



RULES & REGULATIONS (as of 2023)

I. THE TEAM

1. A team consists of one to five members (unless permission granted for larger "organization" 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 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. Participants can pay online via the www.saxzim.org website under the "Events & Trips" tab > "BRRRRdathon". Or you can pay by check. Fee to participate is \$10 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. Each bird species is given a point value based on rarity.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. Only full species may be counted (Current ABA checklist is the final source). The checklist provided by the BRRRRdathon only lists full species.
5. 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.
6. Birds must be alive to be counted!
7. Birds must be wild and free—not be captive—to be counted.
8. Audio can be used to attract, find or cause birds to vocalize (but use common sense to avoid unduly disturbing a bird).

Vocalizations made with a team member's mouth are allowed—including pishhhing 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 (unless participating as a one-person team). 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.

V. INFORMATION

1. Teams are responsible for gathering their own bird "intel." Teams may use any means for finding locations—eBird, Telegram, Dischord, listserves, Facebook, etc.
2. Teams may, but are not required to, 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.

Call me if you get lost.
Sparky Stensaas
218.341.3350
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This is the “playing field” for
the BRRRRDathon

