



What is Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II?

A five-year, citizen science project (2015–2019) that seeks to map the distribution and abundance of all bird species breeding in Wisconsin. The first Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas occurred from 1995–2000, and surveyed many of the same areas.

Why is it important?

We are repeating the survey to understand how bird populations and their habitats have changed in the past 20 years. Understanding bird distribution, abundance, and nesting behavior is also critical for sound conservation planning and habitat management.

Who is involved?

This is mainly a volunteer effort, with thousands of everyday Wisconsinites entering their observations of breeding bird behavior. The lead organization on the project is the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, with support from the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

What do surveyors do?

Across the state, observers visit 3 x 3 mile atlas blocks multiple times to record bird species diversity, abundance, and breeding evidence (e.g. courtship behavior, a nest with eggs, or adults feeding young). These visits involve roadside viewing from a car, walking on and off roads and trails, or sitting at local birding hotspots and usually (not always) take place on mornings from May through August.

What properties will they be surveying?

Volunteers are instructed to survey all habitats within their 3 x 3 mile block to ensure they are detecting all bird species that reside there. For this reason, they may be seeking access to both public and private lands (with landowner permission).

How do I find out more about this project?

Visit our website at www.wsobirds.org/atlas.

Every county has an Atlas County Coordinator who serves as a local point of contact if you have questions or might want to get involved: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas-county-coordinators>



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