RULES & REGULATIONS (as of 10/30/12)

I. THE TEAM
1. A team consists of one to five members (unless permission granted for larger “organization” teams). 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.
4. Each member must pay online via the www.saxzim.org website under the “SHOP” link. Fee to participate is $25 per team member, but remember, this is a fundraiser for Friends of Sax-Zim Bog so feel free to solicit pledges or donate more than the entry fee. Corporate sponsorship is another option for teams to pursue.

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 BRRR_RDathon 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 other recording/playback unit can be used to attract, find or cause birds to vocalize (but use common sense to avoid unduly disturbing a bird). Teams may listen to them between
stops for reference only. Vocalizations made with a team member’s mouth are allowed—including pishhthing and squeeking!

8. Carcasses may not be placed along public roads/right of ways with the purpose of attracting birds. This is in violation of Minnesota DNR regulations. Carcasses may be used on private lands with owner’s permission.

9. Spotlighting 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.

10. All birds must be identified by at least two team members. A species seen by only one member cannot be counted.

11. 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.

12. 80-percent of the team’s final total must have been seen by ALL team members (e.g. If team tallies 30 species for the event, 24 must have been seen by all). 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 80-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 of the competition and continues until 5:00 pm the following day (Saturday).
2. The one-day event can be done either Friday or Saturday of the competition period and starts at 12:01 am and ends at 5pm of the same day.
3. All teams must submit their lists by e-mail or by calling Sparky (218.341.3350) by 5:30 pm Saturday of the competition (unless your team is attending the compilation dinner).

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, but are highly encouraged to end in the Duluth, MN area so they can join us at the compilation dinner Saturday evening at 5:30pm.

V. INFORMATION
1. All teams will be emailed 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.

IV. ETHICS
1. All teams should use common sense in their pursuit of birds. The welfare of the birds should be first and foremost.
Compilation Potluck will be Saturday evening at 5:30pm at the Aspenwood Clubhouse in Duluth.

**IF YOU CAN’T MAKE IT, PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE FROM YOUR TEAM CALL WITH TOTALS/SPECIES**

This is not a mandatory potluck, but if you bring something we’re not going to turn it down! Drinks and desserts never wasted!

Bring your lists.
Anytime after 4:30...probably won't eat until 5:30 (or when everyone arrives)
Dinner will be lasagna, salad, bread (and whatever folks bring)

Aspenwood is the housing complex near the intersection of Arrowhead and Rice Lk Roads.
Turn off either road and get to Madison. Turn on Selfridge Rd and go to the end.
Parking lot at dead end. Building is on N side.
Map attached

Call me if you get lost.
Sparky Stensaas
218.341.3350
sparkystensaas@hotmail.com

This is the “playing field” for the BRRRRDathon/Photothon