**Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

FRIENDS - WINTER BIRDING CONTEST - 2023.DOC

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2023**

1. **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. This fund provides students interested in wildlife conservation and environmental education with paid opportunities to work with refuge staff. Net proceeds (contest registration fees minus expenses) are dedicated to the internship fund.

1. **Event Sponsor:**

Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. (“Friends”)

1. **Event Partner:**

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (“Refuge”)

1. **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 February 18, 2023 (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 all team members are east of the bridge.

**Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2023**

1. **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. 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.
3. 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.
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**.)

1. Teams competing for the Challenge Week Contests 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 teams can only win one contest.

4. Checklists must be received by the Friends no later than Wednesday, February 22.

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**](mailto:friends@parkerriver.org).

**Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2023**

1. **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).

Fledgling teams must have at least one member who is 12 years old or younger.

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

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 birds to the team).

**Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2023**

1. **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**

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.

**Single Day Contest - Fledglings**

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.

**Challenge Week Contest - High Fliers**

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.

**Challenge Week Contest - Fledglings**

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.

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**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.

**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.

**Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Winter Birding Challenge - 2023**

**Registration Form**

Please sent your completed registration form and check to:

**Friends of Parker River NWR**

**6 Plum Island Turnpike**

**Newburyport, MA 01950**

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Category (Select One):** **High Fliers:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **or** **Fledglings:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Captain: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Captain’s Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**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 Members: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Maximum of 4)**

**Additional Tax Deductible Donation**

**to the Friends Internship Fund - $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total** = **$**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**WINTER BIRDING CHALLENGE - 2023**

**OFFICIAL CHECKLIST**

**TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE (S): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Snow Goose \_\_\_\_\_\_

Brant \_\_\_\_\_\_

Canada Goose \_\_\_\_\_\_

Mute Swan \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Shoveler \_\_\_\_\_\_

Gadwall \_\_\_\_\_\_

American Wigeon \_\_\_\_\_\_

Mallard \_\_\_\_\_\_

American Black Duck \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Pintail \_\_\_\_\_\_

Green-winged Teal \_\_\_\_\_\_

Ring-necked Duck \_\_\_\_\_\_

Great Scaup \_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesser Scaup \_\_\_\_\_\_

King Eider \_\_\_\_\_\_

Common Eider \_\_\_\_\_\_

Harlequin Duck \_\_\_\_\_\_

Surf Scoter \_\_\_\_\_\_

White-winged Scoter \_\_\_\_\_\_

Black Scoter \_\_\_\_\_\_

Long-tailed Duck \_\_\_\_\_\_

Bufflehead \_\_\_\_\_\_

Common Goldeneye \_\_\_\_\_\_

Hooded Merganser \_\_\_\_\_\_

Common Merganser \_\_\_\_\_\_

Red-breasted Merganser \_\_\_\_\_\_

Wild Turkey \_\_\_\_\_\_

Horned Grebe \_\_\_\_\_\_

Red-necked Grebe \_\_\_\_\_\_

Rock Pigeon \_\_\_\_\_\_

Mourning Dove \_\_\_\_\_\_

Sanderling \_\_\_\_\_\_

Dunlin \_\_\_\_\_\_

Purple Sandpiper \_\_\_\_\_\_

American Woodcock \_\_\_\_\_\_

Dovekie \_\_\_\_\_\_

Common Murre \_\_\_\_\_\_

Thick-billed Murre \_\_\_\_\_\_

Razorbill \_\_\_\_\_\_

Black Guillemot \_\_\_\_\_\_

Black-legged Kittiwake \_\_\_\_\_\_

Bonaparte’s Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Ring-billed Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Herring Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Iceland Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesser Black-backed Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Glaucous Gull \_\_\_\_\_\_

Great Black-backed Gull \_\_\_\_

Red-throated Loon \_\_\_\_\_\_

Common Loon \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Gannet \_\_\_\_\_\_

Double-crested Cormorant \_\_\_\_\_\_

Great Cormorant \_\_\_\_\_\_

Turkey Vulture \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Harrier \_\_\_\_\_\_

Sharp-shinned Hawk \_\_\_\_\_\_

Cooper’s Hawk \_\_\_\_\_\_

Bald Eagle \_\_\_\_\_\_

Red-tailed Hawk \_\_\_\_\_\_

Rough-legged Hawk \_\_\_\_\_\_

Great Horned Owl \_\_\_\_\_\_

Snowy Owl \_\_\_\_\_\_

Barred Owl \_\_\_\_\_\_

Short-eared Owl \_\_\_\_\_\_

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker \_\_\_\_\_\_

Downy Woodpecker \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Flicker \_\_\_\_\_\_

Merlin \_\_\_\_\_\_

Peregrine Falcon \_\_\_\_\_\_

Northern Shrike \_\_\_\_\_\_

Blue Jay \_\_\_\_\_\_

American Crow \_\_\_\_\_\_

**PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**WINTER BIRDING CHALLENGE - 2023**

**OFFICIAL CHECKLIST**

Fish Crow \_\_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_

Write-ins:

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**Total Number of**

**Species Seen: \_\_\_\_\_\_**