

Wissahickon Watershed Birdathon Birding Locations



Note: *Italicized names are how sites are named as eBird Hotspots*; Street addresses may not be exact, but will get you to the correct general location using Google Maps app.

1. Knapp Woods (*Montgomery Twp. Natural Area*)

Owned by Montgomery Twp
Knapp Rd & Valley Brook Dr.

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. Dodsworth Run Preserve

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
512 Dickerson Rd, Upper Gwynedd

Take Sumneytown Pike NW from Rt 202. Dickerson Rd will be on your right. Follow for about ½ a mile to preserve parking lot on left.

Dodsworth Run Preserve has a vernal pool that may produce migrating shorebirds.

3. Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve

Owned by Natural Lands Trust
640 Swedesford Rd, North Wales, PA 19454

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.

There is a small parking lot on the left after you enter. You can park there and walk the preserve. In addition, during the birdathon the chain across the access road will not be locked. You can drive to the NLT office and park there. Please replace the chain as you found it after you enter AND leave. We are permitted to enter during daylight hours only.

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.

4. Evans-Mumbower Mill

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
Evergreen Rd & Swedesford Rd, Upper Gwynedd

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.

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.

5. Crossways Preserve

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
357 Cathcart Rd, Blue Bell, PA

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 gravel parking lot for the preserve.

6. Penllyn Woods Park

Owned by Lower Gwynedd Twp
1227 Township Line Rd, Penllyn

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.

7. Penllyn Natural Area

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
600 Lantern Lane, Blue Bell

From the intersection of Morris Rd and Penllyn-Bluebell Pk drive NE on Penllyn-Bluebell Pk towards Springhouse, then turn left onto Lantern Lane. There is a small lot immediately to the right. You'll see signs for the preserve to the right. The trail is easily followed, and forms a loop.

8. Armentrout Preserve

Owned by Whitpain Twp & Wissahickon Trails
500 Beale Rd, Blue Bell

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.

9. Camp Woods

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
501 Mason Dr, Blue Bell

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.

10. Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve

Private Property
200 Maple Ave, Ambler

From the intersection of Butler Pk and Morris Rd drive NE on Butler Pk towards Ambler. Turn left onto W Maple St. The reservoir is about 0.2 miles on your left. You can park on either 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. All viewing must be done from outside the fence.

11. Prophecy Creek Park / Briar Hill Preserve

Owned by Whitpain Twp and Wissahickon Trails
205 W. Skippack Pike, Ambler

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.

12. Willow Lake Farm

Owned by Wissahickon Trails & some is Private Property
7000 Butler Pike, Ambler

The farm extends from the intersection of Rt 73 and Butler Pk along the SE side of Butler Pk towards Ambler. Public access to Wissahickon Trails property is available behind the CVS 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.

The pastures can be good for Killdeer, Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and raptors.

13. Four Mills Nature Reserve

Owned by Wissahickon Trails
12 Morris Rd, Ambler

This is the headquarters of Wissahickon Trails 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, cross the bridge and explore both up and downstream.

14. Sandy Run Wetlands Restoration Area (*Lafayette Ave. Connector Wetlands*)

Private Property
464 S. Bethlehem Pike, Fort Washington

From the intersection of Butler Pk and Morris Rd head SE on Morris Rd X miles to Lafayette Ave (Morris turns into Lafayette). Turn left onto the Lafayette Ave Connector and then right onto Bethlehem Pk. There is a small gravel parking lot on your right.

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.

There are a few paths through the area, and it is a good spot for migrating shorebirds.

15. Fort Washington State Park, Militia Hill

447 Militia Hill Rd, Fort Washington

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.

16. Fort Washington State Park, Phila. Cricket Club

6025 W. Valley Green Rd, Flourtown

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.

17. Fort Washington State Park, Flourtown

44 W. Mill Rd, Flourtown

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 about a ¼ mile.

18. Dixon Meadow Preserve

Owned by the Whitemarsh Foundation
548 Flourtown Rd, Lafayette Hill

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. Stay right on Flourtown Rd at the next intersection with Thomas Rd. In ¼ mile turn left into the parking lot and walk back to the meadow trail and boardwalk

Dixon Meadow Preserve is good for grassland birds, especially Bobolinks and Meadowlarks. The wetlands area can be good for shorebirds. Scan the skies for a variety of raptors.

19. Morris Arboretum

Owned by University of Pennsylvania
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

From the intersection of Germantown Pk and Northwestern Ave proceed north on Northwestern Ave. Entrance to the Arboretum is on the right. Pull into the entrance and tell the gate attendant that you are there for the Birdathon. Park in the grass lot to the left after the gate house. The gates will be open at 8am. This is the same weekend as their plant sale so it is advised that people get there early.

20. Fairmount Park, Andorra/Harpers Meadow (*Andorra Meadow*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

Either 200 W Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia (The Cedars House). This area is directly south of the intersection of Germantown Pk and Northwestern Ave. Park along Northwestern Ave SW of Germantown Pk.

OR

300 W. Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia (Wissahickon Environmental Center). Park in the Andorra Parking Area lot.

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.

The area around the WEC can be good for warblers.

21. Fairmount Park, Bells Mill Rd (*Wissahickon Valley Park – North End*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

890 Bells Mill Rd, Philadelphia

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.

22. Fairmount Park, Rex Ave (*Wissahickon Valley Park – North of Valley Green*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia

501 Rex Ave, Philadelphia

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.

23. Fairmount Park, Valley Green Rd (*Wissahickon Valley Park – Valley Green*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia
Valley Green Rd Parking Lot, Philadelphia.

This is the Upper parking lot, continue down Valley Green Rd to Valley Green Inn parking lot if desired.

From the intersection of Germantown Ave and W Springfield Ave drive SW on W Springfield Ave towards the Wissahickon for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Bear right onto Valley Green Rd and continue on down to the parking lot near the Valley Green Inn.

24. McCallum Street Bridge (*no eBird Hotspot*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia
McCallum St & Elbow Lane

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. Note that it can get very noisy when traffic picks up.

25. Fairmount Park, Livezey Ln (*No eBird Hotspot*)

Owned by the City of Philadelphia
1100 Livezey Lane, Philadelphia

From the intersection of Germantown Ave and W Allens Ln take W Allens Ln SW towards the Wissahickon for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. At the intersection of W Allens Ln and Wissahickon Ave, Livezey Ln bears right down into the Wissahickon Valley.

26. Carpenters Woods

Owned by the City of Philadelphia
Wayne Ave & Sedgwick St, Philadelphia

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 and Barred Owl.