



Dear Property Owner:

The bearer of this letter is a volunteer researcher for the Birds in Forested Landscapes (BFL) project, an international research study sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. The Lab is a membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. We have enlisted the help of hundreds of volunteers throughout the United States and Canada to participate in BFL.

#### About Birds in Forested Landscapes

The purpose of the Birds in Forested Landscapes project is to gather information that will facilitate the conservation of forest birds of conservation concern. One of our goals is to provide guidelines for landowners who wish to manage habitats for birds. We have selected forty-eight species to study this year, so people in all areas of North America can participate. We are focusing our attention on forest fragmentation, one factor that could be playing a role in population declines of these and other birds.

Birds in Forested Landscapes will help us answer the question, "How much forest area does each species need to breed successfully?" Participants will make two visits to forest patches of various sizes and degrees of isolation, survey for their study species using the BFL project CD and note the breeding success (or failure) of each. While there, they will also check for the presence or absence of cowbirds and nest predators.

We hope you will allow the bearer of this letter access to your property to carry out this research. All participants are asked to respect private property and the study does not involve the collection of plants or animals or other disturbances to the habitat. If you have questions or would like more information about BFL or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, feel free to call Jim Lowe (607) 254-2413 or Sara Barker (607) 254-2465. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of private landowners, like yourself, in our efforts to study bird populations.

Sincerely,

Kenneth V. Rosenberg  
Director of Conservation  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology