



At the end of April, local birding teams will be conducting our annual spring bird count. The teams work hard to find as many species & individual birds as possible. The data collected during the count is submitted to eBird and becomes part of a national/international database to help scientists determine the effects of habitat loss and climate change on bird and the environment. The data also helps us locally to determine what areas of our ever-growing county needs protection from development.

This year the MAS Board would like to add another dimension this important annual event – a BIRDATHON! What is a bird-a-thon? It's a way to raise funds for conservation efforts (locally, nationally and/or internationally). It works much like any other 'athon' but in this scenario folks pledge a certain amount for each species seen by a specific team. Knowing they are being supported by other folks will also provide each team another incentive knowing their efforts will benefit a conservation project as well as support citizen science.

Who benefits?

The board has decided to donate the funds from this first Bird-a-thon to the Catawba Lands Conservancy (CLC) in honor of David Wright. The MAS board believes contributing these funds to CLC will deliver the most immediate local impact to local habitat for birds and other wildlife. Many great birding areas in the Charlotte are being protected by CLC, so it only makes sense to collaborate with them to help continue and possibility expand this protection.

When?

Since this bird-a-thon is being paired with our annual spring count it will be a one day affair on Sunday, April 23.

Who's Involved?

Each team has a designated area within the spring count circle for which they are responsible. The areas vary in habitat quality, so team leaders

have been asked to state a species goal for their area based on their experience. These goals will help donors decide which team they may want to support and what amount they'd like to pledge per bird species. Listed elsewhere on this page is a list of the teams, a brief description of their area, and their goal.

How to support

There are several ways to support this project.

1. You can volunteer to be on a team and participate physically in the count. As member of a team you can solicit donations from friends and family.
2. If you can't join a team, you can support a team by donating a certain amount for each species seen by the team or by making a one-time donation. Instructions for doing this are below.

The Teams

1. **The David's Wright Here With Us's** (David's old area) McAlpine Wastewater Treatment Plant, McMullen Greenway, and Pineville. *Goal: 75*
2. **City Flickers:** Latta Park, Elmwood Cemetery, Stewart Creek Greenway, Marshall Park, CPCC, Bright Walk. *Goal: 60*
3. **Airport Wrecking-ball Cranes:** From the airport to Lake Wylie and south to Shopton Rd. *Goal: 85*
4. **Steel Creek Waders:** West of Pineville to Lake Wylie. *Goal: 85*
5. **Evergreen-winged Teals:** East Charlotte, including Evergreen Nature Preserve and the Mint Museum. *Goal: 60*
6. **McAlpine Birding Beavers:** Southcentral Charlotte, including McAlpine and Briars Creek Greenways, Veteran's and Chantilly Parks. *Goal: 75*
7. **Wandering Taylorbirds:** Various spots in central and southwest Charlotte. *Goal: 80.*
8. **Myers Park Warbler Warriors:** Freedom, Edgehill and Park Road Parks, and stops in between. *Goal: 60*

What you need to do.

First complete a 'pledge/donation' form found on the back of this sheet. Or you can fill it out the online at <http://meckbirds.org/birdathon.html>. This will give us an idea of who is pledging and how much is being pledged. If you print out the form you can bring it to our monthly meeting or send it to the address mentioned below.

After the Bird-a-thon has taken place, we will post the results in the newsletter, on this website and announce them at the May meeting. Once the results are in you can submit your donation using one of the following methods.

- Mail a check payable to Mecklenburg Audubon Society to: P.O. Treasurer, Mecklenburg Audubon, Box 221093, Charlotte, NC 28222. Please indicate the money is for the Bird-a-thon. (A copy of your original form would be helpful.)
- Bring your check/cash to the May or June meeting.
- Use our PayPal Donation button located on our website - meckbirds.org. **You DO NOT need a PayPal account to submit a donation.** Click on the 'Donate with a Card' button at the bottom of the box. Please enter the name of the Team you are supporting where it says 'Special Instructions'.



Mecklenburg Audubon bird·a·thon



Sunday • April 23, 2017

Help Mecklenburg Audubon raise funds to conserve vital habitat in the Charlotte region by supporting the 2017 Spring Count Bird-a-thon. The data collected will be used to make decisions about habitat preservation. The funds raised will be given to Catawba Lands Conservancy as a memorial to David Wright.

You can 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.

Check a box to sponsor a team:

- The David’s Wright Here With Us’s:** (David’s old area) McAlpine Wastewater Treatment Plant, McMullen Greenway, and Pineville. *Goal: 75*
- City Flickers:** Latta Park, Elmwood Cemetery, Stewart Creek Greenway, Marshall Park, CPCC, Bright Walk. *Goal: 60*
- Airport Wrecking-ball Cranes:** From the airport to Lake Wylie and south to Shopton Rd. *Goal: 85*
- Steel Creek Waders:** West of Pineville to Lake Wylie. *Goal: 85*
- Evergreen-winged Teals:** East Charlotte, including Evergreen Nature Preserve and the Mint Museum. *Goal: 60*
- McAlpine Birding Beavers:** Southcentral Charlotte, including McAlpine and Briars Creek Greenways, Veteran’s and Chantilly Parks. *Goal: 75*
- Wandering Taylorbirds:** Various spots in central and southwest Charlotte. *Goal: 80*
- Myers Park Warbler Warriors:** Freedom, Edgehill and Park Road Parks, and stops in between. *Goal: 75*

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

Mail this form to: Treasurer, Mecklenburg Audubon, P.O. Box 221093, Charlotte, NC 28222 (or give it to a board member)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, St. & Zip: _____

All contributions are tax deductible.

Please make check payable to Mecklenburg Audubon and send by May 31.