



A Project of the  
**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS**  
 and

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
*in cooperation with*

New York Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
 Cornell University Department of Natural Resources  
 Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology  
 National Audubon Society of New York

## NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 2000 NEWSLETTER

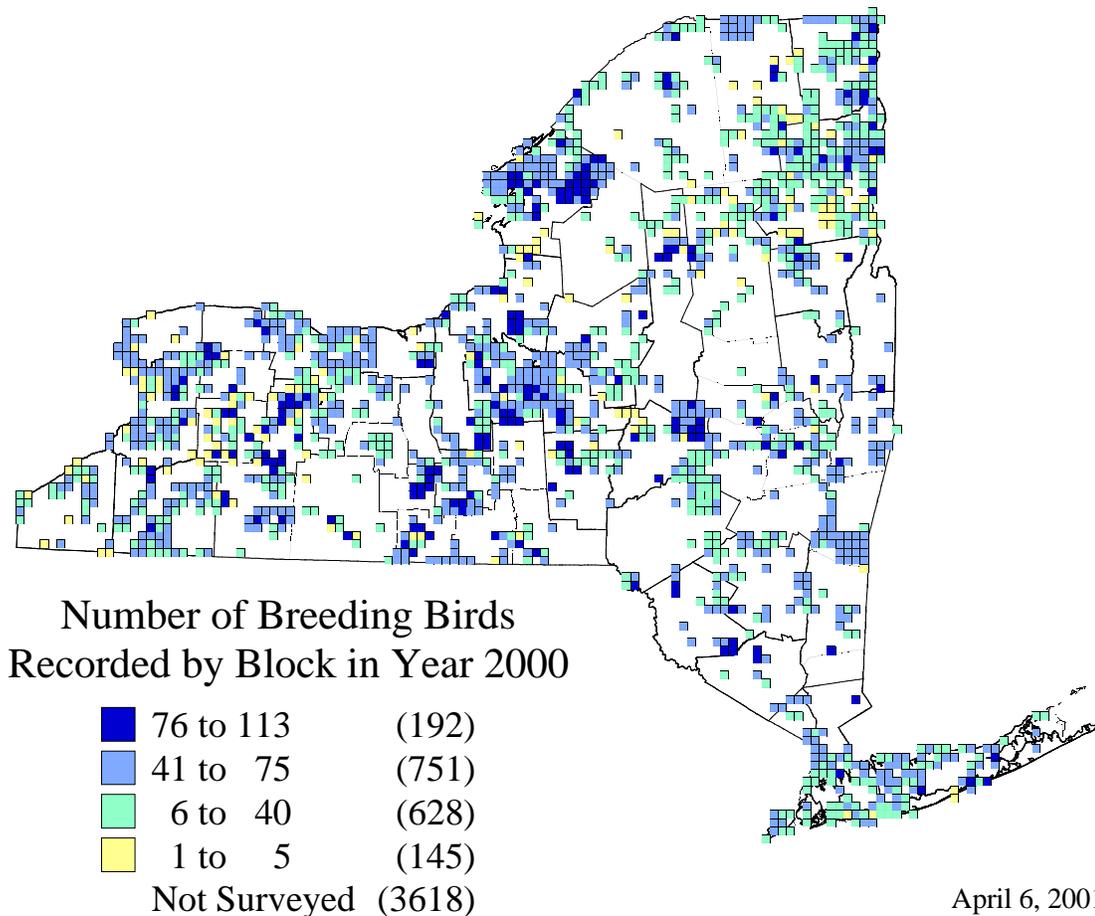
NUMBER THREE

APRIL 2001

### Field Season 2000

You scoped out your block. You got up at 4:00 am. You endured the mosquitoes. You learned new birds *and* their songs. You met new neighbors. You and hundreds of others all over the state became an Atlaser! The work you did was great. The Atlas database now holds more than 80,000 species records representing 241 different species. That is more than 20% of the total records that were reported during the entire first Breeding Bird Atlas. More than 1,700 of the 5,334 blocks in the state were visited during this first year. Some blocks have only one species reported in them, but others have over 100. The average number of species reported in a block during this first year is 46.

The map below shows our progress in the state (can you find your block?). As you can see, we have a very long way to go! We will produce maps like these each year that will track our progress. Interim species distribution maps will also be posted on the Atlas website. *Thank you* for all of your hard work! Let's go have another great year.



## Clarifications of the Breeding Codes

With one full season of the Atlas behind us, we should pause to consider what we have learned and try to apply these lessons to having an even better second season. One of the issues that emerged from the first season is the proper use of the Breeding Codes. Several volunteers and Regional Coordinators have noted that not all breeding behaviors that fit tidily into the Breeding Codes. We have also noticed some codes being used incorrectly. The first word of advice is to refer to the complete definitions of the Breeding Codes in your Handbook rather than relying solely on the abbreviated versions on the Field Card. Below are elaborations of several Breeding Code descriptions.

- X, S or T for singing:** There are three codes into which the behavior of singing will fit. A singing male that is present during the breeding season and in the correct breeding habitat for that species should be recorded as X. If you return to that location *at least a week later* (and still during the breeding season) and hear singing by the same species, it should be recorded as S. You may upgrade an X or an S to T if you hear a male *persistently* singing or hear several males of the same species singing in the same area.
- P- Pair observed in suitable breeding habitat:** Pair refers to a male and female together, not just any two members of the same species. To use this code, you must be able to determine that one bird is a male and the other a female. This may be obvious because of differences in plumage or size, or it may be more subtly indicated by behavior. Two birds of the same species does not make a pair unless there are identifiable differences between them.
- T - Bird holding territory:** As the Handbook says, chasing of other individuals of the same species often marks a territory. Territorial singing does, too. Territorial singing is *persistent* and continues for an extended period. It should not be confused with an occasional song or a song heard only a few times.
- N - Visiting probable nest site:** A bird flying into a bush or tree may be doing one of many things. This code should be used only when the bird goes in and out of a probable nest site *repeatedly*. It is a useful code for Rock Doves going under bridges or Barn Swallows going into barns.
- DD - Distraction display or injury feigning:** Distraction displays and injury feigning are specific behaviors most often exhibited by species such as Killdeer and other ground nesters. These highly evolved displays often include dragging of a wing or tail, as well as calling or squeaking and flashing of brightly contrasting feathers. The goal of the display is to move the predator's attention away from the nest and young. Distraction displays should not be confused with anxiety calls or agitated behavior, which should be recorded as 'D'.
- FL - Recently fledged young:** Recently fledged young may be difficult to identify if you do not know what to look for. See the article on page 5 to learn the characteristics of fledglings. This code can also be used for a sighting of a family group that includes half-grown young of relatively sedentary birds, such as Canada geese, grouse, or woodcock, even though the young are not *recently* fledged. Use caution when a bird is seen at the edge of a block or late in the summer.
- ON - Adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest:** ON should be used to record an *Occupied Nest* when you see a bird making frequent trips into and out of a nest site. If you see a bird flying into and out of a nest site, but do not find a nest, use 'N'. Be careful with hole-nesting species; if the bird is in a hole for only a few moments, it probably does not have a nest there. *ON does not stand for On Nest*. An incubating adult should be recorded as 'NE'.
- FY - Adult with food for young:** If you see an adult carrying food during the breeding season, you can safely assume that the food item is for its young; you do not have to actually see the adult give the food to the young. This code should also be used when you do see an adult actually feeding young.



Use your own good judgement when trying to determine which Breeding Code to use. It is important to put each situation into context. What is the species, specific behavior, time of year, time of day, habitat, etc...? Also, keep in mind your location within the block. If you are near the edge, might the grouse family you just saw have wandered from the adjacent block? It is also very important to avoid recording migrants. Please see the article on "Breeding Season Dates" on page 5.

If you feel uncertain about which code to use, spend more time observing. This will allow you to make the correct decision and feel comfortable with that decision. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to discuss them with your Regional Coordinator.

## Notable Species Forms Protocol Update

Volunteers will be pleased to learn that Notable Species Forms will no longer be *required* for observations of Notable Species. We will *request*, however, that volunteers continue to complete the Form and submit a map indicating the location of the sighting when these species are encountered. Here is why.

Notable Species are listed below and are asterisked on the Field Card. Each species on this list has been identified as rare or as a “species of management concern” in the state. This means that populations of these species have been determined to be declining or are otherwise threatened. The Notable Species Form is **not** used to verify your ability to identify a species, only to get more information on the biology of the species.

Pied-billed Grebe	Three-toed Woodpecker
American Bittern	Loggerhead Shrike
Least Bittern	Sedge Wren
Trumpeter Swan	Bicknell's Thrush
Ruddy Duck	Tennessee Warbler
Northern Harrier	Cape May Warbler
Golden Eagle	Yellow-throated Warbler
Spruce Grouse	Palm Warbler
Black Rail	Bay-breasted Warbler
King Rail	Prothonotary Warbler
Upland Sandpiper	Kentucky Warbler
Barn Owl	Wilson's Warbler
Long-eared Owl	Yellow-breasted Chat
Short-eared Owl	Clay-colored Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Henslow's Sparrow
Chuck-will's-widow	Seaside Sparrow
Whip-poor-will	

*Please keep in mind that many Atlas Regions have a separate list of species for which verification is required and you still need to contact your Regional Coordinator when you encounter one of those species.* The regional lists are posted on the website. You can also obtain one from your Regional Coordinator.

The Notable Species Forms are given to the New York Natural Heritage Program and to the Department of Environmental Conservation's Endangered Species Unit. Especially valuable are the maps that accompany the Notable Species Form because they provide location data. Staff at the Natural Heritage Program are digitizing these locations. Using a map overlay of vegetation types, soil types and water bodies, biologists can determine the habitat requirements of a species. Location information is also critical to the environmental review process and may help to provide protection for sites where these species occur.

We are all interested in bird conservation. Steps toward conservation cannot occur, though, if we do not have the necessary background information. The valuable data collected through the Notable Species Forms will be available for querying when issues of land management arise and for future research projects. →

## Using the Casual Observation Form by John W. Ozard

The Casual Observation Form (COF) should be used for one time visits, such as field trips, or for records that are incidental to other field work or reasons you are visiting a block. This Form should only be used for reporting birds in blocks that you do not intend to survey more formally (i.e., you will not be completing an Annual Summary Form).

For example, you should not submit a COF for early season nesters, such as owls or crossbills, when you intend to survey the block for additional nesting birds later in the same breeding season. Please record these early nesters on your Field Card and transcribe them to the Annual Summary Form (ASF) at the end of the field season. If you are vacationing and are birding at the same site or within the same block on more than one day, it would be best to submit an ASF rather than two or more COFs.

If you have already submitted breeding records for a block on a COF and you continue working in that block during the same calendar year, only the new species should be submitted on the Annual Summary Form. **Do not submit the same data twice!** This will help us to ensure we do not have duplicate breeding records in the database, submitted on both an Annual Summary Form and a Casual Observation Form.

### Atlasing Gulls

Please be careful about recording gulls. They are often found loafing in various areas such as landfills and shopping malls, even small ponds and rivers during the breeding season, but do not nest there.

There are four species of gull that breed in New York. They are Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Herring Gull. The first three breed only in association with large bodies of water such as Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, as well as along the St. Lawrence River or the Long Island shore. Herring Gulls breed at the above named large bodies of water as well as inland. They breed in many of the lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks.

Take care when you see gulls while atlasing. It may be their breeding season, but if you are not at one of the known breeding sites, they should not be counted as breeding birds.

Please continue to use the Notable Species Form when you encounter one of the species listed above. Include a block map indicating the location of the sighting and send it to your Regional Coordinator. Your time and energy will be well spent.

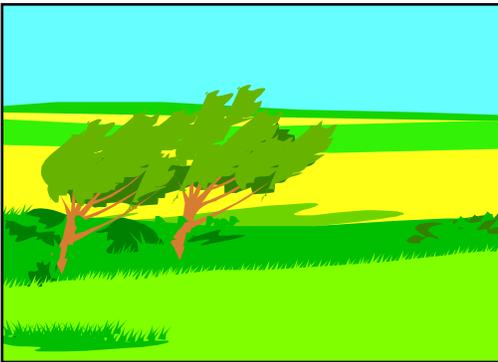
## Remember Long Pond!

by Chad E. Covey

*5:30am - Feeling a stinging on your wrist you swat at a mosquito and watch as another itchy, red bump emerges from your skin. Your boots and socks are soaked from the morning dew and you sleepily wonder, "Why am I here when I could be home, dry and far less itchy, drinking coffee, or better yet, still in my comfortable bed?"*

**Hesitate not! Remember Long Pond!**

In 1963, a 2,200 acre, inactive Guernsey dairy farm was acquired by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Lands and Forests and added to the Long Pond State Forest. Long Pond State Forest is currently comprised of 3,254 acres in the Town of Smithville in the southwestern part of Chenango County. It is the larger of two State Forests in the Long Pond Management Unit. This new parcel's history as a dairy farm accounts for the atypically large amount of grassland (375 acres) on the State Forest. The remainder of the unit consists primarily of mixed natural hardwood/conifer and natural hardwoods as well as the forest's signature 117 acre Long Pond.



In 1990, two Senior Foresters in the Sherburne DEC office, John Sherwood and Robert Slavicek, began to develop a Management Plan for the unit. Conventional State Forest management at the time was to develop recreational trails, manage the forests for primarily wood products, and reforest the open fields. The first step in management planning, however, is to gather any available information on the unit. In that regard, the foresters contacted the DEC Nongame Unit at Delmar for Breeding Bird Atlas data.

Breeding Bird Atlas data revealed possible breeding of three significant grassland species: Henslow's Sparrow (threatened), Grasshopper Sparrow (special concern) and Eastern Bluebird (special concern). Also reported as a possible breeder was the Red-shouldered Hawk (special concern), which uses mature and old growth hardwood/coniferous forests to nest, and wetlands and nearby openings to locate food. The Chenango Bird Club was asked to assist and Jay Lehman (1980 Region 4 Atlas Coordinator), Carl Eastwood, Don Windsor and I made repeated visits to the State Forest and confirmed breeding of Henslow's Sparrows and Red-shouldered Hawks.

As a result, initial plans to reforest the 375 acres of old fields were abandoned and the management plan that was initiated called for the grasslands to be maintained by mowing and prescribed burning. Some areas are being converted to warm-season grasses that provide better and more natural habitat for the sparrows. Also written into the Management Plan was a strategy to maintain suitable habitat for Red-shouldered Hawks. Over 500 acres of mature hardwood and hardwood/conifer forest in the areas of confirmed nesting by Red-shouldered Hawks were set aside from any harvesting and are managed as a Reserve. An additional 500 adjacent acres of mature forest are managed lightly and infrequently to maintain a total of 1,000 acres of closed canopy forest. Finally, a snowmobile trail planned for the area was moved to the margin of the Reserve to minimize any disturbance. A long-term research project was begun to determine differences between forests managed as Reserves versus those where management included the removal of wood products.

Breeding Bird Atlas data provided critical information for the development of this Unit Management Plan that resulted in major changes in the management of the entire Long Pond State Forest. These changes for the benefit of rare bird species would not have been made if volunteers working on the Breeding Bird Atlas had not documented the presence of those species.

*5:35am - Seemingly out of nowhere, an Ovenbird drops out of the forest canopy to the ground just ten feet in front of you. Food in its bill, the bird quickly disappears into the leaves of the forest floor. You gasp, "Wow!"*

*5:40am - Sitting on a log with a celebratory cup of thermos coffee you write "NY" in the Confirmed column for Ovenbird. You grin and realize another reason why you Atlas... it's fun!*

## BBA T-shirts Available

Breeding Bird Atlas T-shirts are now available. These great-looking shirts feature the BBA logo and are a super buy at \$13 (includes shipping). Choose from gray, denim, or cranberry, adult sizes M, L or XL. There is also a child's size M that is available only in teal; this size is also \$13.



Checks made out to FNYCBC should be sent to Valerie Freer, 686 Cape Road, Ellenville, NY 12428. Be sure to include your mailing address and the colors and sizes of the shirts you would like.

*You can have the newsletter sent to you via e-mail, if you prefer. Send your e-mail address to [fwbba@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwbba@gw.dec.state.ny.us)*

## Breeding Season Dates

Breeding Bird Atlas records should include only birds that are breeding. *Do not record birds that are in migration or have otherwise completed their breeding season.* To be certain that you are recording a bird during its breeding season rather than before or after, please consult the Breeding Season Dates Table. It is printed in the Volunteer Handbook and in the first Atlas publication, and also appears on the website.

The Breeding Season Dates Table is a valuable resource for Atlas volunteers. The table lists the egg dates, number of broods, incubation period, nestling period, unfledged juvenile period, and fledgling period. Use this table as a guideline to be sure that you are recording species during their breeding season.

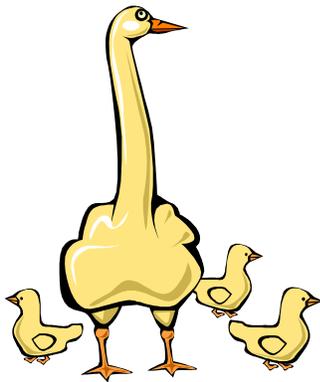
This table was compiled during the first Atlas and will be updated with Atlas 2000 data. If you are certain that you have recorded breeding outside the dates listed in the table, contact the Project Coordinator at [fwbba@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwbba@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

## How to Recognize Nestlings and Fledglings

by Bob Budliger

One of the House Sparrows skulking about in the privet hedge finally stopped moving and faced me. I clearly saw the pale yellow skin that bulged out from the corners of its mouth. These “gape flanges” clearly indicated a very recently fledged bird, a confirmation for my block.

Generally, Atlasers need not worry about identifying young birds since they are almost always seen with attending adults. But, we occasionally have the opportunity to examine a baby bird in hand, without the adult to guide us, when they are found dead on the roadside, carried in by the cat, or “rescued” by a neighborhood child. This is a great opportunity to add a confirmation in your Atlas block.



There are two broad categories of development of young birds. Precocial birds such as quail, ducks, and gulls are well developed when hatched. Down-covered and eyes open, they are ready to leave the nest very soon after hatching. Altricial birds, including most songbirds, are hatched naked, with eyes closed. They are helpless, depending totally on their parents for food and protection from rain, snow, wind, cold, and heat.

Fledglings and nestlings can be difficult to identify, but there are guides that can help us. One of these is Harrison and Baicich's *A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*. This wonderful guide provides written descriptions of fledglings, as well as plates that show what many species look like at hatching. There is also a key to identifying young nestlings and chicks.

A few fledglings look enough like the adults to be unmistakable. For example, the large bill of a kingfisher is telltale and a nestling swift already has the long wings and body shape of its parents. When you do not have the benefit of these obvious characteristics, careful observation can help you to identify the young bird. Look closely at its general shape. Note the pattern of feather tracts, the color of down, and the color of its skin and fleshy parts. Pay close attention to the color of the mouth lining and any patterns of spots in the mouths of songbirds.

If you find a live baby bird put it outside and see what feeds it. Bizarre idea? A veterinarian did just that with an “orphan” brought to him, and a Warbling Vireo began to feed it. Was the orphan a Warbling Vireo then? Not necessarily; adult birds will sometimes feed young that are not their own. But, what do you make of the Northern Cardinal that persistently fed a goldfish in a backyard pool? That is a mystery for another day.

## *Meet our Regional Coordinators*

### **Robert Spahn**

Region 2 Co-Coordinator

I was born and grew up in Dubuque, Iowa. My interest in birds grew from my mother's interest in nature and from exposure to the outdoors and bird books as a child. This increased through activities in Boy Scouts in a very outdoors-oriented troop. For two summers as a counselor at a boy scout camp, I handled most of the outdoor merit badges, including Bird Study.

Immersion in golf through high school and college reduced birding activities, except in winter or casually while golfing, until I joined Eastman Kodak Company and moved to Rochester in 1966. Here I eventually made contact with the local birding community and have become increasingly active since the early 1970's, particularly since marriage and then children led to pursuing activities the family could do together outdoors. We have taken many trips to show the kids the country, always with birding a part of the activities. Most summers we have returned to a family cottage northern Wisconsin for at least a couple of weeks and have contributed to Wisconsin bird records and most recently to their breeding bird atlas.

In birding, I am a lister, but I am also interested in population variations. As a result, I have been Records Committee Chairman for the Genesee Ornithological Society for many years, a contributor to the various state and national records summaries, and a Breeding Bird Survey participant for 20+ years. In the 1980-5 New York Breeding Bird Atlas, one of the first Breeding Bird Atlas projects in North America, I served on the organizing committee and then as a Regional Coordinator in Region 2. I was also the author of several species accounts when the results were published. During and after that time period, I spent several summers covering 18 blocks in the Upper Peninsula for the Michigan BBA. From the late 1970s until a few years ago, I wrote either a regional report or the Season's Highlights for *The Kingbird*. Most recently I authored a few species accounts for *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

Generally, I enjoy the game of bird finding. My wife Susan and I particularly enjoy wandering new stretches of country searching for both birds and wild flowers. In the Breeding Bird Atlas, a drive of 3-1/8 miles or less in any direction starts a new list! When you add the interest of now watching the

### **Dominic F. Sherony**

Region 2 Co-Coordinator

I was born and raised in the Chicago area and came to Rochester in 1969 to work for Xerox Corporation after completing a PhD in Chemical Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology. I took up birding in 1971 through an association with a number of Xerox people and have been an active birder ever since. I am a contributing member of the Rochester Birding Association and the Genesee Ornithological Society. My birding interests include listing, bird photography and research. In 1991, I started to apply my background in analysis to avian subjects. I did a literature search and summary for Jon Dunn and Kimball Garret's book, *Warblers*, wrote twenty species accounts for *Bull's Birds of New York State*, and have published three papers on jaeger and Red-throated Loon migration, as well as several papers in the *Kingbird*.

I retired from my position as vice president of the Toner/Developer Design and Manufacturing Unit of Xerox after 30 a year career in toner products. I reside in Fairport with my wife, Monica. We have four children scattered throughout the east and three grandchildren. We both enjoy cross-country skiing, reading, movies, gardening, and our family.



Bob Spahn and Dominic Sherony

birds to see what they are doing to allow assigning a breeding code, it becomes a fascinating study with no real limitation except time available. Despite long hours of paperwork, my Regional Coordinator position brings the enjoyment of opening the experience of birding and atlasing to many others.

## Region 2 - Genesee

by Dominic F. Sherony & Robert G. Spahn

The Genesee Region, which contains 338 atlas blocks, includes Monroe, Livingston, and Wayne counties and half of each of Ontario, Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming Counties. The majority of the northern portion of the region is in the Great Lakes Plain. The southern portions touch the Cattaraugus Hills and the Appalachian Plateau, and the eastern side includes a portion of the Ontario Drumlins. The region is mostly made up of farmland and orchards, but has a diversity of other habitats as well. It contains marshlands, primarily along Lake Ontario and south of the Finger Lakes. Upland hardwood forests form an extensive patchwork in its southern part. The Genesee River and its valley together with Letchworth State Park provide the major riparian habitats. The four westernmost Finger Lakes are also included in the region. Two of them provide water supply for the city of Rochester and are surrounded by mature forests. Bergen Swamp, a wetland that evolved from the bed of a former glacial lake, provides a unique bottomland forest.

We began year one of the Atlas by soliciting volunteers from birding and nature organizations and through the news media. We developed a list of about 200 volunteers interested in participation in the Atlas project in some way. Of these, 66 people have committed to survey one or more Atlas blocks. Most of these field volunteers did surveys this year and many of them had helpers. We estimate that we had about 80 people in the field during the first field season.

Our goal for the first year was to get commitment for half of the blocks (170) and to obtain data from at least 100 of these. Our volunteers have worked hard to help us meet these goals. We have approximately 190 blocks assigned and have received Annual Summary Forms from approximately 120 of these. However, most blocks are incomplete because more than one season is typically required to adequately cover a block.

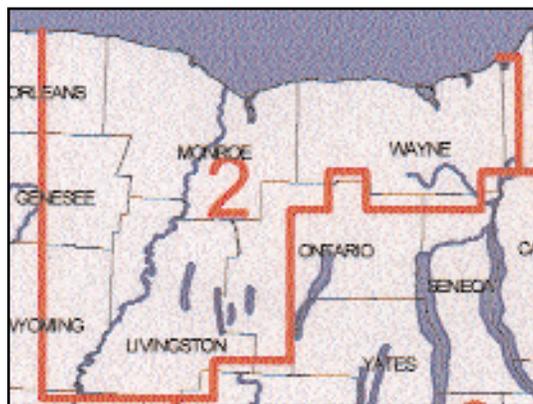
Still, the process of getting volunteers to cover distant blocks is not an easy one. Most of our volunteers live in the Rochester area and the furthest Atlas blocks are 75 miles away. We have been very successful in getting volunteers for local blocks but much less so for distant locations. Exceptions have been the easternmost area of the region, which attracted volunteers from the Eaton Birding Society in Geneva, and the western edge, where blocks are being covered by local observers.

I (DFS) did not participate in the first Atlas project of 1980-85. As I began my first survey this past year, I was amazed at how enjoyable I found the experience. As a birder, I have learned about birds, searched for birds, photographed birds, and done research on birds. I find the Atlas experience to be another dimension to my interest in birds and nature. There is great joy in personally making small discoveries about the natural world. It is a shame that, in this day and age, so few people experience the rewards that Thoreau so eloquently expresses in his journal (see *Thoreau on Birds*, H. D. Thoreau).

It is too early to know how the results from this Atlas will differ from that of 1980-85 for Region 2, but we can speculate based on preliminary indications. Some species have expanded their presence in the region, including Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Northern Mockingbird, and Carolina Wren. Others have declined, including Black-crowned Night-Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Vesper Sparrow. Although they were present as breeding birds in small numbers in the first Atlas period, it appears that Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Loggerhead Shrike, and Western Meadowlark have become extirpated from our region as breeders. Surprisingly, we have acquired a persistent nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls in a shopping mall. What other information will we glean from the efforts of our many volunteers?

Here is a brief summary of work done in Region 2 during the first Atlas. All of the 338 blocks were surveyed. An average of 76.3 species were reported in each block and approximately 50% of those species were Confirmed as breeders. In only one block were less than 50 species recorded, and over 90% of that particular block was in Lake Ontario. A total of 179 species were recorded, 158 of those Confirmed and 15 Probable.

One of the important lessons we can learn from the first Atlas is that not enough effort was put into recording rare or difficult to find species. During Atlas 2000, we will encourage volunteers to make special efforts to record Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Short-eared Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Prothonotary Warbler, and Red Crossbill. Other under-recorded species include accipiters, rails, woodcock, snipe, cuckoos, and owls. We feel that there are opportunities for our field volunteers to improve on the quality of this Atlas and we encourage them to keep that in mind as they go about this important task.



## **Atlas Volunteers to be Recognized**

The Atlas 2000 Steering Committee has decided that while all of our volunteer field workers deserve to be recognized, there are some who have already devoted extraordinary time and effort to this project. Therefore, we have established a series of awards to be given to the principal observer in blocks where at least 76 species were found:

5 blocks: certificate suitable for framing

10 blocks: Atlas lapel pin

15 blocks: a special Atlas award

Higher levels of achievement will be recognized appropriately. In addition, all volunteers will be recognized in the Atlas publication at the end of the project. If for some reason your block does not allow a goal of 76 species, you can contact your Regional Coordinator for a suitable goal. Awards based on field work in the 2000 field season will be presented at the Federation Annual Meeting in September, and will be sent to those who cannot be present. These are cumulative awards, so if you have not yet reached one of these levels, you can add to the blocks you have already started and earn an award next year.

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers!!**

### **“Should I report the same species in my block that I reported last year, or only the new records?”**

If you return to the same block that you surveyed last year, you only need to report new species records or upgrades. The records you sent in last year are already in the database and do not need to be repeated.

### **“Should I use a new Field Card for 2001?”**

It will probably be easier if you use a new Field Card. Transfer the highest breeding code from last year to the margin next to the species name on your 2001 Field Card. This will be a quick reminder of the work you did last year.

### **“Must I submit a Notable Species Form every time I see a Notable Species?”**

If you record the same species at the same site, it is probably not necessary. Be sure to read the article on page 7 about this year’s changes to notable species protocol.

Atlas Newsletter Editor  
*Kimberley Corwin Hunsinger*

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New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter  
Wildlife Resources Center  
108 Game Farm Road  
Delmar, NY 12054

Annual Summary Forms will be  
due to your Regional Coordinator by  
**SEPTEMBER 15th**  
*Please try to meet this deadline.*