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RULES FOR
Nantucket Birdathon 2010
aka 9th Annual Maria Mitchell Association Birdathon
5:00 pm Saturday, 15 May to 5:00 pm Sunday, 16 May 2010

RULES The following rules are specific to the Nantucket Birdathon.

A) Counting

1. Any resident or migrant species can be counted, including resident non North American species that have established breeding populations on Nantucket, such as Guinea Fowl.
2. Birds must be positively identified by sight or sound. Difficult or not positively identified birds such as Accipiters can be counted if no other Accipiter is sighted. However, if a Sharp-shinned Hawk is positively identified and an Accipiter sp. is also seen then only 1 species can be counted. The same with Scaup sp. and Lesser Scaup, etc.
3. Birds counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained. Sick, injured, or oiled birds may be counted.
4. Electronic or recorded bird calls may be used to attract or to entice vocalizations from birds. However, please limit the use of such devices.
5. The use of spotlights can be used for detection. However, please limit the use of spotlights.
6. All birds tallied can be counted in the Birdathon total list. If a rare or unusual species is identified by only one birder, this record will be evaluated by the Rare Bird Review Committee. See also Rule A) 8. Below.
7. **95% Rule** - The "95% Rule does not apply to Birdathon 2010.
8. Rare and unusual species identified (any species not listed and those listed as requiring written documentation in the official Nantucket Birdathon Checklist) require written documentation by the individuals making the identification. Written documents must be submitted before the close of the Birdathon at 5:00 pm on Sunday. They will be reviewed and accepted or rejected by a Rules and Review Committee before the awards presentation at 5:30 pm. The decision of the R& R Committee is final.
9. Flushing birds from nests and cavity nests for the purpose of identification is discouraged. Preferably you must wait for the bird to leave before counting. The primary interest of all teams should be the welfare of the birds.

B) Time

1. Count period extends from 5:00 pm EDST, Saturday, 15 May to 5:00 pm EDST, Sunday, 16 May 2010.

2. All teams must finish counting and submit their results at the post birdathon tally at 5:30 EDST, Sunday, 16 May 2010 at the Maria Mitchell Association Natural Science Museum.
- C) Nantucket Birdathon Area
1. Birds can only be counted in Nantucket County and up to 10 miles offshore. In the west, since Martha's Vineyard is less than 10 miles from Muskeget, birds may be counted in and over the waters touching MV within the 10 mile limit but birds on or over the land on MV cannot be counted.
- D) Travel
1. All vehicles can be used.
 2. Team members do not have to stay in the same vehicle. For example, members may be in different cars, boats, kayaks, bicycles, etc.
 3. All Mass highway laws must be followed. Be safe.
- E) Participants
1. Each team must have at least one person. There is no Maximum team size.
 2. Designated drivers are expected to be team members.
 3. Teams need not stay together for the 24-hour period.
 4. Team members can leave the team during the birdathon.
 5. Non-birding friends may join the team at any time and are encouraged to be team members.
- F) Conduct
1. Team members must abide by the ethics and rules of the Birdathon at all times.
 2. During the Birdathon, each team can receive bird finding help from any other team or share their findings with any other team, so everyone has a chance to see rare birds that show up during the Birdathon.
- G) Final Comments
1. Totals are considered final when they are submitted at the finish line.
 2. As mentioned earlier, rare birds not listed in the Birdathon Checklist require written or verbal documentation that must be submitted to the Rare Bird Review Committee prior to 5:30 pm EDST on Sunday, 16 May 2010. The Committee will review the case and decide whether the species is accepted or rejected. The decisions of The Committee are final.

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☺ **THANKS for Participating – Good Birding!** ☺