



RULES & REGULATIONS (as of 9/22/10)

I. THE TEAM

1. A team consists of two to five members (unless permission granted for larger "organization" teams). Solo teams are not allowed in either Brrrrdathon event. The Photothon is only open to solo teams.
2. Teams may use a designated driver. The designated driver is not counted as a team member. The designated driver may not point out birds, nor give advice on where to go. They are strictly drivers.
3. A team must start the day with at least two registered members. They may add members as the day goes on. But, a team member may not leave the team for part of the day and then rejoin them at a later time.
3. Each member must pay the \$50 entry fee (\$35 for one-day event). For example, a team of two must pay \$100, a team of three, \$150, etc. for the two-day. The entry fee may be made up of pledges, corporate sponsorship, or team member payment.

II. COMPETITION

1. Birds may be seen or heard to be included in the team's list. They must be conclusively identified; No birds can be counted if identification is in question (see next clause).
2. If unable to identify a bird to species but able to place in a group of birds, that bird may be counted in the final list if no other member of that group is recorded. For example, if the team sees an accipiter but is not able to identify it, they can record it as "accipiter species." BUT if they later see a Northern Goshawk, they can only count the goshawk and must remove the "accipiter species" from their list.
3. Only full species may be counted (Current ABA checklist is the final source). The checklist provided by the Brrrrdathon only lists full species.
4. Hybrids, exotics, and game farm birds may not be counted. For example, a hybrid Glaucous-winged X. Herring Gull may not be counted as either. For example, Chukars, Bobwhites may not be counted as they are only game-farm released birds.

5. Birds must be alive to be counted!
6. Birds must be wild and free—not be captive—to be counted.
7. iPods, cell phones, iPhones, CDs or any other recording/playback unit MAY NOT be used to attract, find or cause birds to vocalize. Teams may listen to them between stops for reference only. Vocalizations made with a team member's mouth are allowed—including pishhhing and squeeking!
8. Teams may visit bird feeders that had been in existence at least a month prior to the competition. Feed/feeders placed on public land within 30 days of the competition are not allowed.
9. 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.
10. Spotting birds after dark is not allowed. Smaller flashlights may be used for safety but not for identifying birds after dark. Birds identified on/along a road in the car's headlights is allowed.
11. All birds must be identified by at least two team members. A species seen by only one member cannot be counted.
12. Team members must stay within "shouting" distance of one another. Teams cannot split up to find species and then use radios to gather the team.
13. 95-percent of the team's final total must have been seen by ALL team members. For example, on a four-person team, if two members see a fly-by Northern Goshawk but others miss it, the Gos can be counted but not as part of the 95-percent total. BUT if the other two team members see a Gos later in the day then it can be counted as seen by all members.

III. TIME OF COMPETITION

1. The two-day event starts at 12:01 am Friday, January 14, 2011 and continues until 11:59 pm Saturday, January 15, 2011.
2. The one-day event starts at 12:01 am Saturday, January 15, 2011 and continues until 11:59 pm Saturday, January 15, 2011.
3. All teams must submit their lists by e-mail by 8 am Sunday, January 16, 2011. An electronic form pdf will be available at www.birdnation.org. If unfamiliar with this system, please test beforehand and we will confirm that we received it.

IV. THE "PLAYING FIELD"

1. Refer to the map of Minnesota and Wisconsin to see what counties are included in the Brrrrdathon competition zone.
2. Teams are responsible for navigating their route and staying within the competition zone.
3. Teams may begin and end their route anywhere within the competition zone.

V. INFORMATION

1. All teams will be given a printed sheet with the latest bird location information as posted on the MOU Listserv, WSO Listserv, and the RBAs of both states. An e-mail will be sent to all registered participants the Thursday evening before the Friday start with the latest up-to-the-minute additions to bird sightings.
2. Teams may not share location information with other teams once the competition has started. This includes teams participating in the two-day event informing the one-day teams where they found species on Friday, the first day of the event.

V. ETHICS

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



This is the “playing field.”