

PA BREEDING BIRD BLITZ FOR CONSERVATION RULES

1. Counting

A. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained.

B. Only species found on the PA Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Bird List with numerical abundance codes 1-6 will be accepted. This means **Northern Bobwhite** (code 7/extirpated) is not a valid entry. The full list can be found at <https://pabirds.org/records/index.php/pennsylvania-bird-list/>

C. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Generic species or hybrids will only be accepted in the absence of a full species. (Example I: Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee will only be accepted if there are not Carolina or Black-capped Chickadees listed. Example II: Brewster's Warbler will only be accepted in the absence of Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warblers.)

D. For a species to count for the team total it must be identified by at least 2 members of the team during the count period.

E. **Electronic or recorded songs** and calls may not be used to attract birds or entice them to vocalize. Pishing and other human produced sounds may be used but please do so in a manner that avoids over stressing the birds.

F. Only submit birds actually located within the boundary of the count (County or Region). The location of the bird is where the bird is located, not where the observers are located. Be aware of county, region, and state lines.

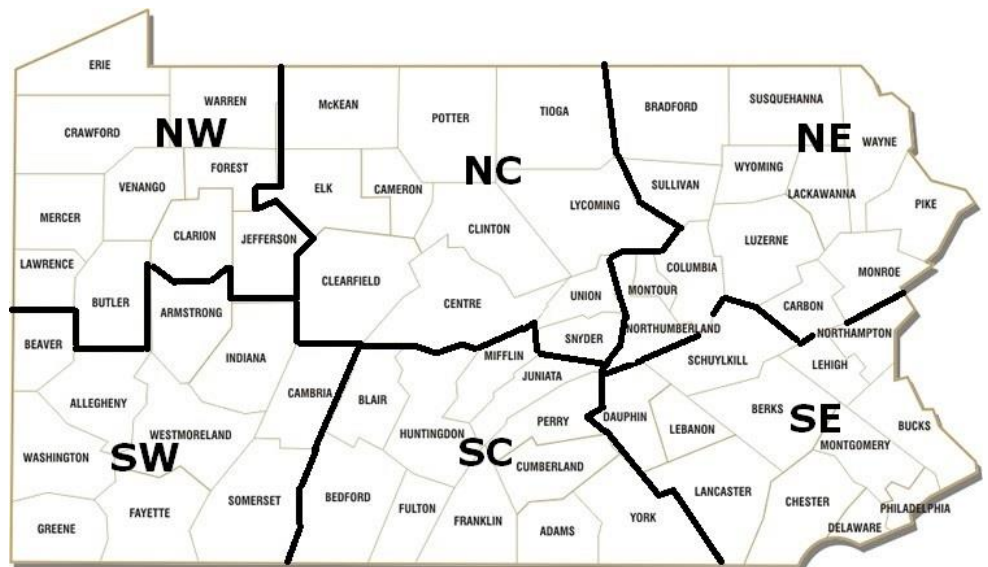
2. Areas

A. Only one of 2 geographic areas may be covered each day of the Blitz (County or Regional).

B. County lists will include all birds identified in a particular county (Example: Crawford County).

C. Regional lists will include birds identified from at least 4 counties of that region with a minimum of one hour spent birding in each county (Example: NE Region; Sullivan, Wyoming, Pike and Carbon counties).

D. Remember, no matter if you choose to do a County or Regional List, covering **diverse habitat** will increase your total number of species.



3. Time

A. All counting must be within a single 24-hour period, on a single calendar day.

B. A County List can be any length of time within the 24 hours.

C. A Regional List must be at least 4 hours of length in duration as it is required to spend at least one hour in 4 different counties to submit a Regional List.

D. Your time birding does not need to be consecutive as time out may be taken but birds identified during the time out may not be added to the list.

4. Travel

A. Travel may be by any means unless a Low Carbon Team.

B. All birds identified while traveling may be included in the count list, if positively identified by at least 2 team members.

5. Participants

- A. Two or more participants may constitute a team.
- B. All team members must bird together (in visual sight of one another), no forming of subgroups at any time.
- C. Participants may bird only part of the day as long as there are at least 2 participants left on the team at all times.
- D. A participant who leaves the team may rejoin the team later.
- E. Only bird species that are identified by participants while with the team may count be counted.
- F. Team composition may vary on different days as long as it conforms to B4C rules.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS MUST BE FOLLOWED:

B4C activities must comply with all current federal, state, and local COVID-19 protocols and guidelines, in regard to distancing, facemasks, travel, etc.

It is each team's responsibility to know and adhere to these protocols and guidelines.

For more information go to <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

6. Low Carbon Teams, Additional Rules

- A. Team members may use a motorized means to travel to/from a start and end location.
- B. The start and end location must be no further than can be traveled in one day by non-motorized means.
- C. Team members cannot take a break from the team by using motorized means to leave or rejoin the team.
- D. Birds identified while using a motorized means of travel will not be included in your list.

7. Youth Teams, Additional Rules

- A. The team must be comprised of at least 2 youth at all times in either the 6-12 or 12-18 age range.
- B. Two or more youth on the team 6-12 (Fantastic Fledglings) or 12-18 (Just Awesome Juveniles) must identify a bird for it to be added to the team total.
- C. Youth outside of the team age group may be on the team as well, but a minimum of 2 youth in the age group of the entry of the team must identify a bird for it to count toward the team total. Example: A 10-year-old could participate on a team with a 13 and 15 year old, but the 13 and 15 year old would have to identify the bird for it to count toward the team total. Likewise, a 16-year-old could participate on a team with a 11 and 9 year old but both the 11 and 9 year old would have to identify the bird for it to count toward the team total.

8. Entries

A. Teams may participate in any one or all of the 4 days of the Blitz. You may participate in the same County or Region on any or all of the 4 days or you may choose to report from a different County or Region if you participate in the Blitz on more than one day.

B. Only one eBird Summary Report or Checklist will be accepted for each day of the Blitz. Multiple submissions by a team for a particular day will not be accepted. If more than one is received the first submitted will be used.

C. Fifty dollars in donations in the name of the team must be entered through the Donation Tab of this website by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22nd to be **eligible to compete in any of the competitions**. (A full list of competitions that teams may participate in, are listed on the Contest Tab of this website and available for download on the Forms and Contact Tab).

D. Send all entries no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22nd to blitz4conservation@gmail.com

E. **A day summary report from eBird** may be used as long as the other entry information that follows below (F through J) is also included in the text of the email.

F. Team name, Team Members, and Date of Checklist

G. If a County or Regional Count, listing the County or Counties covered by the checklist.

H. Note if it is a Low Carbon, Youth 6-12, or Youth 12-18 Team.

I. Include the number of Accepted Species. This may differ from what was submitted to eBird.

J. Number of Northern Harriers and Wood Thrushes if you wish to participate in these contests.

K. If you choose not to use an eBird summary you may use **checklists that are available for download** on this website under the Forms and Contact tab.

9. Using eBird

A. If you use eBird (which you are highly encouraged to do) please keep checklists at 5 miles or less for traveling counts otherwise the data you submit will be less useful and may be invalidated by eBird.

B. Though not required you are also encouraged to use breeding codes as much as possible.

C. Birding a wide range of habitats will provide data for more habitat types and will increase your species count.

D. Share your eBird checklists with **PSO Birding Data** so we can tabulate and share the data on species reported during the B4C.

10. Stories and Pictures

Send in your stories and pictures so we can include them on this website and/or in the next edition of the PSO Newsletter, the Pileated.