

CARDEN CHALLENGE



FRIDAY MAY 23 TO
SATURDAY MAY 24



CARDEN ALVAR
OR AT HOME



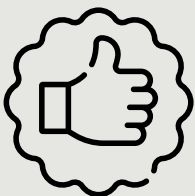
Count species,
raise money,
protect
nature

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:

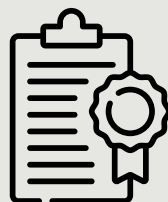
- Register your team** with Meg Whitton (nature@couchconservancy.ca) with your team name, members, category (competitive, recreational, biodiversity or hybrid) and where you will be counting from. If you are taking part in Carden, confirm if you will be attending dinner (Jenkins home - 88 Childs Road) 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)** at Canadahelps.org 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



215 species counted
during last Challenge

MONITORING



12+ Community Science
monitoring sites in Carden

IMPACT



\$39,000+ raised by
Challenge last year!

DID YOU KNOW?

Green herons are one of very few tool-using birds. They are patient and will wait in a crouch for a fish to snatch with their bill. They have even been known to lure them with twigs or insects as bait.

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?

Northern water snakes are only social - coiled and basking together - during fall and spring. They mate in late March to April and females give birth to live young in late summer or fall. In warmer months, they are solitary, found on branches and cattail stems.

Info from National Wildlife Federation



FUNDRAISING

All money raised helps 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 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 weekend stay with Cabinscape!

Prize package for the top individual fundraiser

Prize packages for the top fundraising team

QUESTIONS?

I'm here to help! Need help with your fundraising page or anything else? Email me at nature@couchconservancy.ca or call 705-326-1620.

DID YOU KNOW?

A river otter can run up to 24 kilometres an hour and slide even faster. Known for their playfulness - snow and mud sliding, tail chasing and water play - this helps strengthen social bonds and lets young otters practice hunting techniques.



Info from National Wildlife Federation

STATS & FACTS

- In 2024, teams counted **215 total species** (153 birds, 24 mammals, 5 reptiles, 9 amphibians, 9 leps, 15 odes)
- **Winning teams:**
 - Competitive - Millennial Falcons, 124 bird species
 - Biodiversity - Millennial Falcons, 151 species
 - Recreational - Pink Flamingos, 102 bird species
 - Hybrid - Ravin' Ravens, 104 species
- **Other Trophies:**
 - Teeter Ass (spirited participation) - Ron Reid & Janet Grand
 - Dan Bone Memorial Can (Biodiversity team who counts the most butterflies) - A Sight for Sora Eyes
- **Fundraising:**
 - Top Fundraising Team: Ravin Ravens, \$10,008
 - Top Fundraiser: Ron Reid & Janet Grand \$6,383
 - Random draw for a stay at cabinscape (each \$100 raised was an entry to win): Kelly Gibson
- **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

