

ELISHA MITCHELL AUDUBON SOCIETY

BIRDATHON 2009

YES! I WANT TO HELP MY LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTER MEET ITS GOAL OF \$3000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION!

TO DO MY PART, I WILL:

- FORM A TEAM AND GET SPONSORS FOR IT.**
- GET SPONSORS FOR ONE OR MORE TEAMS** (choose team[s] below).
- SPONSOR A BIRDATHON TEAM** (choose team below).
 - Beaver Lake Blue Birds (led by Len Pardue)
 - The Rappin' Raptors (led by Pam Raymond)
 - The Peregrines (led by Simon Thompson)
 - The Golden Wings (led by Charlotte Goedsche)

*Each birder on a team will have to get at least one sponsor other than him/herself.
Call Janene Donovan at 253-7395 to sign up as a birder.*

- I PLEDGE \$ _____ FOR EACH SPECIES SEEN (25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$2)
- INSTEAD OF A PLEDGE, I HAVE ENCLOSED A GIFT OF:
\$10___ \$25___ \$50___ *\$75___ Other: _____
*Call Janene for your print

- SIGN ME UP TO **DO MY OWN THING**. I WOULD LIKE TO:
 - SPOT BIRDS AT MY FEEDER.
 - BE A COUCH POTATO.
 - OTHER (Let us know) _____

All contributions are tax deductible.
Please make check payable to EMAS and mail by May 31.

!! PRIZES !!

!! PRIZES !!

!! PRIZES !!

**ANYONE RAISING OR GIVING \$75 OR MORE
WINS A BEAVER LAKE SANCTUARY PRINT!**

**GRAND PRIZE -- \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE MOST MONEY RAISED BY AN INDIVIDUAL FOR A TEAM!**

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
ELISHA MITCHELL AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 18711 • ASHEVILLE, NC 28814

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

- Check here if you do NOT want to be thanked publicly in the Raven's Nest newsletter.

BIRDATHON !

The Birdathon is the annual major fund-raising campaign by our chapter, with the goal to raise \$3000 for bird habitat and environmental conservation at Audubon North Carolina Coastal Island Sanctuaries and Mountain Important Bird Areas, and for EMAS book scholarships. Here's how you help:

- ☺ **Sponsor** one of our Birdathon teams.
- ☺ Attend the **General Meeting** on May 19th. **Simon Thompson's** topic will be *Birds Of Kazakhstan*. All of the requested \$5 admission donation will be used for Birdathon. There will be door prizes.
- ☺ **Gather pledges** from friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to support our EMAS teams. Or form unofficial teams. Walk your dogs with the neighbors, and count the number of birds you see. See how many species you can see at a local birding hot spot or at a feeder in your own backyard during a 24-hour period between May 3-23. We'll supply the materials to get you started.
- ☺ Be a **Couch Potato**—Watch your favorite nature programs; count the species you see on TV in a 24-hour period!
- ☺ **Give money**. That is always appreciated and it's a great way out for the lazy(!).

And there will be **PRIZES!** Raise or donate \$75 or more and win a Beaver Lake Sanctuary Print by Marcus Thomas! Grand Prize for most money raised by an individual is a \$50 gift certificate from Wild Birds Unlimited.

WHY?

☞ Part of the funds raised by Birdathon goes to our **North Carolina Coastal Island Sanctuaries** and **Mountain Important Bird Areas**, to help preserve them for the next generation. It's going to be a close call.

☞ And part of the funds raised by Birdathon goes to our **EMAS Scholarship**, given each year to a UNCA Environmental Sciences student, to assist him or her toward a viable, effective career dedicated to environmental salvation.

Every spring for the past 15 years, as migration reaches its colorful peak, members of the Audubon family all over the country strap on their binoculars and do what they love best—observe this spectacular natural wonder while raising funds to protect birds, wildlife, and their habitats. This Birdathon event is critical to Audubon's success at every level. We look forward to you joining us in our 2009 Birdathon. It's a great way to attract new members to EMAS, help Audubon NC Important Bird Areas, and introduce people in our community to birding, to Audubon, and to our conservation work. And Birdathon is wonderful competitive and social birding. **We need you!**

FROM WALKER GOLDER, DIRECTOR OF THE N.C. COASTAL ISLAND SANCTUARIES

More than a decade ago, Audubon NC recognized the rapid decline of nesting habitats for colonial waterbirds—like pelicans, terns, ibises, and herons—along the North Carolina coast. We began working hard to protect and restore vital islands and shorelines. Today, Audubon Sanctuaries provide critical habitat for tens of thousands of waterbirds and shorebirds from 23 different species.

Audubon has successfully restored acres of habitat for terns and pelicans on two islands in the Cape Fear River. In spring, more than 3000 nesting pairs of Royal Terns and 1000 nesting pairs of Brown Pelicans will have ideal habitat on protected sanctuaries where they can nest and raise their young.

On the Battery Island Audubon Sanctuary, where 10% of North America's White Ibises gather to nest and raise their young every year, we restored an acre of cedar and yaupon thicket damaged by hurricanes in the late 1990s. One acre might not sound like much, but this will be enough for as many as 1000 nesting wading birds in the coming years.

We're taking this model to the rest of the state through the Important Bird Areas Program where we are working to identify the places most essential to maintaining the diversity and abundance of North Carolina birds. Once completed, this will be the blueprint for bird conservation in North Carolina.