The S and S7 codes apply to species that have a song, vocalization, or other sound that is specifically associated with breeding. Most often these sounds are given by the male bird and are what you’d think of as a song. However, there are some exceptions!

### Species that Don’t “Sing”: Use the H Code Instead!

- Waterfowl
- Chimney Swift
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Shorebirds, Wading Birds, Gulls, Terns
- Raptors (Vultures, Hawks, Falcons)
- Belted Kingfisher
- Corvids (Jays\*, Crows, Ravens)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Cedar Waxwing

### Vocalizations/Sounds to Code with S

- Rail vocalizations
- Owl hooting
- Woodpecker drumming (if you can confidently ID to species)
- Grouse drumming
- Nighthawk booming

*\*Blue Jays sometimes give a ‘whisper song’ that can be coded as S, but it is very quiet and infrequently heard.*

**Find this full list, along with other tips for using the S code and links to songs and calls in a PDF [here](#).)**

**Upcoming! Big Atlas Weekend 2024 is June 28-30. This friendly competition takes place between various ongoing Atlases to motivate birders to get out in the field. More details will be coming out about this event in the next few days.**



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird.**  
Photo by Bob Reiter.

**Do you have an atlasing photo, short story, or art to share?**

Send to [pabirdatlas@hawkmountain.org](mailto:pabirdatlas@hawkmountain.org) to have it featured in a future newsletter or on social media.

# PBA3 Merchandise

If you haven't checked it out yet, visit the [PBA3 Merch Shop](#) (Look for the Donate & Shop link on the homepage) to purchase shirts, vehicle magnets, and brand new patches, pins, and magnets! All proceeds from your purchases go toward supporting the Atlas.



A gorgeous Turkey Vulture.  
Photo by Bill Moses.

Turkey Vulture decides to take a commercial flight instead of flying south for the winter. He's heard about airline food, so he brings along a dead raccoon for a snack.

At check-in, the agent looks at the raccoon and asks, "Would you like to check that?"

"No, thank you." replies Turkey Vulture. "It's carrion."

## Find Us:

[pabirdatlas@hawkmountain.org](mailto:pabirdatlas@hawkmountain.org)

Find your County and Regional Coordinators at [ebird.org/atlaspa/about/atlas-team](http://ebird.org/atlaspa/about/atlas-team).

Website: <https://ebird.org/atlaspa>

PENNSYLVANIA  
ATLAS OF LIFE



Remember to document other flora and fauna while Atlasing to contribute to the Pennsylvania Atlas of Life via iNaturalist! Learn more at [inaturalist.org/projects/pennsylvania-atlas-of-life](http://inaturalist.org/projects/pennsylvania-atlas-of-life).