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:

1. Enter the total number of ALL birds identified by the team.
2. Multiply that number by 0.05. (Example: 158 x 0.05 = 7.9).
3. Record the number of birds that at least 2 team members identified, but not all team members.
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.

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.