

An introduction to



Wisconsin  
Breeding  
Bird  
Atlas II

Nicholas M. Anich

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Kim Kreitinger

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

### Observers with most Field Cards:

Noel Cutright - 1st

Jim Baughman - 2nd

Mike Mossman - 3rd

### Observers with Most Field Cards from the same Quad:

Thomas Schultz - 1st

Karen Etter Hale - 2nd

Jeff Baughman - 3rd

### Observers with Most Species:

Chris Wood - 1st

Mike Mossman - 2nd

Brian Boldt - 3rd

### Observers with Most Records submitted:

Chris Wood - 1st

Dennis Kuecherer - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ron Hull - 3rd

# WBBA II Steering Committee

- Nicholas Anich (WDNR)
- Owen Boyle (WDNR)
- Ryan Brady (WDNR)
- Florence Edwards-Miller
- Karen Etter Hale (WBCI)
- Kim Kreitinger (WSO)
- Charlie Luthin (WSO)
- William Mueller (WGLBBO)
- Mike Reese
- Carl Schwartz (Bird City)



# WBBA II Planning Team

Stephanie Beilke

Aaron Boone

Rick Burkman

Jennifer Callaghan

Lisa Gaumnitz

Erin Gordon

Kim Grveles

Chuck Hagner

Tim Hahn

Ashley Hannah

Bettie Harriman

Bob Howe

Scott Hull

Derek Johnson

Carly Lapin

Davin Lopez

Sumner Matteson

Matt Mendenhall

Mike Mossman

Tom Prestby

Christine Reel

Amber Roth

Bob Russell

David Sample

Amy Staffen

Rich Staffen

Yoyi Steele

Tim Vargo

Nicholas Walton

Ben Zuckerberg

## Also thanks to:

Noel Cutright

Julie Bleser

Mike Diss-Torrance

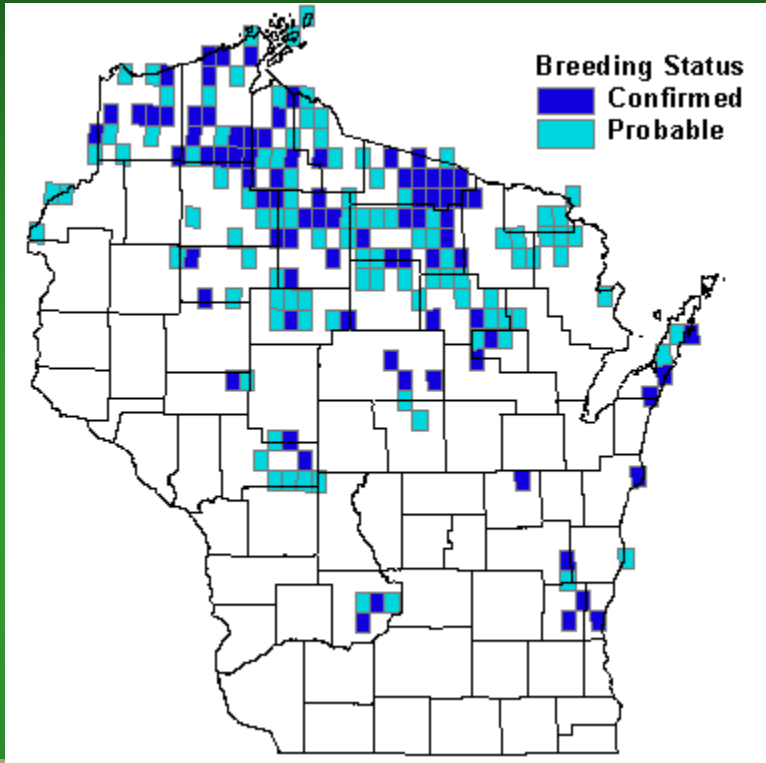
Paul Jakoubek

Jason Riddle

Jill Rosenberg

Team eBird

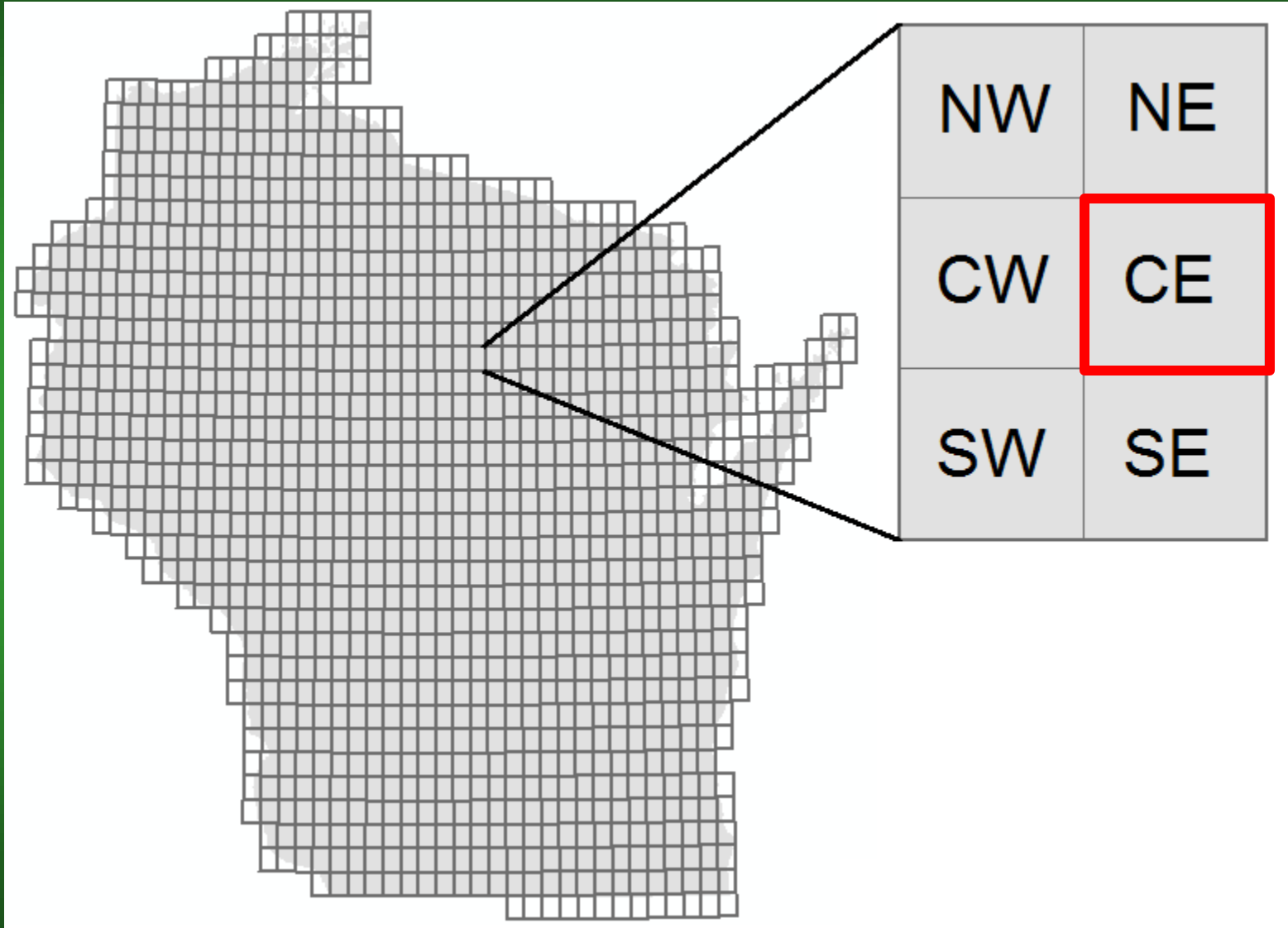
# What is a bird atlas?



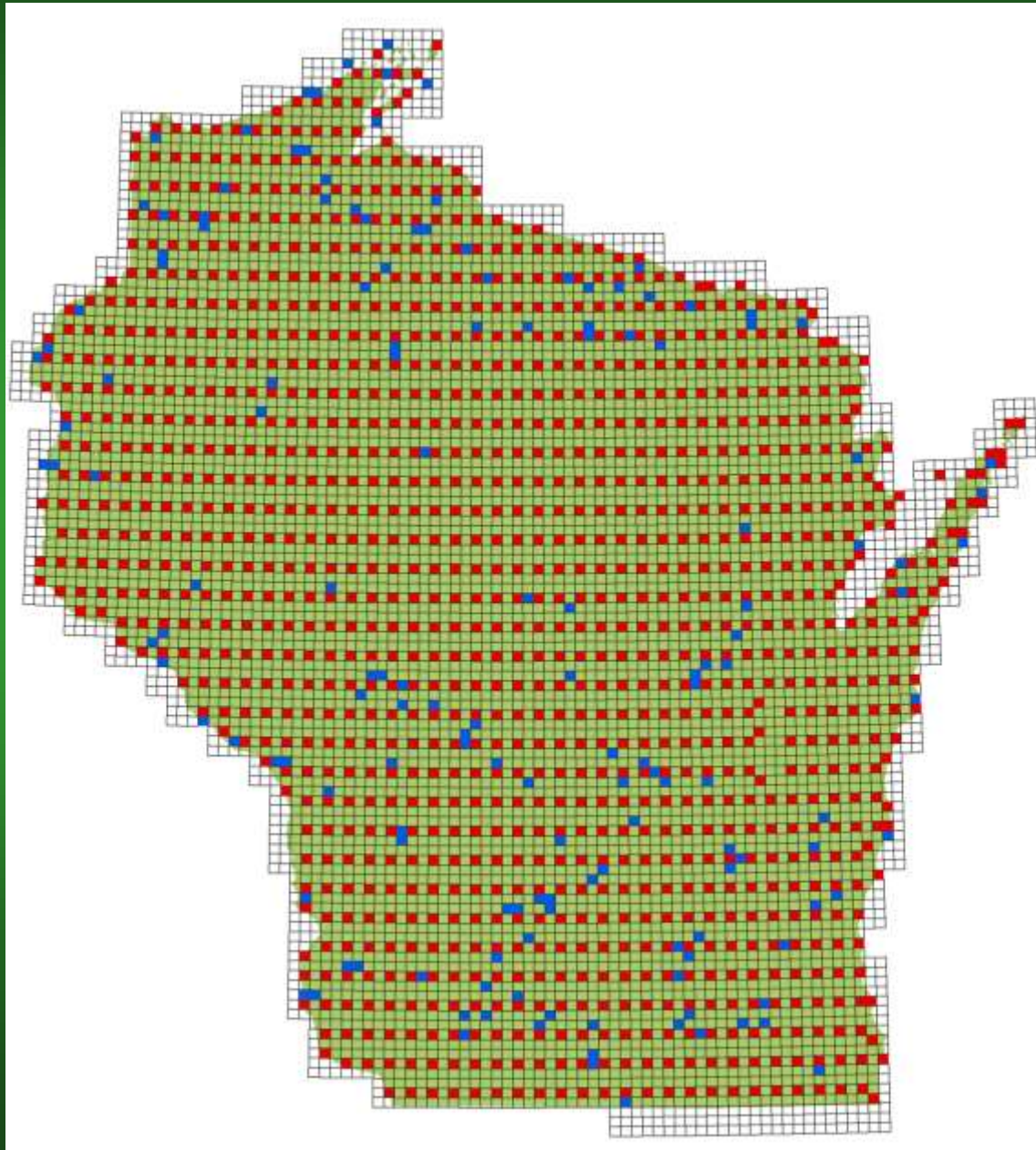
- Document bird species breeding across entire region
- Volunteers head into atlas blocks and report evidence of breeding
- Grid system



# Atlas block system



# Priority and specialty blocks



# How does atlasing differ from general birding?



- Moving more slowly, observing behaviors
- Assigning behaviors to breeding codes (e.g., S- Singing male, P- Pair, FY - Feeding Young)
- Classed as Possible, Probable, Confirmed



# Major project objectives



- Examine current distribution and abundance of WI's breeding birds
- Replicate methods of the first atlas to measure changes in bird populations
- Obtain information to guide management, esp. species of concern
- Produce a robust dataset that allows for scientific analyses and lays groundwork for WBBA III
- Engage the public in bird conservation

# Uses of atlas data

- Conservation planning aided by:
  - Inventory data on properties
  - Locations and habitat data for species of conservation interest
  - Estimates of population size, density maps
  - Information on range shifts, changing abundances since WBBA I



# Larger benefits of an atlas effort

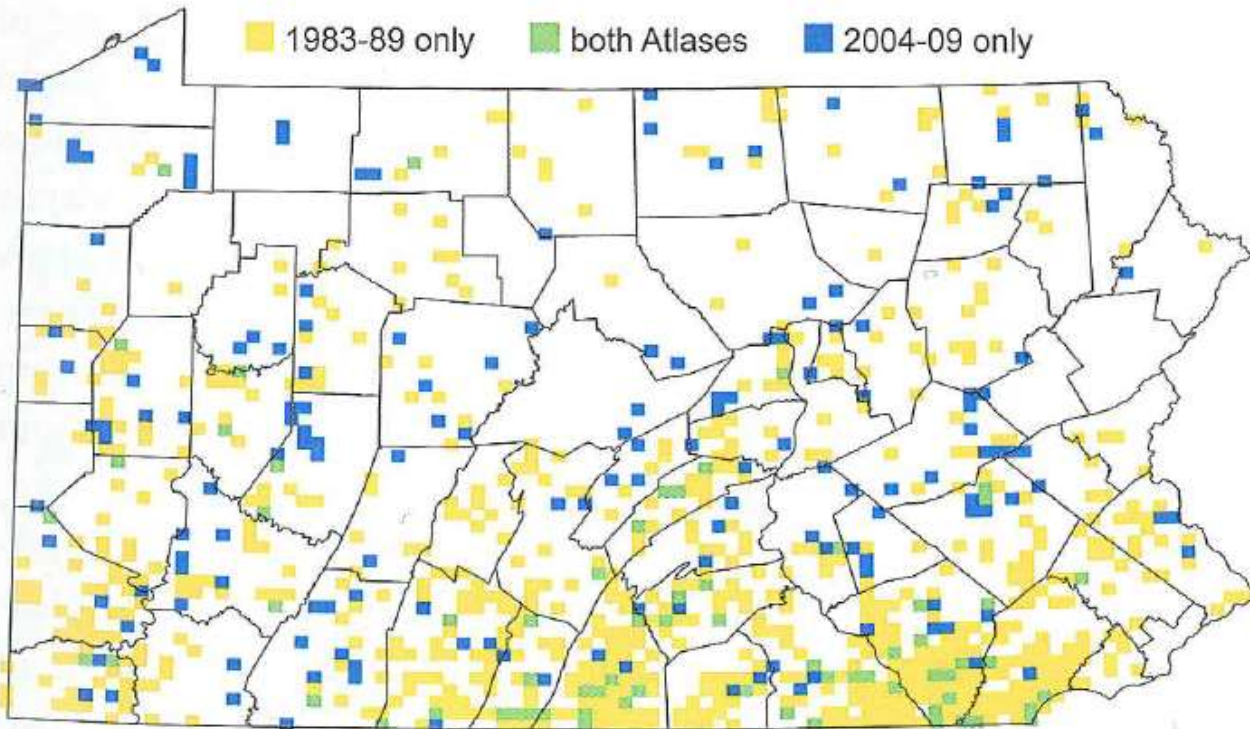
- Mobilizes a huge group of citizen scientists
- Rich dataset for analysis
- Collects information on a broad scale, systematically
- Tracking bird populations can provide an important indicator of habitat quality or change



# Results from second atlases: population decline

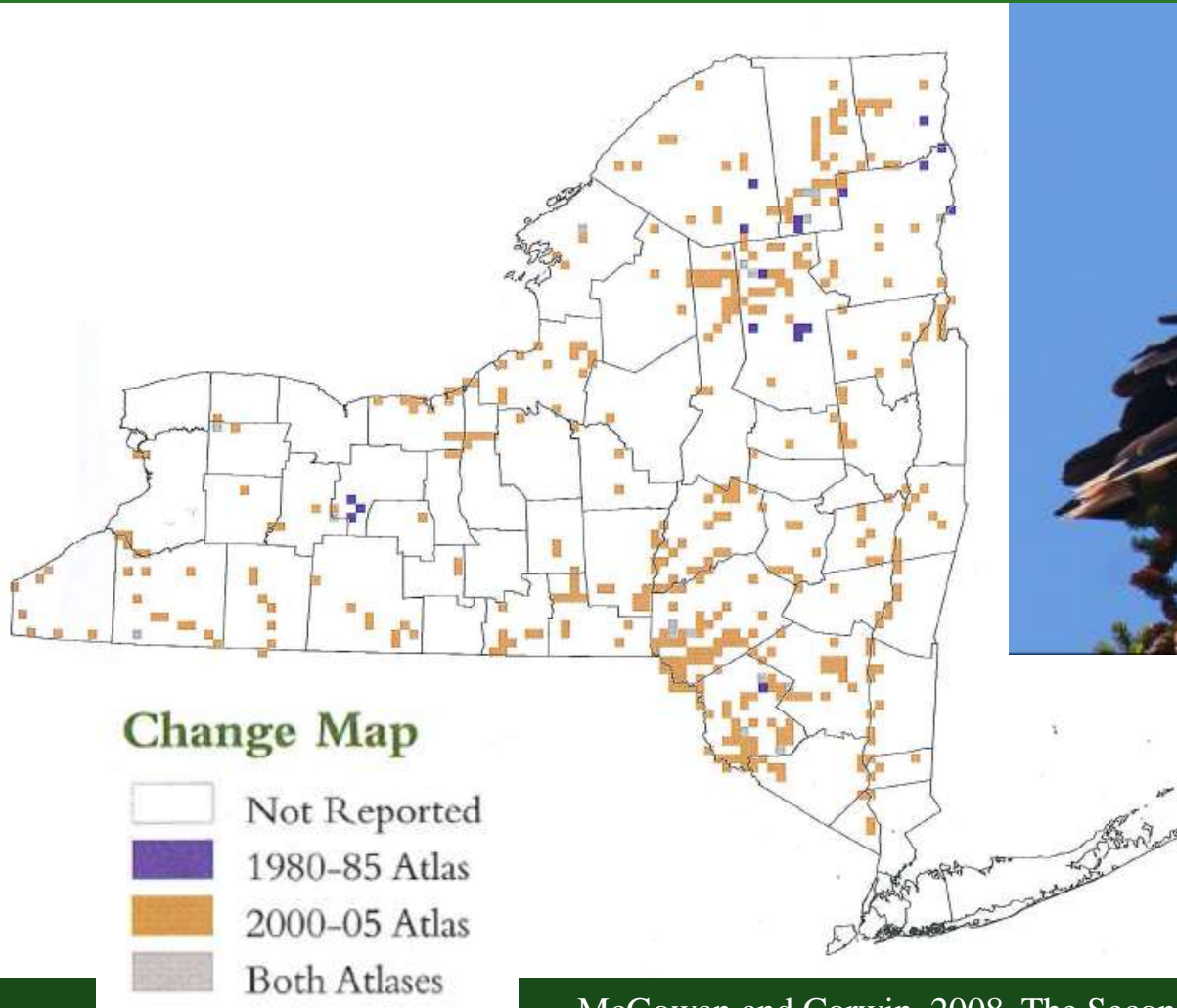
## Distribution Change

■ 1983-89 only    ■ both Atlases    ■ 2004-09 only



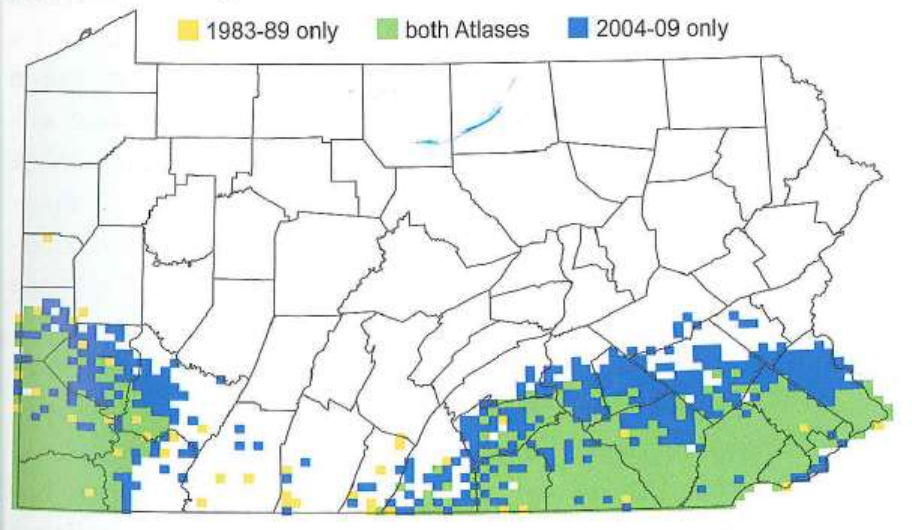
Dick Baxter

# Results from second atlases: population increase

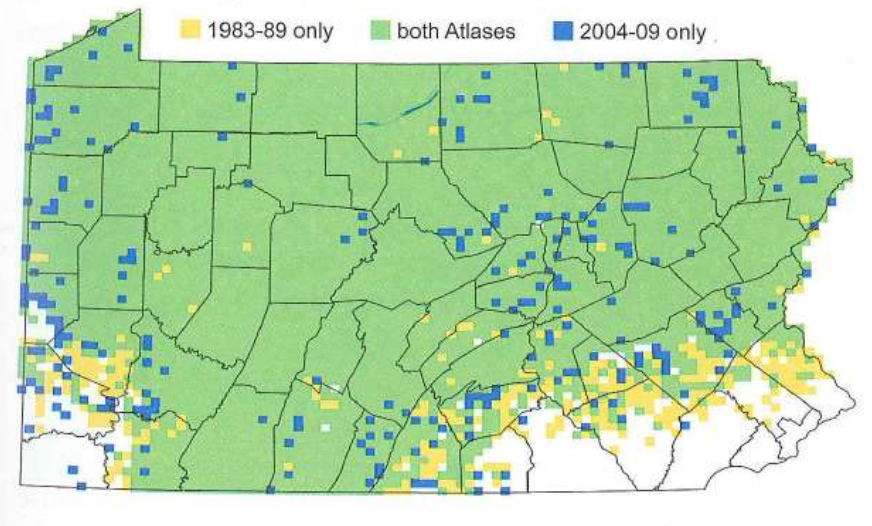


# Results from second atlases: range shifts

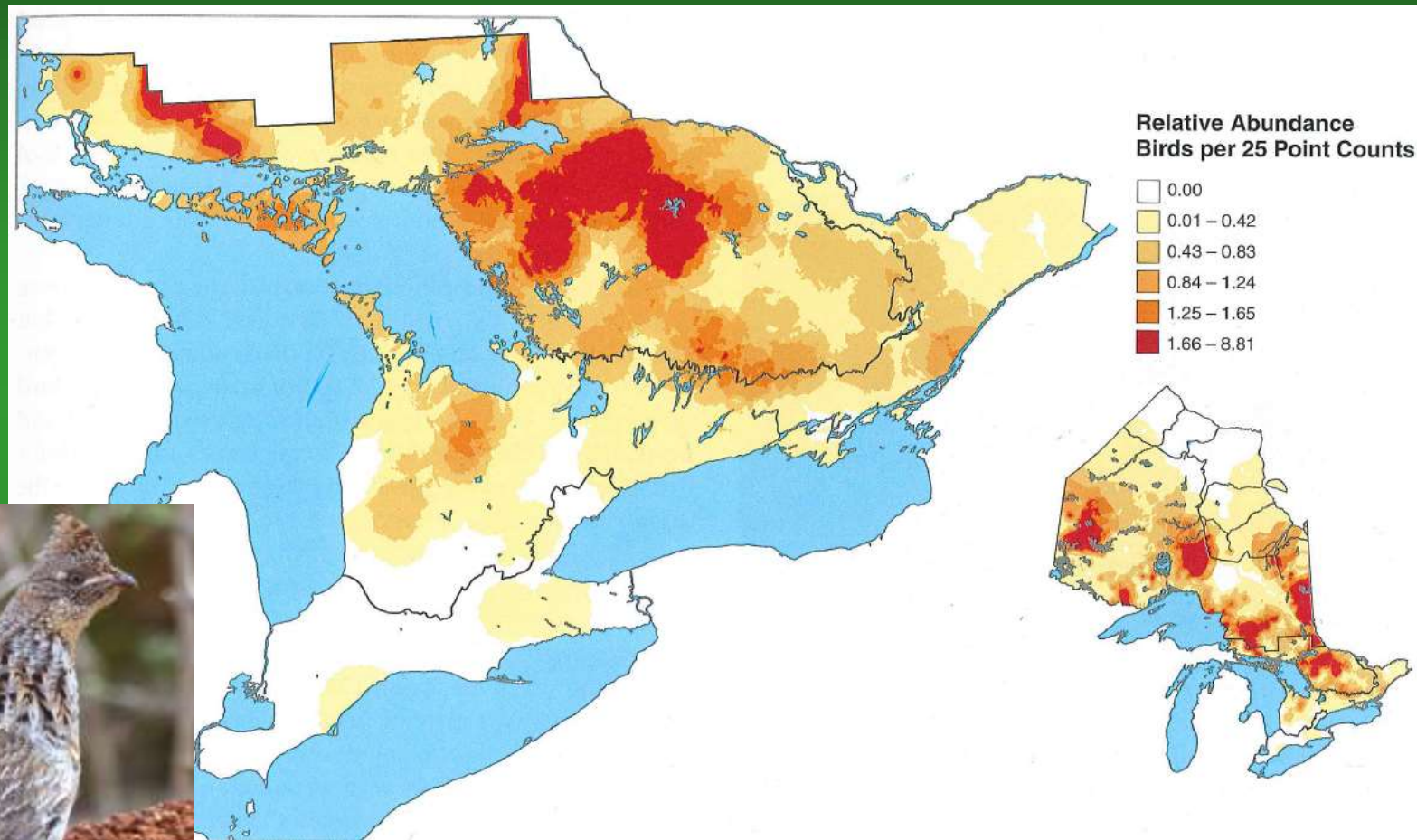
Distribution Change



Distribution Change



# Results from second atlases: abundance estimation



# Submit observations using custom eBird portal

The screenshot shows the eBird portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with "Submit Observations", "Explore Data", "My eBird", and "Help". Below that, a "Where did you bird?" section features a "Zoom to:" search box and a map of Wisconsin. A pop-up window for "Clam Lake CE" is overlaid on the map, showing details for "Wisconsin BBA 1995-2000".

**Clam Lake CE**  
Adair County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin BBA 1995-2000 **Bel**

**Overview** Recent Visits

WBSA II Status: **Incomplete**

WBSA II Block Type: **Priority/Specialty**

WBSA II Effort Hours (Diurnal/Nocturnal): **0.0 / 0.0**

	DESIGNED	POTENTIAL	PROBABLE	CONFIRMED	TOTAL
Wisconsin BBA 1995-2000	2	19	14	44	79

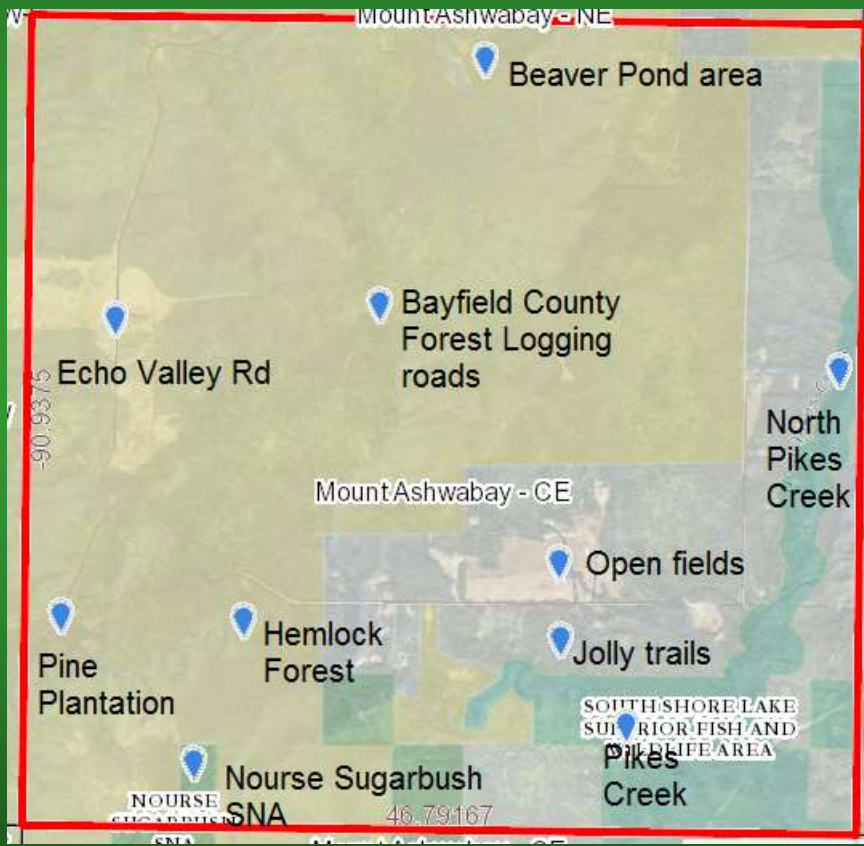
**Species Observed**

SPECIES NAME	EXISTING EVIDENCE	LOCATION	DATE
Osprey	Confirmed (NY)	Clam Lake CE	7 Jul 1997
Turkey Vulture	Observed	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Wilson's Snipe	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Black-billed Cuckoo	Confirmed (FY)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Winter Wren	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Hermit Thrush	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Mourning Warbler	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Common Yellowthroat	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997
Blackburnian Warbler	Confirmed (FL)	Clam Lake CE	24 Jul 1997

- Report full checklists from every visit
- Cover sublocations within a block
- Observations from multiple points within a block get rounded up into block summary



# Experienced birders should sign up as the principal atlaser for a block



- Visit block throughout year
- Visit all habitats
- Complete surveying within a block (~20 hours)
- Results in a good picture of birds breeding in a block

# Opportunities for novice birders to participate



- Atlasing field trips with WSO and NRF
- Atlas mentor program
  - field skills
  - data entry
- Connect with local bird clubs
- Lots of resources

# Resources for atlasers



The screenshot shows the website for the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). The header includes the WSO logo, navigation links (DONATE, ATLAS, E-ALERT, CONVENTION), a search bar, and social media icons. The main navigation bar lists HOME, ABOUT WSO, WHAT WE DO, SUPPORT, VOLUNTEER, and CONNECT. The main content area features a banner for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II with the text "ABOUT THE ATLAS". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT THE ATLAS, GET INVOLVED, HANDBOOK & MATERIALS, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, and SUBMIT DATA. The main content area is titled "About the Atlas" and includes a section for "JOIN THE FLOCK!" with a sign-up link, "TRAINING EVENTS" with a link to attend sessions, "WBBA II FORUMS" with a link to online forums, "KICKOFF MEETING" for February 27-March 1 in Waunau, and "SPONSOR-A-SPECIES" with a link to choose favorite species. A central text block describes the importance of birds and the need for a current understanding of their distribution and abundance. A small image of a bird is also visible.

WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY  
Promoting the enjoyment, study, and conservation of Wisconsin's birds.

HOME ABOUT WSO WHAT WE DO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER CONNECT

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II ABOUT THE ATLAS

ABOUT THE ATLAS GET INVOLVED HANDBOOK & MATERIALS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SUBMIT DATA

Home / Atlas

**JOIN THE FLOCK!**  
Sign-up to help us on WBBA II

**TRAINING EVENTS**  
Attend a session to learn about the atlas

**WBBA II FORUMS**  
Online forums to discuss the Atlas

**KICKOFF MEETING**  
February 27-March 1 - Waunau

**SPONSOR-A-SPECIES**  
Choose your favorite species to sponsor in the Atlas!

## About the Atlas

**Conserve Wisconsin birds by joining our bird survey**

Birds are an essential part of Wisconsin's culture and ecology. Yet many species face grave threats from habitat loss, climate change, and other human-caused pressures and nearly one-third are imperiled or will be without intervention. To conserve them, we need a current understanding of birds that rely on Wisconsin to breed and raise their young. Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II mobilizes volunteers across the state to accomplish this — we need your help to document which birds are breeding in your area!



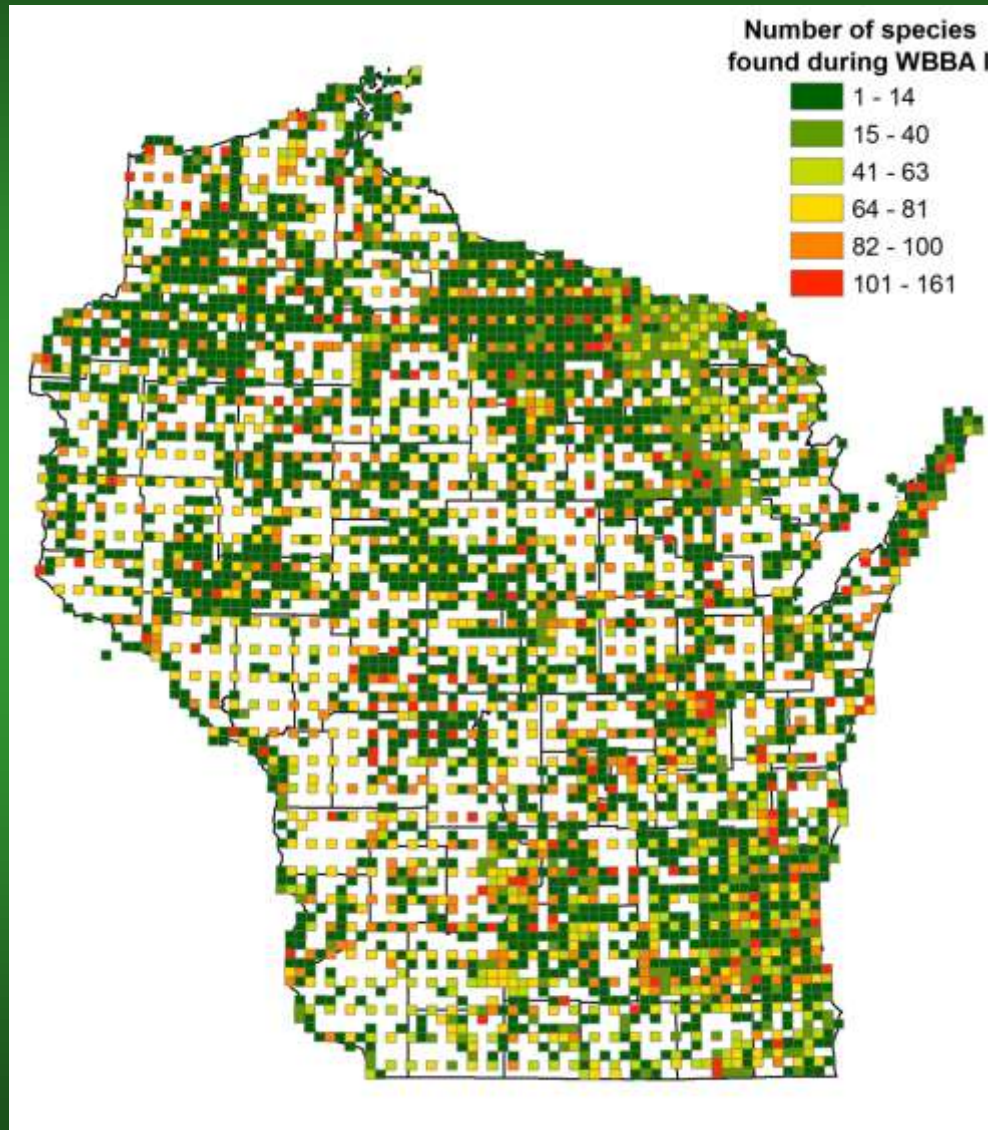
### What is the Atlas?

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II is a comprehensive field survey that documents the distribution and abundance of birds breeding in an area. The information will allow us to see changes in bird populations since the last survey and to measure future changes. These insights help us identify the conservation needs of breeding birds and try to meet those needs.

**Volunteering is easy and fun!**

- Website: [wsobirds.org/atlas](http://wsobirds.org/atlas)
- Online discussion forum
- County Coordinator for every county

# A collaborative effort

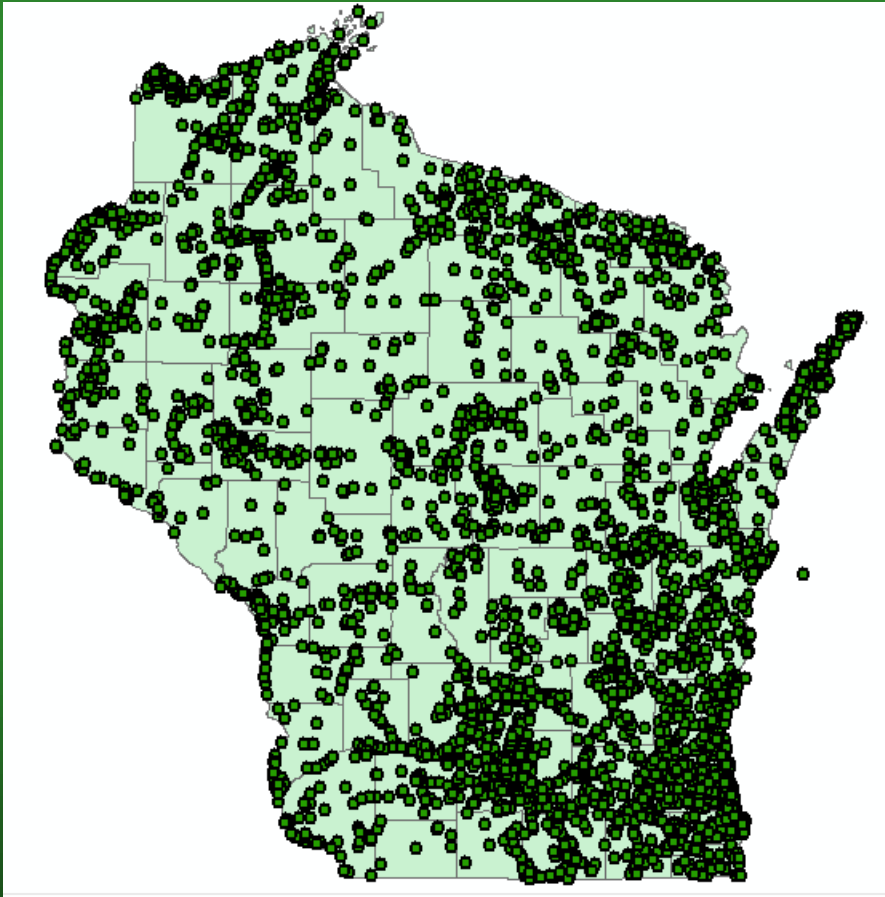


- WBBA I mobilized >1,600 observers to collect >170,000 breeding records

# A collaborative effort

**964 people submitted**

**224,000 observations!**



- WBBA I mobilized >1,600 observers to collect >170,000 breeding records
- From June–August 2014 How many eBird records?
- Every observation is a piece of the puzzle