

FEATHERED FRIENDS: Studying The Baltimore Birdscape

Community Update

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Baltimore Ecosystem Study: BES

WHY?

- Baltimore is a city filled with birds. Land Management decisions affect bird communities, and bird communities affect our quality of life.
- The study provides an opportunity to involve the public with their ecosystem, and underscores the connection between humans and their environment.
- The study provides valuable data to compare to that of other urban ecosystems. The cities can be compared and contrasted, revealing new knowledge which would not be evident by studying a single city.

HOW ?

- Bird counts and locations are stored in an online database and available to researchers all over the world.
- The database is analyzed for patterns. Do the species change over time? What effect do different land management practices, such as tree-planting and buildings have on the bird community?



This hawk is a resident of Baltimore. He lives at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Leakin Park.

Birdscape Study Summary

The Baltimore Birdscape project is a breeding bird survey designed to find out what birds are breeding in Baltimore City and where. Eventually the Birdscape project will be a survey of 200 points categorized by land use. Volunteers from the local area, armed with binoculars and notebooks will survey the entire city and find what areas are rich in breeding bird diversity. We will then make a map of where these birds are located. Through the survey efforts of local volunteers this project will show associations among land cover, landuse, and habitat features with breeding bird abundance, to provide information for land managers on possible consequences of land use changes on bird communities.

This project is collaboration with the Central Arizona - Phoenix LTER. Similar data are being collected by researchers in Phoenix. BES conducted a pilot survey of 50 random located points in Baltimore City. Each point was censused three times.



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