

**David Wimpfheimer and Susan Colletta**  
**Representing: PRBO Conservation Science**  
**2005 Annual Bird-a-Thon**

September 19, 2005

Dear friends,

As we write this request for donations for PRBO Conservation Science's Annual Bird-a-Thon for 2005, we are watching another pledge drive for the catastrophic destruction of Hurricane Katrina. Personally, we feel uncomfortable asking for money when PRBO has a budget and the victims of Katrina have nothing. All of us have most likely given to this relief effort. Then we think of the other charities that will be sorely lacking in their funds this year because of receiving fewer donations. Let's face it; we can only give so much of our annual budget to charity.

Therefore, as we ask you to sponsor us this year, pledging your contribution to PRBO and the worthwhile work that they do; we do so with mixed feelings. You are already aware of the valuable work PRBO Conservation Science does and will continue to do; investigate their web site at [www.prbo.org](http://www.prbo.org).

If you are tapped out, due to the human tragedy and research charity that goes on, a minimal pledge is appreciated. Anything to show us, you are still with us. It will go a long way toward our spirits, as well as adding to the budget.

As you know, last year, we were pleased to win the Parmeter Prize. You can read about it on our web page [www.calnaturalist.com](http://www.calnaturalist.com). We raised over \$1600.00 last year and are proud of our efforts. David has been participating in the bird-a-thon for 25 out of the 28 years of its existence, and Susan has completed five. We take it seriously and, admittedly are quite competitive.

That is why we chose Yuba County and will bird the same route we scouted and performed last year, with perhaps a few minor changes this year. Last year we counted 122 species, and while that does not sound like a great deal, it represents almost half of all the species of birds ever seen in that county. Quite a challenge, and one we look forward to duplicating; hoping for the same species and trying new strategies for the species we missed. Of course, the lonely, early arriving Tundra Swan we found in the middle of a cow pasture, obviously tired, sitting by a 5" wide stream, is one we probably will not find. Personally, that is the excitement of doing a bird-a-thon, utilizing all of our senses, knowledge and strategies to find birds. Of course, we can do without being scared out of our wits at 4:00 am, while camping in our car, watching four men pull up and set up rifles out of their trunks. As they walked by us, they said "hunting" in a matter of fact way, but it is was meant to convey "don't worry, we are not here to harm you." We think we will park some other place this year, perhaps where we heard the Common Poorwill at 6:00 am while we made coffee.

PRBO Conservation Science appreciates any funds it raises to further research.

If you can mail a pledge, please designate your tax-deductible donation to **PRBO** and send it to: Wimpfheimer/Colletta, P.O. Box 782, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956.

With warm regards and good health to all of you.

David Wimpfheimer and Susan Colletta

Please plan to attend the 2005 Bird-A-Thon Awards Dinner. It will be held in Tiburon this year on Saturday, December 3, 2005. If you require more information about the dinner, or perhaps wish to designate us as your pledge recipient if you have already sent in a non-designated pledge, please contact, Megan Wilson, Bird-a-thon coordinator at 415 868-1221, ext. 320 or at [mwilson@prbo.org](mailto:mwilson@prbo.org).