

Mississippi Coast Audubon Society Birdathon (2019)

BIRDATHON RULES

The Birdathon should be a fun event for participants of all ages and abilities who enjoy watching and listening to birds. However, the Birdathon is also an important fund raising event to help support the activities of the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society. To provide some guidance for participants, the following Birdathon 'rules' have been established to ensure a fun event. All team leaders should inform each team member of the rules. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Participation:

1. Participants should be members of teams. Each team is to have at least two members. There is no maximum team size.
2. Teams should REGISTER by emailing Mark Woodrey (Mark.Woodrey@gmail.com) the following information: Team Name, Team Leader(s) and Team Member Names by April 10th.
3. Team members can leave the team during the Birdathon. The remaining team members may continue to count species of birds provided there are always two or more team members present.
4. A team should not divide into multiple groups but must stay together when counting species. It is expected that the members will not come and go but work as a team during the event.
5. Non-birding friends may accompany the team if the team desires.

Counting Species & individuals:

1. Any resident or migrant species should be counted, including non-native North American species that have established breeding populations in the six coastal Mississippi counties.
2. Birds should be positively identified by sight or sound by *at least one* team member.
3. Birds counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained. Sick or injured birds may be counted.
4. Electronic or recorded bird calls may be used to attract or to entice vocalizations. However, please limit this use in consideration of birds.
5. The use of spotlights for spotting birds after dark is acceptable but use should be limited in consideration of birds, neighborhoods, etc.
6. All birds tallied can be counted in the Birdathon total list. However, if a rare or unusual species is identified this record must be evaluated and accepted by the MCAS Board prior to finalizing the Birdathon report.

Time

1. The count period extends 24 hours from 12:01 am to 11:59 CDT on Saturday, 13 April 2019.
2. All teams must finish counting by 11:59 pm and email their results to Apryle Panyi (apryle.panyi@usm.edu) by April 15th.

3. Team tally records should be reported on the most recent edition of the *Birds of the Coastal Mississippi Counties* checklist. Checklist available at:
https://mscoastaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CoastChecklist_8_Oct_2015.pdf

Birdathon Area

1. Birds can be counted anywhere in the six Mississippi coastal counties – Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River, Stone and George.

Travel

1. All types of vehicles may be used.
2. Team members do not have to stay in the same vehicle. For example, members may be in different cars, boats, etc. but the team should stay together.
3. All Mississippi highway and boating laws must be followed. Be safe.

Conduct

1. Team members must abide by the ethics and rules of the Birdathon at all times.
2. During the Birdathon, each team may receive bird finding help from any other team or share their findings with any other team so everyone has a chance to see rare birds should they show up during the event.

Final Comments

1. Totals are considered final when they are submitted via email.
2. THANKS for participating in this fun event. Happy Birding!

For further information: Visit <https://mscoastaudubon.org/donate-to-mcas/> or contact Mark Woodrey at Mark.Woodrey@gmail.com