



Official Rules and Team Awards Sheet



The primary objectives of teams participating in this event should be:

- to ENJOY a full day of birding together,
- to identify as many bird species by sight or sound as possible at the pace desired, and
- to work to have all team members see or hear most of the species recorded by the team. (Not just the team leader, etc.)

It is also hoped teams will use this event to generate pledge dollars for nature centers, conservation organizations, and other similar groups—but *this is not required for participation.*

With these objectives in mind, teams should observe these simple rules:

COUNTING

- Birds may be identified and counted by sight or sound.
- It is OK to count a bird identified to a general species group (Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk, etc.) if no other in that species group is counted.
- The use of recorded calls to attract birds is not allowed during this event. (However, you may imitate to the limits of your talents!)

EVENT TIMES

- Birds recorded between Midnight and 7:00 p.m. on the day of the event may be counted on the day's total. (Teams can start at any time desired. A midnight or even a predawn start is not mandatory!)

LOCATION OF THE EVENT

- Birds recorded in Berrien County, Michigan may be counted during this event, as well as birds seen offshore from Berrien's Lake Michigan shoreline. Teams competing in the Michigan category can count birds seen or heard from the three counties that team members live in, and teams competing in the Southwest Michigan category can count birds seen or heard in the following counties: Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Allegan, and Barry.

TEAM SIZE

- Teams must have a minimum of 3 participants.

TEAM TRAVEL

- Teams can travel by any method, but participants must remain together when actively birding. Splitting up to search for birds is not allowed. When traveling in multiple vehicles, only count the mileage from one car as all cars will need to stay together. Mileage should be counted from your first birding stop of the day to your last birding stop of the day.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES — All Team Members Should...

- Make a reasonable effort to see or hear (and help other team members locate) most species recorded by the team.
- Make every reasonable effort to avoid disturbing or flushing birds, especially at locations that other teams are likely to visit later in the day.
- Always maintain proper birding ethics during the event. Common sense stuff—be a good birding ambassador, avoid disturbing nesting species, stay on trails, do not trespass on private property, etc.
- Follow all health and safety guidelines for COVID 19 from the MDHHS. For example, wearing a mask when around others who are not from your household, practice social distancing, only riding in a car with members from your own household.

2021 AWARD CATERGORIES

To add to the fun of the event we honor the following team achievements during the finish festivities. (Each team is eligible for one award per year.)

- **C. Roy Smith Award**—presented to the team with the highest official total of the day from any of the categories. (The award is named after Roy Smith, who was one of the most active field birders in Berrien County from 1961 until his death in 1994.)
- **Michigan Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total of the day with team members while birding in up to three different Michigan counties throughout the state.
- **Southwest Michigan Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total of the day while birding in Southwest Michigan.
- **Kip Miller Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total of the day while birding in Berrien County.
- **Chuck Nelson Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total of the day while birding in one birding location.
- **Limited Miles Driven Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total while driving 100 miles or less on the day of the event. (Mileage is calculated from the first birding stop of the day to your last birding stop of the day.) There is no limit to the number of locations visited, as long as the driving miles do not exceed 100 and any birds seen en route may be counted. Teams in the Single Birding Location category are not eligible for this award.
- **Diurnal Birders 12 Hour Challenge Award**—starting before dawn isn't for everyone! This award will be presented to the team with the highest total that starts birding at 7 a.m. or later.