



Join the fun at the
**20th Annual Southwest
Michigan Team Birdathon**
May 17, 2008

**Organized by Love Creek Nature Center and
the Berrien County Parks**

WHAT IS IT? A *friendly* birding event for birders of all experience levels. Teams of 3 or more record as many species as possible (at a pace of their choice) in a single, full day of birding.

WHY? Mostly for the fun of it! There are a few team awards, but the emphasis is on *participating* and enjoying a day of spring birding. The other objective, *which is optional*, is to generate pledge dollars for conservation-related organizations or causes. (Last year organizations that used this event for fund raising generated over \$35,000 in pledges!)

WHEN & WHERE? Saturday, May 17 in Berrien County, the southwestern-most county in Michigan. Berrien's Lake Michigan shoreline, wooded dunes and parks offer scenic and productive spring birding opportunities. You won't go home disappointed!

ALL TEAMS RECEIVE: Full logistical support. Bird finding information, rules and instructions sheets and pledge sheets that make fund-raising simple are sent to all teams.

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE: A fun day in the field, an official event T-shirt, a full buffet dinner at the finish line and a complete post-event results mailing.

WHAT'S THE COST? The entry fee of only \$30 per person includes all of the benefits mentioned above. (But be sure to note that each team keeps *all* of the pledge dollars it generates!!!)

AWARDS: Just for the fun of it, awards will be presented to the team that records the highest species total, the "out-of-county" team with the highest total, the "resident" team with the highest total, and the team that records the most species while driving 100 or fewer miles.

FINISH LINE: By 7:00 p.m. all teams are required to converge upon the "finish line" to turn in their results. We then enjoy a buffet dinner together, an awards presentation, a brief auction, and the chance to share highlights of the day's sightings. (*The auction will feature birding-related retail items donated by the event sponsors.*)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: To receive a team entry packet or more information, contact Kip Miller at Love Creek Nature Center, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Michigan, 49102. Phone: 269.471.2617. Fax: 269.471.4018. E-mail: <lovecreek269@att.net>