

The Couchiching Conservancy

Carden Challenge: Biodiversity Guidelines

The Carden Challenge is based on the honour system, with all participants trusted to act responsibly. The following guidelines provide a framework:

I. Geographic Area:

All birds counted must be within, or visible from, the Carden CBC circle as shown on the map.

II. Time:

The 24-hour count period starts at 6:00 pm on Friday, May 24 and ends at 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 25. Your count sheets must be submitted by 6:30 pm Saturday at the wrap-up dinner at the Dalrymple United Church.

III. Teams:

The count is based on teams of four; a minimum of three and maximum of five team members are permitted. Team members must stay within voice contact of all other members at all times (defined as shouting distance). Travel in more than one vehicle is permitted, so long as the vehicles are together while birding.

IV. Counting:

Birds or other species must be conclusively identified by sight or sound by at least **two** members of the team. Only birds included on the most recent OFO Checklist of Ontario Birds can be included; all species counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained. Please note the location and details for any species not already included on the Carden Alvar checklist (supplied) so they can be added to the list. Scouting in advance of the count is permitted, and sharing of information with other teams is encouraged.

Teams will be able to count confirmed species seen, heard, or smelled (1 point for each) in a broader set of categories: birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies & damselflies. We will provide Bob Bowles' Carden checklists for all of these groups. (copies available at the cabin.)

Teams are able to earn **Bonus Points** of **3** points for each Endangered species, **2** points for each Threatened species, and **1** extra point for each Special Concern species. This is meant to encourage participating teams to take a more strategic approach, both in putting together their teams, and in how they focus their time and attention during the event. All participants are asked to be extra-careful to minimize disturbance in flipping rocks and to restore any cover; the same guideline of individual responsibility should apply to checking under logs for salamanders, or using tapes or iPods to confirm birds. Please don't night-light raptor nests, and PLEASE be very careful not to trespass on private lands.

The tally sheet on the next page is intended to help you keep track of bonus species (it includes the status of species you might encounter in Carden, **updated** to reflect either national or provincial status) and to add up your results at the end of the Challenge. **Please be ready to hand it in at the dinner.** Also, we do summarize a list of all species seen by all teams, so please have those ready too if you can.

For endangered or threatened species, if you can record locations seen (e.g. on your GPS), those records would also be valuable to the NHIC.

V. Conduct:

Each participant is required to maintain proper birding ethics. Nesting birds should not be disturbed, or the location of nests revealed. Refrain from using bird recordings to seek out species by eliciting a response. Use of iPods or other device at low volume are still permitted to confirm a species you have just heard. We also have no objection to the use of electronic sonar detectors to identify bat species, since this does not involve attraction or disturbance of the bats.

Note that most lands in Carden are privately-owned, and trespass without permission is strictly not allowed. Walking access to Cameron Ranch Alvar, Windmill Ranch, Prairie Smoke Alvar, Little Bluestem Alvar, and North Bear Alvar is available on the trails – please don't go in among cattle unless you have arranged that with Ron Reid in advance. Be careful not to block narrow roads with your vehicle.

No team may intentionally flush or drive into hiding any bird to prevent another team from finding it. Hired scouts are not permitted. (No kidding - these are actual rules from the Great Texas Birding Classic.)

VI. Pledges:

Please make use of the Canada Helps website to collect your team's pledges, but also track your individual pledges. Copies of completed pledge sheets must be submitted to Ron Reid or Janet Grand either Friday evening (at the Wylie Road cabin) or before dinner Saturday. Outstanding pledges should be collected and submitted to The Couchiching Conservancy, Box 704, Orillia, L3V 6K7, no later than July 1, 2019. All donors over \$20 will receive a tax receipt; please be sure to include an address.

Most importantly: **ENJOY YOUR DAY AND ALL THE GREAT CARDEN SPECIES!**

Ron Reid

ronreid@couchconservancy.ca

Carden Biodiversity: Tally Sheet

Team: _____

	# species recorded (1pt each)	Endangered (+3 pts)	Threatened (+2 pts)	Special Concern (+ 1 pt)	Total Points
Birds		Henslow's Sparrow Loggerhead Shrike Kirtland's Warbler Prothonotary Warbler	Bobolink Chimney Swift Least Bittern Peregrine Falcon Whip-poor-will Eastern Meadowlark Barn Swallow Cerulean Warbler Wood Thrush Bank Swallow Common Nighthawk Olive-sided Flycatcher Canada Warbler Golden-winged Warbler Red-headed Woodpecker	Bald Eagle Black Tern Yellow Rail Peregrine Falcon Rusty Blackbird Eastern Wood Pewee Grasshopper Sparrow	
Mammals		Eastern Cougar Little Brown Bat Northn Long-eared Bat			
Herptiles		Spotted Turtle Wood Turtle Blanding's Turtle	Hog-nosed Snake Western Chorus Frog	Five-lined Skink Eastern Ribbonsnake Milksnake Northern Map Turtle Snapping Turtle	
Butterflies				Monarch West Virginia White	
Dragonflies					
Total team points:					

Team Members:

	E-mail	Donations turned in today	Pledges to come	Total contributions
Total team contributions:				