



# BIRDATHON

## Amos Butler Audubon Society Birdathon Team Guidelines

### Birdathon Donations

The ABAS Birdathon is an event with the purpose of raising funds to benefit our central Indiana migratory and breeding birds. **Teams are required to develop a sponsor list with at least five additional sponsors and collect a minimum of \$100 in donations.** Your own donation counts toward your total. It is very important that complete mailing addresses be supplied for each sponsor. If the sponsor is agreeable, ask for an email address as well. This information will only be used by ABAS for the purposes such as mailing a solicitation brochure, a thank you report, and an invitation to the Birdathon Celebration for those donating \$100 or more. Each team member is responsible for collecting the donations from their sponsors. All donations should be sent to the Birdathon Chair at the ABAS PO Box by June 15.

### The Big Day Event Species Count Rules

#### All Teams:

All teams are required to follow the Birding Code of Ethics provided by the ABAS Birdathon chair.

All Big Day species counts must be conducted between the official dates of April 15 to May 31.

The count must be conducted within the state of Indiana and during a single, contiguous 24-hour period. This 24-hour period can span two calendar days.

Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestricted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs, ornamental waterfowl, and or escaped birds cannot be counted.

All donations must be collected and sent to the ABAS Birdathon chair at the ABAS PO Box by June 15th.

#### Species-Count Competitive Teams:

Two or more participants constitute a team. Birds must be identified by at least two team members. All team members must stay within hearing distance of each other at all times. Individuals may participate on more than one team.

Birds may be identified by either sight or sound.

The official species count list is Don Gorney's Checklist of Indiana Birds provided by the Birdathon chair.

A preliminary count should be emailed to the Birdathon chair (croberts356@marian.edu) within one week following the team's Big Day event.

- The results of teams desiring to compete using American Birding Association (ABA) rules will be accepted by the Birdathon as the ABA rules are more stringent than the ABAS rules.

Scouting locations a day or two before the event may increase your chances of success. Experienced team members are always willing to provide tips on timing, routes, and birding hot spots.

### Birdathon Thank You Report

Teams who raise \$100 or more per member are asked submit a brief report of their event. It should be 200 to 300 words and provide a team photo. This report should include highlights of the day, humorous happenings, the date, number of species seen, and a thank you to the team's sponsors. Reports are due to the Birdathon chair by June 30. These reports will be included in a thank you brochure sent to everyone who has made a donation to the ABAS Birdathon.

## **Birdathon Celebration Party**

All team members, volunteers and major donors (\$100 or more) will be invited to and honored at a Birdathon celebration party. The party has most recently been held on a Sunday afternoon at the Eagle's Crest in Eagle Creek Park in late summer. A brunch will be provided. Team members and volunteers who have raised \$100 or more by actively soliciting five or more pledges will receive special recognition. A silent auction will be held at the party giving guests the opportunity to bid on a variety of items.

## **For More Information Contact**

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