

To achieve annual certification as a "Bird City," communities need to demonstrate in a written application that they have met at least seven of 22 criteria, including three from Category 1 and one from each of the other four categories:

Shorewood

Year 2: Sustained Flight

Renewed recognition as a Bird City Wisconsin for 2014 by meeting 9 basic requirements

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

- A. Compliance with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" law for land use planning and resource management.
- B. The community has a park system with habitat for a number of species of birds. This is demonstrated by bird monitoring results and/or other data obtained from researchers or local volunteers.
- F. The community offers the public information on control and removal of invasive species.
- G. The community contains a segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail or a designated Important Bird Area.

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

- A. The community is a "Tree City USA" and has been for 19 years.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- A. The community has an educational program to control free-roaming cats and/or actively publicizes the "Cats Indoors!" program.
- B. The community provides property owners with information on how to protect birds from window-strikes.

Category 4: Public Education

- D. Community is represented in at least one bird monitoring program such as Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, or Swift Night Out.

Category 5: Community Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day

- A. Community adopts resolution recognizing IMBD and organizes a local IMBD celebration.

Highlights of Shorewood's Bird Conservation Efforts

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

1A. On Nov. 2, 2009, the Village of Shorewood Board of Trustees adopted an eco-municipality resolution that supported sustainability principles and identified The Natural Step as the preferred model for achieving greater sustainability in local government and the larger community.

1B. Weekly bird walks are conducted in Estabrook Park by Shorewood resident Chuck Hagner, Editor of *Bird Watching* Magazine. The sightings are entered on eBird: <http://ebird.org/content/wi/> The number of

species observed in the park through the years by Chuck, and other observers, stands at 166.

1F. Village code section 220-1 calls upon owners and occupants of property in the Village to remove all noxious weeds. Specifically cited targets are: Leafy Spurge, Canadian Thistle, Field Bindweed (commonly known as "Creeping Jenny"), Beggar Ticks, Burdock, Nightshade, Common Ragweed, Giant Ragweed, Poison Ivy and Garlic Mustard.

In addition, groups such as Friends of Estabrook Park volunteer to weed out invasive plants. Their published mission is to protect the environment and enhance the quality of Estabrook Park. This includes enhancing the natural environment and eradicating invasive vegetation.

http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/parkpartners/friends_groups/estabrook

The Estabrook Park weedout schedule is posted at:

<http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/weedout/schedule>

1G. Estabrook Park is situated along the Milwaukee River and constitutes a segment of the Lake Michigan Birding and Nature Trail. The park offers woods, ponds and grasslands that provide food and habitat for a wide variety of bird species.

More information can be found at the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail site:

<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/trail/lakemichmap.htm>



Above: Great Blue Herons can be seen along the Milwaukee River.

Category 2: Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

2A. Shorewood has been a designated "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation since 1996. By its very name, Shorewood is defined by its urban forest.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

3A. The Village of Shorewood's website provides links to these sites about keeping cats indoors:

American Bird Conservancy: <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html>

Wisconsin Humane Society: <http://www.wihumane.org/education/WisconsinHumaneSociety->

[DontLettheCatOut.aspx](#)

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative: <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/catbirds.htm>

3B. The Village of Shorewood's website provides links to these sites about preventing window collisions:

Preventing Bird-Window Collisions (Wisconsin Humane Society)
<http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/default.aspx>

Window Collisions and Birds (WBCI) <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/collisionsbirds.htm>

All About Birds (Cornell) <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=1184>

Category 4: Public Education

4D. Paul Hunter conducts annual Chimney Swift counts at St. Robert's Church on the corner of Capitol Drive and Maryland Avenue. The counts are held on the second weekend of August and the second weekend of September. The roosts are observed starting at about 30 minutes before dusk as the Swifts enter the schoolhouse chimney and an estimate of the number of Swifts is made.

On Sunday, September 1st, 2013, observers counted 363 Chimney Swifts circle and then dive into an apartment building chimney on the Northwest corner of Capitol Drive and Prospect Avenue. The event took place from about 7:39 to about 7:52 pm. Paul's account can be seen at:
<http://home.roadrunner.com/~phunter1/swiftcount.html>

The 2014 Chimney Swift Counts will be held on the second weekend of August and the second weekend of September.

Category 5: Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day

On Saturday, May 4, 2013, the Village of Shorewood celebrated International Migratory Bird Day at the annual Spring Conservation Fair held by the Shorewood Conservation Committee at Atwater School. A Bird City booth provided literature for habitat, natural plantings, controlling invasive species and keeping cats controlled. In addition, residents signed up for guided bird walks through Estabrook Park. A series of small group bird walks were guided by Shorewood birding expert Chuck Hagner in May and June of 2013.