

Songbirds of the Forest:

Managing Oak Savanna, Woodland and Forest in the Driftless Area

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AN OUTLINE FOR MANAGING YOUR LAND.

- ❑ What do I have?
- ❑ What is the context?
- ❑ What could I have?
- ❑ What do I want?
- ❑ Plan.
- ❑ Manage.
- ❑ Monitor.
- ❑ Adjust.

Principles of Bird Habitat Management:

1. Birds respond to habitat changes.
2. Any habitat change will benefit some species & discourage others.
3. Size and context of habitat matters.
4. To increase biodiversity, think global, act local.
5. Needs change thru life cycle: breeding, migration, winter.
6. Make clear, practical goals, with partners.
7. Monitor the effects of management, and adapt.
8. Accommodate dynamics of ecosystems, economies, needs and knowledge.
9. Appreciating birds can deepen your relationship with the land.

1. Birds respond to habitat: ecological niches.

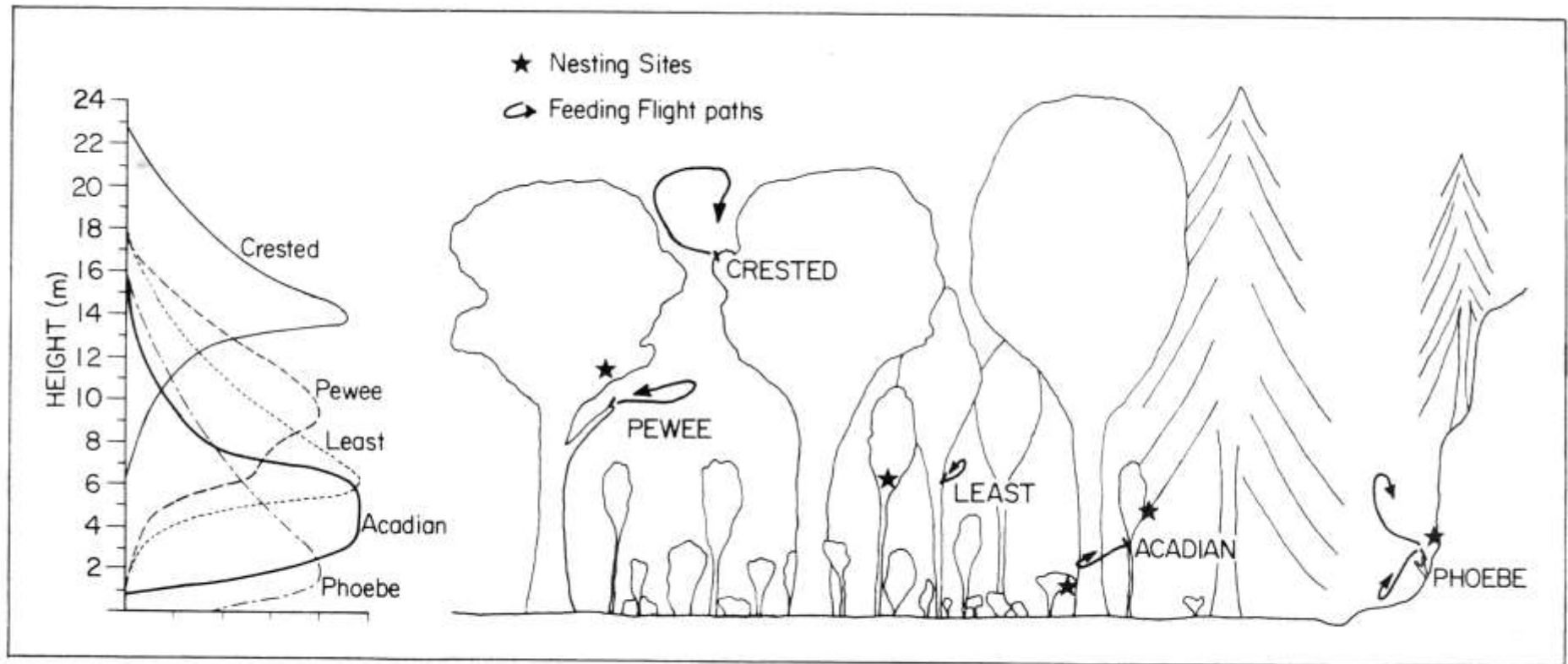
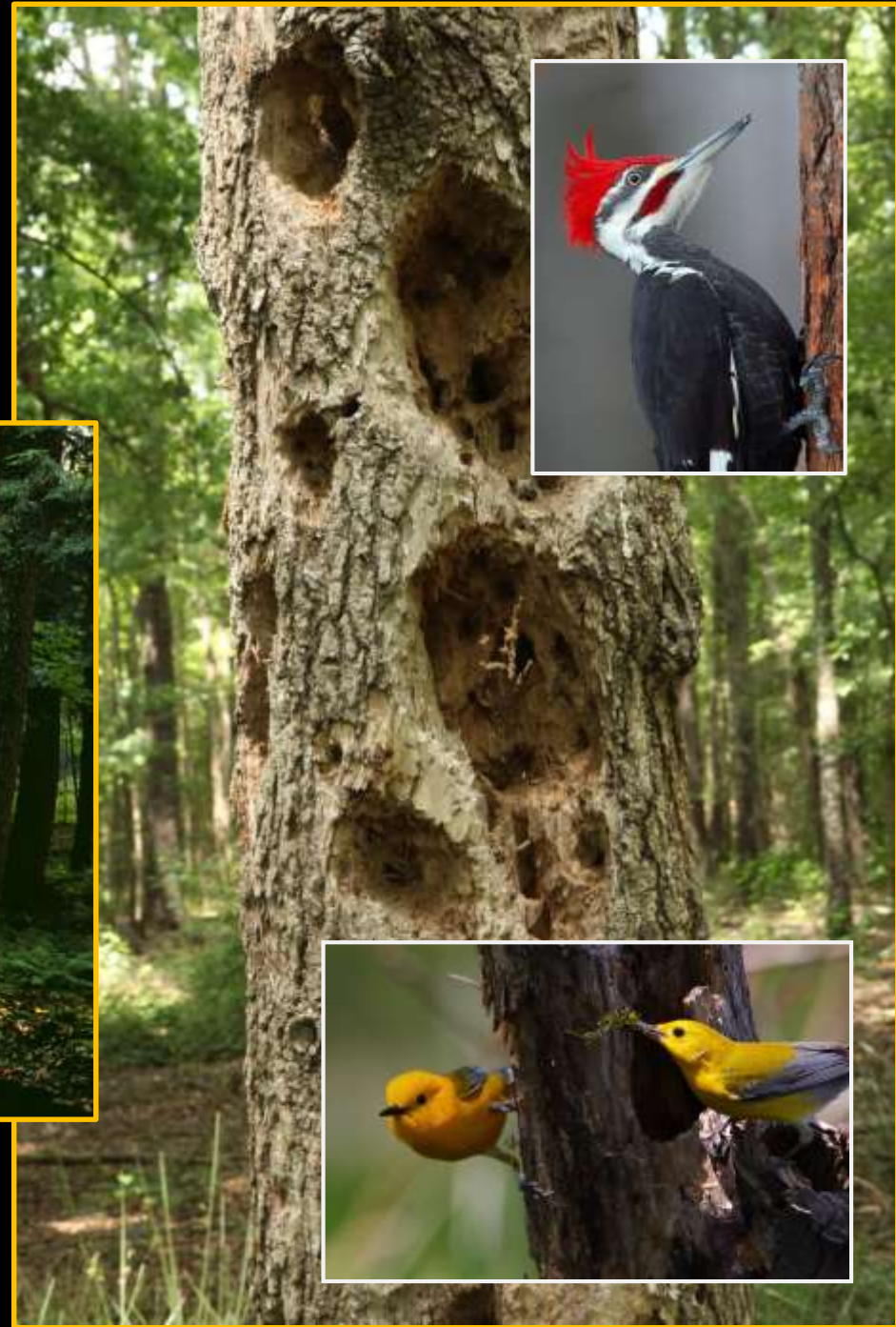


FIGURE 22. Flycatcher foraging height distributions, and locations of typical feeding and nesting sites in Baraboo Hills stream gorges.

1. Birds respond to habitat: narrow vs broad niches.



1. Birds respond to habitat: snags & debris.





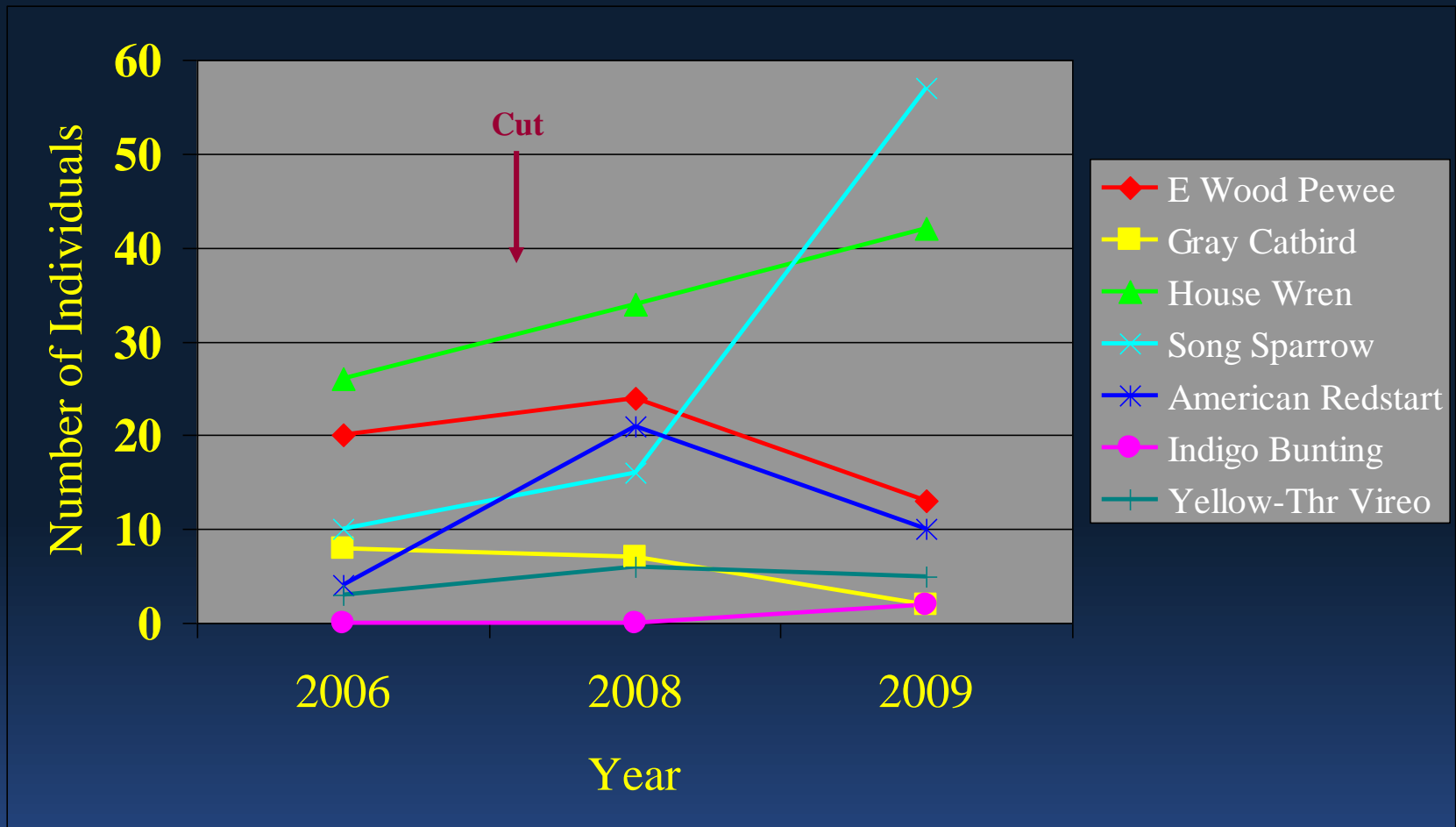
1. Birds respond to habitat: general forest structure.



1. Birds respond to habitat: forest canopy opening or removal.



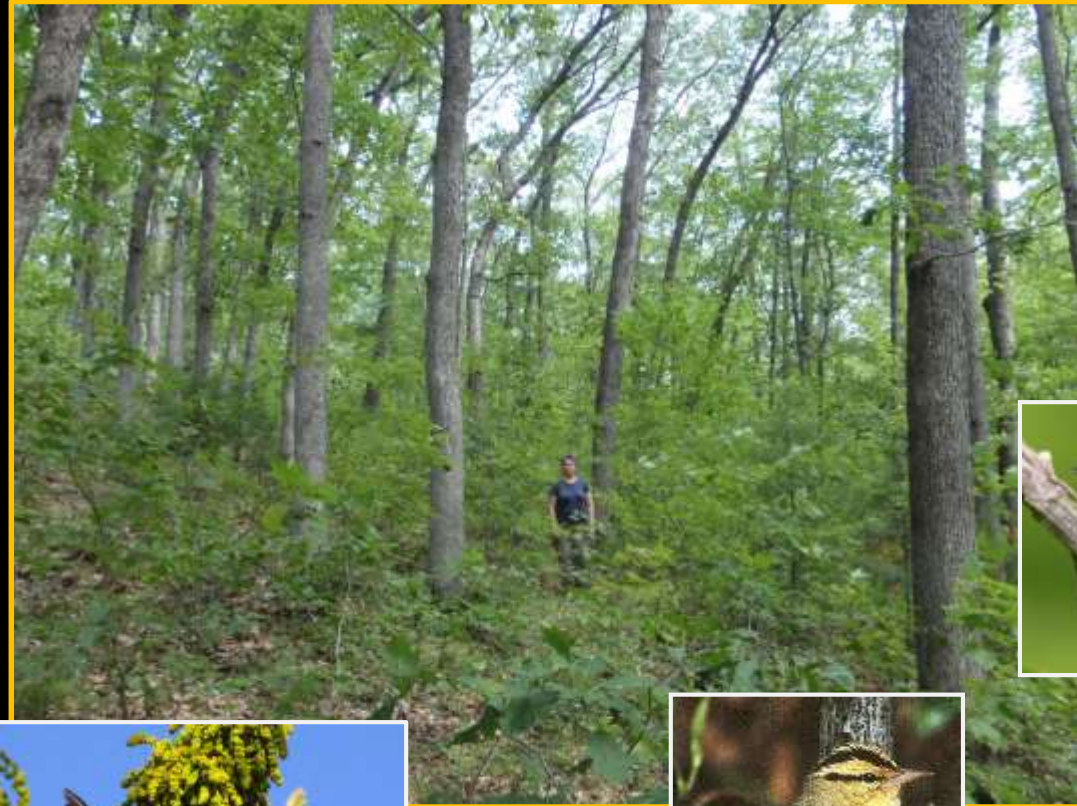
Forest Bird Response to Cutting at Prairie du Bay, LWSR



1. Birds respond to habitat: oak savanna.



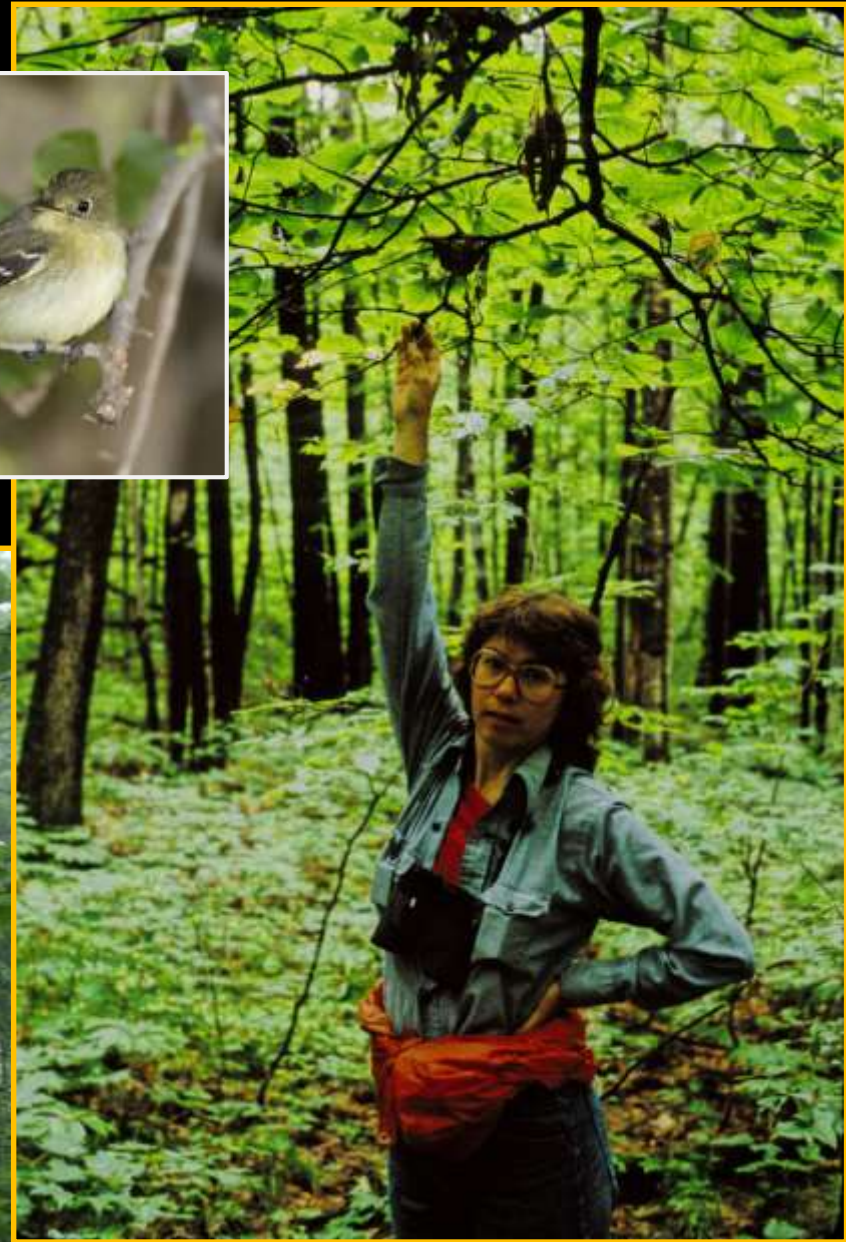
1. Birds respond to habitat: oak woodland & forest.



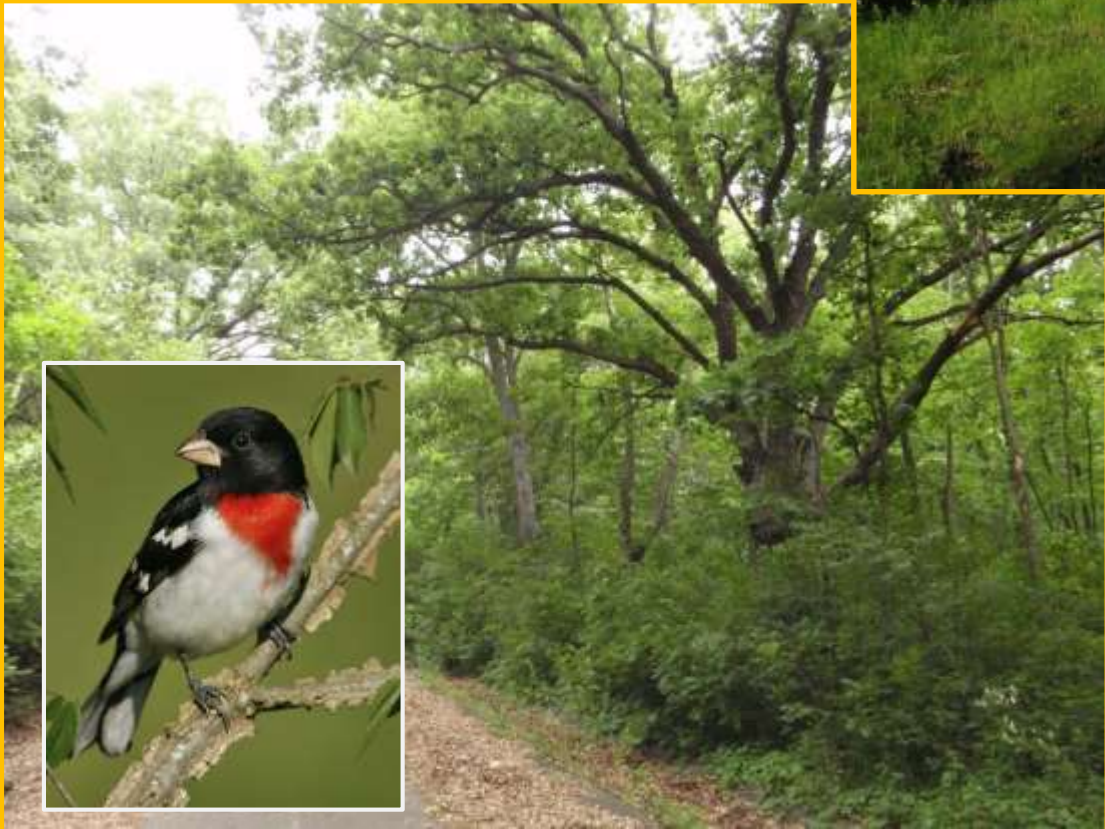
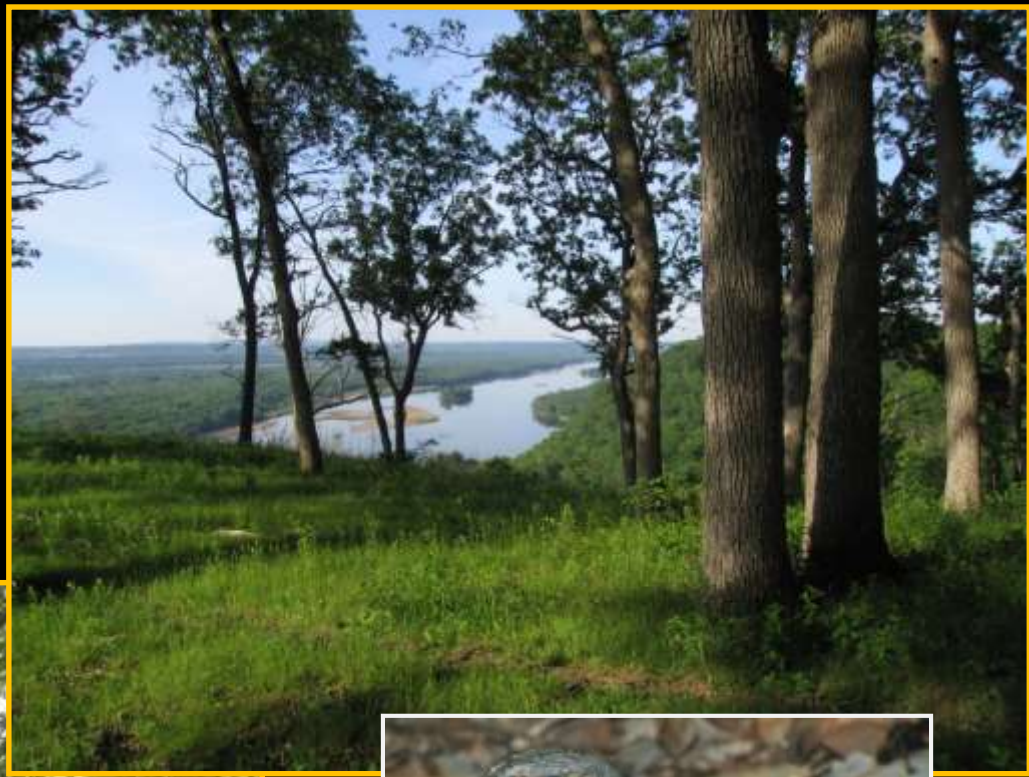
2. Changes in habitat favor some species & discourage others: conversion of field to forest.



2. Changes in habitat favor some species & discourage others: canopy gaps.



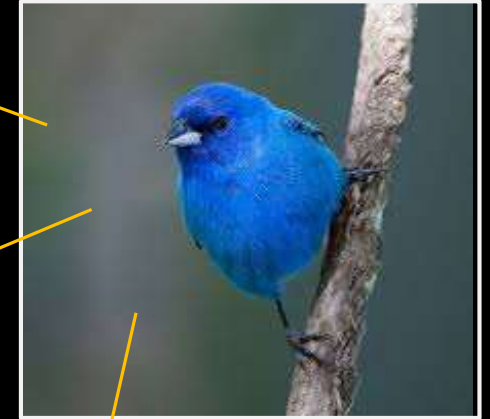
2. Changes in habitat favor some species & discourage others: woodland restoration.



3. Habitat size & context matter: area-sensitivity I.

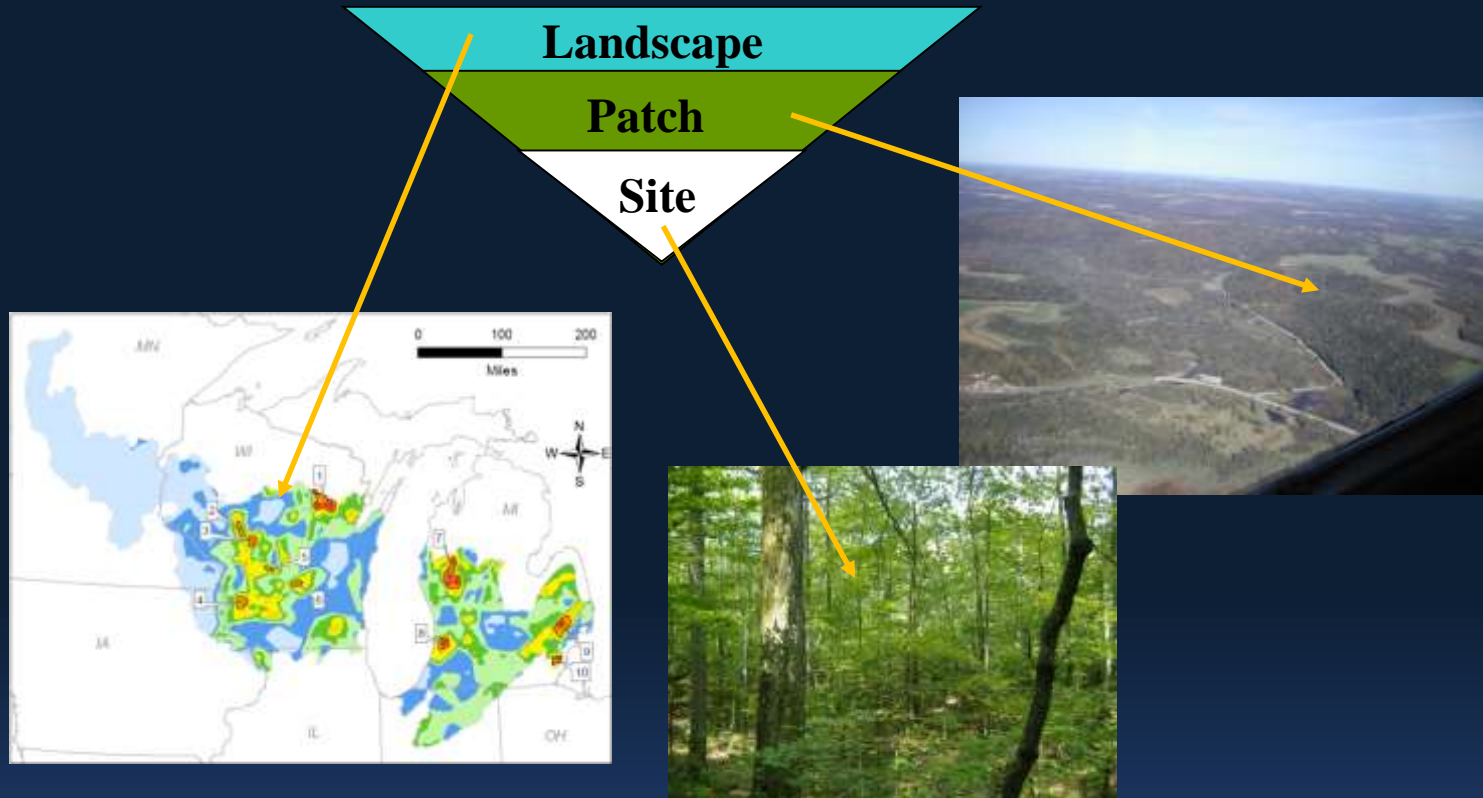


3. Habitat size & context matter: area-sensitivity II.

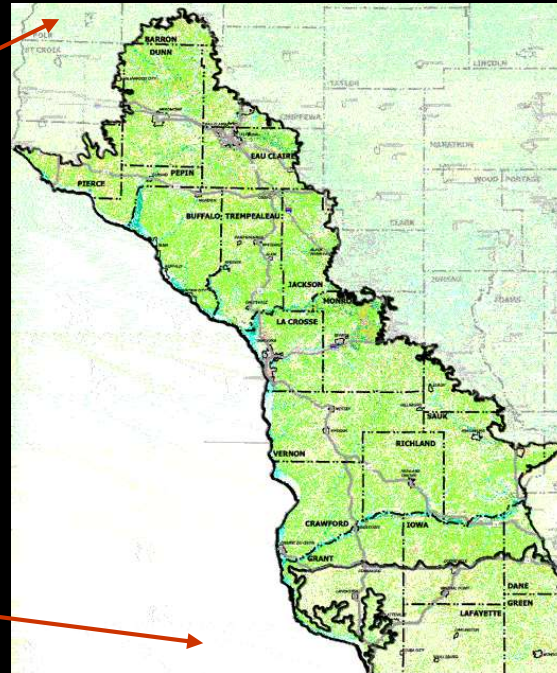
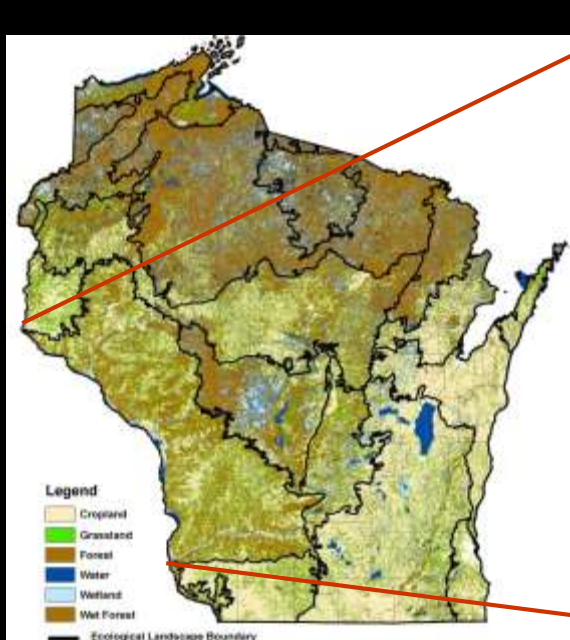




Wood Thrush Realtors, Inc.



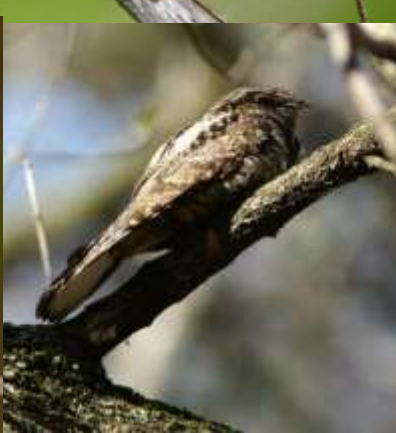
LOCATION – LOCATION – LOCATION!



4. To increase biodiversity, think global, act local: set priorities from top down.



4. To increase biodiversity, think global, act local: high priority Driftless Area birds.



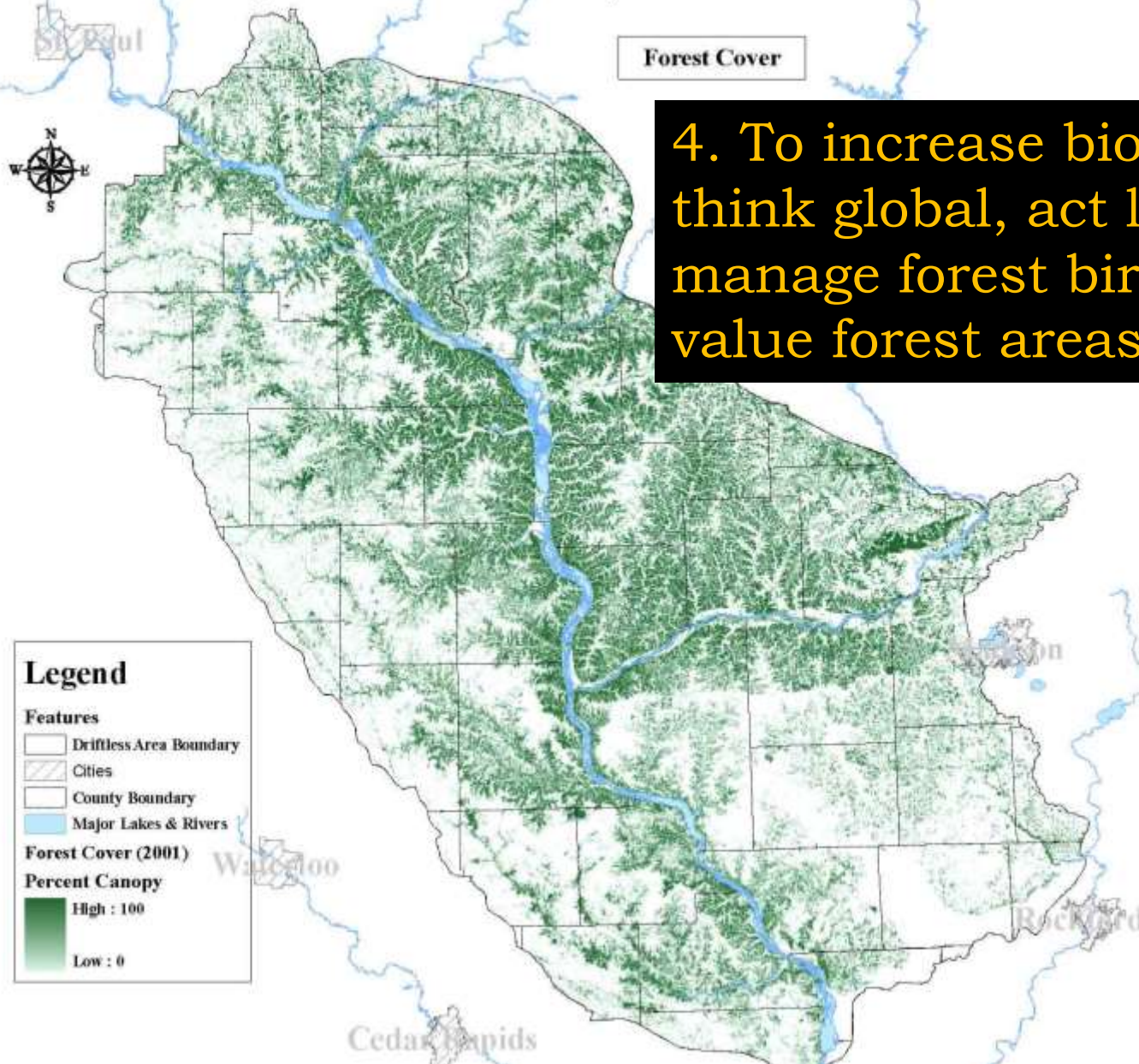
Worm-eating Warbler
courtesy Dennis Mahony

Global Population Change, 1970-2014

- **Eastern Whip-poor-will: 67% decline**
- **Red-headed Woodpecker: 68% decline**
- **Wood Thrush: 59% decline**
- **Prothonotary Warbler: 34% decline**
- **Kentucky Warbler: 25% decline**
- **Cerulean Warbler: 73% decline**

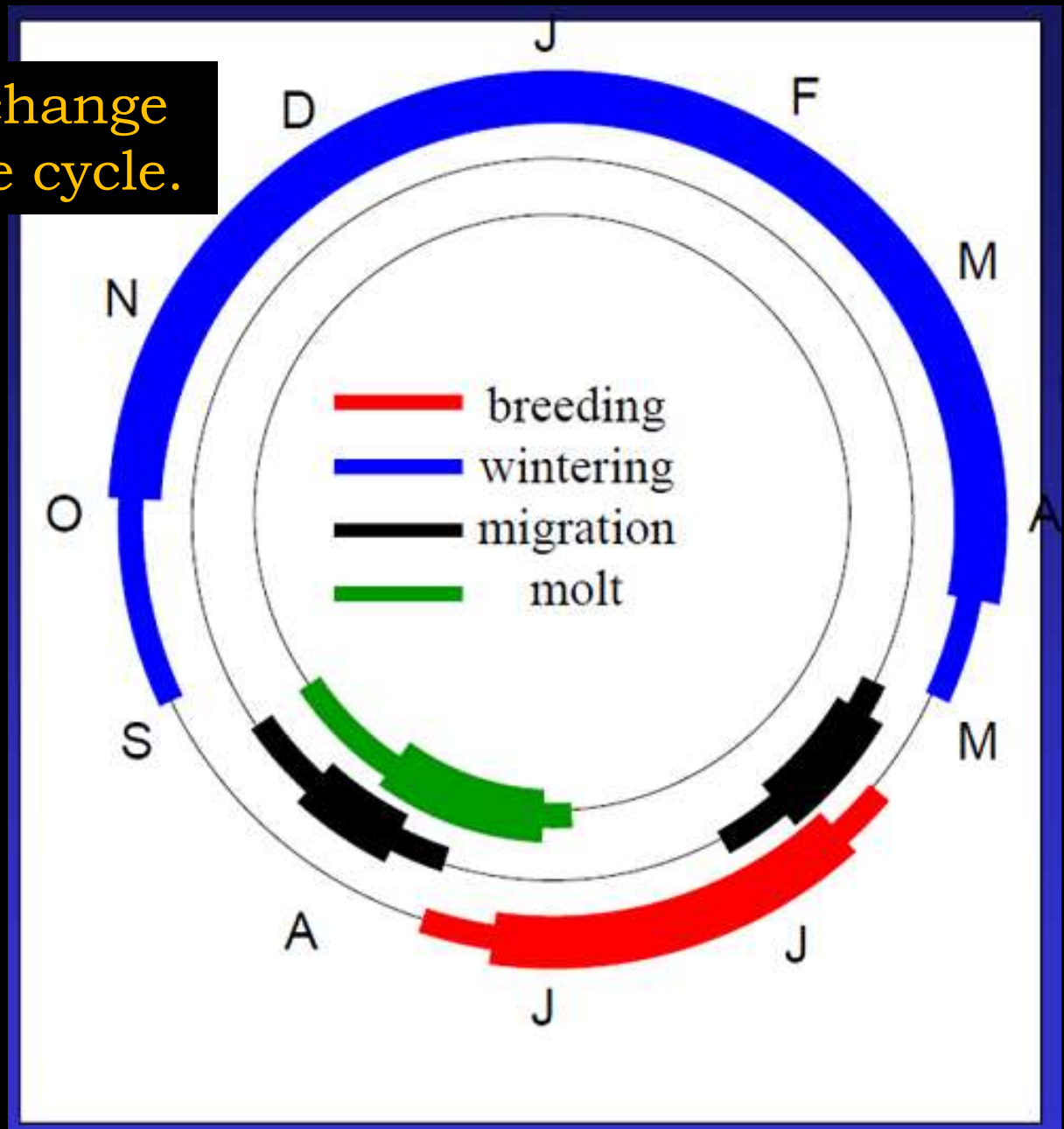
From 2016 PIF Landbird Conservation Plan Revision

Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin, Southeast Minnesota, Northeast Iowa, and Northwest Illinois



4. To increase biodiversity, think global, act local: manage forest birds in high-value forest areas.

5. Bird needs change through the life cycle.

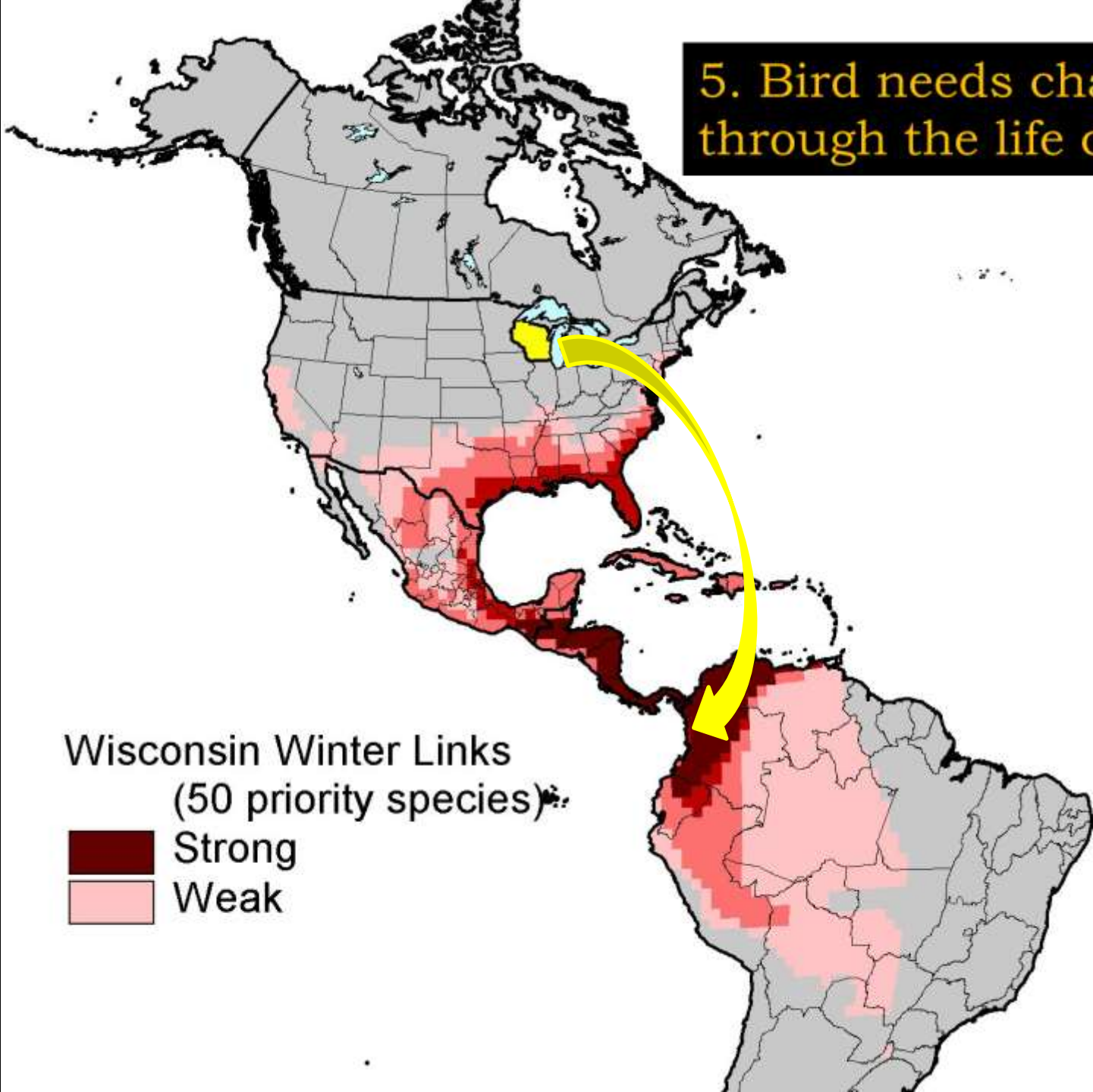


5. Bird needs change through the life cycle.



Photo : Isidor Jeklin

5. Bird needs change through the life cycle.



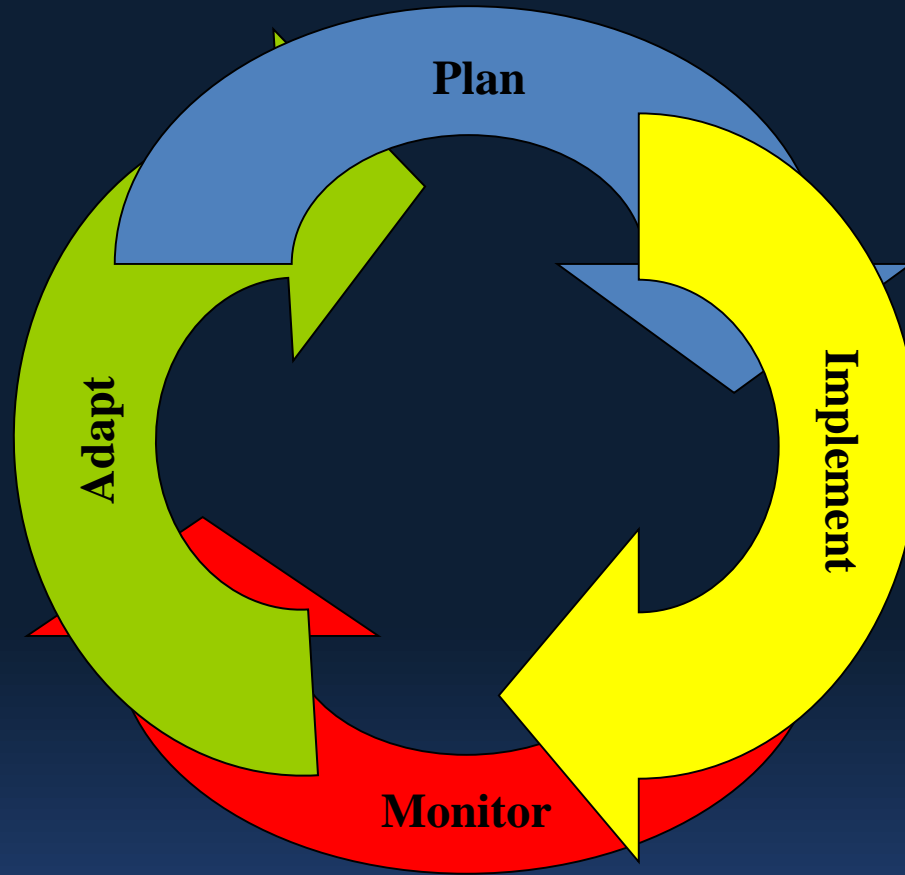
Wisconsin Winter Links
(50 priority species)

- Strong
- Weak

6. Make clear, practical goals, with partners:
develop relationships.



7. Monitor the effects of management, and adapt.



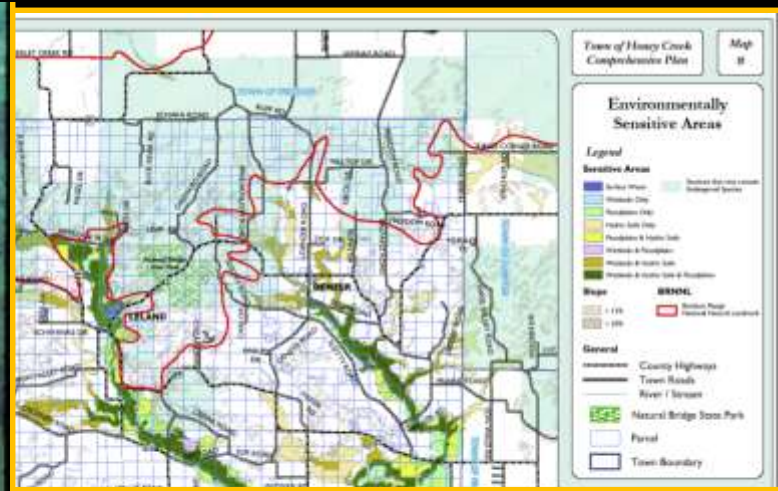
7. Monitor the effects of management, and adapt.



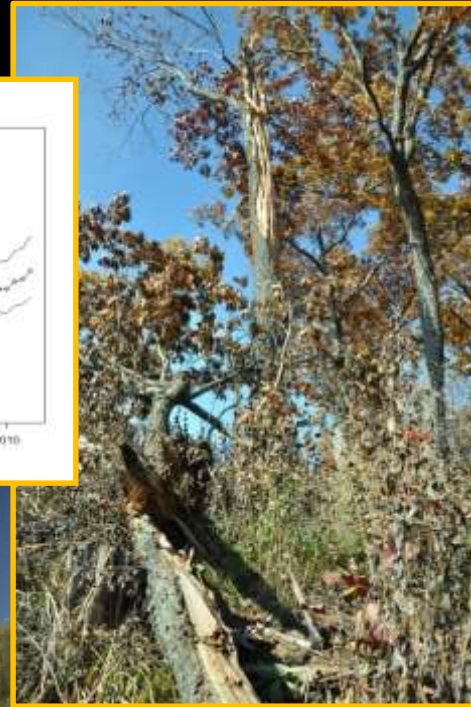
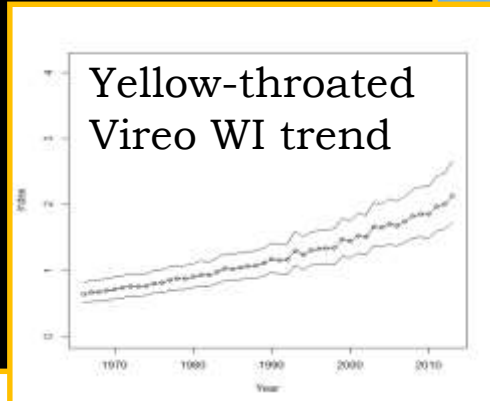
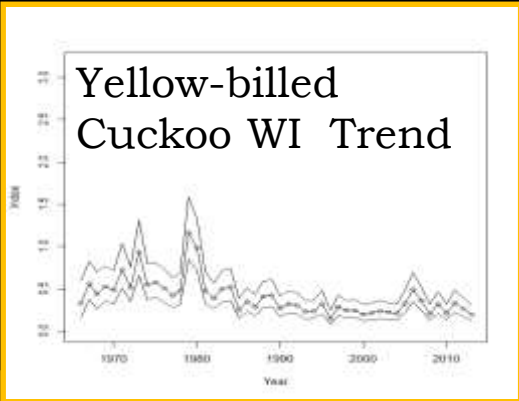
8. Accommodate dynamics of ecosystems, economies, needs and knowledge: individual sites change.



8. Accommodate dynamics of ecosystems, economies, needs and knowledge: landscapes change.



8. Accommodate dynamics of ecosystems, economies, needs and knowledge: landscapes change: events and trends beyond our direct control.



9. Appreciating birds and their habitats can deepen your relationship with the land.



A Tale of Two Driftless Area Properties



Mossman-Hartman Tract:

- 83 acres
- Presettlement savanna, marsh
- History pasture, cropland
- Goal: savanna ecosystem & forest products



Nielsen Tract:

- 240 acres
- Presettlement forest
- History high-grade, pasture, cropland
- Goal: sustainable forestry & wildlife

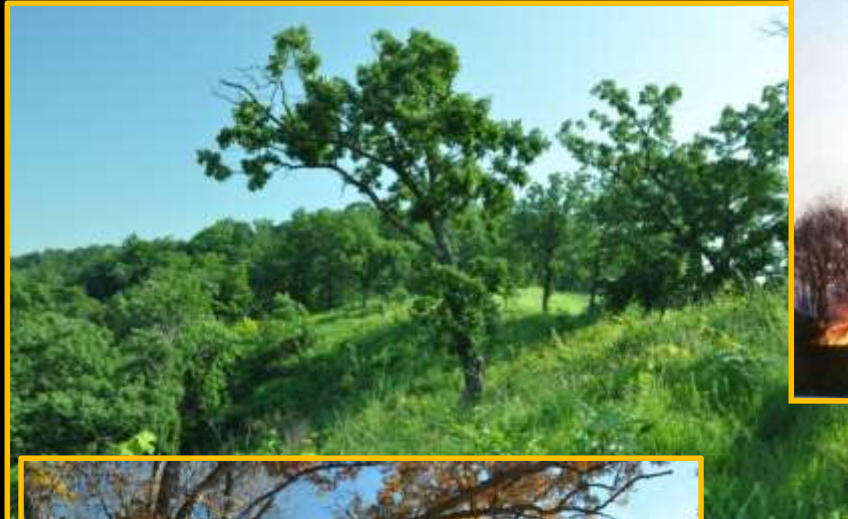
Nielsen Tract:

- Begin management 1993
- Selective thinnings, regeneration cuts, overstory removal
- Cut and treat invasives
- Plant fields to native trees, shrubs



Mossman-Hartman Tract:

- Begin management 1996
- Cut cedars, invasives, and shade-loving trees
- Prescribed burn
- Restore cropland to prairie, native shrub



Nielsen Tract:

Increase in forest species of conservation need



Both tracts:



Mossman-Hartman Tract:

Increase in savanna species of conservation need



