

2021 Youth Birding Competition Rules

1. Teams must register in one of three age 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. Teams must register in one of two categories
 - Backyard Birder - Team members must stay within line of sight of their rooftop at all times
 - Pick Your Park – Team members must stay within the boundaries of their chosen park or nature center
3. 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.
4. Teams must have at least 1 participant and not more than 5.
5. Teams must compete within the age division of their oldest participant.
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 (see notes for Backyard Birder and Pick Your Park categories above) to be counted.
9. Flushing birds from their nest or cavity is not allowed.
10. Birds can only be counted from 12:01am on April 24 - 11:59pm on April 25.
11. Participants must abide by all rules and regulations of the park/nature center/property established as the area of play.
12. The team must submit the checklist to the judges no later than April 26 at 10:00 am.
13. Totals are considered final once lists are submitted.
14. The decision of the judges in all rulings is final.
15. Have fun :)