

## **The Big Atlas Weekend – Friday-Sunday, June 23-25**

The Big Atlas Weekend is an opportunity for birders in NC, two other states, and two Canadian provinces that are running bird atlases to do some intensive atlasing and engage in some friendly atlasing competitions.

### **Schedule:**

- **June 1st or 16th: Join the NC Bird Atlas Team for a “how to participate” webinar. June 1st 12-1 pm; June 16th 6-7pm.** Learn more about Big Atlas Weekend and how to participate in North Carolina. We'll present Atlas Basics and answer any questions you might have.
- **June 21 6-8 pm EDT – Kickoff.** Introduction by Atlas coordinators followed by Trivia Game led by the NC Bird Atlas. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/425z6yuf>
- **June 23-25 – Big Atlas Weekend!** Go atlasing from 6 pm EDT on Friday to 11:59 pm EDT on Sunday. [Join the Facebook Event Here](#)
- **June 28 6 – 8 pm EDT – Awards ceremony.** Enjoy highlights from the weekend, share your stories in small groups with atlasers from all regions, and find out who won the individual and state champion awards. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2n4h6bap>

### **Activities:**

We're planning several atlasing field trips to local priority blocks in our region that weekend – stay tuned for details on times/dates/locations. Plus we're hoping that each birder who has adopted a priority block will be able to do lots of atlasing in their block(s) on those days. For many birds in our area, breeding activity peaks in mid to late June, so it's a great time to confirm breeding and fill gaps in the Atlas dataset.

### **Competitions:**

The Big Atlas Weekend will have prize opportunities for atlasers of all skill levels, ranging from first-timers to veterans. One prize winner will be randomly selected in each of the following categories to win a Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Academy course of their choosing.

#### **THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGES ARE...**

- Nocturnal checklists submitted between 20 minutes after sunset and 40 minutes before sunrise
- Newly coded or upgraded species in a priority block
- Checklists with breeding codes from an incomplete block
- Atlas-related photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the appropriate atlas project tagged.

### **Interstate Competition:**

Just to make this event even more exciting, the Atlas team has set up a friendly competition between the five participating states/provinces. The winning project will receive the Big Atlas Weekend trophy and

have their state or province engraved on the side. Maine took it home last year; will NC be the winner this year?

For more details on the specifics of the competition visit this site: [\*\*Big Atlas Weekend 2023 - North Carolina Bird Atlas \(ebird.org\)\*\*](https://ebird.org/bigatlasweekend2023)

And if nothing else, be sure to plan to spend some great atlasing time June 23-25!

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