



Teaching with the Great Wisconsin Birdathon in your Classroom

Looking for creative ways to get your classroom outside this spring? The [Great Wisconsin Birdathon](#) is the perfect opportunity to engage your students in the natural world and get them excited about bird conservation. Learn how the Birdathon can make an impact in your classroom—all while your classroom makes an impact for the birds!

Find your flock and join Wisconsin's largest fundraiser for bird conservation!

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| WHO | Everyone! Participation is free and all skill levels are welcome to join! |
| WHEN | Any day or timeframe of your choosing between April 15 – June 15 |
| WHERE | Anywhere in Wisconsin! |
| WHY | Birds need our help! You can make a difference by raising funds for our state's highest priority bird conservation projects. Proceeds support the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Bird Protection Fund. |



What is the Great Wisconsin Birdathon?

The Great Wisconsin Birdathon is Wisconsin's largest fundraiser for bird conservation. It's a great way to get out in nature, see birds, learn about Wisconsin and connect with other bird enthusiasts all while raising awareness and funds for bird protection.

The Great Wisconsin Birdathon has raised more than \$1 million since its start in 2012

Proceeds will go to the Natural Resources Foundation's [Bird Protection Fund](#) which supports the highest priority conservation needs for Wisconsin's birds throughout their lifecycle.

Bird your way! This is a **walk-a-thon style fundraiser** but instead of logging miles, you're logging bird sightings! Participate anywhere in Wisconsin for any time frame between **April 15 – June 15**, no birding experience necessary. Interested participants form a team, gather donations, and then go birding on their day(s) of choice to see how many species they can find. Along the way, log your bird sightings in the online tracking portal so your supporters can follow along.

2024 Birdathon by the Numbers

86 teams, across 37 counties

\$117,000+ raised for bird conservation

11 priority projects funded

280 species found across Wisconsin



Photo: Caitlyn Schuchhardt

Photo: Joshua Mayer



What the Birdathon Can Bring to Your Classroom

Participating in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon can help your classroom meet [Wisconsin's environmental education standards](#). The Birdathon provides an opportunity for students to connect, explore, and engage in the world around them.

Students can connect with their sense of place and well-being as they explore their backyards, favorite natural spaces, or even the school grounds. Looking for birds will help them observe the world around them, explore, and ask questions about nature.

Use the Birdathon as...

- A place-based learning activity to connect your students with nature
- A way to engage students in citizen science (also known as community science)
- An opportunity to introduce students to a new hobby
- A chance to have a meaningful conservation impact



Photo: Eric Preston



Photo: Courtesy of Madison School and Community Recreation



Planning Your Classroom's Birdathon

The sky is the limit when it comes to how you Birdathon! Traditionally, teams choose one day to participate between April 15 - June 15, but we encourage your classroom to **bird your way!** Here are some ideas for planning your Birdathon.

1. Birding together or apart

Your classroom could commit to one day of birding as a class and tally up your bird sightings as a group, or you could encourage students to take charge and set up teams on their own with their friends & family.

2. Be community scientists

The Birdathon can be an opportunity to learn more about community science and how it supports bird conservation by providing data for research. Consider having your class visit a nearby "birding hotspot" and upload their bird sightings to eBird, a community science platform for bird observations.

Because the Great Wisconsin Birdathon is a fundraiser specifically for bird conservation, it lends itself well to exploring the discussions about why conservation matters and how students can make a difference.

3. Start a friendly classroom challenge

Is there another class at your school also studying birds? Consider adding a dash of competition to the mix by challenging another class to participate in the Birdathon too! Compete to see who can find the most bird species on their chosen day!



Next Steps...

Registration

Registration opens on **March 15**. Form teams and brainstorm team names while setting up your team portal(s) on our Birdathon site. Once you've registered, you can update the online portal with the goals of your team- both your birding goals, and your fundraising goals. You'll also be given a personal fundraising link to share with friends & families, so they can directly follow along and pledge!



Raising Funds

Families, friends, and supporters can give directly to your Birdathon efforts by clicking the **GIVE** button on your private portal. Otherwise, they can pledge to give "per bird species seen" encouraging the class to watch for as many species as possible. School clubs participating in the Birdathon can keep 50% of their total funds raised.



Get Social

Your personal Birdathon portal is a great place to share your goals and your progress with your supporters. Post interesting pictures, experiences, and birdwatching lessons as you complete your day(s) of birding. Promote your team's accomplishments on social media and don't forget to tag us- we'll help spread the word and will encourage the community to donate to your efforts! We can be tagged on Facebook at [@GreatWisconsinBirdathon](#) or [@NaturalResourcesFoundationofWisconsin](#) and on Instagram at [@WisConservation](#).



Need help along the way? Give us a chirp!

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Natural Resources
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