

Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2022

A. Goals:

Encourage birders to visit the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Plum Island during the winter. Winter is an extraordinarily productive time of year to explore the area's salt marshes, maritime forests, and coastal waters in search of birds.

Through contest registration fees and donations, raise money to support the Friends' Internship Fund which provides students interested in wildlife conservation and environmental education with paid opportunities to work with refuge staff.

B. Event Sponsor:

Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge ("Friends")

C. Event Partner:

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge")

D. Challenge Concept and Rules:

Objective: Observe and record as many bird species as possible on a single day or throughout the contest period.

Contest Period: The week of February 12 through 18, 2022 (7 days). By running the contest for seven days, birders can choose the day or days with the best weather or that best fit their personal schedules.

Contest Area: Birders can count all species they observe once they are east of the Plum Island Turnpike Bridge.

Note: Teams can count species they see that are west of the bridge as long as the team members are east of the bridge.

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D. Challenge Concept and Rules (Continued):

- Contest Types: The Parker River NWR Winter Birding Challenge includes four separate contests to encourage the greatest level of participation by birders of all abilities - beginners to experts.
1. Single Day Contest - High Flyers: a daily competition for experienced birders. The winner will be the team that records the highest single-day total of species within the contest period.
 2. Challenge Week Contest - High Flyers: a week-long competition for experienced birders. The winner will be the team that records the highest total of species seen during the seven-day contest period.
 3. Single Day Contest - Fledglings: a daily competition for beginning birders, including families with young children. The winner will be the team that records the highest single-day total of species within the contest period.
 4. Challenge Week Contest - Fledglings: a week-long competition for beginning birders, including families with children. The winner will be the team that records the highest total of species seen during the seven-day contest period.
- Reporting:
1. Teams must report their observations using the Winter Birding Challenge Checklist. This checklist can be downloaded from the Friends website: parkerriver.org.
 2. Teams competing for the Challenge Week Contest must submit their daily checklists along with a master checklist that summarizes all species they saw during the contest period.
 3. Teams may submit checklists for both the Single Day Contest and the Challenge Week Contest but can only win one contest.
 4. Checklists must be received by the Friends no later than Friday, February 25.
 5. Checklists can be submitted in the following ways:
 - a. through the U.S. Postal Service; Mailing Address: Friends of Parker River NWR, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950;
 - b. by scanning the completed checklists and emailing them to the Friends at friends@parkerriver.org.

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D. Challenge Concept and Rules (Continued):

- Teams:** Teams are limited to between 1 and 4 participants. Teams must bird together (i.e., team members cannot split up to cover more territory).
- A team that registers more than one person can compete with fewer than the total number of participants registered (e.g., a team that registers four people can compete with fewer than four). This provision is included to allow a team to compete throughout the week if a member is ill or cannot join the team for other reasons.
- Refuge Rules:** It is the responsibility of all teams to know and adhere to all refuge rules and regulations (e.g., staying out of restricted areas, observing speed limits, paying entrance fees or having a permit). Teams reported to have violated any refuge rules will be disqualified.
- Safety:** Teams must comply with all Federal and Commonwealth health and safety guidelines.
- Since winter conditions pose inherent risks (e.g., slipping on icy surfaces, hypothermia), team members must be cautious and dress appropriately for the conditions. By having a weeklong contest period, teams can choose the day or days that are the safest. By registering for this event, participants agree that the Refuge and Friends are not responsible for any personal injuries or damage to personal property.
- Outside Help:** Teams can consult all publicly available sources of birding information prior to and during the contest period.
- Teams can use casual information they learn from other birders (e.g., a team sees a group of birders and stops to see what they are observing; a team member overhears what other birders have been seeing). Teams must not have other unregistered birders scouting for them (e.g., people birding independently and reporting the location of birders to the team).

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D. Challenge Concept and Rules (Continued):

Registration: The registration fees for the contest are as follow (registration form attached):

Team Registration and one leader: \$30
Adults (18 years of age or older): \$20
Participants ages 12 to 17 \$10
Participants under age 12 \$ 5
Scholarships will be considered upon request.

Note: The team registration fee is good for all 7 days of the contest. The challenge registration fee does not exempt the team from paying the refuge entrance fee or having a permit.

Prizes: Single Day Contest - High Fliers

First Place: The winner is the team that records the highest number of species on a single day within the contest period. The team award: \$25 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Second Place: The winner is the team that records the second highest number of species on a single day within the contest period. The team award: \$15 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Challenge Week Contest - High Fliers

First Place: The winner is the team that records the highest number of species during the weeklong contest period. The team award: \$25 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Second Place: The winner is the team that records the second highest number of species during the weeklong contest period. The team award: \$15 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

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Prizes: **Single Day Contest - Fledglings**

First Place: The winner is the team that records the highest number of species on a single day within the contest period. The team award: \$25 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Second Place: The winner is the team that records the second highest number of species on a single day within the contest period. The team award: \$15 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Challenge Week Contest - Fledglings

First Place: The winner is the team that records the highest number of species during the weeklong contest period. The team award: \$25 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Second Place: The winner is the team that records the second highest number of species during the weeklong contest period. The team award: \$15 gift certificate for each registered team member to a Newburyport area birding supply store.

Recognitions: The Friends and Refuge will post the names of the winning team members and their species counts on their websites and in social media.

Conflicts: The Friends will make an effort to resolve equitably any disputes that arise during the challenge. The decisions of the Friends are final.

Restriction: Teams that include a member of the Board of the Friends may compete in the Winter Birding Challenge but cannot win a prize.

Contributions: In addition to the registration fees, the Friends would greatly appreciate donations to its Internship Fund. One hundred percent of these donations will be used to fund interns to work with refuge staff.

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Registration Form

Please send your completed registration form and check to:

**Friends of Parker River NWR
6 Plum Island Turnpike
Newburyport, MA 01950**

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Team Captain's Email: _____

Team Captain's Telephone: _____

Additional Team Members: _____

Registration Fees:

Team Registration including Leader	\$ 30
# of Additional Adults: _____ X \$20 = \$ _____	
# Ages 12 - 17: _____ X \$10 = \$ _____	
# Under Age 12: _____ X \$ 5 = \$ _____	
Total Team Member: _____	
Maximum of 4	
Tax Deductible Donation to the Friends Internship Fund - Thank You.	\$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Friends of Parker River NWR.

**PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
WINTER BIRDING CHALLENGE - 2022**

OFFICIAL CHECKLIST

TEAM NAME: _____

DATE (S): _____

Snow Goose	_____	Common Murre	_____
Brant	_____	Thick-billed Murre	_____
Canada Goose	_____	Razorbill	_____
Mute Swan	_____	Black Guillemot	_____
Northern Shoveler	_____	Black-legged Kittiwake	_____
Gadwall	_____	Bonaparte's Gull	_____
American Wigeon	_____	Ring-billed Gull	_____
Mallard	_____	Herring Gull	_____
American Black Duck	_____	Iceland Gull	_____
Northern Pintail	_____	Lesser Black-backed Gull	_____
Green-winged Teal	_____	Glaucous Gull	_____
Ring-necked Duck	_____	Great Black-backed Gull	_____
Great Scaup	_____	Red-throated Loon	_____
Lesser Scaup	_____	Common Loon	_____
King Eider	_____	Northern Gannet	_____
Common Eider	_____	Double-crested Cormorant	_____
Harlequin Duck	_____	Great Cormorant	_____
Surf Scoter	_____	Turkey Vulture	_____
White-winged Scoter	_____	Northern Harrier	_____
Black Scoter	_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	_____
Long-tailed Duck	_____	Cooper's Hawk	_____
Bufflehead	_____	Bald Eagle	_____
Common Goldeneye	_____	Red-tailed Hawk	_____
Hooded Merganser	_____	Rough-legged Hawk	_____
Common Merganser	_____	Great Horned Owl	_____
Red-breasted Merganser	_____	Snowy Owl	_____
Wild Turkey	_____	Barred Owl	_____
Horned Grebe	_____	Short-eared Owl	_____
Red-necked Grebe	_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	_____
Rock Pigeon	_____	Downy Woodpecker	_____
Mourning Dove	_____	Northern Flicker	_____
Sanderling	_____	Merlin	_____
Dunlin	_____	Peregrine Falcon	_____
Purple Sandpiper	_____	Northern Shrike	_____
American Woodcock	_____	Blue Jay	_____
Dovekie	_____	American Crow	_____

**PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
WINTER BIRDING CHALLENGE - 2022**

OFFICIAL CHECKLIST

Fish Crow	_____	Write-ins:	
Common Raven	_____		
Horned Lark	_____	_____	_____
Black-capped Chickadee	_____		
Tufted Titmouse	_____	_____	_____
Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____		
White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____	_____
Carolina Wren	_____		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	_____	_____	_____
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	_____		
Hermit Thrush	_____	_____	_____
American Robin	_____		
Northern Mockingbird	_____	_____	_____
European Starling	_____		
Cedar Waxwing	_____	_____	_____
House Sparrow	_____		
House Finch	_____	_____	_____
Common Redpoll	_____		
Red Crossbill	_____	_____	_____
White-winged Crossbill	_____		
Pine Siskin	_____	_____	_____
American Goldfinch	_____		
Lapland Longspur	_____	_____	_____
Snow Bunting	_____		
American Tree Sparrow	_____	_____	_____
Savannah Sparrow	_____		
Fox Sparrow	_____		
Song Sparrow	_____		
Lincoln's Sparrow	_____		
Swamp Sparrow	_____		
White-throated Sparrow	_____		
Dark-eyed Junco	_____		
Red-winged Blackbird	_____		
Common Grackle	_____		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	_____		
Northern Cardinal	_____		
		Total Number of Species Seen:	_____

