

# CARDEN CHALLENGE



FRIDAY MAY 24 TO  
SATURDAY MAY 25



CARDEN ALVAR  
OR AT HOME



Count species,  
raise money,  
protect  
nature

The goal is simple: Raise money to support the stewardship of Carden's Alvar and habitats by counting as many species as possible during a 24-hour period with your team.

## TO DO LIST:

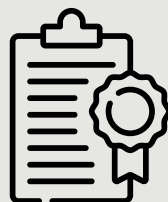
- Register your team** with Tanya Clark ([tanya@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:tanya@couchconservancy.ca)) with your team name, members, category (competitive, recreational, biodiversity or hybrid) and where you will be counting from. If you are taking part in Carden, confirm if you will be attending dinner (Jenkins home - 88 Childs Road) and if you have any dietary restrictions. If you will be camping at Phil & Ian's cabin on Wylie Road, please let me know.
- Set up a team / participant fundraising page(s)** through Canada Helps. Set your fundraising goal, add your story and start sharing!
- Take a look at the **resources** on the Conservancy's website (on the Carden Challenge webpage)
- SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!** Get the word out that you are taking part in this event and why it matters to you
- Start **studying** your species & **plan** your route. This is a self-guided event, so you decide your schedule!

## SPECIES



236 species counted  
during last Challenge

## MONITORING



12+ Community Science  
monitoring sites in Carden

## IMPACT



\$30,000+ raised by  
Challenge last year!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Eastern Meadowlarks walk on the ground, often concealed by grasses or crops. Males sing beautiful, flutelike songs from exposed perches, particularly fenceposts. Their flight is a distinctive sequence of rapid fluttering and short glides, usually low to the ground.

Conservation Status: Threatened



Info from All About Birds

### COMPETITIVE, RECREATIONAL OR BIODIVERSITY TEAMS:

- **Must be in Carden and stay together** while counting.
- **Max of 5** people on a team.
- Competitive & Recreational winners are based on **bird** count. Biodiversity winner is based on **total species**. Trophies awarded at the dinner.
- Species from these teams added to the Carden Checklist for next year.

### HYBRID TEAMS:

- **No limit** on the number of people on a team. Can **count anywhere**.
- Your team **does not need to stay together**, but you need to have two people confirm a species identification (app can supplement ID)
- Winning team announced the following week via email. Trophy to be given afterwards.
- Our species checklist is a record of Carden species, we do not add anything counted outside of the Carden circle.

- **Two people** to confirm a species (app can supplement ID).
- Encouraged to meet at Phil & Ian's cabin on Wylie Road for the **kick off**.
- Download the **species checklist** from our website or pick up a paper copy from the cabin.
- Encouraged to count birds, mammals, reptiles, leps, odes, amphibians.
- This is **honour system**. All species must be alive, wild & unrestrained.
- **Scouting** in advance of the count is helpful, and sharing information with other teams is **encouraged** (please make sure that they want the help - some teams like to figure out a species ID on their own!).
- 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 apps such as Merlin may be used to supplement identification (use headphones or low volume).
- Use of electronic sonar detectors to identify bat species is permitted, since this does not involve attraction or disturbance of the bats.
- **Do not trespass** and be aware of your surroundings. **Don't block roadways**.
- **Your safety is important**. Please ensure someone else knows where you are going and what time you expect to be back.
- **Submit** species checklist & fundraising info (anything other than Canada Helps) at dinner or get it to Tanya if you are not able to attend dinner.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The most distinctive characteristic of this species is the bright yellow chin and throat. The hinged plastron (lower shell) is yellow with a large dark blotch in the corner of each scute (enlarged scale on the shell), but may be almost entirely black. Conservation status: Threatened



## FUNDRAISING

All money raised from help us care for thousands of acres of alvar with our partners. The money you donate and/or raise helps power efforts to acquire more Alvar habitat, work with local landowners, maintain trails and fencing, coordinate volunteers for species monitoring and much more.

We are going back to using **Canada Helps**, one of the top platforms for online donations. FYI this platform takes 5.5% of a donation (usually credit cards cost about a 3% processing fee, so 5.5% isn't too bad when you factor in hosting etc). We know people are familiar with the platform, and there were some issues with the last platform we used.

Your passion for protecting this place is so inspiring and we are so appreciative of your efforts!



Set up your fundraising page. There is no fundraising minimum - typically teams set a goal of \$200 - \$2000. Share...Why does protecting nature matter to you? Do you have a memory in nature that matters to you? What is your favourite species, or Challenge memory? Who do you protect nature for?



Get creative! Make a video, crafts, etc - have fun with your love of nature

## DONATION METHODS:

- **Online donation:** Canada Helps
- **E-transfer** to [info@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:info@couchconservancy.ca) with the password **Carden**
- Send **cheque** to Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7
- Collect **cash** (for donations over \$20, we can provide a charitable receipt if we have their name and address)

## PRIZES!

Raise at least \$100 and receive a special Challenge patch or tshirt

For every \$300 you raise, you are entered to win a super cool prize!

Prize package for the top individual fundraiser

Prize packages for the top fundraising team

## QUESTIONS?

I'm here to help! Email me at [tanya@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:tanya@couchconservancy.ca) or call 705-326-1620.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Moose are the largest members of the deer family, standing six feet (1.8 meters) tall from hoof to shoulder, and weighing in at more than 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms). Each of their light to dark brown hairs is hollow, and the air trapped inside provides insulation.



## STATS & FACTS

- In 2023, teams counted **236 total species** (154 birds, 15 mammals, 5 reptiles, 9 amphibians, 19 leps, 20 odes)
- **Winning teams:**
  - Competitive - The Cool Catbirds, 129 bird species
  - Biodiversity - Fauna Fanatics, 145 species
  - Recreational - Loon Rangers, 105 bird species
  - Hybrid - Let's Wing It, 120 species
- **Other Trophies:**
  - Teeter Ass (spirited participation) - Nerd on a Wire, they got in a car accident right before the event and they still took part!
  - Dan Bone Memorial Can (Biodiversity team who counts the most butterflies) - Fauna Fanatics
- **Fundraising:**
  - Top Fundraising Team: Ravin Ravens, \$6,117
  - Top Fundraiser: Ginny Moore, \$2,010
  - Random draw for a stay at cabinscape (each \$100 raised was an entry to win): Mark Bisset
- **All time records:**
  - Most species counted by a Competitive Team: 184 species, 135 birds by the Cool Catbirds in 2021
  - Most species counted by a Recreation Team: 122 species by Wylie Cowhands in 2015
  - **Highest species counts:**
    - Birds: 157 in 2014, Mammals: 21 in 2016, Reptiles: 9 in 2016 & 2017, Amphibians: 12 in 2017, Odes: 27 in 2016, Leps: 26 in 2022

