

BREAK-A-HUNDRED RULES

Mearns Club spring birding peaks in mid-May with the annual Break-a-Hundred event. Club members form teams and attempt to identify 100 or more species of birds in Orange County within a 24-hour period. The Break is a unique day of friendly rivalry and camaraderie.

The rules for the Break are as follows.

Teams: Teams must have a least two members, but there is no maximum team size. All team members must stay within normal speaking distance of each other.

Sightings: Ideally, all team members should see or hear each bird counted, but this is not always possible. The standard we have used in the past is that each team member should make a reasonable attempt to see or hear each bird, and a minimum of two team members must identify each bird.

Time: The Break can cover any 24-hour period starting on the Friday of the Break weekend, but the 24-hour period must end no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday. All participants are invited to gather at a designated site for a countdown potluck; information on the potluck will be distributed as we get closer to the event.

Ethics: All teams must follow the American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics, which the club adopted in 2009.

Boundaries: Teams can bird anywhere in Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, or Rockland County, and all birds counted must be within these four counties.

Revised April 7, 2026