

21st Annual Birdathon for Wildlife Recovery Association

It's hard to believe that this Birdathon is entering its third decade, but this year marks the 21st year that Macomb Audubon has sponsored this fun event to help the Wildlife Recovery Association (WRA). Over the years, we have collected more than \$11,000. And every dollar has been put to good use! The Birdathon will be held again to coincide with the North American Migration Count on the weekend of May 11-13, 2018.

A Birdathon is like a Walkathon, but it is much more fun to do. During the weekend of the North American Migration Count, birders will share their lists to the Birdathon in hopes of amassing as many species as possible. Virtually any area in the "MOO" (Michigan, Ontario and Ohio) is included. In years past, more than 175 species have been recorded. Spread out; go to a hotspot; bird your area. Every species counts!

Here is the important part: Your pledges of either cents-per-species or flat donations help WRA. If you pledge 10 cents a species, you would owe somewhere around \$17.50. But this year, we are all pushing it even more.

In past years, we have raised more than \$600 annually for this worthy cause. In the 20 years we've had the fund-raisers, MAS has raised an astounding total of more than \$11,700 for WRA.

The WRA is an organization devoted to helping injured raptors, in hopes of releasing them in the wild. Also, Joe Rogers, WRA's director, had devoted much of his life to educating in his unique, high-energy way many students of all ages. Further, his program has evolved to something different, and it still impacts those attending.

As with many nonprofit organizations, the WRA is not enjoying the bounty it used to. School budgets and many grants have all but dried up. Much of its operating money comes from fundraisers like this. Joe does a fraction of the number of programs he used to do a few years ago, so our Birdathon is all the more vital. The WRA needs your help to keep the programs going. Please pledge either by mail, email (need mailing address, too), or at the monthly membership meeting.

Your pledge is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Amount of pledge. _____ per species, or a flat donation of _____

Make your checks payable to Wildlife Recovery Association, and mail c/o
Mike Mencotti, 25378 Wykeshire, Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Email: mmencotti9@gmail.com