

2025 Coastal Virginia Birdathon

By Sarah O'Reilly



Brian Taber, Deborah Humphries and Jim Easton representing The Islanders. This team took down the reign of the "Gulls" and were the winners of the 2025 Piping Plover Trophy for raising the most funds and also were the winners of the 3-hour category!

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 Islanders**, who took home the coveted Piping Plover Trophy for raising the most funds in support of CVWO. This year, the event took place on September 27 where 11 total teams raised a whopping

\$22,203

in support of CVWO wildlife, research, conservation, and education efforts. 2025 winners:

Special Venue | Counting Crows
Audrey Anderson & Sage Church

3-Hour | The Islanders
Brian Taber, Deborah Humphries
& Jim Easton

Large Group | Laughing Falcons
Bob Ake, David Clarke & Cape
Henry Bird Club



Laughing Falcons, which tallied 105 species during their 2025 CVB campaign. This group included team leads Bob Ake and David Clarke along with an enthusiastic group from the Cape Henry Bird Club.

24-Hour | Morning Warblers

Baxter Beamer & Andrew Rapp

Most Funds Raised | The Islanders

The Islanders will take home the coveted Piping Plover trophy for the most funds raised for this year's Birdathon. Team members raised nearly \$9,200 from ten donors!

Most Individual Donations | Gulls Gone Wild

Though the Gulls handed off their Piping Plover Trophy dynasty, they were still responsible for having the most individual donors for 2025, totaling 50! In addition, this team accepted a \$500 check in February 2026 from Kaufman & Canoles as part of their KaufCares program. Team members include Babs Giffin, Nancy Barnhart, Sue Mutell, Shirley Devan & Joyce Lowry.



Laura Mae, Kaufman & Canoles, Sue Mutell, Shirley Devan, Joyce Lowry, Babs Giffin. Not pictured: Nancy Barnhart.