

Champions of the Flyway

Title

After an exhilarating 24 hour bird race, the final results of Champions of the Flyways were announced during a superbly staged awards ceremony at the Eilat Hilton. The teams had achieved something quite remarkable, a cumulative total of 249 species, representing more than half the birds on the Israel list and twelve more than during the entire Eilat Birds Festival in 2013.

Leading the field with an incredible 169 species were [The Palestine Sunbirders](#), a crack team of collaborating Palestinian and Israeli birders. Recognising the advantage they held with their considerable local knowledge and experience, they magnanimously shared the coveted title *Champions of the Flyway* with the highest scoring international team - the outstanding [Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBirders](#) whose total of 165 was a quite remarkable achievement. The International team in second place was [The Digital Stringers](#) with a very creditable 159 species and, in third, the highly-skilled [Birding Frontiers](#) team recorded 155.

In addition to receiving their trophy, each winning team member also received a pair of superb new Swarovski [CL Pocket binoculars](#) generously donated by sponsors Swarovski Optik.

Champions of the Flyway is not just about racing, it is about celebrating the miracle of bird migration and raising funds to protect the amazing spectacle for generations to come. Every race team has contributed a tremendous amount and we thank them all. Nearly \$60,000 has already been raised through the race and contributions are still arriving. If you would like to show your support too, [please donate here](#).

The team raising the most funds - [The Flyway Racers](#) received the award ***Guardians of the Flyway*** for an outstanding contribution in excess of \$12,000 ? Thanks so much for your considerable generosity!

The third trophy presented at the awards ceremony was for the team enabling others to see the most species, enjoy the event and promote the cause. ***Knights of the Flyway*** was awarded to the highly popular [Focussing on Wildlife Sprinters](#). In the spirit of the award they received one of Swarovski Optik's brilliant new [SLC 8 x 42 binoculars](#) to donate to the BirdLife Partner of their choice. Of particular note is that *the Sprinters* also received donations from more individuals (96 and counting) than any other team, through their outstanding promotions.

Champions of the Flyway is the brainchild of **SPNI** (BirdLife in Israel) and is raising conservation funds to help BirdLife Partners tackle the illegal killing of birds in Southern and Eastern Europe.
