

The Belize Bird Conservancy announces the 6th Annual Lodge Bird-a-thon April 1- April 30, 2018

Support bird conservation, have fun and win prizes!

Dear Belize Eco-Lodges,

April is the time of our biggest fundraising event, the Belize Bird Conservancy Bird-a-thon. This year we celebrate the 6th bird-a-thon, a fun time of the year when we get to spend the day counting birds throughout Belize with friends. Our goal is to have fun, but our ultimate result is to raise money for our research, conservation and education work, while competing for prizes.

This competition also has a much-coveted goal among lodges. To win the H. Lee Jones Cup! Lodges in Belize attract visitors interested in the bountiful nature Belize has to offer. Expert guides help them see and enjoy everything which surrounds them. We invite you to enter the bird-a-thon competition and challenge fellow lodge managers and guides to a friendly competition for ***“the birdiest lodge”***. The rules are the standard ones for a bird-a-thon, but you must count birds observed only within a 5-mile circle encompassing your lodge, within 24-hours. This must be done between April 1 and April 30. The team can count at any time within their chosen day.

We want to encourage your lodge to include guests that would like to participate in this event and assist with your lodge’s fundraising effort. The lodge can offer the day of birding to guests, with the resulting revenue as a contribution to the Bird-a-thon. Alternatively, guests pay the lodge for the birding tour, but pledge an amount determined before the bird-a-thon, as contribution for the event. If both the lodge and your guests contribute, even better. We appreciate any donation to support our research and conservation work.

Last year there were several competing lodges, which included Caves Branch Jungle Lodge, Bocawina Rainforest Resort, Mystic River Resort, Lamanai Outpost Lodge, The Lodge at Chaa Creek, The Farm Inn and Black Rock Lodge. Last year, Caves Branch Jungle Lodge and Lamanai Outpost Lodge ended in a tie, with 206 species and taking home the H. Lee Jones Cup. Our goal is to have 20 participating lodges this year. Register your team, form your team, choose your date, find sponsors and compete to win prizes! Does your lodge have what it takes to take home the cup this year, which will be showcased at your lodge? Register your team today!

THE LODGE RULES:

Register your team by sending an email to belizebirdconservancy@gmail.com and submitting the \$100bz registration fee. In addition to the rules above, during the count day **all team members must stay together as they move from location to location within a 5-mile circle encompassing the lodge**. It is okay if team members join for a limited time during the day, but birds cannot be included for the count if members are not together. At least 2 team members need to see or hear the bird and confirm its ID. Birds can be included as heard only. Members are encouraged to take photos of your team and the birds

throughout the day. Documentation is needed for rare birds such as a photo, an audio recording, a detailed description or a drawing in the field. Submit your list of species with your top 3 best birds and send in the pledged money (checks are preferred) by May 10 when the tallies will be finalized. Winners will be notified personally and announced on our website, and Facebook page.

Sponsors can send in their pledge the following ways:

- Belize checks made out to Ronaldi Martinez
Birdathon Director Belize Bird Conservancy
Belize Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 208
Belmopan, Belize
- US checks made out to Belize Bird Conservancy with the team name in the memo
Address: Belize Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 110234
Campbell, CA, U.S.A. 95011-0234
- Online: go to the Belize Bird Conservancy website,
<https://belizebirdconservancy.org/donate/>

Here's what your support goes towards:

- *Outreach to communities about the benefits of birds
- *Belize Raptor Certification Program
- *Supporting internships
- * Belize Raptor Watch Program
- * Protection of Scarlet Macaw nesting sites
- * Learning about the endangered Yellow-headed Parrot

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us at belizebirdconservancy@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of the Belize Bird Conservancy. Your generosity is key to our success and we deeply appreciate it.

With Best Regards,



Roni Martinez, Birdathon Director
Belize Bird Conservancy
www.belizebirdconservancy.org



Ryan Phillips, Treasurer
Belize Bird Conservancy