

# 2024



## 95% Rule Explained

It is unlikely that **all** members of any given World Series of Birding Team will identify **all** the birds they report. That is why the 95% Rule was invented, and it applies to **all** teams.

Pete Dunne explained the rule as follows: 95% of all birds recorded by a team must be tallied and identified by **ALL** members of the team. For every 20 birds recorded, a team may count 1 bird that was not heard or seen by the **whole** team (but was heard or seen by at least two members of the team).

To figure the 95% Rule, use this calculation sheet:

Line 1 Enter the total number of **ALL** birds identified by the team (\_\_\_\_\_)

Line 2 Multiply that number by 0.05  
(\_\_\_\_\_ x 0.05 = \_\_\_\_\_)

Line 3 Record the number of birds that at least 2 team members identified, but not **all** team members (\_\_\_\_\_)

Line 4. Compare the number you calculated on Line 2 with the number on Line 3.

**a. If the number recorded on Line 2 is greater than the number recorded on Line 3**, your Official Total for the day is the number on Line 1.

**b. If the number recorded on Line 3 is greater than the number recorded on Line 2**, your Official Total for the day is Line 1 minus the difference between Line 3 and Line 2.

Line 1 \_\_\_ - (Line 3 \_\_\_ minus Line 2 \_\_\_) = Official Total

(see Example 2)

If you are using the phone app, you can identify the "95%" birds throughout the day. The app will calculate the appropriate number of birds for your Official Total.

### EXAMPLE 1

Line 1 Enter the total number of **ALL** birds identified by the team (**186**)

Line 2 Multiply that number by 0.05

**(186 x 0.05 = 9.3) Round down to 9**

Line 3 Record the number of birds that at least 2 team members identified, but not **all** team members (**6**)

Line 4 Compare the number you calculated on Line 2 with the number on Line 3.

If the number recorded on Line 2 is greater than the number recorded on Line 3, your Official Total for the day is Line 1.

**Line 2 (9) is greater than Line 3 (6). Therefore, Official Total = Line 1 (186)**

### EXAMPLE 2

Line 1 Enter the total number of **ALL** birds identified by the team (**158**)

Line 2 Multiply that number by 0.05

**(158 x 0.05 = 7.9) Round up to 8**

Line 3 Record the number of birds that at least 2 team members identified, but not **all** team members (**12**)

Line 4 Compare the number you calculated on Line 2 with the number on Line 3.

If the number recorded on Line 3 is greater than the number recorded on Line 2, your Official Total for the day is Line 1 minus the difference between Line 2 and Line 3.

**Line 3 (12) is greater than Line 2 (7).  
The Official Total = Line 1 (158) - (12 - 7)  
Official Total = 153**