

2023 BIRDATHON REPORT



For the first time, we conducted our annual Birdathon during our Wings Across the Big Sky Festival in June. Overall, 153 species were recorded by our festival participants during a 24-hour period, which included Saturday morning field trips. The rules were still followed – same 24-hour period for everyone and only in Montana. In the past, our staff and board would spread out across the state to see as many bird species as possible. This year, we tried something different by confining ourselves to the Great Falls region but hoping, by having more people participate, we would see just as many birds. In the end, the experiment worked as we did encounter a good representation of bird life in Montana!

Friday night at the festival, we sounded the horn as Birdathon kicked off with 131 festival goers (that's 262 sets of eyes and ears!) who were tasked with finding as many bird species as they could in a 24-hour period.

Some of the highlights for this year:

- 1 Pileated Woodpecker (Peeble's Crossing);
- 1 Sprague's Pipit at Benton Lake;
- 1 Cordilleran Flycatcher was seen building a nest;
- 5 species of grebes;
- 6 species of swallows;
- 47 White-throated Swifts at Sluice Boxes (calling and chattering);
- American Dippers were seen on the Bluebird trip in Dry Wolf Creek;
- Buffleheads were observed in standing water along Morony Dam Rd;
- Veeries were abundant along the Highwood Creek Road;
- Short-eared, Burrowing and Great-Horned Owls (strange that no owls were actually seen at night)



Please see the back for a full detailed list of all 153 bird species we found for this year. Thank you so much for supporting our 2023 Birdathon. We look forward to keeping you informed of our organization's conservation successes and how your generous donation supported our work.

Montana Audubon's 2023 Birdathon List

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Snow Goose | Killdeer | Least Flycatcher | Chestnut-collared |
| Canada Goose | Semipalmated Plover | Dusky Flycatcher | Longspur |
| Trumpeter Swan | Upland Sandpiper | Cordilleran | Thick-billed |
| Blue-winged Teal | Long-billed Curlew | Flycatcher | Longspur |
| Cinnamon Teal | Marbled Godwit | Say's Phoebe | Grasshopper Sparrow |
| Northern Shoveler | Wilson's Snipe | Western Kingbird | Chipping Sparrow |
| Gadwall | Wilson's Phalarope | Eastern Kingbird | Clay-colored Sparrow |
| American Wigeon | Spotted Sandpiper | Warbling Vireo | Lark Sparrow |
| Mallard | Willet | Loggerhead Shrike | Vesper Sparrow |
| Northern Pintail | Franklin's Gull | Black-billed Magpie | Savannah Sparrow |
| Green-winged Teal | Ring-billed Gull | American Crow | Song Sparrow |
| Canvasback | California Gull | Common Raven | Spotted Towhee |
| Redhead | Black Tern | Black-capped | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Ring-necked Duck | Forster's Tern | Chickadee | Yellow-headed |
| Lesser Scaup | Double-crested | Mountain Chickadee | Blackbird |
| Bufflehead | Cormorant | Horned Lark | Bobolink |
| Common Goldeneye | American White | Northern Rough- | Western Meadowlark |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | Pelican | winged Swallow | Bullock's Oriole |
| Common Merganser | American Bittern | Tree Swallow | Red-winged |
| Red-breasted | Great Blue Heron | Violet-green Swallow | Blackbird |
| Merganser | Black-crowned Night- | Bank Swallow | Brown-headed |
| Ruddy Duck | Heron | Barn Swallow | Cowbird |
| Wild Turkey | White-faced Ibis | Cliff Swallow | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Ruffed Grouse | Turkey Vulture | Ruby-crowned | Common Grackle |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | Osprey | Kinglet | Ovenbird |
| Ring-necked | Golden Eagle | Red-breasted | Northern |
| Pheasant | Northern Harrier | Nuthatch | Waterthrush |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Bald Eagle | Rock Wren | MacGillivray's |
| Horned Grebe | Swainson's Hawk | Canyon Wren | Warbler |
| Eared Grebe | Red-tailed Hawk | House Wren | Common |
| Western Grebe | Ferruginous Hawk | Marsh Wren | Yellowthroat |
| Clark's Grebe | Great Horned Owl | American Dipper | American Redstart |
| Rock Pigeon | Burrowing Owl | European Starling | Yellow Warbler |
| Eurasian Collared- | Short-eared Owl | Gray Catbird | Yellow-rumped |
| Dove | Belted Kingfisher | Brown Thrasher | Warbler |
| Mourning Dove | Red-naped Sapsucker | Mountain Bluebird | Western Tanager |
| Common Nighthawk | Downy Woodpecker | Veery | Black-headed |
| White-throated Swift | Hairy Woodpecker | American Robin | Grosbeak |
| Calliope | Pileated Woodpecker | Cedar Waxwing | Lazuli Bunting |
| Hummingbird | Northern Flicker | House Sparrow | |
| Virginia Rail | American Kestrel | Sprague's Pipit | |
| Sora | Prairie Falcon | Evening Grosbeak | <u>Total:</u> 153 Species! |
| American Coot | Western Wood- | House Finch | |
| Sandhill Crane | Pewee | Pine Siskin | |
| Black-necked Stilt | Alder Flycatcher | American Goldfinch | |
| American Avocet | Willow Flycatcher | | |