

An introduction to

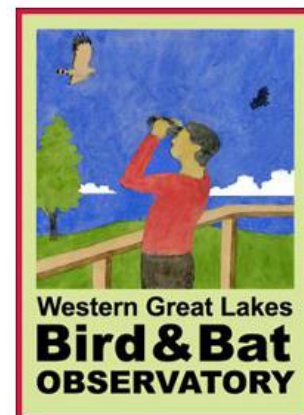


Wisconsin
Breeding
Bird
Atlas II

Nicholas M. Anich, Ryan S. Brady, and Michael John Jaeger

WBBA II Steering Committee

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



WBBA II Planning Team

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Also thanks to:

Noel Cutright

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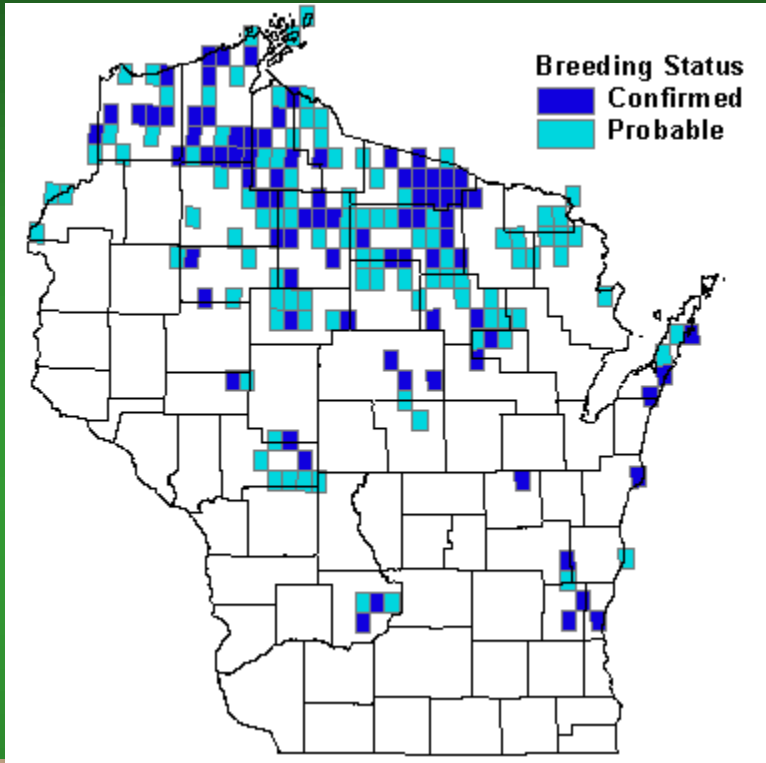
Michael John Jaeger

Paul Jakoubek

Jill Rosenberg

Team eBird

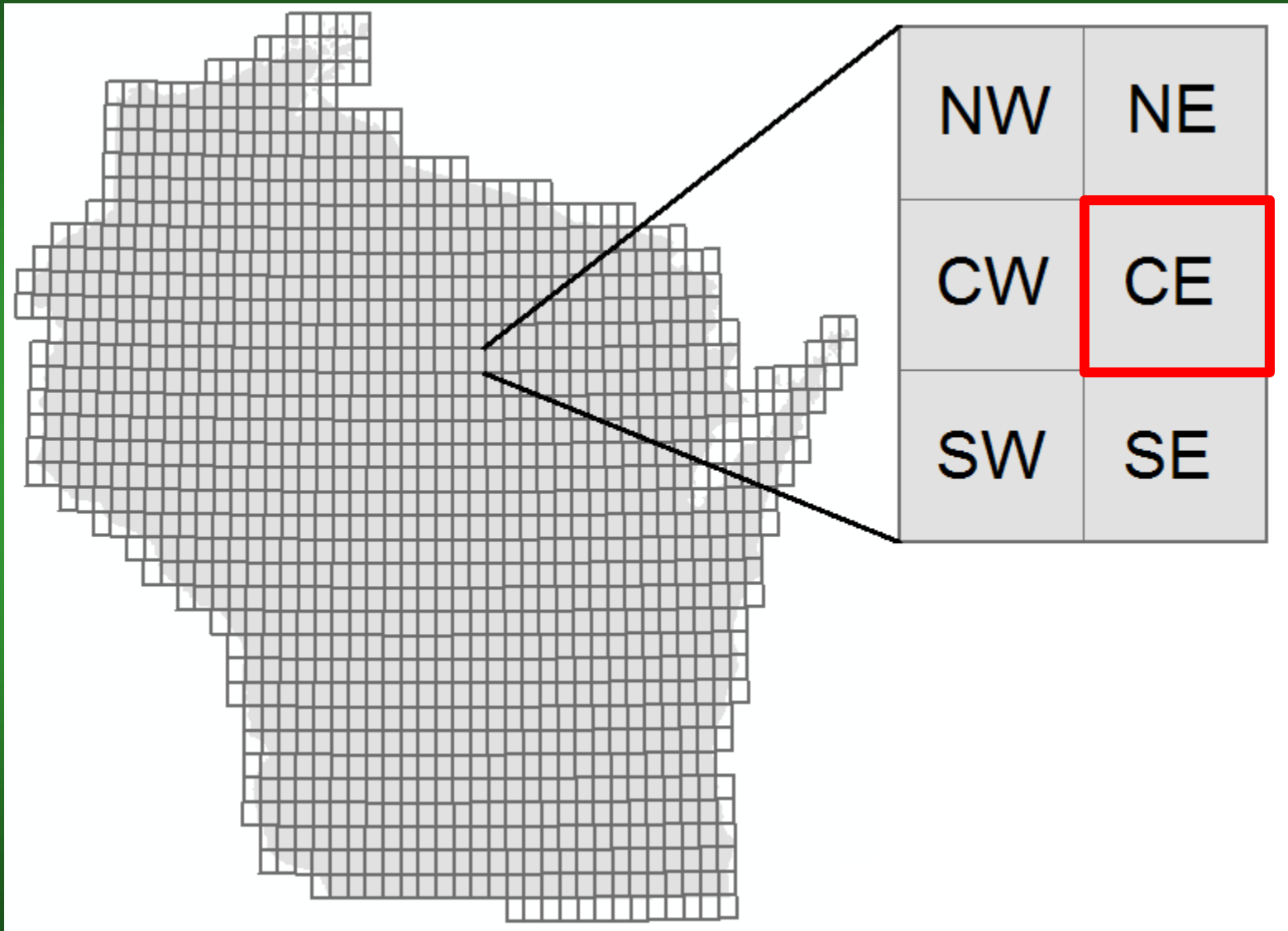
What is a bird atlas?



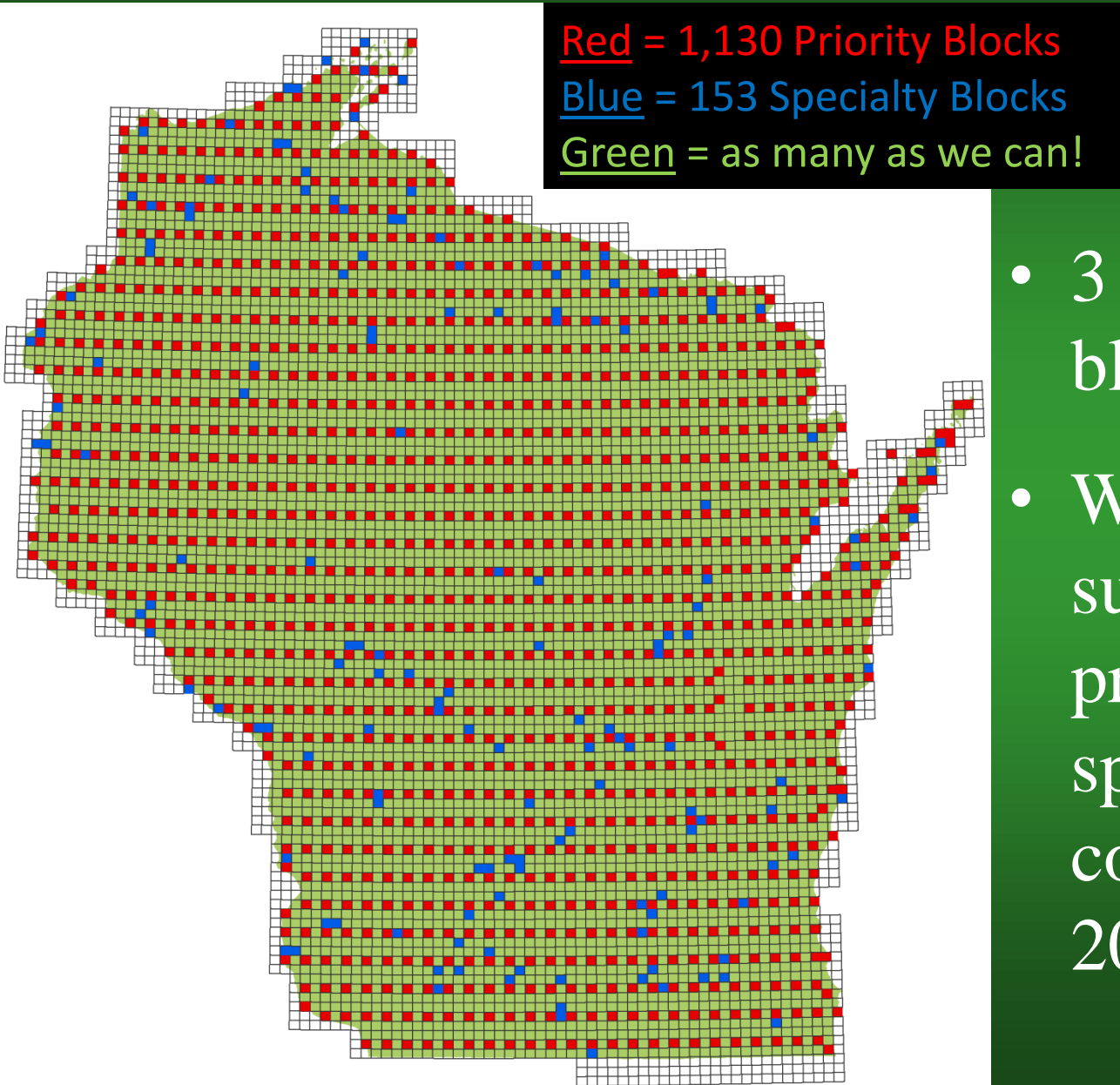
- Document bird species breeding across entire region
- Volunteers head into atlas blocks and report evidence of breeding
- Grid system



Atlas Block system



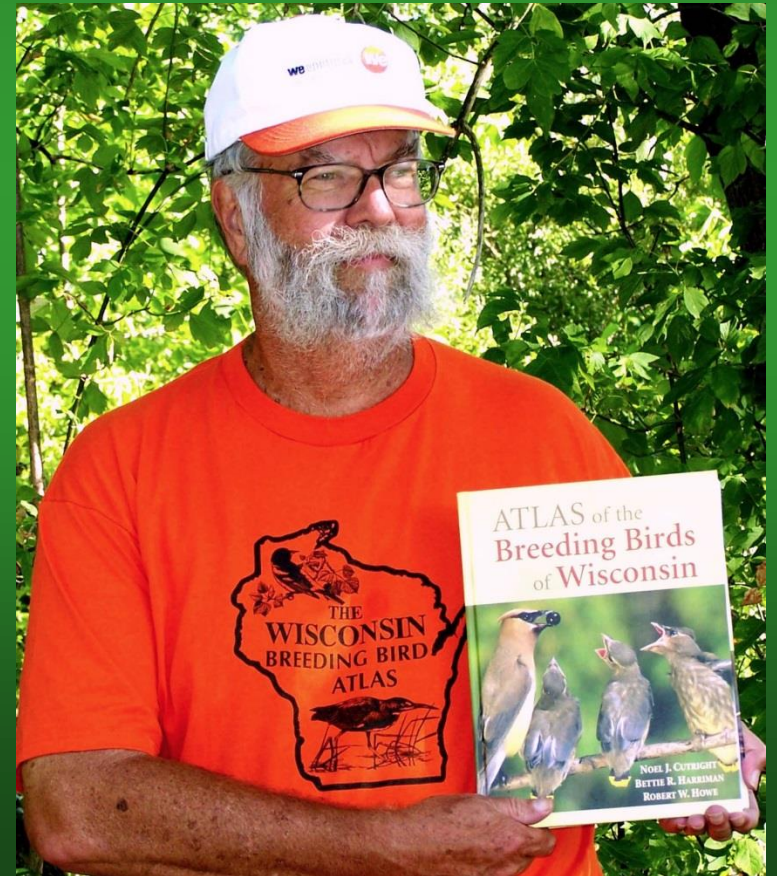
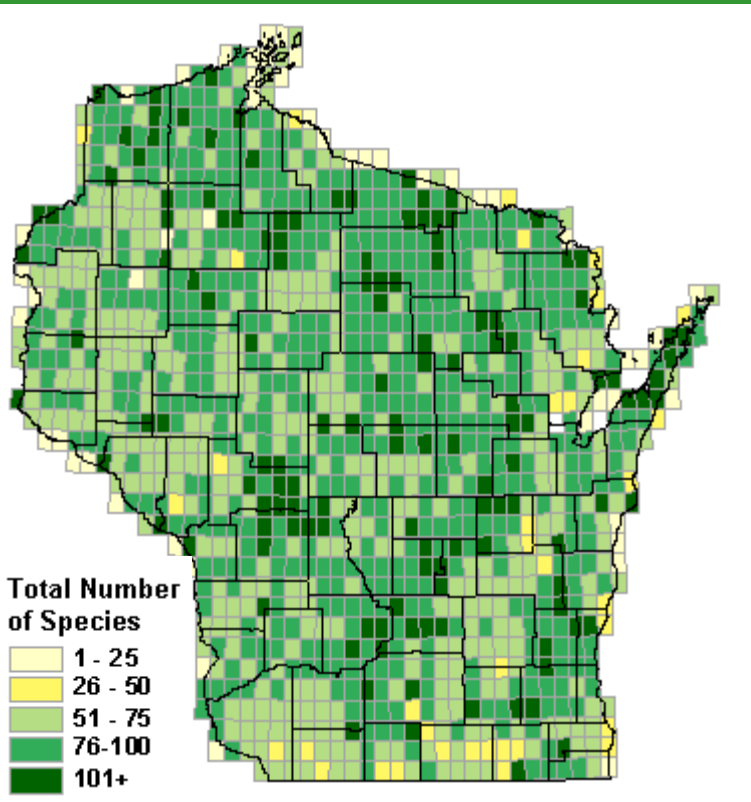
Priority and specialty blocks



- 3 mile x 3 mile blocks
- WBBA II will be successful if all priority and specialty blocks are completed between 2015–2019

First Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (1995–2000)

- >1600 participants (largest WI citizen-based monitoring project to date)



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

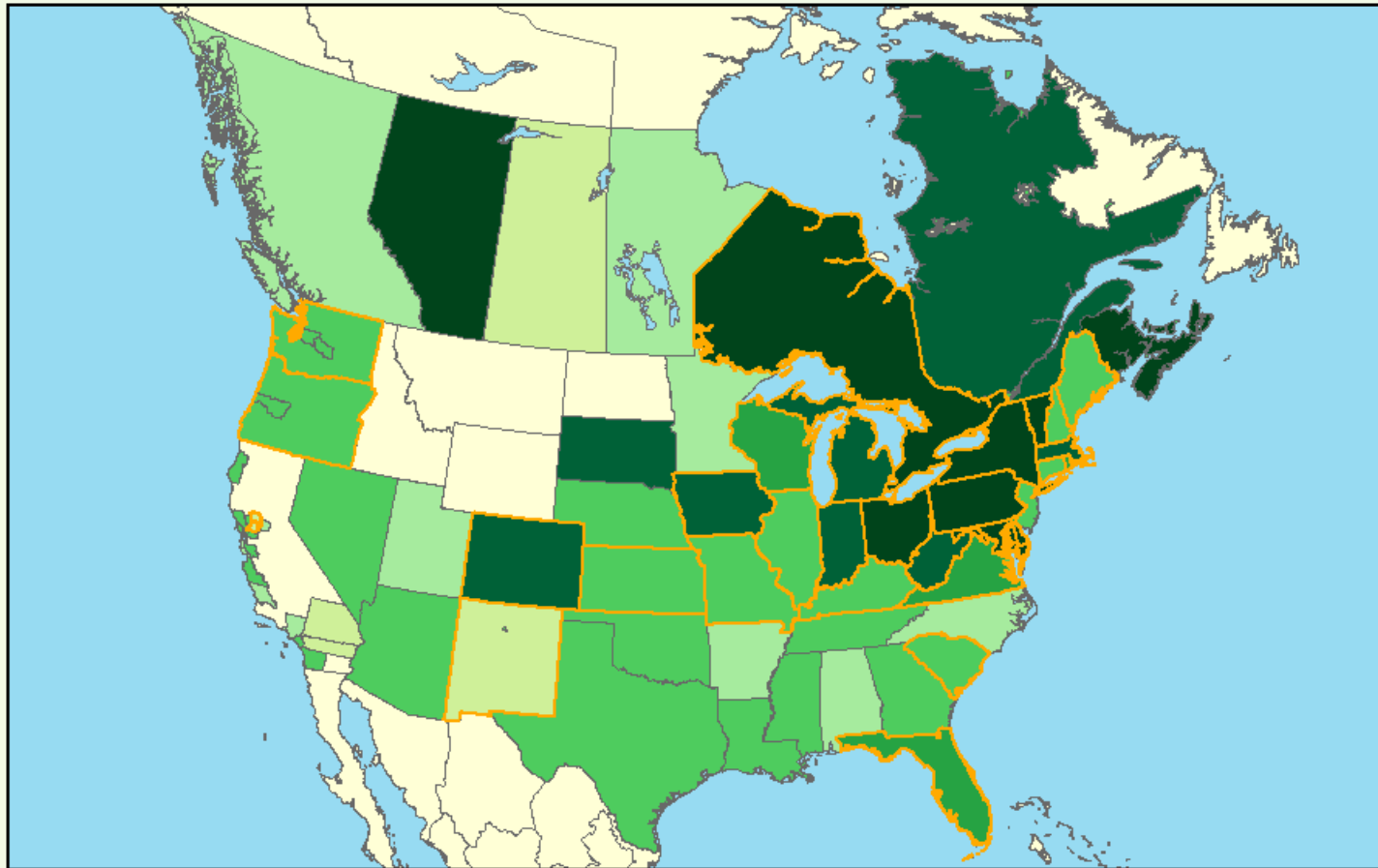


Larger Benefits of an Atlas Effort

- Mobilizes many more experienced surveyors than could otherwise be accomplished
- Rich dataset for analysis
- Collects information on a broad scale, systematically
- Tracking bird populations can provide an important indicator of habitat quality or change



Status of North American Breeding Bird Atlases



Atlas status as of January 2009.
States shown with second round atlases have completed a first round atlas.

Source: Individual state and provincial breeding bird atlas datasets as archived at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bba>

Prepared by the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, January 2009

First Round Atlases

- 1st in-progress
- 1st completed
- 1st published

Second Round Atlases

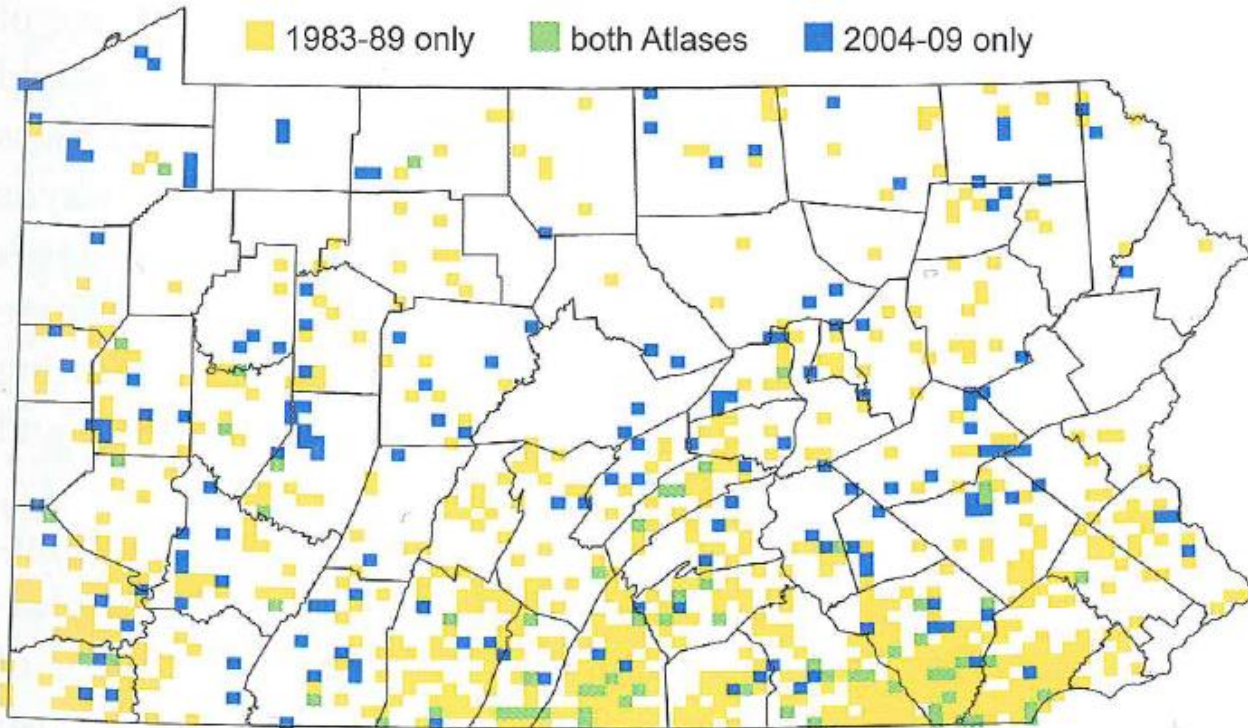
- 2nd in-progress
- 2nd completed
- 2nd published

- Atlases in BBA Explorer
- no atlas

Results from Second Atlases: Population Decline

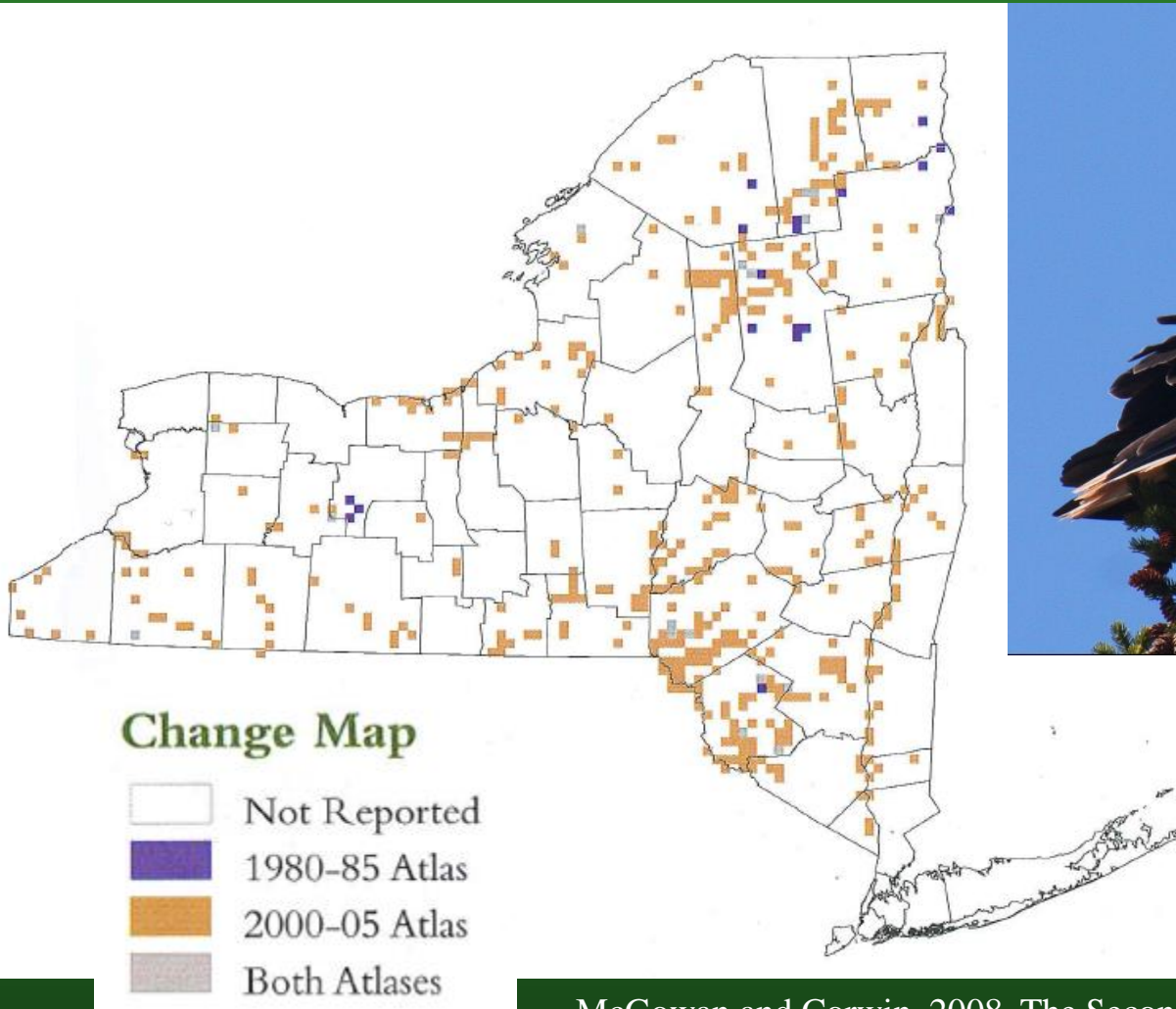
Distribution Change

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

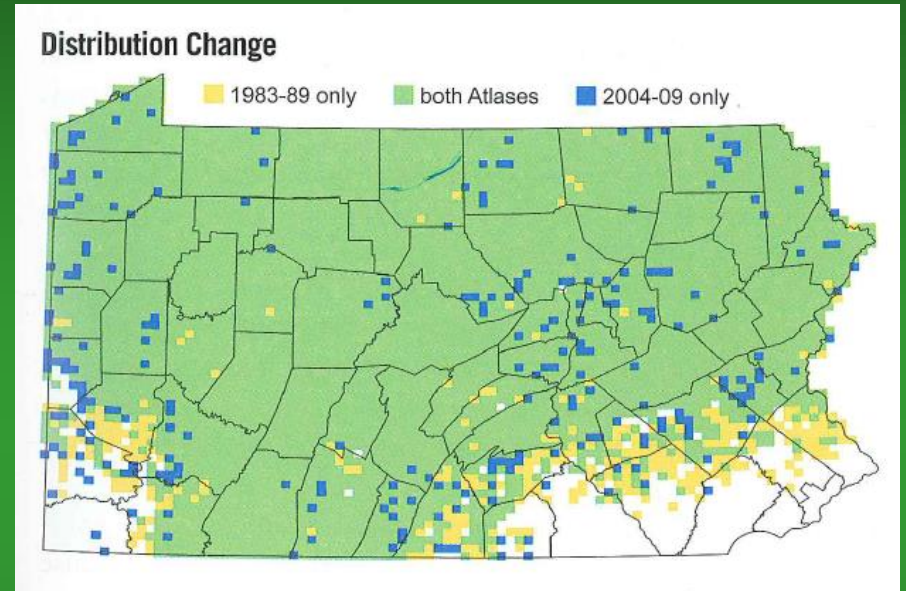
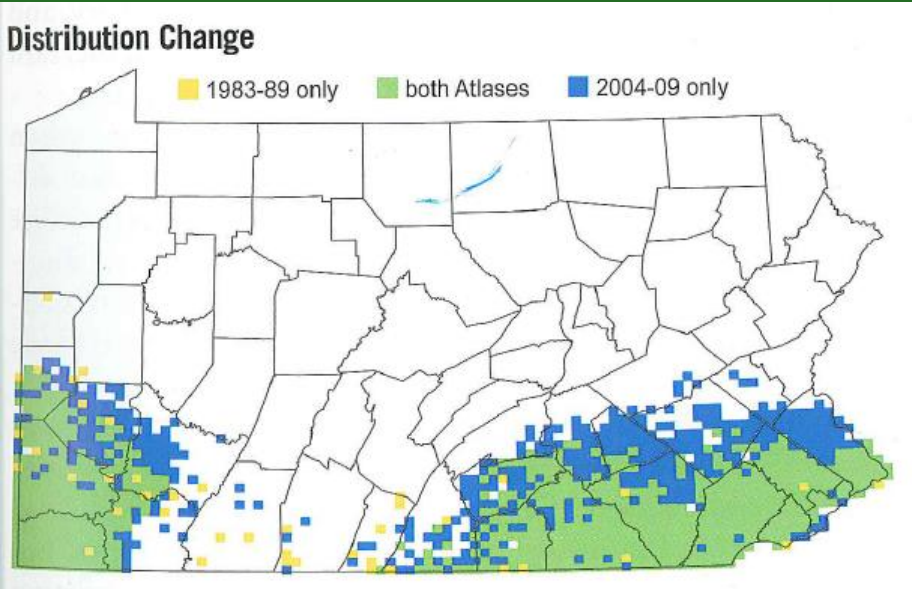


Dick Baxter

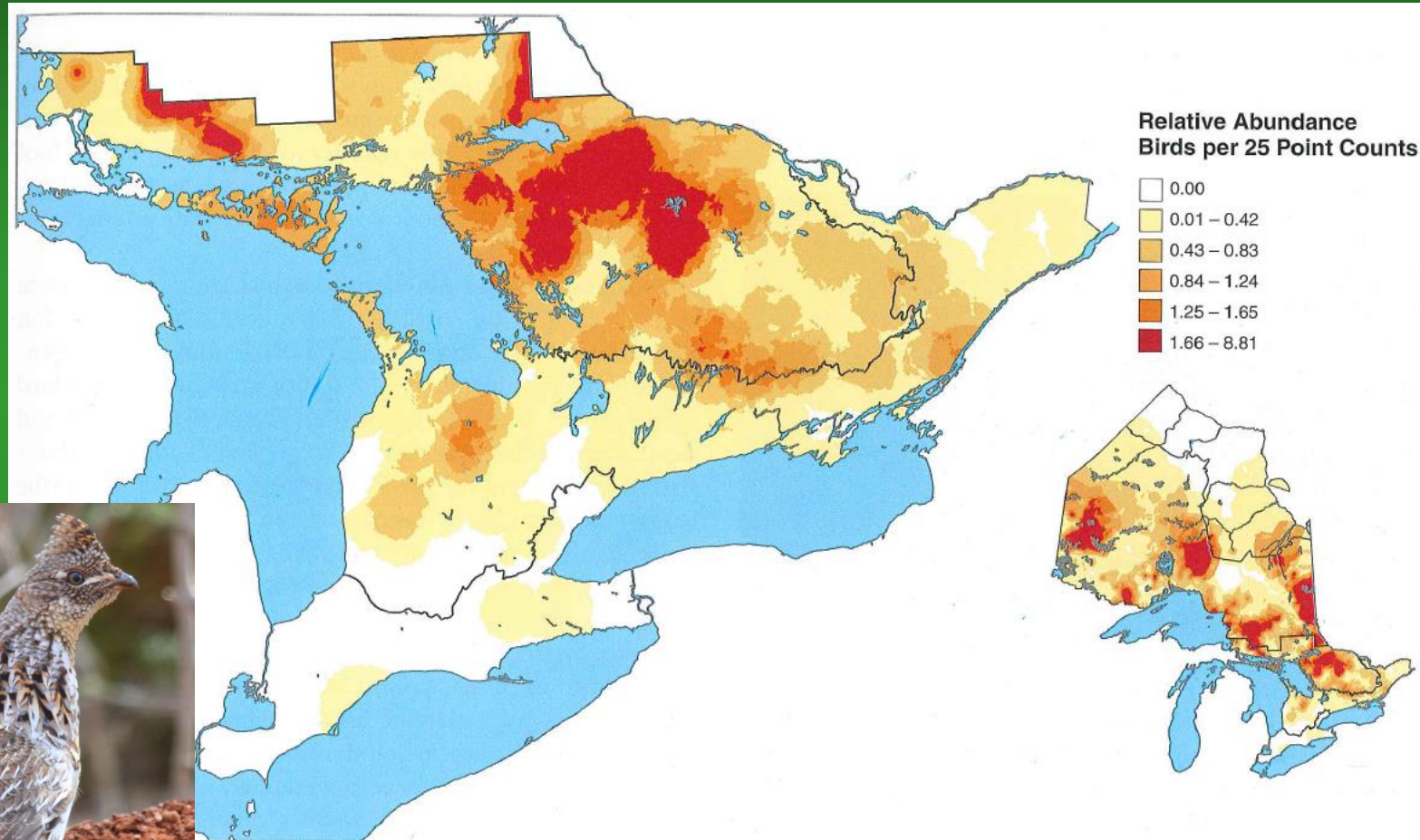
Results from Second Atlases: Population Increase



Results from Second Atlases: Range Shifts



Results from second atlases: Abundance Estimation



Submit observations using custom eBird Portal

The screenshot shows the eBird portal interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "Submit Observations", "Explore Data", "My eBird", and "Help". The user is logged in as "Nick Anich (nicka8)". The main heading is "Where did you bird?". Below this is a "Zoom to:" search box with the placeholder text "Enter place name, address, or lat/long coordinates...". To the right of the search box is a map of Wisconsin with several red location markers. Below the map is a text box for "Enter Location Name".

Instructions for using the "zoom to" box are provided: "Use the 'zoom to' box to zoom to a place name, address, or coordinates in decimal degrees (e.g., 42.4792, -76.45138). You can also click '+' markers to zoom in on groups of birding hotspots or personal locations. To choose an existing location, click on its marker. For new locations, zoom in as far as possible and click on the map to place a green marker. This marks your new location. To reposition the marker, click anywhere on the map."

The selected location is "Clam Lake CE" in Ashland County, Wisconsin. The summary shows the following details:

- WBBA II Status: **Incomplete**
- WBBA II Block Type: **Priority/Specialty**
- WBBA II Effort Hours (Diurnal/Nocturnal): **0.0 / 0.0**

| | OBSERVED | POSSIBLE | PROBABLE | CONFIRMED | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Wisconsin BBA 1995-2000 | 2 | 19 | 14 | 44 | 79 |

Species Observed

| SPECIES NAME | BREEDING EVIDENCE | LOCATION | DATE |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Osprey | Confirmed (NY) | Clam Lake CE | 7 Jul 1999 |
| 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 |

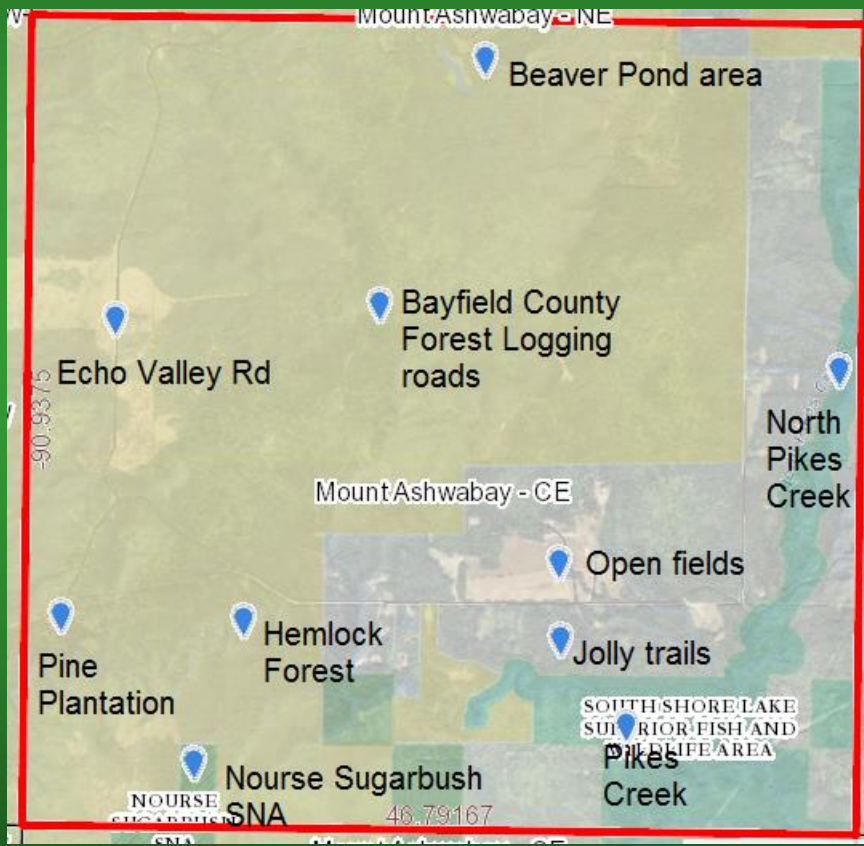
- Report full checklists from every visit
- Cover sublocations within a block
- Observations from multiple points within a block get rounded up into block summary

Anybody can submit incidental observations



- Even people who don't think of themselves as birders can contribute records
- Sightings are welcome from anywhere in WI

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

Resources for atlasers

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for DONATE, ATLAS, E-ALERT, and CONVENTION, along with a search bar. The logo for the WSO is on the left, featuring a bird and the text 'WISCONSIN SOCIETY for ORNITHOLOGY' with the tagline 'Promoting the enjoyment, study, and conservation of Wisconsin's birds.' Below the logo is a horizontal menu with links for HOME, ABOUT WSO, WHAT WE DO, SUPPORT, VOLUNTEER, and CONNECT. The main content area features a large banner for the 'Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II' with an image of a yellow and black bird. Below the banner is a navigation bar 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 'Conserve Wisconsin birds by joining our bird survey' with a photo of a wood duck. Below this are several call-to-action boxes: '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 - Wausau), and 'SPONSOR-A-SPECIES' (Choose your favorite species to sponsor in the Atlas!).

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 GET INVOLVED HANDBOOK & MATERIALS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SUBMIT DATA

Home / 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!

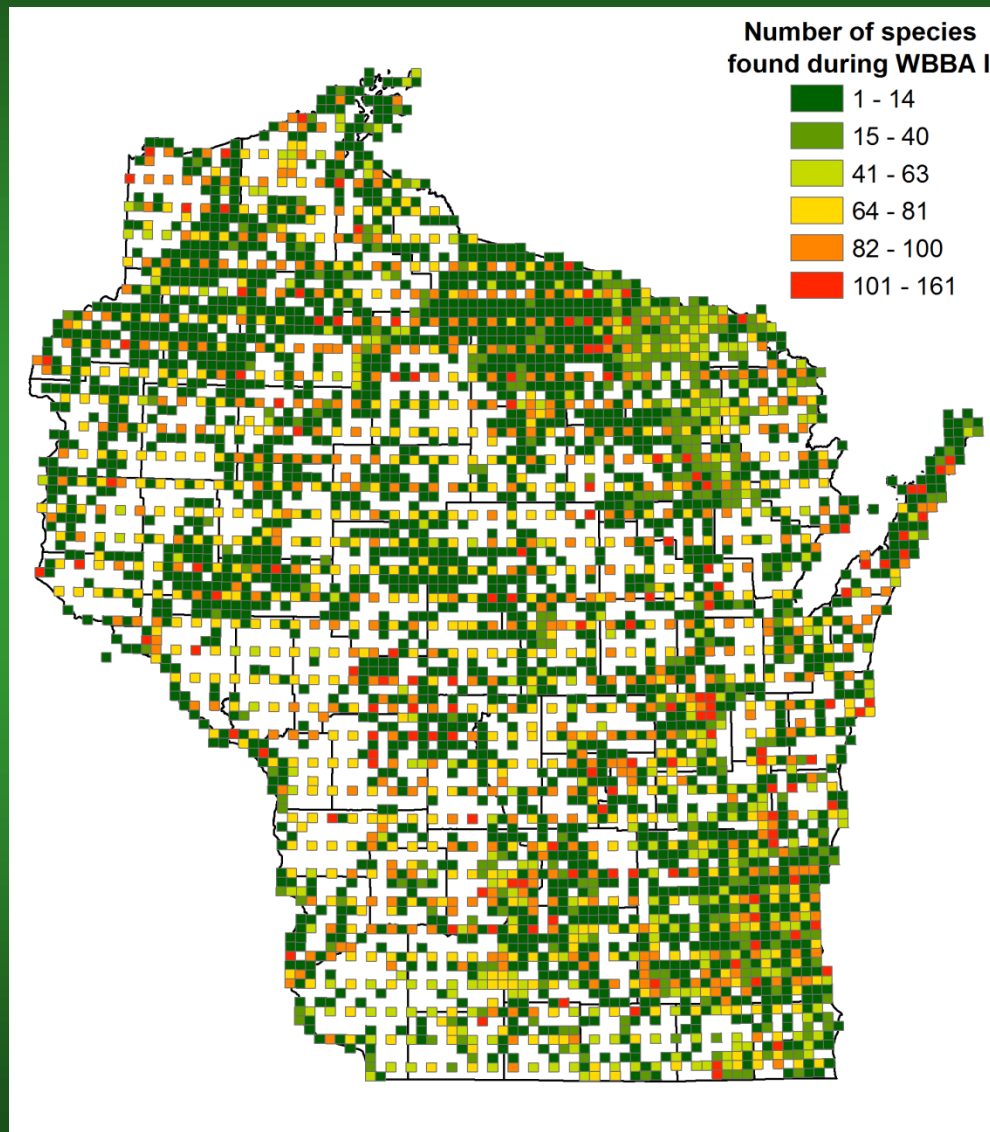
What is the Atlas?

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!

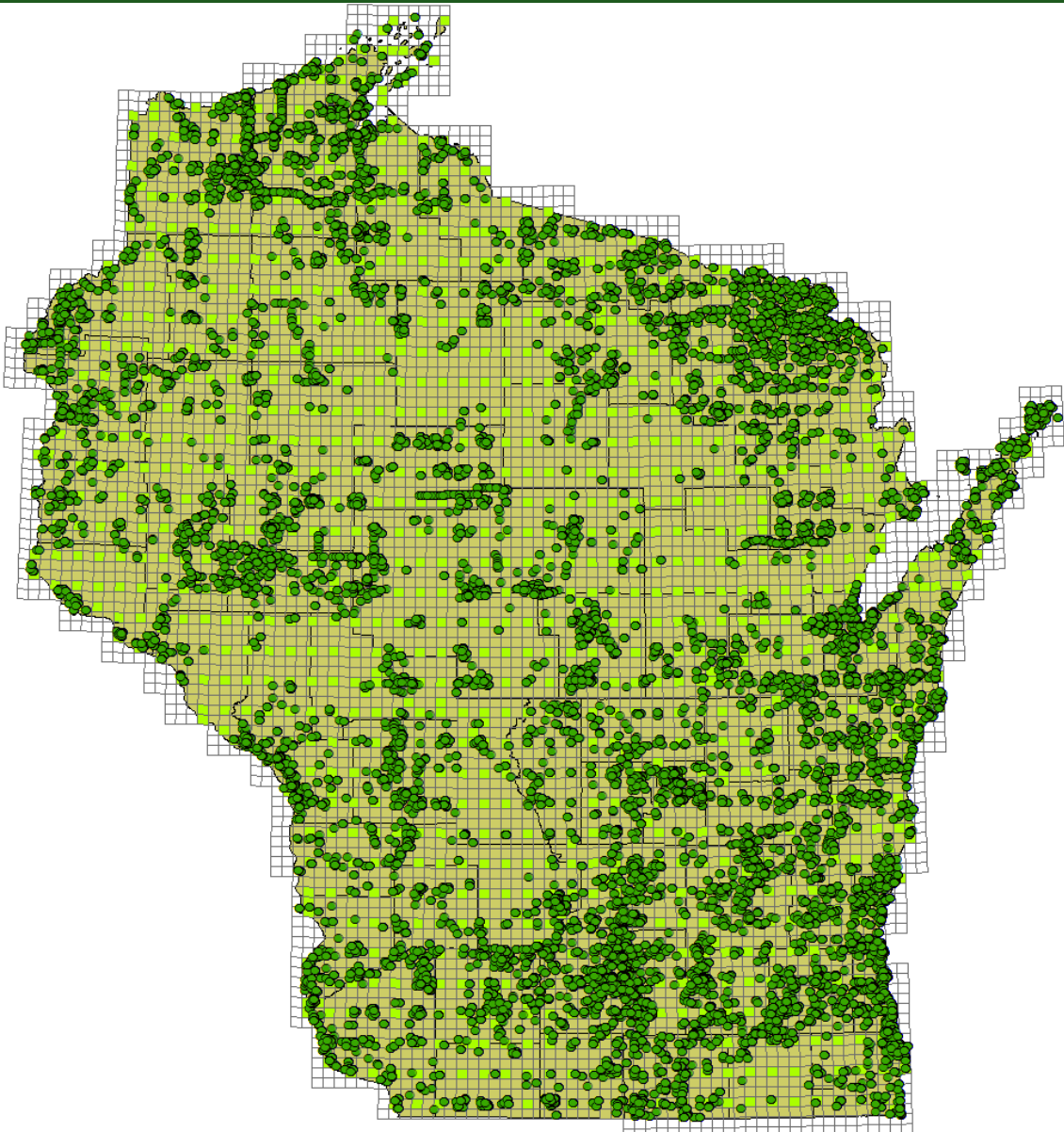
- Website: wsobirds.org/atlas
- Handbook, maps, materials
- County Coordinator for every county

A collaborative effort

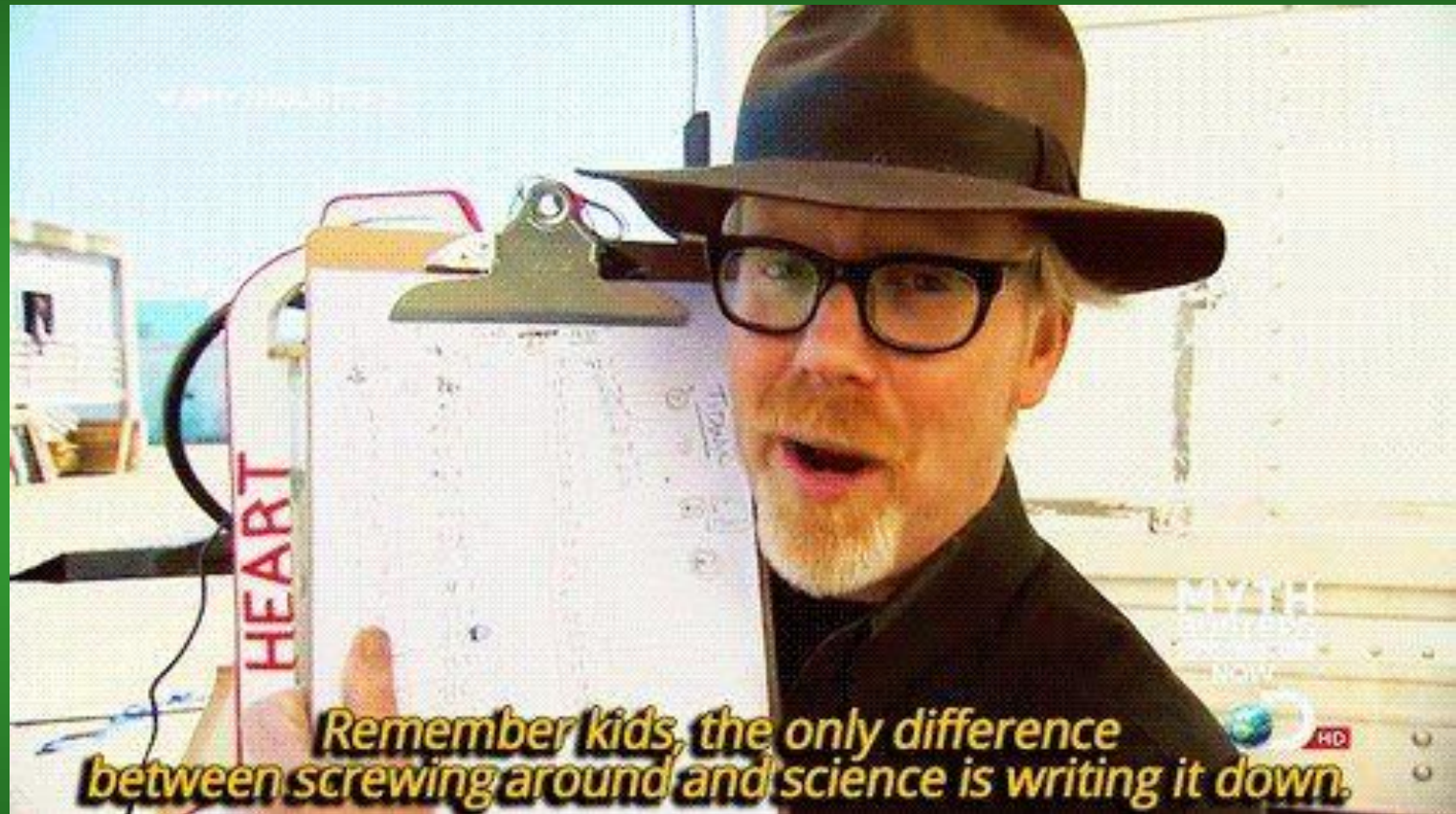


- WBBA I mobilized >1,600 observers to collect >170,000 breeding records
- Every observation is a piece of the puzzle

A collaborative effort



- In the first 15 months of WBBA II:
- 800 participants
- 28,500 checklists
- But still major gaps



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