



BirdPHILLY is an exciting new series of birding walks and events that will take place in locations across Philadelphia during **2015**. This initiative is a partnership of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC) and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. The goal of this project is to showcase Philadelphia as a regional destination for birding and to introduce birding to newcomers. BirdPHILLY will visit well-know birding locations like Pennypack Park and John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, as well as smaller neighborhood parks like Hunting Park and Wister Woods. The walks will be led by members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. Loaner binoculars will be available.

- **Most walks are on SATURDAYS**
- **All walks are for beginner to experienced birders**
- **All walks are FREE and in Philadelphia**
- **Binoculars available if needed**
- **For more information, see birdphilly.org**

January 17, 10:00 am

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR) for Waterfowl

This walk will focus on the spectacle of wintering waterfowl at South Philly's lakes in FDR Park, legendary for overwintering waterfowl. The walk will meet at the boat house where we will study the waterfowl on the pond that will likely include mallards, gadwall, American widgeon, bufflehead, and hooded mergansers. Redhead and cackling geese, rare in our region, are annual at FDR. We will also walk to the other ponds and bird the brush and trees looking for songbirds such as brown creeper, rusty blackbird, and purple finch.

Meeting Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park is located at Broad Street and Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145. Specifically we are meeting at the boat house. (*Barry Playground is near this location.*)

February 7, 9:00 am

Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Glen Foerd, and Pleasant Hill Park

The day will begin with a walk at Pennypack on the Delaware to observe the bald eagle nest, sparrows, and waterfowl. Expected birds include common goldeneye, canvasback, scaup, great cormorant, and American tree sparrow. POD has also turned up notable birds such as long-tailed duck, short-eared owl, and clay-colored sparrow.

After POD (optional trip), we will travel by car to **Glen Foerd** and **Pleasant Hill Park**, great spots to look for unusual gulls such as Iceland and lesser-black backed.

Meeting Location: The entrance to Pennypack on the Delaware (Penypack Path) is on State Road just south of Rhawn St. We will meet at the gazebo on the river. (*Holmesburg Playground and the Fish Hatchery are near this location.*)

March 14, 10:00 am

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

A morning walk will be held at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge for those who wish to make a full day of birding in Southwest Philadelphia. This is a great time of year to observe the bald eagle nest as well as abundant waterfowl and sparrows. A great horned owl nest is often viewable at this time of year and often American bittern can be seen as well.

Meeting Location: 8601 Lindberg Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19153.

March 14, 2:00pm

Fort Mifflin

Historic Fort Mifflin is the best place to view the Delaware River south of Center City. We will look for waterfowl such as common loons and diving ducks.

Meeting Location: 82 Fort Mifflin Road, Philadelphia, PA 19153.

March 14, 6:00 am

Eastwick (meet at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge)

We will time our visit an hour before sunset to observe the flight displays of American woodcock at dusk. Eastwick is a city-owned property consisting of old wet fields adjacent to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Meeting Location: 86th & Lindberg Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19153. Park at the dead end of Lindberg Boulevard (next to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge).

April 18, 10:00 am

Wister Woods

We will meet at the corner of Belfield Avenue and Logan Street to begin our walk in this under birded urban oasis. We can expect to find late wintering sparrows and juncos as well as sapsuckers and other woodpeckers. Perhaps we will also find early arriving spring migrants or even something unusual! We will also explore neighboring Wakefield Park and check out its magnificent seven-trunked London Planetree on Ogontz Avenue.

Meeting Location: Belfield Avenue and Logan Street, Philadelphia, PA 19151. *(Belfield Recreation Center and Wister Playground are near this location.)*

April 25, 7:00 am

Bartram's Garden

Historic Bartram's Garden is perhaps the best 40 acres of birding in Philly! With river access, fields, woodlands, wetlands, and ornamental plantings, this spot has an amazing diversity of bird-attracting habitat. We expect to see late wintering waterfowl with early arriving breeders and migrants like warblers and orioles (both species).

Meeting Location: 5400 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

May 2, 7:00 am

Wissahickon Valley Park

Early May in the Wissahickon is excellent for early arriving warblers like Louisiana waterthrush, as well as wood thrush and courting wood ducks. We will meet at Valley Green and walk along Forbidden Drive, stopping at bridges to search for waterthrush.

Meeting Location: Valley Green parking lot. Valley Green Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128.

May 2, 1:00 pm

Birding by Ear Workshop at Wissahickon Environmental Center (same day as Wissahickon Valley).

After a break for lunch, a birding by ear workshop will be held at the Wissahickon Environmental Center (Tree House).

Meeting Location: 300 W. Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

May 9, 9:00 am

West Park

Starting at the Horticulture Center, we will explore West Park in Fairmount Park to look for spring migrants and breeding birds like veery and wild turkey. Despite its large size, west park gets little attention from the birding community. Let's see what birds we can find during this prime season for both migrating and resident birds!

Meeting Location: Horticulture Center, 100 N Horticultural Drive, Philadelphia, PA. (*Carousel House is near this location.*)

May 16, 7:30 am

Carpenter's Woods for Warblers

Mid-May is the best time for migrating warblers, and Carpenter's Woods is Philadelphia's warbler hotspot. We will meet at the Wayne Avenue entrance.

Meeting Location: Wayne Ave and Mt. Pleasant Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119 (*Mount Airy Playground is near this location.*)

May 16 to 24

Philadelphia Bird Race

Bird Philly goes region-wide with this fun competition. The Philadelphia Bird Race is a week-long competition to see who can observe the most species of birds in multiple categories (in one hour, in one day, and even for the whole week). This fun competition, DVOC's first annual competition in southeast Pennsylvania, will help raise funds to support bird conservation projects in the region. Whether it's your first time birding or you're a professor of ornithology, you're encouraged to participate. There will also be a youth competition and a prize for the most birds observed by foot or by bike. Check birdphilly.org for dates, times and location.

May 30, 7:00 am

Mt Moriah Cemetery

Mount Moriah Cemetery located along Cobbs Creek in Southwest Philadelphia has a unique mosaic of habitats. This brushy secondary growth is perfect habitat for mourning warblers that migrate in late spring.

Meeting Location: 62nd Street and Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. (*Cobbs Creek Recreation Center is near this location.*)

May 30, 9:30 am

Cobbs Creek Park

A walk for the later risers will meet at Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center parking lot. We should still find some late migrants like blackpoll warbler and observe breeding birds in full song such as wood thrush and Baltimore oriole.

Meeting Location: 700 Cobbs Creek Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19153 (*Cobbs Creek Recreation Center, Laura Simms' Skate Center, McCreesh Playground and Max Myers Playground are near this location.*)

June 6, 8:00 am

Houston Meadow Bird & Botany Walk

We will meet at Houston Playground to look for bluebirds, brown thrasher and nesting raptors like Cooper's hawk. This will also be a joint walk with the Philadelphia Botanical Club to learn about the beautiful wildflowers in the meadow.

Meeting Location: Houston Playground, 900 Grakyn Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19128

July 11, 8:00 am

Fox Chase Farm

Meet at the Pine Road entrance of Pennypack Park. We will walk along the creek to Fox Chase Farm where we hope to see some open country birds like eastern bluebirds and forest birds such as pileated woodpecker.

Meeting Location: Pine Road and Pennypack Trail parking lot, Philadelphia, PA. (Not the Farm) *(Fox Chase Recreation Center is near this location.)*

July 11, 11:00 am

Bird Lecture at Pennypack Environmental Center

The morning's walk at Fox Chase Farm will be followed by a lecture at Pennypack Environmental Center by local ornithologist Matthew Halley.

Meeting Location: 8600 Verree Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115.

August 29, 10:00 am

Fairmount Water Works

We will meet at the Fairmount Water Works for cormorants and wood ducks on the Schuylkill River and will check out nearby "silt island" for warblers and orioles. This will be followed by an indoor/outdoor bird workshop.

Meeting Location: 640 Waterworks Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19130 *(Lloyd Hall Recreation Center is near this location.)*

September 5, 2:00 pm

Pennypack on the Delaware (POD)

POD has the most accessible mudflats in the city on the Delaware River and early September is a great time to observe migrating shorebirds. We expect to see semipalmated sandpipers, least sandpipers and killdeer and hope for goodies such as red knots and ruddy turnstones. We will also check out the fields and woods of the park for early migrants.

Meeting Location: The entrance to Pennypack on the Delaware (cross street is Penypack Path) is on State Road just South of Rhawn St. We will meet at the gazebo on the river.

September 26, 8:00 am

Tacony Creek Park

Tacony Street Park is a great place to look for migrating warblers at this often-productive migrant trap.

Meeting Location: Ferko Playground, 1101 E. Cayuga Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

October 3, 7:00 am**Delaware River Trail (South Philly)**

Meet at Washington Avenue Green to look for fall migrants such as warblers, cuckoos and thrushes in what has proved to be a very productive migrant patch. We will scan for water birds from the new park on Pier 53. Afterwards, we will visit Alexander Wilson's grave at Old Swede's church (just across Columbus Blvd. from Washington Avenue Green.) Alexander Wilson is regarded as the greatest American ornithologist before Audubon.

Meeting Location: Washington Avenue and Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Follow trail to the river. *(Shot Tower Recreation Center and Rizzo Rink are near this location.)*

October 10, 5:00 am to 7:00 pm**Big Sit! At Pennypack on the Delaware**

Pennypack on the Delaware is considered the most productive city-owned birding location and is the perfect spot for our Big Sit! The Big Sit is an international competition hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest where participants observe and record birds from a fixed location (within a 15' circle!).

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php>

Meeting Location: The entrance to Pennypack on the Delaware (Penypack Path) is on State Road just South of Rhawn St. Follow the signs to the Big Sit.

October 17, 10:00 am**Hunting Park**

Meet at Hunting Park Recreation Center to explore Hunting Park for fall migrants such as sparrows and warblers and early wintering birds like white-throated sparrow and dark-eyed juncos.

Meeting Location: Hunting Park Recreation Center, 900 W Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140.

November 7, 9:00 am**Cobbs Creek Park/Morris Park**

The woods, meadow, and wetland near Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center are excellent in late fall. We will look for notable birds like pileated woodpecker, winter wren, fox sparrows, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. A walk in Cobbs Creek in November 2010 produced Pennsylvania's 3rd record Townsend's Warbler. November is the best time for wandering western vagrants.

Meeting Location: Papa Playground, 6839 Landsdowne Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151.

December 12, 10:00 am**East Park Reservoir**

The reservoir is one of the best spots in the area for diving ducks including locally rare canvasbacks. We will also look for wintering ducks, sparrows and other birds. This location is the future home of Pennsylvania Audubon and Outward Bound's new Discovery Center. From there, we will explore nearby Sedgley Woods.

Meeting Location: Disc Golf Course parking lot at 33rd and Oxford Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19121 *(Mander Playground is near this location.)*