



Bird-a-Thon 2018 (Manomet's 40th)

What IS BIRD-A-THON?

Manomet's Bird-a-Thon is a 48-hour birding competition and fundraiser that supports Manomet's Landbird Conservation Program, which includes the Banding Lab and its research as well as all education and outreach programming.

When is it?

This year's Bird-a-Thon will take place during the 48 hours between 12:00AM (midnight) September 15th and 11:59PM September 16th. Your team can bird any or all of that time!

Raising funds

Individuals and/or teams are encouraged to raise money or donate. All money raised counts towards a team's total raises (and eligibility for the Funds Raised Title). Money is primarily collected through our online giving platform here:

<http://my.manomet.org/birdathon18>

Bird-a-Thon participants can share the link to the donation page and donors can give a fixed amount on the page, earmarking the team using a dropdown menu that has all of the teams listed.

Teams can also collect checks (made out to Manomet Inc. with "Bird-a-Thon" in the memo line), cash or solicit per-species pledges. Pledge forms are [available here](#) to help teams keep track of checks, cash and pledges. Only pledges collected by the following Friday (September 21st) will count towards the fundraising prize. All donations are fully tax-deductible and donors will receive a letter of acknowledgement.

Forming teams

Got a group of friends you like to bird with? Perhaps you like to bird with your spouse. If you can come up with at least one other person to bird with, you can form a team.

1. Find other birders to compete with (if you need help finding a team, Manomet might be able to help)
2. Once you have a team, you'll have to decide which category you will be competing for (do you want to compete against another team within a county? Are you putting together a youth team? Or are you just going to try and see the most species regardless of your location?)
3. Come up with a catchy team name and report your team name, category and members to Evan Dalton at Manomet (edalton@manomet.org)
4. Once Manomet sets up your team page, you can begin collecting donations and strategizing your Bird-a-Thon plans.

Official rules

All teams and team category (**Youth, County, Overall Most Bird Species**) must be reported to Evan Dalton (edalton@manomet.org) at Manomet before the start of the event. Manomet will coordinate teams. Once registered, your team will be viewable on the drop-down menu on the event page. If desired, you can customize your team page so that your supporters can learn more about you.

1. Teams must have at least two members at all times and can be no larger than the number of people that can fit into a vehicle.
2. Team members can swap out (since it is a 2-day event) but teams can never be birding two places at once and all team members must be within shouting distance of each other while birding.
3. Youth teams are allowed one driver (over 18), who can also spot birds.
4. The use of electronic playback of bird sounds is strictly prohibited and grounds for disqualification. Participants are allowed to imitate with their voices.
5. In order for a bird to count towards your species total, a certain number of team members must all see the species during the 48 hours of the event. See below:

Number of team members Actively Birding	Number that must see a countable species
2	2
3	2
4	3
5	4
6+	# active birders minus one

Reporting lists

All lists (with team name in checklist comments) must be shared with the Manomet Bird-a-thon eBird account ("Manomet BAT") before the final tally event the following weekend (see below). Please have only one representative from your team share checklists with Manomet. Manomet Staff reserve the right to deny any record on the basis of rarity or lack of evidence (document rare species please!).

Assessing victors

Assessment is fairly straightforward; the most confirmed species seen in each category is the victor.

Prizes *(a team can only be eligible for one prize category)*

Victors will be announced at a compilation and pot-luck event at Manomet HQ the following Sunday, September 23rd. There will also be presentations from Manomet's bird science staff. Prizes (to be announced), will go to the teams that:

1. Raise the most money
2. See the most bird species in a US county (in instances of multiple groups birding in a county)
3. Youth team (age 18 and under) most species
4. See the most bird species (not restricted to US)