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South Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas

1988-1995

Although South Carolina has a long history of ornithological survey, dating back to the colonial era, much of this work was concentrated in the coastal zone and sporadic in nature. Large portions of South Carolina, especially the interior of the state, have never had an adequate natural history survey.

The Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) Project was designed to increase our knowledge of the state's breeding bird distribution and status through systematic surveys over a fixed period of time. The Atlas Project was patterned after similar surveys conducted in other states. One-sixth of a seven-and-a-half-minute USGS topographic quadrangle map, an area of about ten square miles, was the survey unit. Nearly all survey blocks were surveyed by volunteers, but unlike many states which had large numbers of volunteers, South Carolina had relatively few observers qualified to identify birds in the field by sight and sound. We were therefore only able to conduct a limited survey and used one block of every other quadrangle map as the survey unit. Breeding criteria, based on field observations, were similar to those in other states and grouped into 3 main categories: possible, probable, and confirmed breeding. In order to get the best picture of a species' breeding range, we also used random observations ("casual observations") and information reported in the literature ("literature note"), mainly the Chat, the quarterly bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, and unpublished field notes of various observers. Unpublished field notes and literature notes were used dating back to 1965, while casual observations were used during the same time period as the Atlas survey. Like most other states, we intended for the South Carolina BBA to be completed in 5 years. 1989 was the first full year of coverage, as 1988 got off to a late start and was used as a "trial run", but we had to extend coverage through 1994 and 1995 in order to finish all assigned blocks.



Because of restricted coverage, the South Carolina BBA did not effectively survey the breeding distribution of certain species such as Bald Eagles, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and other endangered and threatened birds, nor colonial-nesting wading birds or shorebirds. For information on the breeding status and ranges of the latter two groups, see Dodd, M.G., and T.M. Murphy. 1997. The status and distribution of wading birds in South Carolina, 1988-1996. Chat 61(3): 129-181 and Wilkinson, P.M. 1997. Survey and census of colonial nesting seabirds in South Carolina. Chat 61(4): 233-259.

Because of space limitations, it is not possible to acknowledge the more than 175 volunteers here who contributed to the South Carolina BBA. However, we would like to recognize those individuals who surveyed five or more Atlas blocks: Robin Carter, Dennis Forsythe, Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Tom Nicolls, Perry Nugent, Bill Pulliam, and Peter Worthington. Katherine Boyle of the SC Department of Natural Resources also deserves special recognition for her dedication and software skills that made the final product possible.

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We also intend to produce a hard copy of the Atlas with a list of all contributors and a brief species narrative to accompany each map. For more information or questions, send email to [John Cely](mailto:John.Cely@dnr.sc.gov).

The names below will take you to see the Atlas maps

[Acadian Flycatcher](#)
[American Coot](#)
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[American Robin](#)
[American Woodcock](#)
[Bachman's Sparrow](#)
[Baltimore Oriole](#)

[Dark-eyed Junco](#)
[Dickcissel](#)
[Downy Woodpecker](#)
[Eastern Bluebird](#)
[Eastern Kingbird](#)
[Eastern Meadowlark](#)
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[Eastern Screech-Owl](#)
[Eastern Towhee](#)
[Eastern Wood-Pewee](#)

[Ovenbird](#)
[Painted Bunting](#)
[Peregrine Falcon](#)
[Pied-billed Grebe](#)
[Pileated Woodpecker](#)
[Pine Warbler](#)
[Prairie Warbler](#)
[Prothonotary Warbler](#)
[Purple Gallinule](#)
[Purple Martin](#)

Barn Owl	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Barn Swallow	European Starling
Barred Owl	Field Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Fish Crow
Black Rail	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black Vulture	Grasshopper Sparrow
Black-and-white Warbler	Gray Catbird
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Gray Kingbird
Black-throated Green Warbler	Great Crested Flycatcher
Blackburnian Warbler	Great Horned Owl
Blue Grosbeak	Green Heron
Blue Jay	Hairy Woodpecker
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Hooded Merganser
Blue-headed Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Horned Lark
Blue-winged Warbler	House Finch
Boat-tailed Grackle	House Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	House Wren
Brown Thrasher	Indigo Bunting
Brown-headed Cowbird	Kentucky Warbler
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Killdeer
Canada Goose	King Rail
Carolina Chickadee	Lark Sparrow
Carolina Wren	Least Bittern
Cedar Waxwing	Loggerhead Shrike
Cerulean Warbler	Louisiana Waterthrush
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mallard
Chimney Swift	Marsh Wren
Chipping Sparrow	Mississippi Kite
Chuck-will's-widow	Monk Parakeet
Clapper Rail	Mottled Duck
Cliff Swallow	Mourning Dove
Common Grackle	Northern Bobwhite
Common Ground-Dove	Northern Cardinal
Common Moorhen	Northern Flicker
Common Nighthawk	Northern Mockingbird
Common Raven	Northern Parula
Common Yellowthroat	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Cooper's Hawk	Orchard Oriole
	Red Crossbill
	Red-bellied Woodpecker
	Red-breasted Merganser
	Red-breasted Nuthatch
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
	Red-eyed Vireo
	Red-headed Woodpecker
	Red-shouldered Hawk
	Red-tailed Hawk
	Red-winged Blackbird
	Ringed Turtle-Dove
	Rock Dove
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
	Ruffed Grouse
	Scarlet Tanager
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
	Seaside Sparrow
	Sharp-shinned Hawk
	Song Sparrow
	Summer Tanager
	Swainson's Warbler
	Swallow-tailed Kite
	Tufted Titmouse
	Turkey Vulture
	Warbling Vireo
	Whip-poor-will
	White-breasted Nuthatch
	White-eyed Vireo
	Wild Turkey
	Willow Flycatcher
	Wood Duck
	Wood Thrush
	Worm-eating Warbler
	Yellow Warbler
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
	Yellow-breasted Chat

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