



PHOTOTHON RULES 2015

I. REGISTER

Register for Photothon online at <http://www.birdnerdz.net/shop/brrrrdathonphotothon-2015-registration/> . It is \$25 per person

1. Photothon—Best 10 bird and mammal jpegs Portfolio (taken during 20-day Photothon period)

II. PARAMETERS

1. Only ONE PERSON per team. This is an individual event.
 - a. Two or more photographers may go together but they must each register separately and their submissions will be judged separately.
2. All photos must be taken during the twelve-day event (Sat. Dec. 26, 2014 through Wed. Jan. 14, 2015)
 - a. This event lasts for 20 days, but photographers may take all their images on one day.
3. All photos must be taken in approved birding area...NE MN and NW WI (see map below at end of rules)
4. \$25 per person (and we highly encourage photographers to then spread the word via their friends and family and facebook and twitter to garner pledges—either on a per species basis or a lump sum)
5. Birds and mammals photographed must be wild and free—not captive.
6. iPods, cell phones, iphones, CDs and vocalizations such as pishhging and squeeking are allowed to attract birds.
7. Carcasses may not be placed along public roads/right of ways with the purpose of attracting birds. This is in violation of the Minnesota DNR. Carcasses may be used on private lands with owner's permission.

III. TIME OF COMPETITION

1. The Photothon starts December 26, 2014 and continues until 5pm (dark) Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

2. All photographers must submit their photos by e-mail by Midnight, Thursday, January 15, 2015. (send photos to: sparky@saxzim.org)

IV. THE “PLAYING FIELD”

1. NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. Refer to the map below to see what counties are included in the BRRRRDathon competition zone.
2. Photographers are responsible for navigating their route and staying within the competition zone.
3. ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN THE “PLAYING FIELD” OF NE MN AND NW WI

V. INFORMATION

Photographers MAY share location information with other photographers.

V. SUBMISSIONS

1. 10 BEST BIRD & MAMMAL JPEGs Submissions
 - a. All images MUST be taken in the approved area (see map on www.SaxZim.org website)
 - b. All images MUST be taken during the competition period.
 - c. ONLY photos of wild birds and mammals are eligible.
 - d. The 10 images MAY but DO NOT have to be of 10 different species. You may include, for example, 3 Ruffed Grouse images and 7 other species.
 - e. label images in this format: Your Initials-01, etc. (e.g. Sparky Stensaas’s submission would be like this: SS-01, SS-02, SS-03, etc...to SS-10.)
 - f. Your file names will be changed so the judges won’t know the identity of the photographer. Images will be placed randomly into an online gallery for judging.
 - g. email photos to sparky@saxzim.org by Midnight, Thursday, January 15, 2015. I realize this is a short time frame but judging must happen before 4pm Saturday so awards can be given at the compilation dinner.
 - h. jpeg’s should be 1024 pixels on longest side.
 - i. ALLOWED manipulations include cropping, global changes like Levels, Hue & Saturation, Curves, White Balance, Exposure, etc. Removal of sensor dust is allowed.
 - j. NOT ALLOWED is the addition of anything (including highlights in eyes, gaussian blurs to the background, moons, or any other object).

3. JUDGING

- a. Images in the 10-BEST JPEGs Category will be judged by three judges.
- b. The judges will not know the identity of the photographer (file names will be changed before sending to judges)
- c. Images will be judged on a 1-5 point system for the following criteria:
 - i. Execution—which includes sharpness, lighting, angle of view, etc.
 - ii. Originality—creativity counts...as long as execution is also done well (e.g. a well-executed “bird in the landscape” shot may score as much as a tightly-framed portrait)
 - iii. Difficulty—rare species, shy species, etc. (e.g. a shot of a male Spruce Grouse displaying would rate higher than a ‘chickadee on a branch’ shot.

VI. IMAGE USAGE RIGHTS

- a. All image rights remain with the photographer who took submitted images.
- b. Photographers may use submitted images at their own discretion.

- c. Photographers submitting images to the Photothon for judging grant the organizers of the Photothon (Friends of Sax-Zim Bog) rights to use images for promotion of their organization, future Photothons/BRRRRDathons, websites and educational programs.
- d. Photos used for above purposes will be credited to the photographer.
- e. Organizers will request permission from photographers for use of images used for items that are to be sold to the public (i.e. calendars, mugs, etc)

VII. ETHICS

1. All teams should use common sense in their pursuit of birds. The welfare of the birds and mammals should be first and foremost.

THE PLAYING FIELD (map below)

