



Sample Birdathon Thank-Yous + Reports

Here are a few **samples from other Birdathoners** showing how they've thanked their sponsors after their Birdathon trip and the information they've shared in their reports.* You can keep it as simple — or go as elaborate — as you want.

If people say they would donate after your trip or made a pledge per species, the report is also when you should remind them to make their donation. People are busy, so you might have to remind them a couple of times. This isn't pestering. They want to support you and have said they would.

**Some samples show images from previous Birdathon years, but links have all been updated for 2025.*

Email Sample

Report and reminder to donate

Dear Roger,

Thank you for pledging \$25 to my Birdathon trip and for sponsoring Tahoma Bird Alliance. On **INSERT DATE HERE** I went to **INSERT LOCATION HERE**. Here's a picture from my trip!



Turns out the natural environment knows how to provide fresh drinking water. If we protect it, it will protect our drinking water! The watershed covers 147,394 acres on the west flank of the Cascade Mountains between Chinook and Snoqualmie passes.

Escorted by a fisheries biologist in a Tacoma Public Utilities van, a small group of us ventured out to count bird species. We focused on quality rather than quantity, choosing to take time to observe nature in action. We watched eleven Mallard ducklings swim in a man-made wetland built to mitigate for the Utilities impacts on the land. We had lunch while observing and discussing the flight of a Rufus hummingbird.

This year, birders like me are going on Birdathon trips and collecting sponsorships to raise \$30,000 to support bird and wildlife experiences and habitat preservation across Pierce County. Thank you again for your pledge to my Birdathon trip!

To make your contribution, please mail a check to Tahoma Bird Alliance or go online to [INSERT PAGE LINK](#) today. Pledges are due by June 30, 2017.

Thank you again for your support!
Andrea Michelbach

Letter Sample

Report to sponsors

Dear Friend and Sponsor:

This year our birding team consisted of [\[team member names\]](#). Alas, [name] missed her first Birdathon ever due to a bad cold. But [names] did a fine job and came up with [ENTER NUMBER OF](#) species.

At 5:15 a.m. we had an unexpected bird in Old Town, a Purple Martin flying overhead, they are now nesting along Ruston Way. A Peregrine Falcon was greeting the sun from high up on a building in downtown Tacoma.

West Hylebos Park in Federal Way yielded Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Red-breasted Sapsucker, and both Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds.

Then it was on to Asahael Curtis on I-90 for a pair of Harlequin's Ducks, spotted by [name] in the rushing waters of the Snoqualmie River and a bonus American Dipper.

At Snoqualmie Summit, we had a Fox Sparrow singing in the rain amongst lots of snow. The Hammond's Flycatchers and MacGillivray's Warblers were singing at Stampede Pass.

We went into SunCadia to find a reported White-headed Woodpecker, with no luck. But we did find multitudes of Evening Grosbeaks, plus Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Chipping Sparrow.

The South Cle Elum barrow ponds had Western Bluebird, Bullock's Oriole and Cassin's Vireo.

Instead of a Hooded Merganser, this year the Wood Duck was herding her babies through the pond at the Teanaway Bridge.

At the Swauk Cemetery, we enjoyed the yellow Balsam Root flowers in full bloom and added a Calliope Hummingbird to the list.

The White-breasted Nuthatch was checking out the feeder while Cassin's Finch sang from the top of the Ponderosa Pine.

The birds of the sage - Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow, and Loggerheadhrike - were all in Quilomene Wildlife Recreation Area along the Old Vantage Highway.

From the Vantage Overlook on the Columbia River we observed the dramatic drawdown of the Columbia River and the resulting exposure of a sand bar due to a significant crack in Wanapum Dam. California Gulls and Caspian Terns were roosting on the newly created sand bar, but the normally reliable Horned & Eared Grebes were nowhere to be seen.

The geological spectacle of the basalt columns in Frenchman's Coulee hosted singing Rock Wrens, with White-throated Swifts soaring and twittering off the cliff edge.

The Caliche Ponds, Martha Lake and rest area ponds along I-90 gave us a shorebird bonanza. Two uncommon birds for the eastside were Ruddy Turnstone and Short-billed Dowitchers. They were accompanied by Least and Spotted Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets and Dunlin in breeding plumage.

We found both of the rails – Virginia Rail and Sora – at Birder's Corner.

At 7:30 p.m., as we were racing across O'Sullivan Dam, we spotted large white birds way down below in the coulee that turned out to be American White Pelicans. We ended the day with calling Western and Clark's Grebe side-by-side at our final stop in Lind Coulee. The group total for the day was 135 species.

Your pledge this year was \$_____. We have not enclosed the full bird list, but would be happy to provide it upon request. Just send us a note or email address with your check. We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope for you to send your check. Please make your check payable to Tahoma Bird Alliance.

You also have the option of make your donation online. Please visit my personal fundraising page [INSERT LINK HERE](#)

Please make all Birdathon donations by June 30. Your donation is tax deductible – tax ID#23-7450873. Tahoma Bird Alliance will send you a receipt for tax purposes. If matching funds are available from your employer, please remember to submit the appropriate forms to your employer.

Thank you for your support of TBA's cause. Your money is well spent, as the Birdathon funds go to support Bird education and conservation programs in Pierce County.

Good birding!

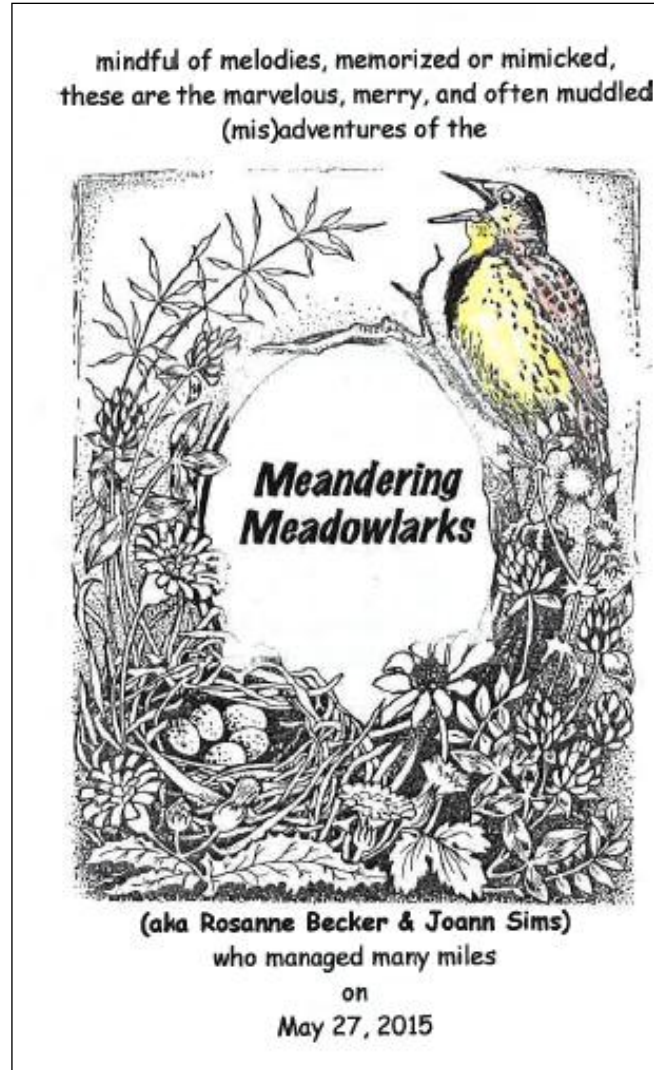
Sample 3 – booklet

Report to sponsors

(envelope)



(booklet cover)



2015 Birdathon
Wed., May 27

#	TIME	LOCATION	SPECIES	NOTES
1	0524	University Place Streets	American Crow	large communal roosts
2			Bewick's Wren *	white eyeline
3			Dark-eyed Junco	"snow bird"
4			American Robin	can sing all night !!!!!!!
5			Spotted Towhee	song is high trill
6			White-crowned Sparrow *	"oh me, pretty, pretty me"
7			Black-capped Chickadee *	black cap and bib
8			Steller's Jay	called camp robber
9			Violet-green Swallow	white rump patches
10	0534	Chambers Creek	Song Sparrow	first pishing responder
11			Pacific Slope Flycatcher *	formerly called Western
12			Mourning Dove	owl-like call
13			Mallard	green-headed duck
14			Canada Goose	over population!!
15			Swinson's Thrush *	upward spiraling song
16			American Goldfinch	WA state bird
17			House Finch *	red on head and breast
18			Common Merganser	large green-headed duck
19			Common Goldeneye	round white facial marks
20			Belted Kingfisher *	digs tunnel for nesting
21			Bald Eagle	such a proud looking bird
22			Band-tailed Pigeon	large native pigeon
23			Red-winged Blackbird	king of the marshes
24			Black-throated Gray Warbler	dainty black and white
25			Glaucous-winged Gull	most common w. WA gull
26	0600	Charles Wright Academy	Osprey	new nest location
27	0640	Titlow	House Sparrow	1850 Euro import
28			Pigeon Guillemot	nest in old pilings
29			Purple Martin	12 pairs?
30	0703	N. Alder, Tacoma	European Starling	"sky rat", 1890 import
31	0717	Dock St., Tacoma	Rock Pigeon	1606 import
32	0730	I 5, Milton	Red-tailed Hawk	highway hawk
33	0810	SE 104th near SR18 & I90	Cassin's Vireo *	"question & answer" call
34			Olive-sided Flycatcher	calls from top of snags
35			Western Tanager *	red face, yellow belly
36			Common Yellowthroat *	black mask, bright yellow
37	0830	Winery Rd.	Orange-crowned Warbler *	hidden orange crown
38			Warbling Vireo *	long flowing song
39			Wilson's Warbler*	black cap

MANEUVERS OF THE MEANDERING MEADOWLARKS

(aka Rosanne Becker & Joann Sims)
on their 2015 Birdathon, Wed., May 27th
Rosanne, reporter

This year's birdathon trip almost didn't happen. Joann spent most of the month fighting a sinus infection and doing a lot of hacking. Improving a bit, she decides to do the trip before we run out of time. (Turns out she has walking pneumonia).

A little after 0500 this half of the team heads for Chambers Creek. A **Bewick's Wren** spits out its early morning greeting, joined by the songs of a **White-crowned Sparrow** and **Black-capped Chickadee**. An **American Robin** flies across the street, while **Violet-green Swallows** are seen darting around for their breakfast.

Down at Chambers Creek **Red-winged Blackbirds** and a **Song Sparrow** can be heard as a **Mourning Dove** adds its owl-like call. Farther along can be heard the rattling of a **Belted Kingfisher**. At the mouth of the creek, a dozen or so **Common Mergansers** can be seen swimming about. A bonus for this late in the month is a couple of female **Common Goldeneyes** that have been hanging around for weeks.

Let's not forget the **Canada Goose** families! There are several, some in the creek and some foraging by the road. (By mid-summer there will be scores of geese.) A **Bald Eagle** sits guarding its nest above the creek. A flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** sitting in a tree near the bridge is nearly missed.

A short walk up the Chambers Creek trail produces some harder to find songsters, **Pacific Slope Flycatcher** and **Black-throated Gray Warbler**. The spiraling call of a **Swinson's Thrush** sends this birder on her way. The only **Glaucous-winged Gull** of the day flies over as the canyon is left behind.

A fairly new site, Charles Wright Academy, produces a nest of **Osprey** on top of a light fixture. This nest has been here for two or three years. (There is still an active nest on the Chambers Creek RR bridge.)

A quick stop at Starbucks for coffee, and this birder moves on to Titlow where the expected **Purple Martins** and Pigeon **Guillemots** are added. (There seem to be quite a few more pairs of Martins this year.)

Time to pick up the other half of this team. On through the north end to Dock St. where we hoped to catch sight of the Peregrine Falcon. Alas! All we come up with are dozens of **Rock Pigeons** on the power lines. (Did you know that this European import was introduced to North America as early as 1606?)



On I 5 at Milton we spot a **Red-tailed Hawk**, our first "highway hawk" of the day. As usual, SR 18 produces next to nothing. Near SR 18 & I 90 we pull off onto a road near a marsh. From there are heard the calls of **Cassin's Vireo** and **Western Tanager**. A **Common Yellowthroat** belts out "witchety, witchety". From the top of a tall snag can be heard the "quick, three beers!" of the **Olive-sided Flycatcher**.

Winery Rd, (formerly Snoqualmie Winery Rd.) above North Bend has become more productive the last couple of years. It's just our luck that most of today's songsters wish to remain hidden. Our plugged ears (Joann's left and my right) manage to hear the songs of **Orange-crowned**, **Wilson's**, **Townsend's**, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and **Warbling Vireo**. Also heard is the tipsy song of a **Black-headed Grosbeak**, and the high-pitched dual tones of a **Varied Thrush**.

At North Bend Marsh, while watching **Tree Swallows** dart about, we hear a **Yellow Warbler** and the "fitz-bhew" of a **Willow Flycatcher**. Some **Cedar Waxwings** probe the twigs looking for a mid-morning snack.

Alpental hides its birds well, but we do hear **MacGillivray's Warbler** and **Pine Siskins**. At the summit we add the call of a **Nashville Warbler**. While a hungry **Rufous Hummingbird** helps itself to nectar in the feeders, **Barn Swallows** are noted flying after insects.

We exit at Stampede Pass Rd. to look for a Dipper seen last week. No Dipper in the Yakima River, but we get a good look at a **Spotted Sandpiper** flying to a log perch. On our way again, the first **Turkey Vulture** of the day soars over Easton.

CleElum produces our anticipated **Evening Grosbeaks**. They can be heard and seen everywhere in the treetops. We take note of several **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and get a good look at the bright red top on the head of a **Cassin's Finch**.

Onward! East of CleElum we add more of our eastside species. On Red Bridge Road we jot down **Chipping Sparrow** as it trills from a bush. On a wire is the first of many **Western Kingbirds**, and we hear the "peeeer" of a **Western Wood-Pewee**. We nearly run down a **California Quail** as it scoots across the road.

While listening to all the birdsong, Joann calls attention to a strange looking bird sitting on the lower part of a rail fence. It doesn't move, but looks so lifelike. After moving up closer, we burst out laughing. Among the "twig" birds,

"wire" birds, "leaf" birds, etc., this is the best "faux bird" yet—a "sprinklerhead" bird. Some farmer has propped a couple of sprinklerheads against the fence! (Take a look at the enclosed photo.) A little humor will carry us a long way.

At the Teanaway Bridge we finally spot our missed **American Dipper**, flying down the river. Later, we listen to another concert while getting good looks at singing **Western Meadowlark**, **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** on Swauk Prairie Rd.

Bettas Rd. is a pleasant detour that passes through a lovely valley adjacent to US 97. There we spot several more firsts of the day: the **Mountain Bluebird** with its sky-blue plumage, an **American Kestrel** hovering over some unseen prey, and a long-tailed **Black-billed Magpie**.

We're running late as usual, but decide to eat a quick lunch at Irene Rhinehart Park. (We usually get several species here, but already got them earlier.) Now it's time for this klutz to get her come-uppance! While looking up at some birds, Rosanne fails to notice the low wood barriers bordering the parking area. Next thing she's on the ground sitting in the dirt with a scrape below the knee. Packing up we quickly drive a mile back to Ellensburg to get some ice to put on a swollen bump. It smarts, but will be okay, except for a lot of black and blue! That'll teach this birder to look down as well as up!

Someone reported earlier that this year there was an abundance of both bluebirds on Umptanum Rd., and they were right. First bird in this area is a **Western Bluebird** and there are dozens more of both kinds. (Nesting boxes of the Bluebird Trails have really helped this species) A little further on we hear our first **Rock Wren** in this area in years. **Bullocks Orioles** are soon seen darting through the trees, and chattering **House Wrens** are heard almost continually.

Too many species are missing, Sage Thrasher among them. On Wenas Rd. we finally hear the long song of our only **Brewer's Sparrow** of the day. At the top of a hill we sight three of our expected **Lewis Woodpeckers**. On our way back to Ellensburg, in Shushuskin Canyon we take note of a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flying across the road and the introduced **Eurasian Collared-Dove**.

As in previous years, Ellensburg to Vantage is usually a dead zone for birds, but we keep going. At the river we turn south on Huntzinger Rd. It's good to see the dam filled up again after the very low water during repair on the dam's crack. On a wire above the road we spot a **Lark Sparrow**. On the river we can see a **Common Loon**, a lone **American White Pelican**, and several **Western Grebes**.

Continuing on, we detour into Frenchman's Coulee, where we spot our usual **White-throated Swifts** flying around the steep cliffs. The ponds along the I 90 frontage road hold very little except an **American Coot** and the black-rumped **Gadwall**. Caliche Lakes are totally empty except for one **Pied-billed Grebe**. Where are all the ducks?

Happily, Martha Lake holds a little more. There we find **Redhead**, some **Black-necked Stilts**, and a single **Ring-billed Gull** flying over the lake. **Cinnamon Teal** seem to be in great abundance. We chuckle as we see a tree being slowly filled by **Double-crested Cormorants** coming to roost.

The ponds at Winchester Wasteway Rest Stop have a lot of birds already on our list, but we manage a **Killdeer**, **Forster's Tern**, and a **Northern Shoveller**. Dodson Road, once abundant with dozens of species, now only gives us a **Great Egret**. Potholes State Park has birds we've already counted, so after a brief stop, we head south to Othello, via McManamon Rd.

Near Othello there are ponds on both sides of the road. This is a place to sit for a time, just listening. Unseen **Marsh Wrens** chatter from the cattails, while dozens of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** send out their raucous calls. What a concert! Several **Lesser Scaup** can be seen swimming on the pond. A **Great Blue Heron** flies over as we suddenly realize that it's the first one we've seen all day. And in the back corner of the marsh we watch a lone **American Avocet** probing the water for tidbits. This last bird for our list is also the only one seen today.

We've no idea where all the species are. Even the more common species are just not there. Before starting this trip, we decided that we'd take what we could find. Except for my mishap, we felt quite relaxed all day as we added to our list. Our total of 105 species is somewhat disappointing. (A couple of plugged ears may have kept us from hearing some songs and calls.) The number is ten fewer than last year and twenty fewer than some previous years.

Our trip home on Thursday via Crab Creek, Vernita Bridge, and White Pass will have us humorously cussing at each bird that appears that should have been on the Birdathon list. They include **Blue-winged Teal**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Lazuli Bunting**, and a **Common Nighthawk**. (Is this part of Murphy's Law?)

Doing a Birdathon with a more relaxed attitude may cost us some species, but it surely gives one a peace of mind and the ability to enjoy the birds more.

2015 Birdathon Wed., May 27

#	TIME	LOCATION	SPECIES	NOTES
40	0830	Winery Rd.	Black-headed Grosbeak *	tipsy robin-like song
41			Varied Thrush *	black V on orange breast
42			Townsend's Warbler *	black & yellow on head
43			Pacific Wren *	very secretive
44			Yellow-rumped Warbler *	most abundant warbler
45	0843	North Bend Marsh	Tree Swallow	iridescent blue back
46			Willow Flycatcher *	"fritz-bhew" call
47			Cedar Waxwing	look cross-eyed
48			Yellow Warbler *	migrates south in July
49	0913	Alpental	MacGillivray's Warbler *	pumps tail in flight
50			Pine Siskin *	smallest finch
51	0928	Snoqualmie Summit	Barn Swallow	forked tail
52			Nashville Warbler *	conceals rufous crown
53			Rufous Hummingbird	feisty nectar defender
54	0945	Yellowstone Rd., Snoq. Pass	Hermit Thrush *	lovely flute-like call
55	1010	Stampede Pass Rd.	Spotted Sandpiper	bounces rump up & down
56	1030	I 90, Easton	Turkey Vulture	like to "ride" thermals
57	1044	CleElum	Evening Grosbeak	large, noisy finch
58			N. Rough-winged Swallow	grayish brown
59			Cassin's Finch	rich red crown
60			Brewer's Blackbird	black with yellow eye
61	1110	W. Masterson Rd.	Cliff Swallow	colonial nester
62	1118	Red Bridge Rd.	Western Wood-Pewee	"peeeer" call
63			Chipping Sparrow	bright rufous crown
64			Western Kingbird	a flycatcher
65			California Quail	bobbing topknot
66	1134	Teanaway R. Bridge	American Dipper	walks under water
67	1139	Red Bridge Rd.	Brown-headed Cowbird	is a nest parasite
68	1150	Swauk Prairie Rd.	Western Meadowlark	black V on yellow breast
69			Vesper Sparrow	finely streaked
70			Savannah Sparrow	soft-sounding songster
71	1210	Bettas Rd. off US 97	Common Raven	wedge-shaped tail
72			Black-billed Magpie	very long tail
73			American Kestrel	smallest falcon
74			Mountain Bluebird	male is sky blue
75	1430	Umptanum Rd.	Western Bluebird	helped by "Bluebird Trails"
76			Rock Wren *	paves nest entrance w/pebbles
77	1500		Bullock's Oriole	makes a "bag" nest
78			House Wren	aggressive and noisy

2015 Birdathon
Wed., May 27

#	TIME	LOCATION	SPECIES	NOTES
79	1500	Umptanum Rd.	Northern Flicker	common woodpecker
80	1544	Wenas Rd.	Brewer's Sparrow *	15 second long song
81			Lewis' s Woodpecker	rosy pink breast
82	1642	Shushuskin Canyon	Eurasian Collared-Dove	fast spreading import
83			Sharp-shinned Hawk	flap, flap, glide pattern
84	1728	Huntzinger Rd. at Vantage	Lark Sparrow	striking facial marks
85			Common Loon	breeds on remote lakes
86			Western Grebe	"dances across water"
87			American White Pelican	gets breeding nob on bill
88	1820	Frenchman's Coulee	White-throated Swift	nest on high cliffs
89	1829	I 90 Ponds	American Coot	chicks have orange head
90			Gadwall	black rumped duck
91	1835	Caliche Lakes	Pied-billed Grebe	can submerge like a sub
92	1851	Martha Lake	Redhead	"dump" eggs in other nests
93			Cinnamon Teal	heavy-density nesters
94			Ring-billed Gull	breeds in E. WA
95			Double-crested Cormorant	stretches out wings to dr
96			Black-necked Stilt	extremely long legs
97	1914	Winchester Westway RS ponds	Killdeer	land-loving shorebird
98			Forster's Tern	plunge-dives for fish
99			Northern Shoveller	spatula-shaped bill
100	1923	Dodson Rd.	Great Egret	all white
101	2040	McManamon Rd. Ponds, Othello	Great Blue Heron	stealthy hunter
102			Lesser Scaup	large flocks in winter
103			Marsh Wren *	very chattery
104			Yellow-headed Blackbird	raucous call
105			American Avocet	dive-bombs intruders
* indicates birds heard, but not seen				
EPILOGUE--5/28/15--uncountable birds that should have been on our Birdathon list, but didn't show up until on our way home:				
		Co. Line Ponds, w/Othello	Blue-winged Teal	white facial patches
			Wilson's Phalarope	spins around in water
		Lower Crab Cr. Rd.	Northern Harrier	may hunt at dusk
			Eastern Kingbird	black and white
			Lazuli Bunting	metallic blue w/orange
			Ring-necked Pheasant	popular game bird
		Vernita Bridge RS	Common Nighthawk *	whip-poor-will family
		US 12	Dawny Woodpecker	small w/red head patch

Questions or want help?

Get in touch with Rose. She's happy to help or answers questions!

rsullivan@tahomabirdalliance.org

253-565-9129