

Have you seen a...

American Robin

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 9-11 inches

Weight: 77-85 grams

Color: Dark gray or brown back, brick-red breast, yellow bill

General: Long tail; Male is darker than female

Usually Found: Lawns, farms, forests, backyards, golf courses



Did You Know?

- The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is one of the most well-known birds in America, because its first appearance is a harbinger of spring!
- Despite the bird being considered a “sign of spring,” some robins stay all winter without migrating.
- Its short-phrased song sounds like “tut-tut-tut” which is a sing-songy, up and down affair.
- Robins also make a “whinnying” sound, reminiscent of a horse.
- During the breeding season, robins are one of the first birds to begin singing in the morning and one of the last birds to stop singing in the evening.
- Robins are a helpful indicator of chemical pollution, because they spend much of their time on lawns and are highly susceptible pesticide poisoning.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- First time full song is heard
- First time bird is seen
- First time bird is seen eating
- First time bird is seen nest building



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

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
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)