

12 HOUR "The Big Day" RULES

- 1) Teams must consist of two or more members.
- 2) All species must be unquestionably identified.
- 3) Each race must be confined to a single state or territory, with no air travel allowed.
- 4) All team members must remain within direct voice contact throughout the Champagne Race. The use of mobile phones, walkie talkies and similar for this purpose is considered indirect voice contact and is not permitted.
- 5) Teams must make every effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from non-participants.
- 6) Before a species may be counted, an individual, pair or flock must be identified by sight or sound by **more than 50%** of team members.
- 7) Teams may choose to include a lunch break, which pauses the 12 hour block for **exactly 1 hour**, during which no birds may be counted, and no travel or transportation is allowed.

The Big Day relies on an honour system.

You must be 100% sure of the identification of each bird. If you are not sure, do not put it on your list.

TIMING. All counting must be within **a 13 hour period (if a lunch break is taken), or one single 12 hour block if not choosing to have a lunch break, some time on either Saturday the 26th or Sunday the 27th of October**

2018. As noted in point 7 above, birds may not be counted during the lunch break. During registration, your team will be required to nominate a race date, an approximate start time, and approximate start and end locations. Once your team chooses to begin the race period, it may not be paused or restarted. Please use the species list provided. Your final tally must be sent to your state coordinator before **11:59pm on Sunday the 27th of October**. Details on how to

do this will be communicated to you by your state coordinator. Your final list must be submitted by email to your state coordinator, by **11:59pm on Friday the 1st November**.

COUNTABLE SPECIES must be alive, unrestrained and from free-living established populations of full species. You cannot count birds that are roadkilled, beachwashed, captive, trapped or escaped. Please note, for example, that pure and wild Mallards can be counted, but domestic ducks and geese, and hybridised ducks cannot. Similar rules apply for most free-flying populations of Guinea-fowl, Peafowl, Pheasant and Junglefowl, which in most instances should not be counted on a species list.

NON-COMPETITORS. Registered participants may join or leave your team if they wish to at any time. Remember that over 50% of the team at any given time can see or hear a species to be recorded. Note that the team size must remain at or above the minimum threshold of two people for species to be counted. Non-participating companions may accompany the team, record species, or drive the vehicle, but must not assist in the identification or location of species.

ETHICS. For the bird's sake keep disturbance to a minimum. Recorded calls or the use of mechanical devices to attract birds are prohibited. Be careful not to obstruct or otherwise affect other teams. It is your responsibility to obtain permission beforehand to access areas with restricted access.

SAFETY. For safety reasons, all teams must rotate drivers at an interval of not more than two hours. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon or failing to stop for the required breaks will be disqualified.

Working with Children Checks are required for teams where the leader is not the legal guardian, check your state legislation.

State Coordinators

| | | |
|------------|------------------|--|
| QLD: | Rob Clemens | twichathonQLD@birdlife.org.au |
| NSW & ACT: | Mick Roderick | twichathonNSW@birdlife.org.au |
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Good luck, and remember that money raised will help protect Australia's birds!

TWITCHATHON SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Twitchathon is a fun competitive event to raise funds for the conservation of birds, but it's also important to us that you come home safely. BirdLife Australia is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all our staff, volunteers and members of the public.

This briefing acts as a common-sense reminder to ensure the safety of all participants before we get caught up in the competition. Please carry this sheet with you and brief your team on the day.

- Drive within in your limits, taking into account the weather conditions, and always obey road rules and regulations. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon or failing to stop the vehicle for rest breaks will be disqualified.
- The Big Weekend race requires that all teams must stop and may not travel for a consecutive 6 hour sleep break sometime between 10pm and 6am.
- All teams must also rotate drivers at intervals of, at most, 2 hours.
- Sign-on to a team register and, keep it in the car.
- First aid kits including a snake bite kit should be available in each vehicle.
- Alternate drivers every two hours. You must not drive if fatigued. If you feel fatigued alternate drivers or take a break.
- Care should be taken on entering and leaving the vehicle. Never jump from any moving vehicle. Seat belts must always be worn during travel.
- Ensure all persons and equipment are well clear of the vehicle before driving off. Stow the equipment and packs carefully within the vehicle.
- When parking reversing or turning watch out for low limbs or stumps or rocks, try to park on level ground and avoid parking alongside ditches or large drop-offs.
- Travel at a safe and visible distance, particularly when dust obscures vision. When travelling in the dark especially at dawn and dusk look out for wildlife to avoid collisions. Use headlights and hazard lights when additional visibility is required.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing (long pants or gaiters, sturdy boots, hat, gloves). Bring appropriate rain weather gear and warm clothing.
- Use sunscreen, hats, eye protection (glasses or sunglasses) and insect protection.
- Drink sufficient water throughout the day according to your level of activity; notify another participant if feeling ill.
- Each vehicle should carry more than one mobile phone and charger, a torch and spare batteries.
- Discuss any pre-existing medical condition(s) with the team before entering the field. Provide yourself with all required medication and personal care items.
- Observe others in your team or work group for signs of stress, fatigue or dehydration, ask how they are and let the supervisor know about the situation.
- Report any incidents or hazards including injuries or near misses to ohs@birdlife.org.au BirdLife Australia OHS Coordinator as soon as possible after the event.
- Prioritise you health over the activity.