

2020 Cy-Hawk Big Day Challenge

Chris Edwards

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the seventh annual Cy-Hawk event was a bit different than previous years. Instead of birding in teams under traditional Big Day rules, participants were allowed to bird alone, which resulted in a lot more participation from across the state. There were 40 birders from all corners of the state for the Hawkeyes, and 38 birders for the Cyclones. The weather was a factor, as heavy rain swept across the state in the early morning, followed by strong winds and high temperatures in the 90s in the afternoon.

Both sides produced outstanding results. The final tally: Hawkeyes 182, Cyclones 171. The combined list for both teams was an amazing 199 species! That included 15 waterfowl species, 25 shorebirds, 13 raptors, 11 flycatchers, 7 vireos, 12 sparrows, and 26 warblers.

The top team effort was 104 species for the Hawkeyes by Joe Jungers, Paul Roisen, and Lee Schoenewe in Palo Alto, Clay, and Dickinson counties. The top solo effort was 99 species for the Cyclones by Ryan Thompson in Polk County. Honorable mention goes to Mark Brown with 91 species in Johnson and Louisa counties, and Rita Goranson with 87 species in Kossuth County.

“Best” birds were a Little Gull at Little Swan Lake found by Joe Jungers, Paul Roisen, and Lee Schoenewe, and a Western Tanager in Denny Thompson’s backyard in Johnston. Other great finds included Greater White-fronted Goose, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Willet, Red-necked Phalarope, Mississippi Kite, Merlin, Western Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Fish Crow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (record early), Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

With the win, the Iowa City Bird Club retains the Kent-Dinsmore traveling trophy for another year. For those who haven’t seen it, it’s a duck decoy painted black and gold on one side, cardinal and gold on the other side, and mounted on a wooden base. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun this year!

Participants for the Hawkeyes: Brian and Jan Allen, Nick Benson, Phyllis Black, Jayden Bowen, Mark Brown, Brandon Caswell, Ray Cummins, LeAnn Dahn and husband, Jerry Denning, Karen Disbrow, Sandy Eads, Chris Edwards, Chuck Fuller, Jay Gilliam, Janet Greer, Candace Havelly, Rick Hollis, James Huntington, Joe Jungers, Kerry King, Kate Kostenbader, Ted Lepic, Ken Lowder, Betty Lucas, Mark Madsen, Jamie McCoy, Jason McCurdy, Ramona McGurk, Toney Moline, Diana Pesek, Linda Quinn, Deb and Mark Rolfes, Paul Roisen, Dave Schealer, Lee Schoenewe, Betty and Ric Zarwell.

2020 CY-HAWK CHALLENGE - SEPT. 6, 2020

SPECIES	IOWA	ISU
Greater White-fronted Goose		X
Canada Goose	X	X
Trumpeter Swan	X	X
Wood Duck	X	X
Blue-winged Teal	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X
Gadwall	X	X
American Wigeon	X	
Mallard	X	X
American Black Duck	X	
Northern Pintail	X	X
Green-winged Teal	X	X
Canvasback	X	
Hooded Merganser	X	X
Ruddy Duck		X
Northern Bobwhite	X	
Gray Partridge	X	X
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X
Wild Turkey	X	X
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X
Rock Pigeon	X	X
Eurasian Collared-Dove	X	X
Mourning Dove	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X	X
Common Nighthawk	X	X
Eastern Whip-poor-will	X	
Chimney Swift	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X
Virginia Rail	X	X
Sora	X	X
Common Gallinule	X	X
American Coot	X	X
Sandhill Crane	X	X
Black-necked Stilt		X
American Avocet	X	
Black-bellied Plover	X	X
American Golden-Plover	X	
Killdeer	X	X
Semipalmated Plover	X	X
Stilt Sandpiper	X	X
Sanderling	X	X
Baird's Sandpiper	X	X
Least Sandpiper	X	X
White-rumped Sandpiper	X	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	X	X
Pectoral Sandpiper	X	X
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X	X
Short-billed Dowitcher		X
Long-billed Dowitcher	X	

American Woodcock		X
Wilson's Snipe	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper	X	X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X
Willet	X	
Greater Yellowlegs	X	X
Wilson's Phalarope		X
Red-necked Phalarope	X	X
Little Gull	X	
Franklin's Gull	X	X
Ring-billed Gull	X	X
Herring Gull	X	X
Caspian Tern	X	X
Black Tern	X	X
Forster's Tern	X	X
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X
American White Pelican	X	X
Great Blue Heron	X	X
Great Egret	X	X
Green Heron	X	X
Turkey Vulture	X	X
Osprey	X	X
Northern Harrier	X	X
Sharp-shinned Hawk	X	X
Cooper's Hawk	X	X
Bald Eagle	X	X
Mississippi Kite		X
Red-shouldered Hawk	X	X
Broad-winged Hawk		X
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X
Eastern Screech-Owl		X
Great Horned Owl	X	X
Barred Owl	X	X
Belted Kingfisher	X	X
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X
Northern Flicker	X	X
Pileated Woodpecker	X	X
American Kestrel	X	X
Merlin	X	
Peregrine Falcon	X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X
Western Kingbird		X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X	X
Acadian Flycatcher	X	X

Alder Flycatcher		X
Willow Flycatcher	X	X
Least Flycatcher	X	X
Eastern Phoebe	X	X
White-eyed Vireo	X	
Bell's Vireo	X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X
Blue-headed Vireo	X	X
Philadelphia Vireo	X	X
Warbling Vireo	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X
American Crow	X	X
Fish Crow	X	X
Horned Lark	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X
Tree Swallow	X	X
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	X
Purple Martin	X	
Barn Swallow	X	X
Cliff Swallow	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X
Tufted Titmouse	X	X
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X
House Wren	X	X
Sedge Wren	X	X
Marsh Wren	X	X
Carolina Wren	X	X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	
Eastern Bluebird	X	X
Swainson's Thrush	X	X
American Robin	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X
Brown Thrasher	X	X
European Starling	X	X
Cedar Waxwing	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	X	X
House Finch	X	X
Purple Finch	X	X
American Goldfinch	X	X
Grasshopper Sparrow	X	
Lark Sparrow	X	X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow		X
Field Sparrow	X	X
Dark-eyed Junco	X	
Vesper Sparrow	X	X
Savannah Sparrow		X

Song Sparrow	X	X
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	
Swamp Sparrow	X	X
Eastern Towhee	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X	X
Bobolink	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X	X
Western Meadowlark		X
Orchard Oriole	X	
Baltimore Oriole	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X
Common Grackle	X	X
Great-tailed Grackle		X
Ovenbird	X	X
Northern Waterthrush	X	X
Golden-winged Warbler	X	
Blue-winged Warbler	X	
Black-and-White Warbler	X	X
Tennessee Warbler	X	X
Orange-crowned Warbler	X	
Nashville Warbler	X	X
Mourning Warbler	X	X
Common Yellowthroat	X	X
Hooded Warbler	X	
American Redstart	X	X
Cape May Warbler		X
Cerulean Warbler	X	
Northern Parula	X	X
Magnolia Warbler	X	X
Bay-breasted Warbler	X	X
Blackburnian Warbler	X	
Yellow Warbler	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X
Blackpoll Warbler	X	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	X	
Palm Warbler	X	
Black-throated Green Warbler	X	X
Canada Warbler	X	X
Wilson's Warbler	X	X
Summer Tanager	X	X
Scarlet Tanager	X	X
Western Tanager		X
Northern Cardinal	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	X
Blue Grosbeak	X	X
Indigo Bunting	X	X
Dickcissel	X	X
TEAM TOTAL	182	171
COMBINED TOTAL	199	