



Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network Newsletter

Spring 2018

Citizen Science Day is April 14



Citizen Science Day is an annual event to celebrate and promote all things citizen science: amazing discoveries, incredible volunteers, hardworking practitioners, and inspiring projects. Have you made plans for this year's Citizen Science Day? If not, there are plenty of options for you here in Wisconsin.

- **Participate in the Annual Midwest Crane Count.** This one-day event offers volunteers the opportunity to count cranes in wetlands and other birding locations throughout the state. You must register with your County Coordinator in advance. Find out more about the project from the [International Crane Foundation](#).
- **Attend the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBA) Western Region Kickoff.** The WBBA is entering year four of its five-year effort to document the distribution and abundance of all bird species that breed in the state. Birders of all experience levels are welcome. Find out more about the Kickoff and how to register on the [WBBA website](#).
- **Join the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey.** In addition to the traditional driving routes, volunteers can now choose a fixed

location to monitor throughout the spring and summer. This is perfect for people who live close to a wetland or stream and enjoy listening to the nighttime calls of frogs and toads. Learn more about the project on their [website](#).

- **Search for and report the presence of invasive species.** April is a good time to look for [celandine](#) and [garlic mustard](#), both of which will be blooming. Invasive [honeysuckle](#), [common buckthorn](#), and [glossy buckthorn](#) will have leafed out, making them easier to identify as well. Report observations of invasive species to the [Wisconsin First Detector Network](#), and learn about control and removal strategies for the plants you find.

For more events happening this spring, visit the WCBM Network [event calendar](#). If you'd like to host your own Citizen Science Day event, such as a book discussion, bioblitz, training, or festival, you can find resources available on the [Citizen Science Association website](#).

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WCBM Network

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Partner Updates

- **Climate Watch— a New Program from the National Audubon Society**

Audubon's Climate Watch is a new community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. In 2014, Audubon released the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report highlighting the risks that climate change poses to birds across North America. In response, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds. Now, you can help by observing birds in your area, using a specific protocol, to study how birds are responding to the changing climate.

Climate Watch takes place during two distinct seasons, winter (January 15-February 15) and summer (May 15-June 15), each year. Participants are free to conduct their surveys at any time during these time windows. In Wisconsin, surveys can focus on the Eastern bluebird, white-breasted nuthatch, and red-breasted nuthatch. If you would like to find out more about being a volunteer or coordinator in your area, please contact the Audubon Climate Watch Team at climatewatch@audubon.org or find out more at Audubon.org/climatewatch.

- **Become a Wisconsin Master Naturalist**

The Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program (WIMN) is a network of well-informed volunteers dedicated to conservation education and service within Wisconsin communities. The WIMN Volunteer Training Course provides 40 hours of coursework in natural history, interpretation, and conservation stewardship. Once trained, Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteers provide 40 hours of service and take eight hours of advanced training each year. Trainings are being held throughout the state this spring and summer. Find a training course near you and learn more on the [WIMN website](#).

- **Volunteer with the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program**

Have you considered joining the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program? If not, now is a great time to participate! As water temperatures begin to warm, freshwater mussels awaken from their winter dormancy period. They begin to appear at the substrate surface looking to filter and purify multiple gallons of water daily! They continuously filter water from spring through the fall months, making them visible to people with a keen eye.

The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program is on a mission to improve the appreciation and conservation of Wisconsin's 52 species of freshwater mussels. If you want to contribute to the program, visit their [website](#) and sign up for one of the upcoming training events. Also, make sure to submit any mussel observations to the Mussel Monitoring Program Project Page on iNaturalist.



Giant floater (*Pyganodon grandis*)

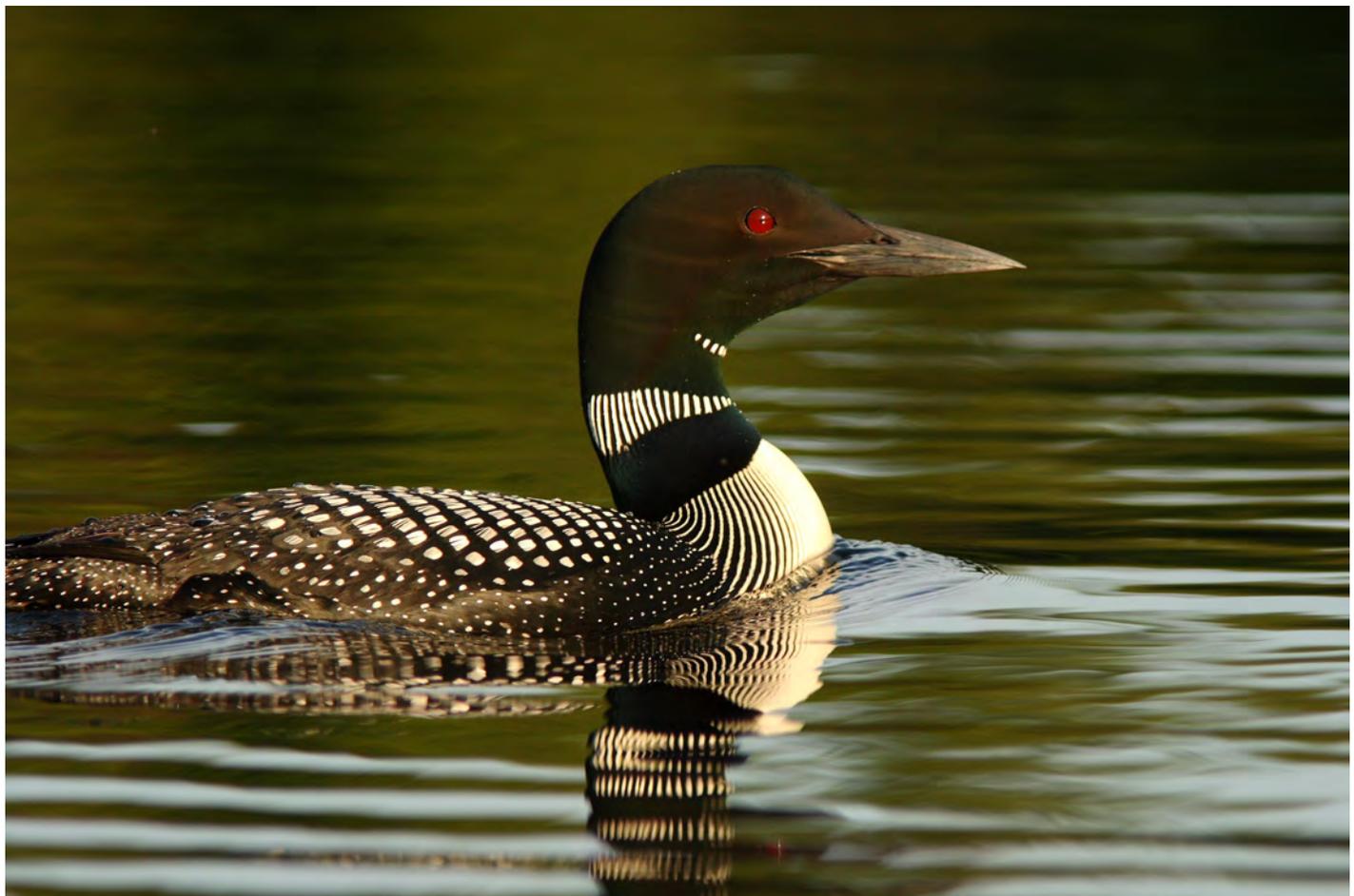
Partner Updates, continued

- **CoCoRaHS March Madness Comes to Wisconsin**

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Sleet Network (CoCoRaHS) is hosting its annual March Madness campaign to recruit new volunteers throughout the country. All 50 states compete to see which can recruit the most new volunteers. CoCoRaHS is a precipitation monitoring project that is simple and fun for people of all ages. Volunteers must complete an online training and must use a 4-inch diameter circular rain gauge. Learn more and sign up to volunteer on the [CoCoRaHS website](#).

- **Register for Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention**

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention and Water Action Volunteers Symposium will be held April 18-20 in Stevens Point. This annual event brings together organization leaders, volunteer monitors, resource managers, and more to learn, network, and celebrate Wisconsin's lakes. This year's schedule has multiple citizen science offerings, including water monitoring training, a panel on the popular LoonWatch citizen science program, and an overview of citizen-based monitoring opportunities. See the full schedule and register [here](#).



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), photo: Eric Epstein