

eBird Calgary 2015

Rules for Participants

I. Age and Experience Categories

1. Young Birders

- "Youth" - Participants born in 1998 or later (age 16 and under on January 1, 2015).

2. Adult Birders: Birders born in 1997 or earlier can select their level of competition. The committee reserves the right to make the final decision on a participant's experience category.

- "**Beginner**" - Participants who have some experience but who are still unsure of identifying many species.
- "**Experienced**" - Participants who have several years experience and who are comfortable in making most identifications.

II. Rules for Birding Competitions

1. Participants

- The competition is open to all registered users of eBird who have paid the registration fee and completed the required waiver before March 31, 2015.
- eBird Calgary 2015 Committee members are eligible to participate (must register and pay the fee), but are not eligible to receive prizes.
- Until December 31, 2014, the fee is \$10 (but free for Nature Calgary members). From January 1, 2015, the fee will be \$15 for adults (\$5 for adult Nature Calgary members), and \$10 for youths (free for youths who are Nature Calgary members). Fees are non-refundable.
- To register, go to [this Nature Calgary page](#).
- Waiver forms must be mailed to:
eBird Calgary 2015 Competition
8 Lake Newell Green SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2J 3L8

2. Birds to be Counted

- Count only those species for which you are certain of their identification. Diagnostic field marks sufficient to identify the species should have been seen or heard (or photographed and then identified from the photograph).
- Count only birds seen or heard during the calendar year 2015 within the boundaries of the count circle, which has a radius of 80 km and is centred on the Centre Street Bridge in Calgary (latitude 51.0529, longitude -114.0625). The bird may be outside the circle as long as the birder is inside the circle when they see or hear the bird.
- Bird observations to be counted must be included in your eBird Patch
- Count only birds that are alive (must be hatched), wild and unrestrained.
- Count only recognized species - not subspecies or colour forms.
- Do not count domesticated birds, birds that have escaped from captivity, or hybrid crosses between species.
- The committee reserves the right to review reports of rare birds and to otherwise verify sightings before counting them.

3. Reporting of Bird Sightings

- Participants will set up an eBird Patch List which includes all of their birding locations within the 80-km circle. The Patch must be called "2015 Calgary Patch Challenge." Go [to the eBird Patch List page](#).
- Participants competing in the Yard List category will set up a Yard List called "2015 Calgary Yard Challenge"
- Participants are encouraged to promptly report their bird sightings on eBird, preferably within five days of the sighting, and to accurately record the location of the sighting.
- An exception to prompt reporting may be made in the case of sensitive species such as nesting owls. [See the eBird Guidelines for Reporting Sensitive Species.](#)

4. Guidelines for Birding Activities

- In order to protect birds and bird habitats, participants are strongly encouraged to read and to follow the **Principles of Birding Ethics of the American Birding Association**.

5. Submission of Results

- Participants who qualify for prizes will be contacted and instructed how to submit their eBird lists to the committee. The submission deadline for the year-long competitions is January 15, 2016.

III. The Various Birding Competitions

There will be a number of competitions during the year.

- The competitions will follow the above rules and restrictions and will have additional restrictions on what birds can be counted as listed below.
- A bird observed in any competition can be counted in other competitions, provided the observation meets the criteria for the other competitions.

1. The Big Year

- Winners will be announced for the biggest bird lists for the entire year in each age and experience category.

2. Big Day

- Participants can compete in a Big Day competition by counting all the birds they observe within the 80-km circle (or in their yard for the Yard Competition) during the 24 hours of any single calendar day. They can pick any day during 2015.
- Participants may submit Big Day results as often as they wish, with their biggest list being counted as their final entry for the year. Prizes will be awarded only to the biggest lists in 2015.

3. Yard List

- Participants can maintain a yard list for a single place of residence anywhere within the 80-km circle
- To be counted, birds must be seen or heard by the registered participant from within the residence or yard.
- Participants will need to create a Yard List on eBird and call it "2015 Calgary Yard Challenge"
- To set up a Yard List, go to the **eBird Yard Lists page**.

4. Best Bird of the Year

- All participants will be eligible to be the finder of the best bird of the year.
- The Best Bird will be chosen by a panel from all the birds reported during the competition.

5. Other Competitions

- From time to time during 2015 the committee may announce other competitions, such as a one-month biggest list challenge, or a Big Day challenge on a particular day, or other challenges. Prizes for these competitions will be announced at the same time.