



Your opportunity

Join the statewide effort to protect loons, eagles, chickadees, woodpeckers, finches, ducks, hummingbirds, and our long-lost and recently reintroduced whooping cranes! Here are a few ways you or your organization can help the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative:

- Get your community involved with a local Important Bird Area or Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail site. These unique places have many stewardship, outreach, and advocacy needs. Local citizens and groups make a big difference.

- Join one of many bird-monitoring and research opportunities. Check the WBCI and Wisconsin Society for Ornithology websites, or contact your local bird group to see what help is needed in your area. Wisconsin has a great tradition of participation in the federal Breeding Bird Survey, the Christmas Bird Count, the Crane Count, and many other programs.

- Participate in one of many WBCI committee activities. Whether you have interest or expertise in bird monitoring, habitat management, outreach, education, or are passionate about an issue affecting birds, we can use your help!

Visit us online:

www.wisconsinbirds.org

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP BIRDS

- Offer birds food, water, and shelter in your yard. Regularly clean feeders and bird baths, and learn how to prevent birds from hitting windows.
- Buy a federal Duck Stamp or one of Wisconsin's wildlife habitat stamps. The money supports habitat purchases and management.
- Drink shade-grown coffee; it tastes better, and it supports habitat for birds that winter in the tropics.
- Keep your cat indoors. Every year, pet cats and free-roaming feral cats kill millions of birds, small mammals, and other wildlife.
- Birds love native plants. Contact a nursery specializing in native trees, grasses, and wildflowers to spruce up your property.
- Save those snags! Many birds nest and roost in cavities within dead trees.
- Use pesticides sparingly. They can make birds sick.
- Build or buy nest boxes for birds to nest in.
- Support local, national, and international conservation groups. WBCI has a diverse group of partners that would welcome your support.
- Get a young person excited about birds. Nature centers across the state are ready, willing, and able to foster children's curiosity in wild things.



Kerissa Nelson's painting of a pair of Ring-necked Ducks was honored as the 2005-2006 Junior Duck Stamp. Kerissa, 17, is from Grantsburg, Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative

Wisconsin is a LEADER in bird conservation. Learn about the efforts of more than 150 statewide and local organizations that work TOGETHER to enhance Wisconsin's birdlife.



American Goldfinch/Rod Nabholz



Greater Prairie-Chickens/Jeff Hapeman



Whooping Crane/USFWS

Who we are

The Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative is a partnership of more than 150 organizations around the state. Partners include bird clubs, hunting and fishing groups, government agencies, land trusts, nature centers, environmental groups, universities, and businesses.

Our goals

- Keep common birds common.
- Conserve and restore endangered, threatened, and rare bird species and their habitats.
- Develop broad-based partnerships.
- Educate Wisconsin citizens about birds and bird-conservation issues.
- Promote bird-based recreation and the enjoyment of birds.
- Identify and prioritize management opportunities and needs for birds and habitats in Wisconsin.
- Coordinate existing bird conservation initiatives in Wisconsin.
- Manage communities of birds at regional and landscape levels.
- Provide private landowners and land managers the best available ecological information.
- Use voluntary approaches when working with public and private landowners.
- Develop management strategies that consider the social and economic impacts on people throughout planning and implementation.

Our work

Addressing Issues

We're helping people understand how they can be better neighbors to birds. We've published white papers on cats and birds, wind power, and reducing collisions for migratory birds, and more are in the works. We've organized a conference on urban gull management for communities on Lake Michigan, and we continue to address issues affecting bird conservation in Wisconsin.

Important Bird Areas

Our bird conservation experts are identifying key sites that are important to birds — especially sites where birds nest or migrate through. The refuges at Horicon Marsh and the Upper Mississippi River are well-known examples of Important Bird Areas.

Habitat Assessments

The WBCI All-bird Conservation Plan gives WBCI partners, private landowners, and other groups an idea of how their local actions can best address regional bird conservation needs. The plan addresses priority species, habitats, ecological landscapes, and key conservation sites. WBCI will use the plan to implement sound conservation around the state in the near future.

Bird Research

Wisconsin ornithologists are developing a comprehensive statewide bird-monitoring plan to address research and monitoring needs and to help adjust management to make it as effective as possible. In addition to planning, we're also creating new professional and citizen-based research projects. Stay tuned!

Bird-based Recreation

The Endangered Resources Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources, along with WBCI and partners statewide, is developing the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. The auto trail will guide users to the state's best wildlife-watching sites and to local activities and attractions. Two of the five regional segments — the Lake Superior Northwoods and Mississippi River trails — are complete, and others are in the works.

Reaching Out

To deliver bird-conservation messages to Wisconsin residents, we've developed a communication plan to work more closely with media around the state. You can see and hear WBCI's message at festivals and events around the state. We are working to get bird-education messages into schools, and we're developing birdwatching kits with binoculars, field guides, and other materials for use in schools, nature centers, and education centers.

Coordinating Conservation

WBCI helps partners acquire funding for large- and small-scale habitat work, research, monitoring, and outreach. WBCI is partnering with groups to coordinate the Central Wisconsin Grasslands Conservation Area for Greater Prairie-Chickens and other grassland birds. WBCI also sponsors meetings and workshops around the state that help partners implement bird-conservation practices in their areas.

For more information, contact Andy Paulios, WBCI Coordinator: 608-264-6137, Andy.Paulios@wisconsin.gov, or Karen Etter Hale at Madison Audubon: 608-255-2473, masoffice@mailbag.com.