

The Second Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas News Spring/Summer 2008

What can I say but WOW! As I write this, I will admit that I am very impressed and grateful for the effort we are seeing in this first year. For that, I would like to thank every one of you who has contributed! Reporting even one observation is a contribution to a project that has been generating a lot of interest and support.

Just to provide you a few details to date:

- Number of Species Reported: **119**.
- Number of Species Confirmed Breeding: **71 (plus 28 PR, 20 PO, and 37 OB)**.
- Average Species per Block: **25**.
- Total Number of Observations entered: **6782 (!!)**
- Blocks with Recorded Observations: **87**

All of these totals are viewable on the USGS BBA Explorer webpage:

http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bba/index.cfm?fa=explore.ResultsSummary&BBA_ID=DE2008

Click on "Results" to view the latest data. (If you can't click on the link above, go to www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bba and follow the link on the left to the DE BBA).

We have approximately 64% of the state "assigned"! Always feel free to encourage others to sign up and join us!

With June just beginning, I can't begin to forecast how this year will shape up. With June and July remaining, we are a long way from being finished for 2008. I have a lot I want to include in this letter, but I still can not express enough how grateful I and the BBA are for all of your efforts.

Congratulations on a great start! June is sure to be our best month yet!

Anthony

JUNE IS ATLAS MONTH!!

If you have not yet been out to atlas your block(s) or area(s), June is the month you don't want to miss! During June, not only are most species breeding, but they are within their safe date range. This means if you are in suitable habitat for a species and simply observe only one, you can at least list it as an "X" for Possible Breeder! While this does

not apply to all species, it works for most. (Go to <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/bba> and click on “Atlas volunteer materials page” on the right for a downloadable copy of the safe dates.)

While atlasing in June and into July, most birds will be tending young. Careful observation will allow you to see things like adults carrying food (AY), adults arriving at a nest and feeding young (NY), or tending to fledglings (FL). You can quickly go from a Possible (X) to a confirmed code quickly by spending just a couple of minutes observing a bird!

Atlas Field Trips

So, you have been out atlasing, but you have questions? Maybe you haven't been out yet and are unsure of what to look for? Just want to come out and do some atlasing with others? Well there are several atlas field trips scheduled in June. Consider joining one and learn a little more about atlasing!

Saturday, June 7 – DOS Atlasing Field Trip

Join Judy Montgomery, Doris McGovern and Derek Stoner to practice some atlasing basics & survey blocks in the West Grove/Oxford PA area. Help the effort to finish the PA Breeding Bird Atlas! Sponsored by the Delmarva Ornithological Society – a DE BBA Partner!

When: Saturday, 7 June 2008 7:30am - 12:30pm

Where: Meet at Starbucks in the Jennersville Shopping Center near Giant foods. We'll carpool.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks & water bottle

Contact Judy at (610)716-5951 or at judym@delawarenaturesociety.org if you are planning to attend or need directions.

See Starbucks address below:

Shoppes at Jenner's Village
35 Jenners Village Court
West Grove, PA 19390

Saturday, June 14 – DE BBA Atlas Field Trip: Little Creek (Kent County)

We will visit Block 75 in Little Creek, DE. This is an unassigned block and we will be collecting data on everything we see! This block includes Port Mahon Road and portions of the Little Creek State Wildlife Area. Most of this trip will be spent walking and watching.

When: Saturday, 14 June 2008 7:30am – 12:30pm

Where: Meet at the wildlife area parking lot on Port Mahon Rd. just before the tank farm.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, a water bottle, and insect repellent. Flies and mosquitoes can be particularly bad at this time of year.

Contact Anthony Gonzon at (302)-653-2880 ext.123 or anthony.gonzon@state.de.us if you plan to attend or need directions.

Sunday, June 15 – DE BBA Atlas Field Trip: Phillips Landing (Sussex County)

Spend the morning at Phillips Landing, part of the Nanticoke River State Wildlife Area. Join me as we look for forest, field, wetland, and waterbirds in an area with great bird diversity.

When: Sunday, 15 June 2008 – 7am – 12pm

Where: Meet at Phillips Landing parking lot. Contact Anthony if you are coming from the north to make carpool arrangements.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, a water bottle, and insect repellent. Mosquitoes can be particularly bad at this time of year.

Contact Anthony Gonzon at (302)-653-2880 ext.123 or anthony.gonzon@state.de.us if you plan to attend or need directions.

Tuesday, June 17 – DE BBA Atlas Field Trip: Redden State Forest (Sussex County)

We will visit Redden State Forest in Blocks 143 and 144. These are unowned blocks and you will be contributing data that might not otherwise be collected in Year One! Come see how slight differences in habitat and tree age can change the diversity of bird species. Expect some roadside and trail walking.

NOTE: This trip is limited to 10 participants. Carpooling is required. Anyone interested in this trip must contact Anthony Gonzon to register and receive meeting details no later than Thursday, June 12 .

When: Tuesday, 17 June 2008 7:30am – 12:30pm.

Bring: Binoculars, snacks, a water bottle, and insect repellent.

Contact Anthony Gonzon at (302)-653-2880 ext.123 or anthony.gonzon@state.de.us if you plan to register or have questions.

If you cannot attend one of the above trips, other arrangements may be possible. Contact Anthony to learn of any other upcoming options.

BBA Listserv

If you have not yet joined the listserv but would like to, go to: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DE_BBA/ and click on “Join Group” on the upper right. Yahoo! will ask you to set up a profile if you don’t already have one. You can then access all of the group’s features, including posting messages, downloading files, links, uploading pictures, and more!

If you don’t want to register for a Yahoo! profile, simply send an email to:

DE_BBA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Do not put anything in the Subject or body of the email. It is essentially a blank email to that address. You will receive a follow-up email from Yahoo! to confirm your request. Once you confirm your request, the group moderator, Liz Gordon, or I will approve you, you will be able to send and receive messages to, and from the group (we do this to keep out spammers).

There have been some great discussions on the listserv on a variety of topics and it’s a great place to post questions, comments, and stories! I hope many of you will join if you have not already.

Editor Wanted

Have experience with newsletters? Want to take a different role in the atlas? Why not work on the atlas newsletter? I am looking for one person to take on the responsibility of assembling and editing our atlas newsletter. If you are interested, contact me as soon as possible!

Atlas Safety

As we enter summer, please remember to always be aware of weather conditions! We are getting to that time when storms can appear out of nowhere and the temperature can soar towards 100. Consider using sun block and always keep some water with you! Dress lightly, but remember, this is also the height of tick season!

To reduce your chance of getting ticks:

- Wear light colored clothing and consider wearing long pants and shirts with long sleeves.
- Use repellants containing DEET (Less than 50% for adults, 30% for children).
- Check yourself thoroughly when returning from the field.

For more information and tips, visit:

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/php/alerts/dhan150.html>

REMEMBER:

June is the best time to find many birds courting, nesting, and caring for young!

Find out what surprises your area might hold!