

Birdwatch big day 2008

How you can help save Europe's rarest

Big Day partners



ANOTHER YEAR, AND another chance for you to do your bit for bird conservation – and under a new banner. Welcome to the Birdwatch Big Day 2008, our restyled spring event which gives you the opportunity to have fun and help birds at the same time.

Last year's theme involved Critically Endangered birds and BirdLife International's 'Species Guardians' and 'Species Champions' initiatives, and this deserving cause continues this year, with the focus on one Critically Endangered species in particular – Azores Bullfinch. This close relative of our own Bullfinch today numbers perhaps as few as 340 birds, and occurs only on the island of São Miguel.

As you can read on pages 38-40 this month, *Birdwatch* has become BirdLife Species Champion for the Azores Bullfinch, committing itself to a three-year programme of fundraising to help secure a better future for the species.

All proceeds from the Birdwatch Big Day 2008 are being channelled into this critical conservation work, and you can help too by taking part and raising funds.

About the event

This year's new-look event is a must for everyone who cares about birds. It's also great fun! All you

Join this year's new-look event to help raise vital conservation funds for Europe's most endangered passerine.

PEDRO MONTEIRO

Azores Bullfinch has suffered from habitat loss and persecution over a long period, and numbers remain critically low.



need to do is get together with friends (ideally a team of four) and see how many species you can identify in your county in a single day in May. Make sure everyone in your team is sponsored by as many people as possible (if you can get a company to sponsor you as well, even better).

You can choose one or more of the following options (you'll need separate forms for each):

- Travel from one county hot-spot to another, for a really high species total, or
- Stay put in one location, perhaps a reserve hide (Sitewatch), or
- Check out, with the family, your garden's species (Gardenwatch).

This year there will be a new range of category prizes – sponsors are being confirmed as we go to press, but include Swarovski, MMC,

Carl Zeiss, Opticon and WildWings. Full details will be available in the team packs sent to entrants and online.

So, whether you want to break the county record or make a garden tally with the kids, the Birdwatch Big Day 2008 must be for you. Taking part couldn't be simpler, and a species checklist, sponsorship forms and other information will be sent to everyone once their entry form is in.

This event is open to everyone, whatever their level of skill, so do enter – today!

- Please return the form below by 22 April 2008 to Brian Slyfield, Birdwatch Big Day 2008, The Chocolate Factory, 5 Clarendon Road, London N22 6XJ. For any queries, telephone 020 8881 0550.

For further information or to download more forms, visit www.birdwatch.co.uk/bigday

Entry form

Birdwatch big day 2008



Team name

County in which you will race

Team members (captain first)

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Correspondence address

.....

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..... Postcode

Home telephone

Daytime telephone

Our corporate sponsor is

The RSPB and BirdLife International may send information on other aspects of their work and how you can help. If you do not wish to receive this information or further information from *Birdwatch*, please tick this box . If the corporate sponsor does not wish to receive any further information, please tick this box .

Entry fees: £10 non-sponsored team, £75 with corporate sponsor. Sitewatch and Gardenwatch: £2.50 per person in team (under 14, no charge). I enclose an appropriate cheque made payable to **Birdwatch UK Bird Race** and look forward to receiving my team pack with checklist and other information.

The organisers, BirdLife International and the RSPB cannot take any responsibility for any loss or injury suffered, or caused by, participation in this event. BirdLife International is UK Registered Charity No 286211; the RSPB is UK Registered Charity No 207078.

2008 registration