

Birdathon Rules 2019

I. Competition Date and Deadline

- A. Birdathon Competition Date: Friday & Saturday, May 10-11, 2019.
- B. Turn in your team's official birder roster and preliminary estimated fundraising goal to the Birdathon Coordinator by Monday, April 22, 2018.
- C. Paper pledge sheets for your team must be in at (or by) the Swap Meet on Wednesday, May 8, 2018. This gives WVWA time to determine the winning team for most money raised, to be awarded at the Brag & Boast Party.
- D. Team reports and checklists are due at the Brag & Boast Party on Saturday, May 11 by 5:00 PM.

II. Competition Objectives

Wissahickon Valley Watershed's Birdathon is a team effort with the following objectives:

- A. Raise money for Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association. Funds raised this year will support WVWA's bird conservation and environmental education work.
- B. Identify as many bird species as possible during the count period.
- C. Expand community involvement and increase public awareness of birds and birding in the Wissahickon Valley Watershed.

III. Competition Rules

Participating teams must abide by the following rules in order to be eligible for prizes:

- A. Two or more participants constitute a team. No more than ten people per team. An individual cannot bird for more than one team. Birds reported must be identified by at least two team members. For teams consisting of only two members, both must see or hear each bird.
- B. Team members may come and go during the day, but all team members present must stay within hearing distance of one another during their count and make every reasonable effort to ensure all team members either see or hear each species counted by the team. No solo birding.
- C. Teams may bird as much or as little as they desire during the 24 hours of the event.
- D. **Big Sit** -- Count all birds identified by sight or sound from one 30-foot diameter circle for a maximum of 4 hours.
 - These four hours may be completed at any point during the 24 hours of the event. The four hours do not need to be completed consecutively (a Team may decide to bird for 2 hours in the morning and then 2 hours in the evening), but the same 30-foot circle must be used both times.
 - Teams are on their honor to only report birds seen during the 4-hour period of their count (indicate times on the checklist).
 - It is not necessary to physically mark a 30-foot diameter circle, but teams should use this as a guide to stay in one place for the duration of their count.
 - Team members may leave the circle during the count time, but all birds counted must be confirmed by at least 2 team members, so it is recommended that a team always have 2 people in the count circle during their count period.

- If a bird is seen or heard from within the circle but is too distant to identify, the circle can be left to get a closer look/listen to confirm the bird's identity. However, any new bird species seen or heard while confirming the original, can't be counted unless it's seen or heard from an "anchor" who stayed behind in your circle, or is seen by you when you return to your circle.
- E. **6-Hour Traveling** – Count all birds identified by sight or sound within the boundaries of the watershed during a 6 hour timeframe.
- Teams may travel to multiple sites within the boundaries of the watershed
 - These six hours may be completed at any point during the 24 hours of the event. The six hours do not need to be completed consecutively (a Team may decide to bird for 3 hours in the evening on Friday and then 3 hours on Saturday morning), The same team members must participate in both times.
 - Teams are on their honor to only report birds seen during the 6-hour period of their count (indicate times on the checklist).
- F. All birds counted must be within the boundaries of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed
- G. Birds can be identified either by sight or by sound.
- H. Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestrained, including those at feeders. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds. Neither ornamental waterfowl nor escaped cage birds can be counted.
- I. Count only full species as indicated on the official checklist provided by WVWA. Mark all your species and final species tally on this checklist and submit it at the Brag & Boast Party.
- J. You are encouraged to use social media to share your sightings during the event. #wvwbirdathon #birdthewiss #wissbirdathon. You are also encouraged to record your sightings in eBird, but only results tallied on the official checklist will be counted for awarding prizes.
- K. Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times. Follow the American Birding Association's [Code of Birding Ethics](#). Abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations. Obey posted property rules.

IV. Fundraising

- A. Supporters can contribute prior to the Birdathon (online on the team's web page, check via mail: Checks payable to "WVWA" w/ Birdathon Team Name in the Memo. Mail to 12 Morris Rd, Ambler, PA 19002, or cash to be turned in at the Brag & Boast Party) or pledge to contribute after the Birdathon by filling out a team's pledge sheet. Online donations are preferred. Teams can inquire about their fundraising totals by contacting the WVWA office. Teams should note all donations and pledges on their pledge sheet(s).
- B. All funds raised benefit WVWA. Teams may raise money to benefit the conservation cause of their choice with approval of WVWA.

V. Prizes

- A. Three prizes will be awarded at the Brag & Boast Party

The Stewart-Webster Cup – Awarded to the team that tallies the greatest number of species during the total Birdathon time.



The Jeanetta Bicking Cup – Awarded to the 6 hour traveling team that tallies the greatest number of species in a 6-hour timeframe.

The Mim Theobald Cup – Awarded to the Big Sit team that tallies the greatest number of species in a 4-hour timeframe.

The Blue Jay Award – Awarded to the team that raises the most money for WVWA.

Birdathon Coordinator: Contact Kristy Morley at kristy@wwva.org or 215-646-8866.