



# Great Wisconsin Birdathon

*"It's so much fun to come together with friends to help birds."*  
 • 2017 Participant



*Nich Anich of Lake Superior eBirders scores a Dunlin*

*The Greatest Wisconsin Birdathon Ever!*

## More than \$90,000 raised for bird conservation

For the second year in a row, the Great Wisconsin Birdathon has smashed its fundraising goal! Forty-nine teams of birders, 796 donors from 35 states, and 29 birding field trips raised more than \$90,000 for the priority projects of the Bird Protection Fund.

### SIGNATURE TEAM TOTALS

Cutright's Old Coots	153 species	\$10,350
Lake Superior eBirders	171 species	\$ 6,300
Lower Wisconsin Scan da Avians	121 species	\$ 5,350
Finch Gang	91 species	\$ 3,500
WYBC Teen Birders	141 species	\$ 1,226
Secretary Birds	190 species	\$ 1,225

### Signature Teams lead the way

This year we had some new Signature Teams, our high-profile birders and fundraisers, and they did not disappoint, bringing in hundreds of birds and thousands of dollars. Veteran Birdathon Team Cutright's Old Coots were the event's top fundraisers this year.

### So many ways to bird



*River Raptors on the Fox River.*

Birders statewide found creative ways to Birdathon. The eight sub-teams of River Raptors kayaked Wisconsin's rivers from the Manitowish to the Lower Sugar, and from the Kinnikinnic to the West Twin. The Goss Hawks of the Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club "Walked the Wauk" along the Ice Age Trail in Waukesha County, while the Noel J. Cutright Bird Club "Walked in the Parks" of Ozaukee County. The Presidential rEgrets and Peddling Pewees biked the roads and trails of Dane County, and Bill Mueller's Backpacking Birders even pulled an all-nighter on the trails of the Kettle Moraine!



*Presidential rEgrets biking Dane County.*

## Young teams bring home the birds

Young birders are nothing new to the Birdathon, but this year we had two teams celebrating their generations' commitment to conservation: Millennial Falcons, a team of young professionals, and the Teen Birders, our newest Signature team representing the Wisconsin Young Birders' Club. Who says birding isn't hip?



Millennial Falcons



WYBC Teen Birders

## Rarities and other cool birds

- Lark bunting (MuirLand Merlins)
- Red-throated Loon (Lake Superior eBirders)
- Brewster's warbler (Up North Hammerheads)
- Red-headed and pileated woodpeckers (several teams)
- Worm-eating Warbler (River Raptors)
- Cerulean warbler (several teams)
- Piping plover (Secretary Birds)
- Whooping crane (several teams)
- Kirtland's warbler (Lake Superior eBirders)

## Organizational teams take home \$11,000

Two dozen environmental organizations and Bird Cities fielded Birdathon teams that raised \$22,000, half of which returned to the organizations for their own conservation and education projects.

Contact us for information on how your school or club can raise money through the Birdathon.

## Special birding Field Trips bring new experiences

This year the Natural Resources Foundation offered a wide variety of new birding experiences for all skill levels and budgets. Foundation members were treated to hummingbird banding at Pheasant Branch Conservancy, shorebirds and waterbirds of Cat Island, "wings and wine" at Wollersheim Winery, snowy owls and golden eagles in western Wisconsin, and even a wood duckling jump at Horicon Marsh. Trip fees generated \$20,000 in donations for the Bird Protection Fund.



Wood ducklings jumping into the great unknown.



Birding on Cat Island in Door County.

### TOP FIVE FUNDRAISING TEAMS

Indigo Girls and Guys	\$9,500
River Raptors	\$4,000
Presidential rEgrets	\$3,158
Baraboo Rangers	\$3,010
NLDC Up North Hammerheads	\$2,605

### TOP FIVE BIRDING TEAMS

MuirLand Merlins and Obi Gray and the Chewbacalacas, tied at 170 species
River Raptors, 165 species
Lower Chippewa River Titmouseketeers, 144 species
Chequamegon Robbins, 129 species
Goss Hawks, 118 species

### MOST FUN TEAM NAMES

Lower Wisconsin Scan Da Avians
Millennial Falcons
Gone Pishin'
Goss Hawks
Chequamegon (Sam) Robbins

## Ten Priority Projects to benefit

The Natural Resources Foundation, Wisconsin DNR, and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative selected 10 projects to receive these funds, including three new ones.

■ **New projects:** Bird conservation and monitoring in the Peruvian Amazon, colonial waterbird monitoring in east-central Wisconsin, and waterbird and waterfowl monitoring on Lake Michigan. ■ **Returning projects:** the Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler project and Whooping Crane Reintroduction Project for stewardship of endangered species; Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II and Wisconsin Bird Monitoring Program to further our knowledge of Wisconsin's birds; and Osa Conservation, Bird City Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Stopover Initiative, that engage citizens and communities to protect birds in Wisconsin and abroad. ■ **Project descriptions** can be found at <http://www.wisconsinconservation.org/how-we-work/bird-protection-fund/>

Thanks to our partners and generous 2017 sponsors

