

## **Final Report for Project: Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas in NS: Training volunteers and achieving coverage goals in remote areas.**

*Our primary objectives for the 2007 atlas field season were to:*

1. Retain, recruit and train volunteers atlas participants (with a focus on basic data collection, point counts and electronic data entry);
2. Provide support and training to Regional Coordinators (New Brunswick is divided into 13 Atlassing regions each with a volunteer Regional Coordinator who leads and provides support to local Atlas participants);
3. Reach minimum coverage goals in Regions that contain difficult to access squares and/or few participants.

*Results:*

Field staff, along with volunteer Regional Coordinators organized and led several training workshops in Nova Scotia during the 2007 Atlas field season (May to July). A total of 113 Nova Scotia Atlas volunteers attended these training sessions. As of Sept 1, 2007, 343 volunteer participants are registered in Nova Scotia.

This comprehensive training has resulted in accurate, consistent and increased data collection across NS. Although volunteers have until January 2008 to enter their field season data online, some Maritimes-wide results are already available. Atlassers have recorded a total of 5000 atlassing hours, have surveyed in 833, 10 x 10 km squares and have done 1209 point counts. These numbers already surpassed those that were available at this time last year and we anticipate that once all the data has been entered these figures will be doubled. Throughout the 2007 Atlas season, at least one Atlas staff member was available in the Atlas office to answer questions from participants by both phone and email. Current data summaries, as well as “clickable maps” are available online, allowing participants and other interested individuals to track the atlas’ progress ([www.mba-aom.ca](http://www.mba-aom.ca)).

Field staff also conducted point counts and atlassed in difficult-to-access and less populated areas in Nova Scotia. The field team focused on priority squares (one in four 10 x10 km atlas squares have been designated as a priority square to ensure even coverage across all NS regions). During the 2007 atlassing season, the field team conducted 168 point counts in Nova Scotia and surveyed a total of 28, 10 x 10 km Atlas squares.

The additional training and support for volunteers, increased data collection and increased coverage in remote areas in 2007 would not have been possible without the support from NS HCF.