

Adam Birding Conservancy

1636 Findlay Rd, Whitewater, WI

2023 Year in Review

28 December 23

www.adamconservancy.com



The Big News

No Sign-Up Needed to Visit

There's no need to pre-register prior to visiting the conservancy and dogs on leashes are allowed Sept 1st to April 14th.

Rules/ Conditions of use are posted by the parking lot and are also on the website.

You Must Opt in for Future Updates

The ABC turns nine years old in 2024 and many of the 400+ Clubbers may not wish to receive updates. Facebook and the website aren't the best communication tools...so **this will be the last annual newsletter update you get from the ABC unless you send me an email asking to stay on the list to get what I hope are semi-annual updates. Please send it from your preferred email address to adambirdingconservancy@gmail.com.**

Newsletter Format Has Changed

I'm including separate pages on birds, plants, other critters and general news following this summary page.

We're Getting (slightly) More Media Savvy

We will still post occasional updates on Facebook and the website but welcome additions to Instagram and we have our own YouTube Channel for videos. No use of X.

Website: www.adamconservancy.com
Facebook: ABC4Nature
Instagram: adamconservancy
YouTube Channel: @adambirdingconservancy
Email: adambirdingconservancy@gmail.com
Phone Number: 414-367-8080

The ABC was (briefly) in the Top 100 Most Diverse Birding Sites in WI based on eBird

Thanks to Aaron, Nicholas and Mike for adding four new warbler family species in mid-Sept. For a few weeks, we got to bask in the glow of eBird's Top 100 list for Wisconsin, tied for 98th at 214 different species. Sadly, we've since fallen off the charts (for now anyway).

A Trumpeter Couple Successfully Raised SIX Cygnets this Summer

What a joy to watch one of the biggest families in the state survive bald eagles, coyote, river otters and the elements. Attracted attention and even AI search engines rank the ABC as a place to go in southeastern Wisconsin to see Trumpeters.

Plant List Continues to Expand

The adjusted Floristic Quality Assessment moved up to 35.8 this year as 29 new species were documented, bringing the total of good and bad to 181. The woods were a hot spot for new finds coming a year after the first burn ever to get into over half of this six-acre parcel.

New Weather Monitoring System for Jefferson County

The county's Wisconet weather monitoring system overseen by UW-Madison was installed in October. It measures soil temps, moisture, wind speeds, solar radiation, etc. Channel 12 did a piece on-site and the Trumpeter family of eight did a flyover just to be on the news!

Adam Birding Conservancy 2023 Recap

Birds

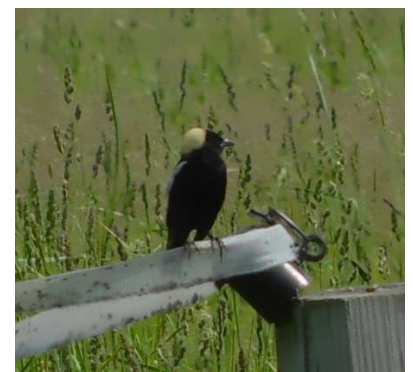


Trumpeters are fun to watch raising their young...parents are very protective and they stay in the same pond all summer!



Five new species in 2023 brings the total to 214 (with first name of finder on eBird):

1. Red-eyed Vireo (Emily)
2. Black-Throated Blue Warbler (Aaron)
3. Northern Parula (Aaron)
4. Golden-Winged Warbler (Aaron)
5. Cape May Warbler (Mike)



Aaron & Nicholas saw ~1,000 Broad-Winged Hawks on October 7th (a county record). New county high count records at the ABC also established in 2023 for Sharp-Shinned Hawks (14), Blue Jays (45) and Savannah Sparrows (55).



Adam Birding Conservancy 2023 Recap

Plants



1 2 3
4 5
6 7
8 9 10

181 different plants and trees have been identified at the ABC (not all good). 2023 was a terrible year for white sweet clover which balloons the year after a burn.

29 new species were noted, mostly in the woods. This included:

- Heart-Leaf (Forest) Skullcap [7]
- American Jumpseed [9]
- Allegheny Monkey-flower
- River Bulrush

Other plants shown here:

- [1] Prairie Blazing Star
- [2] Purple Prairie Clover
- [3] False Blue Indigo & Golden Alexanders
- [4] Broadleaf Arrowhead
- [5] Compass Plant
- [6] Tall Bellflower
- [8] Whorled Milkweed
- [10] Great Blue Lobelia



Adam Birding Conservancy 2023 Recap

Other Creatures



- [1] Toad awakes in spring.
- [2] Fungi
- [3] This deer didn't get through winter.
- [4] Viceroy
- [5] Monarch on Milkweed
- [6] Leopard frog in fall colors
- [7] Widow Skimmer
- [8] Badger hole...check out our YouTube channel for PG-13 Badger videos.

1 2 3
4 5
6 7 8

Coming from a distance and wondering what the weather is at the ABC? Check out:
https://wisconet.wisc.edu/stations/cold_spring/index.html

Adam Birding Conservancy 2023 Recap

And Now for Something Completely Different



We've talked about a third blind for a few years and are hoping 2024 is the year it happens with the help of Mike F and the Whitewater High School supplemented by my deer hunting crew for the install. Location in the northeast corner.

This summer I added backings to the two blinds which seems to reduce the flighty factor for waterfowl watching.



Pic is from an Natural Resources Foundation field trip that takes place in May every year. We hope to offer a few other trips. If you are interested in leading any sort of wildlife experience, please email adambirdingconservancy@gmail.com

Of note...

Early mornings in Jan-Mar are the best times to see owls and northern harriers
Mar-Apr is a good time to catch migratory waterfowl in the ponds on the northeast side of the conservancy.

Around April 1st the yellow-headed blackbirds start arriving (no fooling).
Early June is ideal to catch glimpses of the cute, tiny Trumpeter swans cygnets in the Blackbird blind pond.

Mid-to late September is often high count time at the ABC – especially good for sparrow species.



The ABC is privately owned and operated and relies on volunteers. The trails and parking lot are wonderfully maintained by Donnie and Rich, the area around the parking lot mowed by Byron, invasive maintenance assistance provided by Mike, Sarah, Tim and Gene and birding guide service by Aaron and Mike. Thanks also to John for two Leopold benches (pic at left of one of them). Thanks to everyone who chips in, including those offering words of encouragement!

If you have any skills to offer or ideas of things to do to enhance the ABC experience, please reach out.

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DOG Restrictions



April 15th – August 31st
NO DOGS ALLOWED

September 1st – April 14th
DOGS ALLOWED
ONLY ON LEASH NOT TO EXCEED 8 FEET

All Dog Poop Must Be Picked Up & Removed from Conservancy

Thank you!

Cute, well-behaved and smart dresser English Cream Golden Retriever seeking star role in full length, big budget movies featuring squirrels.

Also, any errors in species identification, spelling, etc. in this newsletter are mine alone. The dog had nothing to do with that. He didn't eat my first draft.