



Bird City Wisconsin Newsletter

November 2022

Bird City communities: It's time to renew for 2023

By **CHARLES HAGNER**
Bird City Wisconsin Director

Consider the falling leaves your sign that it's time to start thinking about renewing. Renewals are due by Jan. 31, 2023.

As every year, the renewal process can be completed electronically, on the Bird City Wisconsin website at <https://birdcitywisconsin.org/>

To get started, log in using your email and password, click on "APPLY/RENEW," and read the instructions. The renewal fee is \$175, unchanged from last year. You can pay online with a credit card or mail us a check.

Some tips to keep in mind:

Form a team: Bird City Wisconsin is all about community action, not the efforts of a single person.

If responsibility for preparing and submitting your community's renewal is shouldered by one hard-working, long-suffering soul, we urge you to re-assemble the team that was involved with your community's application/renewal process (or create a new one) and divvy up the work.

Many hands really do make light work.

Notes: Suggestions for improving your 2022 renewal application were emailed to you. Please use them!

Do more: If your community did the same things in 2022 that it did in 2021, that's fine, but keep in mind that being a Bird City is intended to be an ongoing process. Your community should take new bird-friendly actions, satisfying additional recognition criteria, each year.

Resolution: We require all Bird Cities to submit a resolution celebrating World Migratory Bird Day every two years, but truly, what's best for birds is for you to submit one every year. January will be here before you know it, so don't wait. Now's the time to prepare a resolution that your municipality's council or board can vote on.

World, not International: And speaking of resolutions, please note that International



Migratory Bird Day became **World Migratory Bird Day** in 2017.

In your resolution, your application, and all other materials, the phrase "International Migratory Bird Day" should be "World Migratory Bird Day" and the abbreviation "IMBD," if you use it,

should be "WMBD."

Questions: If you have questions or need help, write to me, Chuck Hagner, director of Bird City Wisconsin, at director@birdcitywisconsin.org. I'll be happy to help.

Remember, renewing is how your community can be recognized publicly for the steps it has taken to be friendly to birds and healthy for people.

It's also a great way to let the world know that your hometown is a desirable place to work, live, take a vacation, and do some bird watching, and it signals that you want to be counted in Bird City's statewide network of conservation advocates.

Cozumel, the first Bird City in Latin America!

Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico -- After more than two years of preparation, the island of Cozumel has been named the first Bird City in Latin America, strengthening the destination's position on the ecotourism map.

The certification was announced last month during the Cozumel Island Bird Festival by Environment for the Americas, the American Bird Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The many challenges facing birds throughout the Americas have reduced breeding bird populations by 3 billion birds since 1970. Bringing the birds back requires sound science, effective planning, and an army of local conservationists working together across the landscapes upon which birds rely.

To help build this conservation force, ABC and EFTA created a conservation and education program known as the Bird City Network, designed to foster innovation and connections that lead to advances for birds in natural areas, parks, gardens, main streets, and backyards and to make communities better places to live.

It was patterned after the pioneering work of Bird City Wisconsin, launched in 2010, and similar programs that followed in eight other



states, including Minnesota, Texas, Maryland, Colorado and Illinois.

Situated off the eastern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, the island of Cozumel hosts numerous resident and migratory birds, including several endemic species and subspecies. The Foundation for Parks and Museums of Cozumel (FPMC) and other organizations have

Please turn the page



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Check out our website at birdcitywisconsin.org

HOW CAN I HELP?

Bird City is seeking to bolster its small-grant donations. Tax deductible donations can be made online at: <https://birdcitywisconsin.org/support-us> or by mail to BCW, 4230 N. Oakland Ave., #219, Shorewood, WI 53211

WHERE CAN I SEND NEWS ABOUT MY BIRD CITY?

Send pictures, stories and other information to director@birdcitywisconsin.org

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION AND RENEWAL DATES?

New applications can be submitted at any time but are reviewed the first of March, July and November. Annual renewals are due on January 31.

WHAT ACTIONS DOES BCW ENCOURAGE?

1. Habitat creation, protection and monitoring
2. Community forest management
3. Limiting or removing threats to birds
4. Public education
5. Energy and sustainability
6. Celebration of World Migratory Bird Day

Fort Collins, Colo., becomes a Bird City

Fort Collins has become the third city in Colorado to be designated a Bird City. The city met the criteria required to join the Bird City Network, a program that recognizes communities for actions that make areas safer and healthier for birds.

The Bird City Network, a collaboration between Environment for the Americas and the American Bird Conservancy, guides and supports communities like Fort Collins in taking on-the-ground conservation action to help birds and then recognizes those achievements.

The program is designed to foster innovation and connections that lead to advances for birds in natural areas, parks, gardens, main streets, and backyards to make these places better for birds and people.

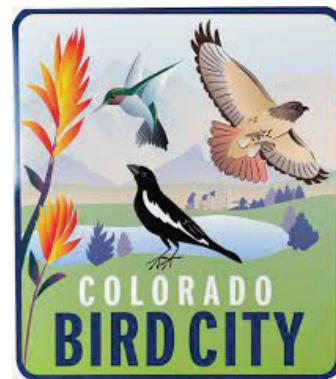
“City Council has a priority for helping birds species recover,” said Fort Collins Mayor **JENI ARNDT**.

“This designation is a great honor that shows the city’s commitment to avian life

and all the actions that contribute to bird conservation as residents enjoy the natural beauty of the flora and fauna of our community.”

The City of Fort Collins has not only met the criteria required to become a Bird City but also has met the criteria to achieve High Flyer status. This designation signifies the city’s commitment to conservation across multiple categories and to further action to help birds and their habitats.

Other Bird Cities in Colorado are Lafayette and Westminster.



The Bird City certification reinforces Cozumel’s position on the nature tourism map, making it more attractive to bird watchers and photographers.

Cozumel stands out on ecotourism map

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been working hard to make the island a better place for both birds and people. This work led to the island becoming a part of the Bird City Network.

RAFAEL CHACÓN DÍAZ, director of conservation and environmental education at the FPMC, noted such conservation efforts as **SAL A PAJAREAR**, the Urban Birds Program, bird monitoring, bird watching, bird identification workshops and the launch of an app to identify and record birds, called Aves de Cozumel.

In addition, the island is incorporated into the MAB program of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves-UNESCO and currently has five protected natural reserves.

They include the Laguna Colombia State Ecological Park, in Punta Sur; the Laguna Chankanaab Natural Park, the Cozumel Forests and Wetlands State Reserve and the Cozumel Island Flora and Fauna Protection Area.

Chacón Díaz said that, as a Bird City, Cozumel seeks to protect bird populations and the ecological services they provide, including pollination, seed dispersal and pest control,

benefiting other wild animals and their habitats, while contributing to a healthy environment for everybody.

The biologist said that with the Bird City certification people also benefit through ecotourism.

Cozumel’s position on the nature tourism map is reinforced, making it more attractive to bird watchers and photographers, as well as attracting new businesses, diversifying and strengthening the local economy.

ABC, EFTA, and USFWS are working together to ensure that the Bird City Network maximizes its impact while also seeking synergies with existing conservation programs like USFWS’s Urban Bird Treaty Program, EFTA’s World Migratory Bird Day, and ABC’s Cats Indoors!

The Bird City Network is a flexible, widely distributed, and cost-effective model for delivering on-the-ground conservation actions for birds.

The program engages partner organizations and provides tools, systems, and guidance for them to create and run their own Bird City programs.