

## TWITCHATHON NATIONAL RULES 2016



- 1) Teams must consist of three or more members.
- 2) All species must be unquestionably identified.
- 3) Each race must be confined to a single state or territory, with no air travel allowed.
- 4) All team members must remain within direct voice contact throughout the Twitchathon.
- 5) Teams must make every effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from non-participants.
- 6) Before a species may be counted, an individual, pair or flock must be identified by sight or sound by more than 50% of team members.

*The Twitchathon relies on an honour system.*

*You must be 100% sure of the identification of each bird. If you are not sure, do not put it on your list.*

**FINISHING.** All counting for the Twitchathon must be within a **24 block from Saturday 29th October to Sunday 30th October 2016 (beginning sometime between 2pm and 6pm on the 29th, as pre-nominated by your team during registration, to allow compensation for latitude and sunset time across Australia)**. Once the chosen block has begun, it may not be paused or restarted. Please use the list provided. Your final tally must be sent to your state's adjudicator before **11:59pm on Sunday the 30th of October**. Your final list cannot be amended after submission, which must occur before **11:59pm on Friday the 4th of November**, again to your state's adjudicator. Details on how to do this will be communicated to you by your state organisers.

**COUNTABLE SPECIES** must be alive, unrestrained and from free-living established populations of full species. You cannot count birds that are roadkilled, beachwashed, captive, trapped or escaped. Please note, for example, that pure and wild Mallards can be counted, but domestic geese and hybridised ducks cannot. Similar rules apply for most free-flying populations of Guinea fowl, Peafowl, Pheasant and Jungle fowl, which in most instances should not be counted on a species list.

**NON-COMPETITORS.** Any team member may retire if required, in which case the size of the team will be treated as if the person was still present. The retired member may not rejoin or aid the team. Non-participating companions (retired or otherwise) may accompany the team, record species, or drive the vehicle. Non-competitors must not assist in the identification or location of species.

**ETHICS.** For the bird's sake keep disturbance to a minimum. Recorded calls or the use of mechanical devices to attract birds are prohibited. Be careful not to obstruct or otherwise affect other teams. It is your responsibility to notify the management of birdwatching areas with restricted access.

**SAFETY.** Teams enter and participate at their own risk. No liability is implied or accepted by BirdLife Australia, its office-holders or staff. Teams are required to observe the rules of the road and to take the utmost care. **For safety reasons, all teams must stop driving for at least three consecutive hours between midnight and 5am.** Teams booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon or failing to stop for the 3 hour break will be disqualified.

***Good luck, and remember that money raised will help protect Australia's birds!***

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SOUTH QLD:	Rouchelle Steven	<a href="mailto:rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au">rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au</a>
NSW & ACT:	Joshua Bergmark & Ashwin Rudder	<a href="mailto:twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com">twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com</a>
VIC:	Tim Dolby	<a href="mailto:dolby.timothy@gmail.com">dolby.timothy@gmail.com</a>
TAS:	Mona Loofs-Samorzewski	<a href="mailto:moomin.mona@gmail.com">moomin.mona@gmail.com</a>
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## CHAMPAGNE (12 HOUR) NATIONAL RULES 2016



- 1) Teams must consist of two or more members.
- 2) All species must be unquestionably identified.
- 3) Each race must be confined to a single state or territory, with no air travel allowed.
- 4) All team members must remain within direct voice contact throughout the Champagne Twitchathon.
- 5) Teams must make every effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from non-participants.
- 6) Before a species may be counted, an individual, pair or flock must be identified by sight or sound by more than 50% of team members.
- 7) Teams may choose to include a lunch break, which pauses the 12 hour block for **exactly 1 hour**, in which no birds may be counted, and no transportation is allowed.

*The Champagne Twitchathon relies on an honour system.*

*You must be 100% sure of the identification of each bird. If you are not sure, do not put it on your list.*

**FINISHING.** All counting must be within **one single 12 hour block, some time on either Saturday the 29th or Sunday the 30th of October 2016. Teams must finish racing by 6pm on Sunday.** Please use the list provided. Your final tally must be sent to your state's adjudicator before **11:59pm on Sunday the 30th of October.** Your final list cannot be amended after submission, which must occur before **11:59pm on Friday the 4th of November,** again to your state's adjudicator. Details on how to do this will be communicated to you by your state organisers.

**COUNTABLE SPECIES** must be alive, unrestrained and from free-living established populations of full species. You cannot count birds that are roadkilled, beachwashed, captive, trapped or escaped. Please note, for example, that pure and wild Mallards can be counted, but domestic geese and hybridised ducks cannot. Similar rules apply for most free-flying populations of Guineafowl, Peafowl, Pheasant and Junglefowl, which in most instances should not be counted on a species list.

**NON-COMPETITORS.** Participants may join or leave your team if they wish to at any time, so long as over 50% of the team at any one time can see or hear a species to be recorded. Note that the team size must remain above the minimum threshold of two people for species to be counted. Non-participating companions may accompany the team, record species, or drive the vehicle, but must not assist in the identification or location of species.

**ETHICS.** For the bird's sake keep disturbance to a minimum. Recorded calls or the use of mechanical devices to attract birds are prohibited. Be careful not to obstruct or otherwise affect other teams. It is your responsibility to notify the management of birdwatching areas with restricted access.

**SAFETY.** Teams enter and participate at their own risk. No liability is implied or accepted by BirdLife Australia, its office-holders or staff. Teams are required to observe the rules of the road and to take the utmost care. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Champagne Twitchathon will be automatically disqualified.

***These rules are designed to help you relax while you twitch, so good luck & don't forget the Champagne!***

NORTH QLD:	Peter Valentine	<a href="mailto:peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au">peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au</a>
SOUTH QLD:	Rouchelle Steven	<a href="mailto:rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au">rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au</a>
NSW & ACT:	Joshua Bergmark & Ashwin Rudder	<a href="mailto:twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com">twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com</a>
VIC:	Tim Dolby	<a href="mailto:dolby.timothy@gmail.com">dolby.timothy@gmail.com</a>
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## **BIRDATHON NATIONAL RULES 2016**



- 1) Teams must consist of two or more members.
- 2) All species must be unquestionably identified.
- 3) **The Birdathon challenge will change on a yearly basis.**
- 4) Participants may cross state borders, however no air travel is allowed.
- 5) All team members must remain within direct voice contact throughout the Birdathon.
- 6) In 2016, each team will have 3x 1 hour blocks at their disposal in which to count birds.
- 7) Once a team decides to begin any 1 hour block, it **cannot** be paused, restarted or prolonged.
- 8) A team may have their 3 blocks spaced however they choose on the nominated race day.  
Example timeframes may include:
  - a) 6-9am Saturday
  - b) 6-7am, 1-2pm, 4-5pm Saturday
  - c) 6:01-8:01am, 5:35-6:35pm Sunday
- 9) Teams must make every effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from non-participants, however outside the designated 1 hour blocks, **you are encouraged to drive to, search for, and locate species** which you can re-find later during one of your timed competition blocks.
- 10) Before a species may be counted, an individual, pair or flock must be identified by sight or sound by more than 50% of team members.

*The Birdathon relies on an honour system.*

*You must be 100% sure of the identification of each bird. If you are not sure, do not put it on your list.*

**FINISHING.** All counting must be **within the allocated 3 hour blocks which must all be used only on a single day, either Saturday 29th or Sunday 30th.** Please use the list provided. Your final tally must be emailed or texted to the adjudicators before **11:59pm on Sunday the 30th of October.** Your final list cannot be amended after submission, which must occur before **11:59pm on Friday the 4th of November,** again to the adjudicators. This final list must be accompanied by a brief note identifying the times your team used as their 3x 1 hour blocks, and the general locations visited during these blocks.

**COUNTABLE SPECIES** must be alive, unrestrained and from free-living established populations of full species. You cannot count birds that are roadkilled, beachwashed, captive, trapped or escaped. Please note, for example, that pure and wild Mallards can be counted, but domestic geese and hybridised ducks cannot. Similar rules apply for most free-flying populations of Guineafowl, Peafowl, Pheasant and Junglefowl, which in most instances should not be counted on a list.

**NON-COMPETITORS.** Participants may join or leave your team if they wish to at any time, so long as over 50% of the team at any one time can see or hear a species to be recorded. Note that the team size must remain above the minimum threshold of two people for species to be counted. Non-participating companions may accompany the team, record species, or drive the vehicle, but must not assist in the identification or location of species.

**ETHICS.** For the bird's sake keep disturbance to a minimum. Recorded calls or the use of mechanical devices to attract birds are prohibited. Be careful not to obstruct or otherwise affect other teams. It is your responsibility to notify the management of birdwatching areas with restricted access.

**SAFETY.** Teams enter and participate at their own risk. No liability is implied or accepted by BirdLife Australia, its office-holders or staff. Teams are required to observe the rules of the road and to take the utmost care. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Birdathon will be automatically disqualified.

***The Birdathon is designed so that anyone can participate, even if they don't have a whole weekend to spare - get out and get birding!***

Adjudicators: Joshua Bergmark & Ashwin Rudder ([twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com)) - please contact us for registration.

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## **JUNIOR NATIONAL RULES 2016**

Junior teams may enter any of the above races, with exciting prizes available for the winning teams and best fundraisers, both in the under 16 and under 10 categories. Junior teams must always be accompanied and supervised by an adult, who should be treated as a non-competitor where possible as per. the race rules.

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### **2016 PRIZES (TO BE ANNOUNCED)**

***The major sponsors for the 2016 Twitchathon are Swarovski Optik and The Binocular and Telescope Shop, along with birding lodges and other special interest groups Australia-wide. Plenty of other prizes are currently being organised, from books, wine & weekend getaways, to be announced close to the date.***

**To be eligible for the below prizes, individuals must have raised at least \$50 in sponsorship. You are welcome to compete in two races over the course of the weekend, but will need to raise \$100 in this case.**

#### **For eligible teams in any of the race categories.**

- 1) Most funds raised by a team (1st, 2nd, 3rd place)
- 2) Junior Fundraising Prize (most funds raised by a team all under 16 years old)
- 3) Fledglings Fundraising Prize (most funds raised by a team all under 10 years old)

#### **For eligible teams in the 24hr Twitchathon**

- 1) 1st place nationally, as determined by a weighted scoring system
- 2) 1st place in each state for the highest tally
- 3) Rarest / Most Unusual bird (one per. state)

#### **For eligible teams in the 12hr Champagne Twitchathon**

- 1) 1st place nationally, as determined by a weighted scoring system
- 2) 1st place in each state for the highest tally
- 3) Rarest / Most Unusual bird (one per. state for the finder)

#### **For eligible teams in the Birdathon**

- 1) Overall winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- 2) Rarest / Most Unusual bird
- 3) Lucky Door Prize
- 4) Efficiency Award  
*Least kms travelled per. bird - must have travelled at least 100km*
- 5) Eco Award  
*Most birds seen without any motorised vehicles*
- 6) Teamwork Award  
*Most birds seen by a team with 6 or more members*
- 7) Photo Twitch Award  
*Most birds photographed by a competing team within their allocated time blocks*
- 8) Flyway Award  
*Most migratory shorebird species recorded*

#### **For eligible junior teams in any race**

- 1) Junior prize (1st place for teams under 16 - Twitchathon, Champagne, Birdathon)
- 2) Fledglings prize (1st place for teams under 10 - Birdathon)

## REGISTRATION FORM 2016



TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RACE CATEGORY: TWITCHATHON (24HR) / CHAMPAGNE (12HR) / BIRDATHON

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TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATED START TIME\*: \_\_\_\_\_ \*only required for the 24hr Twitchathon

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TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We each agree to participate in the 2016 Twitchathon on the following basis:

1. We agree to comply with the rules and keep a copy of the OH&S guidelines with us at all times.
2. We acknowledge that we enter this event entirely at our own risk.
3. We acknowledge that neither BirdLife Australia, nor its office holders, staff, or volunteer assistants, will be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury which we may incur during or in any way arising out of our participation in the above race.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please email your completed registration forms to the relevant coordinator as below before the 21/10/16.*

TWITCHATHON (24HR) AND CHAMPAGNE (12HR) - SEE PARTICIPATING REGIONS BELOW:			BIRDATHON - ALL STATES:
NORTH QLD:	Peter Valentine	<a href="mailto:peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au">peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au</a>	All registration forms to Joshua Bergmark and Ashwin Rudder in NSW:  <a href="mailto:twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com">twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com</a>
SOUTH QLD:	Rouchelle Steven	<a href="mailto:rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au">rochelle.steven@griffithuni.edu.au</a>	
NSW & ACT:	Joshua Bergmark & Ashwin Rudder	<a href="mailto:twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com">twitchathon.nsw@gmail.com</a>	
VIC:	Tim Dolby	<a href="mailto:dolby.timothy@gmail.com">dolby.timothy@gmail.com</a>	
TAS:	Mona Loofs-Samorzewski	<a href="mailto:moomin.mona@gmail.com">moomin.mona@gmail.com</a>	
SA:	Ian Reid	<a href="mailto:ian.reid@adelaide.edu.au">ian.reid@adelaide.edu.au</a>	
WA:	Stewart Ford	<a href="mailto:watwitchathon@outlook.com">watwitchathon@outlook.com</a>	

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# TWITCHATHON SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Twitchathon is a fun competitive event to raise funds for the conservation of birds, but it's also important to us that you come home safely. BirdLife Australia is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all our staff, volunteers and members of the public.

**This briefing acts as a common-sense reminder to ensure the safety of all participants before we get caught up in the competition. Please carry this sheet with you and brief your team on the day.**

- Drive within in your limits, taking into account the weather conditions, and always obey road rules and regulations. Teams booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon or failing to stop the vehicle for three consecutive hours between midnight and 5am will be disqualified. It is recommended that you rest during this break.
- Sign-on to a team register and, keep it in the car.
- First aid kits including a snake bite kit should be available in each vehicle.
- Alternate drivers every two hours. You must not drive if fatigued. If you feel fatigued alternate drivers or take a break.
- Care should be taken on entering and leaving the vehicle. Never jump from any moving vehicle. Seat belts must always be worn during travel.
- Ensure all persons and equipment are well clear of the vehicle before driving off. Stow the equipment and packs carefully within the vehicle.
- When parking reversing or turning watch out for low limbs or stumps or rocks, try to park on level ground and avoid parking alongside ditches or large drop-offs.
- Travel at a safe and visible distance, particularly when dust obscures vision. When travelling in the dark especially at dawn and dusk look out for wildlife to avoid collisions. Use headlights and hazard lights when additional visibility is required.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing (long pants or gaiters, sturdy boots, hat, gloves). Bring appropriate rain weather gear and warm clothing.
- Use sunscreen, hats, eye protection (glasses or sunglasses) and insect protection.
- Drink sufficient water throughout the day according to your level of activity; notify another participant if feeling ill.
- Each vehicle should carry more than one mobile phone and charger, a torch and spare batteries.
- Discuss any pre-existing medical condition(s) with the team before entering the field. Provide yourself with all required medication and personal care items.
- Observe others in your team or work group for signs of stress, fatigue or dehydration, ask how they are and let the supervisor know about the situation.
- Report any incidents or hazards including injuries or near misses to [david.coutts@birdlife.org.au](mailto:david.coutts@birdlife.org.au) BirdLife Australia OHS Coordinator as soon as possible after the event.
- Prioritise you health over the activity.

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS: POLICE, AMBULANCE, FIRE: Dial 000**