



Dear Landowner,

I am a volunteer working on the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project and am surveying birds in your area. I am requesting permission to access your land to observe the birds breeding there. I hope to make several visits this spring and summer to record the number of bird species present, and quietly document evidence that they are also breeding. I am especially interested in your property because you may have habitats that do not exist or are not accessible elsewhere in my assigned atlas block (nine square-mile area).

The purpose of the second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2) is to document the distribution and abundance of all breeding bird species in the state. This involves people like me surveying different habitat and property types. The information we collect will allow us to assess changes in bird populations since the last atlas surveys (1985-1989) and potentially forecast changes to expect in the future. This project is being supported by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Society of Ornithology. Our statewide effort involves hundreds of volunteer surveyors like me.

If permitted on your property, I will assume full responsibility for my own welfare, and I will be careful not to disturb you or your property. I am quite willing to discuss and observe any rules or stipulations you may have and I would be glad to provide you with a list of the birds observed during my visit(s). In addition, I would be grateful to receive any information that you may have about nesting birds on your property during the Atlas project.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, see the Atlas website ([www.vabba2.org](http://www.vabba2.org)). You might decide to become an Atlas volunteer yourself!

If you are interested in allowing access to your property for this project, then I encourage you to contact me with any questions you have or simply mail back the reply sheet in the pre-stamped envelope. You can also contact the project's regional coordinator (see contact information below).

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Name of Atlas Volunteer

Phone Number

Email

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Name of Atlas Regional Coordinator

Email

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,