

### ***What are the KC rules and ethics?***

The following rules establish the basic standards and practices under which *all* KC team birding participants *must* comply. The rules are in fundamental accord with the Big Day Count rules established by the American Birding Association (ABA). Ethics for the KC follow those created by the ABA and refined by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO).

1. All counting must be made within the prescribed area and within the 24-hour period of the count day.
2. Count only full species currently accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee.
3. Birds counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained when encountered.
4. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound by at least two members of a team and 95% of the birds recorded must be identified by the entire team.
5. Any type of vehicle, except aircraft, may be used.
6. Team members must remain within voice (shouting) distance of each other while birding.
7. Electronic or recorded bird calls may **not** be used to attract birds into view or to entice them to vocalize during the event or while scouting prior to the event.
8. Spotlighting is prohibited.
9. Teams are expected to follow all laws and birding ethics.
10. All teams must have fun.



KC teams in the field. (Photo by Brian Taber)

### ***Who do I contact to get involved?***

If you would like to form a team, be placed on an existing team, sponsor a team, donate prizes or just learn more, contact KC Coordinator, Paul Nasca, at [kiptopekechallenge@gmail.com](mailto:kiptopekechallenge@gmail.com).



Greater Yellowlegs (Photo by Paul Nasca)

Cover: Peregrine Falcon (Photo by Kevin Karlson)

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*“Protecting wildlife through field research,  
education and habitat conservation”*

# ***The CVWO Kiptopeke Challenge***



**[www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org)**



# Join in the fun of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory's Annual Kiptopeke Challenge!

## *What is the Kiptopeke Challenge?*

The Kiptopeke Challenge (KC) is a fun and friendly team birding competition, whereby teams compete to identify the greatest number of bird species in a single day. The primary goals of the KC are to raise funds for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) and to raise awareness of fall bird migration on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The KC takes place each year in late September, during peak migration, when birds sing little and many have molted their breeding plumages. Add in hatch-year birds, and you'll understand why the event is called the Kiptopeke *Challenge!*



Dickcissels (Photo by Brian Taber)

## *Who can participate?*

The KC is open to anyone. Participants can form their own team or a single individual can request to be placed with an existing team. A team must consist of 2 or more people. Non-birding drivers are allowed.

## *What are the categories?*

The KC competition categories are:

- 24-Hour
- 3-Hour
- Youth (age 18 and under)
- Special Venue

Other categories may be added such as Hawkwatch and Special Venue outside of the geographic count area.

## *Is there an entrance fee?*

No. All teams, however, are encouraged to secure sponsors for donations, such as per species or flat-rate pledges from individuals, bird clubs and businesses. All funds raised are used to support CVWO's field research and environmental education programs.

## *Where is the count area?*

For teams competing for KC awards, the geographic count area is limited to the land, ocean, and bay areas of Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT). Other geographic areas may be included. However, teams that bird these locations are excluded from competing for KC trophies.

## *There are awards?*

Yes! Bronze bird trophies are awarded in two categories: *American Woodcock* for the 24-Hour most species, and *Piping Plover* for the team that raised the most amount of money. The wooden *Buff-breasted Sandpiper* trophy is awarded for the Youth category.



Team Wild Birds Unlimited of Williamsburg (Brian Taber, Paul Nasca and Calvin Brennan), the winners of the 2009 *American Woodcock* trophy. (Photo by Brian Taber)

Each trophy is kept by the winning team until the following year's competition.

Additional awards and prizes are also given.

All awards are made at the CVWO Annual Meeting held at Kiptopeke State Park in November.



Royal Terns (Photo by Paul Nasca)