

Wissahickon Watershed Birdathon Birding Locations

1. Knapp Woods

Owned by Montgomery Twp

N40° 14.217' W75° 15.644'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-2

Take Knapp Rd NW towards Lansdale from Rt 202 (Knapp Rd runs behind the Montgomery Mall). Cross N Wales Rd. Knapp Woods will be on your right where the Wissahickon crosses Knapp Rd and just before Knapp Rd bears a hard right. You can park on the next road to the left, Valley Brook Dr.

Knapp Woods is a fairly mature mixed deciduous forest. Can be good for warblers but the trees are fairly tall.

2. Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve

Owned by Natural Lands Trust

N40° 11.489' W75° 16.407'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-4

From the intersection of Morris Rd and Rt 202 drive NE on Rt 202 towards Montgomeryville to the next light, Township Line Rd, and turn left. Take the next right onto Swedesford Rd. After crossing the Wissahickon and passing Evans-Mumbower Mill go another ¼ mile and look for the sign to the preserve on your left. During the birdathon the chain across the entrance to the preserve will not be locked. Please replace the chain as you found it after you enter AND leave. We are permitted to enter during daylight hours only. At times other than birdathon weekend you can park at Evans Mill (below) or drive to the end of Evergreen Dr adjacent to Evans Mill.

The preserve is managed by the Natural Lands Trust to provide wetlands, ponds, grasslands, scrub and some older deciduous forest. It can be good for sandpipers, waterfowl, Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Kestrels and many other species.

3. Evans-Mumbower Mill

Owned by WVWA

N40° 11.206' W75° 16.727'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-4

From the intersection of Morris Rd and Rt 202 drive NE on Rt 202 towards Montgomeryville to the next light, Township Line Rd, and turn left. Take the next right onto Swedesford Rd. After crossing the Wissahickon Evans-Mumbower Mill will be immediately on your left.

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From the mill you can access the Green Ribbon trail by crossing the Wissahickon and walking towards Township Line Rd. There are signs marking the entrances on the north and south sides of the road.

4. Crossways Preserve

Owned by WVWA

N40° 10.533' W75° 16.102'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-4

From the intersection of Rt 202 and Morris Rd go SE on Morris Rd towards Ambler and take the second left onto Cathcart Rd. A short distance on your right will be a small grass parking lot for the preserve.

5. Penllyn Woods Park

Owned by Lower Gwynedd Twp

N40° 10.442' W75° 15.249'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-3

From the intersection of Morris Rd and Penllyn-Bluebell Pk drive NE on Penllyn-Bluebell Pk towards Springhouse. After crossing the Wissahickon make an immediate, sharp left onto Township Line Rd. Follow this winding road all the way to the end where you will find parking lots, ball fields and a pavilion.

Behind the pavilion is an elevated walkway over forested wetlands.

6. Penllyn Natural Area

Owned by WVWA

N40° 10.115' W75° 15.128'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-3

Follow the directions to Penllyn Woods Park (above) but stop soon after making the sharp left onto Township Line Rd. Park near LaSalle University Biological Station (small white building).

Walk back to Penllyn-Bluebell Pike and turn right, cross the creek and look for the WVWA trail marker to enter the Natural Area. The trail is easily followed, and forms a loop.

7. Armentrout Preserve

Owned by Whitpain Twp & WVWA

N40° 9.432' W75° 15.361'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-6

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From the intersection of Morris Rd and Penllyn-Bluebell Pk drive SW on Penllyn-Bluebell Pk towards Bluebell. Travel about a ¼ mile to Beale Rd on your left. Turn left onto Beale Rd and follow it to the end and the preserve parking lot.

8. Camp Woods

Owned by WVWA

N40° 9.421' W75° 14.953'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-5

From the intersection of Butler Pk and Morris Rd drive NW on Morris Rd for about 0.6 miles and turn left onto Lewis Ln (the next left). After about 0.6 miles turn right onto Miles Dr (the next right). Take Miles Dr to Mason Dr (right turn only). Go to the end of Mason Dr and park. Camp Woods will be directly ahead of you. Walk to your left on the trail along of the edge of the field. Turn right onto the trail that meanders through Camp Woods.

This is probably the only stand of publicly accessible mature deciduous woods in the watershed outside of Fairmount Park. We have had Kentucky Warblers in the lower portions of the southern side of these woods.

9. Ambler Reservoir

Private Property

N40° 9.322' W75° 13.606'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-5

From the intersection of Butler Pk and Morris Rd drive NE on Butler Pk towards Ambler. Immediately after McDonalds take a left onto W Maple St. The reservoir is about 0.2 miles on your left. You can park on the right side of the road.

This is a great spot for wintering waterfowl. In the spring it is good for herons, egrets, the occasional cormorant and Wood Ducks. At this time the reservoir is private property so please do not enter. For the birdathon we have been granted access to the warehouse on the other side of Maple St and a conference room with large windows overlooking the reservoir. Our viewing times are limited to Friday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. The receptionist should be aware of our use of this room.

10. Prophecy Creek Park

Owned by Whitpain Twp

N40° 8.676' W75° 15.157'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C1-6

Wissahickon Watershed Birdathon Birding Locations

From the intersection of Butler Pk and Rt 73 (Skippack Pk) drive NW on Rt 73 towards Blue Bell. Just after you pass Narcissa Rd on your left the entrance to the park is on your right. The park is adjacent to Shady Grove Elementary School.

This beautiful park has a pond, some wetlands, woods and fields with hedge rows. It can be good for swallows and kestrels. Check around the barn for nesting phoebes and Barn Swallows.

11. Willow Lake Farm

Owned by WVWA & some is Private Property

N40° 8.331' W75° 14.574'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-5

The farm extends from the intersection of Rt 73 and Butler Pk along the SE side of Butler Pk towards Ambler. Public access to WVWA property is available behind the Citizens Bank on the eastern corner of the intersection of Rt 73 and Butler Pk where you will find signs and a trail.

There are some good fields and hedge rows here.

For the birdathon only the owner has granted us access to the farm fields and pastures. From the public entrance above drive down Butler Pk towards Ambler and past the yellow horse stalls, barn and two driveways. The third driveway on your right will take you towards the residence. Take this driveway back and to the right around the barn and into a courtyard. PLEASE be very careful here as there are likely to be horses, people and dogs in the courtyard. Continue through the courtyard and bear left into the pastures.

Look for the "Wild" Turkeys around the barn and stalls. The pastures can be good for Killdeer, Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and raptors.

12. Four Mills Nature Reserve

Owned by WVWA

N40° 8.792' W75° 13.520'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-5

This is the headquarters of WVWA at 12 Morris Rd. From the intersection of Butler Pk and Morris Rd head SE on Morris Rd ¼ mile to the barn and sign on your left.

After parking walk to the bridge over the Wissahickon and check the bulletin board for current bird sightings. Cross the bridge and explore both up and downstream.

Wissahickon Watershed Birdathon Birding Locations

13. Northwestern Institute

Private Property

N40° 8.094' W75° 12.819'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-C2-5

This pond/wetland is to the west of the intersection of Morris Rd and Bethlehem Pk. Be aware that this is behind a private institute that may be concerned about your scope being a camera. They have always responded well when you explain that you are “just” birdwatching.

This is a good spot for migrating shorebirds.

14. Fort Washington State Park, Militia Hill

N40° 7.237' W75° 13.358'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-1

From the intersection of Rt 73 and Bethlehem Pk take Rt 73 NW towards Blue Bell, cross the Wissahickon and take the next left onto Militia Hill Rd. Take the next left into the park, drive up the hill and enter the parking lot on your right across from the hawk watch platform.

Check out the feeders around the hawk watch platform including a hummingbird feeder. From the platform, facing the parking lot, Ridge Rd (closed to vehicular traffic) runs up and to your left. This is a good birding spot especially if you continue past the end of Ridge Rd and cross Joshua Rd into the woods.

15. Fort Washington State Park, Phila. Cricket Club

N40° 6.495' W75° 13.368'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-1

From the intersection of Rt 73 and Bethlehem Pk take Bethlehem Pk south towards Flourtown. Follow Bethlehem Pk for about a ½ mile after Rt 73 leaves Bethlehem Pk to the left. Turn right at the second light onto W Valley Green Rd. After crossing the Wissahickon and winding about a bit you will come to the Philadelphia Cricket Club on your right. Park in the parking lot across the street, on your left.

Facing the Wissahickon, away from the club, there is a trail that runs to your left and into some nice woods. This can be good for warblers.

16. Fort Washington State Park, Flourtown

N40° 6.474' W75° 13.122'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-1

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Following the directions for FW SP, Cricket Club (above) continue past W Valley Green Rd on Bethlehem Pk for another 0.4 miles and turn right at the second light onto W Mill Rd. The park will be on your right in a bout a ¼ mile.

17. Erdenheim Farms

Private Property

N40° 5.887' W75° 14.307'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-1

From the intersection of Stenton Ave and Joshua Rd head SE on Stenton Ave towards Chestnut Hill. Turn right at the next light onto Flourtown Rd. Take the next left onto Thomas Rd and the next right onto the Eugenia Hospital driveway. Pull off to the side of the driveway.

Scan the field to your right, bound by the driveway, Thomas Rd and Flourtown Rd. This field is typically left fallow for haying and can be good for grassland birds, especially Bobolinks.

18. Fairmount Park, Andorra/Harpers Meadow

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 5.112' W75° 13.826'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-1 & 82-D2-3

This area is directly south of the intersection of Germantown Pk and Northwestern Ave. Park along Northwestern Ave SW of Germantown Pk.

In 2001 and 2002 we had Yellow-throated Warblers attempting to nest in the pines around the riding rink and stable. Further down into the meadow Yellow-throated Vireos may be found.

19. Fairmount Park, Bells Mill Rd

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 4.762' W75° 13.499'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection of Germantown Pk and Northwestern Ave drive SE on Germantown Ave towards Chestnut Hill. At the second light turn right onto Bells Mill Rd. Drive down to the Wissahickon and park in the lot on your right just before the creek, or park on the other side up the hill a bit in the lot on your left.

Walking south on Forbidden Dr, Acadian Flycatchers can be found nesting along the creek. A little further along, walking down to the covered bridge, nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes can be found.

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20. Fairmount Park, Rex Ave

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 4.221' W75° 12.924'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection Germantown Pk and Rex Ave take Rex Ave SW towards the Wissahickon all the way till it dead ends into Fairmount Park. Pull off to the side of the road as best you can.

Walking down Rex Ave past the gate there is a beautiful steep sided valley.

21. Fairmount Park, Valley Green Rd

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 3.299' W75° 13.062'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection of Germantown Ave and W Springfield Ave drive SW on W Springfield Ave towards the Wissahickon for about ¾ mile. Bear right onto Valley Green Rd and continue on down to the parking lot near the Valley Green Inn.

22. McCallum Street Bridge

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 3.278' W75° 12.294'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection of Germantown Pk and W Allens Ln take W Allens Ln SW towards the Wissahickon for about 0.8 miles. Turn right on McCallum St and park on the right just before the bridge.

Walk across the bridge and you will be overlooking the Cresheim Valley and at the tops of old growth trees. This can be very advantageous for those high foraging warblers.

23. Fairmount Park, Livezey Ln

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 2.854' W75° 12.633'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection of Germantown Ave and W Allens Ln take W Allens Ln SW towards the Wissahickon for about 1¼ miles. At the intersection of W Allens Ln and Wissahickon Ave, Livezey Ln bears right down into the Wissahickon Valley.

Wissahickon Watershed Birdathon Birding Locations

24. Carpenters Woods

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

N40° 2.651' W75° 11.999'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-3

From the intersection of Germantown Ave and W Allens Ln take W Allens Ln SW towards the Wissahickon for almost 1 mile. Turn left on Greene St. After the second intersection, Mt. Pleasant Rd, Carpenters Woods is on your right. You can continue on, taking right turns around the woods and park anywhere it is legal but many like to park at the entrance at the intersection of W Sedgwick St and Wayne Ave.

This is a marvelous spot for thrushes, warblers and the occasional Pileated Woodpecker. This year, 2004, we have had reports of a Barred Owl in the area and it has been heard as recently as April 20th.

25. Walnut Lane Golf Course

Private Property

N40° 1.772' W75° 12.215'

Breeding Bird Atlas Block 82-D2-5

From the intersection of Henry Ave and Walnut Ln take Walnut Ln NE towards the Wissahickon. Take your next left onto Magdalena St and park at the ball field parking lot, NOT at the club house.

You can walk down Walnut Ln and around this public golf course. Walnut Lane Golf Course is in the process of being certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Their staff is aware of the birdathon and it would be great to support these folks in their effort.