

**Presentations from the 2014 Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Annual Meeting
Bird City Wisconsin Summit: Making Our Communities Healthier for Birds... and People**
Oshkosh, Wisconsin – March 21-22, 2014

Please note that some speakers did not use visual materials in their brief presentations and thus are not represented here. Several others are omitted because permission to reproduce them here was not granted.

Friday Morning March 21 – Looking at the Big Picture (Athearn Ballroom in Hotel)

7:45-8:30 a.m. – Registration and coffee with continental breakfast provided; view segment of TV show “Northland Adventures” focusing on how Stevens Point became a Bird City.

8:30-8:45 a.m. – Welcome from the WBCI team, *Karen Etter Hale, Yoyi Steele, and Ryan Brady*

8:45-9:15 a.m. – [Bird City Wisconsin: Four Years Old and Growing](#), *Carl Schwartz, Bird City Wisconsin State Coordinator*

9:15-10 a.m. – Project Passenger Pigeon: Lessons from our past on just why it’s vital to promote the conservation of habitat and strengthen the relationship between people and nature, *Dr. Stanley Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation, UW-Madison, and Senior Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation*

10-10:15 a.m. – Break

10:15-11 a.m. -- [Why Birds Matter: IMBD Lets Us Celebrate the Future](#), *Sue Bonfield, executive director of Environment for the Americas, home of International Migratory Bird Day*

11-noon – [The Power of Partnerships: Stories from the Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties that Make up Bird City Wisconsin](#), *Marjie Tomter, Town of Grafton; Sandy Decker, Evansville; Daryl Christensen, Marquette County; Bettie Harriman, Oshkosh; Nancy Nabak, Green Bay; Steve Petznick, New London; Barb Barzen, Sauk Prairie; Bill Lamon, Three Lakes*

Friday Afternoon Track 1 – Making Bird City’s Program Work for You (Athearn C)

Andrew Struck, BCW Steering Committee chair, is the moderator

1-1:40 p.m. – IMBD 2014: [Tips for Hosting Your Event from the Expert](#), *Sue Bonfield, executive director of Environment for the Americas, home of International Migratory Bird Day*

1:45-2:25 p.m. – Great IMBD Ideas That Worked for Us: Lessons from Our Communities -- [Power of Partnerships and Collaboration](#), *Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County; Springs Wings Birding Festival, Mike Reed, Green Bay; Anita Carpenter, Oshkosh; Paul Noeldner, Madison; Bill Lamon, Three Lakes*

2:30-3:10 p.m. – [Bird City Festivals: Making the Message Fun](#), *Steve Petznick, Mosquito Hill; Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival, Ryan Brady; Northwoods Birding Festival, Sarah Johnson, North Lakeland Discovery Center; Horicon Marsh Bird Festival, Jeff Bahls*

3:10-3:30 p.m. – Break

3:30-4:10 p.m. – [Making Trees Work Harder for Birds: the Tree City USA connection and Habitat Improvement](#), *Olivia Witthun, WDNR Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator; Stevens Point-A Bird Friendly City, John Munson, Stevens Point; Restoration and Monitoring at the Mequon Nature Preserve, Kristin Gies, executive director, Mequon Nature Preserve*

4:15-5 p.m. – Raising Money for Local Projects: The Great Wisconsin Birdathon and Other Ideas -- [Oshkosh Bird Fest Fundraising Efforts](#), Janet Wissink of Oshkosh, [Great Wisconsin Birdathon](#), Barb Barzen, Nancy Nabak, and Daryl Christensen

Friday Afternoon Track 2 -- Eliminating Hazards and Building Solutions (Athearn B)

Ryan Brady, WDNR research scientist and WBCI Bird Monitoring Coordinator, is the moderator

1-1:40 p.m. – [Chimney Swifts: If You Build It, Will They Come?](#) Bill Mueller, director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory; Sandy Schwab, Chimney Swift Working Group leader; [What about \(Un\) Common Nighthawks?](#) Jana Viel, graduate student researcher on nighthawks

1:45-2:25 p.m. – [Learning to Think like a Bluebird](#), Kent Hall, vice president, Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin; [To restore and preserve the Purple Martin population throughout Wisconsin](#), Les Rhines, Wisconsin Purple Martin Association

2:30-3:10 p.m. – [Wisconsin Stopover Initiative: Helping Migratory Birds](#), Kim Grveles, WDNR avian ecologist

3:10-3:30 p.m. – **Break**

3:30-4:10 p.m. – [Free-ranging Cats: Issues and Solutions](#), Dr. Stanley Temple, Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin

4:15-5 p.m. – [Windows: Solutions for Saving Songbirds From that Deadly Thud](#), Scott Diehl, manager, Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Friday Afternoon Track 3 – Engaging New Participants in Conservation (Athearn A)

Yoyi Steele, WDNR wildlife biologist and WBCI Important Bird Areas Coordinator, is the moderator

1-1:40 p.m. – [Reaching New and More Diverse Audiences for Conservation](#), Dr. Amber Roth, Midwest Landbird Migration Monitoring Network Coordinator and Yoyi Steele, WDNR, Bureau of Wildlife Management

1:45-2:25 p.m. – [How the Urban Ecology Center is Nurturing Young Scientists](#), Tim Vargo, UEC manager of research and citizen science, Erick Anderson, community program coordinator, AND SOME YOUNG SCIENTISTS!

2:30-3:10 p.m. – [Christmas Bird Counts for Kids and Other Ways to Get Them Hooked on Nature](#), Jim Knickelbine, director, and Jessica Johnsrud, education coordinator, Woodland Dunes Nature Center

3:10-3:30 p.m. – **Break**

3:30-4:10 p.m. – [Flying Wild in Bird Cities](#), Susan Schuller, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

4:15-5 p.m. – [Citizen-based Monitoring Makes a Difference \(and meets a key BCW criteria\)](#), Owen Boyle, coordinator of the DNR's Citizen-based Monitoring Network

Saturday morning – It's All about Habitat and Education (Athearn Ballroom in Hotel)

Karen Etter Hale, WBCI Chair and Partnerships Facilitator for Madison Audubon, is the moderator

7:30-8:30 a.m. – Registration and coffee with continental breakfast accompanied by “*Birders: The Central Park Effect*,” an HBO documentary: “If you can go bird watching in the middle of the most congested city in America, it should be a source of encouragement for all urban areas.”

8:30- 9:15 a.m. – Bird City Wisconsin: A New Tool for Conservation Education, *Bill Volkert, naturalist, wildlife educator*

9:15-9:45 a.m. – [Habitat Improvements on a Backyard Scale](#), *Vicki Piaskowski, author of “Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds”*

9:45 -10:15 a.m. – [The Urban Forest: A Vision for the Future with an Eye on the Past](#), *Stephen McCarthy, landscape architect and Greenseams manager for Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; [Natural Areas Management in the Milwaukee County Parks](#), Brian Russart, natural areas coordinator, Milwaukee County Park System*

10:15-10:30 -- Break

10:30 -11:10 a.m. – [Doing Good for the Birds: Christmas Counts, Nest Boxes, Wildlife Preserves](#), *Owen Boyle, WDNR, Bill Mueller, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, and Mike Reed, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary*

11:10-11:45 a.m. – [Door County Tourism and Birding](#), *Pamela Wegner, Chair, Egg Harbor Bird City Initiative; Patrick Reinsma, Regional Tourism Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Tourism, joined by Bird City community representatives, including Joanne White of Ferryville and Barb Barzen of Sauk Prairie*

11:45-noon – Closing remarks and conference participant feedback