



Photos courtesy of Tom Belzer



The City of Fort Atkinson was designated as a Bird City of Wisconsin in March, 2016. In order to receive this designation, the City of Fort Atkinson had to meet several criteria. Bird City is a program that encourages cities to recognize how birds can enhance their community.

For more information on the City's application for the Bird City designation, visit www.birdcitywisconsin.org/Applications/Fort%20Atkinson.pdf . You may also view information on the Bird City program at www.birdcitywisconsin.org. Below are resources for more information on birding.

1. FORT ATKINSON AREA BIRDING RESOURCES:

- Facebook Groups
 - [Friends of Rose Lake](#)
 - [Jefferson County \(WI\) Birders](#)
 - [Wisconsin Birding](#)
 - [Birding Wisconsin](#)
- Birding Organizations
 - [Friends of Rose Lake](#)
 - [Madison Audubon](#)
 - [Wisconsin Society for Ornithology](#)

2. CONTROL AND REMOVAL OF INVASIVE VEGETATION

- **Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program:** Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas.
- **Wild About Gardening:** This website is all about gardening for wildlife. You'll learn how to plan your garden to meet both your needs and that of the wildlife you wish to attract.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Services:** Information on Backyard Conservation and Wildlife Habitat techniques.

- [WDNR's invasive species site](#): Comprehensive site with information about invasive species laws and policies, types of invasives, reporting invasives, etc.

3. FORT ATKINSON BIRDING AND OTHER NATURE-BASED RESOURCES

- [Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail](#): The Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail is a mapped auto trail that reaches into every area of the state. Full-color viewing guides with maps and descriptions of every site leads the nature traveler to warblers, shorebirds, eagles, loons, cranes and all manner of mammals found in some of the state's premier wildlife venues.

The Fort Atkinson Area has two Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail sites:

[#32. The Hoard Historical Museum](#)

[#34. Dorothy Carnes County Park & Rose Lake State Natural Area](#)

- [Wisconsin Important Bird Areas](#): An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site that provides essential habitat to one or more species of breeding or non-breeding birds. Whenever possible, IBAs should be large enough to supply all or most of the requirements of the bird(s) during the season for which it is important.

The Fort Atkinson area has one Important Bird Area: Greater Lake Koshkonong

4. LIMITING OR REMOVING HAZARDS TO BIRDS

- [Benefits of keeping cats indoors](#)
 - [American Bird Conservancy](#): Cats Indoors! Seeks to educate cat owners, decision makers and the general public that free-roaming cats pose a significant risk to birds and other wildlife, suffer themselves, and pose a threat to human health.
 - [Preventing Window Collisions](#)

5. HOW TO CREATE BACKYARD BIRD HABITAT

- [Wild Ones](#): Is a great resource on how to birdscape your backyard with native species.
- [Beyond the Birdfeeder](#): Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants: learn about the best native trees, shrubs vines, wildflowers, and grasses for birds.

- [Natural Resources Conservation Services:](#) Information on Backyard Conservation and Wildlife Habitat techniques.
- [Cornell's Urban Gardening for Birds:](#) Aimed at city dwellers, this site has resources for providing food, shelter, water, and nest sites for birds in urban settings.
- [How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds:](#) A manual for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee on habitats and food resources important to birds, and how you can help.