



Name: Town of Port Wing

Joined Bird City: 2016

Population: 368

Incorporated: 1891

Area: 46.8 mi²

Online:

[Town of Port Wing](#)



To get involved in Bird City Port Wing, please email us at
director@birdcitywisconsin.org.

Application Highlights

CATEGORY 1: CREATION AND PROTECTION OF HABITAT

C. Attach ordinance or other evidence that existing bird habitat has legal protection.

There are no local ordinances existing to protect existing bird habitat. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has managed 233 acres of the Port Wing Boreal Forest as a State Natural Area (SNA) east and west areas since 1979. From the DNR website regarding the boreal forest SNA, "Port Wing Boreal Forest encompasses two areas of northern dry-mesic forest on sand spits inland from the present Lake Superior shoreline. The forest has distinct boreal characteristics. Large white and red pines (to 30" diameter) form a canopy over white spruce, balsam fir, red maple, white birch, mountain maple, yellow birch, and white cedar. The ground layer contains blueberries, twinflower, yellow blue-bead-lily, large-leaved aster, three-leaved gold-thread, and several club-mosses. Resident birds in the forest are very diverse and include Veery, Solitary Vireo, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart, Purple Finch, and White-throated Sparrow." Trails through this SNA are prohibited, however, there are public roads at their borders that allow hiking. A recent fire in the eastern SNA

required the DNR to forge small trails for fire fighting equipment. Documentation at the site now indicates that hikers may use the trails but motorized vehicles are still prohibited.

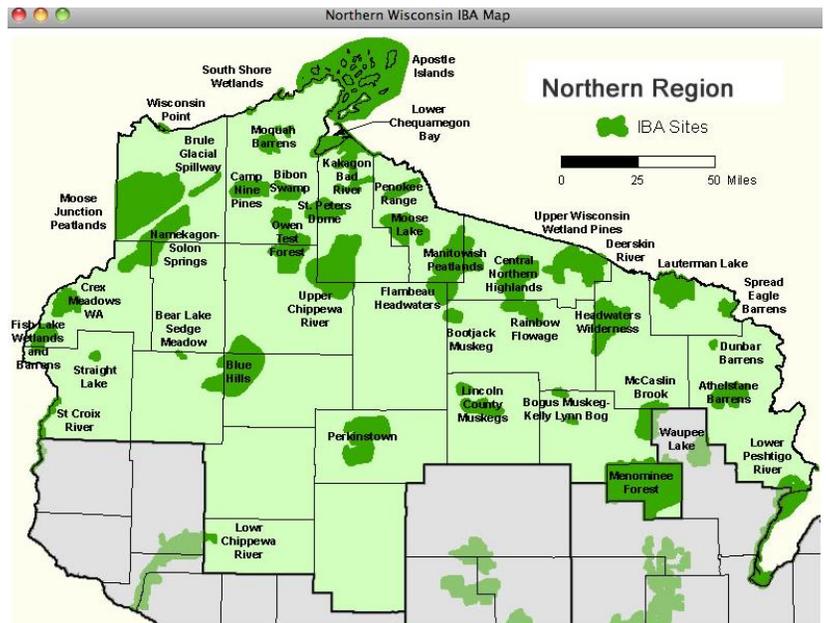
F. Show how the community offers the public information on the control and removal of invasive species.

The Port Wing Area Business Association (PWABA) and the local South Shore High School organize students and community members to help eradicate spotted knapweed that has appeared near the Port Wing pier on Lake Superior since the Army Corp of Engineers replaced the pier into the lake in 2012. Biology teacher Beth Hoagland organizes students to help pull knapweed during a school community service day. The township Board has an annual work day in the May and pulling knapweed is an annual activity. The PWABA sponsors Lake Superior Days in July and has set aside time for volunteers to pull knapweed at the beach area affected.

G. Attach a state publication showing that the community contains a segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail or a designated Important Bird Area.

The Town of Port Wing has a site on the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail: [Site 16 Port Wing Boreal Forest SNA East and West](#).

Port Wing is also listed in the Important Bird Areas program with the [South Shore Wetlands site](#).



CATEGORY 2: PROMOTING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

B. Other.

Port Wing Township reestablished a Park and Recreation Board in December of 2015. The six member board has established a “Tribute Tree” program for residents who wish to donate trees or shrubs as a memorial to family or friends. A list of native species is available and a source identified for purchasing native species. The Park Board is also maintaining a Facebook page and is part of the Town website as a way to educate residents about our parks, invasive plants in our area and planting native species and encouraging ongoing maintenance of new plantings. The board will begin a survey noting information and location of ash trees in the parks and town. This is in reaction to emerald ash borer disease being found within 50 miles of Port Wing.

CATEGORY 3: LIMITING OR REMOVING HAZARDS TO BIRDS

- A. *Attach evidence or provide a community web link if your community has an educational program to control free-roaming cats and/or actively publicizes the "Cats Indoors!" program.***

The Port Wing Area Business Association (PWABA) has provided a space for, and is developing information on the Port Wing website, for bird watching opportunities. Included on this site is information from the American Bird Conservancy brochure on "Cats, Birds, and You". This brochure is also available at the local post office.

[During the annual Lake Superior Days](#), July 18 and 19, 2015, and July 16, 2016 there will be a table to educate attendees about International Migratory Bird Day, cats and birds, and how to prevent window strikes to protect birds. There will be a PWABA member at the table to engage attendees. This will be an annual informational event.

CATEGORY 4: PUBLIC EDUCATION

- B. *Attach a newsletter or web links to show how your community provides information to property owners on methods to create and enhance backyard habitat for birds.***

The Port Wing Area Business Association is continuing to develop the Port Wing website, [which includes birding resources](#). Our website includes but is not limited to the following links:

[National Wildlife Organization - Garden for Wildlife](#)

[The Old Farmer's Almanac - Creating Bird-Friendly Habitat](#)

[Birds and Blooms - Create the Ultimate Backyard Wildlife Habitat](#)

[Sustainable Baby Steps – Creating Your Own Natural Backyard Bird Habitat](#)

- D. *Demonstrate that your community is represented in at least one bird monitoring program (e.g., the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, or Swift Night Out).***

Volunteers from the Port Wing and South Shore communities have participated in the Christmas Bird Count since 1998. Species of interest found during this count include Bald Eagles, Northern Shrike, White-winged Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Meadowlark, and Ruffed Grouse. 29 species were identified in 2012 and 2013 CBC.

- F. *Illustrate a program that involves schools, garden clubs, or other organizations in bird conservation activities.***

On February 7, 2016 local resident and application writer Leann Hess, worked with the local 4-H club (13 members) to build blue bird houses (13). There was also a discussion about migratory birds and habitats in Port Wing, window strikes, and danger to birds from cats.

G. Other.

As a part of the annual Lake Superior Day celebration in July, author and bird blogger [Laura Erickson](#) gives a program about birds. In 2014 Laura focused her program on all the warblers she has seen around Port Wing. She gave a presentation in 2013 and is scheduled again in 2015 and 2016. Laura's husband grew up in Port Wing and she loves to visit the area on birding trips. We rely heavily on her for educational presentations.

Port Wing sits along the shore of Lake Superior but it also encompasses the mouth of the Flag River and the estuary associated with it. This area has also been noted as the most eastern part of the St. Louis River estuary and local educators participate in [River2Lakes](#). This organization's mission, "Rivers2Lakes utilizes the Lake Superior watershed and the St. Louis River, its largest US tributary, as a foundation for educator and student learning, increased Great Lakes literacy, and engagement in watershed restoration at the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve." Local teachers Beth Hoagland and Margaret McKnight have participated in teacher training at the Reserve and are beginning to use curriculum materials with elementary and high school students.

CATEGORY 5: CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

The Town board has proclaimed Saturday July 16 as International Migratory Bird Day for 2016. The PWABA has historically organized a one or two day celebration to participate, along with other communities surrounding Lake Superior, in Lake Superior Day. The international organization that has traditionally sponsored this day on the third Saturday of July has lost its funding. The PWABA has decided to continue the tradition on its own. This year's activities include presentations by four local authors, beach restoration (pulling knapweed), National Fish hatchery exhibit, lecture by bird expert Laura Erickson, paddle board demonstration, informational tables for Preventing Window Strikes, Keeping Cats Indoors, and Migratory Bird information and education. Additionally there will be tours of the local fish smokehouse, Coast Guard boat tour, and Saturday Market.

In addition to the resolution, there will be two activities conducted as part of the celebration. Port Wing celebrates Lake Superior Day each July. This year July 16 has been proclaim IMBD and there will be a display and information booth in our Lake Superior Day celebration area. The author of this application will man the display and engage attendees with educational materials and prize giveaways, including bluebird houses.