



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Fall 2017

Fall CBM Projects

As fall approaches, many citizen-based monitoring are winding down. However, there are still projects in need of volunteers. If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity, consider participating in one of the projects described below. They can be done throughout the state, and they are all great for both kids and adults.

- **CoCoRaHS**

Volunteers with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network collects daily precipitation observations throughout the US and Canada. With basic equipment like a rain gauge, you can collect data on the precipitation in your own area. The data and precipitation maps are available to view on the CoCoRaHS website for everyone to use, and there are also lesson plans and resources for educators! Learn more about CoCoRaHS [here](#).

- **eBird**

Fall is a wonderful time for birding, as many migratory species fly through the state on their way south to warmer climates. Report observations of migratory and year-round resident species to eBird, a massive online hub for bird citizen science observations. Submit a sighting to [eBird](#) today!

- **Journey North**

Best known for tracking the northward migration of monarchs and other animals each spring, Journey North also tracks those same animals as they move south in the fall. September is the peak time for monarchs in Wisconsin to begin migrating to Mexico. If you see monarchs migrating or forming overnight roosts, be sure to share your observations with [Journey North](#).



Monarchs roosting on the migration south. Photo: USFWS



Nashville warbler. Photo: USFWS

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Partner Updates

- **65 New Monarch Monitoring Volunteers**

Trainings in Mount Horeb, Madison, and Milwaukee resulted in 65 new volunteers who are excited to begin monitoring monarchs in the spring. All the volunteers were trained to participate in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a national citizen science project for which volunteers monitor patches of milkweed for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and pupae. Some volunteers were also trained to report sightings of migratory monarchs to Journey North and to test adult monarchs for disease with Project Monarch Health. Funding for the trainings was provided by the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program and the Monarch Joint Venture, and the trainings were coordinated by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Master Naturalist, and Blue Mounds Area Project.

With the monarch population in sharp decline, it's more important than ever for volunteers to participate in monarch citizen science projects. That's especially true here in Wisconsin, which is in the core of the monarch's summer breeding range. If you'd like to get involved, there are a number of ways to learn more. Another training is scheduled for next spring at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, and [registration](#) is open. You can also check the WCBM Network [event calendar](#) next spring to see if there will be other trainings available. In addition, the [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project](#) offers online training materials, include a video series that walk you through the monitoring process step by step.

- **New Papers Highlight Importance of Citizen Science Contributions**

Two new scientific papers demonstrate the importance of citizen science to research and management. A research paper by Dr. Karen Oberhauser and colleagues, published in the *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, analyzed data from the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. Volunteers from across the country, including Wisconsin, tracked survival rates of monarch larvae and pupae and sent in samples of monarch parasites, like tiny flies and wasps. The parasite samples collected by volunteers revealed one entirely new species of fly, and citizen scientists from Wisconsin collected a species of fly that was never before known to parasitize

monarchs! These results help us understand the biology of monarch butterflies and the species that interacts with them. The paper is available [here](#).

Another recent paper published in the journal *The Condor: Ornithological Applications*, analyzed the impact that data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey has had over the last 50 years. Wisconsin volunteers have been participating in the Breeding Bird Survey since it first began in 1966, by traveling along predetermined roadside routes and listening for birds. The paper's authors found that the results of the Breeding Bird Survey have been used in conservation and management decisions in both the United States and Canada. You can read the full paper [here](#).



Monarch monitoring training at UW-Madison Arboretum

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resources Volunteers!

This joint conference of the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network and Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program will be held March 22-24, in Eau Claire. This is a can't miss event for anyone involved in citizen-based monitoring, including project leaders, educators, volunteers, and researchers. The conference will include:

- Field Trips
- Workshops and trainings
- Panel Discussions
- Research and project talks
- Poster session
- Networking opportunities

Stay tuned for more details this fall, including a call for abstracts in October and registration information in December. As it becomes available, conference information will be placed on the [WCBM Network website](#).



Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resources Volunteers

March 22-24, 2018

Eau Claire, Wisconsin



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.