

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

30th Annual St. Louis County Birdathon

May 21, 2016 (24-hour event)

INSTRUCTIONS

Each team should have a bird checklist, instructions, map to the brunch, and a pledge form for each team member. These forms can all be found online: <http://www.hawkridge.org/event/birdathon-may-21/>. **You can submit results for only 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 of St. Louis County. For some suggestions consult *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* by Kim Eckert.

Pledges: Pledges can now be made online at: <http://www.hawkridge.org/event/birdathon-may-21/> You will need to send your name or team name (including names of team members) to Janelle at jlong@hawkridge.org, so we can set up your online pledge link.

NOTE: if you are gathering pledges based on the number of species, you will still need to fill out a hard-copy pledge sheet for those individuals. You will still need to let them know the total amount to donate either online or by check following the event. 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. A special prize will be awarded to the person securing 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, the **species list** must be emailed (birdathon@hawkridge.org) in by 6am on Sunday, May 22nd. The potluck brunch will be held at the **Hartley Nature Center** (see map) and will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. Each team's species list and pledge sheets should be completed and ready for compilation by 10 a.m. Registration and other pledges that were not paid online can be turned in at that time. **Everyone (friends/family) is welcome** to attend the brunch, whether or not they were on a Birdathon team. We just ask that those attending the compilation bring something to share at the potluck brunch.

A few days after the compilation, a composite list of species and summary will be provided to each team leader who can then provide a copy to each team member. It will be **each team member's responsibility** to notify sponsors and collect pledges based on species total. **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.

All information and forms are available at: <http://www.hawkridge.org/event/birdathon-may-21/>

**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 or check moumn.org: Duluth Birding Report: 218.834.2858