



2019 Rules

Prepared by the Birdathon Committee

I. Competition Dates and Deadlines

- A. Birdathon Competition Dates: Friday, March 22 – Monday, May 13.
- B. Deadline for Team Reports and Pledge Sheets: May 16, 2019 by 12:00 PM (Noon)

II. Competition Objectives

The Houston Audubon Birdathon is a team effort with the following objectives:

- A. Raise money for Houston Audubon. Funds raised this year will support Houston Audubon's operations and core programs including sanctuary maintenance and restoration, bird-friendly communities, environmental education and the Winnie Burkett Intern Fund.
- B. Identify as many bird species as possible during a single 24-hour period.
- C. Expand community involvement and increase public awareness of birds and birding in Texas.

III. Competition Rules

Participating teams must abide by the following rules in order to be eligible for prizes:

- A. Two or more participants constitute a team. Birds must be identified by at least two team members. For teams consisting of only two members, both must see and hear each bird.
- B. Team members may come and go during the day, but all team members present must stay within hearing distance of one another during their count and make every reasonable effort to ensure all team members either see or hear each species counted by the team.
- C. Count must be conducted within the state of Texas and during a single, contiguous 24-hour period or less based on the award category.
- D. Birds can be identified either by sight or sound.
- E. Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestrained, including those attracted by tape- recorders and/or feeders. Birds observed by artificial light may be counted. 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.
- F. Count only full species as indicated by the following recognized checklists: American Bird Association, Houston Outdoor Nature Club's Ornithology Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife, or the Texas Bird Record Committee. A copy of an approved checklist can be found on the Birdathon page of the Houston Audubon website.

G. Birds identified as one of a species group (e.g. Lesser/Greater Scaup, Empidonax Flycatcher, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, etc.) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.

H. Any information regarding bird sightings may be used during the event.

I. Teams may review posted information at various sign-in or registration booths at parks, sanctuaries and refuges during the course of your visit.

J. Team reports and pledge sheets must be submitted to Houston Audubon by 12:00 PM (Noon) on May 16, 2019.

K. Each team member must raise or contribute a minimum of \$50 to be eligible for prizes

L. As a team, you can only win one of the two top prize packages. If your team wins both “most species found” and “most money raised”, you will be asked to select one of the two top prize packages.

IV. Ethics

Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times. Participants must abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations and observe local rules banning the use of taped recordings. A copy of the American Birding Association’s Code of Birding Ethics is located on the Birdathon page of the Houston Audubon website.

V. Birdathon Team Report

The **Team Report form** should be used to submit team results.