

2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas



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Dear Pennsylvania Landowner:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to watch birds on your property on one or a few occasions in order to make a list of the species that nest there. Observations of birds on your property may add additional species to the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas block (a 10-sq. mi. region) which I have been assigned. The 2nd PBBA is being conducted by several thousand volunteer bird watchers in the state from 2004-2008. At the end of these five years, volunteers will have finished gathering data for all 4,937 Atlas blocks in the state, and a book with information and maps showing the distributions of the 200 or so species of nesting birds in Pennsylvania will be published. The first Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project was completed 15 years ago, and it resulted in the publication in 1992 of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*.

The reason that I am requesting permission to spend some time watching birds on your property is because you may have one or more habitats here that attract bird species that I have not yet recorded in my Atlas block. In order for the 2nd PBBA to give the most accurate data about what bird species occur in what blocks across the state, volunteers are encouraged to try to visit as many of the habitats present in each of their blocks as possible.

In watching birds on your property, I will assume full responsibility for my own welfare, and I will be careful to not disturb you or your property. I will try not leave any evidence of my visit, unless you would like me to give you a list of the birds that I do observe while I'm here.

In addition, I would be grateful to receive any information that you may have about nesting birds on your property anytime during the five years of the Atlas project. In fact, you can become an Atlas volunteer yourself by following instructions on the project's website (www.pabirdatlas.org). Volunteers not only include people who are assigned one or more whole blocks to cover thoroughly, but also people who want to help by contributing observations of just a few nesting birds from their own backyards.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me,

Name _____ phone number(s) _____

Mailing address _____ Email address _____

the Regional Coordinator responsible for assigning all of the blocks in this portion of the state,

Name _____ phone number(s) _____

Mailing address _____ Email address _____

or the Project Coordinators, Robert Mulvihill, whose contact information is given at left.

For your convenience, I've enclosed a stamped, self-addressed postcard for your reply. Thank you very much for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Monitoring Pennsylvanian Biodiversity!