

2024 Coastal Virginia Birdathon

By Sarah O'Reilly

The Coastal Virginia Birdathon (CVB) is hosted annually by CVWO and has gone by a few different names over the years. In this fun and friendly team birding competition, teams compete to identify the greatest number of bird species in a single day.

The primary goals of the CVB are to raise funds for CVWO and to raise awareness of fall bird migration on the Eastern Shore and along the coastal plain of Virginia. The CVB occurs each year during peak migration when birds sing little and many have molted their breeding plumages. Add in hatch-year birds, and you'll see why it's a challenge!

The event is open to anyone and there is no fee to participate, however, all teams are encouraged to secure sponsors for donations, such as per species or flat-rate pledges from individuals, bird clubs and businesses. All funds raised are used to support CVWO's field research and environmental education programs.

Thank you to the teams, volunteers, supporters and organizations that made the 2024 Coastal Virginia Birdathon a success. Congratulations to the **Gulls Gone Wild**, who take home the coveted Piping Plover Trophy for raising the most funds in support of CVWO. This year, the event took place on September 28 where 11 total teams raised a whopping



Pictured above are Babs Giffin, Nancy Barnhart and Sue Mutell. Not pictured but still part of the "Gulls" are Shirley Devan and Joyce Lowry. Congrats ladies!



Andrew Rapp representing the winners of the 24-hour category, the Cape Charles Warblers.

\$13,914

in support of CVWO wildlife, research, conservation, and education efforts. Pictured below are Babs Giffin, Nancy Barnhart and Sue Mutell. Not pictured but still part of the "Gulls" are Shirley Devan and Joyce Lowry. Congrats ladies!

2024 Winners:

Special Venue | The Islanders **73 Species**

Brian Taber, Terri Cuthriell & Deborah Humphries

3-Hour | What the Flock? **87 Species**

Elisabeth Carrozza Wilkins, Michelle Phillips, Ana Moret Colón, Marie Smith & Corey Wilkins

24-Hour | Cape Charles Warblers
126 Species

Andrew Rapp, Jonathan Irons & Ocean Church

Most Funds Raised | Gulls Gone Wild

Babs Giffin, Nancy Barnhart, Sue Mutell, Shirley Devan & Joyce Lowry