



## **Birdathon Rules**

### **I. Competition Date and Deadline**

- A. Birdathon Competition Dates: Teams can participate any day during Saturday, April 29 to Sunday, May 21, 2023. BirdCast can help you pick an ideal day (<https://birdcast.info>).
- B. Teams may register as a Field Birdathon Team (\$250/team fundraising minimum) or Backyard Birdathon Team (individual or household only; \$100/team fundraising minimum). Turn in your team's registration form and team photo to the Birdathon Coordinator by April 15 ([dan.scheiman@audubon.org](mailto:dan.scheiman@audubon.org)). This gives Audubon time to build your team's webpage. The sooner you submit your information, the sooner your webpage will be ready for action. Teams will receive free t-shirts, stickers, and car magnets.
- C. Fun, creative, punny, birdy team names are highly encouraged, e.g. Tireless Turnstones, Three Shrikes and You're Out, No Egrets, Owl Be Darned, Accipiterrific, Veery Good Time.
- D. Teams may bird for a 24-hr period (12am-11:59pm) on the day of your birdathon. You can bird anywhere in the state
- E. Pledge sheets and checklists for your team must be in by 5pm on Monday, May 22.
- F. Team reports, ideally with photos from the field of your team and good birds, are due Thursday, June 1. We'll use these to write articles about BirdAR.
- G. BirdAR Bird Bash will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 24, at 7pm via Zoom. Prizes will be awarded for Most Species (Field Team), Most Species (Backyard Team), and Most Money Raised.

### **II. Competition Objectives**

- A. Raise money for Audubon Delta to support our bird conservation and environmental education work in Arkansas.
- B. Identify as many bird species as possible during the count period.
- C. Expand community involvement and increase public awareness of birds and birding.

### **III. Competition Rules**

- A. Two to five participants constitute a Field Birdathon Team. An individual or household constitutes a Backyard Birdathon Team. An individual cannot bird for more than one team.
- B. Field Team members must bird together, carpooling as a social pod or in socially distanced caravans. When not driving all team members must stay within hearing distance of one another. No solo birding. Birds reported must be identified by at least two team members. For teams

consisting of only two members, both must see or hear each species.

C. Birds can be identified by sight or sound.

D. Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestrained, including those attracted by audio recordings or feeders. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds. Neither ornamental waterfowl nor escaped cage birds can be counted.

E. Count only full species; no slash or spuh taxa. Enter your team's compiled species list on the spreadsheet provided upon registration. Use an X to indicate species detected. Write-ins are added at the bottom. Enter your team name at the top. Email to [dan.scheiman@audubon.org](mailto:dan.scheiman@audubon.org). Please also email Dan a brief summary of your birding by June 1 for him incorporate into a news article. If you are going to write a longer summary of your day to your donors, which we encourage, share this with Dan and he'll extract highlights.

F. Each team must raise or contribute a minimum of \$250 (Field) or \$100 (Backyard) to be eligible for prizes. Supporters can contribute prior to the Birdathon (online on the team's web page, check/cash via mail to 4500 Springer Blvd., Little Rock, AR 72206) or pledge to contribute after the Birdathon by filling out a team's pledge sheet. Online donations are preferred. Teams will periodically be informed of donations received via mail. Teams should note all donations and pledges on their pledgesheet(s).

G. Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times. Follow the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics. Abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations. Obey posted propertyrules.

H. You are encouraged to use social media to share your sightings during the event. Use #BIRDAR to tag your posts.

**Birdathon Coordinator: Contact Dan Scheiman at [dan.scheiman@audubon.org](mailto:dan.scheiman@audubon.org) or 501-244-2229.**