



Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Overview

WBCI Annual Meeting
March 19-21, 2015



What is WBCI?

- **State all-bird initiative**
 - ↳ Started in 2002
 - ↳ Statewide/regional reach
 - ↳ Voluntary partnerships
 - ↳ Integration & coordination
- **Diverse partnership, >175 members**



How Does WBCI Work?

- **Steering Committee**
 - ↳ 5 permanent members: NRCS; USFWS; DNR; WSO; WI Audubon Council
 - ↳ 4 or 6 ad-hoc members, serving 2-year terms
- **WBCI committees**
- **3 staff**
 - ↳ WBCI Coordinator – Vacant
 - ↳ Monitoring – Ryan
 - ↳ Southern Forests/IBAs – Yoyi



www.wisconsinbirds.org



WISCONSIN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

A cooperative partnership to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation emphasizing voluntary stewardship

ABOUT US

Background

Contact Us

Endorsers

OUR WORK

All Bird Plan

Birding & Nature Trail

Bird Monitoring

RESOURCES

Conservation Plans

Issues Papers

Publications

Steering

Education

Habitat

IBA

International

Issues

Outreach

Stopover

Research

Join the Flock

WBCI is courting new partners to help birds across the state

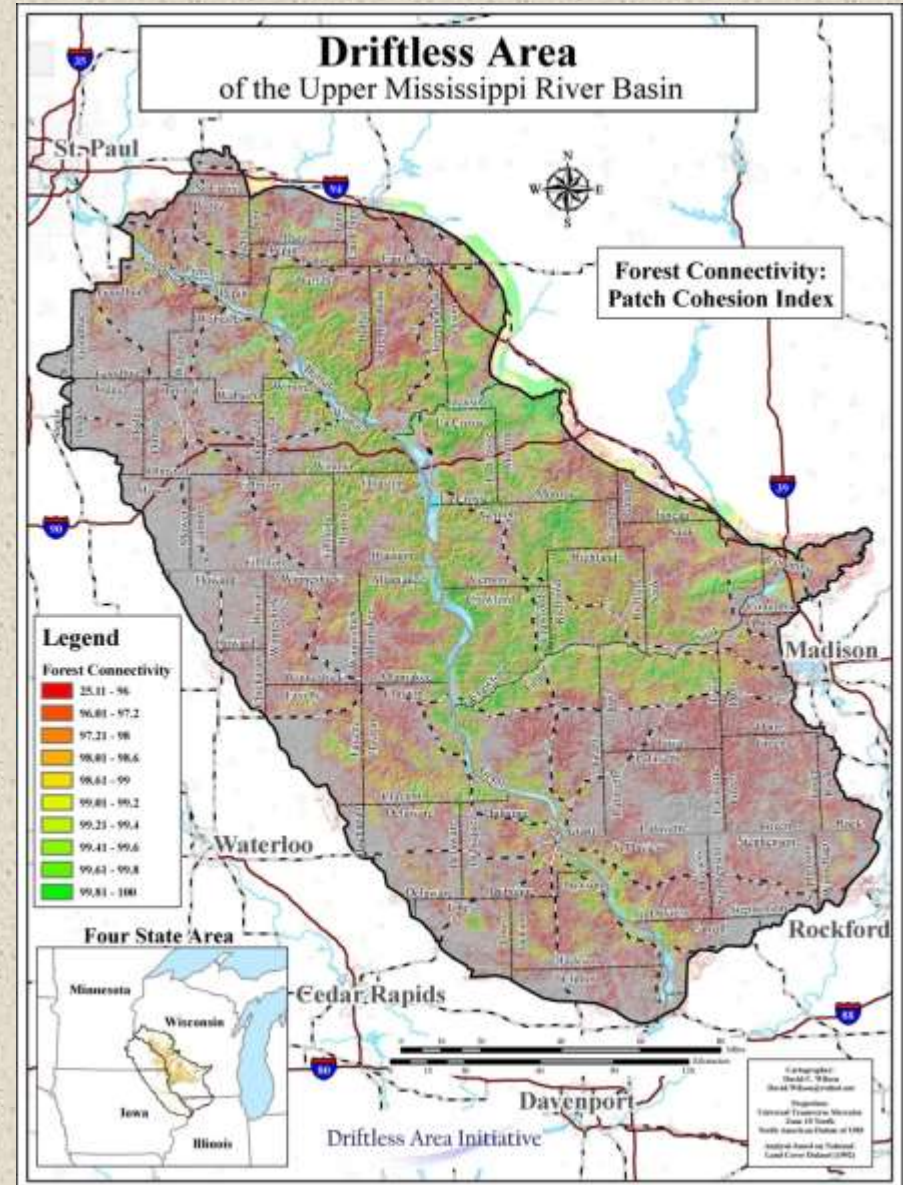
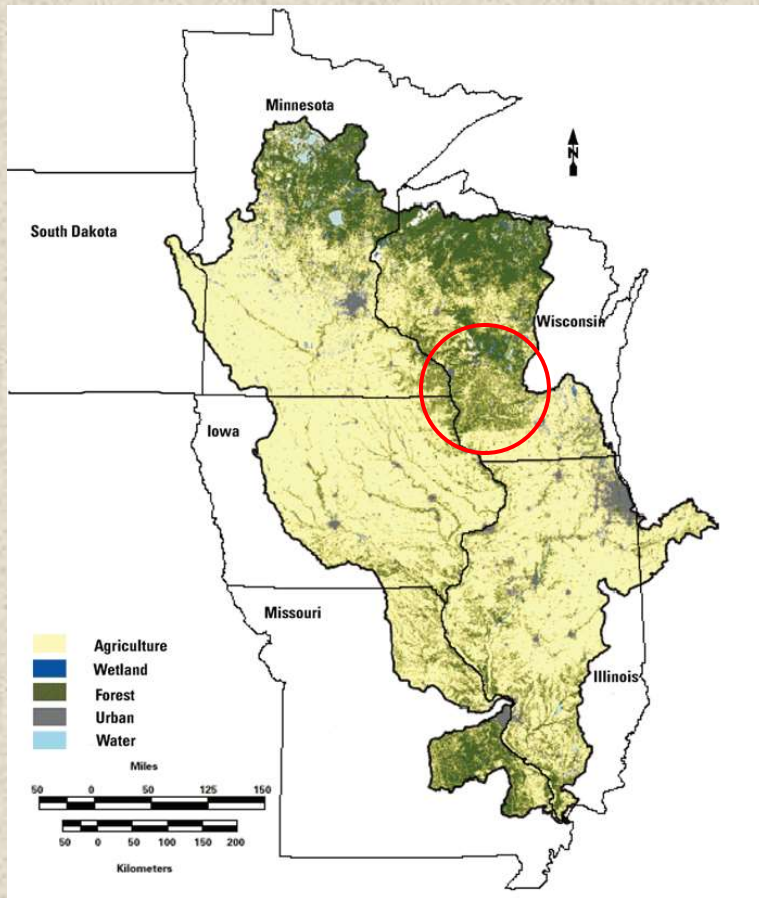


WBCI Work

- **Science-based landscape-scale conservation planning & implementation**
 - ↳ Grasslands & Southern Forests
- **Monitoring & research**
 - ↳ Statewide surveys: RSHA; owls; nightjars; marshbirds
 - ↳ 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas
- **Engagement**
 - ↳ Education: K-12; curriculum; Bird Kits
 - ↳ Issues: climate change; collisions; lead; cats, etc.
 - ↳ Outreach: social media; press releases; GovDelivery; radio shows; live chats; fieldtrips; eBird
 - ↳ Bird City: engaging new audiences
 - ↳ Bird Protection Fund: fundraising for bird conservation
- **Full lifecycle management**
 - ↳ Migratory stopover & wintering grounds



Southern Forests



ISSUES COMMITTEE

- Keep partners up to date on important issues affecting birds.
- “White papers”
 - Climate change
 - Wind power
 - Pesticides
 - Lead
 - Cats

Bird Monitoring



Christmas Bird Count



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

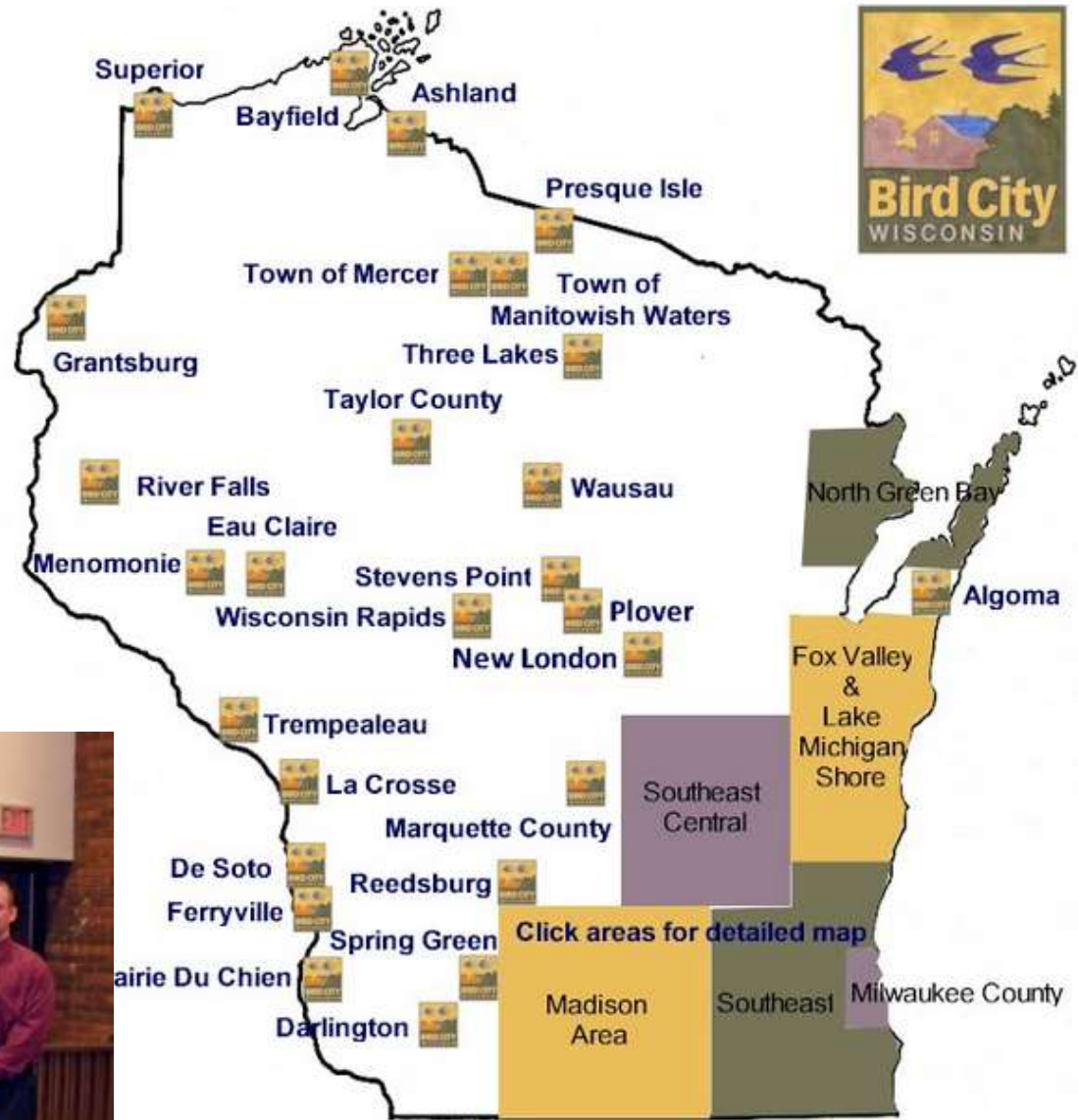
- Replicating & improving first atlas, 1995-2000
- Field work spanning 2015-2020, enlisting thousands of volunteers statewide
- Steering committee + 4 work committees
 - Science
 - Operations
 - Communications
 - Funding/Development



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN

Now 87 communities
statewide!

www.birdcitywisconsin.org



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN

Now 87 communities
statewide!



To be recognized as a Bird City Wisconsin, communities must meet at least 7 of 22 criteria across 5 categories.

1. Creation and Protection of Habitat (need 3)
2. Participation in Program Promoting Effective Forest Management (1)
3. Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds (1)
4. Public Education (1)
5. International Migratory Bird Day (1)



Great Wisconsin Birdathon 2014

A joint effort of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, the Madison Audubon Society, and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology to support state and local bird conservation activities.



217 Birders 745 Donors \$55,000 Raised!

The numbers are in, the stories are told, and we are thrilled to report that the 2014 Great Wisconsin Birdathon was a great success!

Many thanks to the 745 donors and the 217 birders who helped the Birdathon raise more than \$55,000 for eight conservation projects. These projects benefit the year-round needs of Wisconsin's birds and educate the public about bird conservation.

Throughout the month of May, 65 teams conducted their Birdathons, observing a collective total of 266 species, 14 more than last year! Rare finds included piping plover, black-necked stilt, chuck-will's-widow, Swainson's hawk, long-tailed duck, summer tanager, red-throated loon, and more. The variety of birds seen is a true testament to our state's ecological wealth and conservation ethic.

The Birdathon's success is a result of the passion, concern, skills, creativity, generosity, and energy of a thousand people. We are deeply grateful to all involved.

Most Species Observed:

Team Bird So Hard	197
WSO: Tessen, Baughman & Schultz	167
Bodacious Birdgeeks	160
Cutright's Old Coots	154
Biblioloons	148

Top Fundraising Teams

Signature Team: Cutright's Old Coots	\$5,439
Finch Gang (Madison Audubon)	\$4,613
Signature Team: Lake Superior Team	\$3,488
Signature Team: Madison Green Team	\$3,100
Foundation Flamingos	\$2,346

Best Team Names (Top 5)

- Bodacious BirdGeeks
- The Finch Gang
- Cutright's Old Coots
- Biblioloons
- Foundation Flamingos

Participating Organizations and Bird Cities

The Birdathon serves as a fundraiser and friend-raiser for Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative