



Birdathon 2022



Help Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter raise money for environmental conservation by supporting our **2022 Birdathon**. Donate to a team of your choice and choose either a “per species seen” pledge or simply send a check in now with your donation.

Please check the Birdathon team you wish to support:

The Beaver Lake Bluebirds *(led by Tom Tribble)*

The Peregrines *(led by Simon Thompson)* **The Not-So-Common Loons** *(led by Jay Wherley)*

I pledge _____ for each species seen. (25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$2, etc.)

Instead of a pledge, I have enclosed a donation of: \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ Other ___

***For the first time ever, Blue Ridge Audubon is
matching your donations up to \$10,000!
Let's make this a big year for birds!***

Donate online via PayPal at blueridgeaudubon.org and select Birdathon.
Or make out a check payable to Blue Ridge Audubon and mail by May 31.
All contributions are tax deductible.

Name _____

Donation Amount _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Send to: Blue Ridge Audubon, P.O. Box 18711, Asheville NC, 28814



Birdathon 2022



For the tenth consecutive year, Blue Ridge Audubon will stage a Birdathon that both celebrates the excitement of Spring birding in the mountains and offers the opportunity to raise funds for a bird-worthy cause. This year's donations will go to support a project close to our hearts: working with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy who are managing habitat for Golden-winged Warblers in our nearby mountains. The charismatic Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) is hanging on by a thread here in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. With a regional population decline of almost 98% since the 1960's, the species currently has the smallest population of any songbird not on the Endangered Species List.

Golden-winged Warblers need a variety of habitat to succeed on their breeding grounds. They nest in shrubby, open areas, with the female building the nest *on the ground (!)* at the base of a shrub or in a tangle of grass or sedge foliage. Once the young have fledged, the family moves into mature forest habitat. Managing for GWWA requires actively creating young forest habitat, keeping mature forest growing, and managing shrubby areas from getting too overgrown. Many other bird species benefit from this management plan including American Woodcock, Prairie Warbler, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-breasted Chat.

We're very excited to be supporting the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) to increase appropriate habitat for Golden-wings. SAHC, a local land trust, already works to support GWWA on their land and our fund-raising will promote these efforts. Their targeted sites are Grassy Ridge and Elk Hollow, both known nesting sites for GWWA. These areas require active management to maintain the conditions required for successful GWWA nesting. The work on these two sites entails hand mowing and bushhogging blackberries and other shrubs to maintain a patchwork of shrubs, forbs, and grasses consistent with the best management practices for Golden-wings. SAHC will also work on their Grassy Gap property where they have documented grassland species like Vesper Sparrow and hope to document Golden-winged Warblers there too!

We're so excited to be a part of this effort and hope you will be too!