

2015 Cy-Hawk Big Day Competition

Karen Disbrow

For the second year the Big Bluestem Audubon Society of Ames challenged the Iowa City Bird Club to a Cy-Hawk Big Day competition, to see if the Cyclones could out bird the Hawkeyes. In an effort to get more people involved, we accepted teams from any part of the state, as long as they were aligned with either the Hawkeyes or the Cyclones. This year's event was held on Sunday, September 6, and it was one of the hottest days of the year, with a high temperature of 98° and a heat index of 104°. This was hard on the observers and made the birds very difficult to find. At the end of the day, the Hawkeyes prevailed with 123 species, compared to 113 species for the Cyclones, and retained the coveted trophy. This was due in part to the number of teams we were able field, with seven teams compared to two for the Cyclones. Each club had one team that misunderstood the date, and birded on September 7 (Labor Day) instead of September 6. We decided to accept the results from both these teams.

I want to thank everyone who participated. Hopefully next year the weather will be better and we can both have more teams in the field. We are already looking at next year's calendar with an eye on a Saturday when more people can participate.

Participants for Iowa City Bird Club: Chris Caster, Chris Edwards, Linda Rudolph, and Bill Scheible (The Fighting Goshawks); Adam Ciha and Dave Conrads; Karen Disbrow, Linda Fisher, Ramona McGurk, and Mary Noble; Ryan Elliott and Tamra Lewis; Diana Pesek and Sharon Somers; Bob and Joan Stearns; and Ric and Betty Zarwell.

SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	Least Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow Warbler
Mute Swan	White-rumped Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Trumpeter Swan	Pectoral Sandpiper	Blue-headed Vireo	Palm Warbler
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Pine Warbler
Gadwall	Western Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Canada Warbler
American Wigeon	Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Wilson's Snipe	American Crow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Tree Swallow	Song Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Black Tern	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Northern Pintail	Rock Pigeon	Bank Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Green-winged Teal	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Cliff Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Ring-necked Pheasant	Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Dickcissel
Wild Turkey	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Black-capped Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Screech-Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Eastern Meadowlark
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Yellow-headed Blackbird
American White Pelican	Barred Owl	House Wren	Common Grackle
Great Blue Heron	Common Nighthawk	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Egret	Chimney Swift	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Finch
Green Heron	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Catharus</i> thrush sp.	House Sparrow
Osprey	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	
Northern Harrier	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	TOTAL SPECIES 123
Red-tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling	
Sora	Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	
American Coot	Pileated Woodpecker	Ovenbird	
Sandhill Crane	American Kestrel	Black-and-white Warbler	
Semipalmated Plover	Peregrine Falcon	Tennessee Warbler	
Killdeer	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	
Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Common Yellowthroat	
Solitary Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	American Redstart	
Greater Yellowlegs	Willow Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Phoebe	Bay-breasted Warbler	
Stilt Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler	