

Safe-at-Home Youth Birding Competition Rules

1. Teams must register in one of three divisions
 - *Participants in the 16-18 division are allowed to have an adult chaperone, are encouraged to identify birds on their own.*
 - *Participants in the 11-15 year old division must bird with adult supervision – Adults should not help locating or identifying birds.*
 - *Participants in the 10 year old & under age division must bird with adult supervision – Adults may provide limited help locating or identifying birds.*
2. If a team comes to a consensus on the identification of a bird, and the adult knows it is wrong, they can strike the species from the list. Teams cannot count that individual bird again, though if they encounter the species again and correctly identify it, it can go on the list. This helps avoid the identification becoming a “guessing game” until they hit upon the correct identification.
3. Teams must have at least 1 participants and not more than 5.
4. Teams must compete within the age division of their oldest participant.
5. Team members must stay within line of sight of their rooftop at all times.
6. All birds counted must be identified by at least 2 team members. **NOTE:** If a participant is the sole team member in their home, adult supervision may confirm the identification, as long as the correct ID is proposed by the participant.
7. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. A bird only identified to group (i.e. scaup, either greater or lesser) may be counted as a species, if no other bird from that group appears on the list. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird’s identity, don’t count it.
8. Birds counted must be alive, wild, unrestrained and **must be identified from within the area of play** (within sight-line to the house) to be counted.
9. Flushing birds from their nest or cavity is not allowed.
10. Birds can only be counted between sunrise of May 30 and sunset of May 31.
11. The team must submit the checklist to the judges no later than June 1st at 10:00 a.m.
12. Totals are considered final once lists are submitted.
13. The decision of the judges in all rulings is final.
14. Have fun 😊