

Using a Bird Checklist

Bird checklists outline the species that occur in a region and how common they are during different seasons. You can help birds by keeping a checklist. Recording what you see and reporting your observations to community science projects like *eBird* helps scientists to better understand bird populations and make important conservation decisions.

Use the bird checklist provided to answer the following questions:

1. What geographic area is this checklist for? _____
2. What season is it right now and what is that season's abbreviation? _____
3. What does "PR" mean? _____
4. What does "M" mean? _____
5. What months are the "WR" bird species seen in this region? _____
6. Why do you think there are two statuses for summer, "SR" and "SV"? _____

7. How can you tell if a bird makes its nest in this area? _____
8. Name of a species that is considered "abundant" during this season. _____
9. Name of a bird that is considered "common" during this season. _____
10. Name of a bird that is rare year-round in this area. Why do you think it is rare? _____

11. What information does the checklist user need to provide besides marking the birds that were observed? Why is this information important? _____

12. How are the species organized on this checklist? _____

VOCABULARY

Accidental species — a species that is found on a rare occasion but does not live permanently or seasonally in the area.

Irruptive species — a species found outside of its normal geographic range due to changes in food supply.

Migrant — a species that passes through a geographic area only during its seasonal migration.

Now that you know how to use a bird checklist, take one outside and record what you see. Submit your findings to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *eBird* database. Or use the free *eBird* app on your mobile device to record and submit your findings in the field. Keeping a checklist is a fun way to keep track of birds you see at home, at school, or other places you visit—and it helps with bird conservation, too.

Taking it further: Create your own checklist for birds or other organisms you find in your yard, school, or a place you visit regularly.



Brown-headed Nuthatches live in Georgia year-round.