

## INTERESTING FACTS about the 1<sup>st</sup> IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas' fieldwork occurred during 1985-1990, and was published in 1996.
- 522 blocks were systematically randomly chosen, in addition to 339 blocks that were selected based upon unique or more representative natural habitat.
- At the end of four field seasons (1988), only 82/861 blocks were completed, with 440 blocks not yet worked in.
- By 1990, 717 blocks had been worked in, and 611 blocks were completed.
- By the end of fieldwork in 1990, 508 volunteers contributed 14,654 hours to locate birds in the field.
- 166/200 birds recorded during the Breeding Bird Atlas project were confirmed as breeding.

As you can tell, there was a great amount of time spent in the field toward the end of the project. There was a rush to gather data and complete as many blocks as possible. This type of time and dedication needs to be distributed equally throughout the project for it to be successful.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas



Become an Atlas-er  
today!

## ABOUT THE ATLAS

The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas is a collection of breeding species accounts and ranges in the state of Iowa. It has been 17 years (1990) since the last atlas was completed. A second atlas will hopefully reveal changes in distribution that may be due to habitat loss or gain from the previous project. This will be a five year project (2008-2012) and will take many hours from dedicated volunteers **like you** to complete.

## WHY YOU ARE IMPORTANT

The Breeding Bird Atlas is a cooperative venture between the Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and non-affiliated individual birders. There are 791 3 x 3 mile blocks scattered across Iowa that need to be visited & searched for birds. This will require a lot of *time* and *dedication* over a five year period from volunteers. Your help will determine the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas.

As a volunteer, you will be collecting data that could affect how decisions involving wildlife and natural resources are made, not only locally, but statewide as well. By recording breeding statuses of birds and collecting habitat information, conclusions can be drawn to the reasons for changes in bird distribution throughout the state of Iowa.

## HOW TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL IOWA ATLAS-ER

With the advancement in technology since the last Breeding Bird Atlas project, a website

<http://bba.iowabirds.org>

has been created for your convenience as a birder to house information you need and to provide a location for data entry. On the website, you will be able to create an account, download and print maps of the blocks you choose to visit, as well as be updated about the progress of the project.

By creating an account on the website, you will then be able to be recognized for your accomplishments while participating. If you're unable to gain access to the website, or would prefer to have information mailed to you, please use the contact information on the back of this brochure.



## ATLASING IN A NUTSHELL

The main goals of the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas are to determine the current distribution of breeding birds in Iowa and the possible effects changing habitats may have on

certain species.

This project does not look at the numbers of birds but rather the distribution of species, so the activity of **observing** bird behaviors to determine the **level of nesting evidence** can provide a whole new experience for many birders. Breeding evidence of birds within a block should be recorded on the BBA field card.

Each block needs at least 20 hours of atlas work within the five-year time frame to get the best evidence possible.

As data are entered through the website, you will be able to see how much time has been devoted to each block and allocate your time accordingly.

## MATERIALS NEEDED TO ATLAS

- **YOU**
- **Field Card**
- Habitat and Block Maps
- A bird guide
- Binoculars
- Scope (optional)