**THE MINNESOTA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS – FROM CITIZEN SCIENCE TO ADVANCES IN ECOLOGY**

Gerald Niemi

Professor, Department of Biology

Senior Program Manager/Ecologist - Natural Resources Research Institute

University of Minnesota-Duluth

The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (MNBBA) was a 5-year project (2009–2013) completed by >700 volunteers and researchers with the goal of documenting the distribution and abundance of Minnesota’s breeding birds. A randomized framework was developed to sample breeding birds at over 7,000 points within most townships in the state and a volunteer network of observers selected townships to document bird breeding activity. A series of models for 115 breeding bird species was calculated to predict the distribution and abundance of these species across the state and population estimates were derived for a majority of these species. Results of the atlas are summarized online (<https://mnbirdatlas.org/>) and include descriptions of the history, ecology, and conservation for 249 species documented during the atlas.

 