

June Birding Challenge

The Village Birders will again sponsor a June Challenge competition this year.

The June Challenge is a count of the number of SPECIES of birds seen within the constantly changing borders of The Villages by an individual birder. In other words, YOU, (by yourself - no teams unless you count birds separately) only need to see one Northern Mockingbird or one Canada Goose, etc, for your list. It is not necessary to note where in The Villages you saw the bird. You do not need to be a member of Village Birders or Brownwood Birders to participate. You do not have to “sign up” for the June Challenge. You just need to love birds and the idea of the June Challenge.

RULES:

- 1) You must SEE the bird to count it. Only hearing the bird does not count - even if you are fairly certain you are hearing a particular species.
- 2) If you do not know what the bird is try to take a picture so we can ID it for you.
- 3) IF the bird is unusual please take a picture for confirmation.
- 4) Please use the Checklist on Village Birders website:
<https://www.villagebirders.org/reports-of-birding-trips> This makes it easier for “judges” to check lists.
- 5) Email your checklist to: ahorst@comcast.net by midnight, June 30, 2024, to be eligible.

HINT#1: Many birds migrate through The Villages - so get out early in the month to see more birds than your competitors. At end of June there might be early fall migrants coming through.

HINT#2: You can sit in your lanai, drive around by golf cart or car - just search and count birds anyway you can!

June has 30 days to count whatever you can see in The Villages - Get out there on June 1st!

Even if you only see a few birds you might be the ONLY person to see the one species that no one else counts.

Birders’ reported numbers between 30-80 birds, average was about 40, so don’t be discouraged if you only have a week or two to search.

Last year’s winner was Candi Wallace, who tallied a total of 73 species. The total species count for The Villages was 95, more or less.

HAVE FUN!