



QUEENSLAND TWITCHATHON
29 SEPTEMBER to 3 OCTOBER 2017

Rules and Conditions

1. Birding Area

The birding area is confined to the state of Queensland.

2. Birds Counted

To be counted, birds must be alive, unrestrained and from recognised, free-living established populations.

3. Species Counted

The International Ornithological Committee's (IOC) Australian Checklist is the taxonomy to be used by participating teams. A copy of this list can be found at the link in section 14. Species must be recognised by sight or sound by more than 50% of the team, and team members must be in visual contact at the time a species is counted.

4. Teams

Teams must have a minimum of two members, with one nominated leader. **Each team must contain at least one member of Birds Queensland.** All team members must participate for the duration of time prescribed for that category.

5. Categories

A winning team will be announced for each of the following categories. The winning team is the one that records the highest total of species under the conditions prescribed for that category. The prescribed conditions are:

- **Open Category:** Birds may be counted during any **continuous period** of **24 hours** between midday on Friday, 29 September and midday on Tuesday 3 October. Transport may be by any mode except aircraft.
- **Champagne Category:** Birds may be counted during any **continuous period** of **12 hours** between 5.30 am on Saturday 30 September and 10pm on Monday 2 October, which must include an obligatory stop of not less than 1 hour, plus at least two other 30 minute stops. The complete 12 hour period must occur between 5.30am and 10pm. Walking and birding is permitted at the obligatory stops, but not travel between sites.
- **Eco Category:** Birds may be counted during any **continuous period** of **12 hours** between midday on Friday 29 September and midday on Tuesday 3 October. Once the period of 12 hours has commenced, any form of motorised transport is prohibited, except public transport.

Individuals may compete in more than one category, but not concurrently.

6. Registrations

Teams must register prior to conducting their twitch. Registrations open on **Saturday 5 August 2017**, and are open until **Wednesday 27 September 2017**.

7. Outside Assistance

During the Twitchathon, teams may not seek assistance in finding birds from non-participants. Any information received prior to the commencement of the Twitchathon may be used.

8. Ethics

No recorded calls or mechanical devices may be used to attract birds, and disturbance must be kept to a minimum. Other teams must not be obstructed. Teams that have trespassed during the Twitchathon will be disqualified.

9. Safety

The rules of the road must be observed, and any team booked for traffic offences during the Twitchathon will be disqualified. Care should be taken to change or rest drivers every two hours.

10. Results

Team leaders must report their species total by **phone** before **8pm, Tuesday 3 October**. A list of the species counted must be received by **email** or **post** before **8pm, Friday 6 October 2017**. Results will be announced by Friday 13 October. Contact details for submitting results are included at section 14.

11. Prizes

- Highest Individual Fundraiser: A bottle of premium wine.

- Highest Team Fundraiser: Each team member wins a bottle of premium wine.
- Winning Team Open Category: A plaque on the Queensland Twitch Champions (Paradise Parrot) Trophy plus up to \$400 in prizes.
- Winning Team Eco Category: Each team member wins a bottle of premium wine.
- Winning Team Champagne Category: Each team member wins a bottle of premium wine.

12. Sponsorship & Fundraising

The Queensland Twitchathon is a fundraising event conducted by Birds Queensland to support the research and conservation of Queensland's birds. **To be eligible for prizes, a team must raise at least \$50 per person.** All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Please email your total sponsorship amount to twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au by Thursday 19 October 2017.

Payment by cash – transfer of cash funds will be arranged following the event.

Payment by EFT or over the counter bank deposit - sponsorship funds can be deposited into:

Bank: Westpac Banking Corporation

Account Name: Queensland Ornithological Society Inc. Research Fund

BSB: 034 061

Account No: 28 9659

Description: "Twitch [name of your team]". Also email details of your deposit to twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au.

Payment by cheque - payable to 'Queensland Ornithological Society Inc. posted to:

2017 Queensland Twitchathon

c/- Birds Queensland

PO Box 3784

South Brisbane BC Qld 4101

13. Liability

Teams enter and participate at their own risk. No liability is implied or accepted by Birds Queensland their office-holders or staff.

14. Registration, Results, Sponsorship and Checklists

All 2017 Queensland Twitchathon information including Registration Forms, IOC Australian Checklist, Sponsorship Forms and these Rules and Conditions are available from:

- The Birds Queensland website at: www.birdsqueensland.org.au/twitches.php

To request any information, register a team, submit results or submit sponsorship forms, please contact the Queensland Twitchathon organising committee via twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au or call Paul Marty on 0418 899 967.