



Birdathon 2024



Help Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter raise money for environmental conservation by supporting our **2024 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 Chimney Swifties** *(Anne Cifelli & Renee Dunaway)*
- The Not-So-Common Loons** *(led by Jay Wherley)*
- No Egrets** *(led by Jonathan Marchal)*

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___

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 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Donation Amount _____

Email _____

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



Birdathon 2024



This May, 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 we will focus on efforts to learn more about Northern Saw-whet Owls, who still maintain a small breeding population in the Canadian Zone spruce-fir forests of the North Carolina mountains. These populations are threatened by the common problems of these forests like climate change, and invasive pests such as the balsam woolly adelgid, as well as their geographic isolation. Additionally, breeding behavior, habitat utilization and movements of the Saw-whet Owls are still poorly understood.

With recent technological advances, conservationists are now able to study these little owls using nanotag transmitters and receiver stations in the Motus network. Movements of these tiny, threatened owls can be tracked in their habitats year-round, and the areas most important for their protection can be established through this technology.



Blue Ridge Audubon's 2024 Birdathon will fund an endeavor by Wild Bird Research Group (WBRG), a nonprofit organization that studies migratory songbirds and owls. WBRG plans to take advantage of Motus receiver installations in WNC, as well as using mobile Motus receivers, to perform a thorough study of Saw-whet Owl breeding and habitat usage in the Southern Appalachians. The Birdathon proceeds will cover the netting and tagging of several Saw-whet Owls and the tracking of these owls to determine which habitats they need to survive and breed. This information will in turn yield valuable information about Saw-Whet Owl habitat conservation in North Carolina.

We at Blue Ridge Audubon hope you are as excited as we are about the prospects of contributing to this network of information that will help protect the habitat of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. You can support the Birdathon with a direct [online donation](#) here or at [our website](#). You can also print out this donation form and mail a check to: *Blue Ridge Audubon Birdathon, PO Box 18711, Asheville, NC 28814*. We are most grateful for the generosity of our members in helping us raise money for bird conservation. *Thank you all very much for your support!* We invite everyone to attend our special Blue Ridge Audubon program on Tuesday, May 21, where we will announce the winning Birdathon team. You can also donate to the Birdathon at the door. Our program will feature Anthony Squitieri from Wild Bird Research Group. ***Please join us!***