

3rd PA Bird Atlas – Breeding Dates



Safe dates for using PROBABLE (white) and POSSIBLE (gray) codes, but only if a species is in suitable habitat. CONFIRMED codes can be used at any time.

See code definitions on page 3.

***Priority species.** Prioritize confirming breeding and provide specific locations when possible.

Common Name	Prob Start	Poss Start	Poss End	Prob End
Canada Goose	Apr 1	May 1	July 31	Aug 14
Mute Swan	Mar 15	May 1	Aug 31	Sep 21
Trumpeter Swan	Apr 1	May 1	Aug 31	Sep 7
Wood Duck	Mar 22	May 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Blue-winged Teal*	Apr 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Northern Shoveler	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Gadwall	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
American Wigeon	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Mallard	Apr 1	May 1	Jul 31	Sep 14
American Black Duck*	May 1	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 14
Northern Pintail	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Green-winged Teal*	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Redhead	May 22	Jun 1	Aug 21	Aug 31
Ring-necked Duck	May 1	Jun 1	Aug 21	Aug 31
Hooded Merganser	Apr 8	May 15	Aug 21	Aug 31
Common Merganser	Apr 15	May 15	Aug 21	Aug 31
Red-breasted Merganser	May 15	Jun 1	Aug 21	Aug 31
Ruddy Duck	May 22	Jun 8	Aug 14	Aug 31
Northern Bobwhite	Apr 8	Apr 15	Jul 31	Sep 30
Wild Turkey	Mar 1	Apr 15	Aug 14	Sep 30
Ruffed Grouse	Mar 15	Apr 1	Aug 14	Aug 31
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mar 15	Apr 15	Aug 14	Sep 7
Pied-billed Grebe*	Apr 22	May 22	Jul 14	Sep 14
Rock Pigeon	n/a	Jan 1	Dec 31	n/a
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Mar 15	May 1	Jul 31	Oct 7
Mourning Dove	Mar 8	Apr 1	Jul 31	Sep 30
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 15	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 14
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 15	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 31
Common Nighthawk*	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 21	Aug 21
Chuck-will's-widow	n/a	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 7
Eastern Whip-poor-will*	Apr 22	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 31

Chimney Swift	May 1	May 22	Jul 31	Sep 30
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Sep 14
King Rail*	May 8	May 15	Aug 21	Aug 31
Virginia Rail*	Apr 15	May 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
Sora*	Apr 15	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 31
Common Gallinule*	May 8	May 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
American Coot*	May 1	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 31
Black Rail*	May 1	May 15	Aug 14	Aug 21
Sandhill Crane*	Mar 15	May 8	Jul 31	Aug 31
Black-necked Stilt	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 31
Killdeer	Mar 22	Apr 15	Jul 14	Sep 7
Piping Plover*	May 8	May 22	Jul 21	Jul 31
Upland Sandpiper*	Apr 22	May 15	Jul 7	Aug 14
American Woodcock	Mar 22	Apr 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Wilson's Snipe*	Apr 1	May 15	Jul 21	Aug 7
Spotted Sandpiper*	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 21
Ring-billed Gull	Apr 8	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 7
Herring Gull	Mar 22	May 15	Jul 31	Sep 14
Least Tern	May 1	May 22	Jul 14	Jul 31
Black Tern*	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 21	Aug 14
Common Tern*	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 14
Common Loon	Apr 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Sep 7
Double-crested Cormorant	Apr 8	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 21
American Bittern*	Apr 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Least Bittern*	May 8	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 14
Great Blue Heron*	Mar 15	May 8	Jul 14	Aug 21
Great Egret*	Apr 8	May 22	Jul 7	Aug 21
Snowy Egret*	May 8	May 15	Jul 7	Aug 14
Western Cattle-Egret*	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 21
Green Heron	May 1	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 21
Black-crowned Night Heron*	May 1	May 15	Jul 14	Aug 21
Yellow-cr. Night Heron*	May 1	May 8	Jun 30	Aug 21
Glossy Ibis	May 15	Jun 1	Jun 30	Aug 21
Black Vulture	May 1	May 8	Jul 31	Aug 21
Turkey Vulture	Apr 22	May 15	Aug 7	Aug 21
Osprey*	Mar 22	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 21
Northern Harrier*	Mar 22	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 14
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	Apr 8	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Cooper's Hawk	Mar 15	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 31
American Goshawk*	Mar 15	Apr 15	Jul 31	Aug 14
Bald Eagle*	Jan 22	Apr 22	Aug 7	Aug 14
Mississippi Kite	May 22	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 14
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 1	May 1	Aug 14	Aug 31
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 22	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 31
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb 1	May 1	Jul 31	Aug 21

American Barn Owl*	Jan 1	Apr 15	Aug 31	Dec 31
Eastern Screech-Owl	Mar 1	Apr 1	Aug 14	Aug 31
Great Horned Owl	n/a	Dec 15	Aug 7	Aug 31
Barred Owl	n/a	Jan 15	Aug 7	Sep 7
Long-eared Owl*	Mar 1	Apr 22	Aug 31	Sep 7
Short-eared Owl*	Mar 15	Apr 1	Aug 31	Sep 7
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Mar 15	Apr 15	Aug 21	Aug 31
Belted Kingfisher	Apr 8	Apr 15	Jul 21	Aug 31
Red-headed Woodpecker*	Apr 22	May 22	Aug 14	Aug 31
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Mar 8	Mar 15	Aug 14	Sep 14
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Apr 8	May 15	Aug 14	Sep 14
Downy Woodpecker	Mar 8	Mar 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
Hairy Woodpecker	Mar 8	Mar 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
Northern Flicker	Apr 1	May 8	Aug 14	Sep 7
Pileated Woodpecker	Mar 15	Mar 22	Aug 14	Sep 7
American Kestrel	Mar 1	May 15	July 31	Aug 31
Merlin*	Mar 22	May 8	July 31	Aug 31
Peregrine Falcon*	Mar 1	May 8	July 31	Aug 31
Great Crested Flycatcher	May 8	May 15	July 31	Aug 31
Eastern Kingbird	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 31
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Jun 1	Jun 8	July 31	Aug 14
Eastern Wood-Pewee	May 22	Jun 1	Aug 14	Sep 21
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*	Jun 1	Jun 8	Jul 21	Aug 7
Acadian Flycatcher	May 15	May 22	Aug 31	Aug 14
Alder Flycatcher	May 22	Jun 8	Jul 21	Aug 21
Willow Flycatcher	May 22	Jun 8	Jul 21	Aug 21
Least Flycatcher	May 8	Jun 8	Jul 14	Aug 21
Eastern Phoebe	Apr 1	May 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
White-eyed Vireo	May 15	May 22	Aug 21	Aug 31
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 15	Jun 1	Aug 21	Aug 31
Blue-headed Vireo	May 1	Jun 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
Warbling Vireo	May 8	Jun 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
Red-eyed Vireo	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Sep 14
Loggerhead Shrike*	Apr 15	May 8	Jul 31	Aug 7
Blue Jay	Mar 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
American Crow	Mar 15	Apr 15	Jul 31	Aug 21
Fish Crow	Mar 15	May 1	Jul 31	Aug 21
Common Raven	Feb 15	Mar 1	Jul 14	Aug 21
Carolina Chickadee	Feb 22	Mar 8	Aug 21	Sep 7
Black-capped Chickadee	Mar 15	Apr 15	Aug 21	Sep 14
Tufted Titmouse	Mar 8	Mar 15	Aug 14	Aug 21
Horned Lark	Mar 15	Apr 15	Aug 7	Aug 14
Bank Swallow*	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 7	Aug 7
Tree Swallow	Apr 1	May 22	Jul 7	Aug 21
North. Rough-winged Swallow	Apr 22	May 22	Jul 7	Aug 7

Purple Martin*	Apr 8	May 22	Jul 7	Aug 14
Barn Swallow	Apr 15	May 22	Jul 14	Sep 7
Cliff Swallow	Apr 15	Jun 1	Jul 7	Sep 7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Apr 8	May 22	Aug 21	Aug 31
Cedar Waxwing	May 22	Jun 15	Jul 31	Sep 30
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Apr 8	May 15	Jul 31	Sep 7
White-breasted Nuthatch	Mar 15	May 1	Aug 14	Aug 31
Brown Creeper	Apr 22	May 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Apr 22	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 21
Carolina Wren	Mar 22	Apr 1	Sep 7	Sep 14
Northern House Wren	Apr 22	May 15	Aug 14	Sep 14
Winter Wren	Apr 22	May 22	Aug 21	Sep 7
Sedge Wren*	May 8	Jun 1	Aug 21	Sep 7
Marsh Wren*	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 31	Sep 14
Gray Catbird	May 1	May 22	Jul 31	Sep 14
Brown Thrasher	Apr 15	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 31
Northern Mockingbird	Apr 22	May 1	Aug 21	Aug 31
European Starling	Mar 8	Apr 1	Jul 31	Sep 14
Eastern Bluebird	Mar 15	May 1	Aug 14	Sep 14
Veery	May 15	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 14
Swainson's Thrush*	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Hermit Thrush	Apr 22	May 22	Aug 14	Aug 31
Wood Thrush	May 8	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 21
American Robin	Mar 15	May 8	Jul 31	Sep 21
House Sparrow	Feb 1	Feb 8	Aug 31	Sep 14
Evening Grosbeak	Apr 1	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 31
House Finch	Mar 8	Apr 15	Jul 31	Sep 14
Purple Finch	Apr 22	May 22	Aug 7	Aug 14
Red Crossbill*	n/a	Jan 1	Dec 31	n/a
Pine Siskin*	Mar 8	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 14
American Goldfinch	May 1	Jun 8	Aug 31	Oct 7
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 8	Jun 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
Chipping Sparrow	Apr 15	May 15	Aug 14	Sep7
Clay-colored Sparrow*	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Field Sparrow	Apr 15	May 15	Aug 14	Sep 7
Dark-eyed Junco	May 15	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 14
White-throated Sparrow*	May 22	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 31
Vesper Sparrow*	Apr 15	May 15	Aug 14	Aug 31
Henslow's Sparrow*	Apr 15	May 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
Savannah Sparrow	Apr 15	May 22	Aug 14	Aug 31
Song Sparrow	Mar 22	May 8	Jul 31	Aug 31
Swamp Sparrow	Apr 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Eastern Towhee	Apr 15	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 31
Yellow-breasted Chat*	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Bobolink	May 8	May 22	Jul 7	Aug 21

Eastern Meadowlark	Mar 22	May 15	Jul 31	Sep 7
Western Meadowlark	Apr 1	May 15	Jul 31	Aug 30
Orchard Oriole	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 14	Aug 14
Baltimore Oriole	May 8	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 21
Red-winged Blackbird	Mar 15	May 1	Jul 21	Sep 7
Brown-headed Cowbird	Apr 1	May 8	Jul 14	Aug 31
Common Grackle	Mar 15	Apr 22	Jul 7	Aug 21
Ovenbird	May 8	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 21
Worm-eating Warbler	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 7
Louisiana Waterthrush	Apr 8	Apr 15	Jul 14	Jul 21
Northern Waterthrush	May 8	Jun 1	Jul 21	Aug 31
Golden-winged Warbler*	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 21
Blue-winged Warbler	May 8	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 21
Brewster's Warbler	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 31
Lawrence's Warbler	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 31
Black-and-white Warbler	May 8	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 14
Prothonotary Warbler*	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Aug 7
Swainson's Warbler	May 15	May 22	Aug 7	Aug 14
Nashville Warbler*	May 8	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 21
Mourning Warbler	May 22	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 21
Kentucky Warbler	May 15	May 22	Jul 21	Jul 31
Common Yellowthroat	May 8	May 22	Jul 31	Sep 7
Hooded Warbler	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 21
American Redstart	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Cerulean Warbler*	May 15	Jun 8	Jul 31	Aug 14
Northern Parula	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Magnolia Warbler	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Blackburnian Warbler	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 21	Aug 21
Yellow Warbler	May 1	May 22	Jul 14	Aug 7
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Blackpoll Warbler*	May 22	Jun 15	Aug 14	Aug 21
Black-throated Blue Warbler	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 7
Pine Warbler	Apr 22	May 1	Aug 14	Aug 31
Yellow-rumped Warbler	May 1	Jun 1	Aug 14	Aug 21
Yellow-throated Warbler	May 1	May 8	Jul 14	Aug 14
Prairie Warbler	May 15	May 22	Jul 31	Aug 14
Black-throated Green Warbler	May 15	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 31
Canada Warbler	May 22	Jun 1	Jul 31	Aug 14
Summer Tanager*	May 22	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 21
Scarlet Tanager	May 15	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 21
Northern Cardinal	Mar 8	Mar 22	Sep 14	Oct 31
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 1	Jun 8	Aug 7	Sep 14
Blue Grosbeak	May 22	Jun 1	Aug 7	Aug 14
Indigo Bunting	May 8	Jun 1	Aug 7	Sep 14
Dickcissel*	May 22	Jun 8	Aug 7	Aug 14

POSSIBLE
H – In Habitat. Adult in suitable nesting habitat during breeding season. Note habitat and breeding season component, which can differ for residents vs. migrants.
S – Singing. Adult singing (including counter-singing) or giving vocalizations used in a mating context, while in nesting habitat. Use S for singing birds and H for calling birds.
PROBABLE
S7 – Singing Bird Present 7+ Days. Singing bird at <i>same location</i> on 2+ occasions 7+ days apart during single season. Initial observation should only be made after migration ceases.
M – Multiple (7+) Singing Birds. 7+ singing birds of a species in a block in a single season. If birds are on separate checklists, code on checklist where total of 7 birds is reached and note in comments that birds from other checklists are included.
P – Pair in Suitable Habitat. Male-female mated pair in suitable nesting habitat. Use behavioral cues to determine if you have a pair, particularly when M + F look the same.
T – Territorial Defense. Permanent breeding territory presumed via territory defense by fighting/chasing. Generally used for individuals of same species but interaction between different species may fall under this code when it appears to be territorial defense.
C – Courtship, Display, or Copulation. Courtship behavior or copulation between a male and a female, including transfer of food, displays, and grooming between a pair of birds.
N – Visiting Probable Nest Site. Repeated visits to probable nest site. Useful for cavity nesters or a shrub nesting species that flies into the same thicket and disappears on several occasions.
A – Agitated Behavior. Agitated behavior/anxiety calls from adults, usually in response to brood parasites, nest predators, or humans, indicating nest/young in area. Don't use for agitation induced by "pishing"/recordings or for mobbing that birds do year-round (e.g., mobbing an owl).
B – Nest Building. Nest-building by wrens, which may build "dummy" nests before the female selects a nest, or excavation of cavities by woodpeckers, which often drill holes for roosting.
CONFIRMED
PE – Physiological Evidence. Physiological evidence of breeding based on a <i>bird in the hand</i> .
CN – Carrying Nesting Material. Carrying material to unseen nest. For raptors, be sure material isn't incidental to prey capture/transport. For wrens, use "B".
NB – Nest Building. Nest-building observed at nest site, excluding wrens and woodpeckers.
DD – Distraction Display. Displays and injury feigning to draw intruder away from nest/young.
UN – Used Nest. Used nest found, but no adult birds seen nearby. <i>Appropriate only if the nest was used during the Atlas period and you are certain of the species.</i> Add comments detailing how you identified the nest. Enter '0' if no individuals of species observed during visit.
ON – Occupied Nest. Adult sitting in nest, adult entering nest site and remaining, or exchange of incubation duties by pair. Useful for nests high in trees, on cliffs, and in chimneys where contents can't be seen. Don't use for herons or eagles hanging around nests before breeding begins.
FL – Recently Fledged & Precocial Young. Young dependent on adults, incapable of extended flight. Look for downy feathers, yellow gape, short tail, clumsy flight. Beware of family groups late in season which may be far from nest site. Young cowbirds confirm cowbird and host.
CF – Carrying Food. Adult carrying food for young or incubating partner. Don't use for corvids, raptors, or terns, which also carry food for courtship or caching.
FY – Feeding Young. Adult feeding <i>young that have left nest</i> . Don't use for raptors and terns which may move far from nest soon after fledging. Use NY for nestlings being fed by an adult.
FS – Carrying Fecal Sac. Adult carrying fecal sac or eggshell fragments. <i>Only songbirds and woodpeckers produce fecal sacs.</i>
NE – Nest with Eggs. Don't disturb nest. Confirm species by waiting at a distance until adult returns. If nest contains cowbird eggs, code NE for cowbird and host.
NY – Nest with Young. Nest with young seen/heard. Avoid disturbing nestlings. <i>Include nestlings in your species count.</i> Cowbird young confirms both cowbird and host species.