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What is a Raptorthon?

Like Birdathon, Raptorthon is a sponsored Bird Count, but is focused on Raptors. It's a fun event organized by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) in which you ask sponsors for a pledge to sponsor you for a day searching for as many raptors species (and optionally other species) as possible

What happens to the money I raise during the Raptorthon?

All money raised will support raptor monitoring but you decide how it's distributed. You have the choice to donate 50% of the money you raise to a hawkwatch organization and 50% to HMANA to support its HawkCount database, Raptor Population Index project, and raptor conservation efforts. Or you can choose to donate 25% to another conservation organization of your choice and 75% to HMANA, or you can donate 100% to HMANA. **HMANA's proceeds above the standard 50% will be allocated to our new HawkWatchFund to support hawk watching throughout North and Central America.**

Do I need to be an experienced hawkwatcher to take part in HMANA's

Raptorthon? What if I don't know my raptor species that well? You don't need to be an experienced hawkwatcher. The purpose of the Raptorthon is to get out and have fun for the day searching for raptors and other birds and raise money for raptors. To benefit from others' experience, form your own team or contact your local hawkwatching site for information about joining a team. Or go it alone and do your best.

Do I have to count only hawks during my Raptorthon?

No, this is totally up to you! You decide. You may choose to count the number of raptor species you see or hear in one day (including owls and shrikes) or you may choose to count all bird species you see in one day.

Do I have to count raptors for a full day? What are the dates of the event?

This year's spring Raptorthon is for a 24 hour period. You decide which day between March 1-May 31 that you would like to do your Raptorthon. Look for raptors and other birds for any number of hours up to 24! You decide the time and date for your Raptorthon. Just remember to fill in the date on your registration form.

Do I have to do the Raptorthon at a known hawkwatch site? No! You can be anywhere at all when you do your Raptorthon. Count from your backyard or tour the local hawkwatches and birding hotspots.

How do I register to take part in the Raptorthon?

You can register online or print the **Registration Form** at www.hmana.org/raptorthon/. Fill this form out and email or mail to Julie Brown, 151 Antrim Rd, Hancock, NH 03449. Don't forget to sign up for a free Raptorthon T-shirt for you and your team members on your registration form!

What other forms do I need? In addition to the **Registration Form**, you'll need the **Pledge Coupon** to solicit pledges. You will send this form to your potential sponsors for their pledges. **How to Find Sponsors** contains helpful tips in reaching out to sponsors. Next you will need the **Sponsor List** to track donations from your sponsors which will later be mailed to HMANA with checks. All forms are available at www.hmana.org/raptorthon/.