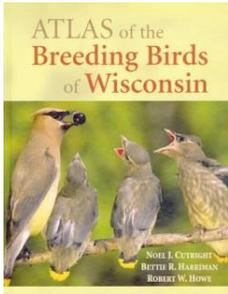


2016 Priority Bird Conservation Projects



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

Data for the first *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin* was collected from 1995-2000 and field work for the second Atlas is occurring from 2015-2020, for publication by 2025. This project – the largest citizen science initiative in the state - assigns volunteers specific blocks to survey for signs of nesting activities. Data is entered on eBird to be accessible to anyone and usable for a wide range of analyses. The resulting Atlas will document the distribution and abundance of bird species that breed within Wisconsin's borders. The second Atlas will document trends that have occurred over twenty years due to climate change and other factors, and will help to inform management and policy decisions going forward. To learn more and/or volunteer, visit www.wsobirds.org/atlas.



Bird City Wisconsin

Nest boxes, green space, native plant gardens, window treatments, educational programs, and festivals are all part of this statewide effort to address the decline of urban birds and make our communities more friendly to both birds and people. Several partners -- the Milwaukee Audubon Society, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Wisconsin Audubon Council, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, and Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin -- launched Bird City Wisconsin in 2010. The program has now recognized 93 communities with more than 2.5 million residents, and three nearby states are launching similar programs. Bird Cities feature special street signs and attract widespread media attention. The program offers technical assistance and many resources to participating communities. Visit www.birdcitywisconsin.org.



Wisconsin Bird Monitoring Program

Effective conservation actions are guided by sound science, so where little is known about a species' distribution, habitat use, and population trends, little meaningful action can be taken. WBCI partners have identified gaps in our knowledge of Wisconsin's birds and are now conducting volunteer-based monitoring programs to fill these gaps. Their current focus is on marshbirds (part of a nation-wide survey), nightjars (whip-poor-wills, nighthawks, etc.), and owls. Visit the Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network site to learn about volunteering: <http://wiatri.net/projects/birdroutes/index.htm>



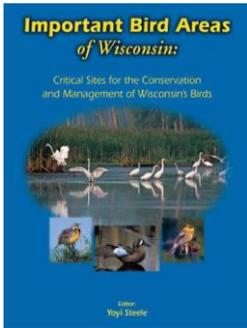
Kirtland's Warbler Recovery in Wisconsin

Federally endangered Kirtland's warblers were first discovered in the central sands region of Wisconsin in 2007. Eight adult males and three adult females were found at one site, including three nesting pairs. Efforts quickly got underway to monitor and manage this new-found population. Annual surveys by volunteers in pine barrens across northern and central Wisconsin have discovered a few more individuals. The Fund supports continued surveys, nest monitoring, and working with landowners and foresters to expand jack pine habitat for these and other rare pine barrens birds. Find updates at www.fws.gov/midwest/greenbay



Monitoring Mercury in Common Loons

Results of a 20+ year study of mercury levels in loons in 50 northern Wisconsin lakes contributed to the 2010 state ruling requiring coal-burning power plants to reduce mercury emissions. In 2017, DNR scientists will begin to sample blood and feather tissues of loons from those same lakes to determine the effects of the reduced mercury emissions. Samples will be collected from ten lakes per year and each lake will be re-visited every five years to determine long-term trends. Loons are a sentinel species - they are high on the food chain, are long-lived, and bioaccumulate contaminants that cause abnormal behaviors that affect their abilities to reproduce. On-going monitoring will help to guide strategies for protecting loons and other aquatic species.



Important Bird Areas Program: Southern Forests Initiative

WBCI partners are applying the well-established Strategic Habitat Conservation process, used by many agencies and organizations, to plan, deliver, and evaluate a conservation strategy for southern forest ecosystems and the birds they support. A working group has selected focal species for each habitat type and is setting population and habitat objectives for those species, identifying the best places on the landscape to manage for those species, engaging key partners in managing these sites, and developing a monitoring strategy to track progress. This effort is modeled on an existing initiative for grassland birds in Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Stopover Initiative

The Wisconsin Stopover Initiative is a partnership consisting of local, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, businesses, and individuals working together to protect, conserve, and enhance stopover habitats used by birds migrating through the Great Lakes basins of Wisconsin. The project works on multiple fronts to identify priority sites for protection, provide technical support for land acquisitions and easements, and offer educational programs and materials about habitat management for private landowners and professional land managers. Descriptions of individual projects and a wealth of resources on migratory birds and their stopover habitats are at www.wisconsinbirds.org/migratory.



Neotropical Migrant Wintering Areas – Reforesting the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica

Over half of Wisconsin's avian Species of Greatest Conservation Need winter in Latin America. The quality of habitat there directly impacts their survival and reproductive success here in Wisconsin. WBCI's International Committee is working with US and foreign partners to ensure that these important wintering habitats are conserved for orioles, warblers, thrushes, shorebirds, and other neo-tropical migrants. WBCI is partnering with Osa Conservation to protect and re-forest key parcels on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, where 55 species found in Wisconsin are present each winter. The Osa Peninsula is globally important for biodiversity, supporting 3% of the world's plant and animal species. Go to www.osaconservation.org to see photos of the area and learn Osa Conservation's work.



Whooping Crane Reintroduction Program

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) aims to restore a migratory population of whooping cranes to eastern North America. There are currently around 100 whooping cranes in the Eastern migratory population as a result of WCEP's efforts. The Natural Resources Foundation and Wisconsin DNR are members of WCEP. The Foundation has contributed over \$600,000 to the project since 2000 and is currently supporting two aspects of the project: the Direct Autumn Release program and field research. For project updates, visit www.bringbackthecranes.org.

Make your contribution to the Bird Protection Fund today – thank you!

(1) Pledge or donate to the Great Wisconsin Birdathon at www.WIBirdathon.org

(2) Donate online at www.WisConservation.org

(3) Mail a check payable to *Natural Resources Foundation* (Memo: BPF), P.O. Box 2317, Madison, WI 53701-2317

Questions? Call 1-866-264-4096.