

## Adam Birding Conservancy

1702 Findlay Rd, Whitewater, WI

**2018 Year in Review**

2 February 19

[www.adamconservancy.com](http://www.adamconservancy.com)



### Greetings and Happy World Wetlands Day!

Same format as the last two years with updated content and pictures.

*This newsletter is going out to members of the ABC Club and others who have been involved in the progress of the Adam Birding Conservancy.*

### *Top 5 Accomplishments in 2018*

1. **The first Natural Resources Foundation field trip at the ABC was held on May 12th.** The signature yellow-headed blackbirds were in abundance and attendees got to experience the interactive app "Strive On" which provides pictures, text and audio clips of the animals and plants on the hikes along with some history of the property.
2. **The ABC hosted a Bird Blitz on September 22<sup>nd</sup> that featured a surprise visit by a large flock of broad-winged hawks.** We also picked some seed that was spread this winter in the western edge of the upland prairie and guests partook in Kombocho kombucha and Fort Atkinson's own Sunshine Burgers.
3. **A rusty patched bumble bee was spotted at the ABC by UW—Madison researchers this summer.** This endangered species must have felt like it was at the AYCE Ponderosa buffet as the sweet clover, one year after the burn, was obnoxiously prolific.
4. **A new gravel pull-off parking area is in place to the south by drumlin hill.** Watch for more signage later in 2019. A big thanks to neighbor **Rich Rozelle** for maintaining the paths!
5. **Habitat management continues,** but it was a very wet year that hindered progress. The cottonwoods by the northwest fen were gurdled and the canopy crowding out the larger bur oaks is being opened (thanks to **Walter, Zach, Sarah, Tim & Mike**). The sweet clover won out...I could not keep up.

### *Looking Ahead to 2019*

1. With the help of neighbor Rich Rozelle, we hope to put up a **second Wildlife Viewing Blind facing east by the big ponds in the southeast section.** Thanks to **Cody Watson and his students** at Whitewater High School for the construction and for Rich and others who will help install it.
2. **UW-Whitewater and UW-Madison professors and their students** continue to use the ABC for research and for projects. Check out the website and Facebook posts for ongoing updates.
3. **Mark your calendars for another Natural Resources Foundation field trip on May 4<sup>th</sup> and a bird blitz on October 5<sup>th</sup>.** Several Saturday morning workdays will also be offered in partnership with The Prairie Enthusiasts.
4. **Continuing to focus on habitat management...**which including more targeted invasive work. Sweet clover, Canada thistle, buckthorn re-growth, sand willows, wild parsnip, narrow-leaf cattails and small patches of Phragmites are the priority. The silver maples on the west property line may also be cut to reduce their spread in the upland prairie.



Ruddy Ducks



Geese at sunrise



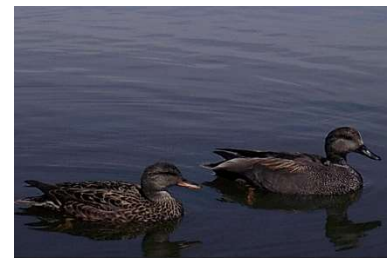
## Birds....

Aaron Stutz documented ten new birds in 2018, bringing the total to 186 species and retaining the fourth hottest E-Bird spot in Jefferson County despite having half the checklists of the other leading sites in the area. New sightings included:

1. Broad-Winged Hawk
2. Black-Throated Green Warbler
3. Mute Swan
4. Least Bittern
5. Philadelphia Vireo
6. Virginia Rail
7. Henslow Sparrow
8. Common Merganser
9. Purple Finch
10. Red-Breasted Nuthatch



Bobolink



Pair of Gadwalls



Shooting Star transplanted at the ABC from remnant prairie in Foxconn's path



Dragonfly

## Plants...

The State of Wisconsin allowed several prairie people like me to remove plants like Shooting Stars from the encroachment of Foxconn's development in Racine County. I brought a car full of dirt and plants back and put them in the Upland Prairie area.

## A Big Thanks...

We recognized some of the many volunteers this November using Facebook and the [www.adamconservancy.com](http://www.adamconservancy.com) site. Please Like us on Facebook or check the website in the Latest News tab for more details.



Aaron birding on the path at the edge of the woods



A yellow-headed blackbird seen from the first wildlife blind.



Mark Martin found a live northern pike on the rocks trying to jump from the ditch creek to the west dike pond. It lived!



Pelican in the west dike pond.



Thanks to Sarah & Tim for the Leopold bench that overlooks the sunrises to the east from the woods

## *How You Can Help*

👍 Please contact me if you are interested in removing invasive plants or have other areas where your time and talents could be of use to maintain and better the ABC.

👍 Most of all, please enjoy the property and be good to the animals, plants and people you encounter on the trail!

**Thanks for your interest and for the help and support you provide to the ABC. Stay in touch!**

**Dave Adam**

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