

## 2019 MONTEZUMA MUCKRACE RULES YOUTH, LOW-CARBON, FAMILY/MENTOR, PHOTO, AND RECREATIONAL LEVELS (revised 9/30/2016)

Youth (ages 9-16), any number, identifying birds without adult assistance;

Low-Carbon (any number, no motorized assistance - biking, walking, canoeing, etc);

Family/Mentor (any number, at least one parent/leader with any number of young/beginning birders);

Photo (any number, can only count birds that it can photograph or video record calls with a camera. \*See below for full description)

Recreational (any number of adults)

The following rules establish the standards and practices under which all Montezuma Muckrace Youth, Low-Carbon, Family/Mentor, Photo and Recreational level participants must comply. These rules are adopted pursuant to the New Jersey Audubon Society's World Series of Birding regulations.

ALL YOUTH, LOW-CARBON, FAMILY/MENTOR, PHOTO, AND RECREATIONAL LEVEL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH AND WILLING TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE RULES IN ORDER TO COMPETE IN THE MONTEZUMA MUCKRACE. Failure in this regard may result in the disqualification of the team.

All teams must register at the Montezuma Audubon Center before 3:00 p.m. the day of the race.

### I. Counting:

a. Count only full species as indicated by the current New York State checklist (compiled by the New York State Ornithological Association).

b. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. (Photo team must have photo, or recording)

c. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained.

d. The team must remain together while counting, but only 1 person on the team needs to identify or see each bird.

e. Electronic or recorded bird calls may NOT be used to attract birds or entice them to vocalize during the Muckrace or while scouting prior to the event. Bird recordings may be used to help in the identification of birds and may be included among your gear, BUT recordings are restricted to vehicles and may only be used as a reference when teams are traveling between destinations. Recordings may not be used when teams are actively birding.

### II. Time:

All counting must begin and end between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. of the Montezuma Muckrace date(s). All teams must file their checklists at the finish line by 7:15 p.m. Teams may elect to begin and finish at any time within these parameters.

### III. Geographic Area:

a. Only birds recorded within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex (Focus Area) may be counted.

b. Teams may begin their route anywhere in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, but must finish at the Montezuma Audubon Center, the designated finish line.

c. A team may cross over the boundary for convenience or expedience, but only birds within the boundary may be counted.

d. Boundary roads or streams are considered inclusive. That is, any bird seen on or over a

boundary road is considered "in bounds" and may be counted. **The boundary across Cayuga Lake shall be the railroad bridge, inclusive.**

**IV. Travel:**

a. All teams must comply with New York highway laws. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

**V. Participants:**

Youth, low-carbon, family/mentor, photo and recreational teams are not required to have any specific number of participants.

**VI. Conduct:**

- a. Team members must count only birds personally and unquestionably identified.
- b. Team members must be familiar with the rules of the competition before the event.
- c. No team may intentionally flush or drive into hiding any bird to prevent another team from finding it.
- d. No special access privileges are implied from Montezuma, the DEC, or any other landowner.

**VII. Outside Information:**

Teams competing are NOT required to assist other teams, but are encouraged to do so. If you would like assistance in identifying a bird, you may receive help from any source.

**VIII. Ethics:**

Each participant must maintain proper birding ethics at all times as defined in the ABA Code of Ethics, a copy of which is found included in the registration packet.

**IX. Official Totals:**

- a. All teams must submit their totals in person to officials at the finish line before 7:15 p.m. of the Muckrace day. Please make every effort to arrive on time.
- b. Totals are considered final when they are submitted. No alterations or corrections may be made after checklists have been handed over to officials.

**X. Eligibility, Fees, and Deadlines:**

- a. Teams participating at the Youth, Low-Carbon, Family/Mentor, and Recreational Levels are required to pay a fee of \$50.00.
- b. All participants (team members and those accompanying teams) must sign, date, and submit a RELEASE & HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT prior to the competition. Individuals who fail to comply have no standing as participants.
- c. Entry fees must be paid in full before the commencement of the event.

**\*Photo team specifics**

- a. The team can only count birds that it can photograph or video record calls with a camera.
- b. The team must remain together while counting, but only 1 photograph/recording of each bird is required, and only 1 person on the team needs to identify or see each bird.
- c. The photos do not need to be high quality, but must be recognizable and each bird must have been positively identified (either in the field or by photograph/recording).
- d. Not all team members need to use a camera, some team members may be used to keep the list, spot/identify birds, etc.