



# Exciting Results from Season One of WBBA II



Wisconsin  
Breeding  
Bird  
Atlas II

Nicholas M. Anich and Ryan S. Brady  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

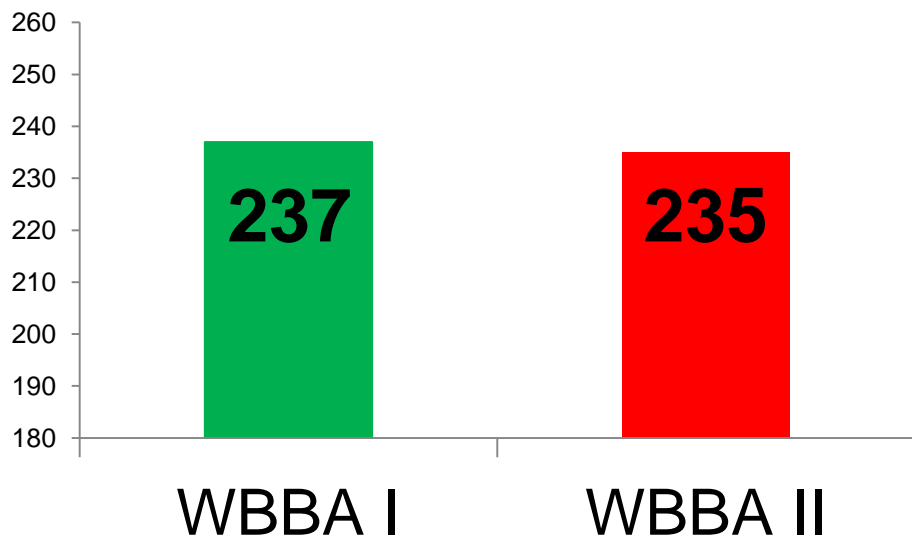
# Results to date

- 800 observers
- surveyed 3,300 atlas blocks
- some data in 68% of priority blocks
- submitted 28,500 checklists
- documenting 1.8 million birds

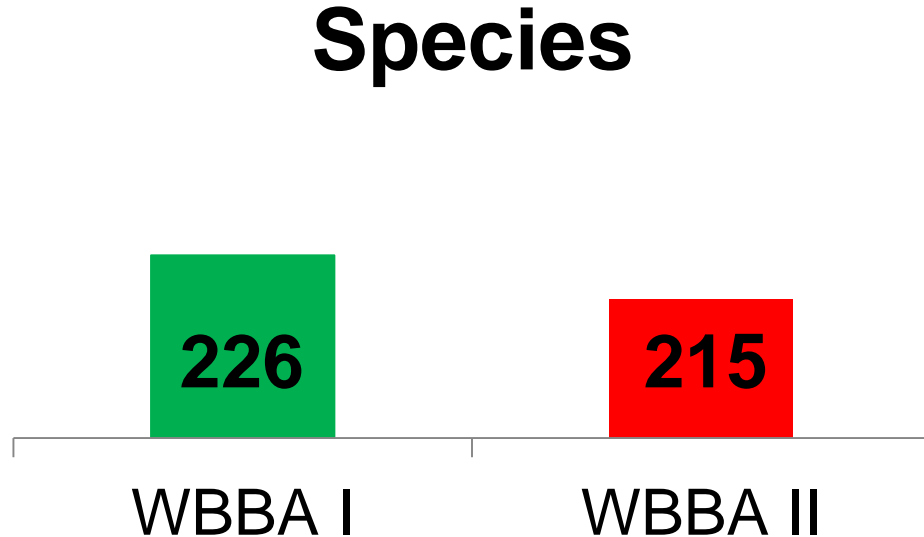
# Season 1 results

In just 1 year, we are already approaching the species totals of the first atlas (1995–2000)

## Recorded Species



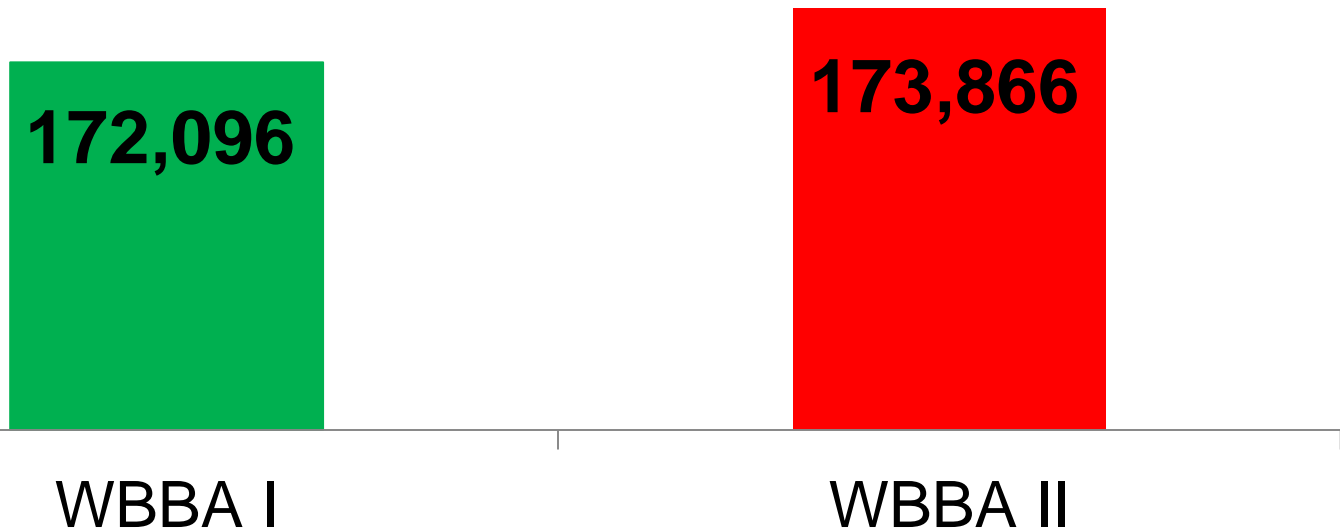
## Confirmed Species



# Season 1 results

We have already gathered more data  
than the first atlas\*

## Breeding records



# 9 species not confirmed during WBBA I



Bufflehead

Canvasback

White-eyed Vireo

Yellow-throated Warbler

Whooping Crane

Kirtland's Warbler

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Great Tit

European Goldfinch

# Top 10 most confirmed

## TOP 10 SPECIES

*Found in the most blocks*

1. American Robin



2. Red-winged Blackbird



3. Canada Goose



4. Black-capped Chickadee



5. European Starling



6. Eastern Bluebird



7. Common Grackle



8. Chipping Sparrow



9. Song Sparrow



10. Tree Swallow



# Only confirmed in 1 block so far

Bufflehead (**Atlas I: 0 blocks**) Matt Berg

Canvasback (**0**) Tom Ziebell

Northern Bobwhite (**30**) Mike Mossman

Cattle Egret (**3**) Stuart Malcolm/Ross Mueller

Wilson's Phalarope (**7**) Bob Domagalski

Long-eared Owl (**5**) Kyle Lindemer/Dale Bonk

Northern Saw-whet Owl (**18**) Robin Squier

Eastern Whip-poor-will (**19**) Carol Jaksic

Black-backed Woodpecker (**12**) Bob Spahn



# Only confirmed in 1 block so far

Olive-sided Flycatcher (15) Nathan Martineau/Sarah Toner

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (30) Skye Haas

White-eyed Vireo (0) Aaron Holschbach

Boreal Chickadee (14) Brian Boldt

Northern Mockingbird (6) Janine Polk et al.

Connecticut Warbler (15) Brian Collins/Matt Berg

Kentucky Warbler (7) Aaron Holschbach

Yellow-throated Warbler (0) Shawn Miller



Anne Geraghty



# Confirmed during WBBA I but not II

Swainson's Thrush (11 WBBA I) 6 blocks Possible in 2015

Le Conte's Sparrow (11) 3 Probable

American Wigeon (7) 2 Probable

White-winged Crossbill (7) 3 Possible

Yellow-breasted Chat (6) 2 Probable



# Confirmed twice in WBBA I but not II

Northern Pintail (2) 1 Probable

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2) 2 Observed

Yellow Rail (2) 3 Possible

Barn Owl (2) No breeding season reports

Philadelphia Vireo (2) 2 Probable

Worm-eating Warbler (2) 1 Probable

Nelson's Sparrow (2) 2 Possible



# Confirmed once in WBBA I but not II

Lesser Scaup (1) 4 Possible

Horned Grebe (1) Many Observed, no Possible

Western Grebe (1) 2 Observed

Snowy Egret (1) 1 Observed

Great Black-backed Gull (1) 7 Observed

Great Gray Owl (1) 1 Possible

Western Kingbird (1) 1 Observed

Rusty Blackbird (1) No breeding season reports



# Not confirmed during WBBA I but have bred in WI

King Rail – 1 Possible in 2015

Wilson's Warbler – 2 Possible in 2015

Tennessee Warbler – 2 Possible in 2015



# Never confirmed breeding in WI

Mississippi Kite

Juvenile found in Janesville in late August. Near Rockford IL nest site. Is it a WI bird?

Not reported in WBBA I.



# Never confirmed breeding in WI

## Laughing Gull

A pair was present in Manitowoc during late May and June. Then in July a juvenile is seen. But is it a local bird?

Not reported in WBBA I.



# Never confirmed breeding in WI

## Prairie Warbler

Two different individuals singing through May and June In Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Probable at 5 locations during WBBA I.



Joel Trick

# Never confirmed breeding in WI

Chuck-will's-widow

One bird singing persistently in May and June in Jefferson County.

Not reported in WBBA I.



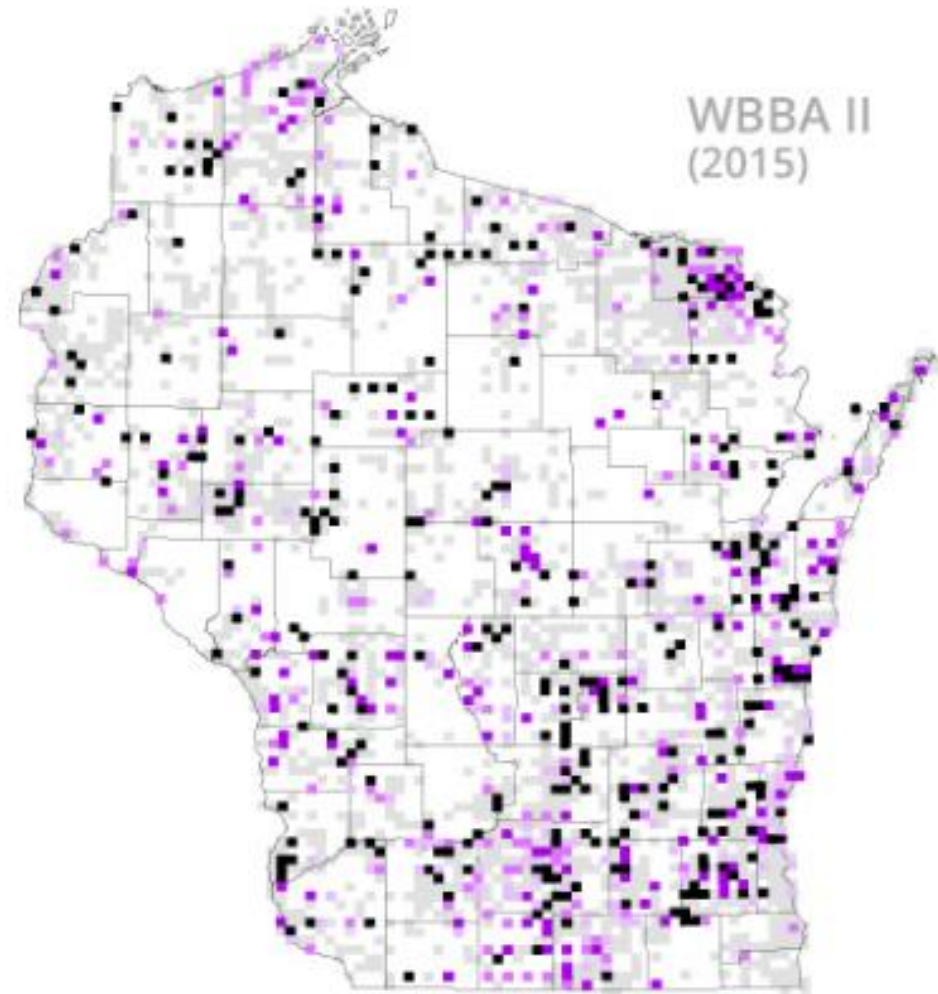
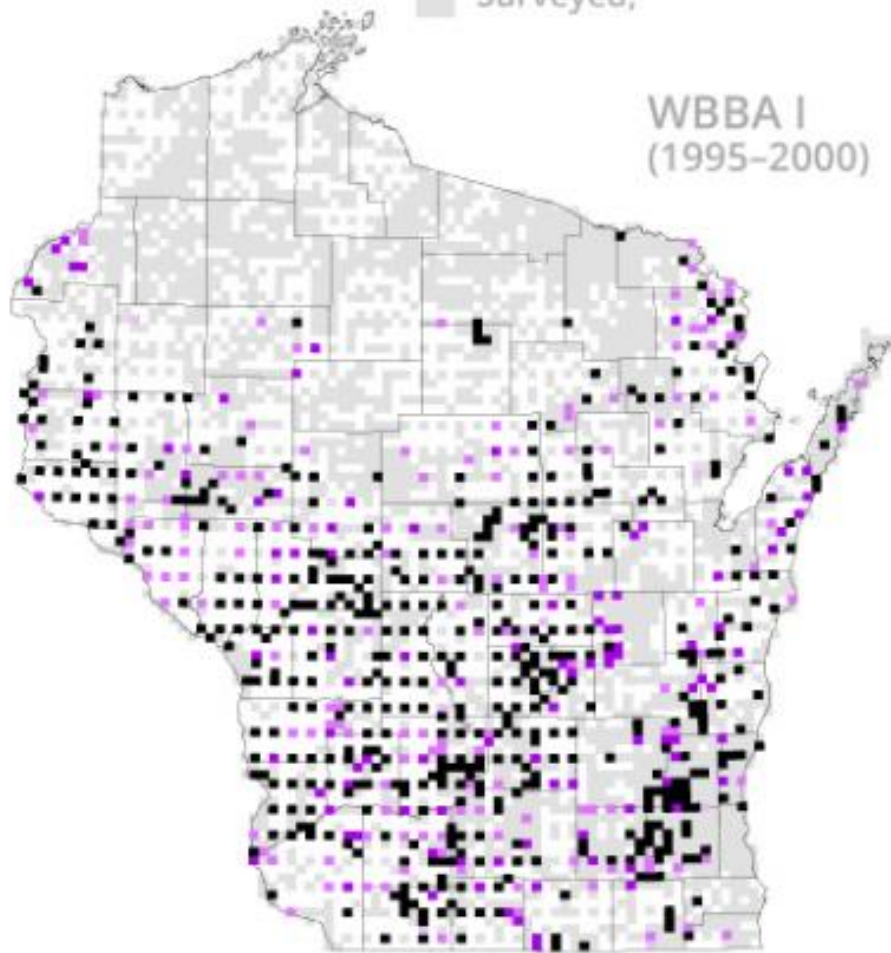
Dick Daniels



# Never confirmed breeding in WI

- Swainson's Hawk – nests in MN in county W of Pierce
- Black-billed Magpie – nests in MN in county N of Douglas
- Bay-breasted Warbler – nests in northern MN, MI
- American Three-toed Woodpecker – nests in northern MN
- Solitary Sandpiper – nests in northern MN
- Boreal Owl – nests in northern MN
- White-faced Ibis – IA nest record; juv. seen August 2014
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow – nests in IA, IL
- Great-tailed Grackle – nests in IA, approaching Grant
- Summer Tanager – has nested in IA
- Little Blue Heron – has nested, Chicago area
- Black Rail – the holy grail!

# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases



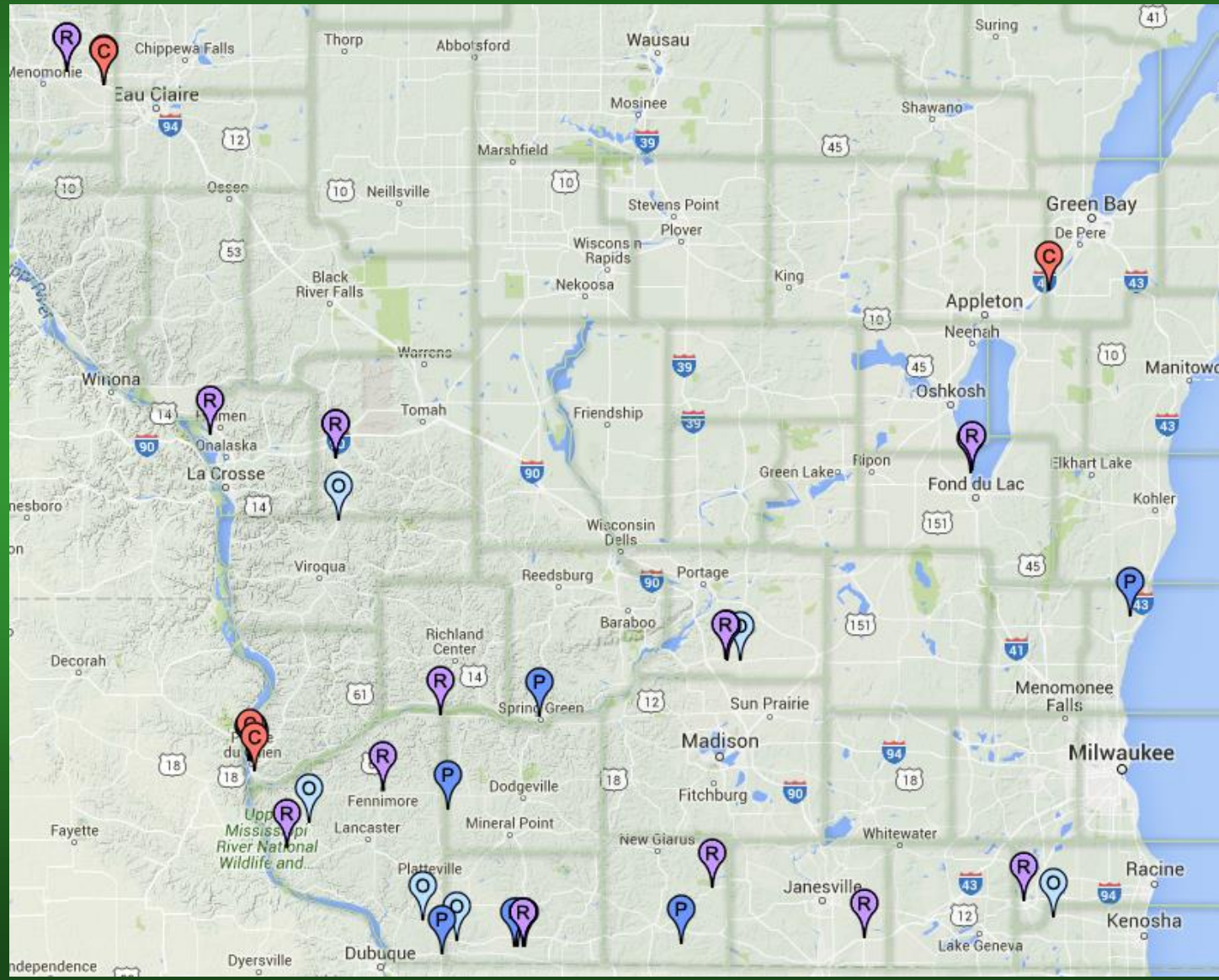






# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

WBBA I

WBBA II

No records



BREEDING CATEGORY	
	Observed
	Possible
	Probable
	Confirmed

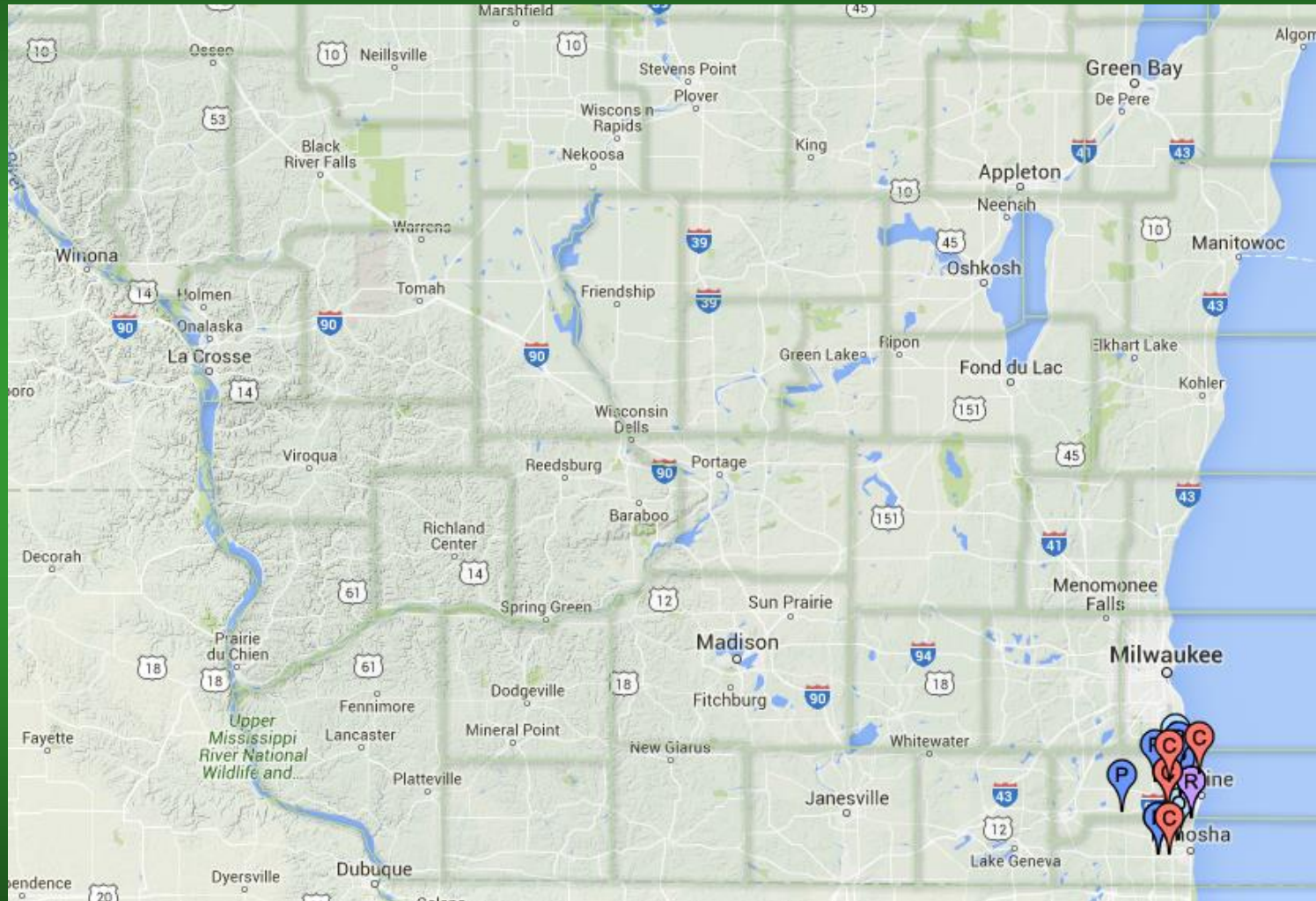


# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases





WBBA I

No records

WBBA II



BREEDING CATEGORY

-  Observed
-  Possible
-  Probable
-  Confirmed

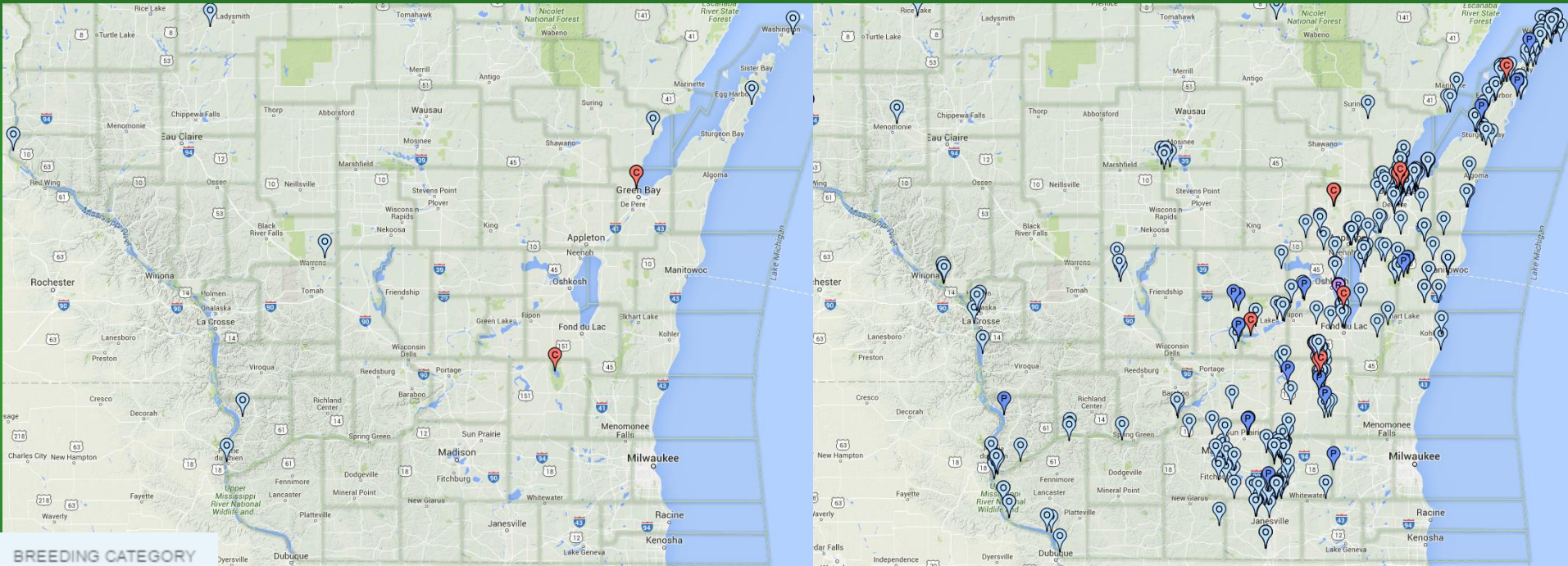


Kevin DeBoer





# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

## WBBA I

## WBBA II



BREEDING CATEGORY

-  Observed
-  Possible
-  Probable
-  Confirmed

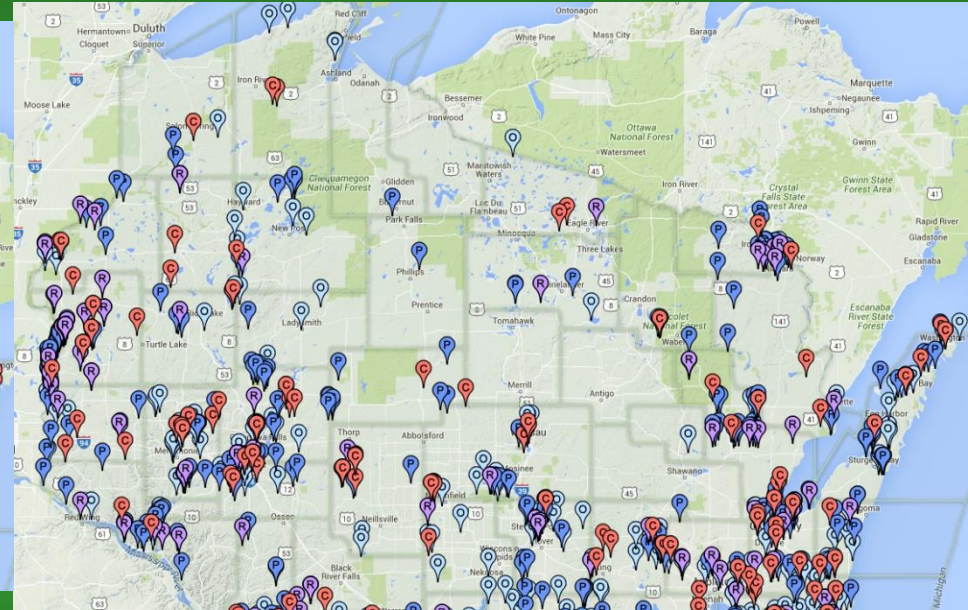
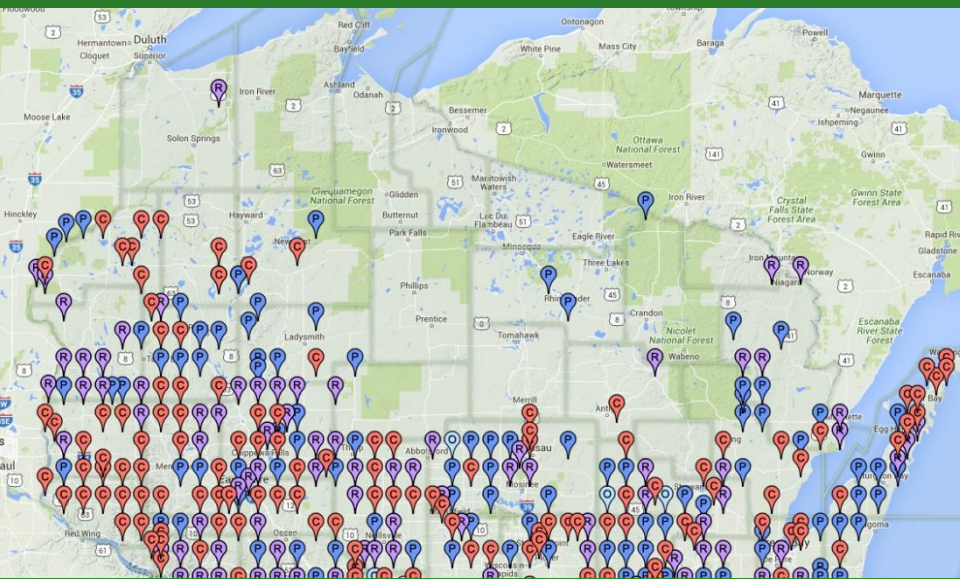








# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

## WBBA I

## WBBA II



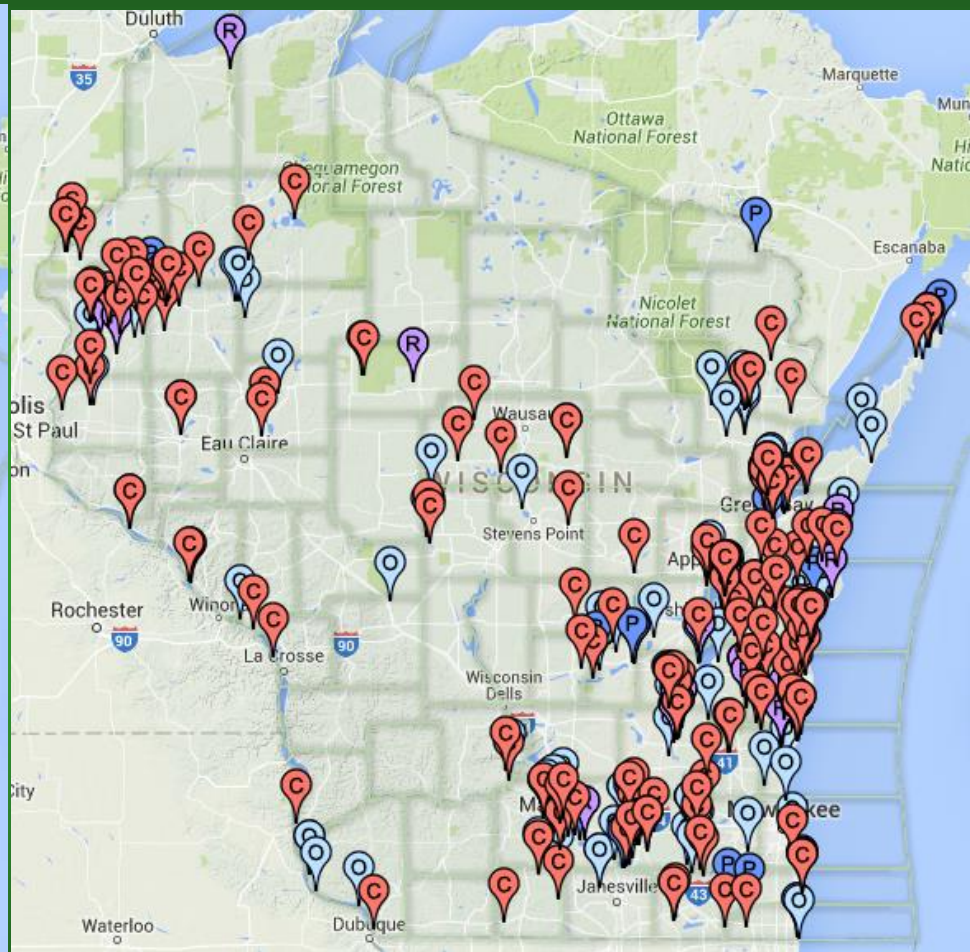
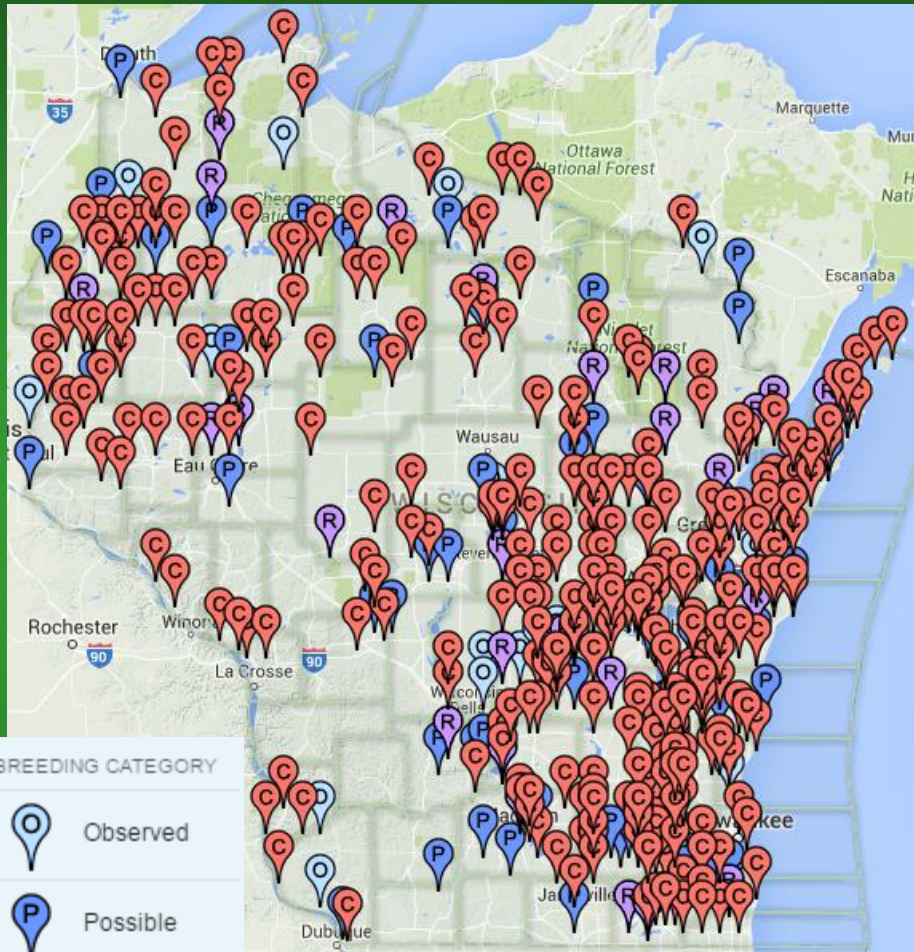
BREEDING CATEGORY	
	Observed
	Possible
	Probable
	Confirmed



# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

## WBBA I

## WBBA II



**BREEDING CATEGORY**

-  Observed
-  Possible
-  Probable
-  Confirmed

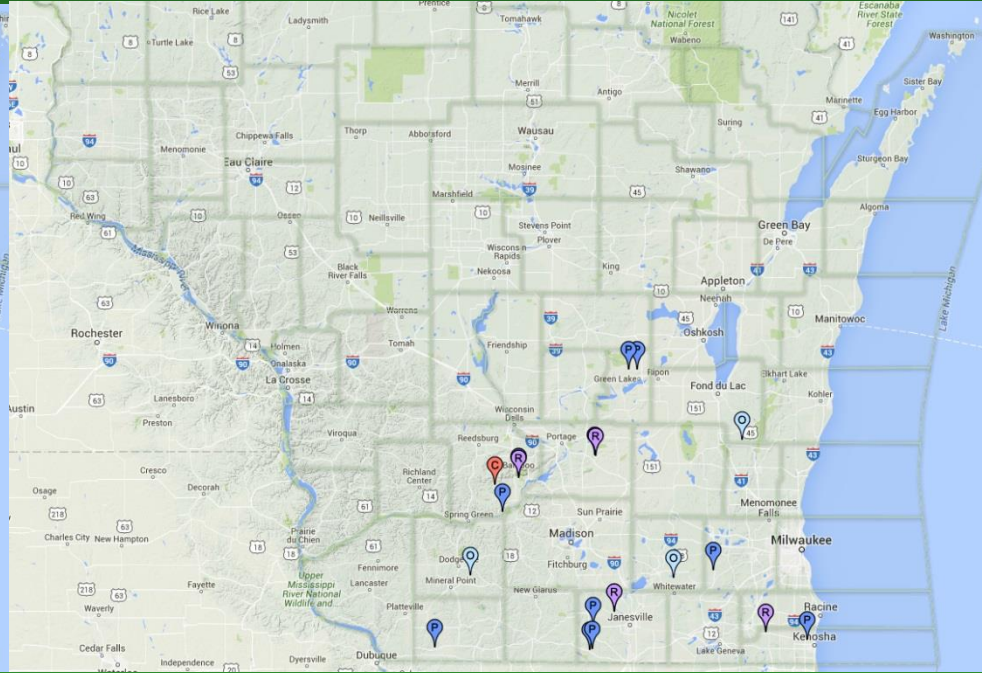
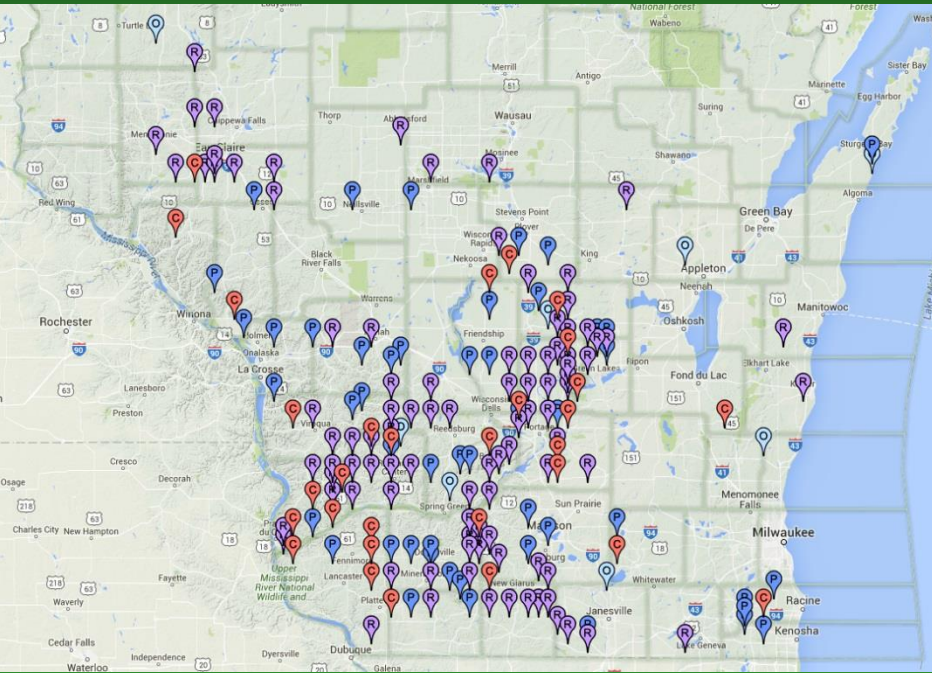


Tom Prestby



# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

## WBBA I

## WBBA II



**BREEDING CATEGORY**

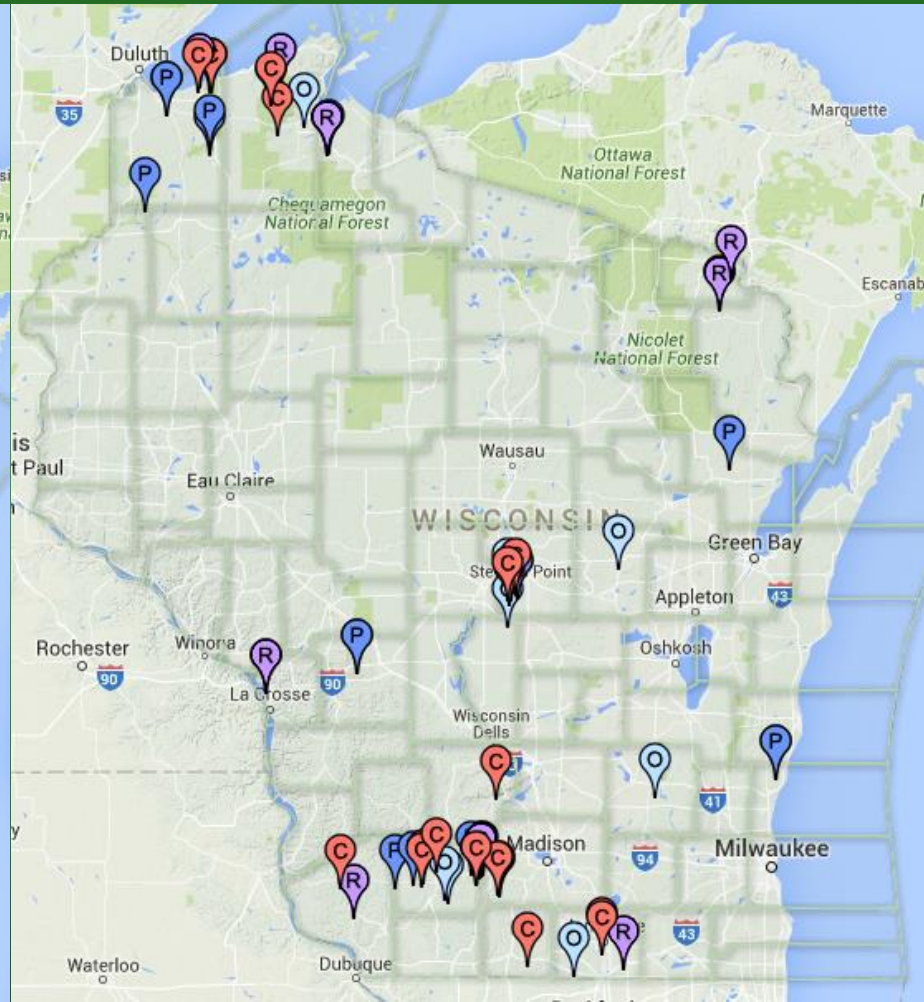
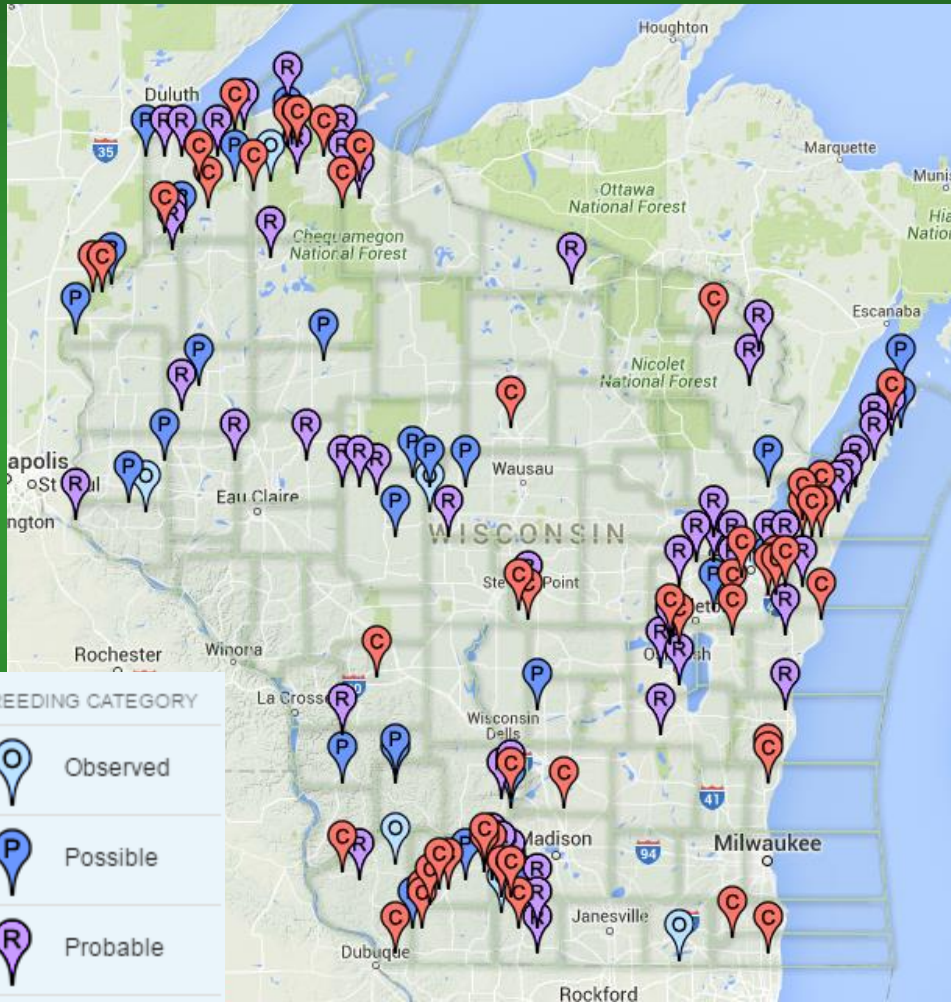
-  Observed
-  Possible
-  Probable
-  Confirmed






# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

## WBBA I

## WBBA II



**BREEDING CATEGORY**

-  Observed
-  Possible
-  Probable
-  Confirmed

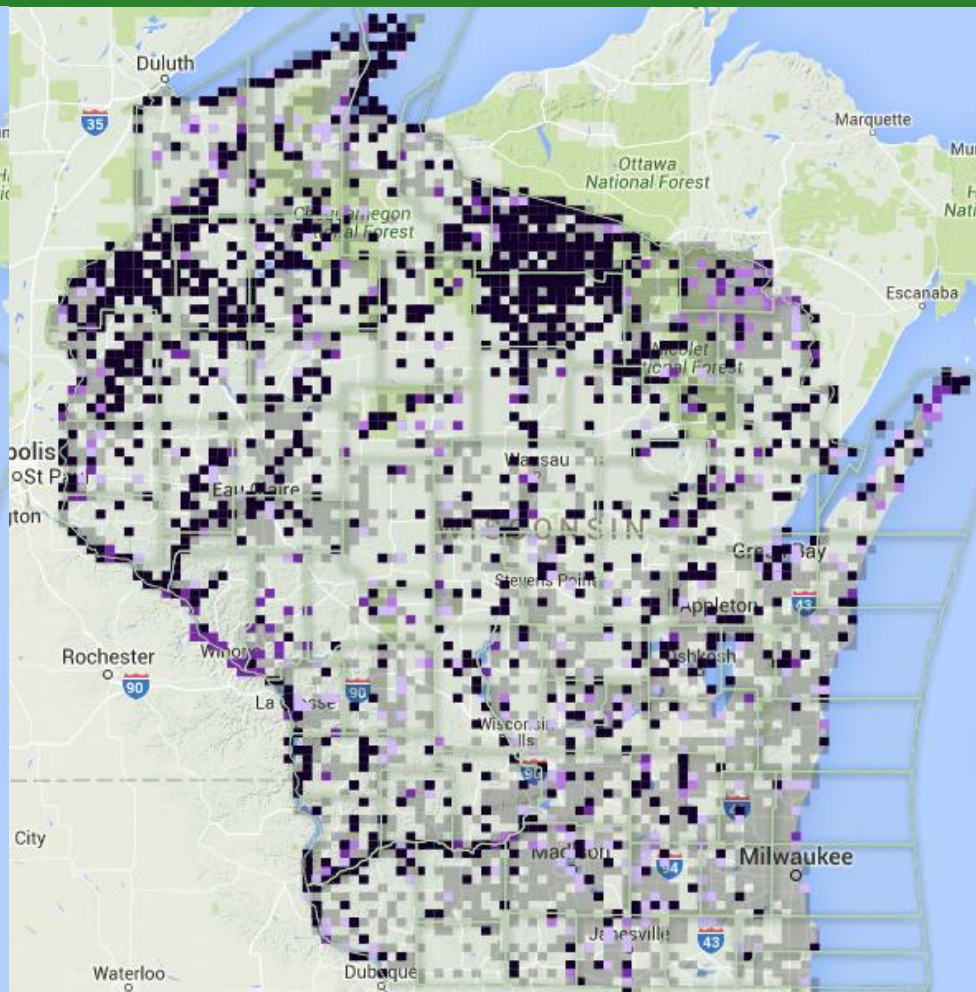
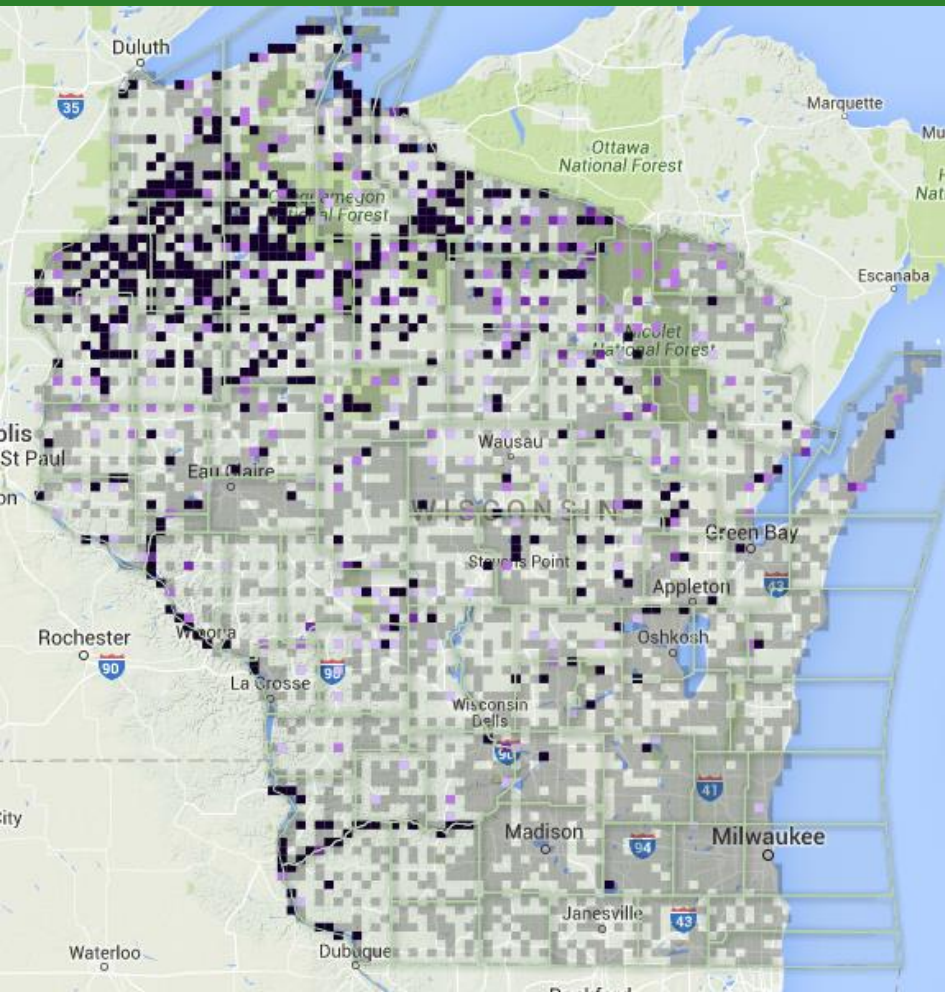




# Map Quiz – Change between Atlases

WBBA I

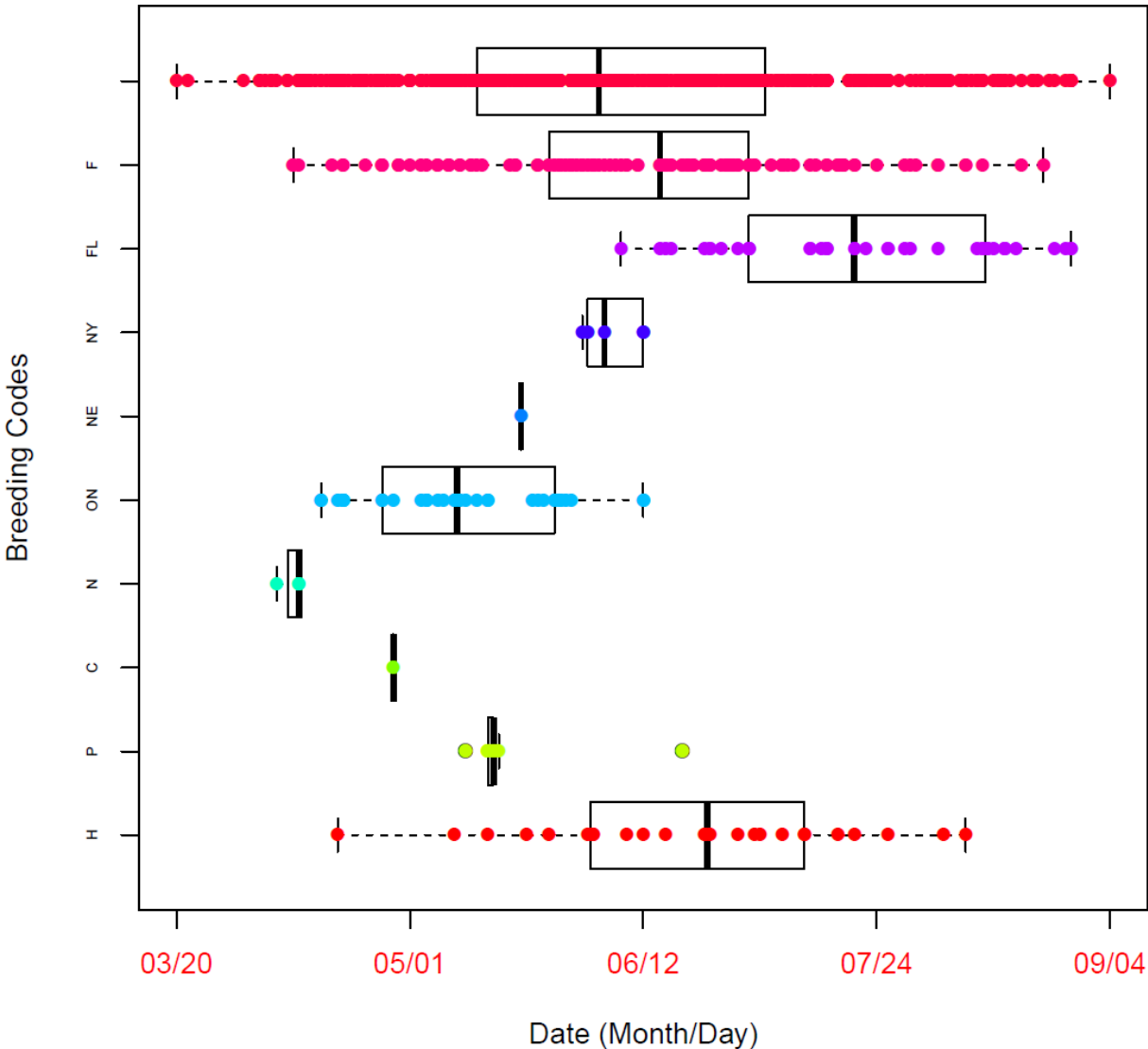
WBBA II



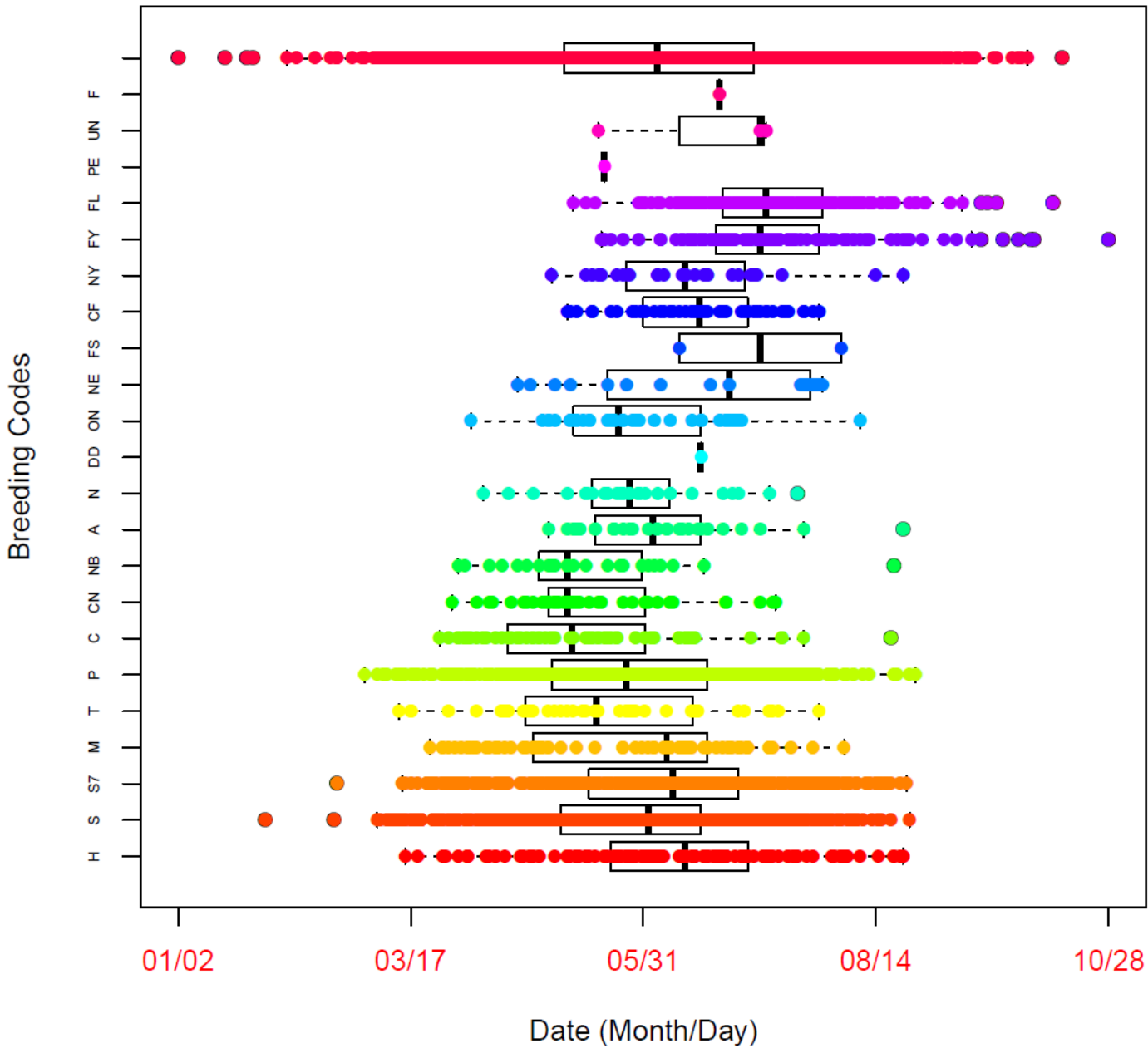


# Breeding Chronology

American White Pelican



# Northern Cardinal



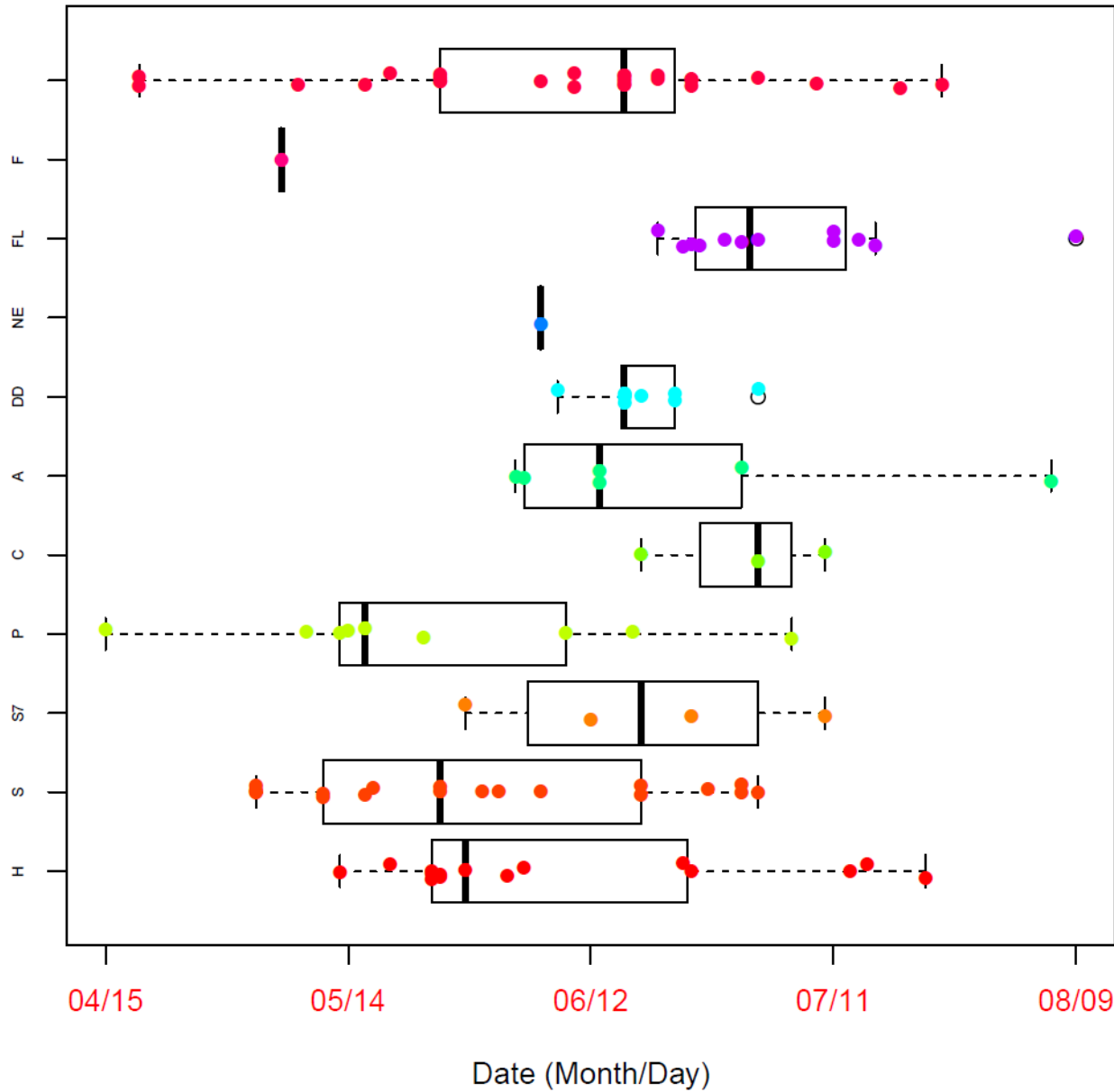
Long  
breeding season



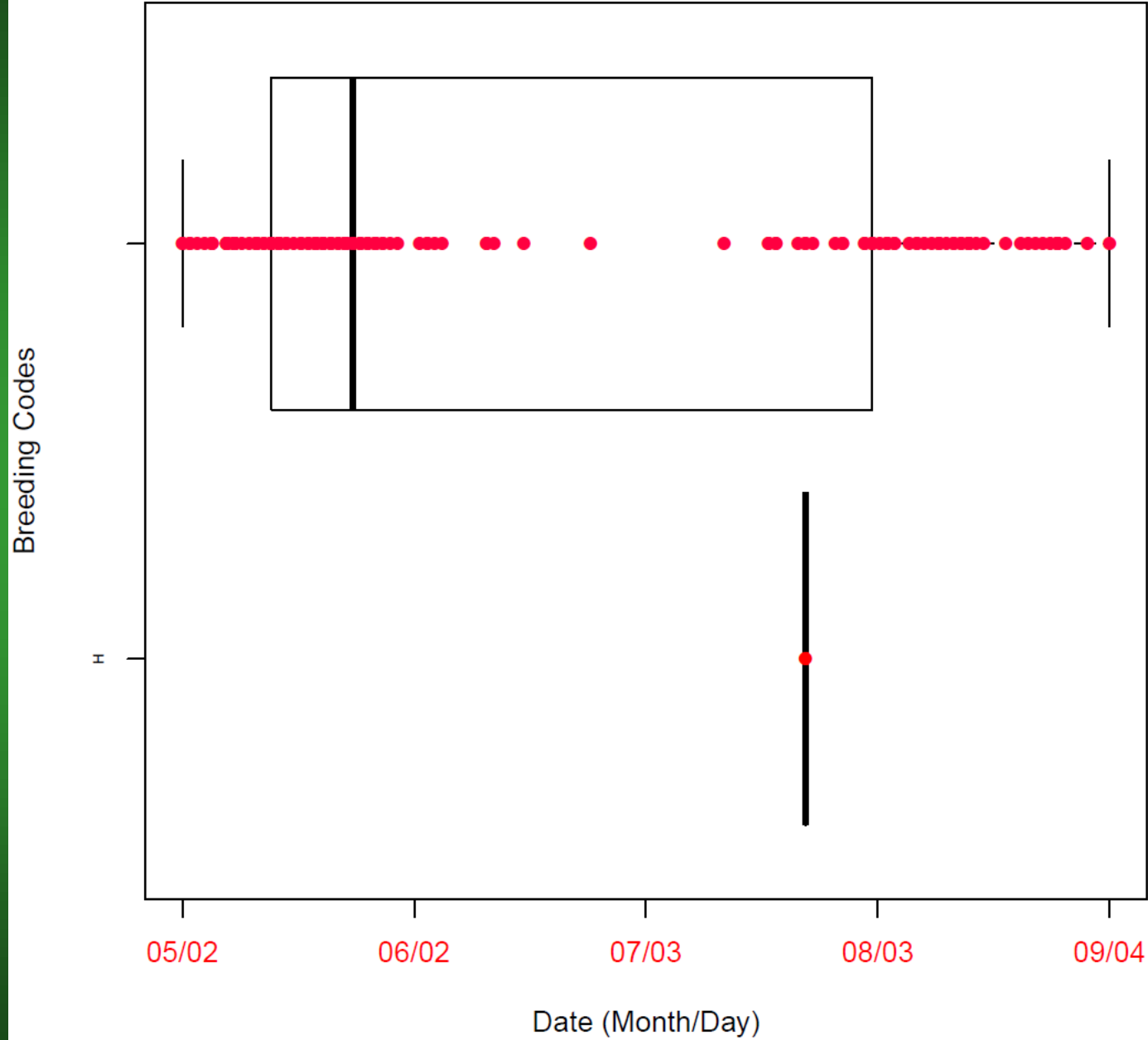
# Short breeding season

Breeding Codes

## Upland Sandpiper



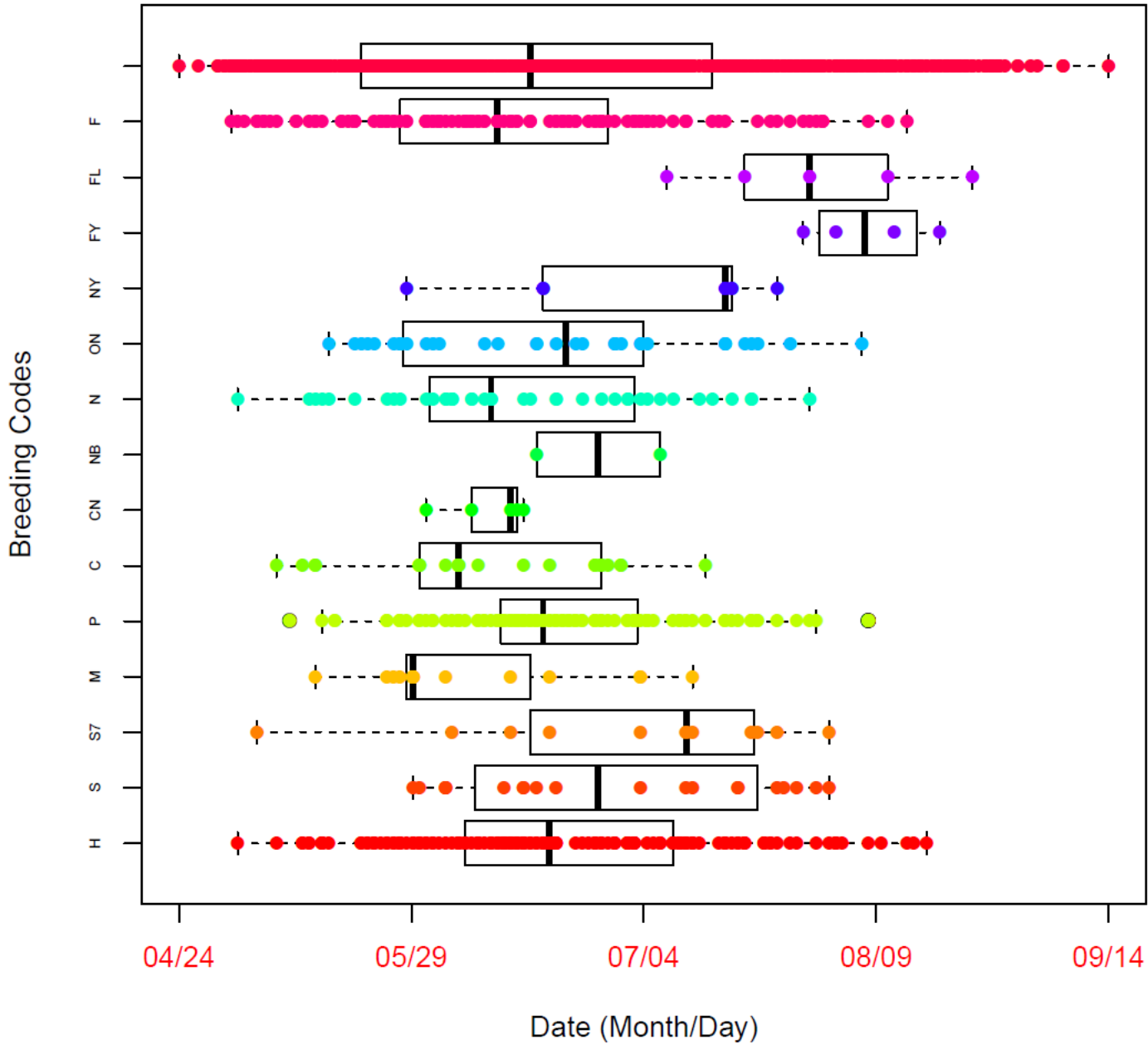
# Semipalmated Plover



Error  
checking



# Chimney Swift

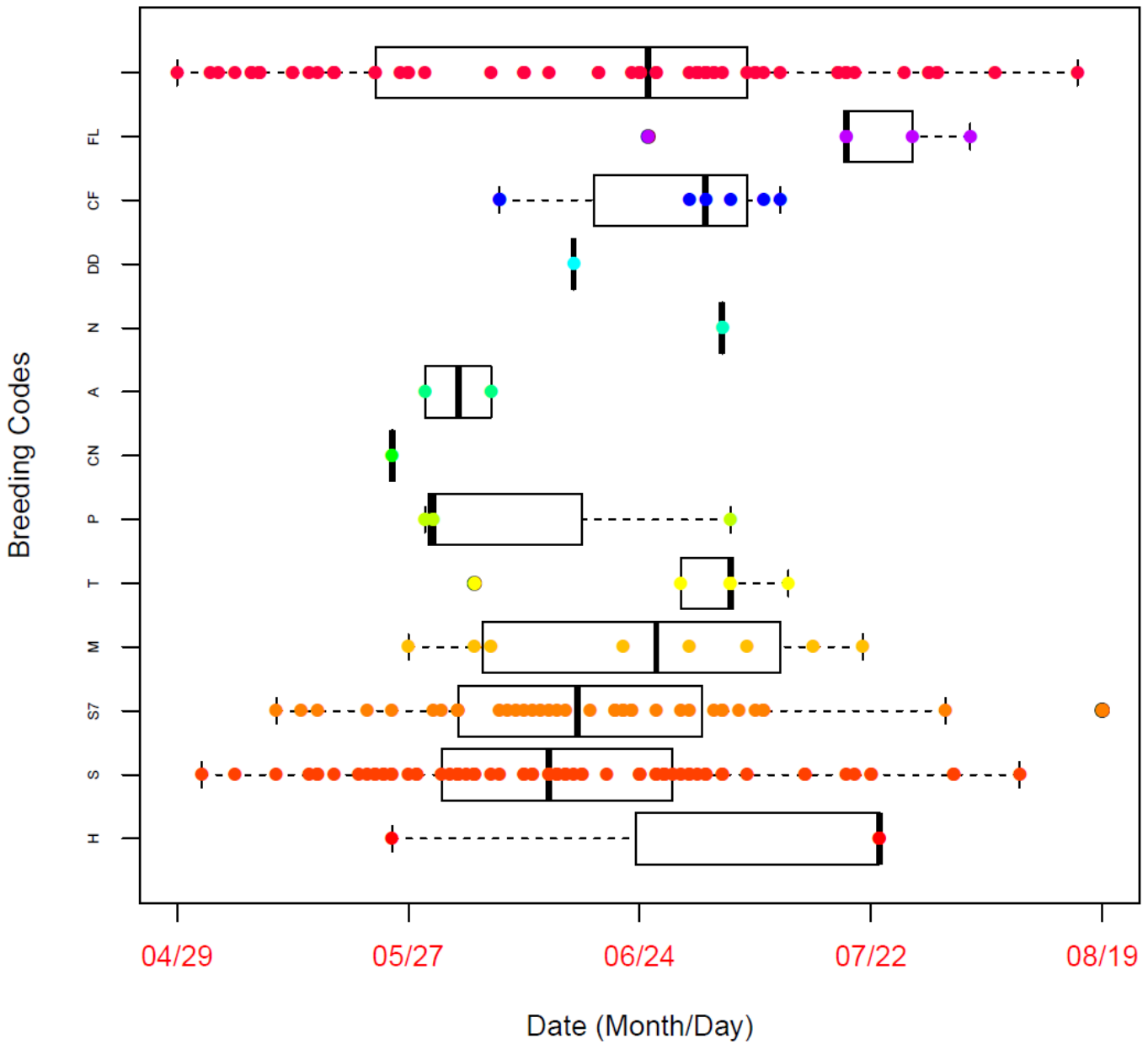


What codes are used for confirmation?





# Henslow's Sparrow



When are birds out of the nest?  
(avoid haying)



# Information on Priority Species

## Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Quick Reference

## Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Quick Reference

REQUIRED INFO FOR ALL SURVEYS		
DATE	START/END TIME	ATLAS BLOCK NAME
SURVEY MILES		LOCATION WITHIN BLOCK
TRAVEL EFFORT BETWEEN HOME AND BLOCK (MILES, TIME)		
Separate property-specific checklists within a block are strongly encouraged.		

INFO FOR ALL OBSERVATIONS
SPECIES   COUNT   HIGHEST BREEDING CODE   NOTE(S)

BREEDING CODES	
<i>OBSERVED</i>	
	Observed (enter in eBird, no code required)
F	Flyover
<i>POSSIBLE</i>	
H	In appropriate <u>H</u> abitat
S	<u>S</u> inging male (excluding migrants)
<i>PROBABLE</i>	
S7	<u>S</u> inging male heard <u>Z</u> + days apart
M	<u>M</u> ultiple (7+) singing males
P	<u>P</u> air in suitable habitat
T	<u>T</u> erritory defense
C	<u>C</u> ourtship display/copulation
N	Visiting probable <u>N</u> est site
A	<u>A</u> gitated behavior
B	Woodpecker/wren nest <u>B</u> uilding/cavity excavation
<i>CONFIRMED</i>	
PE	<u>P</u> hysiological <u>E</u> vidence/ <u>B</u> rood patch
CN	<u>C</u> arrying <u>N</u> est material
NB	<u>N</u> est <u>B</u> uilding (except woodpeckers & wrens)
DD	<u>D</u> istracted <u>D</u> isplay
UN	<u>U</u> sed <u>N</u> est (use with caution)
ON	<u>O</u> ccupied <u>N</u> est
FL	Recently <u>F</u> ledged young
CF	<u>C</u> arrying <u>F</u> ood
FY	<u>F</u> eeding <u>Y</u> oung
FS	Carrying <u>F</u> ecal <u>S</u> ac
NE	<u>N</u> est w/ <u>E</u> ggs
NY	<u>N</u> est w/ <u>Y</u> oung

HABITAT CODES			
F: FOREST	O: OPEN	S: SHRUB/SAVANNA	
<b>FU: Upland forest</b>	<b>OU: Upland open</b>	<b>SU: Upland shrub</b>	<b>SL: Lowland shrub</b>
<b>FUH: Upland hardwood</b>	<b>OUA: Agriculture</b>	<b>SUH: Upland hardwood</b>	<b>SLH: Lowland hardwood</b>
FUHa aspen	OUAa alfalfa	SUHc cutover/burn	SLHc cutover/burn
FUHm maple	OUAg grass/mix hay	SUHh hedge	SLHh hedge
FUHo oak	OUAc cultivated	SUHn natural	SLHn natural
FUHp plantation	OUAp pasture	SUHo oldfield	SLHo oldfield
<b>FUC: Upland conifer</b>	<b>OUAr row crops</b>	<b>SUHp plantation</b>	<b>SLC: Lowland conifer</b>
FUCc hemlock	OUAa small grains	<b>SUC: Upland conifer</b>	SLCc cutover/burn
FUCp pine	OUAx misc. ag.	SUCc cutover/burn	SLCc hedge
FUCs spruce-fir	<b>OUN: Native</b>	SUCn hedge	SLCn natural
FUCs(p) spruce plantn.	<b>OUU: Uncropped</b>	SUCn natural	SLCo oldfield
<b>FUM: Upland mixed</b>	<b>OL: Lowland open</b>	SUCo oldfield	<b>SLM: Lowland mixed</b>
FUMh hemlock-hardw	<b>OLA: Agriculture</b>	SUCp plantation	SLMc cutover/burn
FUMp pine-hardwood	OLAa alfalfa	<b>SUM: Upland mixed</b>	SLMh hedge
FUMs spruce-fir-hw	OLAg grass/mix hay	SUMc cutover/burn	SLMn natural
FUMs(p) spruce plnt/hw	OLAc cultivated	SUMh hedge	SLMo oldfield
<b>FL: Lowland forest</b>	<b>OLAp pasture</b>	SUMn natural	
<b>FLH: Lowland hardwood</b>	<b>OLAr row crops</b>	SUMo oldfield	
FLHn northern	OLAs small grains		
FLHs southern	OLAx misc. ag.		
<b>FLC: Lowland conifer</b>	<b>OLN: Native</b>		
FLCc cedar	OLNm meadow		
FLCs sprce/tamarack	OLNb bog		
<b>FLM: Lowland mixed</b>	<b>OLU: Uncropped</b>		
FLMc cedar	<b>OLW: Water/wetland</b>		
FLMs spruce	OLWm marsh		
	OLWl lake		
	OLWr river/stream		
		<b>U: URBAN/RURAL</b>	
		<b>UU: Urban</b>	
		UUO open space	UUc commerc./ind.
		UUx misc. urban	UUR residential
		<b>UR: Rural</b>	
		USC commerc./ind.	URC commerc./ind.
		USR residential	URR residential
		USO open space	URO open space
		USX misc. sm. town	URX misc. rural

### Species Requiring Additional Information

Acadian Flycatcher <sup>2</sup>	Connecticut Warbler <sup>1</sup>	Least Bittern <sup>1</sup>	Snowy Egret <sup>2</sup>
American Bittern <sup>1A</sup>	Eared Grebe <sup>2</sup>	Loggerhead Shrike <sup>2</sup>	Spruce Grouse <sup>2</sup>
American Wigeon <sup>2</sup>	European Goldfinch <sup>2</sup>	Long-eared Owl <sup>2</sup>	Swainson's Thrush <sup>1</sup>
Bay-breasted Warbler <sup>2</sup>	Forster's Tern <sup>2</sup>	Nelson's Sparrow <sup>2</sup>	Tennessee Warbler <sup>2</sup>
Bell's Vireo <sup>2</sup>	Golden-wg. Warbler <sup>1</sup>	Northern Bobwhite <sup>1</sup>	Upland Sandpiper <sup>2</sup>
Black Tern <sup>2</sup>	G. Black-backed Gull <sup>2</sup>	<b>Northern Goshawk<sup>†</sup></b>	Western Meadowlark <sup>1</sup>
Black-cr. Night-Heron <sup>1</sup>	Great Egret <sup>2</sup>	Northern Pintail <sup>2</sup>	Western Grebe <sup>2</sup>
Black-necked Stilt <sup>2,B</sup>	Great Tit <sup>2</sup>	Olive-sided Flycatcher <sup>1</sup>	<b>Whooping Crane<sup>†</sup></b>
Boreal Chickadee <sup>1</sup>	Gr. Prairie-Chicken <sup>2</sup>	Peregrine Falcon <sup>2,C</sup>	Wilson's Phalarope <sup>2</sup>
Bufflehead <sup>2</sup>	Henslow's Sparrow <sup>1</sup>	Philadelphia Vireo <sup>2</sup>	Wilson's Warbler <sup>2</sup>
Carolina Wren <sup>2</sup>	Hooded Warbler <sup>1</sup>	<b>Piping Plover<sup>2†</sup></b>	Worm-eating Warbler <sup>2</sup>
Caspian Tern <sup>2</sup>	Horned Grebe <sup>2</sup>	Purple Martin <sup>1D</sup>	Yellow Rail <sup>3</sup>
Cattle Egret <sup>2</sup>	Kentucky Warbler <sup>2</sup>	Red-necked Grebe <sup>2</sup>	Yellow-breasted Chat <sup>2</sup>
Cerulean Warbler <sup>2</sup>	King Rail <sup>3</sup>	Red-shouldered Hawk <sup>1A</sup>	Yel.-cr. Night-Heron <sup>3</sup>
Common Goldeneye <sup>2</sup>	<b>Kirtland's Warbler<sup>2†</sup></b>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet <sup>1</sup>	Yel.-headed Blackbird <sup>1</sup>
Common Nighthawk <sup>1</sup>	Lark Sparrow <sup>1</sup>	Sharp-tailed Grouse <sup>1</sup>	Yel.-throated Warbler <sup>2</sup>
Common Tern <sup>2</sup>	Le Conte's Sparrow <sup>1</sup>	Short-eared Owl <sup>2</sup>	

<sup>1</sup>For all breeding season sightings, include exact location (lat/long preferred) & habitat description in eBird.

<sup>2</sup>For probable/confirmed breeding, fill out a Priority Species Info Form. For observed/possible breeding, include exact location & habitat description in eBird.

<sup>3</sup>Fill out a WSO Rare Bird Documentation Form. If probable/confirmed breeding, also fill out a Priority Species Info Form.

<sup>A</sup>Comments only necessary if probable/confirmed breeding.

<sup>B</sup>No comments necessary at Horicon Marsh.

<sup>C</sup>Comments only necessary at a natural nest site (i.e. not on a building).

<sup>D</sup>Comments only necessary at a nest site.

**†Hide in eBird during breeding season.**

Species not listed here or on Block Summary Card require Priority Species Information Form. Check WSO Review List as they may also require a WSO Rare Bird Documentation Form.

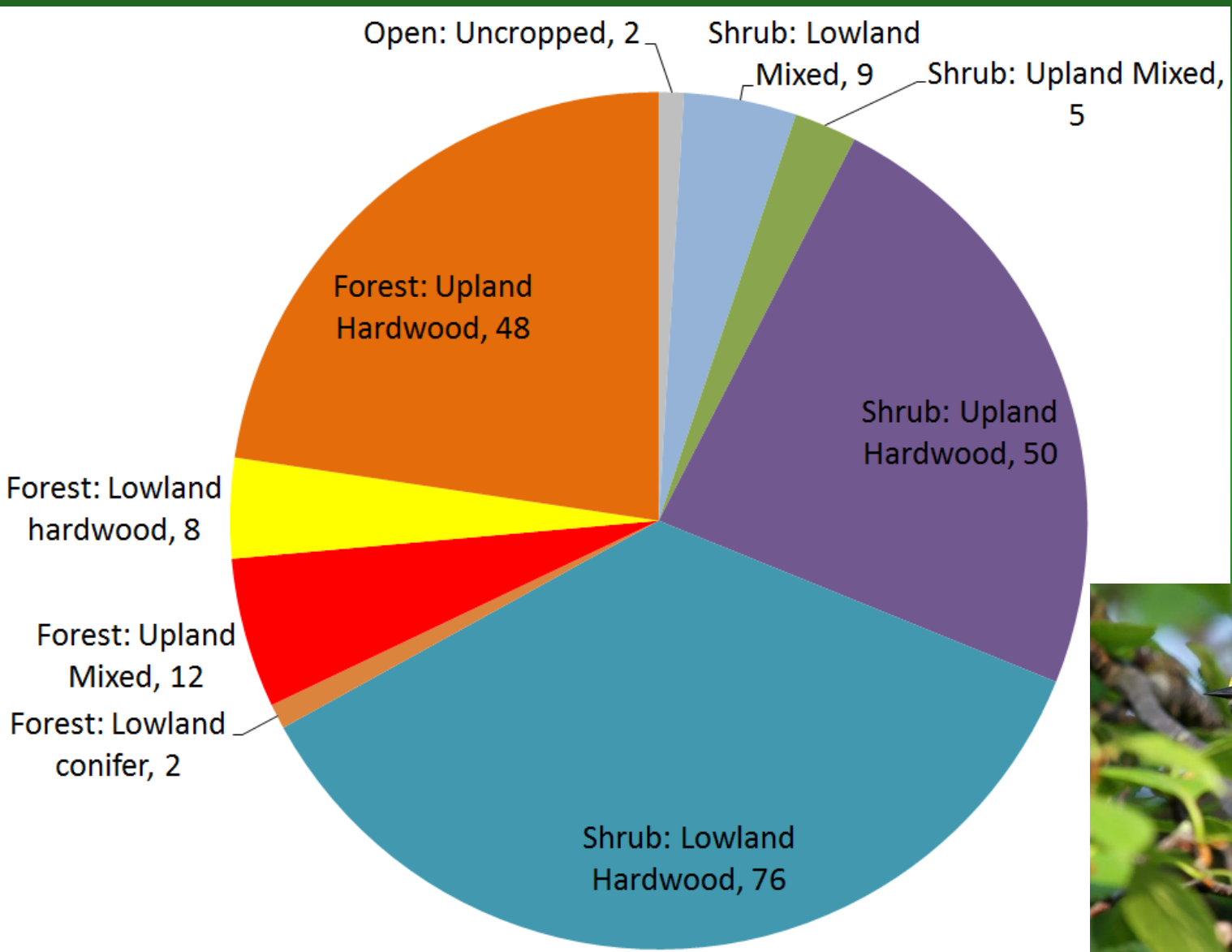
# Information on Priority Species

## Golden-winged Warbler

- 599 reports at 383 eBird locations
- 191 exact locations
- 213 reports with habitat info



# Information on Priority Species

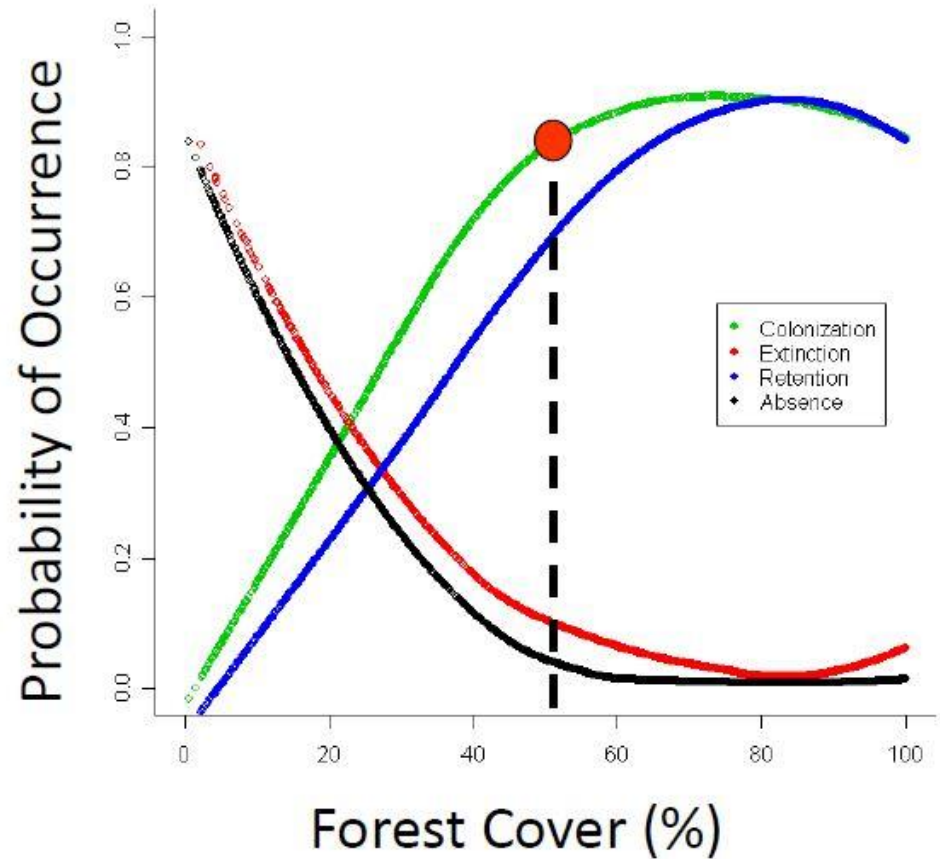


# HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS ... the potential

Ecological thresholds

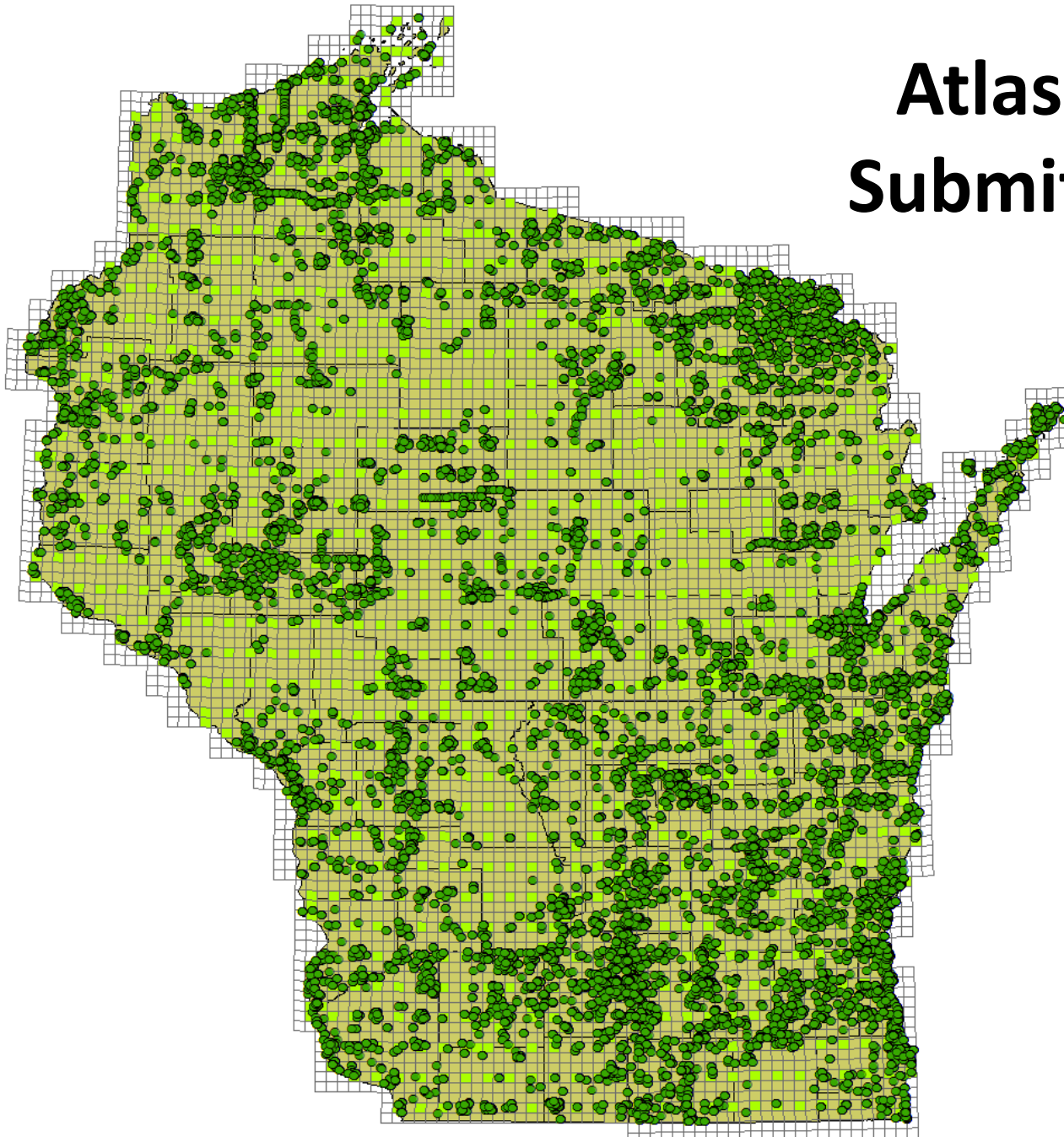
Forest cover

Forest breeding birds



50% forest cover (SE 4.03)

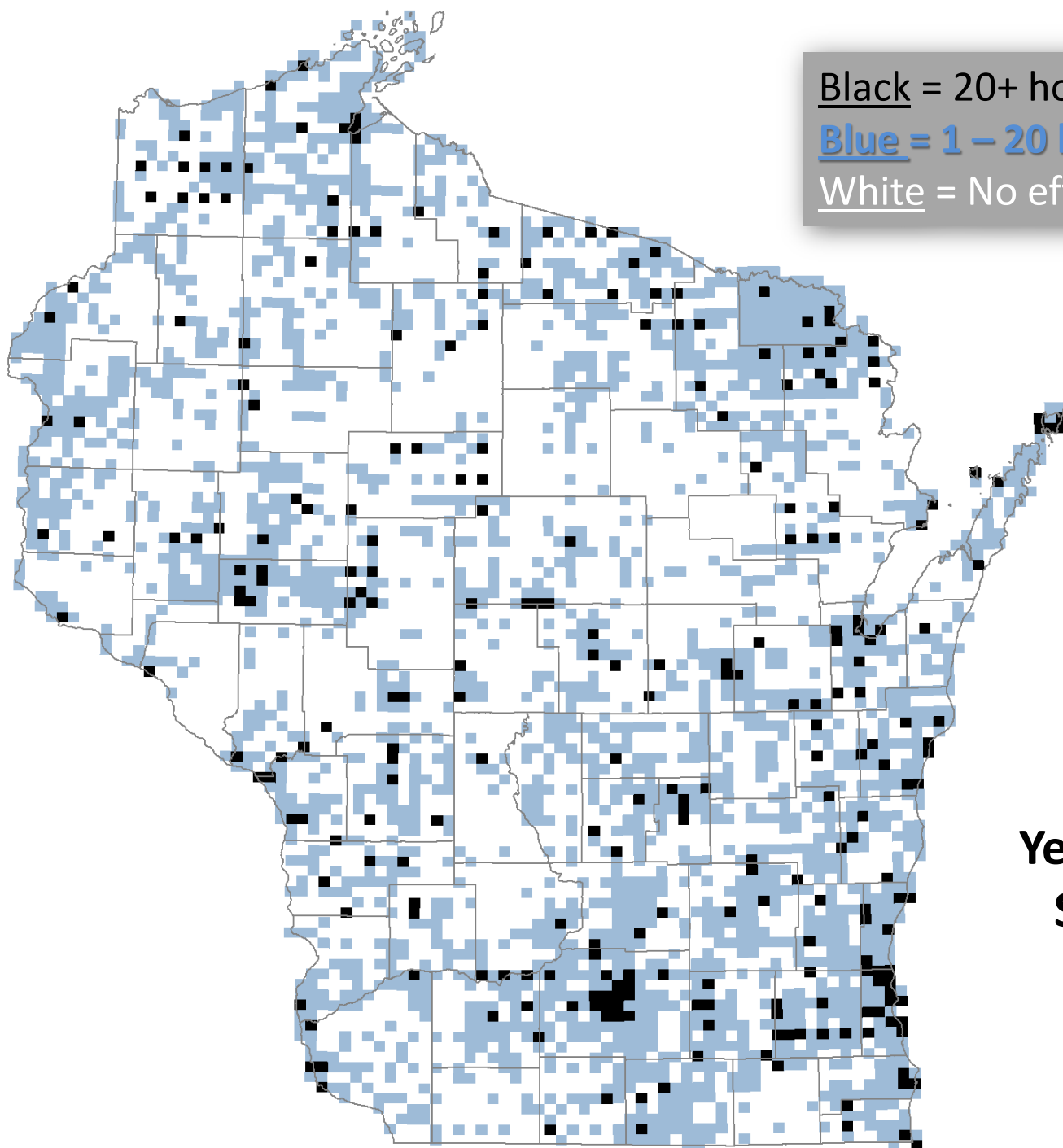
# Atlas Checklists Submitted in 2015



Black = 20+ hours of effort

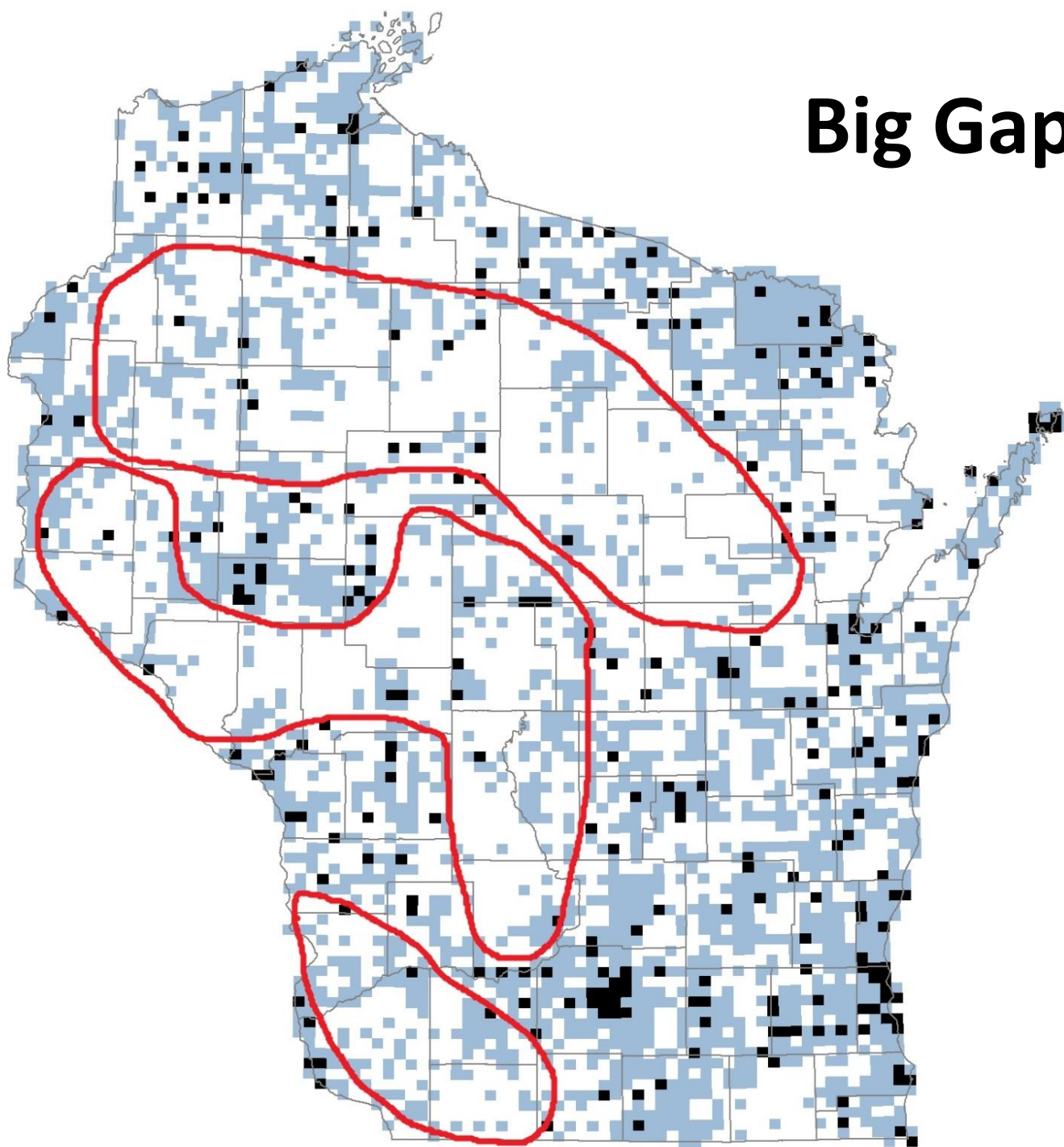
Blue = 1 – 20 hours

White = No effort



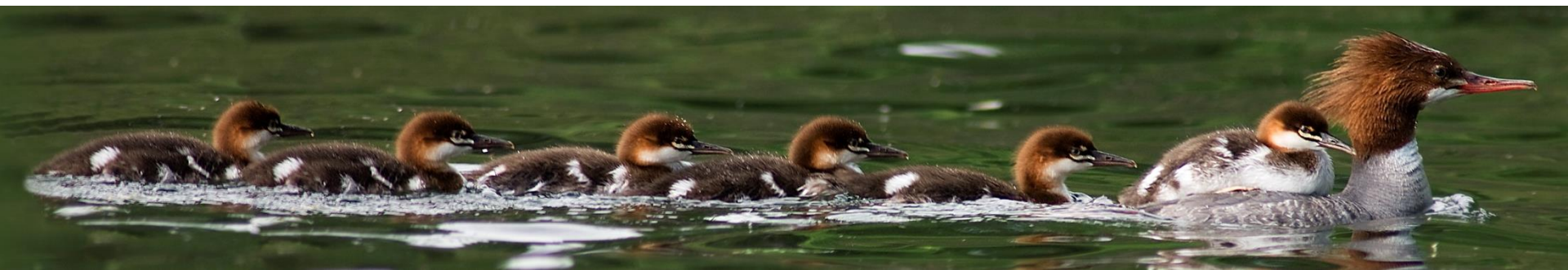
**Year One – 2015  
Survey Effort**

# Big Gaps to Fill





The success of this project will hinge on filling these gaps and achieving “complete” survey coverage of all 1,130 priority blocks and 153 specialty blocks by the end of 2019.

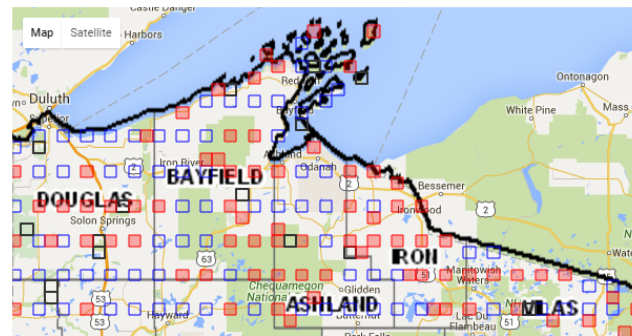


# Helping to fill the gaps

- Focus activity on a priority block
- Take no more than 1-2 years to complete block
- Choose a new block before other is finished
- Venture away from home to areas of high need
- Recruit a friend!



This tool allows you to request to be the principal atlaser for a priority or specialty block. A principal atlaser is expected to ensure adequate coverage of his/her block according to the project's block completion guidelines (see Handbook) and should be able to identify the majority of birds in the block by sight and sound. Atlas effort should be directed first at priority and specialty blocks but data from other blocks are welcome. You do not need to sign up as a principal atlaser to participate in the atlas.



# Field Trips: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas-events>



Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II

# Chippewa County Blockbuster Weekend



**Friday, July 15th – Sunday, July 17th**  
**Brunet Island State Park, Cornell, WI**

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Join other birders for a fun-filled weekend in the fields and forests along the Chippewa River. During the day, we'll work in teams to collect breeding bird data for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. At night, we'll enjoy grill-out dinners and relaxing around the campfire. Come for a few hours or stay all weekend!

**For information on how to participate:**

**[www.gaylordnelsonaudubon.org/atlas](http://www.gaylordnelsonaudubon.org/atlas)**

## News & Features

### **Come Work for the Atlas! Seasonal Technician Positions Available.**

*17 March, 2016*

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our atlas, and we couldn't accomplish the project without them. However, every atlas must eventually start filling gaps where volunteers will not reach. If you know someone with the skills and availability to assist us in this capacity this year, either in a Point Count or Atlas Technician position, please send them this job announcement. Applications due April 5.

#### **Avian Point Count Technician and Atlas Technicians**

##### Location

Sites across Wisconsin

##### Duration

2-3 months

##### Dates

Late May to mid-July or early August

##### Application Deadline

April 5

##### Job Description

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is seeking applicants for avian field work during 2016, as part of Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. See [www.wsobirds.org/atlas](http://www.wsobirds.org/atlas) for project details.

The Point Count Technician (1) will be responsible for conducting point counts every suitable morning between late May and early July. Field work will occur across 6-10 adjacent counties in southwestern Wisconsin. Will be responsible for recording all birds



# Hired Field Technicians

...Going where no one else will go...

# POINT COUNTS

- ❖ To begin in 2016
- ❖ Mostly done by professional staff
- ❖ Unlike WBBAI, model abundance for 100+ species
- ❖ Population size, density maps
- ❖ Statewide, 5 pts in 50% of all blocks (15,000+ points)

