

# Bedford Audubon

## BIRD-A-THON 2024

**Enjoy peak spring birding while supporting Bedford Audubon's local conservation and education efforts!**

### Weekend Guidelines

Bedford Audubon's Bird-A-Thon is a friendly and informative competition to help you learn more about the birds and conservation needs of our area while you help support Bedford Audubon protect these birds and their habitats. You pick a 24-hour period between 12:01am on Friday, May 3rd through 3 pm on Sunday, May 5th to identify as many species as possible. Then select the level of competition and geographic range within the NY/NJ/CT tri-state area you want to participate in.

#### Levels of Competition:

All teams should have a minimum of at least three birders

- **Youth (under 18)** - A team consisting of up-and-coming young birders. A minimum of one parent or guardian is required for a team. Prizes awarded for the team(s) with the highest count, best name, most donations raised, and for the youngest birder participating in the event.
- **Adult** - A team consisting of mostly birders over the age of 18. Prizes awarded for the team(s) with the highest count, most donations raised, and for the best name.
- **Audubon Board and Staff** - This category is open to board members and staff of any Audubon chapter, State, and/or National Office. Prizes awarded to the team(s) with the highest count, most donations raised, and for the best name.

#### Geographic Categories:

- **Obsessed Birders** – Everywhere and anywhere in the NY/NJ/CT tri-state region.
- **The Moderate Traveler** – Teams can travel anywhere with the mid to lower Hudson Valley counties of Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, and Ulster, as well as Fairfield County in CT.
- **Big Sit** - This is a team OR individual based competition to see as many birds from a 17-ft diameter circle located anywhere in the state, your backyard, the feeders of your favorite Nature Center, or anywhere you chose.

# Bedford Audubon

## BIRD-A-THON 2024

### General Guidelines

#### Getting Started:

- **Decide if you are forming a team or joining one of Bedford Audubon's teams.**
  - To join a Bedford Audubon team, email [jhannan@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jhannan@bedfordaudubon.org) so we can hook you up with a team.
  - To form your own team, the first step is to decide your team's name. After that, [CLICK HERE](#) to register your team. This is where you'll tell us what time-period, level of competition, and geographic range you are selecting.
- **There is an Entry Fee of \$25 per team.**
- **Collect pledges!** Once your team is registered, you can begin to collect pledges from your friends to raise money based on either the number of species you'll see in your 24-hour period or through a straightforward donation to Bedford Audubon. Pledges can range from 25¢ up right up to hundreds of dollars for each species spotted.
  - You can direct people to the Bird-A-Thon donation page on our website so they can use a credit card to support your team, or
  - Use our pledge form to sign people up and collect pledges. [Download the pledge form>>](#)

#### Let the Fun Begin:

- **Use eBird!** You're required to use eBird for all checklist submissions as it will also provide long-term conservation data while we are enjoying our spring birding. Lists must be shared with Bedford Audubon to be counted toward your team tally.
  - Bedford Audubon's eBird name is BAS-BAT.
  - To share your list with us, please add "Bird-A-Thon and the name-of-your-team" in the comments section of your list so we can credit your team with your checklist results. Please try to share each of your site checklists at least 30 minutes after finishing at that site and then your final list no more than 30 minutes from the end of your 24-hour period.
  - Instructions on how to use eBird as an individual and/or team will be provided to anyone who requests them. Please email [jhannan@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:jhannan@bedfordaudubon.org) for instructions.
- Only birds seen within the geographic category you selected may be counted.
- All birds must be seen or heard during the 24-hour period your team selected. Their identity should be unquestionable, but it is left up to our shared honor system.

# Bedford Audubon

## BIRD-A-THON 2024

- Only accepted ABA birds are countable. Any bird that is not conclusively identified to one bird, but rather a grouping, counts as one species. For example, if you can't tell if it was a Greater Scaup or a Lesser Scaup, then scaup sp. counts as one bird.
- The use of electronic gear or sounds to attract the birds is not allowed. Only pishing and other noises made by the mouth can be used. Merlin, and other apps, can be used to assist in identifying a species but cannot be used as the sole method of identification. This is a friendly competition among humans, not AI apps.
- Rare birds previously undiscovered must be documented by a write-up.
- Teams should, to the best of their ability, always stay together. Teams conducting a Big Sit can work in shifts. No one person needs to be there throughout the whole Big Sit!
- Teams may use outside sources to find out about bird sightings.
- Please maintain a level of ethics when birding. Remember, it's our jobs to help conserve the birds, habitat, and other wildlife we love so much.

### Wrapping Up:

- **Celebrate your team's participation!** Come to a potluck at Bylane Farm at the close of Bird-A-Thon on the afternoon of Sunday, May 5th. Email [info@bedfordaudubon.org](mailto:info@bedfordaudubon.org) to RSVP and let us know if you will bring anything. Prizes will be awarded at this time.
- **Collect those pledges!** Credit card donations can be made on the Bird-A-Thon donation page of our website; checks should be payable to Bedford Audubon.

**Thank you for supporting Bedford Audubon!**