

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 7-9.5 inches

Weight: 32-77 grams

Color: Male is black with bright red patch edged with yellow/white margin on the "shoulder" part of the wing; Female is striped in dark and light brown streaks with light stripes over the eyes

General: Hump-backed silhouette when perched

Usually Found: Marshes, meadows, hayfields, swamps, parks, golf courses, suburbs



Did You Know?

- The red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) is one of the most abundant species of native birds in North America.
- Red-winged blackbirds roost in flocks throughout the year. In the fall and winter, these flocks grow to several million birds and include different species, such as blackbirds, starlings, grackles, and cowbirds.
- The more confident the male bird is feeling, the more he exposes his red, yellow, and white shoulder patches. He is also capable of completely hiding his red shoulder patches.
- The male spends the breeding season trying to get noticed by females, all the time singing his "conk-la-ree!" song.
- Red-winged blackbirds are polygynous and males can have anywhere from 5 to 15 mates.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance
- The first time territorial singing is heard

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this bird is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:

<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

(www.usanpn.org)