

Draft Acknowledgments for the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas – 8/9/05

A generation from now, when historians of science assess the whole concept of the breeding bird atlas, they will arrive at a peculiar and paradoxical conclusion. Breeding bird atlases are long-term, large-scale, analytically sophisticated undertakings of the sort that are usually associated with university or government research; in short, they are “Big Science”. Yet they are carried out largely by citizen scientists, sometimes with little formal training, but always with no expectation of reward beyond the satisfaction of getting out into the field to study birds.

One of the biggest challenges that we faced going into the atlas was finding field workers. We asked ourselves: “Can we really find a hundred skilled and reliable birders in Nevada? Maybe fifty or seventy-five would be more realistic...” Well, we exceeded everybody’s expectations: by the end of the project, 395 different people had contributed to atlas field work. Here are their names:

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