



# Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Fall 2019

## Network Updates

- **WCBM Conference Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Karen Oberhauser**

We're excited to announce that Dr. Karen Oberhauser, Director of the UW-Madison Arboretum, will be the keynote speaker at the 9th Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Conference. In addition to being a world-renowned expert on the monarch butterfly, Dr. Oberhauser is the founder and director of the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a national citizen science effort that has added greatly to our understanding of monarch ecology and conservation. She has developed and led numerous programs that help educators use citizen science in classrooms and nonformal learning environments. You can read more about Dr. Oberhauser on the [UW-Madison Arboretum website](http://UW-Madison Arboretum website).

The conference will be held March 20-21, 2020 in Manitowoc. Stay tuned to WCBM social media and emails or visit the Network [website](http://website) for more conference information this fall.

- **WCBM at 15 Anniversary Year  
Continues**

We're celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network throughout all 2019! Help us make this the best year ever for citizen-based monitoring:

- Take our [Volunteer Pledge](#) and tell us with what projects and how many hours you are volunteering this year.
- Contribute to our extended online [timeline](#) of Wisconsin CBM. Use our [online form](#) to tell us about the creation of a new project, the formation of your group, or a major monitoring success story, and we'll add it to our extended timeline.
- Send your current photos and videos to [eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov) for inclusion in the Year-In-Review Video.
- Use the hashtag #WCBMat15 on social media to promote events and volunteer opportunities, report success stories, and share your own milestones and memories.

Stay in Touch with the  
WCBM Network

[wiatri.net/cbm](http://wiatri.net/cbm)



You Tube



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Dr. Karen Oberhauser. Photo: Bryce Richter, UW-Madison

## Partner Updates

- **October Big Day**

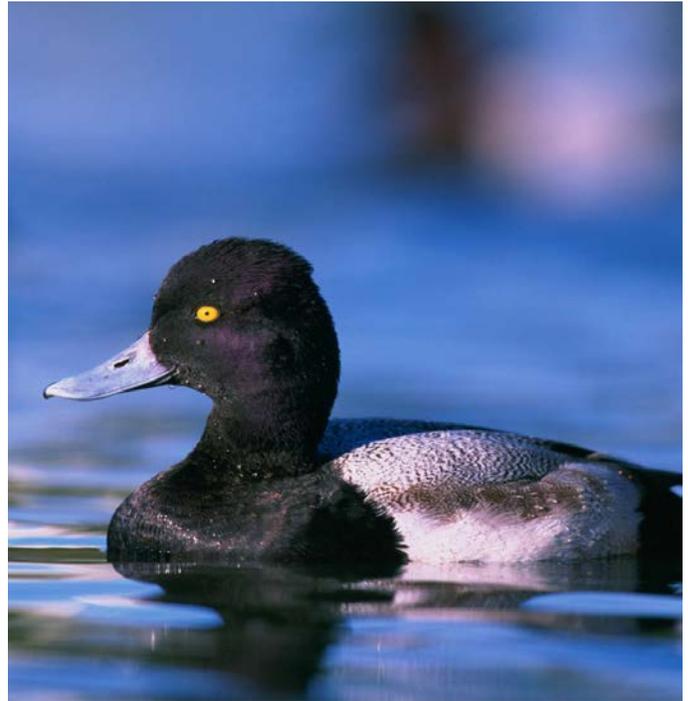
For the second year in a row, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is organizing a birding big day in the fall. This year's October Big Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. This event, coordinated by eBird, is a global effort to create a snapshot of birds everywhere. Any and all observations are welcome, whether they're from your backyard, your favorite State Natural Area, or anywhere in between. Learn more on the [eBird website](#).

- **Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II Finishes Strong**

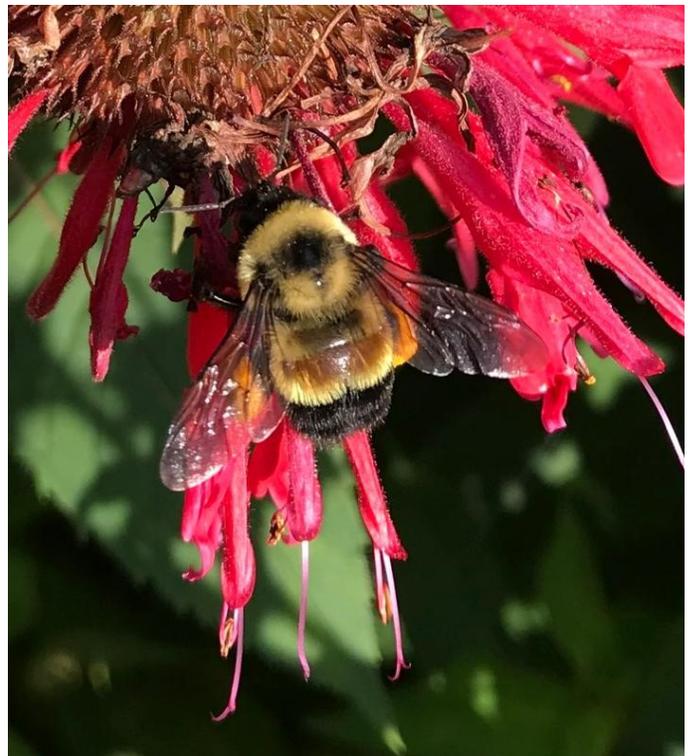
Wisconsin's second breeding bird atlas came down to the wire, but a tremendous effort by volunteers and staff saw the completion of monitoring for 1283 nine-square mile priority blocks. More than 2,000 volunteers participated in the five-year effort to document the distribution and abundance of all the bird species that breed in the state. Congratulations to everyone who helped! You can read more about the atlas [here](#).

- **Volunteers Submit New County Records for Endangered Bumble Bee**

Volunteers with the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade crisscross the state photographing and monitoring our 20 native bumble bees. This year, volunteers added two new county records to our distribution map of the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee. First time sightings in Jefferson and Portage County were reported in July and August, respectively. Additionally, a volunteer reported a rusty patched in Marinette County in August, marking the first time the bee had been confirmed in that county since 1960! Having several hundred dedicated volunteers searching for and reporting bumble bees allows the project to locate the remaining, increasingly small, occurrences of this rare bee. Learn how you can get involved on the [Bumble Bee Brigade website](#).



Lesser scaup (*Aythya affinis*), a common fall bird in Wisconsin. Photo: USFWS



Jefferson County's first confirmed rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*). Photo: Mike Nesemann.

## *Partner Updates, continued*

- **Whooping Crane Caught on Trail Camera**

A Jackson County volunteer with Snapshot Wisconsin, our statewide trail camera CBM project, received a special treat this spring when he found an image of a whooping crane on his camera! The crane, which is part of a decades-long collaborative effort to restore the population here in Wisconsin, was individually identified by his unique pattern of leg bands. This was possible because of the high quality of the image captured by the trail camera. Read the entire story in the [Snapshot Wisconsin newsletter](#).

- **Trainings Available for Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Program**

The Wisconsin Volunteer Carnivore Tracking Program is offering trainings this fall for interested volunteers. The program is active in central and northern Wisconsin, where volunteers conduct track surveys of wolf, coyote, fisher, bear, and more! Training will cover how to identify different mammal tracks, conduct a survey, and submit data. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in winter citizen-based monitoring. Read more and see the list of training dates on the [DNR website](#).



Jackson County whooping crane (*Grus americana*). Photo: Snapshot Wisconsin

Have an update or announcement you'd like to share in our newsletter? Email [eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov](mailto:eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov).