

Cope Environmental Center Bird-a-thon 2020: Monday, May 10 – Wednesday, May 20, 2020

What is a bird-a-thon? It is like a walk-a-thon or read-a-thon, but instead of counting steps or books, we count birds! It is an opportunity to get outside, learn your birds, and help raise funds for Cope Environmental Center. You can recruit supporters to pledge \$.25, \$.50, \$1.00, or more for each different bird species (or they can support by making a flat donation!)

There are 3 ways to participate:

Solo Birders: Bird anytime from Sunday, May 10, to Wednesday, May 20. Walk in your neighborhood, watch at your birdfeeders, search lakes and ponds, drive in your car, or go for a hike at places like CEC, Hayes Arboretum, and the parks. You will seek supporters who will either pledge \$ for each *different* species of bird you can check off your list in the 10-day period, or make a flat donation. You will submit your **Pledge Tracking Form** and a copy of your **Bird Checklist** to CEC before May 25 to be eligible for awards. All pledges toward the CEC Bird-a-thon event are tax-deductible. (See below to receive your packet of materials.)

Register as a Solo Birder here: [Solo Birder Registration Google Form](#)

Teams: Same as above but in teams no larger than 6. One of these six members will play the role of Team Captain. Teams can be families, friends, or coworkers and will compete against other teams. Team members can bird individually or in groups. Each team member will submit their **Pledge Tracking Form** and a copy of their **Bird Checklist** to their Team Captain before May 25 to be eligible for awards. All pledges toward the CEC Bird-a-thon event are tax-deductible. Please use proper social distancing when birding in groups – even on trails. (See below to receive your packet of materials.)

Register as a Team Member here: [Team Registration Google Form](#)

Sponsor: Sponsor the event itself with a tax-deductible donation! You can be a participant AND a sponsor!

\$50 Hummingbird Sponsor

\$250 Great Blue Heron Sponsor

\$100 Cardinal Sponsor

\$500 Eagle Sponsor

All pledges toward the Bird-a-thon event are tax-deductible.

Pledge to be a Bird-a-thon Event Sponsor here: [Event Sponsor Donation](#)

Instructions and packet:

Each Solo Birder and Team member will require a packet which includes:

- The Fledgling **Bird Checklist** (with a cheat sheet of about 60 birds) that will make birding easy and fun for all ages, plus a link to the complete Indiana state bird checklist.
- A sample "ask" letter to personalize and send to prospective sponsors.
- **Pledge Tracking Form** for tracking sponsors and pledges to submit to CEC or your Team Captain.

Click here to download your packet: [CEC Bird-a-thon 2020 Packet](#)

When the bird-a-thon ends:

Team Captains: Please submit all Team Members' **Pledge Tracking Form**, a copy of their **Bird Checklist**, and **Team Captain Final Report** to CEC along with any pledges collected.

Solo Birders: Please submit your completed **Pledge Tracking Form** and a copy of your **Bird Checklist** to CEC along with any pledges collected.

Awards:

- Solo Birder who sees the most species
- Solo Birder who raises the most money
- Team that sees the most species
- Team that raises the most money

A free family membership will be given to all participants who raise \$50 or more!



Bird Checklist for Fledgling Birders
Cope Environmental Center: Bird-a-thon 2020

**Cannot find the bird that you have observed? The Indiana Audubon has a full Indiana bird list here - <https://indianaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IN-State-Bird-Checklist.pdf>*

Birder's Name:

Team Name:

X	Bird Name	Where to look for this bird
	Canada Goose	Ponds, fields, noisily flying overhead.
	Mallard	Common duck on ponds and lakes.
	Wild Turkey	In country fields, woodlands.
	Great Blue Heron	Lakes, ponds, streams, flying overhead.
	Black Vulture	Southern Wayne County, eating roadkill, flying overhead (short tail, white wing tips).
	Turkey Vulture	Eating roadkill, flying overhead (slightly longer tail, white along the underside of wing).
	Bald Eagle	Lakes and rivers (looking for fish to eat) and sometimes fields.
	Cooper's Hawk	Often found raiding bird feeders, perched on tree branches and flying overhead.
	Red-tailed Hawk	Around open fields searching for moles and voles, perched in trees.
	American Kestrel	In the country, on utility wires with their tails bobbing to maintain balance.
	Killdeer	Open spaces, frequently nesting on gravel driveways.
	Ring-billed Gull	Lakes, parking lots, landfills.
	Rock Pigeon	The common pigeon found in towns, around barns.
	Mourning Dove	Feeders, utility wires, trees.
	Great Horned Owl	Dawn and dusk. Listen for their deep call. "Hoooo, Hoo, Hoo, Hooooo."
	Eastern Screech Owl	Dawn and dusk. They make a call that resembles a horse whinny.
	Barred Owl	Dawn and dusk. Listen for their famous "Who Cooks for You?" call.
	Chimney Swift	Flying and chattering overhead. They look like flying cigars.
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Around flowers and hummingbird feeders.
	Belted Kingfisher	Around ponds and streams.
	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Trees, suet feeders.
	Downy Woodpecker	Trees, suet feeders.
	Northern Flicker	A woodpecker that often feeds on the ground eating ants and insects.
	Pileated Woodpecker	Looks like Woody Woodpecker! Mature trees, suet feeders.
	Eastern Wood Pewee	Woods, often heard making its descending "peeeeee" and rising "weeee."

X	<u>Bird Name</u>	<u>Where to look for this bird</u>
	Eastern Phoebe	Usually around wooded areas darting back and forth from a perch catching bugs.
	Eastern Kingbird	In open fields, perched on fences. Robin size, a conspicuous white band at end of tail.
	Blue Jay	Squawky birds that might show up anywhere.
	American Crow	Often in fields. When flying overhead note the "rowing" motion of their wings.
	Purple Martin	Usually near water. Look for martin houses that people use to attract them.
	Tree Swallow	Open fields. Nest in bluebird boxes and tree cavities. Look for a very white belly.
	Barn Swallow	Barns!
	Carolina Chickadee	Bird feeders, woods.
	Tufted Titmouse	Bird feeders, woods.
	White-breasted Nuthatch	Bird feeders, woods.
	Carolina Wren	They might be nesting on your porch! They love hanging baskets and wreaths.
	House Wren	Plain brown little wren that nests in birdhouses, tree cavities.
	Eastern Bluebird	In open fields, nest boxes, along the roadside on utility wires.
	American Robin	In your yard!
	Brown Thrasher	Long tail, reddish brown with streaks below, brushy areas, woods edges.
	Gray Catbird	In thickets and bushy trees . (And they make a catlike call!)
	Northern Mockingbird	Around open spaces, sometimes on fence posts and utility wires. Noisy guys.
	European Starling	Usually in large flocks. Black birds with a yellow bill.
	Eastern Towhee	Often foraging in leaf litter stirring up little insects.
	Chipping Sparrow	Cute little sparrows often on your lawn. Rusty caps and white stripe just above eye.
	Song Sparrow	On ground at feeders, in bushes. Look for a stripey chest with a dot in the middle.
	White-throated sparrow	Often on the ground around feeders.
	Scarlet Tanager	Beautiful but hard-to-find bird. Usually in woody areas.
	Northren Cardinal	Bird feeders, woods.
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Feeders but only seen here in early May on their way north.
	Indigo Bunting	Often seen on wires or fences along the roadside close to wooded areas.
	Red-winged Blackbird	Abundant around ponds with reeds. Also in fields.
	Eastern Meadowlark	In open spaces with lots of grassy fields. On fence posts.
	Common Grackle	Bird feeders, woods.
	Brown-headed Cowbird	Usually on the ground around bird feeders. Very black bird with brown head.
	Baltimore Oriole	Can be at feeders eating orange slices in early May.
	House Finch	Pretty much everywhere. Bird feeders.
	House Sparrow	Everywhere.

<u>X</u>	<u>Bird Name</u>	<u>Where to look for this bird</u>
	American Goldfinch	Open fields, bird feeders.
	House Sparrow	Everywhere.
	Others:	
	Total # of Bird Species Seen:	

Sample Social Media Bird-a-thon Ask Letter:

Dear _____,

I will be participating in the first annual Cope Environmental Center Bird-a-thon 2020 this May. My goal is to help CEC raise funds to support their nature education programs. During the Covid-19 (coronavirus) quarantine, CEC has remained active in offering free nature education through online videos, activities, and virtual programs, in addition to keeping their trails open for the public to enjoy.

Please help me support Cope Environmental Center by pledging \$ for every bird species I can find during the CEC Bird-a-thon from Sunday, May 10, to Wednesday, May 20, 2020. I am hoping to find at least (Goal #) different species of birds. You can support my birding challenge by pledging \$.25, \$.50, \$1.00, or more per bird species checked off my list, or you can pledge a flat donation of your choosing.

Please let me know if you are interested in making a pledge by contacting me at (Insert Email Address or Phone Number).

I look forward to sharing my bird-a-thon progress with you!

Thank you,

(Birder Name)

P.S. Cope Environmental Center is a 501 (C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 35-1856406. The IRS requires us to report to you that no goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.

Pledge Tracking Form

(This sheet is for personal use by individuals/team members. This sheet is required to be turned in.)
Cope Environmental Bird-a-thon 2020: Monday, May 10 – Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Name of Birder: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Team Name (if applicable): _____

Supporter's name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Amount pledged: \$ _____ per species x Species Seen [] = Total owed \$ _____
Or Flat Donation: \$ _____ Amount paid: \$ _____
Paid by: [] Check [] Cash [] Online Date paid: ____/____/____
Email: _____ @ _____ . _____
Mailing Address: _____

Supporter's name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Amount pledged: \$ _____ per species x Species Seen [] = Total owed \$ _____
Or Flat Donation: \$ _____ Amount paid: \$ _____
Paid by: [] Check [] Cash [] Online Date paid: ____/____/____
Email: _____ @ _____ . _____
Mailing Address: _____

Supporter's name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Amount pledged: \$ _____ per species x Species Seen [] = Total owed \$ _____
Or Flat Donation: \$ _____ Amount paid: \$ _____
Paid by: [] Check [] Cash [] Online Date paid: ____/____/____
Email: _____ @ _____ . _____
Mailing Address: _____

Supporter's name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
Amount pledged: \$ _____ per species x Species Seen [] = Total owed \$ _____
Or Flat Donation: \$ _____ Amount paid: \$ _____
Paid by: [] Check [] Cash [] Online Date paid: ____/____/____
Email: _____ @ _____ . _____
Mailing Address: _____

Total amount collected from this page: \$ _____ . _____

* Duplicate this page as needed for pledge recording.

Instructions:

1. Record your Bird-a-thon pledges on this sheet.
2. Make checks payable to Cope Environmental Center, with "Bird-a-thon" in the memo line.
3. Solo Birders: Submit this form and collected pledges to Cope Environmental Center, 1730 Airport Road, Centerville, IN 47330.
4. Team Members: Submit this form and collected pledges to your Team Captain.