



# Adam Birding Conservancy

1636 Findlay Rd, Whitewater, WI

## 2019 Year in Review

20 January 20

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



**This annual update is coming out in advance of World Wetlands Day on February 2nd**

*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.*

### What Happened in 2019?

1. **2019 proved a year where the “wet” trumped the “lands” in wetlands.** Made it hard to get stuff done and made most farmers’ fields impromptu Airbnb’s for birds of all stripes and sizes. That made the ABC a little less birdy than normal.
2. **An additional path was added by neighbor Rich Rozelle, enabling the Inner Peace trail loop to be fully prairie and woods without an on-road stretch from the parking lot.** This path hits the highlights of prairie & plants, blinds & birds and woods & water.
3. **The second Natural Resources Foundation field trip at the ABC was held on May 4th.** The signature yellow-headed blackbirds were available, though more shy than last year.
4. **We updated signage at both the parking lot and the large sign leading to the dike path and put in a boot scrapper.**
5. WE Energies installed a **second osprey nest** build be Bruce Eshelman. Rich also installed **another ten wood duck boxes.**
6. We **aged the 12 foot circumference oak/bur oak (“Old Abe”)** in the woods (only 150 years old!) **and continued to clear the canopy in the woods for the big oaks and hickories.** Also have improved the drumlin hill by the parking lot with the help of Gene Ott.
7. Byron did a late Dec cut & bale of 20 acres of prairie for his cows. We will see how the forbes and grasses respond next year.

### Looking Ahead to 2020

1. **In partnership with The Prairie Enthusiasts and UW-Whitewater, we aim to coordinate a burn of the upland prairie next spring.** The idea is to give students exposure to prairie burns, hopefully grow the volunteer base for other TPE burns and improve the ABC habitat.
2. Is the third year a charm? **Hopefully with some help and dry weather, we will add a berm to the path to the east ponds to allow the second wildlife blind to be installed** on elevated, dry ground.
3. **The third annual Natural Resources Foundation field trip will take place on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.** A few Saturday morning workdays will also be offered in partnership with The Prairie Enthusiasts.
4. **Continuing to focus on habitat management...**Sweet clover, Canada thistle, buckthorn re-growth, sand willows, wild parsnip, narrow-leaf cattails and small patches of Phragmites continue to be the priority.
5. Two 2020 ABC moonshots – we may work on restoring one of the property’s fens and may use recently found hops on the property to brew a PIPA (Prairie IPA).

### Birds....

Seven new birds were ID in 2019, bringing the total to 192 species and retaining the fourth hottest E-Bird spot in Jefferson County. New sightings included:

1. Barred Owl
2. Red-Breasted Merganser
3. American Woodcock
4. Black-and-White Warbler
5. Prothonotary Warbler
6. Cackling Goose
7. Snow Goose



Merganser



Liesl captured a great shot of this bee. Lots of pollinators!

### A Big Thanks...

Falling off my roof this spring (fracturing my shoulder blade) was a good excuse to hire out the invasive weed control work. In addition, the ABC received help from **Walter, Zach, Sarah, Tim, Mike, Josh, Gerhard, Theresa, Gene, Chris, Brian, Elvira and Tom** on work in the woods, on **Rich and Byron** for trail management & field mowing and **Liesl** with bluebird box monitoring.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Natural Resources Foundation field trip drew a full crowd in May.



Sandhill on ice.





Barred owl stuck around well after bar time.



Though the new blind isn't up yet, this critter enjoys the parts awaiting install.



Purple Prairie Clover in fall



New parking lot put in over the winter with additional trail signage.



Pelicans on the Bark River in spring.



The "dirt" path leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> blind install spot overlooking the east ponds. It was saturated for all of spring and fall and part of summer.



Juvenile pheasants on the ABC main sign this summer.



A Monarch butterfly perches on a patch of Ironweed.



WE Energies hung a second osprey nest on the dike path this winter. Still no ospreys.

### ***How You Can Help***

- 👍 Please contact me if you are interested in habitat maintenance, enjoy website or social media work or have other areas where your time and talents could be of use to maintain and better the ABC.
- 👍 Let me know if you have groups interested in touring the ABC or ways to promote its greater enjoyment.
- 👍 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!**

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