

CyHawk Big Day Rules

1. Counting

- A. Count only full species as indicated by the current Iowa Ornithologists' Union checklist (no hybrids).
- B. At least two members of the same team must conclusively identify the same bird, by sight or by sound, for it to be countable. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird's identity, don't count it.
- C. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation if that identification is based solely on field notes or a photograph made while the bird was living and unrestrained.
- D. A bird identified to one of a species group (i.e., scaup, *Empidonax* flycatcher, dowitcher, accipiter, etc.) may be counted as a species if no other species in that group is counted by any other team.
- E. An introduced species may be counted if its status in the count area meets the criteria for the American Birding Association checklist.
- F. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained.
- G. Birds attracted to recordings or feeders may be counted.
- H. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained.
- I. Eggs do not count as birds.

2. Time

- A. All counting must be within a single designated 24-hour period. Each year, Big Bluestem Audubon Society (BBAS) and Iowa City Bird Club (ICBC) will agree upon which 24-hour period the count will take place on.

3. Area

- A. Birds counted must be within the state of Iowa. Birds must be in the state of their own free will, without human interference (You can not scare a bird over to the Iowa side of the border).
- B. Respect private property. All participants must confine their activities to property that is legally accessible by the general public or property that the team has clear, current and expressed permission to be on by the appropriate entity. A bird may be counted that is seen in or heard from property that they don't have legal access to only if the participants are on property that they do have legal access to at the time.

4. Teams

- A. CyHawk Big Day is a friendly competition between BBAS and ICBC, but all birders are welcome to participate.
- B. Participating teams must register with either BBAS or ICBC at least 6 hours before the 24-hour count period begins.

- C. Teams must have a minimum of at least two actively birding members, but can be as large as each team desires, as long as the team remains as one cohesive unit and does not separate.
- D. Teams must identify as counting either towards the BBAS (Iowa State Cyclones) or ICBC (Iowa Hawkeyes) grand total, and only for that particular organization's grand total (You must choose a side).

5. Submitting results

- A. To be eligible to be added to an organization's grand total, a team's list of birds must be submitted to the appropriate organization's compiler by email within 72 hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour count period.
- B. Each compiler must submit their organization's grand total to the opposing organization within 10 days of the conclusion of the 24-hour count period.

6. To the victor go the spoils

- A. The organization with the greatest number of bird species counted will win and possess the legendary Cardinalis-Buteo Trophy for the ensuing 365 days, 366 days on leap years, after the 24-hour count period concludes, or a new winner is identified.
- B. In the event of a tie, the Cardinalis-Buteo Trophy will be retained by the organization currently in possession of it for another year.