

# Official Cy-Hawk Challenge Rules

## 1. Counting

- A. Count only full species as indicated by the current ABA, AOS, Clements (eBird/Cornell), or IOU Checklists (no hybrids or subspecies).
- B. Birds can be identified by sight or sound. If there is any significant doubt about a bird's identity, it should not be counted.
- C. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation with the use of detailed field notes made at the time of the observation, photographs, videos, or audio recordings.
- D. Birds identified to be one of a group of difficult to distinguish species, or to genus or family (i.e., scaup, Empidonax flycatcher, dowitcher, Accipiter, etc.) may be accepted in a species count, but only until a bird in that group, genus, or family has been positively identified by a participant in the event. (i.e., "scaup" can be counted only until a Lesser or Greater Scaup is identified, or "falcon" can be counted only until a Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, etc. is positively identified.)
- E. Submissions of bird species with the ABA Code 1 or Code 2 designation that are considered rare in Iowa or rare for the time of year in Iowa (to a compiler's discretion) can be challenged by either compiler. This submission would then need to be verified by at least one of the compilers, to their satisfaction.
- F. Sightings of bird species with the ABA Code 3, Code 4, Code 5, or Code 6 designation must be verified by both the BBAS and ICBC compilers, with the submission of extensive and detailed field notes created at the time of observation, and/or by the submission of a photograph, video, or audio recording.
- G. Bird species that are non-native to Iowa may be counted if their status in the count area meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist. (i.e., naturalized species, such as Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, House Sparrow, Gray Partridge, etc.)
- H. Birds eligible to be counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained.
- I. Birds attracted by playback of recordings or to feeders may be counted.
- J. Injured birds may be counted if they are wild, unrestrained, and have not been intentionally injured by a human.
- K. Eggs do not count as birds.

## 2. Time

- A. All observations by all participants must occur within a common single 24-hour period.
- B. Each year, BBAS and ICBC will agree upon which 24-hour period the count will take place.

- C. BBAS and ICBC must agree upon and announce each year's 24-hour competition period no later than 2 months before the competition period.

### **3. Area**

- A. Birds eligible to be counted must be identified within a predetermined 5-county area for each organization.
- B. Each organization's 5-county area will be composed of 5 contiguous counties that include each organization's two "home counties" (Story County and Boone County for BBAS, Johnson County and Linn County for ICBC) plus three additional contiguous counties chosen by each organization before each year's competition.
- C. Each organization must finalize its 5-county area and report it to the other organization by no less than one month before the beginning of the competition.
- D. All participants must confine their activities to property that is legally accessible by the general public or to other property that participants have been given clear, current, and expressed permission to be on by the appropriate entity. A bird seen or heard in or over property that is not legally accessible may be counted if the person making the observation is on a legally accessible property at the time the observation is made.
- E. It is prohibited for birds that are outside of an organization's designated area to be intentionally driven, chased, flushed, startled, or scared into the designated area, directly or indirectly, by any human.

### **4. Participants**

- A. All birders are welcome to participate in the competition. All participants must register with either the BBAS or ICBC compiler.
- B. Birders can participate as individuals or in groups.

### **5. Submitting results**

- A. To be eligible to be added to an organization's official grand total, participants' lists of bird species identified must be submitted to the BBAS or ICBC compiler within 4 days of the conclusion of the competition period.
- B. Each compiler must submit their organization's official grand total of bird species identified to the opposing organization within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition period.
- C. Once an organization has submitted its official grand total to the other organization, the submitting organization has 4 days after the time of submission to amend their official grand total or to challenge the veracity of an observation. After 4 days have elapsed from the time of the submission, the submitting organization's official grand total will become final, permanent, and ineligible for further alterations.
- D. Failure to submit competition data, by a participant or compiler, before the respective deadlines pass will result in the disqualification of that data.

## **6. To the victor go the spoils**

- A. The organization that compiles the greatest number of eligible bird species will win that year's competition and will gain or retain possession of the Dinsmore-Kent Trophy for the ensuing year.
- B. In the event that the two organization's grand totals are identical, the Dinsmore-Kent Trophy will be retained by the organization currently in possession of it for another year.