

MONTREAL BIRDING OLYMPICS

RULES AND GUIDELINES OF THE COMPETITION



The Montreal Birding Olympics is our annual fundraising event to support our migration monitoring program, educational program, and related research projects.

EACH TEAM IS ENCOURAGED TO RAISE FUNDS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENT. TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR EACH DONATION.

WHEN: On May 11, 2024, from midnight to 11h59 p.m.

WHERE: On the Island of Montreal

HOW: create a team of 2 to 5 participants by following the link: <https://www.zeffy.com/fr-CA/peer-to-peer/ef67933b-5c07-45fc-9b5e-f2492086b325>

You can then easily share the link to support your team on your social networks! **A tax receipts will be issued for the donors.**

WHY: to support the activities of the [McGill Bird Observatory](#), a project overseen by the Migration Research Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of bird movements and conservation. Activities at the McGill Bird Observatory focus on bird migration monitoring, research, educational outreach and training of volunteers and students. The main objective of our research is to collect long-term data that will be used to study bird population trends. **Since 2005, over 92,800 birds of 131 species have been banded by our team.**

Here is a very short video illustrating our work: <https://youtu.be/L4pMUzgpz4c>

THE TOP TEAM OF EACH CATEGORY THAT HAS OBSERVED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SPECIES DURING THE 24 HOURS OF THE EVENT WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER.

The following set of rules establish the standards and practices under which all participants must comply. All participants must be familiar with and willing to comply with all of them to compete in the competition.

I. ETHICS

Each participant must maintain proper birding ethics at all times as defined by [the code of birding ethics of Birds Canada](#). This competition is based on honesty and rigor.

II. PARTICIPANTS AND CATEGORIES

Teams must always consist of a minimum of two (2) individuals. If you have more than five (5) members, we suggest that you divide the team into two for easier communication and displacement. Create a team by following the instruction on our online donation platform: <https://www.zeffy.com/fr-CA/peer-to-peer/ef67933b-5c07-45fc-9b5e-f2492086b325>

Then, tell us by email **the level of competition chosen** (see the categories below). Please email Cindy Bouchard if you have any questions and to register your team at mbo@migrationresearch.org.

CATEGORIES

THE BIG DAY: All teams registered in this category may use any kind of transport. Participants under 18 years old can participate in this category, but we greatly suggest that they have sufficient experience in birding. The majority of the teams' members must be 18 years or older.

THE GREEN DAY: All teams registered in this category must travel by foot, bike or public transport. Participants under 18 years old can participate in this category, but we greatly suggest that they have sufficient experience in birding. The majority of the teams' members must be 18 years or older.

THE FAMILY DAY: Children of all ages can participate in our competition to promote their interest in birds! A team must include at least one person over 18.

*** A team may only compete in one category. ***

III. EVENT SCHEDULE

May 10, 2024: You have until midnight to register your team for the competition.

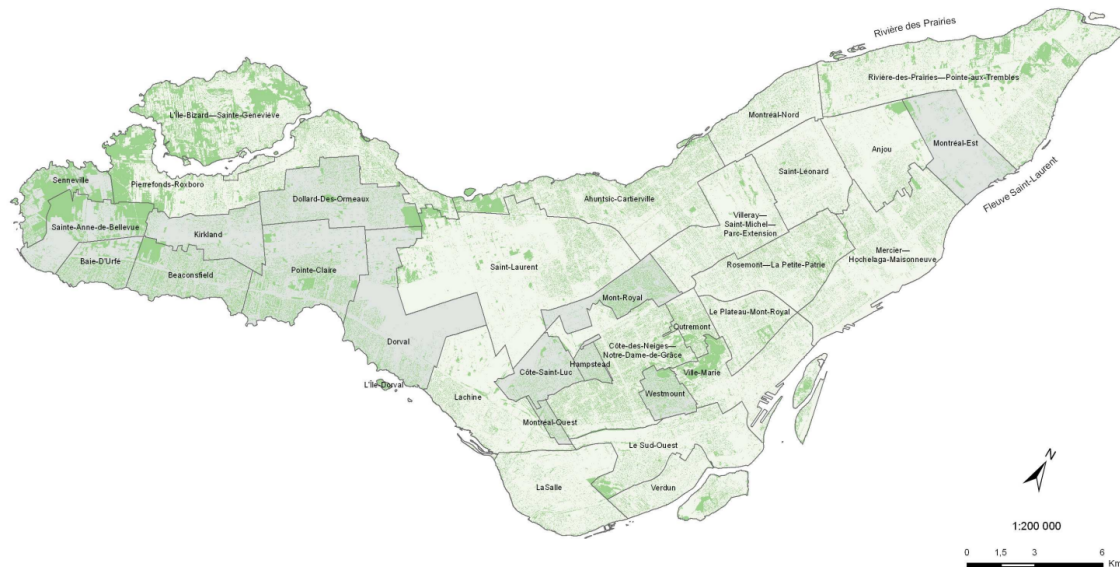
May 11, 2024: All counting must take place from midnight to 11h59 PM. Checklist must be turn in by email (mbo@migrationresearch.org) after the counting period or when the team ends their route.

May 13, 2024: You have until 9 a.m. to raise funds for your team.

IV. GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Only birds counted within the island of Montreal may be counted. For the purposes of the competition, the following islands are included within the boundaries of the Island of Montreal: île Bizard, île des Soeurs, île Sainte-Hélène, île Notre-Dame and île of the Visitation. You will therefore be able to count the observations you make there.

Birds observed outside this zone (on the rivière des Mille Îles for example) can be counted if the observer is physically within the geographical limits defined above. Teams can start and end their course anywhere on the competition territory. <https://ocpm.qc.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/P70/8a1a.pdf>



This map was modified from: <https://ocpm.qc.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/P70/8a1a.pdf>

V. COUNTING AND IDENTIFICATION

COUNTING

Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Sick or injured birds may be counted if not in captive confinement. Birds in cages, or eggs, do not count as birds. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Introduced or reintroduced species may be counted, providing they appear on the current Quebec checklist (<https://www.oiseauxqc.org/listeannotee.jsp>). A bird identified as one of a species or group (e.g., Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup) may be counted as a species, if no other bird in that group appears on your list.

Team members must always remain within earshot of all other members. Team members can leave the team for any reason (health, fatigue, etc.), but they cannot rejoin the team afterwards. Non-birding participants (family, friends, media, etc.) may accompany the team, but these participants cannot in any way assist the team in locating or identifying birds.

ALL SPECIES COUNTED MUST HAVE BEEN SEEN AND/OR HEARD BY ALL TEAM MEMBERS.

However, we allow the 95% rule which is described as follows:

- 95% of all species counted by a team should be identified by all team members.
- 5% of species may have been seen/heard by only a few team members. The species included in this 5% must be indicated in the list given to the organizers.
- This means for every 20 species counted, you can count one (1) species that was not heard or seen by all team members.

It is not necessary for all team members to record the same individual bird. If three members of a team hear a Blackburnian Warbler and a fourth member does not BUT manages to record another Blackburnian Warbler later in the day, then the species has been recorded unanimously.

IDENTIFICATION

Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. If you are in doubt about the identity of a bird, do not count it. The identification can be confirmed after the original observation if this identification is based on rigorous criteria.

Playback of bird songs or calls is prohibited during the competition. Bird recordings can, however, be used to confirm an identification when not birding (in the car, for example). The use of spotlight lamps is prohibited, only car headlights may be used. **The use of any bird song identification aid (Merlin Bird ID, BirdNET) is prohibited.**

VI. Travel

All vehicles may be used during the competition. Those competing in the **Green Day category** may not use any motorized transportations except for the following public transportation: train, subway, bus. Team members must travel together and remain at distances that permit direct, unamplified voice contact at all times.

Please travel safely and use good judgment. All teams must comply with the laws. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

VII. OUTSIDE INFORMATION

Any information received prior to the count period may be used. During the competition, teams must make every reasonable effort to avoid receiving bird finding help from other sources.

While this is a competitive event, the event organizers encourage collaboration and sharing of information using open-source or globally accessible platforms such as eBird, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and other non-pay-for-service listserv and bird alerts. **It is strictly prohibited to share information between individuals privately.**

VIII. BRANDING

All teams are required to refer to this event as "Montreal Birding Olympics". Teams raising funds must reference the event properly. If desired, we can provide you with the McGill Bird Observatory logo and promotional material for the competition.

We strive to maintain the highest ethical standards. All participants in this event are, by the nature of their participation, committed to this ideal. Likewise, accuracy and honesty are fundamental to birding and this event.

IV. PARTICIPATION PRIZES

Numerous participation prizes will be drawn at random from among our participants, for young and adult birders. For more details on this year's prizes, follow us on social networks (@oommbo) or on our Facebook event. Prizes will be announced there in the weeks leading up to the event. Thank you to our generous partners.

THANK YOU, GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY BIRDING!

Cindy, Shawna et Simon
McGill Bird Observatory
Migration Research Foundation Inc.

Plusieurs prix de participation à gagner offerts par nos partenaires ! 



MERCI !!!!

Nous offrons:

- Du matériel (jumelle, télescope, magazine)
- Des abonnements annuels
- Des laissez-passer

