

## **2016 Cy-Hawk Big Day Challenge**

**Chris Edwards**

The third annual Cy-Hawk Big Day competition was held on Sunday, September 18. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the 70s. The Iowa City Bird Club fielded five teams this year. Mark Brown and Jamie McCoy ranged the farthest, visiting Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, Lake Darling State Park, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Lake Sugema, Fox River Wildlife Management Area, and Shimek State Forest. Chris Caster, Linda Rudolph, and Chris Edwards visited Twinview Heights, Lake Macbride State Park, Macbride Nature-Recreation Area, and Hawkeye Wildlife Area. Rick Hollis, Sharon Somers, and Barry Buschelman birded Scales Point, Goose Lake, Pechman Creek Delta, River Junction, and Cone Marsh. Karen Disbrow, Ramona McGurk, Linda Fisher, and Mary Noble birded Iowa City, Coralville, West Branch, Weise Slough, Lake Macbride, and Sugar Bottom Recreation Area. Bob and Joan Stearns covered the Walford and Cedar Rapids areas.

Our club total was 113 species, down from 123 last year. It was a true team effort – every group added at least one species to the overall list. Mark and Jamie had the top list for the club with an outstanding 85 species. Overall, we found six waterfowl species, nine raptor species, and ten shorebird species. Seventeen warbler species were found, but only four sparrow species.

Some of the highlights included an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron near Mt. Sterling, Red-shouldered Hawks at Fox River WMA, Soras at Cone Marsh, Sandhill Cranes near Solon, American Golden-Plover and Stilt Sandpiper at the upper end of Lake Macbride, Olive-sided Flycatcher and White-eyed Vireos at Shimek State Forest, Philadelphia Vireo and a female Hooded Warbler at Macbride Nature-Recreation Area, Yellow-throated Warbler at Lake Macbride State Park, and two early White-throated Sparrows at Sugar Bottom Recreation Area.

Big Bluestem Audubon Society of Ames fielded 13 birders in four teams, and finished the day with 88 species. They were hampered by high water conditions and found only one shorebird species. Their highlights included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.

This means the Kent-Dinsmore trophy stays with the Iowa City Bird Club for another year, and will be presented to the club at the spring Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting. It was a fun day for all involved, and we look forward to another Cy-Hawk challenge next fall!

**SPECIES LIST**

Canada Goose	Mourning Dove	Gray Catbird
Wood Duck	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	European Starling
Mallard	Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Blue-winged Teal	Common Nighthawk	Ovenbird
Northern Shoveler	Chimney Swift	Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Pintail	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tennessee Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Belted Kingfisher	Orange-crowned Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-headed Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
American White Pelican	Downy Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Great Egret	Northern Flicker	Magnolia Warbler
Green Heron	Pileated Woodpecker	Bay-breasted Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	American Kestrel	Blackburnian Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Osprey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bald Eagle	Least Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Black-thr. Green Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	Canada Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	White-eyed Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Philadelphia Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Sora	Red-eyed Vireo	Song Sparrow
American Coot	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Sandhill Crane	American Crow	Scarlet Tanager
American Golden-Plover	Horned Lark	Northern Cardinal
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Spotted Sandpiper	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Solitary Sandpiper	Bank Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Yellowlegs	Cliff Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Lesser Yellowlegs	Barn Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Stilt Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	House Finch
Least Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
Pectoral Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	House Wren	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Franklin's Gull	Marsh Wren	
Ring-billed Gull	Carolina Wren	
Rock Pigeon	Eastern Bluebird	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	American Robin	

TOTAL SPECIES 113