



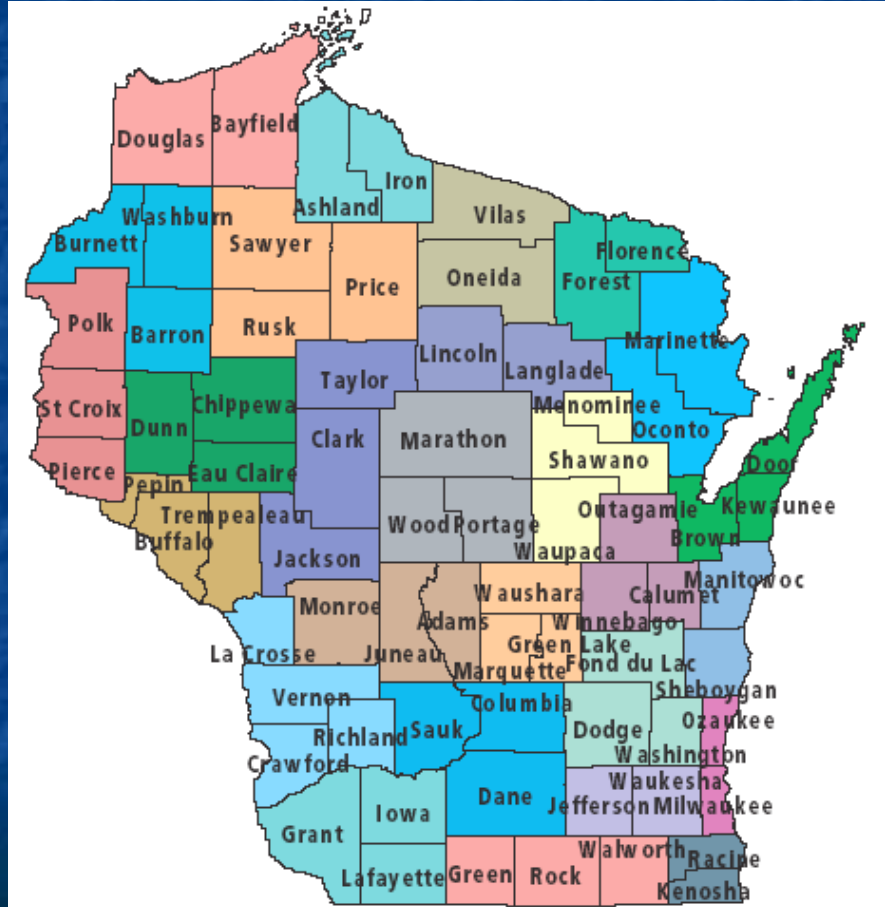
Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II



Western Great Lakes
Bird & Bat
OBSERVATORY

Bill Mueller, Director, WGLBBO
Mike Reese, WBBA II Director of Volunteers





**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
year 1 of
WBBA II:

During Atlas 1:

226 species
were Confirmed as breeding

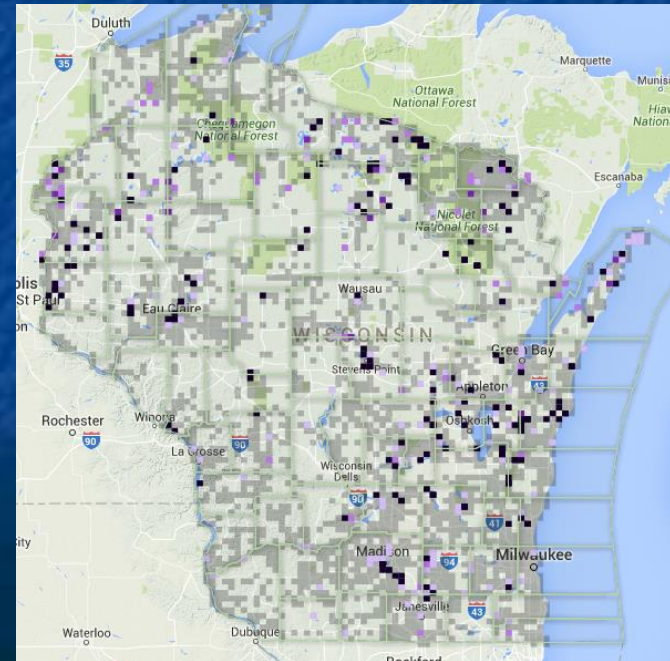
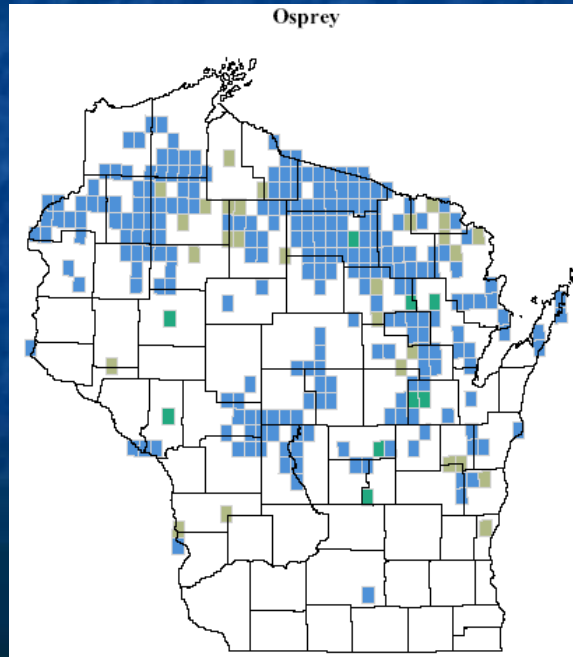
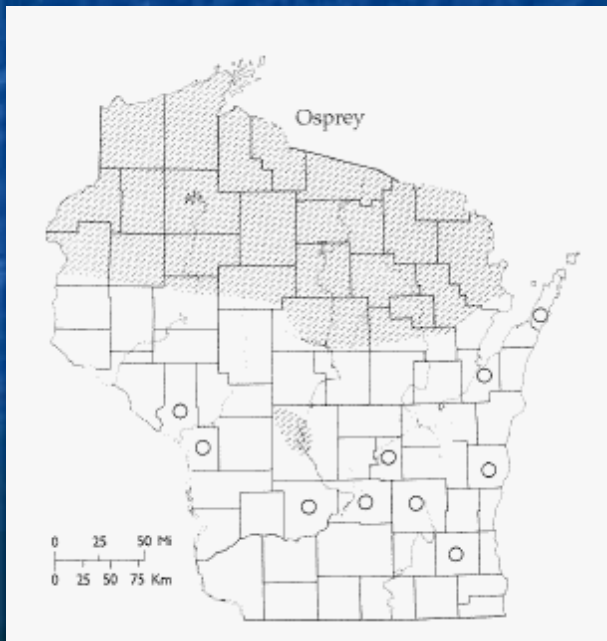
211 confirmed
in just Year 1

9 species were
indicated as
Probable breeders

And 2 species were only
Possible breeders



Osprey





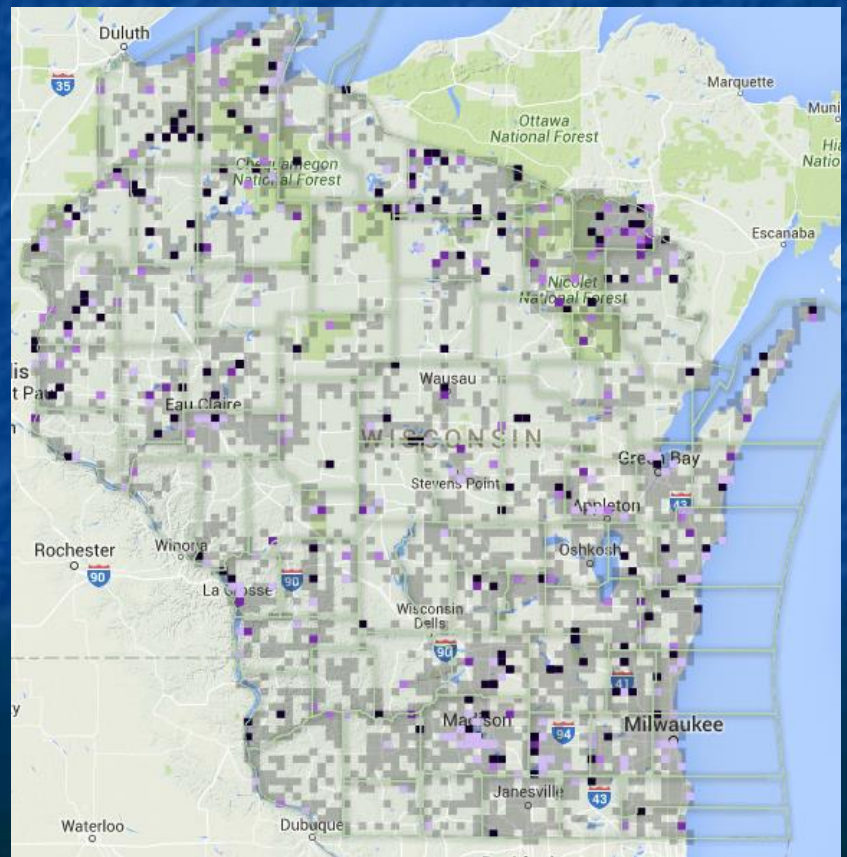
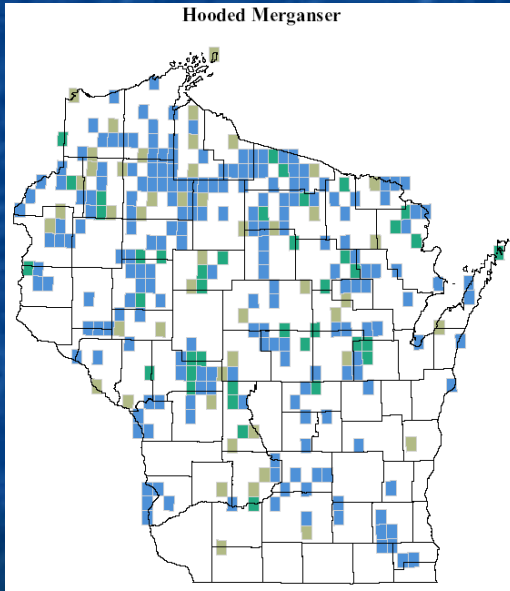
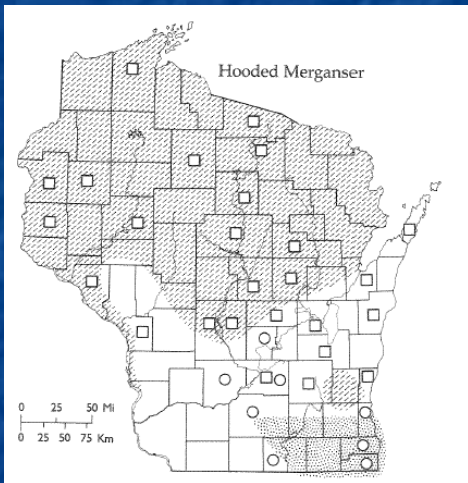
Hooded Merganser, male
courtesy Jack Bartholmai



Hooded Merganser, female
courtesy Thomas Schultz

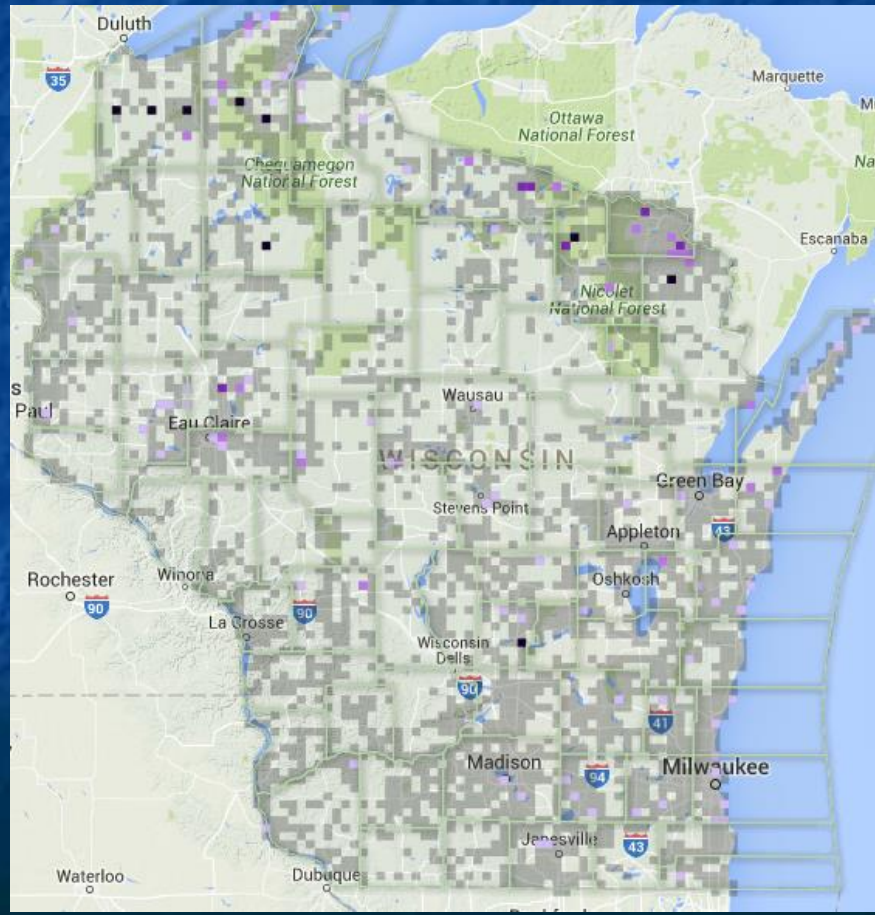
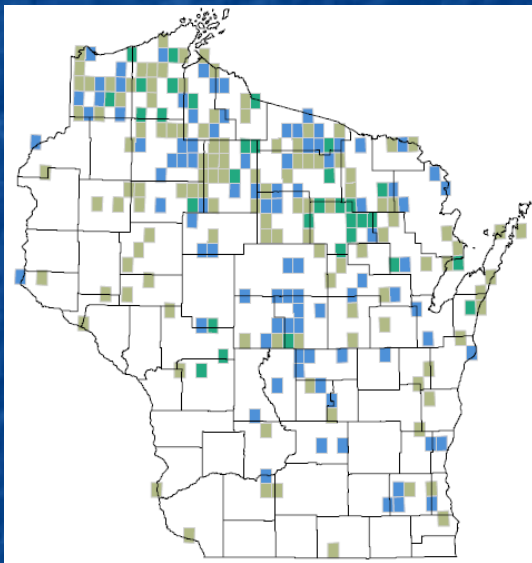
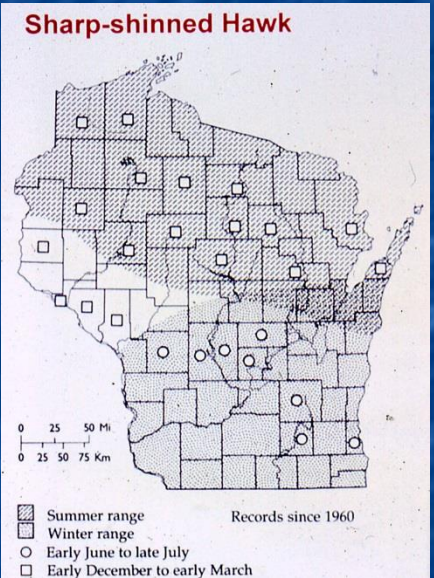


Hooded Merganser





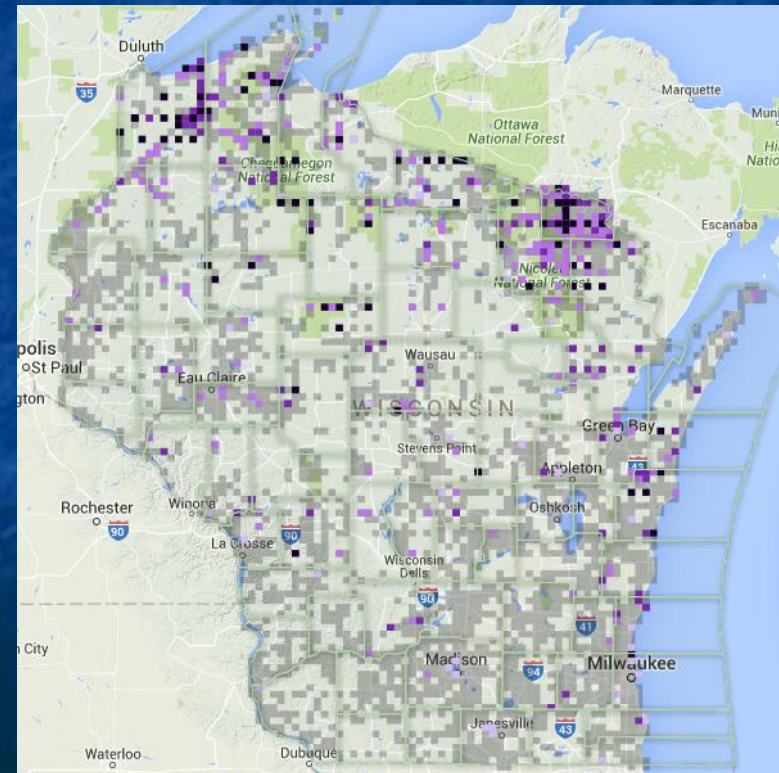
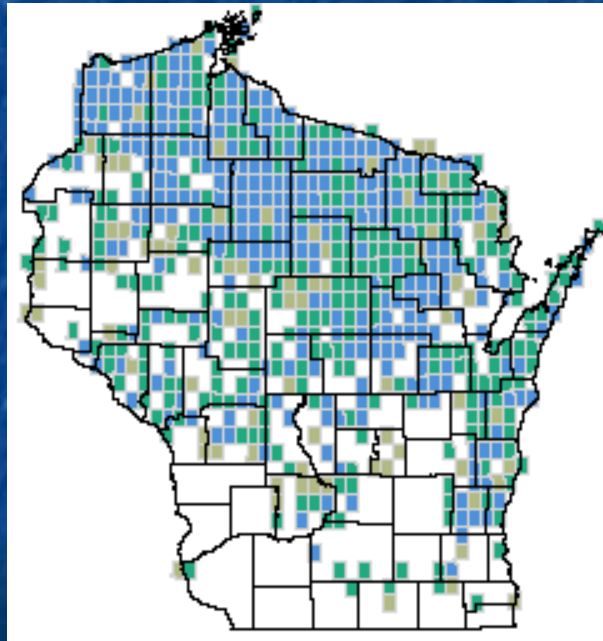
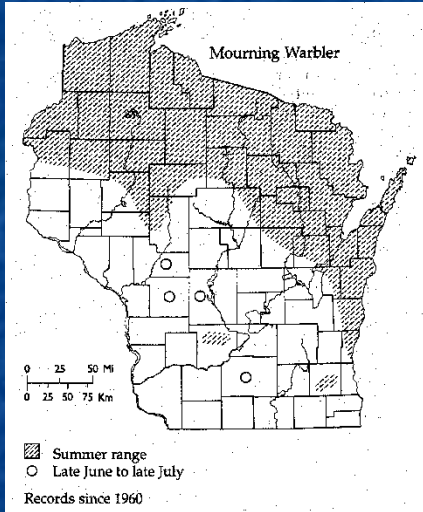
Sharp-shinned Hawk

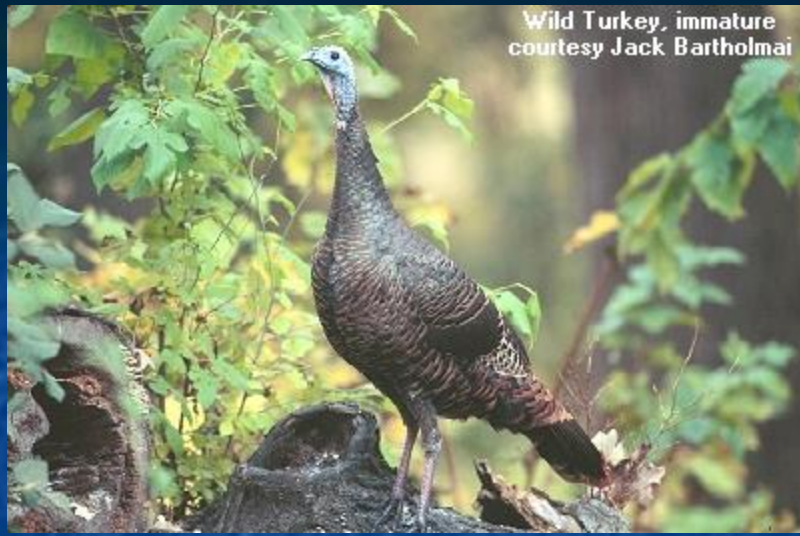




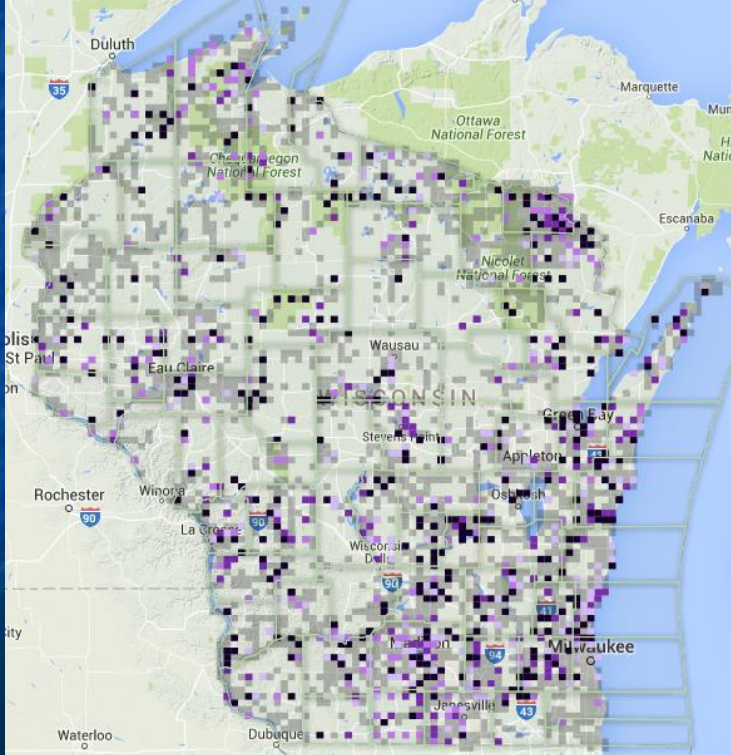
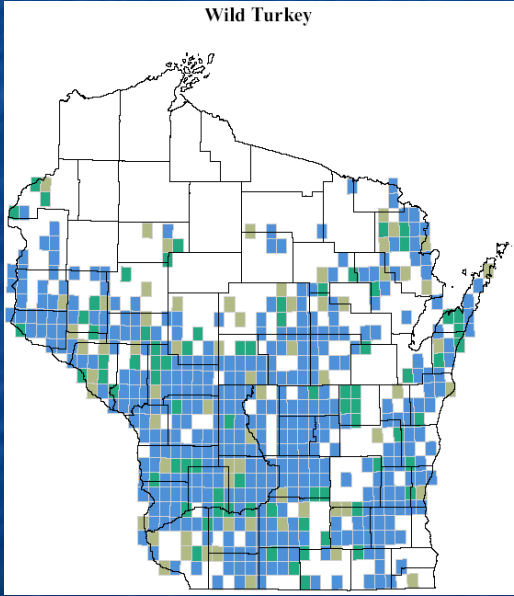
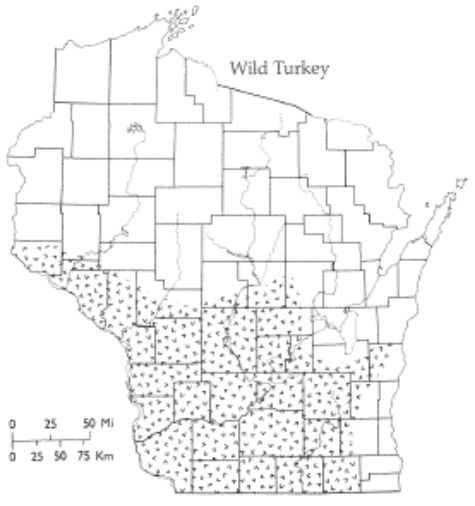
Comparing Sam's map with the Atlas map, the species showing the greatest range expansion

Will that remain true thru WBBA II?





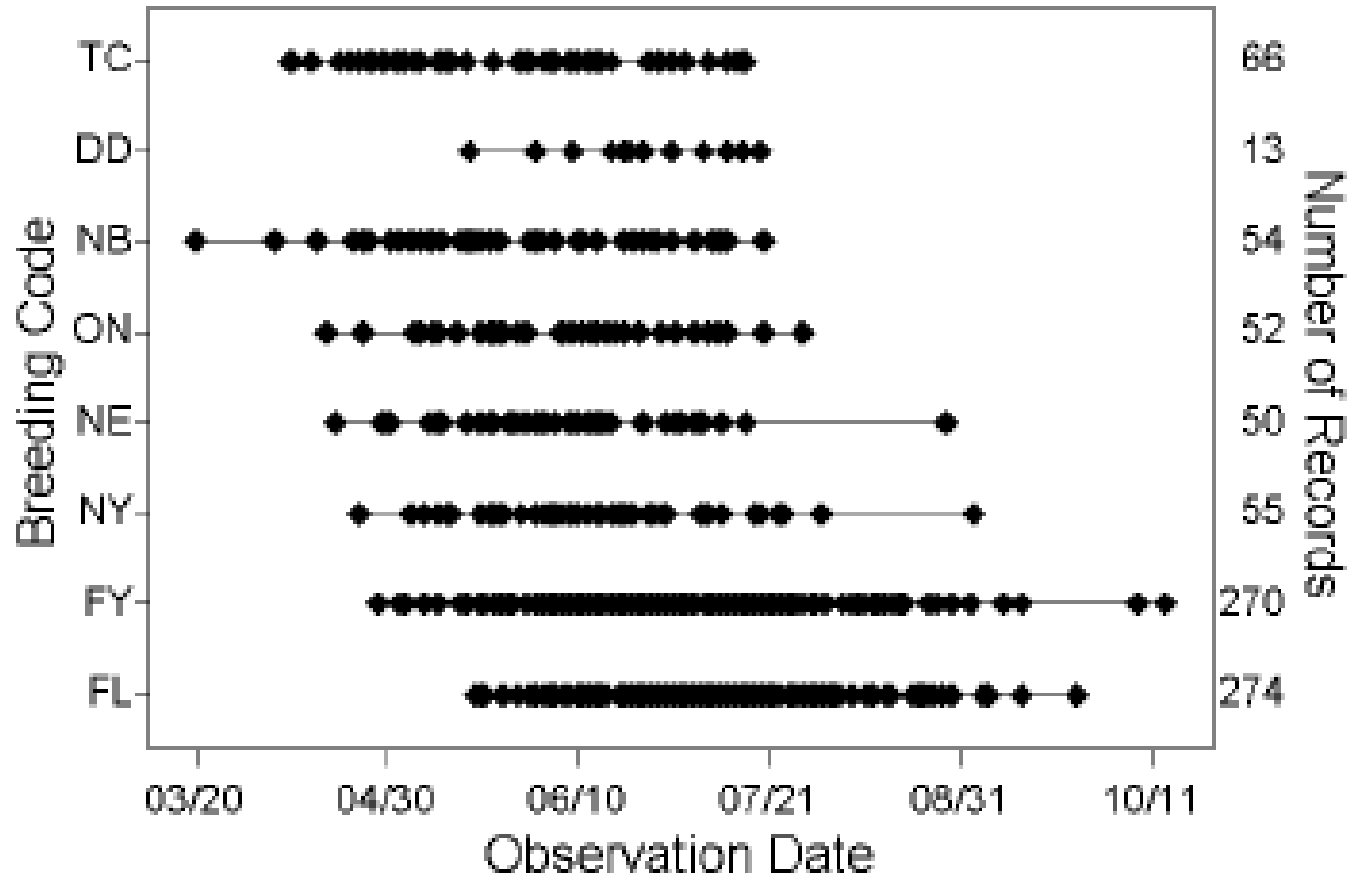
Wild Turkey





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

Breeding Phenology

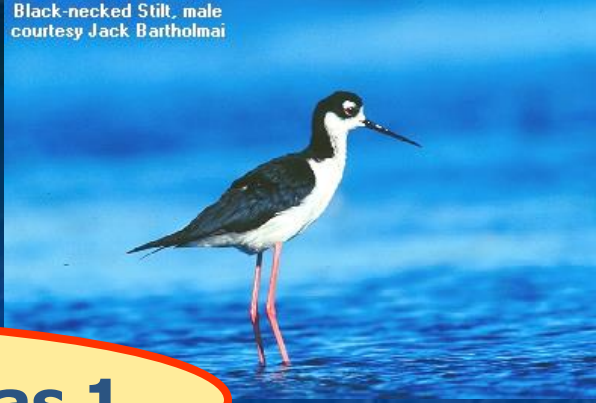




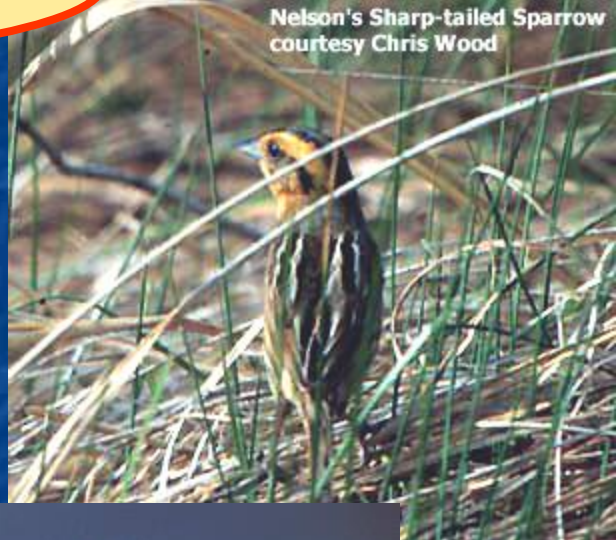
Western Grebe
courtesy Thomas Schultz



Black-necked Stilt, male
courtesy Jack Bartholmai



First Records – Atlas 1



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
courtesy Chris Wood

Great Black-backed Gull
courtesy Thomas Schultz

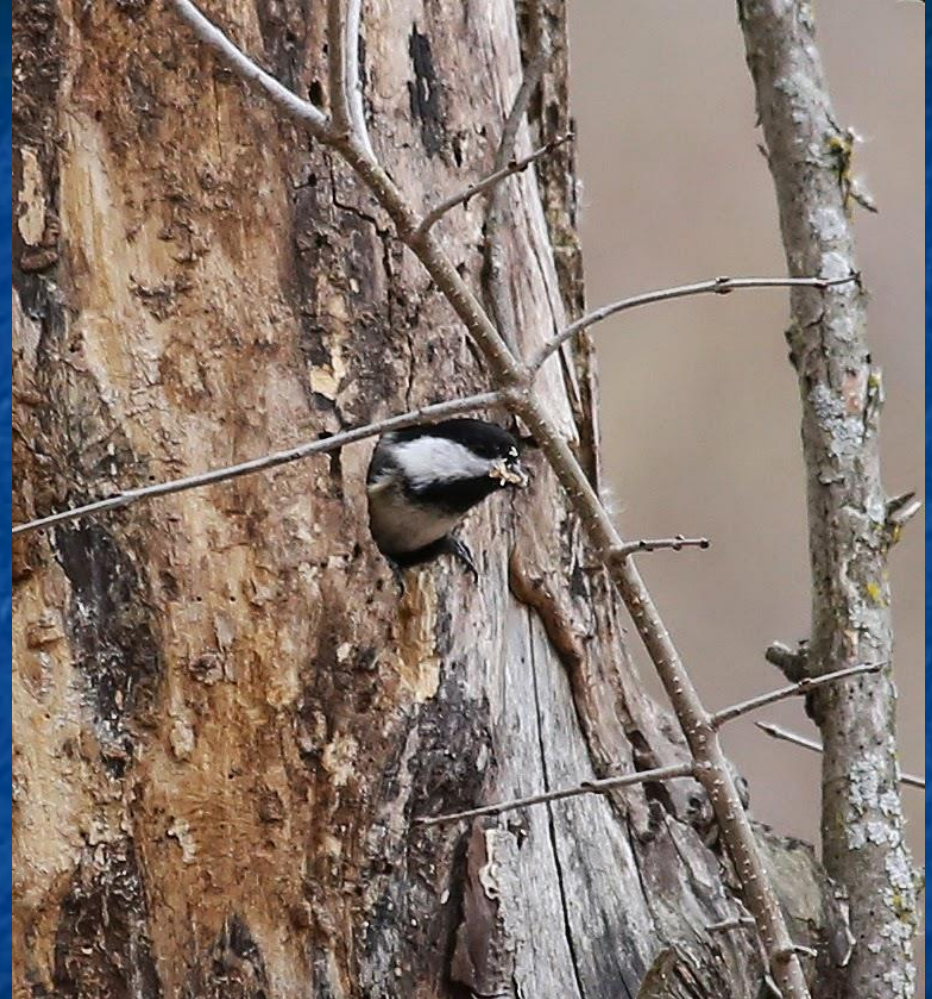


American White Pelicans
courtesy Jack Bartholmai

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 Red-
eyed 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

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.



Gray Catbird nest with eggs
(with Brown-headed Cowbird egg)
courtesy Jack Bartholmai



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**



1. Seeking out nests is NOT critical to this project
2. We do NOT need nest monitoring data and in fact discourage active pursuit of such (no nest record cards this time)
3. 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
4. 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.