2024 Iowa Envirothon State Wildlife Exam **Team Name**_____
Each Question is worth three points – 75 points possible

1. The 46 species of reptiles found in Iowa include _____.
A. 5 species of salamanders, 13 species of turtles and 28 species of snakes
B. 5 species of lizards, 13 species of turtles and 28 species of snakes
C. 5 species of lizards, 13 species of frogs and 28 species of turtles
D. 5 species of toads, 13 species of snakes and 28 species of turtles

2. The most common turtle in the State of Iowa is the _____.
A. Northern map turtle, Graptemys geographica
B. Ornate box turtle (Terrapene ornate)
C. Painted turtle (Chrysemys picta)
D. Snapping turtle, Chelydra serpentina

3. Which is the following describes the change that has occurred in Iowa's ecosystems since becoming a state in 1846?
A. more than a 99 percent reduction in prairie habitat
B. about 95 percent of the prairie pothole wetlands have been drained
C. over half of the original forest is gone
D. all of these are correct

4. The geological, cultural, and ecological history of Iowa's landscape has created a diversity of habitats for mammals throughout the state. Which of the following does not represent the six primary physiographic regions used by ecologists for identifying areas that share similar topography and ecosystems?
A. Loess hills and the Des Moines lobe
B. Southern Iowa drift plain and Northwest Iowa plains
C. Iowan surface and Paleozoic plateau
D. Tall grass prairie and short grass prairie

5. _____ are the only marsupial native to the United States. This mammal is perhaps best known for playing dead when danger threatens, as well as lying motionless with their mouth open and drooling conspicuously until the threat passes.
A. American badgers
B. Least weasels
C. Opossums
D. Raccoons

6. The _____ is the largest class of arthropods and they all have an exoskeleton and jointed legs.
A. Arachnid class (spiders, mites, ticks)
B. Centipede class (centipedes)
C. Crustacean group (crayfish, sowbugs - isopods, cladocerans)
D. Insect class (insects)
E. Millipede Class (millipedes)

7. When comparing the adult size of different Iowa mammals which of the following is TRUE?
A. The western harvest mouse is larger than the northern grasshopper mouse.
B. The red squirrel is larger than the fox squirrel.
C. The white-tailed jack rabbit is larger than the eastern cottontail.
D. All of these are correct

8. Iowa‘s migratory bats are often called “tree bats” because _____.
A. mating pairs raise their young alone or in small colonies in trees before departing on migration
B. they overwinter in the hollows and cavities of dormant Iowa trees
C. they rely on nuts, fruit and seeds from trees, for most of their diet
D. all of these are correct

9. _____ contain approximately three-fourths of all the world's species, numbering in the millions of species compared to the roughly 60,000 vertebrate species.
A. Arthropods
B. Fish
C. Mollusks
D. Segmented worms

10. While most carnivores kill their prey to eat them or they scavenge prey that is already dead, there is another type of carnivore, called a parasitic carnivore, that eats its prey while it is still alive. What Iowa species are parasitic, and they feed by rasping a hole in the side of the host fish and sucking its blood and after several days, drops off with the host fish usually does not dying?
A. American bald eagle
B. both male and female bluegill
C. several of Iowa’s lamprey species
D. white suckers

11. Which groups of Iowa’s vertebrates have some species that lay eggs as well as other species that give live birth?
A. lamprey, ray-finned fishes, and amphibians
B. birds, reptiles, and mammals
C. ray-finned fishes and reptiles
D. amphibians, birds, and reptiles

12. Ecologists use the term keystone species to describe organisms that _____.
A. are important for the survival of other species in an ecosystem
B. give life birth rather than laying eggs
C. have the Jacobson’s organ located in the roof of the mouth that is a chemical detector
D. split their time between aquatic and terrestrial habitats

13. _____ are carnivores that primarily eat fish.
A. Fishivores
B. Pileated
C. Piscivores
D. Ruminants

14. This unique butterfly species is found on the dry, gravel-ridged prairies in Iowa's Loess Hills or the goat prairies of northeast Iowa. What species is this? (see picture)
A. Copper moth
B. Leonard's skipper
C. Milkweed tussock moth
D. Northern pearly eye butterfly



15. In the complex food web of the prairie ecosystem, the plant eaters (also called _____), have an abundance of choices between grasses and wildflowers when it comes to food.
A. producers
B. primary consumers
C. secondary consumers
D. tertiary consumers

16. What part of an animal skull gives the best indication regarding what that animal typically eats?
A. presence of horns
B. location of sutures
C. stomach size
D. teeth

17. An old saying of "eyes on the front likes to hunt, eyes on the side likes to hide", _____.
A. is not relevant to animal wildlife
B. indicates how animals relate to other animals in the food chain
C. is only relevant to birds, reptiles, and amphibians in the animal kingdom
D. is only relevant to North American animal species

18. Identify this prairie plant:
A. Butterfly milkweed
B. Cardinal flower
C. Compass plant
D. Partridge Pea
E. Rattlesnake Master



19. Identify this prairie plant:
A. Butterfly weed
B. Compass plant
C. New England Aster*
D. Purple Coneflower
E. Lead Plant



Animal Identification (3 points each):

Please correctly identify each of the following native Iowa species (Question 20-25). Locate the numbers next to the animal tracks, mounts, or pelts at this station.

20. _____ Beaver

21. _____ Bobwhite

22. _____ Ornate box turtle

23. _____ muskrat pelt

24. _____ sunfish

25. _____ gray fox