Amos Butler Audubon Society Birdathon Team Guidelines

**Birdathon Pledges**

The Amos Butler Audubon Society (ABAS) Birdathon is an event with the purpose of raising funds to benefit our central Indiana migratory and breeding birds. **Teams are required to develop a sponsor list with at least five additional sponsors and collect pledges with a minimum of $100 in donations** (your own pledge counts toward your $ total). Personalized pledge sheets will be provided upon request from the Birdathon Chair. It is very important that complete mailing addresses be supplied for each sponsor. If the sponsor is agreeable, ask for an email address as well. This information will only be used for the purpose of mailing a solicitation brochure, a thank you report, and an invitation to the Birdathon Celebration (for those donating $100 or more). Each team member is responsible for collecting the pledges from their sponsors. Pledges are to be sent to the Birdathon Chair by June 15.

**The Big Day Event Species Count Rules**

**All Teams:**

- All teams are required to follow the Birding Code of Ethics (provided by the ABAS Birdathon chair).
- All Big Day species counts must be conducted between the official dates of April 15 to May 31.
- The count must be conducted within the state of Indiana and during a single, contiguous 24-hour period (which may span two days).
- Birds must be alive, wild and unrestricted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs, ornamental waterfowl, and or escaped birds can not be counted.
- All pledges must be collected and turned in to ABAS Birdathon chair by June 15th.

**Species-Count Competitive Teams:**

- Two or more participants constitute a team. Birds must be identified by at least two team members. All team members must stay within hearing distance of each other at all times. Individuals may participate on more than one team.
- Birds may be identified by either sight or sound.
- The official species count list is Don Gorney’s Checklist of Indiana Birds (provided by the Birdathon chair).
- A preliminary count should be emailed to the Birdathon chair (mccartydd@sbcglobal.net) within one week following the team’s Big Day event.
- **The results of teams desiring to compete using American Birding Association (ABA) rules will be accepted by the Birdathon as the ABA rules are more stringent than the ABAS rules.**

Scouting areas a day or two before the event may increase your chances of success. Experienced team members are always willing to provide tips on timing, routes, and birding hot spots.

Team expenses (example: gas, food, lodging, car rental) may be paid by ABAS or may be turned in as an in-kind contribution. For expenses to be paid, the team’s fundraising must exceed the cost of expenses. Expenses or in-kind contributions will be reviewed for approval by the Birdathon chair and an executive committee. In-kind contributions will be added the team’s fundraising total, expenses will be deducted.

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Birdathon Thank You Report

Teams who raise $100 or more per member are asked to submit a brief report of their event (200-300 words) and provide a team photo (preferably digital). This report should include highlights of the day, humorous happenings, the date, number of species seen, and a thank you to the team’s sponsors. Reports are due to the Birdathon chair by June 30. These reports will be included in a thank you brochure sent to everyone who has made a donation to the ABAS Birdathon.

Birdathon Celebration Party

All team members, volunteers and major donors will be invited to and honored at a Birdathon celebration party. The party has most recently been held on a Sunday afternoon at the Eagle’s Crest in Eagle Creek Park in late September. A brunch will be provided. Team members and volunteers who have raised $100 or more by actively soliciting five or more pledges will receive special recognition and a gift bag. A silent auction will be held at the party giving guests the opportunity to bid on a variety of items.

For more information, contact:
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