The Big Year 2011

(Owen Wilson, Jack Black, Steve Martin)

1. What does the “Sooty Shearwater” of Tasmania have to do before migrating to Hawaii?

2. How do you become the greatest birder in the world?

3. What is the “Big Year”?

4. What was Kenny Bostick’s (Owen Wilson) Big Year record?

5. Why did Stu Preissler (Steve Martin) want to do the Big Year?

6. When did the Big Year competition begin?

7. What two reasons were given for ending some people’s Big Year dreams?

8. Name two of the first three birds that Stu saw?

9. What were day one totals for each birder?

10. What 3 things did Brad Harris (Jack Black) quit due to his birding passion?

11. What is used to determine the validity of a sighting, and what two things count?

12. What bird circles its prey and then pounces when it doesn’t expect it?

13. Sometimes, what does birding and friendship depend on according to the Brad Harris?

14. What bird did Kenny Bostick find after the car accident that more rare than a unicorn?

15. Where did they find the sagegrouse?

16. How did Kenny Bostick describe his obsession with Birding … and to what composer?

17. What happened to make all three birders drop everything & go to Texas (Gulf of Mexico)?

18. What is a “fallout”?

19. What bird was sighted by Bostick (but not Harris & Preissler) that went to Iceland by Friday?

20. How many different species of birds did Harris & Preissler see during the fallout in one day?

21. How many birds had Preissler seen by the time Brad figured out he was doing a Big Year?

22. Where did all the birders go in for bird paradise in May?

23. What does the “Loggerhead Shrike” do to its prey?

24. Why was it so important to get to the plane for Attu?

25. Bostick used the technique of the “Skua” … what was that?

26. Name one of the two birds only seen on Attu especially after a Siberian storm?

27. What was the bird that got away that Bostick wants to find so badly?

28. Which bird has the most spectacular mating rituals? Describe it.

29. Which bird is the most beautiful in the world to Brad Harris?

30. What were totals for each birder after Attu?

31. Fill in Brad Harris’ itinerary for the next 8 weeks?

32. Which bird did Brad travel to Boston to see (besides Ellie)?

33. What things was Stu struggling over …. What was he giving up?

34. What bird did they see in the helicopter?

35. What was Brad’s favorite birds and why?

36. What did Stu Preissler discover about Kenny Bostick?

37. What bird drew Bostick away from his appointment with his wife? Where was it?

38. What bird were Brad and his dad seeking in George Washington National Forest?

39. What holiday did Brad and Stu miss to beat Bostick?

40. What was the last bird that Brad and Stu saw which was not supposed to be there?

41. What were the year end totals for each birder according to the magazine?

42. What was significant about Brad’s feat compared to the other two birders?

43. What is necessary to break a world record?

44. Have you ever been so passionate that you’d sacrifice to the extent of these birders? Describe their passion and give a couple of examples in the movie.

The Big Year 2011

(Owen Wilson, Jack Black, Steve Martin)

1. What does the “Sooty Shearwater” of Tasmania have to do before migrating to Hawaii?

 ***Lose half its body weight***

2. How do you become the greatest birder in the world?

 ***By winning the “Big Year”***

3. What is the “Big Year”?

 ***Competition to see the greatest number of birds in North America in one calendar year***

4. What was Kenny Bostick’s (Owen Wilson) Big Year record?

 ***732 species***

5. Why did Stu Preissler (Steve Martin) want to do the Big Year?

  ***It was his dream since a young boy***

6. When did the Big Year competition begin?

 ***January 1***

7. What two reasons were given for ending some people’s Big Year dreams?

 ***Injury and college tuition costs***

8. Name two of the first three birds that Stu saw?

 ***Magpie, Raven, Pine Grosbeak***

9. What were day one totals for each birder?

 ***Stu Preissler: 29 Kenny Bostick 31 Brad Harris (Jack Black): 1***

10. What 3 things did Brad Harris (Jack Black) quit due to his birding passion?

 ***Grad School, job at Dell, first marriage***

11. What is used to determine the validity of a sighting, and what two things count?

 ***The old fashion honor system … see or hear the bird***

12. What bird circles its prey and then pounces when it doesn’t expect it?

 ***Peregrin Falcon***

13. Sometimes, what does birding and friendship depend on according to the Brad Harris?

 ***Luck***

14. What bird did Kenny Bostick find after the car accident that more rare than a unicorn?

 ***Great spotted woodpecker***

15. Where did they find the sagegrouse?

 ***At the dump***

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16. How did Kenny Bostick describe his obsession with Birding … and to what composer?

 ***His calling … like Mozart***

17. What happened to make all three birders drop everything & go to Texas (Gulf of Mexico)?

 ***Fallout due to hurricane force winds and El Nino***

18. What is a “fallout”?

 ***Bird fallout is when 100,000s of birds come out of the sky during migration season***

19. What bird was sighted by Bostick (but not Harris & Preissler) that went to Iceland by Friday?

 ***Big footed goose***

20. How many different species of birds did Harris & Preissler see during the fallout in one day?

 ***136***

21. How many birds had Preissler seen by the time Brad figured out he was doing a Big Year?

 ***497 by May 8***

22. Where did all the birders go in for bird paradise in May?

***Attu, Alaska***

23. What does the “Loggerhead Shrike” do to its prey?

***Lures them with a song and then eats them***

24. Why was it so important to get to the plane for Attu?

***There was only one plane per week***

25. Bostick used the technique of the “Skua” … what was that?

***Let others do the grunt work and then cease the spoils***

26. Name one of the two birds only seen on Attu especially after a Siberian storm?

***Pin-tailed Snipe, Oriental Greenfinch***

27. What was the bird that got away that Bostick wants to find so badly?

***Snowy Owl***

28. Which bird has the most spectacular mating rituals? Describe it.

***Bald Eagle; soar, then free fall, separate at last second***

29. Which bird is the most beautiful in the world to Brad Harris?

***Audubon Oriole***

30. What were totals for each birder after Attu?

 ***Stu Preissler: 552 Kenny Bostick: 629 Brad Harris (Jack Black): 627***

31. Fill in Brad Harris’ itinerary for the next 8 weeks?

***Miles: 14,000 States: 21 New Birds: 56***

32. Which bird did Brad travel to Boston to see (besides Ellie)?

***Pink footed Goose***

33. What things was Stu struggling over …. What was he giving up?

***High executive position (owner), his family, his grandson***

34. What bird did they see in the helicopter?

 ***Himalayan Snow cocks***

35. What was Brad’s favorite birds and why?

***American Golden Plover; breeds in Arctic tundra, flies to Argentina; travels 100,000s of miles in his lifetime; the bird everyone underestimates***

36. What did Stu Preissler discover about Kenny Bostick?

***His honor system was valid; he doesn’t cheat***

37. What bird drew Bostick away from his appointment with his wife? Where was it?

 ***Snowy Owl in Buffalo, NY***

38. What bird were Brad and his dad seeking in George Washington National Forest?

***Great Gray Owl***

39. What holiday did Brad and Stu miss to beat Bostick?

***Thanksgiving***

40. What was the last bird that Brad and Stu saw which was not supposed to be there?

***Pink Footed Goose***

41. What were the year end totals for each birder according to the magazine?

 ***Stu Preissler: 4th Kenny Bostick: 755 Brad Harris (Jack Black): 741***

42. What was significant about Brad’s feat compared to the other two birders?

 ***He held a full-time job while doing it.***

43. What is necessary to break a world record?

***Superior passion, dedication and sacrifice***

44. Have you ever been so passionate that you’d sacrifice to the extent of these birders? Describe their passion and give a couple of examples in the movie.

* ***One birder brought his new bride to Attu***
* ***Bostick kept stringing out his wife***