

## WHY OSHKOSH IS A BIRD CITY . . .



- Oshkosh 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. Counts of nesting colonial waterbirds have been conducted since 1993 at the pre-treatment basin at Miller's Bay, adjacent to Menominee Park. Habitat management to encourage the nesting of herons and egrets has taken place since 2003. Among the species that have nested there are Great Egret (300), Cattle Egret (300), Black-crowned Night Heron (903), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (1), and Green Heron (2).
- A Purple Martin colony is maintained by the Oshkosh Bird Club at the City water treatment plant. It now has 52 possible nest sites: 24 gourds and 28 apartments. In 2010, it appeared that 45 to 50 nest sites were in use.
- The coalition of partners supporting the award-winning Miller's Bay Shoreland Restoration Project is a prime example of what a community can do to provide native habitat for birds and create a shoreland buffer to improve water runoff.
- Oshkosh contains a segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail as part of the Wiouwash State Trail. The Oshkosh-Larsen Trail Prairie sites, north of the City, is a series of three low prairie remnants along a 4-mile segment of the Wiouwash State Trail. Notable species: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Short-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, American Tree Sparrow.
- Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board, one of the community's Bird City partners, has created a section on its web site devoted to making the City bird-friendly. The site promotes the Cats Indoors! Campaign and provides links to Bird City Wisconsin, International Migratory Bird Day, Winnebago Audubon (another partner), the Wisconsin Bird Initiative, and tips on making your yard bird-friendly.
- The City does not restrict "wild" or natural lawns and landscaping.
- Oshkosh is in compliance with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" law for land use planning and resource management.
- Oshkosh is a "Tree City USA" which provides good bird habitat with the planting and management of trees along with the "Taking Root" street tree revitalization program.
- Citizens of Oshkosh participate in these bird monitoring programs: Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Swift Night Out, and May and September migration counts.
- Oshkosh has several organizations that include schools, garden clubs, scouts, and others in bird conservation activities.
- Oshkosh City Council has adopted a resolution each year to recognize International Migratory Bird Day and Oshkosh Bird Fest which is held on the first Saturday of May to celebrate wild birds and their migration.