

Peace River Audubon Society

Charlotte Birdathon

The Charlotte Birdathon is an opportunity to have fun with friends, challenge yourself, and to raise money for a good cause. From 7:00 am to 1:00 pm each March, Peace River Audubon Society members and other interested birders survey the countryside and coastal areas of Charlotte County looking for as many different species of wild birds as possible. This fundraising event is reminiscent of a walkathon but instead of walking, participants are birding in teams of 2-4 people.

You can join in the fun by forming a team of friends, picking a name, and scouring the county on bird day. Also, please find a few individuals or businesses to sponsor to your team. If you can't be there on the big day, join us by pledging a contribution. Prior to the big day, participants look for sponsors. Sponsors are any individual or organization who would like to pledge an amount such as 10¢ per bird species identified or a fixed amount of \$20 or whatever amount the donor chooses. After the big day, teams will collect the money from their sponsors, and turn it in to the Birdathon coordinator no later than the next PRAS meeting in April. The "per species" amount pledged will be calculated on the total bird species seen by all teams combined during the Birdathon. For past results click [here](#).

The proceeds from each year's Birdathon typically support the Peace River Audubon Society Youth Environmental Education Fund, which was established to support youth environmental education programs within Charlotte County. These programs include (but are not limited to) the 4th Grade Environmental Education Field Trip Program which is conducted by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) in cooperation with the Charlotte County Public School System, interpretive wading trips for second- grade classes, educating them about the marine flora and fauna of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary System (also provided by CHEC), and Audubon Adventures magazines for third and/or fourth grade classes upon request. A portion of the proceeds may also be used to support other Peace River Audubon Society expenses.

Here is your opportunity to enjoy the excitement of participating in a Birdathon and make a difference by supporting youth environmental education. Understanding through education is the key to developing a love and life-long appreciation of our valuable natural resources. You can help our young people gain that appreciation.

Participant Expectations

1. Participants will solicit sponsors (individuals or businesses) who will make contributions either based on the number of bird species identified or a fixed amount.
2. Participants will read the rules so they can explain to prospective donors how the Birdathon works and for what the funds collected will be used.
3. The participant will fill out the pledge signup form for the donor or have the donor clearly print the information on the form.
4. After the day of the Birdathon, each participant will contact those who have made pledges to inform them of the Birdathon results and collect the check for their pledge. Certificates will be supplied which participants can fill out and hand to the donor. This will recognize them for their donation and serve as their receipt for the IRS.
5. Checks should be made to the Peace River Audubon Society or PRAS.
6. All Cash and checks should be delivered to the coordinator within 3 weeks following the Birdathon.
7. The award for most donations collected will be presented at the following membership meeting.
8. Good luck!! If you have any questions contact Eleanor Marr at birdathon@peacriveraudubon.org or (941) 624-4182.