



Bird-a-Thon 2019 (Manomet's 41st)

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 associated research as well as all education and outreach programming for all audiences.

WHEN IS IT?

This year's Bird-a-Thon will take place during the 48 hours between 12:00AM (midnight) September 14th and 11:59PM September 15th. Your team can bird any or all of that time!

RAISING FUNDS

Individuals and/or teams are encouraged, but not required to raise money or donate. As added incentive, there will be a prize given out to the team that raises the highest total (see below for award rules)!

Donations are primarily collected through our online giving platform here:

<http://manometbirdathon.com>

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

Teams can also collect checks (made out to Manomet Inc. with "Bird-a-Thon" in the memo line).

It can be fun to collect per-species pledges as an added incentive to push for a few more species at the end of a long 48 hours. Pledge forms are available by request to help teams keep track of checks, cash and pledges. Only pledges collected by the following Friday (September 20th) will count towards any fundraising awards. 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?) **If you don't wish to compete in a category and just want to get out birding for Manomet, we can leave the category blank.**
3. Come up with a catchy team name and report your team name, category and members to Evan Dalton at Manomet (edalton@manomet.org). If you have a photo or logo for your team, please provide it!
4. Once Manomet sets up your team page, you can begin collecting donations and strategizing for Bird-a-Thon!

OFFICIAL RULES

All teams and team category (**Youth, MA 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 and set up team pages on our fundraising platform. 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 at a time (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. Teams are expected not to trespass and must adhere to the ABA code of birding ethics : <http://listing.aba.org/ethics/>
6. In order for a bird to count towards your species total, a certain number of team members must 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.

AWARDS **a team can only be eligible for one category*

Victors will be announced via Manomet’s social media by Monday September 23rd. Prizes (to be announced), will go to the teams that:

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