



## California Fall Challenge Official Rules for Mewaldt Cup Competition

### Timing

All Mewaldt Cup Competition teams must begin and end competition birding between midnight and midnight on a single calendar day, during the span of SFBBO's California Fall Challenge (CFC) event. Eligible days are September 11<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Team results must be received by SFBBO by 5 pm on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### Registration, Fee, & Submission of Results

Please register with SFBBO prior to your competition day. Email Kathi Kendrick at [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org) with your team name, team members, and your approximate outing date. We realize that the outing date may change due to weather conditions.

For a team to be eligible for the Mewaldt Cup, each competing team member must pay the \$50 registration fee. Fundraising may not be used to pay for the Mewaldt Cup registration this year. Each team member will also receive a t-shirt with their donation. The \$50 fee is a donation and is tax-deductable to the full extent of the law.

To submit your results, mail or email birding results to Kathi Kendrick ([outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org); phone: 408-946-6548). Team results must be received by 5 pm on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to be eligible for the Mewaldt Cup and associated prizes. E-mail messages will be replied to upon receipt; participants using mail are urged to confirm that their information was received with a phone call. Your submission must include:

- Team Name
- Team Members
- Species List

### Mewaldt Cup Scoring & Awards

In order to be eligible to compete for the Mewaldt Cup, teams must send to **SFBBO their species list or a copy thereof by October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. The Mewaldt Cup winner will be the team who observed the greater number of species. The winning team will be notified by October 12<sup>th</sup>. A member of the winning team **must be present at the Annual Meeting** on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Hidden Villa to accept the Mewaldt Cup. Additionally, the winning team will also be awarded prizes such as gift certificates, birding paraphernalia, etc.

### What can be counted?

Birds that can be counted must be full species as defined by the most recent ABA Area Checklist (refer to ABA Listing Rules and interpretation) **and must be a species on the current California checklist as defined by the California Bird Records Committee**. Species may be identified by sight or sound. All birds counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained. Sick and injured birds may be counted. Eggs do not count as birds. A bird identified to one species group (i.e. dowitcher spp.) may be counted as a species only if no other in that group is counted. Escaped captive birds may not be counted for the purposes of this event.



### **Geographic Area**

All Mewaldt Cup Competition team trips must be conducted within the State of California. Birding on private property is allowed, but must be arranged with proper permits, in advance, with the property owner. Trespassing is grounds for disqualification.

### **Travel**

Travel can be conducted using any type of vehicle except for aircraft. Participants are not all required to travel within the same vehicle.

### **Participant Conduct**

All conduct is in accordance with the ABA's Big Day rules. Non-birder participants may accompany the team, assist in driving and recording duties, but may not assist in locating and identifying birds. Use of tapes in the field is allowed if they are used sparingly and with due regard for the welfare of the birds. Ninety-five percent of *species* counted must be identified independently by all team members. It is not necessary that all team members identify the same bird. All members of teams must be in visual and natural-voice contact with one another at all times that birds are being counted. You may scout prior to the event, but you may not "stake out" birds using non-team members on the day of the outing.

Teams must comply with the laws of the State of California, as well as any county and municipal laws. You may not exceed posted speed limits or trespass on private property. All team members must comply with the ABA Birding Code of Ethics at all times.

*Any violation of these rules subjects a participant or the entire team to disqualification. The CFC Committee will review any infractions or controversies and their decisions will be considered final.*