

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Birdathon Rules for 2021*

Introduction

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Birdathon primary objectives are to:

- Use the competition as a way to support our mission of protecting birds and the habitat they require here in Loudoun County;
- Identify as many bird species as possible during a single 48-hour period (or portion of the 48 hour period);
- Expand involvement of new and experienced birders in the Annual Birdathon; and
- **Have fun!**

Birdathon participants must abide by the following rules in order to be eligible for awards:

I. Counting

- Count only full species as indicated on the Birds of Loudoun County checklist provided or by the current ABA Checklist.
- Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or by sound.
- Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Birds observed by artificial light may be counted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds. Birds such as ornamental waterfowl or escaped cage birds cannot be counted.
- Identifications made by just one team member do count.
- Only birds recorded by observers conducting their counts within Loudoun County may be counted. Birds seen in the Potomac River may be counted provided the observers are standing in Loudoun County.
- Birders must follow the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics.
- A bird identified as one of a species group (e.g. Lesser/Greater Scaup, Empidonax Flycatcher, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, etc.) may only be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.
- Bird count checklists and monies raised must be turned in by **June 30** to be eligible for prizes and drawings.

II. Time - All counting must be within a single 48-hour period within the designated Birdathon period.

III. Area - Any geographic area within Loudoun County may be covered.

IV. Participants – Because of COVID-19, teams of one person are permissible.

V. Ethics - Each participant should maintain proper birding ethics at all times and follow the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics (see <http://www.americanbirding.org/abaethics.htm>). Participants must abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations and observe local rules on the use of tape recordings. The welfare of the birds comes first, above all fundraising activities. Excessive "pishing" and chasing of birds is discouraged. Since they are migrants, these birds are likely tired and in need of finding food.

VI. Two Prize Limit - A team may win no more than two prizes.

*This year's Birdathon rules have been modified due to COVID-19.