

Cope Environmental Center Birdathon May 7 – May 23, 2021

Rules and Guidelines

Event Sponsored by 

What is a Birdathon? It is like a walkathon or readathon, but instead of counting steps or books, we count birds! It is an opportunity to get outside, learn your birds and help raise funds for Cope Environmental Center. You can recruit sponsors for \$.25, \$.50, \$1.00 or more per bird species you can see between May 7 and May 23, 2021. Your sponsors may also pledge a flat donation for your efforts!

Ways to participate: (Each participant is asked to have at least one sponsor.)

Bird Solo (a team of one): Bird anytime from May 7 to May 23. Walk in your neighborhood, watch at your birdfeeders, search lakes and ponds, drive in your car or go for a hike at places like Cope, Hayes Arboretum, and the parks. You will keep a checklist and seek sponsors who will donate money for each different species of bird you see. (They may also sponsor you with a flat donation.)

Be on a Local Team (Bird within a 100 mile radius of CEC): Same as above but with a maximum of **6 people per team** (Including the captain). Combine your bird counts to see which team can see the most different species of birds. Teams can be families, friends, or co-workers. Compete against other local teams for most species seen and most money raised.

Be on a Distant Team (Bird anywhere in the world!): You will be considered a “Distant” team if you or any of your team members bird outside the 100 mile radius of CEC. You may have team members who bird in any state or country! Still **no more than 6 per team** (including the Captain). Compete with other Distant Teams for most species seen and most money raised.

Team members can bird individually (combining your list with other team members) or in groups. (Please use proper social distancing when in groups - even on trails.) Designate a Team Captain. Name your team! Eagles! Woodpeckers! Bird Brains! Be creative.

This year people will be able to sponsor an individual or the whole team!

Awards:

- Most species seen by an individual (either on a team or as a solo birder)
- Most species seen by a Local Team
- Most species seen by a Distant Team
- Most money raised by a Team anywhere in the world!
- Most money raised by an Individual (either on a team or a solo birder)

A free individual membership will be given to all who pledge \$50 or more!

A free family membership will be given to all who pledge \$75 or more!

We will provide all the tools and instructions you will need in the coming days. (Checklists for beginners, state checklists, sign-up instructions and links to share with your sponsors to make payments easy!)

Team Captain Responsibilities (And Solo Birders)

CEC Birdathon 2021

1. Teams can consist of 1 person (Solo Birder) or a team of no more than 6, including the Captain.
2. You and each team member will obtain pledges from friends and family members to sponsor you by pledging a certain amount of money per bird or by making a flat donation. Every participant is asked to have at least 1 sponsor... but the more the better!
3. To help you, we will provide forms, including Rules and Guidelines, Checklists, Final Report and Instructions on how to use our new **PledgeIt** donation tracking system.
4. Encourage your team members to see as many species as possible to raise money for Cope and compete in "Most Money Raised." This year, sponsors will also be able to make a TEAM pledge as well as to an individual on a team.
5. When the Birdathon is over, each team member is to give you their list of all of the different birds they have seen. You will then make a master checklist of the combined number of species seen by your team and compete for "Most Species Seen."
6. **PledgeIt** will track the amount of money each participant raises. There will be two check-in dates (May 16 and May 23) at which time sponsors can alter their pledges by reducing or increasing their "per bird" or "flat donation" amount.
7. You will use this information to fill out the Final Report Form and return to CEC.
8. As team captain you will be the main contact for your team to answer any questions. Be sure they understand how to use **PledgeIt** and encourage them along the way by helping them find sponsors and birds if necessary.
9. We will have 2 options for all captains and Solo birders to meet (either zoom or in person) so we can answer any questions before the event. At this time we will also review how to use **PledgeIt** to track donations.

Saturday, April 17, 12:30 – 1:30
Monday, April 19, 5:30 – 6:30.
10. Give your team a name, stay in touch with their progress...AND HAVE FUN!!!!

Please encourage your team to "Join" the Birding with Cope Environmental Center Facebook page for updates, photos, and current hot spots!!!!

Final Report Form

CEC Birdathon 2021 May 7 - May 23, 2021

This is the summary form is for Solo birders or Team Captains to track their pledges and # species seen

Please submit this form along with pledges collected to CEC

Solo Birder's Name:

Team Name:

	Phone	Email	Total pledge amount Collected
Team Member Names (Including Captain or solo birder)			

Total amount raised by you or your team:

Total number of bird species seen by you or your team:

Please submit to CEC by June 1, 2021 to be eligible for prizes.

BIRDS BY HABITAT LIST FOR CEC BIRDATHON

When you are ready to start Birdwatching, think about the habitat(s) you are going to visit and which birds are most likely to be living there.

The lists below provide some of the most commonly seen species in each of the habitat types you might visit as you search for birds.

You can study up on the field marks of the birds before you visit their habitat to help you with your ID.

IN YOUR YARD:

- Mourning Dove, Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Robin, Catbird, Starling, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Cardinal, Common Grackle, House Sparrow.

IN FARM FIELDS AND ALONG COUNTRY ROADS:

- Killdeer, Mourning Dove, American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat [a warbler], Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch.

AT LAKES: PONDS, RIVERS AND MARSHES:

- Canada Geese, Mallard, Wood Duck, Great blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher; Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird; Common Grackle.

FOREST EDGES:

- Red-tailed Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Great-horned Owl [at dusk or dawn], Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Indigo bunting.

FOREST TRAILS:

- Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager.

FLYING OVERHEAD:

- Canada Geese, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Barn Swallow.

IN TOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT:

- Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Crow, European Starling, House Sparrow.

ON LARGE LAWNS, OPEN PARK FIELDS OR GOLF COURSES:

- Canada Geese, Killdeer, American Robin, Starlings, Common Grackle,

But remember...birds sometimes show up in places way outside of their habitat so don't be surprised if you see some interlopers!

Happy Birding!

Cope Environmental Center

Birdathon 2021

Bird Checklist for Fledging Birders of CEC

Birder's Name:

Team Name:

X	Bird Name	Where to look for this bird		
	Canada Goose	Ponds, fields, large lawns, noisily flying overhead		
	Mallard	Common duck on ponds and lakes		
	Wood Duck	Swamps, ponds, lakes by woodlands		
	Wild Turkey	In country fields, woodlands		
	Great Blue Heron	Lakes, ponds, streams, flying overhead		
	Black Vulture	Southern Wayne County, eating roadkill, flying overhead (Short tail, white wing tips)		
	Turkey Vulture	Eating roadkill, wings held in V shape while soaring, (slightly longer tail, white along the underside of wing)		
	Bald Eagle	Lakes and rivers (looking for fish to eat) and sometimes fields		
	Cooper's Hawk	Often found attacking birds at feeders, perched on tree branches and flying overhead		
	Red-tailed Hawk	Soaring above open fields sometimes hanges like a kite searching for moles and voles, perched in trees		
	Red-shouldered Hawk	Woodlands, swamps, powerlines		
	American Kestrel	In the open country, on utility wires with their tails bobbing to maintain balance		
	Killdeer	Open spaces, frequently nesting on gravel driveways, parks, farmfields		
	Ring-billed Gull	Lakes, parking lots, landfills		
	Rock Pigeon	The common pigeon found in towns, around barns		
	Mourning Dove	Feeders, fields, utility wires, trees		
	Great Horned Owl	Dawn and dusk. Listen for their deep call...Hoooo, Hoo, Hoo, Hooooo		
	Eastern Screech Owl	Dawn and dusk. They make a call that resembles a horse whinny		
	Barred Owl	Dawn and dusk. Listen for their famous "Who Cooks for You?" call		
	Chimney Swift	Flying and chattering overhead. They look like little flying cigars		
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Around flowers and hummingbird feeders		
	Belted Kingfisher	Around ponds and streams, sometimes hovering over water		
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Trees, suet feeders		
	Downy Woodpecker	Trees, suet feeders		
	Northern Flicker	A woodpecker that often feeds on the ground eating ants and insects		
	Pileated Woodpecker	Looks like Woody Woodpecker! Mature trees, suet feeders		

Wood Pewee	Woods...often heard making its descending peeeeee and rising weee (pee-a-wee-Pee-ur)		
Grat-crested Flycatcher	Woodland clearings and forest edgings. Often calls "wheep-wheep-wheep!		
Eastern Phoebe	Usually around wooded areas darting back and forth from a perch catching bugs		
Eastern Kingbird	In open fields, perched on fences. Robin size, a conspicuous white band at end of tail, chases crows, hawks		
Blue Jay	Squawky birds that might show up anywhere		
American Crow	Often in fields. When flying overhead note the "rowing" motion of their wings		
Purple Martin	Usually near water. Look for martin houses that people use to attract them		
Tree Swallow	Open fields. Nest in bluebird boxes and tree cavities. Look for a very white belly.		
Barn Swallow	Barns! Swooping flight over open fields, ponds, lakes and marshes		
Carolina Chickadee	Bird feeders, woods		
Tufted Titmouse	Bird feeders, woods		
White-breasted Nuthatch	Bird feeders, woods		
Carolina Wren	They might be nesting on your porch! They love hanging baskets and wreaths.		
House Wren	Plain brown little wren that nests in birdhouses, tree cavities, common in gardens		
Eastern Bluebird	In open fields, nest boxes, along the roadside on utility wires, perched on fences		
American Robin	In your yard!		
Wood Thrush	Woodlands, beautiful flute-like song		
Brown Thrasher	Long tail, reddish brown with streaks below, brushy areas, woods edges.		
Gray Catbird	In thickets and bushy trees (And they make a cat-like call!)		
Northern Mockingbird	Open spaces with shrubbery nearby, on fence posts and utility wires. Noisy guys.		
European Starling	Usually in large flocks. Black birds with a yellow bill. Farms, lawns, downtown areas		
Yellow Warbler	Bushy edges of meadows, rivers and swamps		
Common Yellowthroat	Shrubby areas around gardens, fields and wetlands		
Eastern Towhee	Often foraging in leaf litter at edge of woods stirring up little insects.		
Chipping Sparrow	Cute little sparrows often on your lawn. Rusty caps and white stripe just above eye		
Song Sparrow	On ground at feeders, in bushes. Look for a stripey chest with a dot in the middle		
White-throated sparrow	Often on the ground around feeders. A winter visitor		
Scarlet Tanager	Beautiful but hard to find bird. Usually in woody areas high in the tree tops.		
Northern Cardinal	Bird feeders, shrubby areas and woods. Our state bird!!!		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Feeders...but only seen here in early May on their way north.		
Indigo Bunting	Often seen on wires or hedgerows, along the roadside close to wooded areas		
Red-winged Blackbird	Abundant around ponds with cattails. Also in fields		
Eastern Meadowlark	In open spaces with lots of grassy fields. On fence posts.		
Common Grackle	Bird feeders, lawns, edges of ponds, wetlands, woods		
Brown-headed Cowbird	Usually on the ground around bird feeders. Very black bird with brown head		

	Baltimore Oriole	At feeders eating orange slices in early May. Shade trees, edges of woods, ponds.		
	House Finch	Pretty much everywhere in open areas. Bird feeders		
	American Goldfinch	Open fields, bird feeders		
	House Sparrow	Everywhere. Often around homes, farms, downtown areas, stores.		
	There are nearly 150 species of birds in our area. This checklist represents the most common birds.			
	For a complete checklist of birds in our area search Indiana Bird Checklist - Indiana Audubon Society (indianaadubon.org)			
	List other birds here:			
	There are many great tools to help you identify birds not on this list. We recommend:			
	Peterson's Field Guide to Birds of Central North America			
	Indiana Birds			
	Sibley's			
	Merlin digital app (free)			