

OBSERVATORY



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

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County Coordinators (one for a county in most cases)in WBBA II

27 Atlas Regions in Atlas 1

Wisconsin has 72 counties each of which now has a COUNTY COORDINATOR These are the people who should be contacted first if you have any questions or problems.

If you are traveling out of your local area and wish to atlas there, please contact the appropriate County Coordinator. They also will be very happy to hear of any friends you may have who might like to help.



During Atlas 1:

During year 1 of WBBA II:

226 species were <u>Confirmed</u> as breeding

211 confirmed in just Year 1

9 species were indicated as Probable breeders

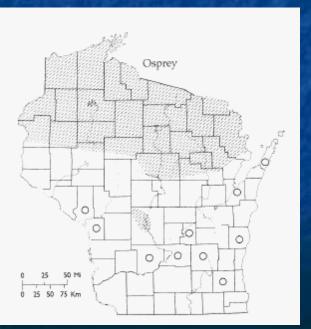
And 2 species were only Possible breeders

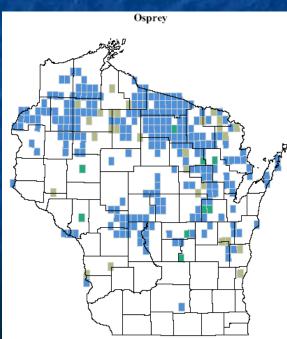


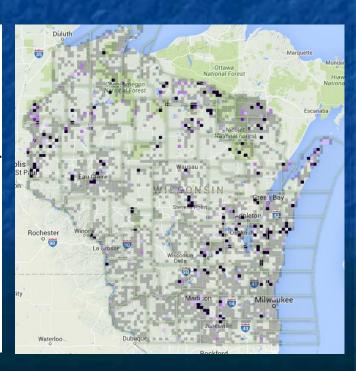










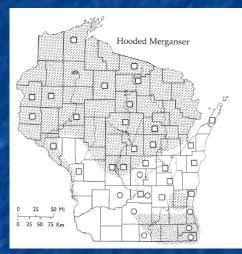


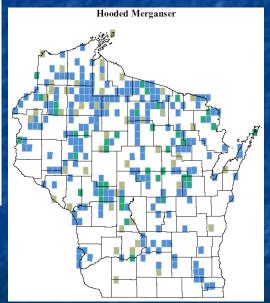


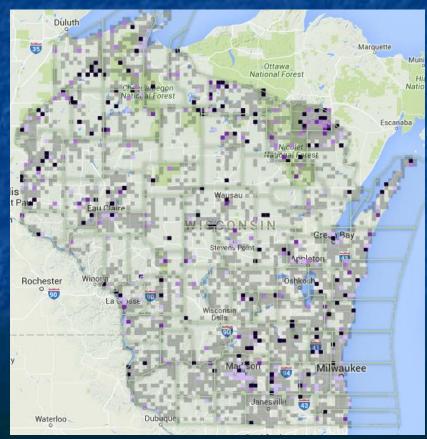
Hooded Merganser

Hooded Merganser, male courtesy Jack Bartholmai



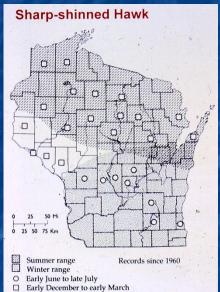


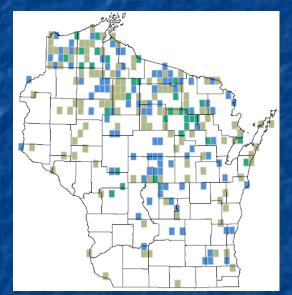




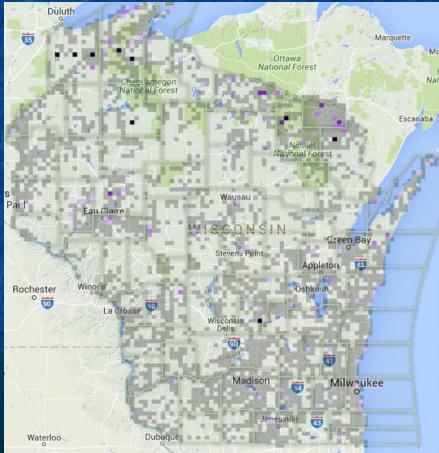


Sharp-shinned Hawk



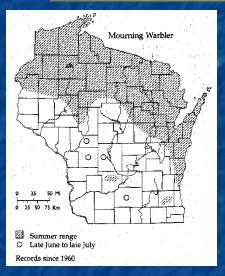


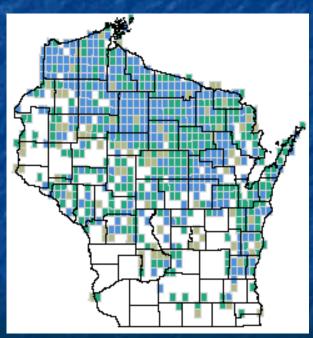




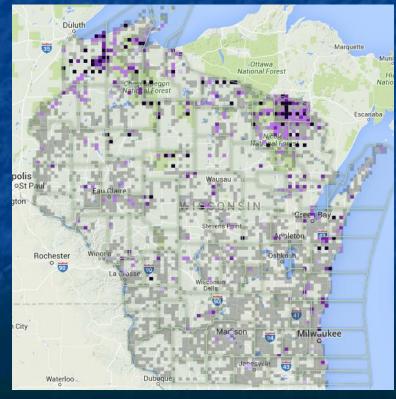


Comparing Sam's map with the Atlas map, the species showing the greatest range expansion

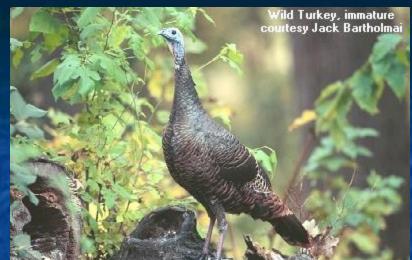




Will that remain true thru WBBA II?

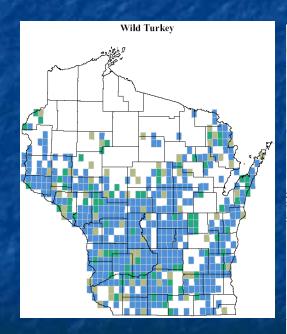


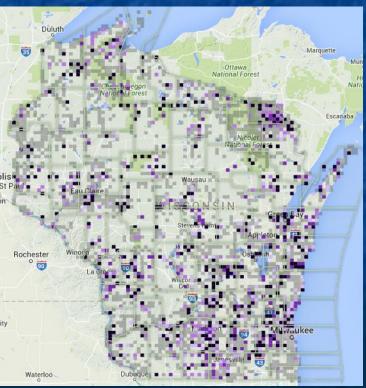




Wild Turkey





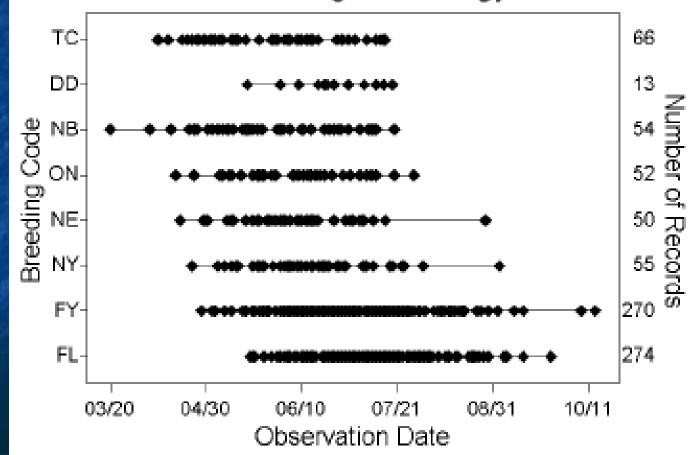






Phenology - a branch of science dealing with the relations between climate and periodic biological phenomena (as bird migration or plant flowering)

Breeding Phenology





First Records – WBBA II





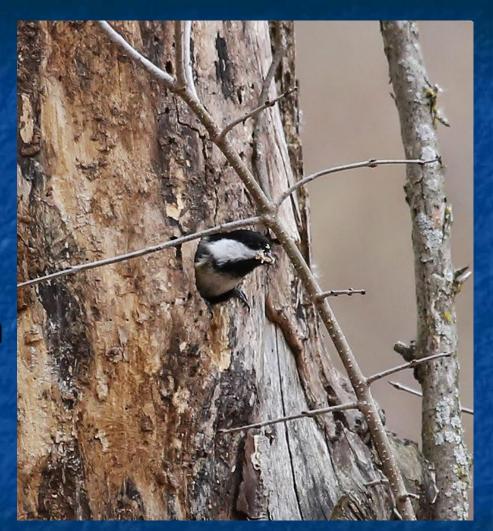








You've seen thousands of chickadees; how many have you seen excavating a nest cavity?



You've seen lots of oriole nests; how many have you seen "under construction"?



You've heard countless Redeyed Vireos; how many have you seen feeding young?



Slowing down...

According to the folks working on the **Nova Scotia BBA: "The British found** that even a top-notch birder could not find every breeding species in a block in 100 hours. These figures are applied as a guideline to help volunteers know when to devote most of their energy to a new block."

Slowing down to really watch what a bird is doing will help immensely when you are out atlasing...

But while you're watching these things unfold...

- You'll be learning new field skills
- You'll learn much more about the birds you're studying for the atlas
- In slowing down, you'll see many other aspects of the natural world you may have previously overlooked

The easiest time to see breeding activity is early in the season (mating behavior in a pair or nest building) and when young are being fed. Know which species start to nest early and late so that you can target different species as their behaviors are more obvious.



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Be careful of fledglings or young birds that use camouflage to conceal their presence (e.g. woodcock or ground-nesting birds). Some won't be able to fly and will be vulnerable to being stepped on.







Avoid visiting nests early in the day

Avoid visiting nests during bad weather

Avoid visiting nests near to dusk

Use binoculars to check nests high above you



- Seeking out nests is NOT critical to this project
- We do NOT need nest monitoring data and in fact discourage active pursuit of such (no nest record cards this time)
- Most of your nest finds will be incidental. This is fine but act accordingly:
 - Don't touch nest, eggs, or vegetation (predator cues)
 - Don't leave a dead-end trail
 - Get out of there quickly
- Other methods of confirmation can be attained through careful observation, esp. if nest suspected in area

"Ethics of Atlasing"

□ What about approaching a nest?

Obviously, we are interested in breeding and nesting birds — but does that mean we should be spending a lot of time searching for nests?

No – in fact, you can get the CONFIRMATION you are seeking, without disturbing a nest, and without leading predators to that nest.

What about sharing information about a location of a rare, endangered, or threatened species?

- □ Please don't share your location for "sensitive species"
- ☐ (You can input your data several weeks after the fact)

The Endangered Species Act protects all species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened. It is illegal to "harass" any endangered species. So, think carefully about a close approach to any E/T species.

□What about entering private property when you might say to yourself "I'm only going off the road for 2 minutes to check on that female Orchard Oriole"....

Imagine this scenario: "Ordinarily I wouldn't pursue a bird off a trail or approach closely, but isn't it important to 'push the envelope' in order to document the bird?"

We all "represent" the Atlas project, and our respective organizations.

Get permission when planning to atlas on private lands!

Always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds and other wildlife.

Observe all laws, rules, and regulations for public and private birding areas.

Limit use of recordings and similar methods of attracting birds, especially in heavily birded areas or in known locations of rare birds or those that are easily disturbed.

Minimize adverse effects to the environment by staying on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible.