



CARDEN CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, MAY 28 - SATURDAY, MAY 29

RAISING FUNDS & AWARENESS FOR THE CARDEN ALVAR!

Things will look different for the 17th annual Carden Challenge once again, but the love of nature and the alvar continues! Participants can stay in your own neighbourhoods and connect with team members remotely if you need to confirm species OR you can venture out to the Alvar but everyone will be responsible for their own logistics. We will miss seeing everyone out at the cabin and searching the Alvar together BUT we are excited to connect with you online and challenge you to explore your own neighbourhoods and learn about local species. Even though the event has had to change for this year and last, the goal of the Carden Challenge remains the same: Raise money to support the stewardship of Carden's Alvar and habitats by counting as many species as possible during a 24-hour period.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When: Friday, May 28 at 6:00pm to Saturday, May 29 at 6:00pm
You choose your schedule!

How: you can bike, paddle, walk, drive...whatever you like!

Where: Stay in your own backyard and neighbourhood. Stay within an 8 km radius (5 miles) of your home (known as 5MR Birding to some). You can use this tool to make your own "circle"
<https://www.mapdevelopers.com/draw-circle-tool.php>

OR head out to the Alvar and do your counting there. We will not be meeting at the cabin though, so logistics will be up to you. Hopefully we can gather again in 2022!

Who: Go it alone or form a team (max 4-5 people) to connect safely in person or remotely.

HOW TO TAKE PART:

- ☐ DECIDE ON TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION
- ☐ REGISTER YOUR TEAM WITH TANYA CLARK
- ☐ DOWNLOAD INFO FROM THE CONSERVANCY WEBSITE
- ☐ SET UP TEAM / PARTICIPANT FUNDRAISING PAGES
- ☐ SHARE, SHARE, SHARE! GET THE WORD OUT
- ☐ START STUDYING YOUR SPECIES & PREP
- ☐ MAKE A PLAN TO FIND AS MANY SPECIES AS POSSIBLE
- ☐ GET COUNTING ON MAY 28-29!
- ☐ SUBMIT YOUR SIGHTINGS & JOIN THE RE-CAP ZOOM



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COUNTING & CONDUCT:

This is all honour system based. Usually we would require two team members confirm species. Please attempt to confirm species if you are not 100% sure about something. All species counted must be alive, wild and unrestrained. Scouting in advance of the count is permitted, and sharing of information with other teams is encouraged.

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 (with headphones or 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.

Do not trespass and be aware of your surroundings. Be careful not to block roadways.

And of course, have fun!
Fingers crossed for good weather.

FUNDRAISING:

Raising funds to protect the Alvar is an important part of this event! Over the years the Conservancy and partners have protected well over 9,000 acres of Alvar. These are critical safe havens for species like the endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrike. The money you donate and/or raise helps power efforts to acquire more Alvar, work with local landowners, maintain trails and fencing, coordinate volunteers and much more. Last year you raised over \$38,000 for Alvar conservation! Whoa! Those donations help us care of the Reserves already protected and continue conversations to acquire and protect additional parcels.



Photos: Loggerhead Shrike by
T. Rowland. Alvar by C. Curran



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FUNDRAISING continued...

We are going to use the Canada Helps Peer to Peer platform this year. Last year, when we used one page for everyone, it was really powerful to see how all of your efforts and donations combined. With this platform, you will still be able to see who donates AND you can log offline donations as well. There is an increased fee to use this platform, and we have decided that the increase justifies the benefits. You can create a team, and then participant pages. I have uploaded content, so you can use that, or add your own photos.

IDEAS:

- ☐ SET UP YOUR CANADA HELPS PAGE & SET A GOAL
- ☐ SHARE YOUR STORY - WHY DOES PROTECTING NATURE MATTER TO YOU? DO YOU HAVE A MEMORY IN NATURE THAT MATTERS TO YOU?
- ☐ MAKE YOUR OWN DONATION TO KICK THINGS OFF
- ☐ SHARE ON FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM ETC
- ☐ EMAIL FRIENDS & FAMILY - INDIVIDUAL EMAILS ARE BEST!
- ☐ ENGAGE YOUR WORKPLACE IN FUNDRAISING
- ☐ OFFER INCENTIVES! LAST YEAR OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUZZED OFF **ALL** OF HIS HAIR BECAUSE HE RAISED OVER \$2,000
- ☐ GET CREATIVE. MAKE A VIDEO, CRAFTS, ETC - HAVE FUN WITH YOUR LOVE OF NATURE



DID YOU KNOW...

Eastern Bluebirds occur across eastern North America and south as far as Nicaragua. Insects caught on the ground are a bluebird's main food for much of the year.

DONATE VIA:

- Canada Helps page
- Facebook Fundraiser
- E-transfer to info@couchconservancy.ca
- Send cheque to Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7
- Collect cash

Your passion for protecting this place is so inspiring and we are so appreciative of your efforts! We will still have prizes for the top fundraiser and top fundraising team.



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DURING & AFTER THE EVENT:

- ☐ **Your safety is important.** Please ensure someone else knows where you are going and what time you expect to be back.

- ☐ **Connect** remotely with teammates throughout the Challenge to confirm species and help each other out. If you live within each other's radius, it is up to you if you bird and blitz together at a safe physical distance, keeping in mind whatever Covid-19 restrictions are in place at the time. You can also connect on Facebook if you have an account with our Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1416179065436402>

- ☐ **Submit your list:** your team leader can compile your lists and send the Excel file to Tanya by 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 30. We would also like to know which team member counted the most species and how many they did.

- ☐ **Wrap Up:** Sorry, no Carden dinner this year but we would love to see you online via Zoom on Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00pm so we can share stories as usual (best sighting, biggest miss). We will send you a Zoom link and email the results as well.



QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact
ronreid@couchconservancy.ca
or tanya@couchconservancy.ca
(705-309-3861 - my personal
cell) for help.

thank you!