

**ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
SECOND ANNUAL CHAPTER BIG DAY
May 13, 2023, 12 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.
CHAPTER/AFFILIATE INFORMATION**



- The 2023 Chapter Big Day will be a competition between Chapters/Affiliates of the Illinois Audubon Society for the most species observed in a 24-hour period in Illinois, with other special awards to recognize participant efforts.
- The competition is open to members and non-members.
- All participants must register online and select one “team” (Chapter or Affiliate) that will receive, tally and report the team’s lists. The team with the highest species counted and the runner-up will be announced on May 20, with the special awards announced on May 24, 2023.
- Each Chapter/Affiliate team must designate a coordinator who will receive, tally and report the team’s count at the end of the event.
- FREE registration will be online only on the Illinois Audubon Society’s website. Team coordinators will receive a weekly update with an up-to-date list of their team roster.
- Participants may bird alone or with others and do not need to be within the geographical area of the chapter or team they are representing. Counts must be within the boundaries of the State of Illinois. Rules will be downloadable from the website.



2023 CHAPTER BIG DAY AWARD CATEGORIES

To be announced on May 20, 2023

- ★ Team with the highest species count
- ★ Runner-up

To be announced on May 24, 2023

- ★ Individual with the highest species count
- ★ Individual aged 18 years and under with the highest species count*
- ★ Individual aged 80 years and over with the highest species count*
- ★ Toughest Chase Award (based on stories submitted to the team coordinator)
- ★ Most Surprising Bird (as reported by a team)
- ★ Team with most species per birder
- ★ Biggest team roster

*Participants will be asked if they are under 18 or over 80 when registering.
Questions? Information? Contact Brian Fox Ellis at bellis@illinoisaudubon.org.

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Counting

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.

Count only birds personally and unquestionably identified. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. 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.

If traveling in a group, each participant must be registered and make every reasonable effort to identify personally and to help other team members identify every species counted by the team.

An introduced species may be counted if its status meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist.

Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Eggs do not count as birds.

Date/Times: Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. All lists must be turned in no later than May 16, 2023.

Area: Any geographic area may be covered within Illinois.

Outside Information: During the Count, teams must make every reasonable effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from nonparticipants. 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. Any information received prior to the Count may be used during the Count.

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

From the ABA Code of Ethics:

- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Be particularly cautious around active nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display sites, and feeding sites. Limit the use of recordings and other audio methods of attracting birds, particularly in heavily birded areas, for species that are rare in the area, and for species that are threatened or endangered. Always exercise caution and restraint when photographing, recording, or otherwise approaching birds.
- Familiarize yourself with and follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing activities at your birding location. In particular, be aware of regulations related to birds, such as disturbance of protected nesting areas or sensitive habitats, and the use of audio or food lures.