

Birdathon Instructions for New Teams or Individual Birders

Background

The Birdathon, which was initiated in 1995, became the principal fundraiser for our scholarship program in 2013 and is an important fundraiser for the general fund. It is based on Cornell's Global Big Day of Birding, where in early May, people around the world record the birds they sight in a 24 period. Birdathon provides Whidbey Audubon with a spring species count.

How to

1. Team leaders form a team. If you register your team on our webpage, we will include you under "teams" so people can pledge you directly!
2. Team members collect pledges per species or a flat donation from friends, family, co-workers, businesses... (downloadable form on website).
3. In early May during peak bird migration, the team goes out over a 24 hour period, anywhere on Whidbey Island and surrounding waters, recording all **species** of birds they identify (generally over the first weekend in May so we can share findings at the May Audubon meeting).
4. Team leaders and members collect any pledges and donations that weren't submitted on-line, and get them to the Birdathon Coordinator (not the Treasurer).
5. Results for number of species and money earned per team will be announced in Shorelines and on the web site, and business donors are recognized in the September newsletter. The team observing the most species will obtain possession of the Golden Binoculars Trophy for the next year, and the team bringing in the most money will receive the Bronze Owl Bank.

Pledges and Donations

New on our website this year are downloadable forms for recording pledges (specific amount for each species seen) and donations, a receipt form that may be filled out for each contributor, and the latest Whidbey Audubon bird species checklist. **Please have the donor specify what their pledge or donation is for - scholarship, general fund, or both.** If they write you a check, they can put this info directly on it. As pledges and donations are received, please provide the Coordinator with a copy of the pledge/donation list, and any monies received. Please collect all funds before the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

Birding Guidelines

Location and duration: bird observations are limited to birds seen on or from Whidbey Island and surrounding waters. Each team may record birds observed for 24 hours following the start time, anytime in May, though generally the first week.

Team size: the team should be limited to the # of people who can fit in one vehicle, as the team stays together during the day. Individual team members may record owls and other species seen pre-dawn or post dusk at their homes or on the way to the meeting point.

Species identification: sightings and bird calls count. Dead birds do not count.

Species names: please use the **current** Whidbey Audubon checklist to record your species.

Other lists will be accepted, though makes it more complicated.

This facilitates the compilation of the master list.

Submit the list to the Coordinator as soon as possible, as a preliminary announcement will be made at the May Audubon meeting.

Species not on the Whidbey Audubon checklist: if you spot a vagrant or rare bird, try to have another team member confirm it. Record it at the end of the list.