



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN: Making our communities healthy for birds ... and people

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April 18, 2014

William Duncanson  
Director  
Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept.  
212 River Drive, Suite 2  
Wausau, WI 54403-5476

Dear William,

On behalf of the Steering Committee for Bird City Wisconsin, our congratulations on successfully renewing your recognition as a Bird City for 2014 at the High Flyer level. It is an accomplishment that again puts Wausau at the forefront of efforts to forge a statewide coalition of citizens and public officials who know that birds are more than beautiful -- they are significant.

We recognize and appreciate both the work that goes into meeting Bird City's criteria and into submitting your application. We believe that recognition as a Bird City not only promotes strategies for bird-centered conservation activities, it also presents the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live, conduct their business or ask people to come visit.

In fact, it is one of the reasons the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology is expected to vote next month to hold its 2015 convention in Wausau.

Our review team again noted both the depth and breadth of your application, laying out how the community continues to meet 10 of our Basic Sustained Flight conservation criteria while growing to achieve 9 of the High Flyer standards. Wausau stands as one of just 13 High Flyers among our 81 Bird City communities.

Our reviewers noted the addition of "bird friendly tree" plantings and the Eau Claire River Conservancy opening and again commended the Dark Sky/Friendly Lighting and Birds in Art sections. The emphasis on nesting boxes for bluebirds, purple martins and prothonotary warblers, as well as participation in Swift Night Out monitoring and chimney preservation efforts, also are significant.

I also wanted to particularly salute the efforts of the Wausau Bird Club. We are finding that bird clubs, natural landscaping groups and garden clubs make great conservation allies in seeking to preserve and restore habitat, as well as in educating the public and celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. But your local bird club plays a particularly important role in the community and it was wonderful to see its role documented in the public education sections of the Basic and High Flyer application.



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With the regular-mail copy of this letter you will find enclosed:

- A replacement insert for your official Bird City plaque, updating it for the current year, which runs through March 31, 2015.
- All-weather reflective decals for updating your street signs.
- An instruction sheet showing the correct positioning and application for the decals.

BCW is an annual recognition project, much like Tree City USA, and we look forward to your renewal again next year. We celebrate your initiative in improving the quality of life for your fellow citizens and thank you again for helping to make our communities healthy for birds... and people.

Best regards,

*Carl Schwartz*

Coordinator  
Bird City Wisconsin

Email cc:

[william.duncanson@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:william.duncanson@co.marathon.wi.us)

[sjhaug@charter.net](mailto:sjhaug@charter.net)