

◀◀◀ Birdathon Q&A ▶▶▶

Why is the Birdathon so important?

Every year the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) has to raise enough money to cover its entire budget – it doesn't receive any ongoing government funding. The Birdathon is the single most important source of this money.

What is the connection between the Birdathon and the Prince Edward County Spring Bird Count?

The Spring Bird Count is organized by PEPtBO as our "section" of the Baillie Birdathon. This allows us to recognize those "birdathoning" in the County on behalf of PEPtBO. The Baillie Birdathon is a Canada-wide fundraiser organized by Bird Studies Canada (BSC). During any 24-hour period in May, participants find as many bird species as they can, sponsored at a flat rate or so much per species.

Do I need to be an experienced birder to take part in the Birdathon?

Not at all. The purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money, enjoy looking for birds, and have fun.

But what if the only birds I know for sure are robins and chickadees?

That's quite OK. But if you'd like help identifying birds by sight or by sound, do the Birdathon with someone who knows local birds. Most Birdathoners go out in groups anyway: you tend to see more birds that way and, of course, it's fun! If you don't know anyone to go with, Cheryl Anderson will be glad to find an individual or group for you to team up with.

Do I have to stay up for 24 hours looking for birds?

Absolutely not! Choose any 24-hour period in May for your Birdathon, and within that period spend as much time as you want – or as little – looking for birds.

Do I have to do the Birdathon in the County?

No! You can be anywhere at all when you do the Birdathon. Just let PEPtBO know if you were out of the County when you saw the birds you ticked on your Birdathon checklist.

Does all the money I raise go to PEPtBO?

75% of the money goes to PEPtBO. The rest goes to BSC to offset their costs for running the Birdathon and to support other important monitoring and conservation programs, such as the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, of which PEPtBO is a member. BSC collects the funds, sends donation receipts to your sponsors, and returns its share back to PEPtBO at year-end.

How do I register to take part in the Birdathon?

Fill out both the green (BSC) and yellow (PEPtBO) registration forms. Be sure to identify "PEPtBO" as the recipient of the funds you raise. Mail them to Cheryl Anderson, in the provided envelope. Cheryl will send the green one to BSC. If you register online instead, please send Cheryl the yellow form (or the same information by e-mail) so she can keep track of PEPtBO's Birdathon. You can also reserve tickets for the Birdathon dinner (PEPtBO AGM) on the yellow form.

What other forms do I need?

In addition to the green and yellow registration forms, you'll need: the Baillie Birdathon Pledge Sheet (it's in the BSC booklet) which you fill out when you ask for donations and later send to BSC with the money you collect; the buff-coloured checklist of bird species to tick off as you identify birds during the 24-hour period; the pink Birdathon Report Form to complete and give to Cheryl before the end of May.

Thank you for helping the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Anderson

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