



Southwest Michigan Team Birdathon

Official Rules & Team Awards Sheet

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

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

It is encouraged for teams to 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's 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!)
- Merlin or other apps that identify birds for you are not allowed during this event.

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.

TEAM SIZE

- Teams should consist of a minimum of 3 participants. There is no maximum team size limit.

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.

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.

2022 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 while birding in Berrien County. (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.)
- Outstanding Introduced Birders Award**—introduced birds are those not native to an area. In this case, an introduced birder is one that is not native to Berrien County. The award will be presented to the team with the highest official total for a team with no Berrien County residents.
- Kip Miller Award**—presented to the in-county team with the highest total.
- 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 the finish line.) 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.
- 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 for a team starting the day at 7 a.m. or later.
- Chuck Nelson Award**—presented to the team that records the highest official total of the day while birding at one location in Berrien County.