



OFFICIAL BIRDING RULES

1. Counting

A. Count only full species as indicated by the current ABA Checklist and Supplements.

B. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird's identity, don't count it. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation if that identification is based solely on field notes made while the bird was living and unrestrained. A bird identified to one of a species group (i.e., scaup, small alcid, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common/Arctic Tern) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.

C. An introduced species may be counted if its status in the Count area meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist.

D. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. In general, GBBO discourages the use of playback, and anything that interferes with natural behavior, or could cause birds undue stress. However, birds attracted to tape recorders (in compliance with the [ABA Code of Birding Ethics](#)) or feeders may be counted, if you must. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds.

2. Time

A. All Big Day Birders' (including Green/Carbon Conscious Big Day Birders) counting must be within a single 24-hour period i.e., 12 am-12 am, 3 pm-3 pm, etc. Official ABA rules specify that counts be completed within a single calendar day, which Nevada Bird-a-thon participants are welcome to do. However, per Nevada Bird-a-thon rules, participants may begin their count at any time, with the start time defining the 24-hour period.

B. The compiler may designate a time-out for gas, food, rest, or separate motorized travel. A bird first seen or heard during a time-out may not be counted, nor may the same individual be counted if located during regular counting time.

3. Area – Must be within the state of Nevada.



A. Teams registered as Big Day birders may travel wherever they can within the state within a 24-hour period.

B. Please be respectful of private land, no trespassing will be tolerated.

C. Respect all posted rules and signs at any facilities you visit during your Bird-a-thon.

D. Teams registered as Backyard birders may only count birds they see or hear from their yard, during the duration of the event.

4. Travel

A. Big Day Birders' travel may be by any means, provided that all participants remain within direct voice-contact distance during all travel except timeouts.

5. Participants

A. Teams will consist of no more than 5 individuals.

B. Nonparticipating companions may accompany the team and may record or may drive the vehicle. A companion may not aid in identification of, nor in any way indicate to the participants the presence of any bird not previously identified by every participant.

C. You may only participate on 2 teams if those teams are competing in different prize categories, i.e you can be on a Backyard team and a Big Day team, but not 2 Big Day teams or 2 Backyard teams.

6. Conduct

Each participant must:

A. remain within direct voice-contact distance of all other participants at all times, except during time-outs.

B. make every reasonable effort to identify personally and to help other team members identify every species counted by the team.

C. count only birds personally and unquestionably identified.

D. review the Big Day Count Rules before the start of the Count.

8. Ethics – Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times.

