



## Birdathon 2017 Rules

### AWARDS

#### 1. Top Fundraisers (receive prizes)

- Point Cabrillo Lighthouse Cottage inn (two nights)
- Sierra Hot Springs resort (two nights)
- Joshua Inn B&B (one night)
- Sorenson's Resort (one night)
- Possible other prizes to be determined
- All dates of visits must be approved by the donor/property owner.

**FIRST-TIME BIRDATHON PRIZE:** The first-time participant in Birdathon who raises the most money will win a pair of Optichron Natura 8x42 binoculars, donated by Out of This World optics in Mendocino.

Note: Top Birdathon fundraisers are limited to one grand prize. So if the person who wins the first-time Birdathon prize also qualifies for a Top Fundraiser prize, he or she can choose which of the two prizes they prefer.

Birdathon participants who raise or contribute \$100 or more will receive a Birdathon 2017 t-shirt on or after the day of their trip. (T-shirts are also available for purchase from GGAS for \$20 plus tax/shipping.)

Participants who raise or contribute \$500 will receive complimentary admission to the Birdathon Awards Celebration on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Participants who raise \$1000 will receive complimentary admission for themselves and a companion.

#### 2. Top Bird Count by Individuals, Teams or Field Trips (receive certificates)

- Most species sighted in a 24-hour period within nine-county Bay Area
- Most species sighted in six hours or less within nine-county Bay Area
- Best Bird within nine-county Bay Area

Birders must have raised money or donated to Birdathon 2016 in order to be eligible for "most species" or "best bird" awards. Bird lists must be submitted to the GGAS office by May 2, 2017. Awards will be announced at the Birdathon Awards Party on Saturday May 13. Winners' names will be published in GGAS publications unless they request anonymity.

## FUNDRAISING

All donations will be made online by credit/debit card, or through the GGAS Office by cash/check. Each participant may create a fundraising page on the GGAS website that describes who they are, the trip(s) they are participating in, and their total fundraising goal for the Birdathon. Birdathon field trip leaders are not required to collect or handle money raised by their trip participants.

Sponsors may donate either a flat sum in support of an individual participant or donate on a per-species basis. If they donate on a per-species basis, it is the responsibility of the Birdathon participant to let sponsors know how many birds s/he counted, so they know how much to donate. The Birdathon web site does not have the capability to record per-species pledges, so participants/sponsors will have to tally their count offline and then make their donation.

GGAS staff and volunteers are available to provide help with setting up your Fundraising Page or with asking friends to donate. Email [idebare@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:idebare@goldengateaudubon.org) for help.

## RULES FOR COMPETITIVE TRIPS

Our rules generally conform to the ABA Recording and Big Day Count Rules (<http://listing.aba.org/aba-recording-rules/>, <http://listing.aba.org/big-day-count-rules/>). Rules specific to Golden Gate Audubon Birdathon are as follows:

- 1. Ethics:** All Birdathon participants must bird in accordance with the ABA Code of Ethics (<http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>).
- 2. Counting:** Only full species as indicated by the current ABA Checklist (<http://listing.aba.org/aba-checklist/>) will be considered.
- 3. Time:** All counts must be conducted within one continuous 24-hour period or one six-hour period. Counts must take place between April 1 and April 30, 2017.
- 4. Area:** The Birdathon competitive area includes the nine-county Bay Area (San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin, Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties).
- 5. Travel:** Participants on a team must remain within direct voice-connect distance during all travel (except when traveling in multiple vehicles). Participants on bicycles should remain within shouting distance.
- 6. Identification:** Birds can be identified by sight or call. Species must be identified by two people, one of whom is the trip/team leader.
- 7. Outside Information:** Teams can use all outside information they choose before the count begins, and then none after counting has started.
- 8. Fundraising.** To be eligible for an award, participant(s) must raise money or donate to Birdathon.
- 9. Deadline.** To be eligible for an award, participants must turn in their tally form to the GGAS office by May 2, 2016.

**10. Additional Condition:** Birds attracted by audio devices or by feeders are countable by ABA rules. No audio devices should be used for attracting of rare, threatened, or endangered species (i.e. Ridgway's Rail). Pishing is also allowed with the same guidelines regarding rare, threatened, and endangered birds.