

The Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas

What Is a Breeding Bird Atlas?

A Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) a study of the breeding birds within a region; in our case, Delaware! The BBA is a five (5) year, grid-based survey; the State is divided into "blocks" that are about 10 sq. miles. Two goals of the BBA are to map the distributions of the breeding birds in Delaware and to compare them to the data from 20 years ago when the first Delaware BBA was completed. We will also be collecting important information on some of our rarest species that will assist in making important conservation decisions in the future!

Why Conduct a Breeding Bird Atlas?

Many changes have occurred in the past 20 years. Conducting a second atlas now can help us to learn how changes have affected our bird populations. This atlas will show us where birds are doing well or where they need help. We can determine if species are increasing or decreasing. We can also look at whether some of our breeding birds are changing where they breed in response to environmental and habitat changes.

Where and When Will We Conduct this Breeding Bird Atlas?

The Delaware BBA is a five year project beginning in 2008 and ending in 2012. It covers the entire State and we will survey everywhere! From our State Parks and National Wildlife Refuges to our city streets and suburban neighborhoods, we will look for signs of breeding birds in every habitat type, mostly from April through June.

Who Conducts a Breeding Bird Atlas?

YOU DO! The Delaware BBA is a volunteer citizen science project. The success of the atlas depends on its volunteers! Whether you are a seasoned or beginning birder, a wildlife enthusiast, naturalist, student, teacher, adult or child, the BBA wants you to join and help make Delaware's second Breeding Bird Atlas a project to be remembered for generations! The BBA will provide you with the opportunity to get out, have fun, and make a valuable contribution to an important project!

How Do I Get Involved?

There are several levels of participation! Some people may choose to be "block" owners, some might make casual observations, and others may wish to contribute in other ways. EVERY breeding bird report is important, from the sparrows in Wilmington to the Bald Eagles throughout the State. If you observe it, we want to know about it!

Do You Want to Join Us? Do You Have Questions?

Contact:

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