

2016 State of Stopover Symposium
Working Group III – Education, Outreach, and Ecotourism Overview (DRAFT)
October 5-7, 2016

“Engaging the Community in Migratory Bird and Stopover Habitat Conservation”

To gain support from communities and across disciplines for protection and conservation of migratory birds and their stopover habitats, we must first raise awareness of the birds and the factors that threaten survival during migration. One approach that has met with success is to engage people in local projects, such as stopover habitat restorations, bird monitoring projects, interactive workshops, field trips, bird hikes, and festivals that celebrate birds and migration. These activities not only make people aware of the need for conservation measures, but often provide the skills and knowledge they need to take action on their own properties and at other locations in the community.

At this session, we will hear about innovative programs that engage community members in different ways to promote awareness and conservation of migratory birds and stopover habitats. We will also learn what educational materials and tools are currently available. A discussion will follow these presentations to allow time for questions and to capture additional thoughts.

During this session, participants will reference results from the pre-symposium survey to accomplish the following: 1) identify materials and tools that would be helpful to our educational programs but are not currently available (e.g., tools to assess ecotourism event success); 2) review, expand upon, and prioritize the list of regional project ideas provided in the pre-symposium survey (e.g., our visions for collaborating to deliver education across the Great Lakes); 3) identify who will lead and who will participate with a regional project or projects; and 4) determine how we can best work together to promote migratory bird education and conservation.

Session Facilitators

Dr. Susan Bonfield, Environment for the Americas, Home of International Migratory Bird Day
Kim Grveles, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Wisconsin Stopover Initiative

Planning Team

Kim Grveles, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Wisconsin Stopover Initiative
Dr. Susan Bonfield, Environment for the Americas, Home of International Migratory Bird Day
Judy Pollock, Judy Pollock Consultants, Chicago Area
Carl Schwartz, Bird City Wisconsin, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, and Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

Speakers

Topic: *Migratory bird educational resources available from the Environment for the Americas*

Dr. Susan Bonfield

Executive Director

Environment for the Americas, Home of International Migratory Bird Day

Title: *Bird City Wisconsin: Encouraging local conservation education and ecotourism*

Abstract: Carl Schwartz, who chairs the Bird City Wisconsin Steering Committee, will highlight how the program has grown to recognize 99 communities and foster similar efforts in neighboring states, in part by using International Migratory Bird Day celebrations to raise awareness of migratory birds.

Carl Schwartz

Steering Committee Chair, Bird City Wisconsin
Board Chair, Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory
Editor, The Badger Birder, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

Title: *Wisconsin Stopover Initiative: engaging citizens and professionals in migratory bird conservation*

Kim Grveles

Coordinator, Wisconsin Stopover Initiative
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Title: *Birds and Windows | Building a safer community*

Abstract: Bird-window collisions are an emerging issue in conservation and also in architecture and sustainability with ramifications in building management and operations. Collisions with windows kill hundreds of millions of birds annually in the US. This program will provide background on the problem, detail existing and potential solutions and discuss ways in which bird-safety can be incorporated into community planning.

Joanna Eckles

Bird Friendly Communities Manager
Audubon Minnesota

Title: *Urban habitats for all: Developing and managing urban habitats for wildlife and humans*

Abstract: There are many interests in urban green space. The Chicago Park District has been able to enhance and manage various parcels of our natural areas for both ecological health and human use. Presenting three different projects in various stages of rehab and enhancement the session will provide examples of simultaneous improvement of wildlife habitat and amenities for human use.

Matthew Freer

Assistant Director of Landscape – Natural Areas
Chicago Park District

TBD – presentations from Chicago area organizations including restoration at Willmette Gillson Bird Sanctuary, Cook County Forest Preserves, and partners of the Urban Bird Treaty-Chicago