



Kirtland's Warbler Photo: Lucas Foerster

Dear Atlasser,

This edition of the newsletter includes:

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Data review underway

Thank you to everyone who worked diligently this year to collect data and to submit it by the August 31 deadline! Doing so allows our Regional Coordinator team to conduct their data reviews before the data moves on to the provincial review team for a secondary review. Ensuring accurate data is very important for a high quality end product!

Late submissions are still accepted, but doing so as soon as possible will help ensure the data are processed before all the planning gets finished for our fifth and final field season in 2025!

One early notable finding is that fewer “pinned” locations for significant species records have been submitted than in previous years. Pinned locations go a long way to help ensure we can provide protection for those species. It’s not too late to go back and add pins for any species that were flagged for details by editing the checklist on the NatureCounts website. [Watch our video how-to here.](#)

If you need a refresher on getting data submitted, check out a rerun of our August Sappy Hour - "[Data Entry Tips and Tricks](#)".

The Atlas needs your photos

We know there are many talented bird photographers out there. What better way to support the Atlas than to contribute and potentially see your images featured in the final published materials?

This off-season we'll be reviewing all the submitted photos to start choosing which ones may be used in the final publications. We also have a continual need for photos for social media posts and other promotional material, so there are a lot of opportunities for sharing your beautiful images.

The Atlas is looking for good quality photos of all Ontario breeding birds, preferably taken in Ontario during the breeding season (and in breeding habitat wherever possible). We're especially interested in photos that depict elevated breeding evidence (e.g. displays, nests, young, carrying food, etc.).

Please submit the highest resolution versions of your images possible using the [media submission form](#). Instructions for sending batches of images are included on that page.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted images already!

Congratulations to our August Challenge Winner!

Congratulations to Hannah Dodington, the winner of our August Challenge. Hannah was the lucky winner, chosen at random from the 62 contributors who submitted over 1200 images.

Hannah received a pair of Vortex Diamondback binoculars as a prize and had this to say: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent being a part of the Atlas-3. Being able to observe breeding bird behaviour and contribute to a province wide project has been fulfilling and motivating. I am looking forward to the final year of the Atlas and the breeding birds that come with it!"



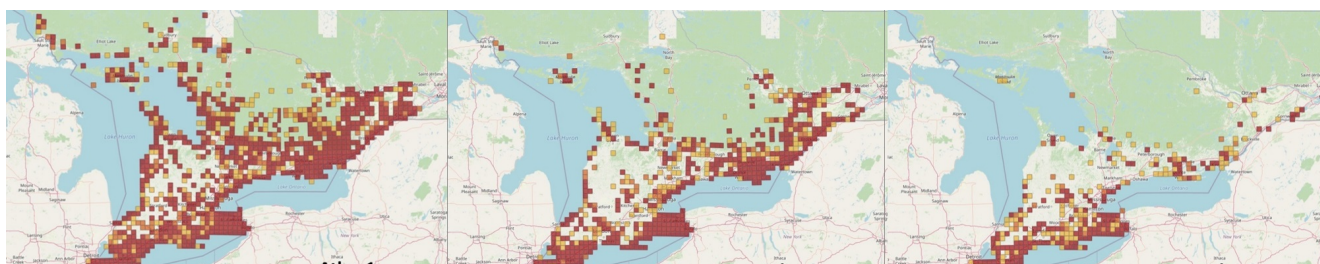
Thanks to Vortex Canada for supporting our monthly challenges.

We've got an exciting set of challenges planned for 2025 so keep an eye out for announcements in our newsletters and social media or watch the [challenge page](#) on our website.

Early Atlas results show changes in distribution

While most analyses are still being tweaked in preparation for the fifth and final year of data collection, we can already look to [Atlas species maps](#) to see your hard work showing us that many species' distributions have changed over the last twenty and forty years. Here are two species showing noticeable changes in opposite directions:

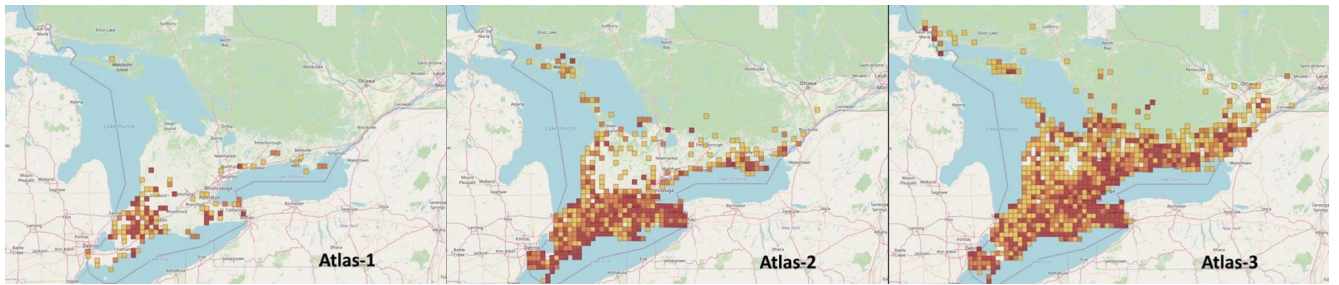
Purple Martin





There has been a huge change in the number of occupied Atlas squares for Purple Martin, especially in the north and eastern portion of their southern Ontario range.

Red-bellied Woodpecker:



The rapid northward expansion of Red-bellied Woodpeckers that was evident in Atlas-2 has continued strongly filling in the area north of Toronto and south of the Canadian Shield.

We hope this inspires you to continue your hard work for 2025. Watch our social media channels as we plan on featuring more of these change maps in the new year.

Unusual finds in 2024

Every year of the Atlas comes with some exciting surprise finds, and 2024 was no different. Some might remember 2024 as the “Summer of the Blue Grosbeak” - and for good reason. There were an unprecedented four Atlas squares with breeding season Blue Grosbeaks this year; three in Region 1 (Essex) and one in Region 4 (Middlesex-Elgin). In Essex, one pair was documented near Leamington and a pair with at least one fledged young was documented in Windsor; the latter would represent the first ever confirmed breeding of Blue Grosbeak in the province!



Blue Grosbeak in Windsor, photo by Paul Pratt

A couple of northern trips made it up into the Cape Henrietta Maria area of the Hudson Bay Lowlands and they turned up an impressive list of highlights including Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Jaeger, Harris’s Sparrow, and perhaps most surprisingly, a Say’s Phoebe that seemed determined to try to attract a mate.





Say's Phoebe in Polar Bear Provincial Park, photo by Tim Haan

It was also an exciting summer for one of our rarest breeding species - Kirtland's Warbler. One of our summer staff, Abbey Lewis, found a singing male in Region 32 (Sudbury west) and multiple birds, including an active nest, were found in Region 31 (Sudbury east) by members of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team.



Female Kirtland's Warbler on a nest in Region 31, photo by Lucas Foerster

Northern Trips 2025

Planning for our northern volunteer trips is well underway. We have an exciting line-up of possible trips planned to fill in gaps in remote parts of northern Ontario in 2025. If you're interested in participating on one of these trips, please visit our [Northern Trips page](#) and submit your details using the form.

Want to learn more about Northern Trips first? Our next Sappy Hour on November 26 will be all about Northern Trips, so come hear about past trips and what to expect! [Click here](#) to register.

Future Sappy Hours are planned out for the next several months, but if you have a topic you'd like to see covered, contact us at the [Atlas office](#) (or reach out through the [discussion forum](#)).

Missed a Sappy Hour? Check out the [playlist](#) on our YouTube channel of all the past Sappy Hours.

Atlas-3 quick start

New to the Atlas or just looking for a refresher? Check out the Quick-Start page: www.birdsontario.org/quick-start or head over to our "[Getting Started with Atlas-3](#)" video playlist that covers all of the basics in six short videos. Maybe you haven't taken the plunge yet or maybe you know a birder who just needs a nudge to see how easy it is to participate. Whatever the reason, we want to show everyone just how easy and fun it is to get Atlassing.

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: birdsontario.org/discussion.

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

Content wanted

Do you have a cool Atlassing story, adventure, or observation to share? Please [send them](#) to us for either a blog post or short newsletter item.

Support the Atlas!

The Atlas team sincerely appreciates the volunteer support for the project. If you would like to consider helping even more, please make a donation or recruit others to make a donation in support of the project. You can now donate directly to Atlas-3 by following [this secure link](#) – or click on the donate button at the bottom of this e-newsletter. You will receive a charitable receipt for income tax purposes from Birds Canada, along with an extra warm feeling inside, knowing you're supporting the project even more. For those that are able to, we thank you for considering this!

Until next time!

- The Atlas-3 Team

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

Environment and Climate Change
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Foundation

Vortex

The McLean Foundation

Clean Foundation

Natural Resource Solutions Inc.,

Hodgson Family Foundation

Baillie Fund

Wildlife Habitat Canada

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry

Project Learning Tree

RBC Foundation

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Newmont

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Wild Birds Unlimited

WildTrax

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

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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