



## What's Sap? - January 2026

Evening Grosbeak Photo: John Reaume

Dear Atlasser,

This edition of the Atlas newsletter includes:

- Last call for data!
- Interested in being an author for the Atlas?
- A sneak peek at our accomplishments
- Summarizing and celebrating year 5 Sappy Hour
- Congrats to our latest challenge winners
- Support the Atlas!
- Get your Atlas-3 swag
- Join the Atlas community on Discord

It's hard to believe that five years have already come and gone! We can't say it enough but THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the data collection for Atlas-3. Closing in on 4 million observations and over 5000 Atlas squares with data, we certainly accomplished an awful lot. The Atlas office has shifted gears into the review, cleaning and analysis of data, and has begun preparations for publication. This next phase promises to be just as exciting as the last!

### **Last call for data!**

January 31 marks the **final day** to submit your data to Atlas-3; whether it's in a notebook, an eBird checklist, or a larger dataset from a research project, please submit all data before the end of the month. Data submitted after January 31 will not be included in the final Atlas-3 products, which would be a waste of an atlassers' incredible effort!

We'll share more about the Atlas publication timeline at next month's [Sappy Hour](#). The January 31 deadline is important to give us time to review data before producing the maps and other outputs to be used by [Species Account authors](#) as they write their draft accounts this summer, keeping us on track for publication in 2027.

## Interested in being an author for the Atlas?

We believe strongly in including a diverse group of authors to write Species Accounts for the final publication. So, if you or someone you know is interested in the species account process, please visit or share our [Atlas author expression of interest form](#). Prospective authors have until February 16 to express their interest. We'll review responses and reach out to selected authors by early April.

Authors will be chosen based on experience with the species and demonstrated writing abilities, with preference to those who have been involved in Atlas-3. Full details about species authorship are available on the [expression of interest form](#).

## A sneak peek at our accomplishments

Atlas-3 set some lofty goals to cover more than one million square kilometers, and so far the results are very encouraging. Here are a few early stats:

- 19.4% of Ontario's 10,633 Atlas squares received at least 20 points counts and 15 hours of effort during peak season, including:
  - 90.7% of Southern Ontario
  - 6.6% of roaded northern Ontario
  - 2.1% of remote northern Ontario
- 295 species were reported with breeding evidence
- 52321 squares (just about half of all squares!) with data
- More than 100,000 hours surveyed during peak season
- More than 90,000 point counts conducted
- Almost four million species records collected

Register for our [February Sappy Hour](#) to hear more!

## Summarizing and celebrating year 5 Sappy Hour

Join us as we celebrate and share highlights from the final year of atlassing, along with an overview of how the project performed across all five years of data collection.

This webinar will explore progress toward coverage goals, participation achievements, and some early results. Whether you contributed data in the field, supported the project behind the scenes, or are simply curious about the outcomes, this is a chance to reflect on what we accomplished together and to look ahead to what comes next for Atlas-3.

February 24 at 7 pm: [Register here](#) or join us on Facebook Live.

## Congrats to our latest challenge winners

The dust has settled on the final two challenges of 2025. Here are our monthly prize winners:

- September (importing checklists from eBird): Andrew Bendall
- October (photo submission): Lyn Folkes

Each of the winners was chosen at random from the qualifying entries and we will be sending each winner a pair of Vortex Diamondback binoculars.

## Support the Atlas!

Although data collection is complete, there's still a lot of work ahead to make the Atlas a success. This latter phase is generally harder to raise funds for, so your financial support will go a long way in helping us achieve the goals of Atlas-3. The Atlas team sincerely appreciates the volunteer support for the project, and if you would like to consider helping even more, please donate or recruit others to make a donation in support of the project. You can donate directly to Atlas-3 by following [this secure link](#). You will receive a charitable receipt for income tax purposes from Birds Canada, along with an extra warm feeling inside, knowing you're supporting bird conservation. For those that are able to, thank you for considering this!

## Get your Atlas-3 swag

Looking for some Atlas-3 gear? Check out our project merch at the store [here](#).

## Join the Atlas community on Discord

Got a question about a specific Atlas topic or just want to connect and share stories with other Atlassers? Join the Atlas Discord, a communication server with different channels, each specific to an Atlas topic! For detailed instructions on how to join, check out: [birdsonario.org/discussion](https://birdsonario.org/discussion).

Invite link: <https://discord.gg/JCfgr3egG>.

Until next time!

- The Atlas-3 Team

### The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas-3 thanks the following for their financial support:

Environment and Climate Change Canada

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Vortex

The McLean Foundation

Clean Foundation

Natural Resource Solutions Inc.,

Hodgson Family Foundation

Baillie Fund

Wildlife Habitat Canada

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Project Learning Tree

Greenbelt Foundation

RBC Foundation

Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)

Newmont

Parks Canada Agency

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Kenneth M. Molson Foundation

### The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas-3 thanks the following for their in-kind support:

Boreal Avian Modelling Project

Royal Ontario Museum

WildTrax

Natural Resources Canada

University of Alberta

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Ontario Parks

Wild Birds Unlimited

Plenty Canada

**COVID-19:** *The Atlas team reminds all atlasers to be aware of the latest COVID-19 conditions in Ontario. Please follow all public health guidelines and restrictions, and check for updates frequently. Information on the latest conditions and public health guidance can be found on the Government of Ontario [website](#). Follow the links to the most current situation in the province.*



This email was sent by [Birds Canada](#) on behalf of the [Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas](#) partners (Birds Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature).

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