

Sacajawea Audubon 2011 Birdathon

Saturday, May 14 – Sunday, June 19, 2011

Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time to call your favorite birders and register your birdathon team. Sacajawea Audubon Birdathon Committee would like to announce our 2011 Birdathon.

How does a Birdathon Work?

A Birdathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of collecting pledges per mile walked, you spend a great spring day outdoors with fellow birders, scanning skies, trees, shrubs, fields and water - even your backyard feeder - for birds. The challenge is to identify as many bird species as possible within a 24 hour period from May 14 – June 19, 2011. You collect pledges per bird species and the money raised benefits Southwestern Montana birds and other wildlife.

To add to the fun - by participating you could win prizes and awards. Check-out the Birdathon Rules and Prize & Award information sheets in the Birdathon Kit you can find online at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org or call 406 600-6666.

How Can You Participate in the Birdathon?

Participation is easier: You don't have to be an expert - some people even do Birdathons by counting the visitors to their feeder. Others cover dozens of miles in a day, racking up over 100 species. The key to Birdathon is to have fun!

- **Join a Team**
Contact the Birdathon Committee, we have birdathon teams that would love for you to join them. Even if you can't tell a goose from a grouse, we can teach you how. We also, have celebrity birder teams.
- **Form a Team**
Get a few of your birding friends together and schedule a 24 hour period to go birding. Contact us for a Birdathon Kit and register your team by May 2, 2011 for the 'Early Bird' drawing. *(see registration form for details)*
- **Take a Business "Bird Break"**
Trade in your briefcase for binoculars, grab co-workers and count birds on your lunch hour! Contact us for more information on getting your business involved in Sacajawea Birdathon - becoming an event sponsor, creating a company team, or specific levels and benefits of event sponsorship,
- **Be a Backyard Birder**
Gather pledges and watch birds in your neighborhood park, or at your own backyard feeder. Compete for our "Sitting Duck" award. Contact us or go online at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org for a Birdathon Kit.
- **Sponsor a Team Member**

The Birdathon Committee has maps, field guides, fundraising tips, and plenty of experience to share. Contact us at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org or 600-6666.

2011 Birdathon Key Dates

May 9 -	Early Bird Registration ends.
May 9 -	Sacajawea Annual Meeting
May 14 -	First Day of Birdathon
June 19 -	Last Day of Birdathons
June 20 -	Team Reports and Pledge Forms Due
June 30 -	Birdathon Award & Celebration Party

Register your team by May 9, 2011 for the 'Early Bird' drawing.
(see registration form for details)

Awards & Prizes Categories

Early Bird Prize Drawing

Register your team by May 9, 2011 and all team members will be entered into the drawing.

Win a Full Conference Registration to Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Glasgow, MT June 3-5, 2011.

Prize includes: field trips, Friday social, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner banquet and Sunday breakfast. **Prize a \$110 value.**



Our Many Prizes Range from a Nikon Scope to Field Guides – check out our website for more details

Most Species Identified: This award recognizes the team that identifies the most species in a 24-hour period. All members of the team must see or hear 95% of the birds reported.

Most Money Raised: This award recognizes the team that raises the highest total dollar amount in donations.

Most Pledges Collected: This award recognizes the team that solicits the highest number of individual pledges.

Best Bird Award: This award recognizes the team that records the "best" bird as determined by an outside judge. This could be a rare bird for a specific habitat or a bird that is difficult to find in its habitat.

Sacajawea Audubon Award: This award recognizes the team that sees the most Flickers on their Birdathon Day.

Montana Audubon Award: This award recognizes the team that see the most Magpies on their Birdathon Day

Important Bird Area (IBA) Sighting Award: This award recognizes the team that observes the most bird species in a Montana IBA. The Team Report submitted must indicate on which IBA the birds were seen.

Sitting Duck Award: This award is given to the team whose members identify the highest number of species while staying within an imaginary circle 100 feet in diameter during their count.

Carbon Neutral Award: This award is given to the team who is the most energy efficient or the smallest carbon footprint.

Mentor Award - Each Team Leader that has a new "Rookie" on their Birdathon team will be entered for a prize drawing.

Rookie Award: If you're new to birdwatching you will be eligible for a drawing for prizes at the awards celebration

Sacajawea Birdathon –

- the most fun you'll ever have helping to protect Southwest Montana's natural heritage.

For Birdathon Kit or more information:

www.Sacajaweaaudubon.org or
contact Loreene Reid at loreener@yahoo.com or 600-6666.



Sacajawea Audubon Birdathon 2011 Rules

Prepared by the Birdathon Committee

Dates and Deadlines:

- Early Bird Team Registration due **Monday, May 2, 2011**
- Birdathon Competition Dates: **Saturday, May 14, 2011– Sunday, June 19, 2011**
- Deadline for Team Reports and Pledge Sheets: **Monday, June 20, 2011.**

Birdathon Objectives:

The Sacajawea Audubon Birdathon is a team effort with the following objectives:

1. Raise money for Sacajawea Audubon's annual fund. All contributions will be used in support of Sacajawea Audubon's mission to promote the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife habitat.
2. Identify as many bird species as possible during a single 24-hour period;
3. Expand community involvement and increase public awareness of birds and birding in Montana

Birdathon Rules:

Participating teams must abide by the following rules in order to be eligible for Awards:

1. Two or more participants constitute a team. Birds must be identified by at least two team members. For teams consisting of only two members, both must see each bird.
2. All team members must stay within hearing distance of one another during their count, and make every reasonable effort to ensure all team members either see or hear each species counted by the team.
3. Count must be conducted within a contiguous 24-hour period.
4. Birds can be identified either by sight or sound.
5. Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestrained, including those attracted by tape-recorders and/or feeders. Birds observed by artificial light may be counted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds. Neither ornamental waterfowl nor escaped cage birds can be counted.
6. Count only full species as indicated by Birdathon recognized checklists:
A copy of an approved checklist can be found in the Birdathon kit and on the Sacajawea Audubon website.
7. Birds identified as one of a species group (e.g. Lesser/Greater Scaup, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, etc.) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.
8. Any information regarding bird sightings received prior to the count day may be used during the count.
9. To compete for prizes, each team member must contribute \$50. (*You can donate yourself or ask your friends and family to support your birdathon*)
- 10 Team reports and pledge sheets must be submitted to Sacajawea Audubon Birdathon committee by **Monday, June 20, 2011.**

Ethics:

Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times. Participants must abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations and observe local rules banning the use of tape recordings. A copy of the ***American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics*** is located in your Birdathon Kit and on the Sacajawea Audubon website.



Birdathon

Pledge Tracking Sheet

Team Member: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone _____

Team Leader: _____ Team Name: _____

	Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	E-mail	Pledge Amount	Gift Received?	
									Yes	No
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
							Total – This Sheet:			

Team Member: Please complete this form, attach any checks received, and return to:
 Sacajawea Audubon, Loreene Reid, PO Box 1711 Bozeman, MT 59771
 by **Monday, June 20th, 2011**. Pledges received after this deadline will **not** be eligible for prizes.

Thank you for participating in this important fundraising event for Sacajawea Audubon!

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS
from the American Birding Association

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care. Each individual in a group, in addition to the obligation spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness any unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities

(Amateur and professional trips and tours)

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the area being visited (e.g., no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.