

Have you seen a...

American Woodcock

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 11 inches

Weight: 116 - 279 grams

Color: Brown and black camouflage pattern

General: Extremely long bill; Large, bulging eyes

Usually Found: Forests, brushy swamps



Did You Know?

- The American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is also known as the “timberdoodle”.
- The bird uses its long bill to catch earthworms by repeatedly probing the ground.
- The bird is hunted regularly for sport.
- They nest in shallow holes in the ground in lay 1-12 eggs.
- The male woodcock performs an intricate routine to attract females, which includes spiraling up in the air, circling, and then flying back towards the ground in a zig-zag pattern.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance
- Peenting and courtship flight

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)