



Dear Minnesota Landowner:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to make a visit or two to your property between March and August to look for nesting birds. I am one of hundreds of volunteers that are conducting bird surveys for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas, a non-profit bird conservation project. This is a state-wide survey that will take 5 years (2009 - 2013). Results of the Atlas project will identify all breeding species in the state and help us know where in the state they breed.

We survey different habitats within a 9-sq-mile area (an Atlas block) to try to find as many different species as we can. The reason 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 Atlas to provide the most accurate data about which bird species occur throughout the state, volunteers are encouraged to visit as many of the habitat types in each of their blocks as possible. All the observations are assigned to the 9 sq-mile block; observations are not identified as being on your property.

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 to 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. Volunteers not only include people who are assigned one or more whole blocks to cover, but also people who want to help by contributing observations of nesting birds from their own backyards.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me or check out the Atlas website at www.mnbba.org.

Thank you very much for considering my request.

Sincerely,