



# QUEENSLAND TWITCHATHON

## 14 SEPTEMBER to 11 OCTOBER 2026

### 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 Qld.** 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. **Birds may be counted anytime between 5:30 AM on Monday, 14 September 2026 and 10:00 PM on Sunday, 11 October 2026.**

The prescribed conditions are:

- **3 hour Category:** - Birds may be counted during any **continuous 3-hour period** within the official Twitch dates. Perfect for teams short on time but high on enthusiasm!
- **Open Category:** - Birds may be counted during any **continuous 24-hour period** within the official Twitch dates. You can use any form of transport **except aircraft**.
- **Champagne Category:** Birds may be counted during any **continuous period of 12 hours** within the official Twitch Dates, 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** within the Official Twitch Dates. Once the period of 12 hours has commenced, any form of motorised transport is prohibited, except public transport and mobility scooters and electric (e) bicycles/scooters/personal mobility devices (however, where e - bicycles/scooters/personal mobility devices are used these must not be modified and must be speed restricted as per the current state rules). At least one member of the team must be using a non e - bicycle/scooter/personal mobility device.

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

Depending upon the number of registrations received, sub-categories may be created in any or all four of the above categories. These sub-categories may include;

- Youngest average team age / Oldest average team age
- Team with the average least number of previous Twitchathons between members
- Team with most members who have never competed in a Twitchathon
- Most species in a particular region
- Most species by public transport / Most species by bicycle / Most species by wheelchair/mobility scooter

- Most species by non-motorised water craft / Most species on foot
- Greatest / least distance travelled during the Twitchathon
- Greatest / least distance from “home” (eg; walked to local park or drove to Bowra prior to start)
- Most species in a particular group (eg: raptors, shorebirds etc)

## 6. Registrations

Teams must register prior to conducting their twitch. Registrations open on **Saturday 1st August 2026**, and are open until **Sunday 4th October 2026**. (Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Twitchathon Co-ordinator up until 48 hours prior to the day of the team’s proposed twitch).

## 7. Outside Assistance

During the Twitchathon, teams may not seek assistance in finding birds from non-participants or online sources. 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 email, text or phone before 8pm, Monday 12th October. A list of the species counted must be received by email or post before 8pm, 14th October 2026. Results will be announced by Thursday 5 November. Contact details for submitting results are included at section 14.

Details for sub-categories should also be emailed with the species list (eg: distance travelled during the Twitchathon 24/12 hrs, distance travelled prior to start and after the finish).

Along with the results, please also advise what you felt to be your “best” bird, biggest “dip” and any other interesting details that can be included in the post-twitch write-up.

## 11. Prizes

- Highest Individual Fundraiser: A plaque on the Dollarbird Trophy plus a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Highest Team Fundraiser: Each team member wins a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Winning Team Open Category: A plaque on the Queensland Twitch Champions (Paradise Parrot) Trophy plus each team member wins a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Winning Team Eco Category: Each team member wins a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Winning Team Champagne Category: Each team member wins a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Winning 3 hour Category: Each team member wins a bottle of wine (or equivalent).
- Certificates will be presented for Category and Sub-category winners.

## 12. Sponsorship & Fundraising

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

[Donate Here](#)

**Payment by cash** – transfer of cash funds will be arranged following the event. Payments will be accepted at the Birds Qld October meeting.

**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 Account

BSB: 034 061

Account No: 285 252

Description: “Twitch [name of your team]”. Also email details of your deposit to [twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au).

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

2026 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 2026 Queensland Twitchathon information including Registration Forms, IOC Australian Checklist, Sponsorship Forms and these Rules and Conditions are available from:

- The Birds Queensland website at: <https://www.birdsqueensland.org.au/activities/twitches>

To request any information, register a team, submit results or sponsorship forms, please contact the Queensland Twitchathon organising committee via [twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:twitch@birdsqueensland.org.au).