



Bird City Wisconsin Newsletter

February 2020

Bird Cities and Great Wisconsin Birdathon: perfect pairing

Birds are valuable, and they need our help. That's a core belief of the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, the Natural Resources Foundation's annual walkathon-style fundraiser.

Each spring, the Birdathon unites thousands of birders, conservationists and other friends of nature behind one goal -- finding as many bird species as possible in a single day while raising much-needed funds for bird conservation and research.



It's valuable, it's fun, and best of all, it's for everyone -- Bird Cities as well as individuals. In recent years, more than a dozen Bird City communities -- Baraboo, Ferryville, Fox Point, Grantsburg, Green Bay, Hales Corners, Janesville, La Crosse, Marquette County, McFarland, Mequon, Mercer, Muskego, Prairie du

Sac, Sauk City, Wausau, and Whitefish Bay -- have all fielded teams. They recognized that the Birdathon was a perfect way not only to engage their residents in birding, conservation and education but

also to raise funds for local conservation projects -- including covering the annual renewal fee for their recognition as a Bird City.

This is possible because half of the money Bird Cities and other organizations raise during the Birdathon is returned to the organizations, to be used as they choose. They have all the fun, birding for a day between April 15 and June 15, while the Natural Resources Foundation does all the work, handling all donations through its convenient Great Wisconsin Birdathon website.

It's not too early for Bird Cities to set up teams for this year's Birdathon. To begin, go to <https://wibirdathon.dojiggy.com/af2079e/regPages/pages/?p=b0122cda>, or simply Google **Great Wisconsin Birdathon** and then click on the **Fundraise for Your Own Cause** tab.

Much of the success that Bird City Wisconsin has helped its communities achieve over the last eight years is the result of the Natural Resources Foundation's tremendous support. As a priority project under its Bird Protection Fund, Bird City receives critical funding and outreach support that have helped it become the national conservation model that it is today.

So far, 83 BCW renewal applications have been received

Here's the list of Bird City Wisconsin communities that have submitted their 2020 renewal application or let us know that their application is in the works.

We are reviewing those applications now.

We look forward to distributing our list of 2020 Bird Cities in the days ahead.

In addition to posting it on our website, we'll feature it on displays that we take to festivals, conferences and other gatherings, and we'll print it in the new brochure that we're preparing now and will distribute across the state and beyond.

If you don't see your community on the list, contact Bird City director Chuck Hagner at director@birdcitywisconsin.org right away.

Even at this late date, Chuck would be happy to work with you to complete your renewal, making sure your community is recognized on our website and in our new promotional

materials for the steps you've taken to be friendlier for birds and healthier for people.

- Algoma
- Alma
- Altoona
- Appleton
- Ashland
- Town of Bailey's Harbor
- Baraboo
- Bayfield
- Bayside
- Beaver Dam
- Brookfield
- Brown County
- Brown Deer
- Chenequa
- Darlington
- De Soto
- DeForest
- Eau Claire
- Elm Grove
- Evansville
- Ferryville
- Fond du Lac
- Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
- Fox Point
- Glendale
- Town of Grafton

- Grantsburg
- Green Bay
- Green Lake
- Hales Corners
- Horicon City on the Marsh
- Howard
- Hudson
- Janesville
- Kaukauna
- City of Kenosha
- Kenosha County
- La Crosse
- Lake Geneva
- Madison
- Town of Manitowish Waters
- Manitowoc
- Marquette County
- Mayville
- McFarland
- Menomonee Falls
- Menomonie
- City of Milwaukee
- Milwaukee County
- Monona
- Muskego
- New London
- Newburg
- Oconomowoc
- Oconto
- Oshkosh

- Ozaukee County
- Pittsville
- Plover
- Plymouth
- Port Washington
- Port Wing
- Prairie du Chien
- Town of Presque Isle
- Racine
- Reedsburg
- River Falls
- River Hills
- Town of Rome
- Shorewood
- Shorewood Hills
- Stevens Point
- Sturgeon Bay
- Superior
- Taylor County
- Town of Three Lakes
- Trempealeau
- Waunakee
- Wausau
- Whitefish Bay
- Whitewater
- Williams Bay
- Wisconsin Rapids

... and yours?



Want to know more about Bird City Wisconsin?

Check out our website at birdcitywisconsin.org

Where can I send news about my Bird City?

Send pictures, stories, anecdotes and other information to editor **Barbara Schwartz** at dembkischwartz@gmail.com We would love to hear from you!

What are the dates for application and renewal?

New applications can be submitted at any time but are reviewed the first of March, July and November. Annual renewals are due on January 31.

What criteria does BCW use to evaluate applications?

1. Habitat creation, protection and monitoring;
2. Community forest management;
3. Limiting or removing threats to birds;
4. Public education;
5. Energy and sustainability
6. Celebration of World Migratory Bird Day.

7 Simple Actions to Help Birds

#3. Reduce lawn, plant natives

In less than a single lifetime, North America has lost more than one in four of its birds, according to a report in *Science*, the world's leading scientific journal.

The findings show that 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost since 1970.

This is the third in a series of seven articles on simple actions each of us can take to make a difference.

THE CHALLENGE: Birds have fewer places to safely rest during migration and to raise their young: More than 10 million acres of land in the United States were converted to developed land from 1982 to 1997.

THE CAUSE: Lawns and pavement don't offer enough food or shelter for many birds and other wildlife.

With more than 40 million acres of lawn in the U.S. alone there's huge potential to support wildlife by replacing lawns with native plantings.

TAKE IT FURTHER: Add native plants and watch birds come in. Native plants add interest



Photo by David M. Shipper

Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeds from native honeysuckle.

and beauty to your yard and neighborhood, and provide shelter and nesting areas for birds. The nectar, seeds, berries, and insects will sustain birds and diverse wildlife.

GET STARTED TODAY: Find out which native plants are best for your area at <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Need some local project funding? Bird City is seeking grant applicants

By **CHUCK HAGNER**

Bird City Wisconsin is seeking applications for the newest benefit it is offering to its recognized Bird City communities: a small-grants program!

The goal of the program is to provide a helping hand to Bird City communities that are just a modest funding boost away from accomplishing something really great in three categories -- that is, launching or completing a project that creates and protects bird habitat, educating residents about the interactions between birds and people, or protecting birds by reducing such threats as window collisions and outdoor cats.

In 2020, we'll award grants totaling \$500 in each of these three categories. More than one grant may be awarded in each category, and if multiple grants are awarded, the total amount awarded in that category will be \$500.

The grants are intended to support work that will be performed in 2020. *Grants will be awarded only to Bird City communities that have completed their renewal for 2020.*

HOW TO APPLY: Submit a Word document of no more than two pages or 500 words containing the following:

* *Title and category:* Provide the title of your project and its category: Habitat Creation and Protection, Education, or Bird Protection.

* *Description:* Tell us how the project will create and protect habitat, educate your residents, or protect birds, and estimate its total cost.

* *Expected impact:* For a habitat project, tell



us the size of the habit to be created or protected, its type and location, its ecological significance, and the birds and other wildlife that will benefit. For an education project, describe your target audience and the number of people you

expect to educate. For a bird-protection project, tell us the nature of the threat, its scope, and the birds at risk.

* *Project timeframe:* What dates in 2020 will your project begin and end.

* *Leaders:* Provide names, titles, and contact information for your project's leader or leaders.

* *Funding:* Finally, list other sources of funding, if any.

APPLY BY EMAIL: Submit your application as an attachment to an email to director@birdcitywisconsin.org. Please use the following subject line: "Grant Application: [Insert Bird City Community name]"

DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 31.

Members of the Bird City Board of Directors will evaluate applications and award grants based on the urgency of the project, its potential impact, a community's ability to complete it, the need for funding, and the number of applications received.

Grant winners will be announced at the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory's celebration of World Migratory Bird Day on May 17.

Questions? Write to us at director@birdcity-wisconsin.org