

URWA's 19th Annual Bird-a-Thon
May 22, 2010

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time of the year for bird lovers as each day brings new species returning for the season. As of May 1st, the Fairview Farm Blue Bird boxes held a total of 33 Blue Bird eggs in them! And, the Towhee is calling "drink your tea" in the hedgerow along the driveway while our fascinating and beautiful green Herons have returned to nest along the pond.

We are getting closer to Saturday, May 22nd, the date of URWA's 19th annual Bird-a-thon. This year will be the 'swan song' for expert birder and Trustee Alan Willemsen, as he is stepping down as Team Leader. We will miss Alan's guidance and expertise and are grateful for his years of dedication to this wonderful event! Rounding out the team are returning members and birders Bob Lewis, Gordon Cameron and Thom Almendinger- who will be assuming the role as leader in next year's Bird-a-thon. As in the past, this event will take place from dawn till dusk throughout the state.

This is an important effort because it focuses attention on the habitat needs of migrating birds. In each of our watershed communities, you can't help but notice the changes in the countryside. Buildings and pavement have replaced many of the meadows and forests that make this region so unique. Can you imagine what effect the fragmented and degraded landscape has had on birds and other wildlife?

At this time we are taking pledges from 25 cents to \$5.00 per bird species identified. The team's goal is to identify 145 species and we need your help! Your support will motivate our birders throughout the long day and also help raise funds for URWA's efforts to protect the critical habitat that is vital to the survival of our fine-feathered friends.

Your pledge tear-off is attached. **Feel free to enlist your friends, relatives and co-workers.** And remember, pledges are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your support.

Pledge Sheet

YES, I would like to pledge \$_____ per bird species identified by the URWA Birding Team on May 22nd. I understand that I will be notified of the results soon after the event.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I don't need to wait for the results to come in. I am sending you a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to help speed the team on its way.

Payment: To use our secure web site, go to: www.urwa.org

Checks payable to URWA (envelope enclosed)

Please mail to:
Upper Raritan Watershed Association
Post Office Box 273
Gladstone, NJ 07934

Thank you for your support!