

Rules for Participating in the ABC/C Birdathon at the Eighth Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival, May 2011

Each year the Down East Spring Birding Festival (DESBF) participates in the annual ABC/C competition. Festival goers are invited to join the DESBF team and help us maintain our title as America's Birdiest Coastal Atlantic County! To participate on the DESBF team, please document all of your sightings during the festival, and turn in to the festival coordinator at the conclusion of the festival.

72-Hour Count Window

1. The ABC/C Birdathon for Washington County, Maine, will take place between 1:00 PM Friday, May 27, and 1:00 PM Monday, May 30. Only birds counted within this window will be credited to the Birdathon.

Participants and Cost

2. Participants in the Down East Spring Birding Festival and the associated birding Road Scholar program participate in the ABC/C Birdathon at no additional charge. Washington County residents who are not registered for the Festival also may participate in the Birdathon, if they wish, at no charge.

Location of Birders

3. You must be on land in Washington County when identifying a bird for the Birdathon. Birds counted while you are in/on a building will be credited. Birds counted while you are on a bridge inside the boundaries of Washington County will be credited.
4. Birds counted while you are on an island inside the boundaries of Washington County will be credited. Birds counted while you are on Machias Seal Island will be included but with an asterisk, as the island also is claimed by Canada.

Birding Guidelines

5. All birds, to be officially countable, must be positively identified as to species by sight or sound (the honor system is employed here). No "sps", please (i.e., no genera/family entries, such as "Loon, sp.").
6. Only ABA-approved birds are countable; no psilly psittacines, please!
7. Any rare birds encountered should be written up, just as at a Christmas count.
8. "ABC" Bird-a-thon teams respect private property and in general comply with all the "rules of birding ethics" that have been published by groups such as ABA or NAS.

Boundaries

9. Counts for the ABC/C Birdathon are for Washington County, Maine. Therefore, to be credited to the final ABC/C count, birds must be within the county's boundaries when seen or heard. A bird that is aloft must be within the county's boundaries - or "birdable area" - to be credited.
10. As Washington County is a coastal county, the "birdable area" extends one mile (i.e., as far as you can scope) out into salt water (or lake water) from the shore, or from the county's offshore islands. Birds over water that you count within this one mile distance will be credited. A bird you identify while it is on/over Canadian land can not be credited, though that same bird will be credited if you see it within Washington County's boundaries or "birdable area".
11. Special case. While on Washington County land and while birding over water between Washington County and Canada (e.g., between Robbinston and St. Andrews or between Eastport and Head Harbour), if you identify a bird over water within a mile from where you are, that bird will be credited even if the bird actually was flying over Canadian water.

Reporting

12. Please report identified Birdathon birds to the Down East Spring Birding Festival by May 31. This write-up verifies your sightings and allows a credible comparison of results. The write-up must be received by the coordinator by May 30. Reporting can be done in person during the festival or via email (birdfest@thecccl.org). Festival personnel will email the total Birdathon count to the ABC/C Coordinator.

Differences Between Birdathon and Down East Spring Birding Festival “Counting Rules”

13. For the ABC/C Birdathon, birds counted will be credited according to the rules above. All Birdathon birds also will be credited to the Festival count. For the Festival, all birds will be credited that were positively identified between May 28 (the first day of the festival and its associated birding Exploritas program) and June 2 (the last day of the associated Exploritas program) inclusive while the individual was in Washington County (land or water) or on Campobello Island, NB, or Machias Seal Island, or on a boat within or around Washington County or traveling to/from Campobello or Machias Seal Islands.

(Rules dated 3/2011)

Flyways within the United States

