

TradMaD 2026 Bioblitz Summary

Many thanks to all who joined us in tracking the biodiversity of Pinewoods Camp in 2026 during TradMaD using [iNaturalist](#).

In those 6 days, our 12 observers made a whopping 937 observations compared to 634 in 2025 and the total number of species was 365 compared to 279 last year. Wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chris Jacobs was our leading observer with 324 observations/226 species, with Ann Schunior in second place with 223 observations/100 species. The Orange-tipped Oakworm Moth caterpillar and Striped Wintergreen topped the list with both being observed by 11 participants. But 218 of the observations were only observed by individuals, highlighting the fact that every observation counts!

As was true last year, most observations were plants, with 178 species observed (compared to 157 in 2025), followed by insects, with 81 species observed (compared to 65 in 2025). Click [here](#) to see all the data if you are interested in learning more.

Among the rarer species identified this year were, from left to right: American Bur-Reed (s. Chris Jacobs), a Brown Angle Shades (s. Ann Schunior), and a Pale Green Assassin Bug (s. Heidi Slaney).



Started as a joint initiative between the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, [iNaturalist](#) is a platform for science and conservation efforts, providing valuable open data to research projects as well as to the public. It's also lots of fun!

If you do not already use iNaturalist, we encourage you to try it out to help you identify the plants and animals you see on your own nature walks. It's a great way to learn more about your own environment while also contributing your findings to a world-wide database.

Just visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/home> and sign up. It will open a whole new world, I promise! And that way, you'll be prepared to join us in the 2027 TradMaD Bioblitz, August 28 - Sept 3.

Suzanne Mrozak (suzanne@smrozak.com)

Related Resources

Recording of the **Photography 101: Here's how to take great photos with your phone that can be used for science** event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8IA8zCF558>

Photography 101 Powerpoint presentation: https://media.scistarter.org/curated/2023-06-21/2023-06-20_SciStarter_LIVE_Nature_Photos_mini-training.pdf

Nature Photography book recommendations: [https://media.scistarter.org/curated/2023-06-20/Nature Photography Booklist.docx.pdf](https://media.scistarter.org/curated/2023-06-20/Nature_Photo%20graphy_Booklist.docx.pdf)

Visit **Damon Tighe's** iNaturalist profile to see expert observation examples: <https://www.inaturalist.org/people/3494>

Visit the Global Entomology Coalition for more info on insects: <https://www.entomologycoalition.org/>

Damon's Favorite Cheap Tools & Hacks. Librarians: Consider ways to customize the Exploring Biodiversity citizen science kit (<https://scistarter.org/citizen-science-kit-exploring-biodiversity>) with these materials: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/nq1lqwjs42sde66qz811w/Damon-s-favorite-cheap-tools-and-hacks.ppt?rlkey=kgxe3sxexg6pba2ehommfn99b&e=1&dl=0>

Examples of projects that would love your nature photos

- iNaturalist: Join a project from anywhere in the world, such as Fungal Diversity Survey (<https://scistarter.org/fundis>) & Never Home Alone (<https://scistarter.org/never-home-alone-the-wild-life-of-our-homes>)
- eBird (<https://scistarter.org/ebird>)
- ISeeChange (<https://scistarter.org/Affiliates/iseechange-Affiliates>)

Looking for more? Use the SciStarter Project Finder (<https://scistarter.org/finder?projects=true&longitude=-71.05654&latitude=42.35551&active=true>) and refer to the “task” in each project page to determine if you will be practicing your new photography knowledge.

(source: [SciStarter](https://scistarter.org))