

What is the Pennsylvania Migration Count? The PAMC was established in 1992 to gather annual data on migratory bird populations, and to help answer some fundamental questions regarding their distribution throughout PA. PAMC is an annual one-day snapshot of bird populations within our state attempting to answer which species are present, where they are and how many there are. Detecting the changes in population will help give us an early warning of possible declines and it is hoped that steps can be taken toward assisting their future survival.

How does it work? The Pennsylvania Migration Count takes place each spring on the second Saturday in May. For the third year in a row the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is sponsoring Global Big Day. Both events are similar to the Christmas Bird Count. The difference is that PAMC takes place on a countywide basis, rather than within a CBC circle. The rules are simple: spend some time in the field counting all birds in a specified area, and keep track of miles traveled and time spent counting. Participants are free to roam their favorite county birding locales at anytime during the 24 hour period, starting at 12:01 am, counting every bird they find.

How can you help? Birders of all skill levels can help out with the count. Beginning at midnight with the songs of the Whip-poor-wills and the hooting of the Great-horned Owls, the PAMC is a great way to spend time outside. Whether you tally birds in your backyard, at your feeders, the local little league ball field, along the river, on a lake, at your camp or spend time hiking through a state park, your observations count. Field checklists and information for PAMC participation are available online at <http://pabirds.org/PAMC/Index.html>. Contact information for county compilers can also be found at pabirds.org. Please contact the county compiler first, to avoid duplicate submissions from the same area. Keep in mind this is a count so do not put in an 'X'. Also eBird prefers that the Traveling protocol counts be kept to under 5 miles. If you are only keeping a day list put the actual distance in the notes section and put 5 miles for the effort.

Where are bird sightings submitted? The main way to enter bird sightings is through eBird.org. For those who do not have a computer or do not choose to use an eBird account your sightings can be submitted to your county compiler or to Chuck Berthoud at cnberthoud@gmail.com; 4461 Cherry Drive, Spring Grove, PA 17362. They will be entered into eBird.