

## Appendix C: Surveying Private Property

**Always** get permission from the landowner to enter private property. Some of the best times to survey for birds occur during the first couple of hours of daylight, so access should be **arranged before the day(s) you visit**. Take the time to explain what the project is about, what you plan to do, including whether you will be alone or have companions, and when you plan to do it. In most cases, permission to enter onto the property will be granted. Encourage landowners to contact the Regional Coordinator ([click here](#)) or the Atlas Office ([atlas@birdsonario.org](mailto:atlas@birdsonario.org)) if they would like further information. Please note that not all private lands are signed so be sure to do your research about ownership and confirm permissions before entering lands. Land ownership information can be obtained via the Land Registry website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/overview-land-registry>. A fee may be involved.

You can download a sign from the website to put on the dash of your car (see below). It states that you are collecting data for the Atlas and gives contact information for the Atlas Office, in case people have further questions. Please remember to use the dashboard sign; some rural roads are typically only used by locals and unfamiliar vehicles can arouse suspicion.

Some key points to remember:

- **Always** get permission to access private property
- Arrange access ahead of each visit
- Be courteous in your interactions
- Follow all instructions
- Offer to share your findings
- Only pull over and park at safe locations
- Never block access to roads, driveways, trails, pastures, fields, equipment, etc.
- Use the dashboard sign available on the website
- Respect crops and livestock
- Leave all gates as found
- Leave no trace and pick up trash

Dashboard sign



I am a volunteer surveying birds in this area

For more information contact:  
Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas  
Phone: (519) 586-3531 ext. 123  
Toll-free: 1-844-369-2894 ext. 123  
Email: [atlas@birdsontario.org](mailto:atlas@birdsontario.org)  
Website: [www.birdsontario.org](http://www.birdsontario.org)