

Virtual Edition Birdathon Rules 2021

I. Competition Date and Deadline

- A. Birdathon Competition Date: Friday & Saturday, April 30 – May 1, 2021, 5PM to 5PM.
- B. All teams and team members must be registered by Wednesday April 28, 2021 to participate.
- C. **Team checklists are due electronically by 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 1. Team captain should email one (1) consolidated team checklist to Kristy Morley at kristy@wissahickontrails.org. Be sure team name is on your checklist. Photos of your checklist are acceptable.**
- D. Virtual Awards will be announced (details to follow) and an in-person celebration and distribution of t-shirts will be held at a later date.

II. Competition Objectives

Wissahickon Trails Birdathon is a team effort with the following objectives:

- A. Raise money for Wissahickon Trails. Funds raised this year will support Wissahickon Trails 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. 2021 Virtual Edition Competition Rules

- A. **All team members must conduct themselves within the COVID-19 restrictions in place in their area on the day of the event, and practice social distancing at all times and in all locations.**
- B. Team Captains may decide to hold team walks for part or all of their teams observations due to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions on outdoor activities. Team members who decide to walk together should still practice social distancing and wear a mask.
- C. **No special considerations will be given for access to sites due to COVID-19 restrictions (e.g. At the time of writing, Morris Arboretum is open, but all visitors require timed tickets. Gwynedd Preserve is open, but no restrooms and parking is only in the main lot). We will abide by any outside organizations closures or limits on access.**
- D. Two or more participants constitute a team. There is no maximum number of team members.
- E. An individual cannot bird for more than one team.

- F. All requirements of teams remaining together are waived. Team members must submit their lists to their Team Captain to be included in the consolidated team checklist.
- G. Since team members are not likely to be birding together, fellow team members should accept or question dubious identifications before submitting them on the checklist
- H. The geographic limitation of birding within the boundaries of the Wissahickon Watershed are waived. Birding should be limited to Montgomery, Philadelphia and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania.
- I. Teams may bird as much or as little as they desire during the 24 hours of the event.
- J. Birds can be identified either by sight or by sound.
- K. 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.
- L. Count only full species as indicated on the official checklist provided by Wissahickon Trails. Mark all your species and final species tally on this checklist and submit it as indicated above.
- M. You are encouraged to use social media to share your sightings during the event. #wissahickontrailsbirdathon #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.
- N. 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.

III. 2021 Virtual Edition Competition Levels

- A. **Traveling** – Count all birds identified by sight or sound from multiple locations. Given the virtual nature of this special edition, there will be no distinction between 24-Hour or 6-Hour travelling teams.
- B. **Big Sit** – Count all birds identified by sight or sound from one (1) fixed location (e.g. your yard). Team members may combine checklists if they are not able to be in the same location due to COVID-19 restrictions (e.g. A team of 4 may have each individual member birding from their own yards and combine all 4 lists to submit a consolidated team list).
- C. **Teams may participate in one Competition Level only**

IV. Fundraising

- A. Supporters can contribute prior to the Birdathon in the following ways:

- a. Online via the donation link on our Birdathon web page (select appropriate team when making donation)
 - b. Check via mail: Checks payable to "Wissahickon Trails" w/ Birdathon Team Name in the Memo. Mail to 12 Morris Rd, Ambler, PA 19002
 - c. Pledge to contribute after the Birdathon by filling out a team's pledge sheet.
- B. Online donations are preferred.
- C. All funds raised benefit Wissahickon Trails. Teams may raise money to benefit the conservation cause of their choice with approval of Wissahickon Trails.

V. Prizes

To Be Determined

Questions: Contact Lisa Hansell (lisa@wissahickontrails.org).