



Bird Studies Canada's James L. Memorial Baillie Fund has provided the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas with funding for Volunteer Travel Grants to facilitate and encourage volunteers to survey remote and/or unpopulated areas that might not be otherwise covered during the five-year atlassing period. The goal is to ensure even and adequate coverage across the Maritimes.

Eligible trips must meet the following criteria:

1. The square(s) to be covered is more than 150 km from the volunteer's home or can only be accessed by boat (i.e., coastal islands) or is difficult to access for some other reason (requires canoeing, hiking, 4-wheel drive vehicle etc...)
2. The square requires additional field coverage and is unlikely to be covered by a local volunteer over the course of the Atlas (please discuss with the RC for that region)
3. The proposed trip is of sufficient length to meet the square's minimal coverage requirements (i.e., 20 survey hours)
4. At least one participant is an experienced birder
5. Participants have appropriate wilderness experience required for a safe and successful trip.

Some priority will be given to trips involving qualified point counters, trips involving more than one atlas square and/or trips that present mentoring opportunities. Subsidies will have a maximum value of \$500 and will cover travel costs during the peak Atlas field season (June to July 2007) including mileage (\$0.30/km), boat rentals and camping accommodation.

To apply for a Volunteer Travel Grant please send in a brief-one page trip proposal that includes the following information:

1. Name of trip leader and contact
2. Details of the area to be covered (square numbers, distance from your home, access by foot, boat or car, etc.)
3. Dates and length of the trip
4. Detailed list of expected expenses (mileage, accommodation, boat rental)
5. Names of participants and details of each Participant's birding experience (ability to bird by sight and sound) and wilderness experience

Please submit applications by email (preferred) or mail to the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas Office by May 12, 2008. Late applications will be considered if funding is still available.

All applications will be reviewed by the steering committee and ranked according to a common set of criteria. Our aim is to maximize the benefits to the atlas, so requests for partial support are welcome.

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation was established in 1976 and is administered by Bird Studies Canada. It aims to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority is given to projects that enable enthusiastic amateurs and volunteers to put their interest to work to support conservation efforts or increase knowledge of Canadian birds.