



Carden Challenge: Competitive & Recreational Birding 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 attached 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.

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 BIRDS!**