

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.