

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

BIRDATHON RULES

Participation:

1. All participants will be members of teams. Each team is to have at least two members. There is no maximum team size.
2. 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.
3. A team of four or more people may not divide into two teams 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.
4. Non-birding friends may accompany the team if the team desires.

Species Counting:

1. Any resident or migrant species should be counted, including non-native North American species that have established breeding populations in Montana, such as Eurasian Collared Doves.
2. Birds must be positively identified by sight or sound by *at least* two team members.
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 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 YVAS Rules Committee prior to finalizing the Birdathon report.
7. Flushing birds from nests or cavities for the purpose of identification is discouraged. Please wait for the bird to leave without provocation.

Time

1. The count period extends 24 hours as stated on the Birdathon Announcement and Team Entry Form for the current year.
2. All teams must finish and submit their results as stated on the Birdathon Announcement and Team Entry Form for the current year.
3. Team tally records should be reported on the MT FW&P 2012 Checklist of Montana Birds or most recent edition.

Birdathon Area

1. Birds can be counted anywhere in Montana

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 must stay together.
3. All MT highway 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 at the tally event.
2. Thanks for participating in this fun event. Happy Birding!

Agreed to by Birdathon Committee, 2011
Edited by Birdathon Committee, 2015