

2009 ABA Big Day Count Report Form

Reporting Directions: Submit reports on this official form, or on a photocopy thereof. An electronic form that follows this format is preferable. Complete every applicable item.

Attach a list, in taxonomic order, of all the species recorded on the Count. Birds not identified to species but counted in the total should be indicated in a recognized manner (e.g., "scaup sp.", "Traill's Flycatcher Complex"). Use initials to denote species missed by each participant.

Note: if more space is needed for any of the categories below, feel free to attach an additional sheet. Thorough, well-written personal accounts of Big Days are welcome, and may be used in the Annual Report (in whole or in part) if space permits.

Region (Country, Province, State, or Territory) _____

Date (day/month/year—spell out month) _____ **Start time** _____ **End time** _____

Miles/km by: car _____ foot _____ other (describe) _____

Species seen by all team members (= Shared Total): _____

Species taken at least one team member missed (= Unshared Total): _____

GRAND TEAM TOTAL (= Shared Total + Unshared Total): _____

Names of Participants, and their Personal Species Total:

Non-participating Companions: _____

Important Areas/Locations Visited (list no more than 10): _____

Species of Note: A "Species of Note" is either one that you considered you had virtually no chance of encountering along your planned route, but were fortunate enough to locate, or a species that was virtually guaranteed but was somehow missed. List each "Species of Note" (in taxonomic order), with an appropriate modifier from the following roster. Choose one of the following:

- (V) Vagrant = a species that occurs less than annually anywhere/anytime in your Big Day's Region (state, province, country)
- (R) Rare = a species that occurs less than annually along your Big Day route, but is regular in occurrence elsewhere in the Region
- (L) Late = a species that occurs regularly along the Big Day route at an earlier season, but which is unexpectedly tardy
- (E) Early = a species that occurs regularly along the Big Day route at a later season, but which is unexpectedly early
- (M) Big Miss = a species that you had over a 95% chance of encountering, but which was inexplicably missed

In addition, please add the following modifier, if appropriate: (S) if the species has been "staked out" in advance, either through scouting or the gravevine. _____

Items of Special Interest, such as significant numbers of a species; other natural history highlights; unusual personal incidents; amount of money raised for charity.

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Endnotes: Incomplete or erroneous reports may not be published. The Editor reserves the right to refuse publication of any Count for which irrefutable documentation has been submitted indicating lack of compliance with ABA Big Day Count rules or the *ABA Code of Birding Ethics*.

PLEDGE: I affirm on my honor that this team has complied with all ABA Big Day Count Rules and with the *ABA Code of Birding Ethics*.

Reporter's Signature _____ Date _____

Reporter's Name, Address, Phone, and Email: _____

Reporter's Member Number: _____

(see mailing label)

Completed forms should be mailed, as soon as possible after the count or before January 31, 2010, to: **ABA Big Day Report Editor, 4945 N. 30th St., Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80919**

The annual Big Day Report and List Report costs about \$13,000 to produce. Please support the publication costs by making a donation when you send in this reporting form. Suggested donations are:

ABA Area List—2 cents per species

Big Day Reports—\$10 per submission

I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION: BIG DAY COUNT RULES

Prepared by the ABA Recording Standards and Ethics Committee

A Big Day Count is a single-team effort in which the primary objectives are (1) to identify as many bird species as possible during a single calendar day and (2) to strive to have all team members identify all species recorded. An official ABA Big Day Count must be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

I. Counting **a.** Count only full species as indicated by the current ABA Checklist and Supplements, or for non-ABA species outside the ABA Area, by James F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist or Morony*, et al., *Reference List of the Birds of the World*, or a recognized local guide. **b.** Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird's identity, don't count it. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation if that identification is based solely on field notes made while the bird was living and unrestrained. A bird identified to one of a species group (i.e., scaup, small alcid, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common/Arctic Tern) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted. **c.** An introduced species may be counted if its status in the Count area meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist. **d.** Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Birds attracted to tape-recorders or feeders may be counted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds.

II. Time **a.** All counting must be within a single 24-hour period, on a single calendar day, determined by where the Count begins or ends. **b.** The compiler may designate a time-out for gas, food, rest, or separate motorized travel. A bird first seen or heard during a time-out may not be counted, nor may the same individual be counted if located during regular counting time.

III. Area Any geographic area may be covered.

IV. Travel **a.** Travel may be by any means, provided that all participants remain within direct voice-contact distance during all travel except time-outs. **b.** When motorized vehicles are used, all participants must travel in the same vehicle, except during time-outs.

V. Participants **a.** Any number of participants may constitute a team. **b.** Non-participating companions may accompany the team and may record or may drive the vehicle. A companion may not aid in identification of, nor in any way indicate to the participants the presence of any bird not previously identified by every participant.

VI. Conduct Each participant must: **a.** remain within direct voice-contact distance of all other participants at all times, except during time-outs. **b.** make every reasonable effort to identify personally and to help other team members identify every species counted by the team. **c.** count only birds personally and unquestionably identified. **d.** review the Big Day Count Rules before the start of the Count.

VII. Outside Information **a.** During the Count, teams must make every reasonable effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from nonparticipants. Phone and radio contacts and pre-arranged field encounters are not permitted. Participants may not travel with or walk any substantial distance with non-participants, except with companions, as provided in Rule V-b. When other birders are encountered accidentally, participants may not solicit bird-finding information and should avoid receiving any information from them, to the extent that common courtesy allows. If despite all precautions information is received during an accidental encounter, the team may use it. **b.** Any information received prior to the Count may be used during the Count.

VIII. Ethics Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times.

IX. The ABA Big Day Report Form The ABA Big Day Report Form, or a photocopy thereof, must be used for submitting Big Day Counts to ABA. The Report Form includes an appropriate pledge to be signed by the team compiler affirming that all participants have reviewed and complied with all ABA Big Day Count Rules.

X. Publication Only Counts that observe all of the foregoing rules will be published as "Big Day Counts." Other team efforts may be published (under another designation) at the discretion of the Big Day Editor.

XI. Eligibility for "Champion" A Count will be eligible for "Champion" in any ABA Big Day category if all of the foregoing rules have been observed and if it meets the following additional requirements: (a) the team consists of two or more participants, and (b) the ratio of Shared Total to Grand Total is 95% or greater in any ABA category. The eligible Big Day Count with the highest Grand Total shall be the "Champion."

Additional Condition by Big Day Editor Tape recordings of birds that are locally or nationally rare, threatened, or endangered in the area of your Big Day may not be used, either during scouting or on the Big Day itself.