



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

April 10, 1989

Dear BBA Committee:

The Breeding Bird Atlas season is upon us. As a result of our BBA committee meeting in March, there are several things that we are trying this year to enhance BBA coverage. One change is that we will try to focus most of our energy on completing the priority blocks. There are over 300 blocks as you can see by the enclosed list. We felt if we at least finished the priority blocks we would have a good statewide sample for the project.

Because many of these blocks are on state land we have enlisted the help of the state park, state forest, wildlife area and county conservation boards. Each of these entities has been sent a letter requesting their help and a list like this so they can identify blocks in their area. Consequently when people ask you for a block to work in you should try to refer them to a priority block that is on private property. This will maximize the number of blocks that get covered. Since not all state personnel are accomplished birders, the Nongame staff will try to focus on and assist state areas that need help.

The Nongame Program also had the good fortune to have some temporary worker hours left for this fiscal year. Consequently we have hired Steve Dinsmore through the end of June to help us with the BBA project. We also had some federal money available, so requested the assistance of some birders to complete 4 blocks for some reimbursement.

I hope through some of these efforts we can cover a lot of ground. Feel free to make copies of this list. Also if you need more cards, info packages or other help feel free to contact us. If you have any other ideas on how we can facilitate the project, please let me know.

I appreciate your dedication to the completion of this Breeding Bird Atlas project. Let us know if there is any way we can help you. If you can, let us know how the priority block coverage in your area is going during the season. Then if we need to re-encourage somebody or send out some of our personnel we can try to fit that into our schedule.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Laura Jackson
Nongame Urban Biologist

cc J. Hansen