

# Make Your Bird Sightings Count

BLUE MOUNTAIN—  
KITTATINNY RIDGE  
CONSERVATION  
PROJECT

The Kittatinny Ridge (also known as Blue Mountain) provides some of the best birdwatching on the East Coast. Well-known sites like Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Bake Oven Knob get much of the public attention, but residents of the area know that birds can be found almost anywhere along the Ridge, including their own backyards and farms. The National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have created a way for these everyday observations to be put to use by scientists and conservation organizations. **Pennsylvania eBird** is part of an international effort to study bird populations, but it needs your observations to work.



#### TOP 5 REASONS TO USE eBird

1. Help Audubon and others track bird populations so they can be conserved.
2. Keep track of the birds you see at your favorite spots: eBird creates charts and lists with ease.
3. Keep your bird lists (life list, state list, etc.) organized automatically.
4. Find out what others are seeing nearby, or at your vacation spot.
5. It's a great excuse to go birdwatching.

#### How does Pennsylvania eBird work?

The eBird website collects bird sightings from “citizen scientists”—anyone with an interest in birds, even beginners—and stores it safely for use by scientists. eBird also allows users to find out about the birds reported by others at their local park, or within their county. The website allows you to quickly and easily create maps, charts, and lists detailing when and where different species have been found. It also automatically keeps track of the observations you submit and organizes them in tables and lists.

#### What kind of observations should I submit? What if I can't identify everything?

Any bird sighting can and should be submitted, even those that seem ordinary. The power of eBird is in collecting large quantities of data that can show population changes in both common and rare species. The most valuable observations come from a single location that is visited frequently over a long period of time. For many people, their backyard or a local park fits this description and data from these sites is of great value to scientists, even if most of the birds reported are common species like cardinals and blue jays. eBird accounts for many common identification mistakes and different levels of identification skills.

#### How do I get started?

Visit the Pennsylvania eBird website at <http://www.ebird.org/content/pa>. Create a username and password, then start submitting observations or exploring the information already in the database.