

Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0



Volunteer Handbook

Breeding Atlas

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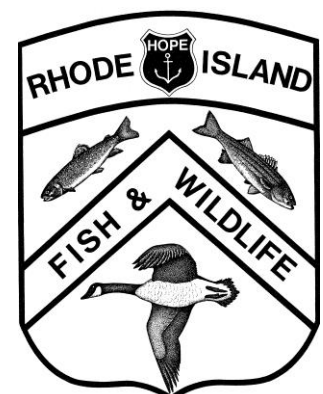
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INTRODUCTION

From 1982-1987, the first Breeding Bird Atlas of Rhode Island was completed. The five-year project mapped the distribution of all bird species breeding within the state thereby providing a baseline assessment against which future atlases could be compared. During the life of the atlas, 68 volunteers reported 9,000 bird sightings across all 165 survey blocks within the state. A total of 164 avian species were recorded during the first atlas and 155 were confirmed as breeders within the state of Rhode Island.

Now, 28-years later, a second atlas is overdue. From 2015-2020, the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 will be completed to document changes in species distribution and record additional information not documented in the first atlas. This project is designed to gather important information that is useful to scientists and wildlife managers as well as provide an opportunity for community involvement and education. Advances in technology since the first atlas will allow for new types of data to be collected such as habitat use and relative abundance. This new information will further strengthen our understanding of habitat preferences and population trends of breeding birds and will allow us to make wise management decisions for rare and declining species breeding in Rhode Island. In addition to traditional breeding season data, the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 will be a “year-round” atlas as we will be recording bird species during the winter and migratory seasons as well.

Like all other state atlas projects, the success of the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 will depend in large part on the dedication and assistance of many volunteers. The main objective of the atlas will once again be full coverage of the state of Rhode Island, with all habitats surveyed and every species identified. Through hard work and commitment on the part of volunteers, we hope to:

- Document the current distribution of all breeding, wintering and migrating birds within the state of Rhode Island
- Assess changes in the distribution and diversity of breeding birds over the past 28-years
- Provide measures of abundance and habitat association for all species
- Identify important areas for sensitive species and areas that support high species diversity
- Collect information on difficult-to-census species (owls, nightjars, wetland species)

Thank you for your support of the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 as a volunteer. Your help and dedication will make this project a success. The data gathered during this atlas will be used for years to come and will be a tool for conservation within the Ocean State.

HAPPY BIRDING!!

BREEDING ATLAS BASICS

A goal of any biological atlas is to comprehensively map the distribution of a focal group of organisms. A breeding bird atlas seeks to map distribution of birds with the added goal of observing and interpreting behavior in an attempt to determine breeding activity.

As with the previous atlas, breeding behavior of birds will be classified into one of three categories: *Possible*, *Probable*, or *Confirmed*. A bird observed once during the “safe dates” for breeding activity in appropriate breeding habitat would be considered a *Possible* breeding bird. Further evidence of breeding activity would constitute *Probable* breeding and observations of active nesting would designate a *Confirmed* breeder.

Throughout the process of surveying, species lists will be a mixture of species within all three breeding categories. Volunteers will focus on increasing breeding evidence for those species occurring within their block, with the ultimate goal to confirm breeding for as many species as possible. Surveys should be performed several times during the nesting season and within all habitats represented in each block. The goal of having “complete” coverage of a block will be met once a volunteer has atlased all habitat types within his/her block, made special efforts to find cryptic species and spent ample time searching for birds.

For the purposes of this atlas, the entire state of Rhode Island is divided into 165 survey blocks. Each of these blocks measures 5km by 5km (25 square kilometers) in size and comprises one-sixth of a standard 7.5-minute US Geological Survey topographic quadrangle (quad) (Figure 1; Appendix I). Each block represents a single sampling unit in which all species of breeding bird will be identified. Volunteers may wish to survey blocks that they are familiar with or that they live within. Others may find it exciting to discover new areas of Rhode Island and will wish to be assigned to a survey block.

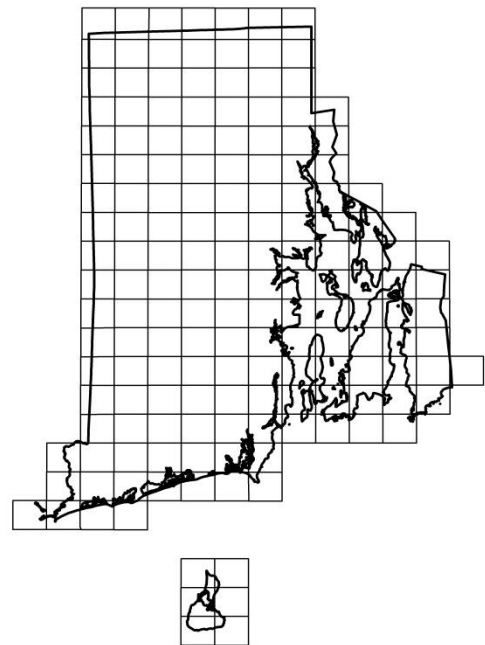


Figure 1. Grid of survey blocks for Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0.

Conducting Field Work



I. Sign up for your Block

If you are interested in atlasing a particular block, contact the project coordinator to see if that block is available. Once your selection has been approved you will be the “block coordinator” and will be responsible for entering and submitting data from atlas trips. A block coordinator is expected to work towards block completion and will be encouraged to sign-up for more blocks once a block is completed. While we hope that everyone interested in volunteering for the atlas does so, the duty of block coordinator should fall to someone that is confident in his/her ability to identify bird species by sight and sound. The accuracy of the data accumulated for the atlas will be a function of the experience of the volunteers performing surveys. Once you request ownership of a block, the project coordinator will determine if your experience with bird identification is sufficient to act as a block coordinator. If you would like to participate in the atlas, but do not have a great deal of experience in identifying birds we strongly encourage you to contact a block coordinator and ask to aid in atlas efforts under their guidance. Contact information for block coordinators will be available on the website (ribirdatlas.com) on the “Block Coordinator Page”. The Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 is a wonderful opportunity for birders of all skill level to gain experience in bird identification.

As a block coordinator you will be responsible for compiling and submitting an accurate master field card for your block(s) to the project coordinator at the end of each season. Only one field card will be submitted for each block with the highest breeding category and associated code recorded for each species detected. If you are the only individual atlasing your block, the submission of the field card will be straightforward. However, if you are the coordinator of a block that has numerous volunteers you will be responsible for coordinating the collection of field cards and compiling and submitting a single field card. In addition, block coordinators are responsible for submitting a single report of atlasing effort expended in his/her block by all individuals. See “Recording your Effort” below for more information.

II. Familiarize yourself with your Block

In order to familiarize yourself with your assigned block, it is recommended that you obtain an up-to-date street map and download and print a topographic map for your block (available on the website). It is a good idea to spend some time scouting potential survey routes and noting the different habitat types before you begin to collect data for the atlas. This will enable you to spend less time deciding where to go during your survey effort and will allow you to complete the coverage of your block more expeditiously. It is the goal of the atlas that all habitats throughout the state are surveyed for breeding birds. A major goal of your atlasing effort

should therefore be to cover all habitat types within your block, which will each have its own species composition.

Consider the day of the week you will perform surveys. For some of you, responsibilities outside of the atlas will dictate when you have time to visit your block. If you are not constrained, consider the following to aid in determining the best day of the week and time to atlas:

- Traffic: does it increase or decrease during weekends or weekdays?
- Public Lands (state, federal or local trust lands): does use (boating, foot traffic, camping, etc) increase during weekends?
- Disturbance: Is there excessive disturbance during certain days of the week? (e.g., construction)

DO NOT GO ON PRIVATE LANDS TO CONDUCT SURVEYS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION!

III. Know your Safe Dates

To collect data on breeders and not migrants, we have assigned a Safe Date for each breeding species. The Safe Date is the period when most migrants will have left the state, and when our breeding codes for *Possible* or *Probable* are most accurate. The *Confirmed* code is the only code that can be used outside of the Safe Dates. The list of breeding species, their Safe Dates and preferred breeding habitats can be found in Appendix II.

Be mindful of the breeding seasons for early-nesting species, such as owls and raptors. Try to spend time in the early spring (March-April) looking for evidence of breeding by these species.

You will want to spend the majority of your time atlasing during late-May, June and July. Try to survey your block on multiple days instead of limiting your outings to a few long-days. This will increase your chances of discovering new species and reduce questionable breeding records by species detected close to their safe dates.

Concentrate the majority of your effort in the morning hours, as this is when species activity is at its highest. ****Be aware that for many species, the period of peak activity is before sunrise (thrushes) while for others, activity may not be detected until after sunrise (warblers and vireos).****

Make at least two visits to survey for nocturnal and crepuscular species (owls, nightjars, woodcock and rails) by visiting blocks at dawn and dusk or at night. (To save an additional nighttime trip to a block if your block is far from home, you can arrive an hour or so before sunrise to search for nocturnal species) For safety reasons, do not survey at night alone and always be sure to inform someone of your whereabouts when you will be surveying a block in the dark.

TIP: Avoid atlasing in inclement weather. Your time is better spent searching for species when activity levels are the highest.

IV. Breeding Evidence

Atlasers will document breeding birds using Breeding Codes associated with each of three categories of breeding status: *Possible* (PO), *Probable* (PR), and *Confirmed* (CO) (Appendix III). Within each of these categories are codes that allow atlasers to specify the behavior that was observed. This system greatly simplifies the recording of evidence and is essential to the computerized recording and analysis of the project data. The codes are the same as those used in the first atlas so that direct comparisons may be made. Before you begin your surveys, you should become familiar with the three categories of breeding status and the descriptive codes within each category. The gathering of accurate data is dependent on using the correct code. It is always a good idea to carry a copy of the breeding codes with you in the field. Electronic copies of the list can be found on the atlas website.

We recommend keeping a master list of your species at home in a safe place and using a new field card each time you visit your block. As you observe birds in the field, record the correct breeding category, breeding code and date in the column for the appropriate species (see sample field card). Seek to upgrade categories as you re-visit the block with the aim to ultimately confirm breeding for as many species as possible. Use pencil on your master list so that you may erase and upgrade breeding evidence categories as necessary. Once you have assigned a species to the *Confirmed* breeding category (CO) you no longer need to record data for that species and you can focus your efforts on finding species that you have not yet confirmed as breeding within your block. At the end of the season you will be submitting your master list only with the highest breeding category recorded for each species found in your block.

Be careful not to record species outside of their Safe Dates. Refer to the Safe Dates in Appendix II to be sure that the species you saw is not in migration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Be sure to atlas in all habitats throughout your block...don't just visit what you think of as "natural" habitat. Many species breed in close proximity to humans and have acclimated to the way we modify habitats. Don't forget to check weedy areas, bridges, street signs, parking lots, old farm buildings and other "less than ideal" breeding locations for species such as European Starlings, House Sparrows, Barn Owls and House Wrens.

On that note, please be aware of your location. In many blocks, some areas you would like to atlas may fall on private land. Before entering such properties, you **MUST** obtain permission from landowners. If you are unsure whether you have permission to access privately owned land, contact the project coordinator before entering. In some cases, the project coordinator will be working with large landowners, corporations and government agencies to gain access to important areas. Often, you may know the property owners within your block (Rhode Island is a small state!). In these and other cases, you may be the primary contact with a landowner and we will provide you with a letter (see Appendix), which you will be able to mail to the landowner asking for permission to atlas on their property. When accessing private property, please be polite and respectful of the landowner at all times.

Canvassing your block prior to the start of your data collection will enable you to determine which properties you will need to obtain permission to survey. Begin your conversation with the landowner early so you have ample time to communicate your needs, understand their concern and come up with an agreement to visit their property. Use the landowner letter provided to contact landowners in writing if necessary.

V. Completing your Block

Constantly compare your species tally with the expected species total for your block (block-specific species lists can be found on website). As your list grows, it will become increasingly difficult to add new species. Tailor your efforts to increase your chances of recording expected species that have not yet been found. A great deal of complexity exists between atlas blocks. Some may fall along a coastline with relatively little terrestrial habitat to survey while others may involve multiple habitat types and require significant effort. Determining when a block is completed is a difficult task and while there is no established set of rules for block completion, the following guidelines will help.

A block will be considered complete when a combination of the following has occurred:

A block has been atlased for a minimum of 20-hours over multiple trips. This requirement allows for a standardized level of effort that can be used by future atlases for the purposes of comparison with the RIBA2.0. For some blocks, this will be ample time to collect comprehensive data on breeding birds. Other blocks with more complex habitats may need more than the minimum, however other atlases have found that 85% of the breeding species present in a block can be found within the first 20-hours of survey effort provided all major habitat types have been searched. It is commonly the case that additional time spent looking for new species could be better spent atlasing another block.

At least two visits spent looking for nocturnal species. Nocturnal species are difficult to detect and it is highly unlikely that you will find them should you visit the block during the daytime. It is important that you cater at least two visits to the block to search for these species. Take note of the Safe Dates for nocturnal species to increase your likelihood of detecting them.

At least 80% of the species detected in the first atlas are found and at least 50% of those species are confirmed. Because of the variety of habitats within each block, some may contain far fewer species than others. In this case, it may be counterproductive to spend a full 20-hours searching for species. It may also be the case that your block was poorly covered in the first atlas and you find 80% of the species reported with very little effort. Compare your species list with the list from the first atlas regularly to monitor your progress. Once you have detected 80% of the species from the first atlas, gauge your

likelihood of increasing that number by accounting for how much effort you have expended. If you are near the 20-hour mark, consider moving on to another block. If you have devoted little effort within your block, consider spending more time looking for new species. It is important that you try to confirm breeding for at least half of the species that you detect in your block (excluding those in the Observed Category).

You have atlased all habitat types within your block. It is extremely important that you have visited every habitat type within your block, as each habitat will support a different avian community. For some blocks with uniform habitat throughout, this may take little time to accomplish, while others may have a diversity of habitat types and require more effort.

The objective of RIBA2.0 is a comparison with the first state atlas. If a species has decreased in abundance it may be missed on the second atlas suggesting that this species has become sufficiently scarce and it was not found after a reasonable effort. During the second atlas you might also find common species that were missed in the first atlas. Under no circumstances should a species be added to a block list because the atlaser “knows it is present” despite not having located it. Such an action would compromise the results of the entire atlas.

You will not be prevented from re-visiting “completed” blocks and you may add new species to such blocks. Returning to blocks to seek out missed species is a good thing, but you should be careful not to spend a great deal of time doing so...your time is likely better spent working in a new block.

As a rule-of-thumb, you should try to atlas your block(s) every 10-15 days. This will help upgrade many species into the *confirmed* breeding categories. Atlasing twice a month during the breeding season over the 5-year atlas period will ensure adequate coverage. If you want to spend more time atlasing, great! Simply sign up to cover more blocks.

VI. Recording your Effort

There are two forms of effort that need to be reported for the RIBA2.0. Both are important to the success of the project and it is essential that you keep up-to-date records of your time atlasing and are punctual with your effort reporting.

Effort Type I

In order to compare the results of the RIBA2.0 with the first breeding bird atlas for the state, it is imperative that we understand how much effort was spent looking for birds. It is extremely important that you keep track of the amount of time that you spend atlasing. For the analysis of project data, we will need to know the likelihood that undetected species may have been found in a block if more effort was expended. This information will be submitted with the field card

and will be a central part of the analyses. This block-level effort will be reported by the block coordinator at the end of each field season. It is the block coordinator's duty to compile the total number of party-hours that were spent within their block(s) looking for birds. He/She will need to coordinate the collection of effort data from the other atlasers in the block and submit a summary to the project coordinator. Effort for the atlas will be recorded in the same manner as Christmas Bird Counts count party-hours. Single observers or groups working together will count as single hours. Groups that have separated within the block will each count their hours individually. For example, four observers walking together in a block for three hours will enter only three hours of effort; three observers walking together for three hours and a fourth walking alone for three hours would accumulate six party hours (three for the party of three and three for the party of one).

Effort Type II

It is also very important that we account for all volunteer effort expended with the atlas to demonstrate volunteer match support for grants. Each individual volunteer will be responsible for submitting a monthly effort card to the project coordinator. These effort cards will be comprehensive and in addition to reporting the total hours spent atlasing a block, volunteers should account for their mileage and time spent driving. Each time you visit a block you should record this information on the separate "Volunteer Effort Card". Ink should be used to fill in your information and you will send the forms once a month to the project coordinator using the self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASEs) included in your RIBA2.0 packet. Examples of how to fill out the effort card can be found in the appendix.

VII. Submitting Data

Field Cards will be mailed to the project coordinator **no later** than September 10th of each year **(It is highly recommended that you make copies of all of your field cards before mailing them!)** After your cards are received, the coordinator will review your records, enter them into the project database and you will be informed if your block is completed. If it is, you will be invited to choose a new block to atlas for the following breeding season. If the block is not yet completed, it is likely due to the fact that there are species not recorded in the block that were rather common in the first atlas. Thus, you should target those species that you have not yet found within your block.

Mail Field Cards to the Project Coordinator at:

Dr. Charles Clarkson

RI Atlas Project Coordinator

1Greenhouse Rd., Coastal Institute

Dept. of Natural Resources Science

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Kingston, RI 02881

434.466.3650

clarksonce@uri.edu

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS

I. Incidental Observations (Incidental Observation Form)

During the atlas you are encouraged to pay attention to all birds you encounter, not just those found in your block. If you come across species that you believe may be breeding (within safe dates) and are outside of your block, report them on the Incidental Observation Form and they will be added to the breeding season dataset. For each observation, please note the species, date, breeding evidence and block number. These forms will be mailed to the Project Coordinator along with the Field Cards (by September 10th).

II. Species of Special Interest (Rare Species Reporting Form)

For some of the species you may find breeding in the state, we would like to collect additional information on their habits. In some instances, these species could be of national conservation concern and while their numbers may have been healthy for the first atlas, most populations in other states have experienced drastic declines over the past two decades. For other species, while range-wide declines do not appear to be occurring, we had few (if any) records of breeding individuals in the first atlas. The Rare Species Reporting Form allows us to gather as much up-to-date information on these species as possible. When you observe any species during your atlasing efforts that are indicated by an (*) on the Safe Date list or field card, please take the time to fill out a reporting form and submit the data to the Project Coordinator. Important pieces of information to gather include the exact location of the bird (Latitude, Longitude), the habitat that you found the bird in, a description of the bird and if possible, a photo of the bird.

MISCELLANEOUS

I. Field Supply Checklist

It is recommended that you carry the following supplies with you when atlasing:

- Volunteer Handbook
- Field Cards
- Map(s) of your block(s)
- Landowner Letter(s)
- Water
- Sunscreen
- Appropriate footwear (waterproof hiking boots, sturdy sneakers)
- Volunteer Vehicle Sign (can be downloaded and printed from the website)
- Field Guide (Bird ID materials)
- Camera to document birds, habitats, etc

II. Navigating the Website

To assist you with your atlas efforts, a great deal of resources are available on the atlas website:
RIBIRDATLAS.COM

The website is the fastest and most convenient way to get into contact with the Project Coordinator.

Static and interactive maps of each block, species lists from the first Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas and electronic copies of all field cards and forms can be found on the website.

The website also contains a large number of resources that can be used to increase your knowledge of birds. From online field guides to bird quizzes, it is highly recommended that you utilize these free resources to aid in your atlasing effort.

III. Atlas Ethics

Some atlas activities might impose certain stressors on breeding birds, and all such activities should be kept to a minimum. Since one of the main goals of a breeding bird atlas is to confirm breeding, active nests or parents with fledglings may be encountered. If a nest is found, be sure to minimize disturbance to the nest, adults, young birds and the surrounding vegetation. It should be stressed that **there is no need for you to actually find a bird's nest.** Since there

are a variety of breeding evidence codes that will confirm breeding by observing adult behavior from afar, determining the location of nests is not necessary.

If you suspect that a bird is breeding in a particular habitat patch, take some additional time to watch that bird's behavior from a distance (far enough so as to not disrupt normal behavior). It might reveal the presence of a nest or young without the need to disturb the nest or vegetation concealing the nest site. For example, visits by an individual bird to a particular location, such as a dense hedgerow or nest cavity represent probable breeding (code 'N'). Increasing the confirmation level for this species could be accomplished by simply observing the bird carrying nest material (code 'NB') or carrying food (code 'AY'), both of which confirm breeding for that species without encroaching upon the nest location.

Another possibility would be to note the location of the likely nest and revisit the site in a few days. Please note that you should be especially careful if the adults are very upset by your presence. Increased adult activity near a nest site may attract nest predators such as jays, crows, accipiters, and a variety of mammalian predators.

Please remember that eggs and nests are protected, and can't be collected or disturbed. It is very important that we do not disrupt or disturb breeding birds during our surveys—don't play tapes and don't approach nests or young. You can collect all the information you need by watching the birds!

(The RI General Law, Title 20, Chapter 20-14, protects birds, their nests and their eggs from all disturbance. It is unlawful to knowingly disturb birds and their nests and volunteers should not engage in such activities.)

It is important that you approach winter and migration atlasing with the same precautions. Although individuals are not breeding, the costs of migration and winter survival can be quite high for some species. Do not approach roosting or foraging birds and **avoid playing recordings to attract species at any point during your atlasing.**

If you have questions or issues about situations regarding the ethics of atlasing, contact the Project Coordinator.

IV. Newsletters and Publications

Throughout the life of the atlas, periodic newsletters and emails will be sent to all volunteers. Check the "News" link on the website and visit our facebook page (facebook.com/ribirdatlas) for frequent updates as well. Please feel free to submit stories and pictures from your atlasing efforts to the coordinator for inclusion in these mailings. Individuals interested in having their photos printed in the final atlas may also submit their work to the atlas coordinator (high resolution photos only; 300PPI).

Be sure to follow the guidelines for atlas ethics. Do not jeopardize a breeding bird, its nest or young in order to obtain a photo.

V. Contact

The Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas is a large project involving many people, most of whom are volunteers. When you need assistance, please contact the Project Coordinator. The most expeditious method of contact is through the “Contact” link on the website (ribirdatlas.com).

At the end of the breeding season, mail all field cards, Incidental Observation and Rare Species Reporting Forms to:

Dr. Charles Clarkson

RI Atlas Project Coordinator

1 Greenhouse Rd, Coastal Institute

Dept. of Natural Resources Science

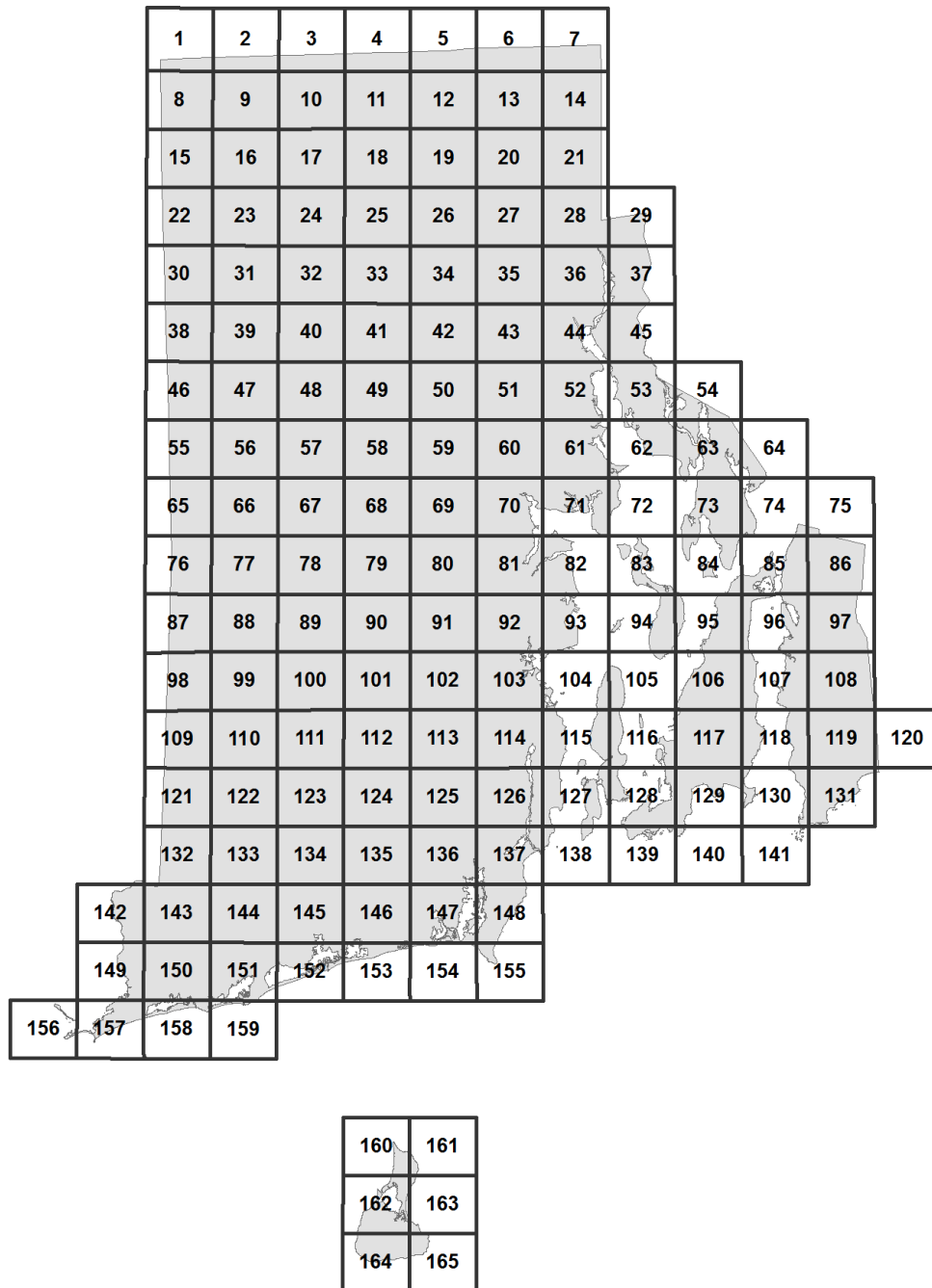
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Appendix I. Survey Blocks for the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 constitute 1/6th of a 7 ½ minute USGS Quadrangle.



Appendix II. This table summarizes the most frequently used breeding habitats for a species, and lists the Safe Date period. The Safe Date is the period when most migrants will have left, and those birds that remain are likely nesters. Safe Dates are also the only period when you can use our breeding behavior codes for *Possible* or *Probable* breeding categories. The *Confirmed* codes, as the name implies, have less error, and can be used before or after the Safe Date.

***Requires written documentation**, as this species is rare or experiencing range-wide decline since the first RI Bird Atlas (e.g., Northern Bobwhite). See Handbook for reporting Rare Species.

Species	Safe Dates	Habitat
Canada Goose	4/15-8/1	Shore or islands in any wetland
Mute Swan	4/15-8/1	Large ponds and marshes
Wood Duck	5/1-8/5	Wooded swamps, freshwater marshes, streams, rivers
Gadwall	5/15-8/5	Fresh/brackish water or saltmarsh
American Black Duck	5/1-8/5	Most wetlands, from beaver ponds to saltmarsh
Mallard	5/1-8/5	All wetlands, occasionally suburban yards with swimming pools
Blue-winged Teal*	5/10-8/5	Fresh/brackish pond or marsh
Green-winged Teal*	5/15-8/5	Fresh/brackish pond or marsh
Common Eider	5/15-8/1	Coastal islands
Hooded Merganser	5/15-8/5	Wooded swamps, freshwater marshes, streams
Red-breasted Merganser*	6/1-8/5	Coastal marsh
Ring-necked Pheasant	5/1-8/15	Open scrub, pastures, fields
Ruffed Grouse	4/1-6/31	Mixed upland woods
Wild Turkey	4/1-7/15	Mature deciduous woods, edge
Northern Bobwhite*	4/30-8/15	Open scrub, pastures, fields
Pied-billed Grebe*	5/10-8/1	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh
Double-crested Cormorant	5/10-8/5	Islands on coast or lake
American Bittern*	5/15-8/1	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh
Least Bittern*	5/25-8/1	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh
Great Blue Heron	5/1-7/15	Wooded swamps, beaver ponds, islands
Great Egret	5/15-7/15	Islands on coast or lake
Snowy Egret	5/15-7/15	Coastal Islands
Little Blue Heron	5/15-7/15	Coastal Islands
Cattle Egret	5/10-7/15	Coastal Islands
Green Heron	5/10-8/1	Woody growth near marshes or open water
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5/5-7/15	Coastal Islands
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	5/5-7/15	Coastal Islands
Glossy Ibis	5/1-7/15	Coastal Islands
Turkey Vulture	5/10-8/15	Woods, cliffs, caves, buildings
Osprey	5/10-8/15	Coastal marshes; rarely large wetlands inland
Bald Eagle	4/15-8/15	Margins of large lakes, rivers
Northern Harrier	5/10-8/20	Coastal dunes, beaches, marshes, heathlands
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	5/10-8/1	Conifers in mature woodlands
Cooper's Hawk	5/5-8/1	Mixed woodlands, groves, copses
Northern Goshawk*	4/10-8/15	Mature, mixed woodlands
Red-shouldered Hawk	4/10-8/15	Wet mixed forests, swamps
Broad-winged Hawk	5/15-7/25	Mature, mixed woodlands
Red-tailed Hawk	4/15-8/1	Mature woodlands, often near edges
American Kestrel	5/10-7/20	Open country, scattered trees, edge
Peregrine Falcon	5/15-8/1	Cliffs, tall buildings, towers
King Rail	5/15-8/1	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh
Clapper Rail	5/15-8/1	Salt and brackish marsh
Virginia Rail	5/15-8/1	Salt, fresh, or brackish pond or marsh
Sora*	5/15-7/25	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh

Common Moorhen*	5/25-8/15	Fresh/brackish reedy pond or marsh
Piping Plover	5/15-8/15	Coastal, sandy beach
Killdeer	4/20-7/1	Open, sparsely vegetated areas; flat rooftops
American Oystercatcher	5/15-8/15	Upper portions of coastal beach, dunes
Willet	5/15-7/15	Coastal beach, dunes, saltmarsh
Spotted Sandpiper	5/25-7/5	Coastal shores, shores of freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, streams
Upland Sandpiper	5/20-7/15	Extensive grasslands, especially airports
American Woodcock	4/15-7/15	Forest edges
Herring Gull	5/1-8/1	Coastal shores/islands, flat rooftops
Great Black-backed Gull	5/1-8/1	Coastal islands
Roseate Tern*	6/1-8/5	Coastal islands
Common Tern	6/1-8/5	Coastal islands, saltmarsh
Least Tern	5/25-8/15	Coastal sandy beach, esp dredge spoils
Black Skimmer	6/1-8/1	Coastal, sandy beach
Rock Pigeon	1/1-12/31	Buildings, bridges, towers in urban areas, farms
Mourning Dove	4/1-8/15	Suburbs, woodlots, farmlands
Monk Parakeet	6/1-8/1	Urban streets, large trees, telephone poles
Black-billed Cuckoo	6/5-8/15	Forested habitats, edge
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6/5-8/15	Forested habitats, edge
Barn Owl*	4/1-8/1	Open habitats
Eastern Screech-Owl	4/1-8/1	Open deciduous forests, woodlots, orchards, residential areas
Great Horned Owl	12/1-6/15	Wide variety of habitats from forest to farmland
Barred Owl	4/1-7/15	Moist woods, wooded swamps, bottomlands
Long-eared Owl*	4/1-8/1	Conifers
Northern Saw-whet Owl*	4/15-8/15	Mixed moist woods with conifers
Common Nighthawk	6/5-8/1	Barren habitats including river bars and flat rooftops
Whip-poor-will	5/25-7/15	Secondary forest, copses, pine barrens, scrub oak, edge
Chimney Swift	5/25-8/15	Urban chimneys
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6/1-8/1	Open woodland, rural and suburban gardens, edge
Belted Kingfisher	5/1-8/10	Stream, river, lake, or bay shore with banks
Red-headed Woodpecker*	5/20-8/25	Open country with scattered trees
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4/15-8/1	Older-growth forest and woodlots
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5/20-8/1	Higher-elevation hardwoods
Downy Woodpecker	5/1-7/25	Forests, copses, suburbs
Hairy Woodpecker	4/25-7/20	Forests
Northern Flicker	5/25-7/25	Forests, parks,
Pileated Woodpecker	4/1-6/31	Matured forest, especially bottomland
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6/5-8/1	Mature forest
Acadian Flycatcher	6/5-8/1	Red Maple swamp and Hemlock
Willow Flycatcher	6/5-8/1	Shrub (esp. Willow) swamp
Least Flycatcher	5/25-8/5	Open deciduous forests, forest edge
Eastern Phoebe	5/1-8/15	Ledges, bridges, porch sills, etc., usually near water
Great Crested Flycatcher	5/25-8/1	Mature forest, edge
Eastern Kingbird	5/25-7/25	Open habitats, including edge, copses, often near water
White-eyed Vireo	5/15-8/1	Moist areas, thickets, tangle of vines or briers
Yellow-throated Vireo	5/20-8/10	Open deciduous and mixed forest and riparian woodlands
Blue-headed Vireo	5/15-8/10	Mature coniferous or mixed woods
Warbling Vireo	5/15-8/10	Semi-open borders of river meadows, ponds, and streams
Red-eyed Vireo	6/1-8/10	Mixed and deciduous woods

Blue Jay	5/1-8/15	Varied; most forest types, thickets, suburban yards, parks
American Crow	3/25-7/15	Conifers in forested areas, woodlots, suburban yards, parks
Fish Crow	5/1-7/15	Mixed woods, woodlots, suburban yards, parks
Common Raven	3/20-7/20	Remote forested areas
Horned Lark	4/25-8/1	Coastal dunes and beaches, abandoned agricultural fields, airports
Purple Martin	5/25-7/1	Open areas; edge of saltmarsh, coastal farmland, and golf courses
Tree Swallow	5/15-7/1	Open areas or woodland edge near wetlands; including saltmarsh
Northern R-winged Swallow	5/20-7/1	Often near water, in cavity, pipe, or excavated burrow
Bank Swallow	5/25-7/1	Earthen embankments
Cliff Swallow	5/25-7/1	Eaves and sides of old barns and other buildings, bridges
Barn Swallow	5/25-7/1	Structures offering access to interior; barns, garages, porches,
Black-capped Chickadee	4/1-8/15	Woodlands, orchards, shade trees, yards, and city parks
Tufted Titmouse	4/5-8/1	Deciduous (especially oak) forest, riparian woodlands, and residential areas
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5/15-8/10	Coniferous forest
White-breasted Nuthatch	4/25-8/10	Deciduous forest
Brown Creeper	5/20-8/1	Mature, mixed, and swampy forest, including Atlantic White Cedar swamps
Carolina Wren	4/1-8/15	Wet woods, stream edges with dense thickets, tangles, brush piles, etc.
House Wren	5/20-8/15	Open forests, wood edges, farms, orchards, suburbs, parks, gardens
Winter Wren	5/1-8/5	Cool, moist, coniferous or mixed woods, swamps, bogs, streams, brooks
Marsh Wren	5/15-8/15	Cattail and other tall marshes, including saltmarsh edges
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5/10-8/1	Coniferous woods
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5/15-8/1	Wooded edges along ponds, rivers, streams, swamps, beaver ponds
Eastern Bluebird	5/1-8/15	Fields with scattered trees; farmland, orchards, pastures, etc.
Veery	5/25-8/10	Moist mixed forest
Hermit Thrush	5/10-9/10	Damp mixed forest with dense undergrowth including pine barrens
Wood Thrush	5/25-8/10	Mature forest
American Robin	5/1-9/1	Almost anywhere except the most open habitats such as marsh, grasslands
Gray Catbird	5/20-8/15	Dense tangles and thickets
Northern Mockingbird	5/5-8/15	Suburban or semi-rural habitats with thickets, brushy forest edges, hedgerows
Brown Thrasher	5/15-8/10	Dry second-growth; powerlines, overgrown pastures, coastal thickets
European Starling	4/10-6/15	Everywhere except remote rural areas
Cedar Waxwing	6/10-8/15	Second-growth forest, parks, orchards, gardens, and margins of waterways
Blue-winged Warbler	5/20-8/1	Old, brushy fields, copses, edge with low undergrowth, powerline cuts
Golden-winged Warbler*	5/20-8/1	Damp brushy fields, powerline cuts
Nashville Warbler	5/25-8/15	Open Scrub Oak woodlands, overgrown pastures, bogs
Northern Parula	6/1-8/10	Woodlands with <i>Usnea</i> lichen
Yellow Warbler	5/25-8/1	Margins of freshwater marsh, other wet brushy areas, farmland
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/25-8/1	Brushy, open second-growth, edges
Magnolia Warbler*	6/5-8/10	Coniferous forest

Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/25-8/10	Mixed woods with dense understory, esp. Mountain Laurel
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/25-8/10	Mature White Pines, coniferous forest
Black-throated Green Warbler	5/25-8/5	Coniferous and mature mixed forest
Blackburnian Warbler*	5/25-8/5	Coniferous forest
Pine Warbler	5/1-8/5	Variety of pine forest types
Prairie Warbler	5/25-8/1	Brushy fields, powerline cuts, edges
Cerulean Warbler*	6/1-8/1	Mature, moist deciduous forest
Black-and-white Warbler	5/25-8/1	Mainly deciduous forest
American Redstart	6/1-8/1	Secondary forest, copses
Prothonotary Warbler*	6/1-8/1	Variety of deciduous or mixed forest types, saplings in field edge bordered by forest, wooded swamps
Worm-eating Warbler	5/20-8/1	Brushy undergrowth of rocky, wooded hillsides and ravines, usually near water
Ovenbird	5/20-8/5	Open forests with little or no understory vegetation and ample leaf litter
Northern Waterthrush	5/20-7/25	Wooded swamps, bogs, backwaters
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/10-7/20	Rocky streams in deciduous or mixed forest
Common Yellowthroat	6/1-8/10	Brushy areas, thickets, powerline cuts, preferably wet
Hooded Warbler	6/1-8/1	Moist thickets in woodlands
Canada Warbler	6/5-8/1	Thick undergrowth in moist deciduous or mixed forest; cedar swamp, Red Maple
Yellow-breasted Chat*	6/1-8/5	Thickets, esp. regenerating fields and pastures
Scarlet Tanager	5/25-8/10	Mature deciduous forest
Eastern Towhee	5/1-8/10	Dry, open forest, edge, brushy habitats, including coastal thickets, powerline cuts
Chipping Sparrow	5/1-8/15	Open mixed forest, suburbs, parks, and cemeteries with conifers
Field Sparrow	5/1-8/5	Brushy areas, weedy fields, powerline cuts
Vesper Sparrow*	5/10-8/5	Short grass areas, agricultural fields, clearings in pine barrens, coastal moors
Savannah Sparrow	5/10-8/1	Grasslands, including airports, hayfields
Grasshopper Sparrow*	5/25-8/10	Grasslands, including airports, hayfields
Saltmarsh Sparrow	5/25-8/10	Saltmarsh
Seaside Sparrow	5/25-8/10	Saltmarsh
Song Sparrow	5/1-8/10	Forest edge, brushy areas, marsh edges, suburbs
Swamp Sparrow	5/1-8/5	Freshwater wetlands including cattail marsh, swamps, river meadow, and pond edges
White-throated Sparrow*	5/20-8/20	Scrubby habitats esp with conifers; Red Maple, Atlantic White Cedar
Dark-eyed Junco	5/1-9/5	Edges in coniferous or mixed woodlands; saplings and brushy thickets at higher elevations
Northern Cardinal	4/15-8/20	Suburban or semi-rural areas; forest edge, woodlots, thickets, parks, gardens
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/25-8/5	Deciduous and mixed forest, woodlots, shade trees of parks and suburbs
Indigo Bunting	5/25-8/10	Brushy habitats including forest edge, overgrown fields, powerline
Bobolink	6/1-8/1	Grasslands, including airports, hayfields
Red-winged Blackbird	5/1-7/15	Wide variety of densely vegetated freshwater habitats, higher saltmarsh

Eastern Meadowlark*	5/5-7/25	Extensive grasslands, including airports, margins of saltmarsh
Common Grackle	5/15-7/10	Wide variety of urban and rural habitats from open forest to fresh and salt marshes, parks, etc.
Brown-headed Cowbird	5/1-7/15	Virtually all habitats; anywhere host species are found
Orchard Oriole	5/25-7/15	Open, patchy forest, copses, often near river, stream, or pond
Baltimore Oriole	5/25-8/1	Open deciduous forest, shade trees in urban or rural areas
Purple Finch	5/25-8/10	Conifers in mixed woods, suburbs, parklands
House Finch	4/15-8/1	Scattered trees- especially conifers- mainly in residential areas
American Goldfinch	6/1-8/1	Forest edge, copses, brushy areas, marsh edges, residential
Evening Grosbeak*	5/25-8/15	Mixed forest
House Sparrow	3/10-8/15	Residential, farms

Appendix III. Breeding Evidence Codes used by the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0

Observed (OB)	
O	Species observed in block but not believed to be nesting.
Possible Breeding (PO)	
X	Used for a bird observed or heard singing once in suitable habitat during the nesting season, but with no other indication of breeding noted. Summering and non-breeding adults (e.g., gulls at inland sites, migrant shorebirds and late-migrating passerines) are not included.
Probable Breeding (PR)	
P	Pair observed in suitable habitat during their breeding season.
T	Song or other behavioral evidence of territory establishment (e.g., chasing of other individuals of same species often marks territory) on at least two days, a week or more apart.
C	Courtship behavior or copulation. Not used for waterfowl, shorebirds and diurnal raptors.
N	Bird visiting a probable nest site.
A	Agitated behavior or anxiety calls from adults suggesting probable evidence of nest or young nearby.
B	Nest building by wrens or excavation of holes by woodpeckers. Wrens may build many nests and woodpeckers, although usually drilling only one nest cavity, may also drill roosting holes.
Confirmed Breeding (CO)	
NB	Nest building by all except wrens and woodpeckers.
DD	Distraction display or injury feigning.
UN	Used nest location. Nests must be carefully identified if used for confirmation. Some nests (e.g., Baltimore Oriole) are persistent and characteristic. Most are difficult to identify correctly.
FL	Recently fledged young or downy young of galliforms, shorebirds or waterfowl. Because some species may move some distance after fledging (e.g., swallows and blackbirds) young should be incapable of sustained flight and still dependent on adults for food.
ON	Occupied nest. Adult(s) entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest. Used for cavity nesters only when a bird enters a hole and remains inside; when the male and female exchange places while incubating eggs; or when a bird leaves a hole after being inside for some time.
AY	Attending young. Adult carrying fecal sac or food for young. As some birds may carry food long distances to young in a neighboring block, care is needed on the edges of blocks.
NE	Nests with eggs or adult sitting on nest.
NY	Nest with young or downy young of waterfowl, quail, waders etc. Since precocial downy young may be led considerable distances by adults, care is needed at edges of blocks.

*Note: Presence of cowbird eggs (NE) or young (FL or NY) serves as confirmation of both cowbird and host species.



Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 Breeding Field Card



Block Coordinator: _____ **Year:** _____ **Block:** _____

Other Observers: _____

Category: OB = Observed; PO = Possible; PR = Probable; CO = Confirmed

SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE	SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE
Pied-billed Grebe*				King Rail			
Double-crested Cormorant				Clapper Rail			
Green Heron				Virginia Rail			
Little Blue Heron				Sora*			
Cattle Egret				Common Moorhen*			
Great Egret				American Coot			
Snowy Egret				American Oystercatcher			
Black-crowned Night Heron				Piping Plover			
Ylw.-crowned Night Heron*				Killdeer			
Least Bittern*				American Woodcock			
American Bittern*				Upland Sandpiper			
Glossy Ibis				Spotted Sandpiper			
Mute Swan				Great Black-backed Gull			
Canada Goose				Herring Gull			
Mallard				Common Tern			
American Black Duck				Roseate Tern*			
Gadwall				Least Tern			
Green-winged Teal*				Rock Dove			
Blue-winged Teal*				Mourning Dove			
Wood Duck				Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Ruddy Duck				Black-billed Cuckoo			
Hooded Merganser				Barn Owl*			
Red-breasted Merganser*				Screech Owl			
Turkey Vulture				Great Horned Owl			
Northern Goshawk*				Barred Owl			
Sharp-shinned Hawk*				Long-eared Owl*			
Cooper's Hawk				Saw-whet Owl*			
Red-tailed Hawk				Whip-poor-will			
Red-shouldered Hawk				Common Nighthawk			
Broad-winged Hawk				Chimney Swift			
Northern Harrier				Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
Osprey				Belted Kingfisher			
American Kestrel				Northern Flicker			
Ruffed Grouse				Pileated Woodpecker			
Northern Bobwhite*				Red-headed Woodpecker*			

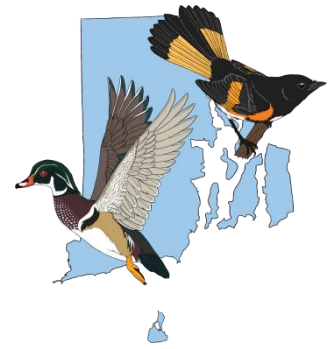
SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE	SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE
Red-bellied Woodpecker				Blue-headed Vireo			
Hairy Woodpecker				Red-eyed Vireo			
Downy Woodpecker				Warbling Vireo			
Wild Turkey				Black-and-White Warbler			
Ring-necked Pheasant				Worm-eating Warbler			
Eastern Kingbird				Golden-winged Warbler*			
Great-crested Flycatcher				Blue-winged Warbler			
Eastern Phoebe				Nashville Warbler			
Acadian Flycatcher				Northern Parula			
Willow Flycatcher				Yellow Warbler			
Least Flycatcher				Magnolia Warbler*			
Eastern Wood-Pewee				Black-throated Blue Warbler			
Horned Lark				Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Tree Swallow				Black-throated Green Warbler			
Bank Swallow				Cerulean Warbler*			
Rough-winged Swallow				Blackburnian Warbler*			
Barn Swallow				Chestnut-sided Warbler			
Cliff Swallow				Pine Warbler			
Purple Martin				Prairie Warbler			
Blue Jay				Ovenbird			
American Crow				Northern Waterthrush			
Fish Crow				Louisiana Waterthrush			
Black-capped Chickadee				Common Yellowthroat			
Tufted titmouse				Yellow-breasted Chat*			
White-breasted Nuthatch				Hooded Warbler			
Red-breasted Nuthatch				Canada Warbler			
Brown Creeper				American Redstart			
House Wren				Bobolink			
Winter Wren				Eastern Meadowlark*			
Carolina Wren				Red-winged Blackbird			
Marsh Wren				Orchard Oriole			
Northern Mockingbird				Baltimore Oriole			
Gray Catbird				Rusty Blackbird			
Brown Thrasher				Common Grackle			
American Robin				Brown-headed Cowbird			
Wood Thrush				Scarlet Tanager			
Hermit Thrush				Northern Cardinal			
Veery				Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Eastern Bluebird				Indigo Bunting			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				Evening Grosbeak*			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Purple Finch			
Cedar Waxwing				House Finch			
European Starling				American Goldfinch			
White-eyed Vireo				Eastern Towhee			
Yellow-throated Vireo				House Sparrow			

SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE
Savannah Sparrow			
Grasshopper Sparrow*			
Saltmarsh Sparrow			
Seaside Sparrow			
White-throated Sparrow*			
Swamp Sparrow			
Song Sparrow			
Vesper Sparrow*			
Dark-eyed Junco			
Chipping Sparrow			
Field Sparrow			
Additional Species:			

* Requires written documentation. See Handbook for reporting Rare Species

Effort:

DATE	Total Party Hours	DATE	Total Party Hours



Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 Volunteer Effort Card

VOLUNTEER:

PROJECT SUPERVISOR:

PRINT NAME _____ PRINT NAME _____ Date _____

SIGNATURE _____ SIGNATURE _____

*****ALL ATLASERS MUST SUBMIT AN EFFORT CARD INDIVIDUALLY. PLEASE USE INK*****

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	Mileage round-trip (Drivers only)	Travel Time Round-Trip (all altasers)	Time IN (on-site)	Time OUT (on-site)	Official Use Only (Total Time)
TOTAL					



RIBA 2.0 Rare Species Reporting Form



Careful details are needed for all species asterisked on the “RI Safe Dates” form. These supporting data are essential for the project. Please include as much of the following information for each of these species that you encounter. Thank you for your time and care in filling out this form.

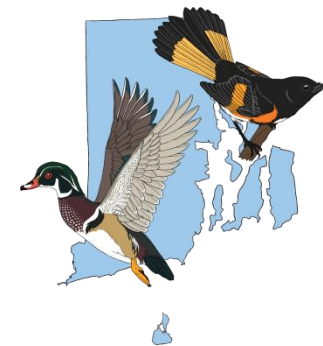
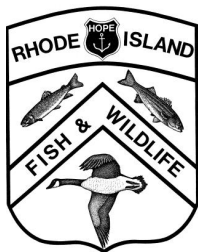
Species:	
Block Number:	
Observer:	
Date:	
Location (Latitude, longitude; Please Use Decimal Degrees):	
Habitat Description:	
Description of bird (or pair):*	
How did you differentiate bird from similar species?	
How did you observe the bird (binoculars, power?)	
What were the light conditions?	
Describe the bird's behavior:	
Describe the bird's call, song, method of delivery (height of perch, on the wing, etc.)	
Photo taken?	
Additional observers:	

*Include identifying field marks (shape, size, color, wing and tail description, pattern, etc)

Please supply a photo when possible.

Date of writing this account_____

Signature of person reporting_____



Observer: _____ **Email:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Address:[illegible]

Possible (PO):

X – Bird observed singing once in suitable habitat within the safe dates, but no other indication of breeding noted

P – Pair observed in suitable habitat during their breeding season

T – Song or other behavioral evidence of territory establishment on at least two days, a week or more apart

C – Courtship behavior or copulation (not used for waterfowl, shorebirds and diurnal raptors)

N – Bird visiting probable nest site

A – Agitated behavior or anxiety calls from adults suggesting probable nest or young nearby

B – Nest building by wrens or woodpeckers

Confirmed (CO):

NB – Nest building by all species except wrens and woodpeckers

DD – Distraction display or injury feigning

UN – Used nest location. Careful confirmation necessary

FL – Recently fledged young or downy young of galliforms, shorebirds or waterfowl. Young should be incapable of sustained flight and still dependent on adults for food

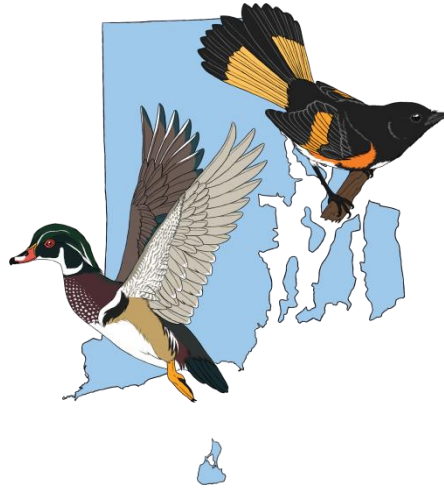
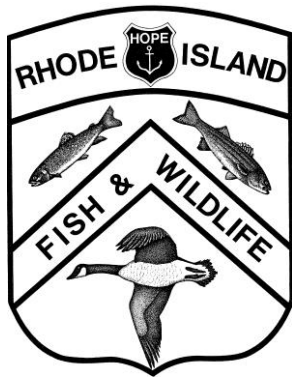
ON – Occupied nest. Adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest. Used for cavity nesters only when bird enters hole and remains inside, when a male and female exchange places while incubating or when a bird leaves the hole after being inside for some time

AY – Attending young. Adult carrying fecal sac or food for young.

As some birds may carry food long distances to young in a neighboring block, care is needed on the edges of blocks

NE – Nest with eggs or adult sitting on nest

NY – Nest with young or downy young of waterfowl, quail, waders etc



VOLUNTEER

THE RHODE ISLAND BIRD ATLAS 2.0 IS A 5-YEAR PROJECT TO RECORD EVERY BIRD SPECIES THAT BREEDS, WINTERS AND MIGRATES WITHIN THE STATE. A VOLUNTEER OF THE ATLAS HAS PARKED HERE TO GATHER IMPORTANT DATA FOR THE PROJECT.

ATLAS VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO RECORD DATA BY OBSERVING BIRDS ONLY AND WILL NOT CAUSE DISTURBANCE TO PROPERTY.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Dr. Charles Clarkson
RI Atlas Project Coordinator
Dept. of Natural Resources Science
University of Rhode Island
434.466.3650
clarksonce@uri.edu

Dear Landowner,

I am a volunteer working on the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0. I am writing to ask your permission to enter your property for the purposes of the project. While on your land, my only activity will be to watch birds and in the spring and summer, determine their breeding status. This project, which will occur from 2015-2020, will deploy over 70 volunteers to survey 165 blocks of land in the state. The results of this project will be vital to understanding how bird distribution has changed since the first Rhode Island Breeding Bird Atlas, conducted in 1982-1987.

Your property falls into my assigned 25 square Kilometer survey block. If permitted to access your property, I will assume full responsibility for my own welfare and I will be careful not to disturb you or your property. Any data recorded on your land will be reported by the number of the survey block and your individual property will never be identified.

I would be grateful to receive your permission to survey birds on your land. You may also be interested in becoming an Atlas volunteer yourself, in which case you can learn more by contacting the Atlas coordinator at the address listed below.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Surveyor:

Telephone:

Email:

Or you may contact the coordinator for the Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0:

Dr. Charles Clarkson

RI Atlas Project Coordinator

1 Greenhouse Rd, Coastal Institute

Dept. of Natural Resources Science

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

(434) 466-3650

clarksonce@uri.edu

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,





Although there are three observers atlas block 116, Mr. White is the Block Coordinator and is responsible for compiling all of the bird observations and effort onto one Master Field Card that will be mailed to the Project Coordinator at the end of the season.



Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 Breeding Field Card

Block Coordinator: Bob White Year: 2016 Block: 116

Other Observers: Merg Anser, Bob Olink

Category: OB = Observed; PO = Possible; PR = Probable; CO = Confirmed

SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE	SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE
Pied-billed Grebe*				King Rail			
Double-crested Cormorant				Clapper Rail			
Green Heron				Virginia Rail			
Little Blue Heron				Sora*			
Cattle Egret				Common Moorhen*			
Great Egret				American Coot			
Snowy Egret				American Oystercatcher			
Black-crowned Night Heron				Piping Plover			
Ylw.-crowned Night Heron*				Killdeer			
Least Bittern*				American Woodcock			
American Bittern*							
Glossy Ibis							
Mute Swan							
Canada Goose							
Mallard							
American Black Duck							
Gadwall							
Green-winged Teal*							
Blue-winged Teal*							
Wood Duck				Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Ruddy Duck				Black-billed Cuckoo			
Hooded Merganser				Barn Owl*			
Red-breasted Merganser*				Screech Owl			
Turkey Vulture				Great Horned Owl			
Northern Goshawk*				Barred Owl			
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	CO	NE	6/9	Long-eared Owl*			
Cooper's Hawk				Saw-whet Owl*			
Red-tailed Hawk				Whip-poor-will			
Red-shouldered Hawk				Common Nighthawk			
Broad-winged Hawk				Chimney Swift			
Northern Harrier							
Osprey							
American Kestrel				Northern Flicker			
Ruffed Grouse				Pileated Woodpecker			
Northern Bobwhite*				Red-headed Woodpecker*			

Atlasers visited the block on June 9 and found a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting on a nest and assigned the species to a confirmed (CO) nesting category with the code of "Nest with Eggs" (NE). With Sharp-shinned Hawk confirmed as a breeder within the block, volunteers can turn their attention to other species on subsequent visits.

Because the Sharp-shinned Hawk is considered a rare breeder in the state (as evidenced by the asterisk), additional information is required (see RIBA2.0 Rare Species Reporting Form).

On June 24, atlasers detected male and female Downy Woodpeckers exchanging places in a cavity, suggesting they are incubating eggs. This warrants an "Occupied Nest" (ON) breeding code within the Confirmed (CO) breeding category. Now that Downy Woodpecker has been confirmed in the block, volunteers can focus their attention on other species not yet confirmed.

					DE	DATE
Red-bellied Woodpecker				Blue-headed Vireo		
Hairy Woodpecker				Red-eyed Vireo		
Downy Woodpecker	CO	ON	6/24	Warbling Vireo		
Wild Turkey				Black-and-White Warbler		
Ring-necked Pheasant				Worm-eating Warbler		
Eastern Kingbird				Golden-winged Warbler*		
Great-crested Flycatcher				Blue-winged Warbler		
Eastern Phoebe				Nashville Warbler		
Acadian Flycatcher				Northern Parula		
Willow Flycatcher				Yellow Warbler	CO	AY 7/14
Least Flycatcher				Magnolia Warbler*		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	CO	AY	6/24	Black-throated Blue Warbler		
Horned Lark				Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Tree Swallow				Black-throated Green		
Bank Swallow						
Rough-winged Swallow						
Barn Swallow						
Cliff Swallow						
Purple Martin				Prairie Warbler		
Blue Jay	CO	FL	8/2	Ovenbird	CO	AY 8/2
American Crow				Northern Waterthrush		
Fish Crow				Louisiana Waterthrush		
Black-capped Chickadee				Common Yellowthroat		
Tufted titmouse				Yellow-breasted Chat*		
White-breasted Nuthatch						
Red-breasted Nuthatch						
Brown Creeper						
House Wren						
Winter Wren						
Carolina Wren						
Marsh Wren						
Northern Mockingbird						
Gray Catbird						
Brown Thrasher				Common Grackle		
American Robin				Brown-headed Cowbird		
Wood Thrush				Scarlet Tanager		
Hermit Thrush				Northern Cardinal		
Veery				Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
Eastern Bluebird				Indigo Bunting		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				Evening Grosbeak*		
Golden-crowned Kinglet				Purple Finch		
Cedar Waxwing				House Finch		
European Starling				American Goldfinch		
White-eyed Vireo				Eastern Towhee		
Yellow-throated Vireo				House Sparrow		

Atlasers observed an Eastern Wood-Pewee either carrying food or a fecal sac in its bill on June 24. Both of these activities suggest the bird was tending nestlings, or "Attending Young" (AY).

Atlasers saw a recently fledged Blue Jay while walking the block on August 2. The bird was incapable of sustained flight which greatly increases the chances the bird fledged from a nest within the block. This results in the designation of a "Fledged Young" (FL) breeding code within the Confirmed (CO) breeding category.

SPECIES	CATEGORY	CODE	DATE
Savannah Sparrow			
Grasshopper Sparrow*			
Saltmarsh Sparrow			
Seaside Sparrow			
White-throated Sparrow*			
Swamp Sparrow			
Song Sparrow			
Vesper Sparrow*			
Dark-eyed Junco			
Chipping Sparrow			
Field Sparrow			
Additional Species:			

* Requires written documentation. See Handbook for reporting Rare Species

Effort:

DATE	Total Party Hours	DATE	Total Party Hours
6/9	3.17		
6/24	6		
7/14	7		
8/2	5		

Calculation of party-hours is very important for the atlas. A party-hour is a single hour spent atlasng for each party or group in the block on any given day. On 6/9, all three observers walked the block together (as a single party) for 3-hours and 10-minutes, or 3.17 hours. The next time the block was atlased, two observers walked together for 3-hours while the third observer walked alone for 3-hours. This amounts to a total of 6 party-hours for the day. On 7/14, two observers walked together for 3-hours in the morning. The third observer visited the block alone later in the morning and spent 4-hours searching for breeding birds, for a total of 7 party-hours. On 8/2, all three observers visited the block separately. Observer one spent 1-hour in the block, observer two spent 2-hours in the block and observer three spent 2-hours in the block. This represents three separate parties with a total of 5-hours spent atlasng.



Each volunteer needs to submit an effort card once a month during the periods they are atlasing. Self-addressed stamped envelopes (SASEs) will be provided for this purpose. All forms **MUST** be completed in ink and **MUST** include the volunteer's signature.



Rhode Island Bird Atlas 2.0 Volunteer Effort Card

VOLUNTEER:

PROJECT SUPERVISOR:

PRINT NAME Bob White

PRINT NAME _____

Date _____

SIGNATURE: Bob White

SIGNATURE _____

ALL ATLASERS MUST SUBMIT AN EFFORT CARD INDIVIDUALLY. PLEASE USE INK

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	Mileage round-trip (Drivers only)	Travel Time Round-Trip (all altasers)	Time IN (on-site)	Time OUT (on-site)	Official Use Only (Total Time)
6/9/16	16.4	37 min.	0630	0845	
6/24/16	—	40 min.	0715	0925	
<p>Mr. White visited his block twice during the month of June to search for breeding birds. On 6/9 he drove to his birding location. The roundtrip was 16.4-miles in length and took 37 minutes. On 6/24, Mr. White was a passenger in another volunteer's car, so it not required to fill in mileage.</p>					
TOTAL	16.4	77 min			



NY – Nest with young or downy young of waterfowl, quail, waders etc



RIBA 2.0 Rare Species Reporting Form



Careful details are needed for all species asterisked on the "RI Safe Dates" form. These supporting data are essential for the project. Please include as much of the following information for each of these species that you encounter. Thank you for your time and care in filling out this form.

Because Mr. White detected a rare breeder in the state (Sharp-shinned Hawk), he is required to fill out a Rare Species Reporting Form. This form will be submitted along with all other forms (Field Card, and Incidental Observation Form) to the Atlas Coordinator no later than September 10 each year.

Species:	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Block Number:	19
Observer:	Bob White
Date:	6/9

Location (Latitude, Longitude; Please Use Decimal Degrees):	41.9191, -71.5594
Habitat Description:	Mixed mature forest. Primarily Oak and white pine.
Description of bird (or pair):*	smaller than Cooper's Hawk with shorter tail. Thin legs and dark nape. Tail was more square than rounded.
How did you differentiate bird from similar species?	only other species similar is Cooper's Hawk. see above description for differences.
How did you observe the bird (binoculars, power?)	8x45 Zeiss binoculars
What were the light conditions?	Sunny, ample light
Describe the bird's behavior:	Sitting on nest
Describe the bird's call, song, method of delivery (height of perch, on the wing, etc.)	None - bird was silent
Photo taken?	yes
Additional observers:	N/A

*Include identifying field marks (shape, size, color, wing and tail description, pattern, etc)

Please supply a photo when possible.

It is strongly suggested that you fill in your Rare Species Reporting Form the same day you detect the rare breeder. This will ensure that the details of the sighting will be fresh in your mind.

Date of writing this account 6/9/2016

Signature of person reporting Bob White