

3 HR "The BIRDATHON" RULES

- 1) Teams must consist of two or more members.
- 2) All species must be unquestionably identified.
- 3) Participants may cross state borders, however no air travel is allowed.
- 4) All team members must remain within direct voice contact throughout the birding periods of the Birdathon. The use of mobile phones, walkie talkies and similar for this purpose is considered indirect voice contact and is not permitted.
- 5) Each team will have 3x 1 hour blocks at their disposal in which to count birds.
- 6) Once a team decides to begin any 1 hour block, it **cannot** be paused, restarted or prolonged.
- 8) A team may have their 3 blocks spaced however they choose on the nominated race day.
Example timeframes may include:
 - a) 6-9am Saturday
 - b) 6-7am, 1-2pm, 4-5pm Saturday
 - c) 6:01-8:01am, 5:35-6:35pm Sunday
- 9) Teams must make every effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from non-participants, however outside the designated 1 hour blocks, **you are encouraged to drive to, search for, and locate species** which you can re-find later during one of your timed competition blocks.
- 10) 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.

The Birdathon 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 the three allocated hour-long blocks which must all be used only on a single day, either Saturday 26th or Sunday 27th of October.** During registration, your team will be required to nominate a race date and approximate start and end locations Please use the species list provided. Your final tally must be sent to the event coordinator (see below) before **11:59pm on Sunday the 27th October.** Your final list must be submitted by email to the coordinator, by **11:59pm on Friday the 1st November.** This final list must be accompanied by a brief note identifying the times your team used as their 3x 1 hour blocks, and the general locations visited during these blocks.

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 Guineafowl, Peafowl, Pheasant and Junglefowl, which in most instances should not be counted on a list.

NON-COMPETITORS. Participants may join or leave your team if they wish to at any time, so long as over 50% of the team at any one time can see or hear a species to be recorded. Note that the team size must remain 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 are required to observe the rules of the road and to take the utmost care. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Birdathon will be automatically disqualified.

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

National Birdathon Coordinator – Elliot Connor – birdathon@birdlife.org.au



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.