

## DFO Big Year 2018 – Rules and Guidelines

*Revised 12-2-2017*

1. The Big Year species total will be based on species seen or heard in Colorado during DFO field trips.
2. Species must be listed on the current Colorado state list, and may not include exotic or non-native species not officially accepted for the Colorado state list. A rarity that would be the first state record may be provisionally accepted for the Big Year if supported by sufficient documentation (see #8).
3. A field trip officially begins when the leader arrives at the announced meeting spot, even if ahead of the advertised start time. Birds detected before the leader arrives are not included in the official trip list. The trip is only a DFO scheduled trip if it includes the leader and at least one participant.
4. A field trip officially ends when the trip is formally disbanded by the leader, unless a group of participants continues directly *with a DFO certified leader* as a group to another location, *in agreement with the original trip leader*, i.e. the decision for some participants to continue is discussed and agreed upon at the regular conclusion of the trip.
5. Species detected by Individuals or groups of participants when they have split off from the location of the main group or otherwise leave the trip are not counted for the trip list, unless the split is a part of the leader's trip plan.
6. Species detected after the trip is officially ended are not included in the trip list.
7. For an overnight trip, only species detected while the trip participants are gathered under the direction of the leader are included. If some participants detect other species at other times they are not to be included.
8. Reports of rarities should be supported by written details and photographs or recordings in the eBird checklist. Acceptance of reports of "lesser" rare birds *not* on the CBRC statewide review list will be based on the leader's authority. Reports of species on the statewide CBRC review list should be supported by submission to the CBRC. Inclusion of CBRC rarities for the Big Year can be made based on provisional acceptance, unless there is cause to provisionally not accept a report.
9. Species detected only when the bird is located outside Colorado do not count, even if the observers are in Colorado at the time of the observation.
10. The official leader's eBird list of species is the official list for the field trip (*leader has the final say*.) If a group member reports a species and, for whatever reason, the leader is not comfortable counting it, then the leader may decide to omit that species from the official trip list. Participants may not solicit the DFO board or anyone else to have their sighting "count".
11. A new field trip may be added no less than no less than three days (72 hours) before the field trip date. Once added to the web page, a new trip that is planned after the usual Lark Bunting deadlines must be announced on DFO's Facebook page and CoBirds with at least at least 3 days' notice.
12. Situations that arise that were unforeseen or not described above may be resolved by the Big Year coordinator with input from others, as needed.