



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Winter 2020

Network Updates

- **Great Year for Wisconsin Birders**

Wisconsin birders made great strides in 2020. This summer the state surpassed 1 million checklists on eBird, the global platform used to report bird sightings. More than 50,000 additional checklists have been submitted since then, leaving many to wonder how quickly we can reach the 2 million mark. Also over the summer, sharp-eyed observers in La Crosse County confirmed Wisconsin's first breeding record for the Black-bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). This fall, October Big Day was a huge success, with over 900 checklists submitted to eBird and 170 species spotted across the state. Keep up with the latest birding news from the [news section](#) of the Wisconsin eBird page and DNR's [Statewide Birding Report](#).

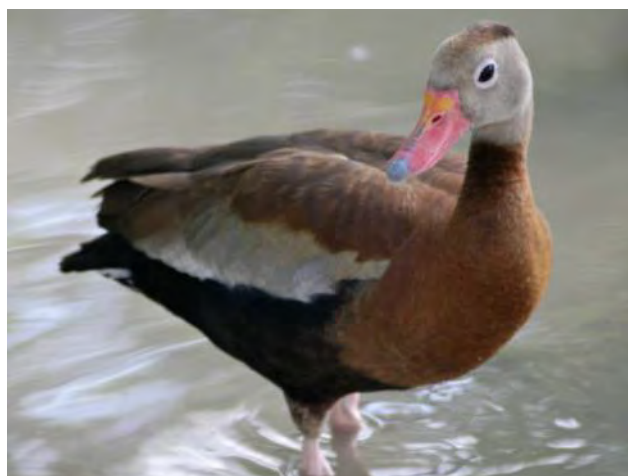
- **CitSciVirtual: Local, Global, Connected**

The Citizen Science Association will be hosting a series of online events in May 2021. These will give people across the globe a chance to connect with and learn from each other. There will be keynote talks, interactive workshops, and poster sessions. If you have perspectives, lessons learned, or resources to share about conducting citizen science, consider submitting a poster or workshop. Proposals are due January 3, 2021, and registration details will be available this winter. Learn more about the event and how you can get involved on the [CitSciVirtual webpage](#).

- **New Research Shows Impacts of Noise and Light Pollution on Birds**

A new study based on data collected by volunteers with the nationwide project NestWatch suggests that in many species

of songbirds reproductive success is lowered by noise pollution. The correlation between nest success and light pollution was more complicated; it decreased in some species but increased in others. Learn more about the research [here](#).



Black-bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). Photo: USFWS

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Explore the Data

Data are a key component of any citizen-based monitoring project; the data reported by volunteers and project partners can lead to scientific discoveries, influence conservation and management actions, and inform regulatory decisions. Many people think of data as something used only by professionals, but quite a few projects make their data publicly available.

Data can be explored on project websites and in some cases downloaded to your computer. These citizen-based monitoring data are useful for science and math teachers who want real world examples for their students, local landowners who want to compare their results to others nearby, and nature enthusiasts who want to learn more about the outdoors. Here are some projects popular in Wisconsin that offer ways for you to view their data online.

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

- Wisconsin lake temperature, water clarity, and dissolved oxygen data collected by volunteers and professionals
- Summary data, graphs, and annual reports provide a range of information; if accessing data from the map view, be sure to turn on the Monitoring Sites & Data layer
- Full data sets can be downloaded for individual lakes

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow (CoCoRaHS)

- Precipitation and weather reports from across the US and internationally
- Extensive data searching, reporting, and mapping functions allow for in-depth and summary explorations
- Limited data available for download, but more options expected in the future

	Downloadable Data	Photos	Maps	Explore without LogIn
Citizen Lake Monitoring Network	✓		✓	✓
CoCoRaHS	✓		✓	✓
eBird	✓	✓	✓	✓
Journey North		✓	✓	✓
Monarch Larva Monitoring Project	✓		✓	✓
Snapshot Wisconsin	✓		✓	✓
WI Bumble Bee Brigade	✓	✓	✓	✓
WI Mussel Monitoring Program	✓	✓	✓	✓

CBM Projects with in-depth online data exploration options. Black checkmarks indicate extensive availability of a resource; gray checkmarks indicate partial availability. Note that many projects obscure or generalize location information to protect the privacy of volunteers and the locations of rare species.

The Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that works to improve the effectiveness of natural resource monitoring efforts through communications, resources, and recognition.

Explore the Data, continued

eBird

- Bird reports from across the globe; over 1 million WI checklists
- Some of the most streamlined and detailed data visualization options of any citizen science project; options for examining individual observations, birding hotspots or regions, species maps, and phenology
- Some observations include photographs and audio recordings
- Data are available to download, but permission is required

Journey North

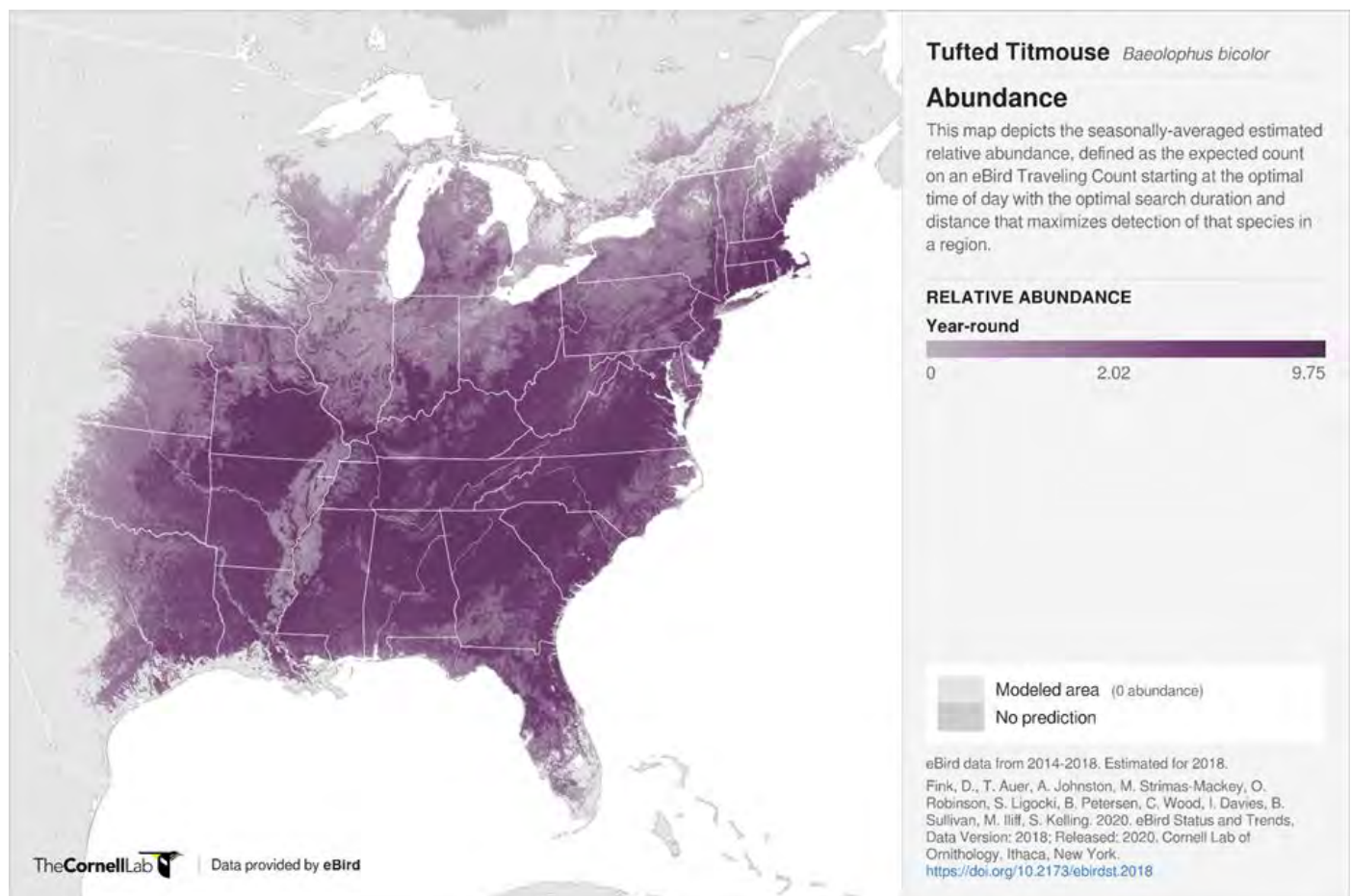
- Observations of monarchs, hummingbirds,

and other species from North America

- Observation tables and animated maps that depict migration over time
- Some observations include photographs

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

- Monarch egg, larvae, and pupae observations from North America
- Maps of monitoring sites, tables of summary results, and data charts available
- Data can be downloaded for individual sites or for entire states
- Observations contain photos



Tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) abundance map based on eBird data from 2014-2018. Estimated for 2018. Fink, D., T. Auer, A. Johnston, M. Strimas-Mackey, O. Robinson, S. Ligocki, B. Petersen, C. Wood, I. Davies, B. Sullivan, M. Iliff, S. Kelling. 2020. eBird Status and Trends, Data Version: 2018; Released: 2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. <https://doi.org/10.2173/ebirdst.2018>

Have an update or announcement you'd like to share in our newsletter? Email eva.lewandowski@wisconsin.gov.

Explore the Data, continued

Snapshot Wisconsin

- Wisconsin wildlife observations, primarily mammals and large birds, from trail camera images
- Data are currently available for almost 20 species
- Presence maps for counties, ecological landscapes, and management units provide flexibility in viewing data; detection rates and graphs of activity by hour and by month also available
- Summary data can be downloaded

Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade

- Bumble bee observations from Wisconsin
- Maps, searchable individual observations,

county species lists, and phenology charts available

- Observations contain photos and identification comments from experts
- Data can be downloaded

Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program

- Observations of Wisconsin's native mussels
- Maps and tables of observations available; uses iNaturalist platform, which allows for many search options
- Observations contain photos
- Data can be downloaded, but login is required to do so



A pink heelsplitter (*Potamilus alatus*) observation submitted to the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program. Photo: driftlessnative; [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

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