



# Strategies for Successfully Completing Your Atlas Block



# Know the Completion Criteria

- A. 20+ survey hours in a block over multiple visits.
- B. At least 80% of the species found in the block during the first Atlas are detected.
- C. At least 50% of the species detected are confirmed as breeding.
- D. All habitat types within block have been visited.
- E. Surveys were completed at different times of year.
- F. At least 2 night visits have occurred.

# Check eBird Block Page

20 day  
hours?

**Upton CE** Change Location  
Iron County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin BBA 2015-2020 Set

**Overview** Recent Visits

WBBA II Status: **Complete** ✓ Change

WBBA II Block Type: **Priority**

WBBA II Effort Hours (Diurnal/Nocturnal): **27.50 / 1.13**

Updated ~7 hr(s) ago.

**42** Checklists | 3 Participants

	OBSERVED	POSSIBLE	PROBABLE	CONFIRMED	TOTAL
Wisconsin BBA 1995-2000	1	20	28	15	63
Wisconsin BBA 2015-2020	3	22	17	40	79

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8 May 2017	21:25	Camp Olympia (private)			
8 May 2017	21:15	Upson CE - O'brien Lake Rd Middle			
8 May 2017	21:00	Upson CE - main west road, first part	28	15	63
8 May 2017	20:48	Upson CE - Bittern Pond	17	40	79
8 May 2017	20:40	Upson CE - O'brien Lake Rd Middle			
15 Jun 2016	11:40	Upson CE - Bittern Pond			
15 Jun 2016	11:00	Upson CE - O'brien Lake Rd Middle			
15 Jun 2016	10:10	Camp Olympia (private)			
2 Jun 2016	10:00	Camp Olympia (private)			

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80% of  
Atlas I spp.?

80% of 63 is 50.4

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# Final thing to check for block completion

Click header to sort



SPECIES NAME ▾	BREEDING EVIDENCE ▾	LOCATION	DATE ▾
Horned Lark	Possible (H)	Martell CE	2 Aug 2017
Tree Swallow	Possible (H)	Martell CE	2 Jul 2015
White-breasted Nuthatch	Possible (H)	Martell CE	17 Jun 2015
Savannah Sparrow	Possible (S)	Martell CE	2 Jul 2015
Northern Cardinal	Possible (S)	Martell CE	17 Jun 2015
Canada Goose	Observed	Tyson Park	14 May 2016
Turkey Vulture	Observed (F)	Martell CE	23 Jun 2018
Northern Harrier	Observed (F)	Martell CE	2 Jul 2015
Pileated Woodpecker	Observed (F)	Martell CE	10 Jun 2015
European Starling	Observed	Tyson Park	14 May 2016
Louisiana Waterthrush	Observed	Tyson Park	14 May 2016

## Look for uncoded species!

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Look for uncoded species! Assign H or S?

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Needs a code?  
Okay - flyover  
Needs a code?  
Needs a code!  
Needs a code!  
Migrant?

# Look for uncoded species! Assign H or S?

ENTER CHECKLISTS INTO EBIRD

IN A TIMELY FASHION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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# Suggested Calendar

**April:** Nocturnal Visit  
(woodcock, owls)

- Early season, get familiar with block, contact landowners

**May:** migration  
confusing, but early  
nesters



# Suggested Calendar

**June:** Build your species list

- Visit later to S7
- Combine early morning or evening with a night
- Harder to confirm during June, but make sure species list complete



# Suggested Calendar

**July** – Singing drops off rapidly

- All about confirmations
- Repeated visits to different habitats
- Strategic visits for final confirmations



# Suggested Calendar

**August** – still productive first week, but migrants on the way

- Very targeted for final visits
- It's over by mid-August except for:
  - Late breeders: American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing
  - Long seasons: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Wild Turkey



# Calendar Overview

**April/May:** Study block, early breeders, beware migrants, first nocturnal visit

**June:** Build species list (2–4 visits), final nocturnal

**July:** Hit it hard (4–8 visits), work different habitats to rack up confirmations

**August:** Mop up, target final confirmations (2 final visits if needed)

# Tips for getting confirmations

- Make a target list and have a laser focus on birds you need

<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	Probable (T)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">24 Jul 2018</a>
<b>Winter Wren</b>	Probable (S7)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">24 Jul 2018</a>
<b>Ovenbird</b>	Probable (S7)	Liegeois Road	<a href="#">21 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>	Probable (P)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">25 May 2018</a>
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>	Probable (S7)	Galuska Road	<a href="#">21 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	Possible (H)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">25 May 2018</a>
<b>Rock Pigeon</b>	Possible (H)	Galuska Road	<a href="#">13 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>	Possible (S)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">24 Jul 2018</a>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>	Possible (H)	Abrams Railroad Pond	<a href="#">21 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Chimney Swift</b>	Possible (H)	Brookside Road	<a href="#">21 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>	Possible (H)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">23 Jul 2018</a>
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	Possible (S)	Bayport to Pioneer- Stiles Tower area	<a href="#">24 Jul 2018</a>
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>	Possible (H)	Abrams DOT Wetland	<a href="#">13 Jul 2017</a>
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>	Possible (S)	Liegeois Road	<a href="#">3 Jul 2018</a>

- Print this list, eBird mobile, block summary card



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Try for easy species

- Conspicuous around towns

American Robin, European Starling,  
Common Grackle, Chipping Sparrow



- Easy to see in open habitats

Red-winged Blackbird, Killdeer, swallows

- Waterfowl

Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck – broods  
easy to spot

# Tips for getting confirmations

- Get up early!



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Find productive habitats



Thick Shrubs Berry Bushes Ryan's Yard



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Station yourself in a spot with good visibility



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Stand still



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Follow an individual bird





# Tips for getting confirmations

- Carefully watch behaviors



# Tips for getting confirmations

- Be alert for chipping or begging noises





# Tips for getting confirmations

- If you find a puzzling fledgling, wait for parents to show up

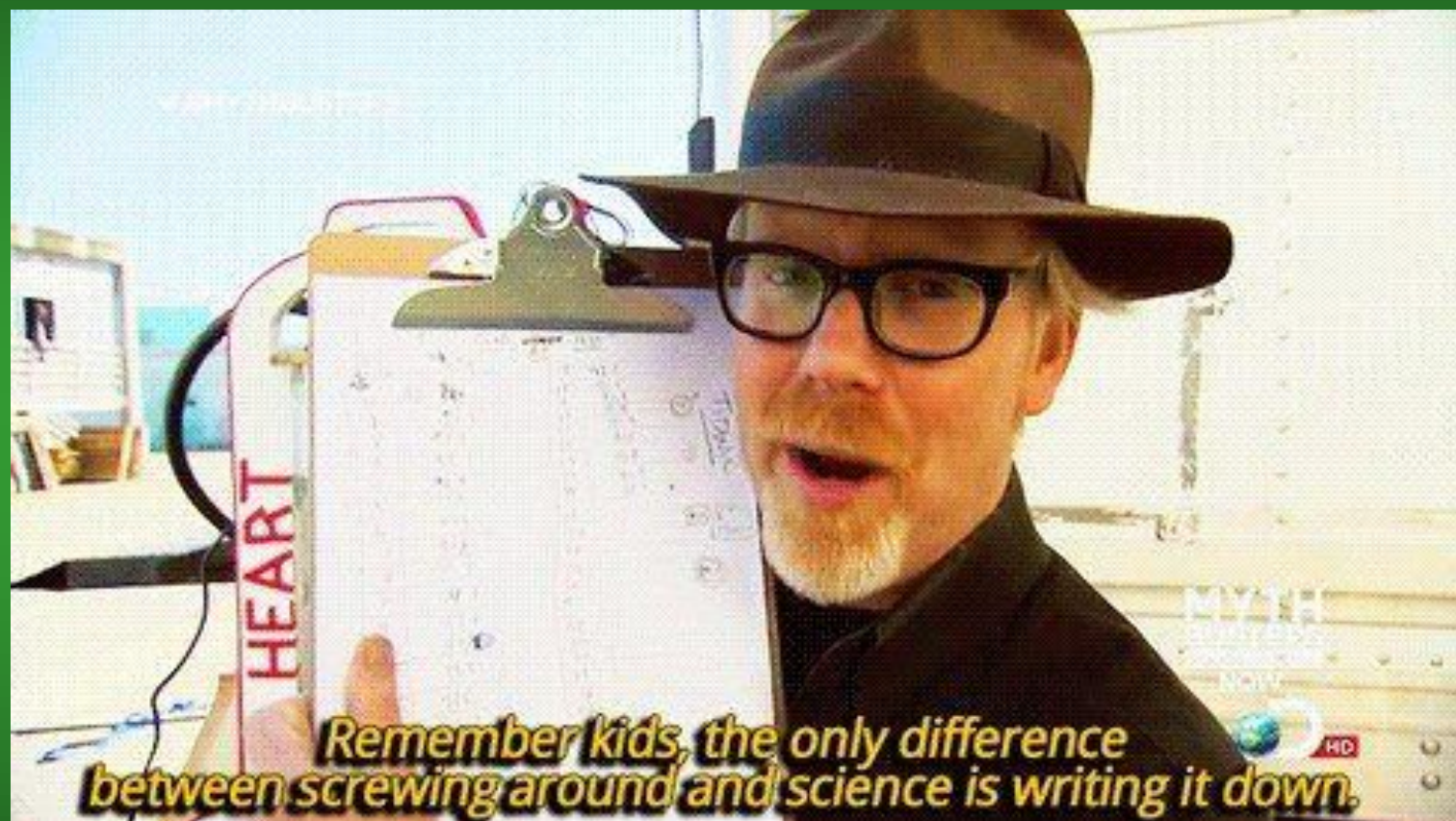


# Tips for getting confirmations

- Finding nests is not necessary



Take  
advantage of  
CN, CF, FL  
codes



**Remember kids, the only difference between screwing around and science is writing it down.**