

PRESS RELEASE

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION
IOWA DEPT. OF NAT. RESOURCES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Do you enjoy watching birds particularly on a nice summer day? You can volunteer to be a part of the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The atlas is a five year project sponsored by the Iowa Ornithological Union and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Its purpose is to determine the distribution of Iowa's breeding birds. Such information is useful for making habitat associations which may lead to the preservation of natural areas. With a baseline study such as this we will also be able to monitor the effects of human activities on bird populations. In addition, the information will be useful for documentation of range expansion and contraction.

Iowa has been divided into 860 blocks. Each block is nine square miles in size. Participants record the observations of breeding behavior for each species identified. This is an excellent way to acquaint yourself with Iowa's birds while at the same time contributing to a worthwhile effort. There are breeding blocks in every county, so much of the work can be done close to home. Usually about 20-25 hours are spent in a block throughout the course of a year. Some of the blocks are located on

private land. If you own land, please consider granting permission for an atlaser to walk over the area, particularly the woodlands. Information about the project can be obtained from Carol Thompson, the Johnson County coordinator, 338-5361.