



Rules

I. Competition Dates and Deadlines

- A. Birdathon Registration and Fundraising Begins: March 23, 2026
- B. Birdathon Birding Period: April 11 – May 11, 2026
- C. Deadline for Team Reports and Checklists: May 14, 2026

II. Competition Objectives

Houston Audubon's Birdathon is a team effort with the following objectives:

- A. Raise money for Houston Audubon. Funds raised will support Houston Audubon's operations and core programs including sanctuary maintenance and restoration, bird-friendly communities, and environmental education.
- B. Identify as many bird species as possible during a single 24-hour period.
- C. Expand community involvement and increase public awareness of birds and birding in Texas.

III. Competition Rules

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

- A. Teams must consist of two to six individuals. Teams larger than 6 will not be eligible for awards.
- B. Team members may come and go during the day, as long as all team members are birding within the same 24-hour period. Two or more team members need to identify each bird. The checklists should be compiled into one.
- C. Count must be conducted within the state of Texas and during a single, contiguous 24-hour period or less.
- D. Birds can be identified either by sight or sound.
- E. Birds must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. 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.

- F. Count only full species as indicated by the following recognized checklists: American Bird Association, Houston Outdoor Nature Club's Ornithology Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife, or the Texas Bird Record Committee. A copy of an approved checklist can be found on the Birdathon website.
- G. Birds identified as one of a species group (e.g. Lesser/Greater Scaup, Empidonax Flycatcher, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, etc.) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.

IV. Ethics

Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times. Participants must abide by all endangered or threatened species laws and regulations and observe local rules banning the use of taped recordings. A copy of the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics is located on the Birdathon page of the Houston Audubon website.

V. Birdathon Team Report

The **Team Report**, which can be found on the Birdathon website, should be used to submit results. Please also include your birding checklist or a link to your eBird checklist.

- A. Any information regarding bird sightings may be used during the event.
- B. Teams may review posted information at various sign-in or registration booths at parks, sanctuaries and refuges during the course of your visit.
- C. Team reports and donations must be submitted to Houston Audubon by midnight on May 14, 2026.
- D. Each team must raise or contribute a minimum of \$50 to be eligible for prizes.