

St. Louis County Birdathon

May 16th, 2009 (24-hour event)

INSTRUCTIONS

Each team should have a bird checklist, instructions, map to the brunch, and a pledge form (or two) for each team member. **Participation is limited. You can submit results for one category.**

Start scouting as early as possible and report on any rarities or good birding areas you find; it is important for all teams to share this information **before** the Big Day—the more birds each team sees, the more pledge money raised (it is up to each team individually whether or not it wants to give/receive birding tips **during** the Big Day). Each team decides its own itinerary as long as it stays within the boundaries for the county for which they are competing. For some suggestions consult *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* by Kim Eckert.

Pledges: be sure to fill in the top of the pledge sheet; ask if you're unsure of your team's estimated species total. If you receive pledges based both on your team's total and the composite total, it would be better to put them on separate sheets. Remember that pledges based on the composite total result in more money raised. Also remember that a special prize is awarded to the individual (not team) who secures the greatest amount of pledges.

Compilation brunch: at least one member of each team should plan to attend, but if no one is able to make it, their pledge forms and/or participation fees **must be mailed** to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (P.O. Box 3006, Duluth, MN 55803) and the **species list** called (218.428.6209) or emailed (birdathon@hawkridge.org - preferred!) in by 6am on Sunday, May 17th. The potluck brunch will be held at the **Hartley Nature Center** (see map) and will start promptly at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Each team's species list and pledge sheets should be completed and ready for compilation by 9:30 a.m. Any participation fees will also be collected at that time. **Everyone is welcome** to attend the brunch, whether or not they were on a Birdathon team. We just ask that something is brought to share at the potluck brunch.

A few days after the compilation, a composite list of species and a form showing how much each sponsor pledged will be prepared. This summary will be provided to each team leader who will then provide a copy to each team member. It will be **each team member's responsibility** to make copies of the list, calculate each sponsor's donation, and mail to the sponsors (it is also OK to collect donations in person from sponsors, which saves on postage). **This should be completed no later than two weeks after the Birdathon;** sponsors are more likely to follow through with their pledges if they are contacted right away (each year we collect hundreds of dollars less than what was pledged because persons waited too long or even forgot to collect from sponsors).

All information and forms are available at www.hawkridge.org/events/birdathon.html

**For questions or information, please contact
Janelle Long - birdathon@hawkridge.org - 218.428.6209**

All birding teams are encouraged to call the birding report hotlines for the latest information:

Duluth Birding Report: 218.834.2858
Minnesota Birding Report: 1-800-657-3700