



Great Wisconsin Birdathon

"It's so much fun to come together with friends to help birds."

• 2017 Participant

**\$87,000
for the
birds!**

In the seventh year of the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, 43 teams found 235 species of birds, while 700 donors from 31 states (and Australia!) and 24 fundraising Field Trips raised over \$87,000 for bird conservation and research in Wisconsin and beyond.

Emily Weber

The Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Banding Buntings banded birds as part of their Birdathon.

SIGNATURE TEAM TOTALS

Cutright's Old Coots	156 species	\$12,553
Finch Gang	109 species	\$4,428
Lake Superior eBirders	163 species	\$6,346
Obi Gray & the Chewbacalacas	165 species	\$1,110
Scan da Avians	125 species	\$4,575
Secretary Birds	195 species	\$1,445

Signature Teams break records

They're our birding and fundraising champions! The Cutright's Old Coots raised over \$12,000, a Birdathon team record, and the Secretary Birds found 195 species, their highest count.

Records and "firsts" for the Birdathon

■ The MuirLand Merlins broke their species record with 181 ■ The Happy Hummers spent their 10th wedding anniversary birding from their living room window and along the bike path on the way to their celebration dinner ■ The Wausau nutcrackers found the first Birdathon Snowy Owl ■ Team Grus Americana came from their homes in Illinois to participate in the Birdathon ■ Our first business team, Rutabaga Paddlesports joined the River Raptors, birding the Yahara River.

Making the Birdathon a tradition

A special shout-out to the teams that have been with the Birdathon since the early years:

- Cutright's Old Coots
- Baraboo Rangers
- Finch Gang
- Biblioloons
- Foundation Flamingos
- Faville Funky Flycatchers
- Horicon Marsh Wrens
- Mequon Nature Preserve
- Lake Superior eBirders
- MuirLand Merlins
- Lower Chippewa Titmouseketeers
- Reckless Wrens
- Mazomanie Mavens
- Wausau Bird Nerds

The Wausau Nutcrackers found the first Birdathon Snowy Owl at Buena Vista grasslands.

Myles Huriburt

Fledging new flocks of birders

The youngest team ever, Mr. Dargatz's Nature Kindergarten used the Birdathon as a service learning project. The kids were able to identify 30 species at the end of their birding unit. The MadTown Peeps, a team of moms and their chicks, found 28 species (and ice cream) in Madison's lakefront parks. A little older and wiser, the Millennial Falcons returned for their second Birdathon to break the century mark with 101 species.



Kim Krettinger

MadTown Peeps



Cait Williamson

Millennial Falcons

Meeting the green birding challenges

The Carbon-free Coulee Cuckoo, a solo birder on a Green Big Day mission, biked 68 miles over 17 hours to find 123 species in La Crosse County. Meanwhile, the fleet of nine River Raptor teams canoed and kayaked rivers from the Bois Brule and Kinnickinnic to the Yahara and the West Twin, finding 160 species and raising over \$6,000!



Sherry Christensen



Karen Weiss

River Raptors on land and on the river.

A "birder's dozen" best birds:

- Snowy Owl (Wausau Nutcrackers)
- White-faced Ibis (MuirLand Merlins)
- Hudsonian Godwit (Obi Gray, W-Arb-ling Vireos)
- American Golden-Plover (Secretary Birds)
- Least Bittern (Coulee Cuckoo)
- Whooping Crane (several teams)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (eBirders)
- Greater Prairie Chicken (MuirLand Merlins)
- Bell's Vireo (Biblioloons)
- Kirtland's Warbler (eBirders)
- Cerulean Warbler (Scan da Avians)
- Kentucky Warbler (Scan da Avians)
- Summer Tanager (River Raptors)
- LeConte's Sparrow (eBirders)

Organizations take home \$9,000

Nineteen teams from 15 conservation organizations raised \$18,000, half of which goes back to their local projects, including birdhouses, prairie stewardship, Red-shouldered Hawk telemetry, and more! Contact us for information on how your school or club can raise money through the Birdathon.

TOP FIVE FUNDRAISING TEAMS

River Raptors	\$6,218
Up North Hammerheads	\$3,170
W-Arb-ling Vireos	\$3,003
Baraboo Rangers	\$2,720
Crane-spotting Nuthatchers	\$2,395

TOP FIVE BIRDING TEAMS

MuirLand Merlins	181 species
River Raptors	160 species
W-Arb-ling Vireos	158 species
Walks in the Parks	150 species
Wausau Nutcrackers	141 species

Eight priority projects to benefit

■ **New projects:** Endangered tern and Piping Plover conservation and management; neotropical flyways Central American stopover site project. ■ **Returning projects:** Bird City Wisconsin, Kirtland's Warbler conservation, Whooping Crane reintroduction and outreach, Lake Michigan waterbird research, and Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II.

■ **Project descriptions** can be found at WIBirdathon.org



Erik Bruhke

Thanks to our partners and generous 2018 sponsors

