



Bird City Wisconsin

Making our communities healthy for birds ... and people

4230 N. Oakland Ave., No. 219

Shorewood, WI 53211



March 9, 2021

Ron Hill
Forester
Village of Elm Grove
13600 Juneau Blvd.
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Dear Ron:

Thank you for renewing your community's status as a Bird City in 2021. I'm happy to let you know that the **Village of Elm Grove** has achieved **Sustained Flight** status in the Bird City Wisconsin program once again this year. **Congratulations!**

More than 100 Bird City communities are at the forefront of efforts to forge a statewide coalition of citizens and public officials who recognize that birds are more than beautiful – they are significant. Bird City communities go above and beyond in their conservation and education actions, and we appreciate not only all that you do to green your community but also all of your efforts to demonstrate your community's actions to us during the renewal process. **Thank you!**

We especially appreciate your efforts to help your neighbors enjoy and appreciate birds last year, when COVID-19 shuttered so many businesses, upset daily life in our communities, and touched the lives of so many loved ones. It was a terrible year, there's no two ways about it. But it was also an inspiring year.

Faced with health concerns and safer-at-home restrictions, Bird City communities held virtual **World Migratory Bird Day** celebrations or shifted the focus from community to backyard or family events. Equally exciting, through backyard birding, birding relays, virtual birding, and solo birding, many of you helped the statewide **Great Wisconsin Birdathon** raise a record-breaking amount for priority bird-conservation projects. Despite the pandemic. **Thank you again!**

We look forward to learning how you celebrate World Migratory Bird Day this year — we hope it (and so much else) is in person! — and we can't wait to hear about your efforts to make the 2021 birdathon just as successful. You will be able to read about both in our free monthly newsletter. You can sign up to receive it on our website. (Please encourage other members of your team to sign up, too.) Back issues are available at birdcitywisconsin.org/resources/newsletters.

We encourage you to **share news of your renewal with local media**. To make your job easier, we've included some general text about the program on the next page. Feel free to use the Bird City Wisconsin logo to promote your community – and let us know if you would like a digital copy. And don't forget, on our website you'll find Bird City flags, signs, hats, and t-shirts to help you increase visibility leading to public recognition for your accomplishments.

As always, feel free to contact us at director@birdcitywisconsin.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Charles Hagner
Director, Bird City Wisconsin
<https://birdcitywisconsin.org>

About Bird City Wisconsin

Bird City Wisconsin was created in 2009 and began recognizing communities the following year. The program recognizes municipalities for the conservation and education activities that they undertake to make their communities healthy for birds... and people.

To be recognized as a Bird City, a community must meet criteria spread across six categories: habitat creation and protection, community forest management, limiting threats to birds, education, energy and sustainability, and the official recognition and celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. Bird City Wisconsin also offers High Flyer recognition for those communities that go above and beyond in their conservation and education programs. To become a High Flyer, a community must meet additional, and more involved, criteria.

The Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory assumed fiscal sponsorship of Bird City Wisconsin in October 2018. The Observatory is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that conducts coordinated research, monitoring, and education to advance the conservation of birds and bats in Wisconsin and throughout the Western Great Lakes Region. It took over from the Milwaukee Audubon Society, which served as Bird City's fiscal sponsor since 2009, when the society was awarded the TogetherGreen planning grant that launched the successful program.

For more information, visit www.BirdCityWisconsin.org or contact director@birdcitywisconsin.org