

# Importance of Providing Additional Information on Priority Species in WBBA II



Documenting Priority Birds through Atlas Priority Species Forms and eBird Comments

# Objectives:

- What are the Priority Species
  - When and How to Add these Data
- Why do we need Additional Documentation
  - What is the Natural Heritage Inventory
  - Why do we need Precise Location Data
- Importance of Habitat Data
- Answer Your Questions About the Process???

# What are the Priority Species?

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>7</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	<u>N</u> esting probable <u>N</u> est site
A	<u>A</u> gitated behavior
B	<u>B</u> uilding/cavity excavation
	<i>CONFIRMED</i>
PE	<u>P</u> hysiological <u>E</u> vidence/brood 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> istracting <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	<u>R</u> ecently <u>F</u> ledged young
CF	<u>C</u> arrying <u>F</u> ood
FY	<u>F</u> eeding <u>Y</u> oung
FS	<u>C</u> arrying <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

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Quick Reference

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>
FUH: Upland hardwood	OUA: Agriculture	SUH: Upland hardwood	SLH: Lowland hardwood
FUHa: aspen	OUAa: alfalfa	SUHC: cutover/burn	SLHC: cutover/burn
FUHm: maple	OUAg: grass/mix hay	SUHN: hedge	SLHn: hedge
FUHo: oak	OUAc: cultivated	SUHN: natural	SLHn: natural
FUHp: plantation	OUp: pasture	SUHo: oldfield	SLHo: oldfield
FUC: Upland conifer	OUp: row crops	SUHP: plantation	SLC: Lowland conifer
FUCH: hemlock	OUs: small grains	SUC: Upland conifer	SLC: cutover/burn
FUCp: pine	OUs: misc. ag.	SUCc: cutover/burn	SLCn: hedge
FUCs: spruce-fir	OUN: Native	SUCH: hedge	SLCn: natural
FUCs(p): spruce plantn.	OUU: Uncropped	SUCn: natural	SLCo: oldfield
FUM: Upland mixed	<b>OL: Lowland open</b>	SUCo: oldfield	SLM: Lowland mixed
FUMh: hemlock-hardw	OLA: Agriculture	SUCp: plantation	SLMc: cutover/burn
FUMp: pine-hardwood	OLa: alfalfa	SUM: Upland mixed	SLMh: hedge
FUMs: spruce-fir-hw	OLag: grass/mix hay	SUMc: cutover/burn	SLMn: natural
FUMs(p): spruce plant/hw	OLAc: cultivated	SUMh: hedge	SLMo: oldfield
<b>FL: Lowland forest</b>	OLAp: pasture	SUMn: natural	
FLH: Lowland hardwood	OLAr: row crops	SUMo: oldfield	
FLHn: northern	OLAs: small grains	SUMp: plantation	
FLHs: southern	OLAx: misc. ag.		
FLC: Lowland conifer	OLN: Native	<b>U: URBAN/RURAL</b>	
FLCc: cedar	OLNm: meadow	<b>UU: Urban</b>	
FLCs: spruce/tamarack	OLNb: bog	UUO: open space	UUC: commerc./ind.
FLM: Lowland mixed	OLU: Uncropped	UUU: misc. urban	UUR: residential
FLMc: cedar	OLW: Water/wetland	<b>US: Small Town</b>	<b>UR: Rural</b>
FLMs: spruce	OLWm: marsh	USC: commerc./ind.	URC: commerc./ind.
	OLWl: lake	USR: residential	URR: residential
	OLWr: river/stream	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>1+</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>2B</sup>	Great Tit <sup>2</sup>	Olive-sided Flycatcher <sup>1</sup>	<b>Whooping Crane<sup>2+</sup></b>
Boreal Chickadee <sup>1</sup>	Gr. Prairie-Chicken <sup>2</sup>	Peregrine Falcon <sup>2C</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.

<sup>+</sup>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.

# What are the Priority Species?

**Level 1 species:** For all breeding season sightings, include (a) exact location, (b) habitat code and (c) habitat description in eBird species-level comments. **Page 22 in Atlas Handbook**

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Connecticut Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Common Nighthawk
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Least Bittern
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- American Bittern (Comments only necessary if Probable/Confirmed)
- Red-shouldered Hawk (Comments only necessary if Probable/Confirmed)
- Purple Martin (Comments only necessary at a nest site)

**Need Details** 1 **Olive-sided Flycatcher** RARE

Details: 46.15221, -91.05411 Lowland black spruce swamp, full of stunted live black spruce (1-3 feet tall) and a good number of tall thin snags. FLCs. Upright flycatcher with peaked head, dark head and back, dark "vest" contrasting with vertical white patch on chest. Repeatedly singing "quick-three-beers" atop snags.

Add data... Age & Sex Breeding Code Oiled Birds Details

This bird is rare for this date & location, please add comments and check 'Complete'.

Why? **Complete**



# What are the Priority Species?

## Level 2 species:

If Probable or Confirmed, fill out a [Priority Species Information Form](#).

When only Observed or Possible during breeding season, simply provide (a) exact location, (b) habitat code and (c) habitat description in eBird species-level comments.

**Need Details** 1 Olive-sided Flycatcher RARE

Details: 46.15221, -91.05411 Lowland black spruce swamp, full of stunted live black spruce (1-3 feet tall) and a good number of tall thin snags. FLCs. Upright flycatcher with peaked head, dark head and back, dark "vest" contrasting with vertical white patch on chest. Repeatedly singing "quick-three-beers" atop snags.

Add data... Age & Sex Breeding Code Oiled Birds Details

This bird is rare for this date & location, please add comments and check 'Complete'

Why? Complete

# What are the Priority Species?

**Level 2 species:** Some Examples (Full List starts on pg. 23 of Handbook):

- Spruce Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler (THR)
- Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Tern (END)
- Piping Plover, Kirtland's Warbler, Whooping Crane (Federally Listed; Always hide in eBird during breeding season; see HIDING SENSITIVE SPECIES)

# What are the Priority Species?

## Level 2 species Continued:

- Bufflehead, Yellow-breasted Chat, Nelson's Sparrow (<5 known nesting locations in WI)
- Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Wilson's Warbler – are they actually breeding in WI?
- Great Tit, European Goldfinch (Newly breeding in WI; non-native)



# What are the Priority Species?

**Level 3 species:** Fill out a WSO Rare Bird Documentation Form. If Probable or Confirmed, fill out a Priority Species Information Form.

## Three Species:

- Yellow-crowned Night-heron
- Yellow Rail
- King Rail

\*\*These are separate because they are on the WSO Review List





# How to Add These Data?

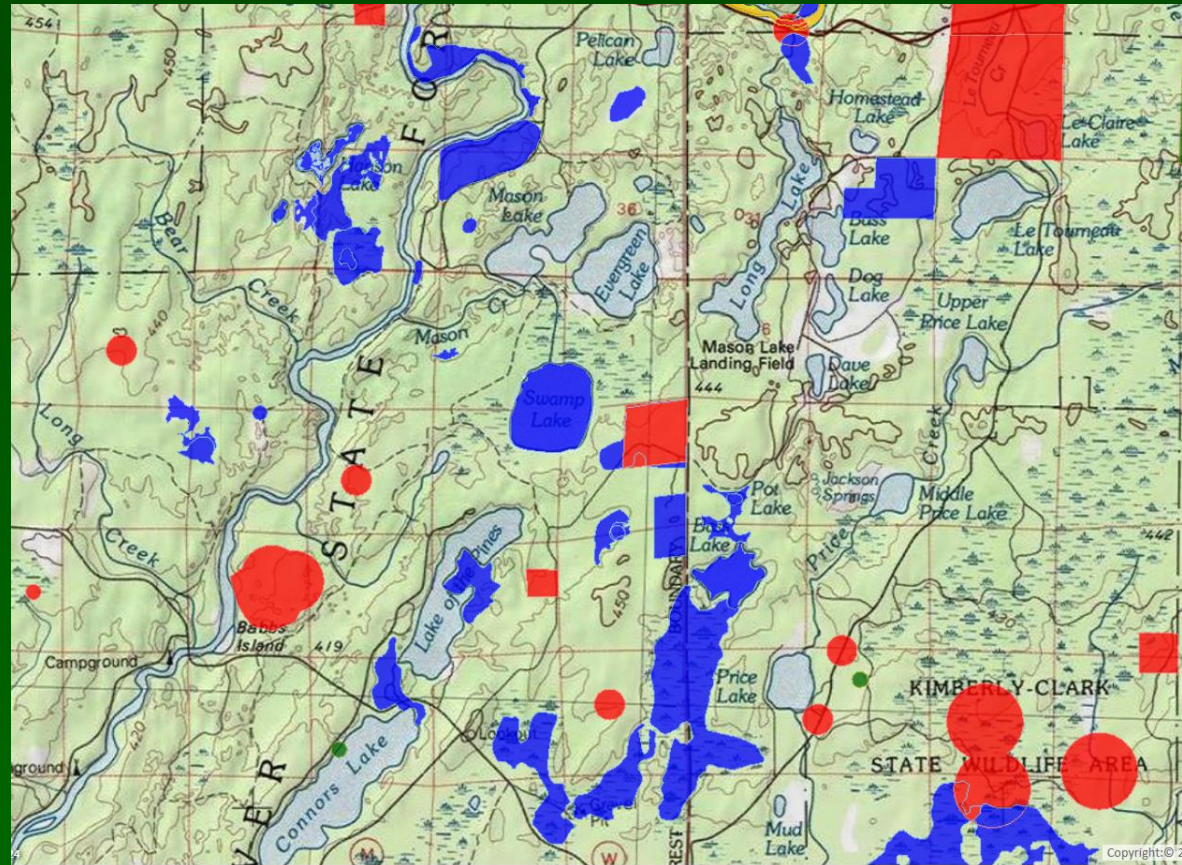
- ◆ Priority Species Form:  
[http://wiatri.net/nhi/birds/In1\\_locate.cfm](http://wiatri.net/nhi/birds/In1_locate.cfm)
- ◆ Where is the Habitat Information
  - Atlas Handbook – page 15
  - Quick Reference Guide
- ◆ Identifying Lat/Longs
  - Use the map tool on Page 2 of the Priority Species Form

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- Answer Your Questions

# Why do we Need Additional Documentation?

- ◆ Ensure high data quality for WBBII – Confirm Records of Uncommon or Rare Species
- ◆ Provide useful information for Species and Property Management
- ◆ Information on Habitat Use for Priority Species
- ◆ Assist the WDNR Natural Heritage Inventory Map and Track Priority Species



# Natural Heritage Inventory Database

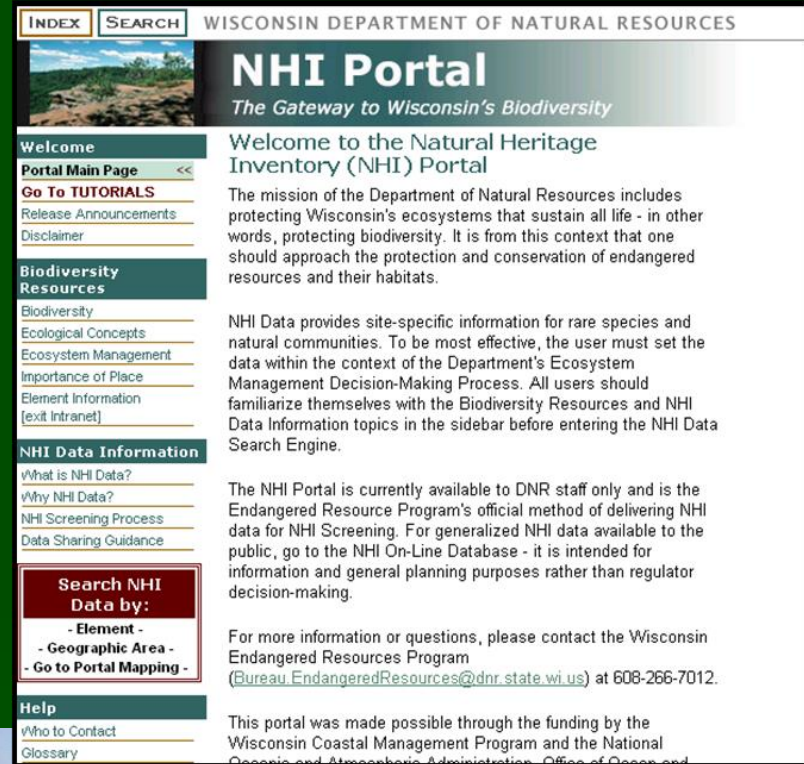
- Established in 1985 (Wis Stats. 23.27)
- Housed in Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (formerly Endangered Resources)
- Tracks rare species and high-quality natural communities
- Standardized information is maintained in a centralized database with precise locations
- Information used to further the protection and management of rare species





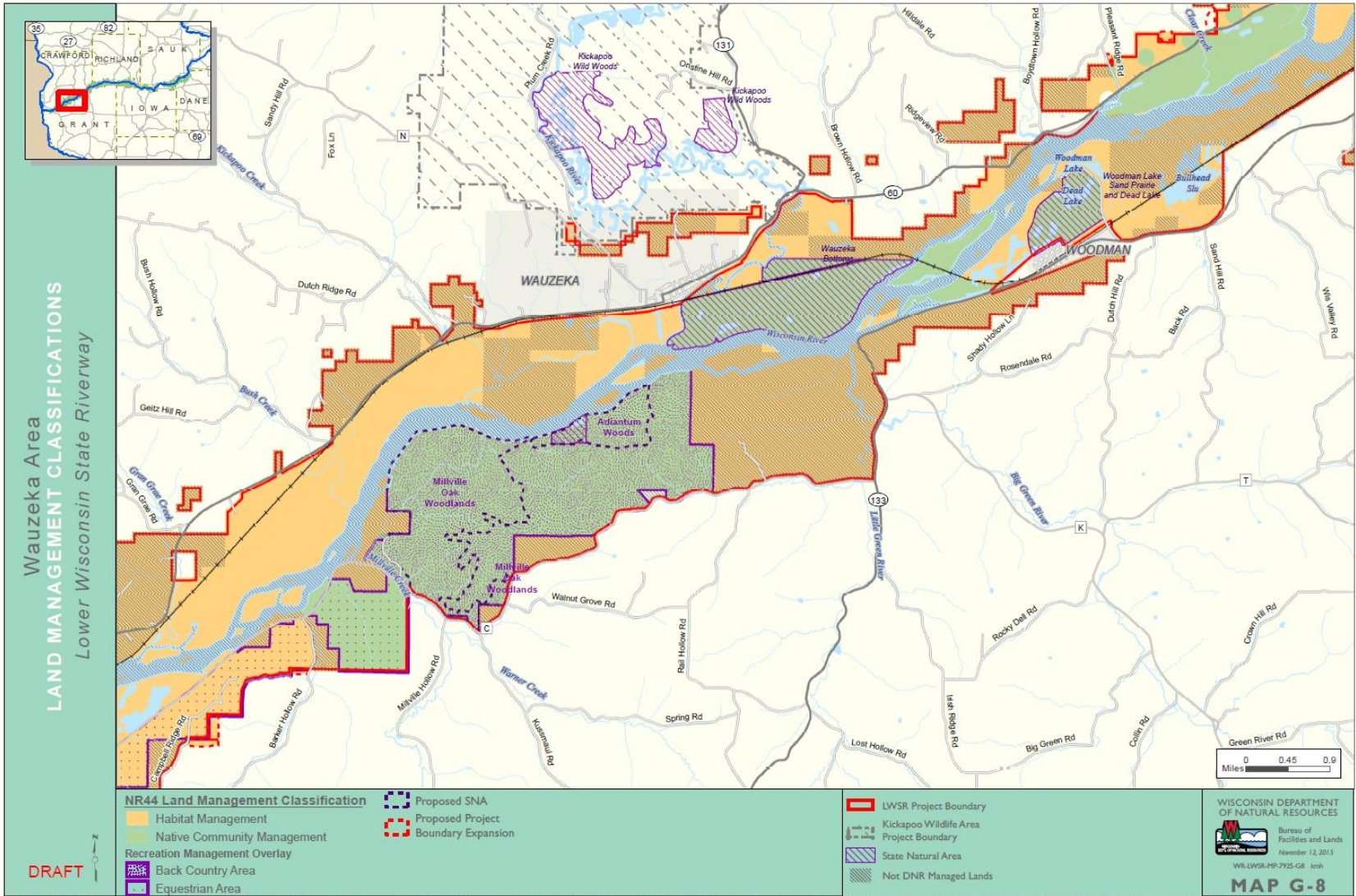
# Uses of NHI Data

- ◆ Environmental Review
  - ◆ Utility, Road, Construction Projects
- ◆ Conservation Planning
  - ◆ Land Trusts, NGO's, Local Gov't
- ◆ Land Management Plans
  - ◆ Timber Harvest
  - ◆ Rx Burns
- ◆ Status Assessments
  - ◆ State ESA
  - ◆ SGCN
- ◆ Master Planning



The screenshot shows the NHI Portal website. At the top, there are links for 'INDEX' and 'SEARCH', and the text 'WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES'. Below this is a header with a landscape image and the title 'NHI Portal' with the subtitle 'The Gateway to Wisconsin's Biodiversity'. The main content area includes a 'Welcome' message, a 'Portal Main Page' link, and a 'Go To TUTORIALS' link. There are also links for 'Release Announcements' and 'Disclaimer'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Biodiversity Resources' section with links to 'Biodiversity', 'Ecological Concepts', 'Ecosystem Management', 'Importance of Place', 'Element Information', and 'Exit Intranet'. Below this is an 'NHI Data Information' section with links to 'What is NHI Data?', 'Why NHI Data?', 'NHI Screening Process', and 'Data Sharing Guidance'. A search box is present with the text 'Search NHI Data by:' and options for '- Element -', '- Geographic Area -', and '- Go to Portal Mapping -'. A 'Help' section at the bottom left has links for 'Who to Contact' and 'Glossary'. The main text area on the right contains a 'Welcome to the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Portal' message, followed by a paragraph about the Department's mission and a paragraph about NHI Data. At the bottom right, there is contact information for the Wisconsin Endangered Resources Program and a note about the portal's funding.





The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

# Draft Master Plan for Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Wauzeka Unit



# Objectives:

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# Habitat Data

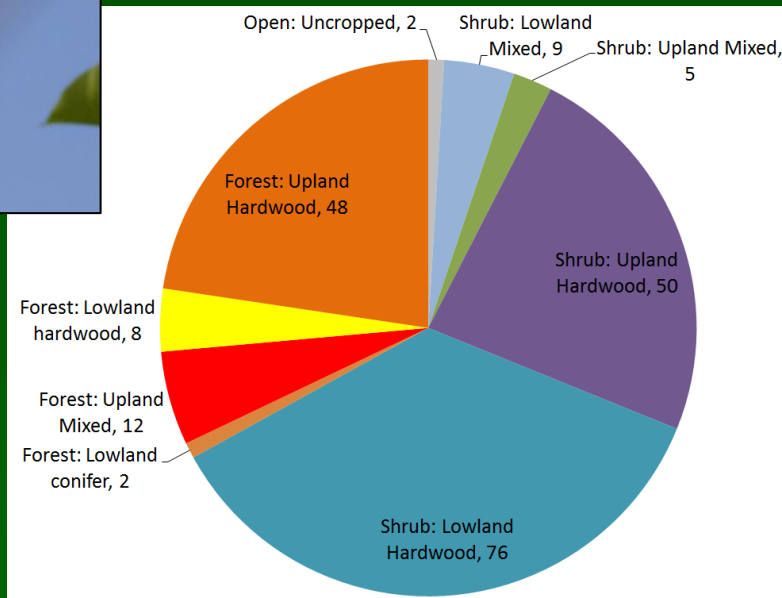
- ◆ Helps Coordinators Confirm Species ID
- ◆ Only Priority Species get Habitat Codes
  - ◆ Major change from WBBA I
  - ◆ Provides Habitat and Life History Information - still lacking for some Priority Species
  - ◆ Aids Property Managers trying to create more habitat for Rare Bird Species





# Provide Information on Bird Habitat Preferences

- By Providing Habitat Information during the Atlas you can help us Answer Questions like:
  - Does the Golden-winged Warbler have a Preference for Young Forest or Shrub Wetlands?
  - Are CONW using only Older Jack Pine stands in Wisconsin or Lowland Conifers?



# Things to Consider:

- We don't need you to provide a precise location/habitat or fill out a Priority Species Form for every return visit or subsequent years – Just Once!
- If you have a large local population – Provide one point for the core of the population **ONLY**
- Atlas I did not have Priority Species or Precise Locations – Rare Species data to Block Level could **NOT** be used for NHI purposes

# Questions???

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Bufflehead <sup>2</sup>	Henslow's Sparrow <sup>1</sup>	Philadelphia Vireo <sup>2</sup>	Wilson's Warbler <sup>2</sup>
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