

18-26
AVRIL
2026

35^e

Festival de l'oiseau et de la nature

SORTIES NATURE | EXPOS PHOTO
CINÉMA ANIMALIER | ANIMATION ENFANTS

© Karigraphie- D'après une photo de Ashane Marasinghe

RULES

INTERNATIONAL WILDBIRD PHOTO COMPETITION

From September 1 to November 30, 2025



BIRD AND NATURE FESTIVAL

2026 Wildbird Photo Competition

Since 1991, the **Bay of Somme**, internationally recognized as a **major spot on the migratory routes**, celebrates the return of spring and birds with the **Bird and Nature Festival**. Nine days of exciting activities to watch, marvel, learn and educate!

For the 35th time, the Bird and Nature Festival launches its international wildbird photo competition, now one of the 10 most renowned in Europe. The competition aims to illustrate the high quality of wildlife photography through excellent pictures from all over the world. It also seeks to promote awareness for nature conservation through the means of photography.

All award-winning images and a Jury's selection will be shown during the event which will be held from 18 to 26 April 2026.

TERMS OF ENTRY

This online competition is open to everybody, amateur and professional photographers aged 18 or over of whatever nationality. The Festival's team and the jury members are not allowed to join in.

This competition is an ethical contest. The participants guarantee that the images they submit have been shot in full compliance with laws related to the preservation of wildlife.

They are expected to keep in mind the well-being of the birds and their environment, and to avoid injury or distress to the birds or destruction of their habitat. Pictures of domesticated, trained or captive bird are prohibited.

2026 CATEGORIES

BIRD PORTRAIT: Photos capturing the character or spirit of the bird and its distinctive features. The subject can be photographed in closeup or whole, single or in group.

BIRD IN ITS ENVIRONMENT: Photos that best demonstrate the relationship between a bird and its habitat natural or urban, and the impor-

tance of the environment. The landscape must be an important part of the picture.

BIRD BEHAVIOUR: Images that best depict a bird behaviour or an action. This could be unusual, interesting, amusing or remarkable behaviour, or depict something familiar as feeding, preening, nuptial display, fighting...

BIRD IN FLIGHT: Flying, taking-off or landing, flocking or murmuration: as long as your subject is on the wing then it can be entered. Be attentive to the composition, the light, color and texture of the background. Please, avoid flash at night on flying nocturnal birds.

ARTISTIC VISION OF BIRD: The creativity of the photographer must transform the mundane into a contemplative and artistic interpretation and offer a new perspective on the bird.

OTHER FLYING SPECIES: any image of an animal (except birds) using its wings to fly.

TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS & DIGITAL DIRECTIVES

Files shall be submitted in :

- JPEG format
- 3:2 ratio with exactly 3,500 pixels on the longest side (the shortest side should be of about 2,333 pixels)
- free of margin, frame or signature

Are allowed :

Reframing within the limits of 20% of the photo surface, numerical settings such as tone and contrast, brightness and darkness adjustment, cropping, sharpening, black-and-white processing, noise reduction, localized retouching

Are allowed only in the «Artistic Vision of Bird» category :

HDR, focus stacking and multiple exposures taken in the same place at the same time provi-

ded that the latter does not mislead the viewer.

The addition and removal of objects is prohibited, as are images created partially or entirely using artificial intelligence (AI) software.

The circumstances of the shooting, the technique used, the location and the species photographed must be indicated in the fields provided for this purpose when registering as well as in the IPTC data.

HOW TO ENTER ?

Registrations are open **from September 1 to November 30, 2025 Midnight(UTC/GMT)** You must register and submit your pictures online on the Festival website at this address: festival-oiseau-nature.com/concours/en/concours-photo-international/

Each participant may submit a maximum of 15 photographs, either in one or several categories. Registration fees: €2 / photo

Payment will be made online with a debit or credit card or via Paypal. (This is a competition and not a commercial lottery, the participation fee will not be refunded).

Participants send their files at their own expense and risk through the site. The uploaded photos will be visible from their account and a confirmation will be sent to the email address provided (remember to check your spam box!)

The personal data will only be used to contact the participant, and will not be transferred to any other third party.

Entering selected or award-winning picture from a previous edition of the competition is forbidden. A picture can compete in only one category.

THE JURY

The Jury will be composed of photographers, naturalists and ornithologists.

PRESELECTION AND SUBMISSION OF ORIGINALS

In December, each member of the Jury will view

all the photos submitted via an online platform, and vote individually.

The author of a pre-selected image will be invited to send us the original file (raw or native jpeg) before January 19, 2026.

FINAL JURY

The jury will meet on 22 and 23, January 2026 to choose the photos to be exhibited during the Festival and to designate the winners, by checking the relevance of the images according to the information and the original provided.

The Jury will proceed in accordance with the rules of anonymity.

After the end of deliberations, the winners will be notified by e-mail and invited to send TIFF (8-bit) or JPEG high resolution at 300 dpi,. These files must be provided by email return for the printings for the exhibition.

Results will be communicated to the participants by email before the end of January, and will be published on the Festival's website and social networks.

The jury's decisions are final.

PRIZES AND AWARD CEREMONY

Prizes can not be the object of a counterpart in cash nor of whatever nature and are not transferable.

- A **Grand Prix** to the overall winner awarded with an amount of €1,500
- A **1st Prize in each category** awarded with an amount of €800
- A **Public Prize** to the picture which has totalized the more votes from the visitors of the exhibition, awarded with an amount of €500.

Each winner will be invited to the Award Ceremony, on Saturday, 18th, April. It will be offered :

- a dinner before the ceremony with the other winners
- a night in a hotel room for two people,
- 2 return train tickets: Paris-Abbeville-Paris, alternatively a refund on this basis will be paid

after the Festival by bank transfer)
Prizes will be awarded to winners within a maximum of 9 months by bank transfer.

COPYRIGHT

By entering, the photographer declares being the sole author of the submitted image and fully agrees to the competition rules.

The author of a selected or a winning photograph grants to the Bird and Nature Festival, the right to reproduce and diffuse said photograph within the framework of the competition exhibition and the publication in a portfolio edited by our partner Nat Images.

They also authorizes the use of their image(s) to promote the Photo Competition and/or the Festival on the web, in the press and in the publications produced by the Festival, for a maximum duration of 3 years.

The images will always be accompanied by the name of the author.

The Festival will not transfer the exploitation rights to any other third party and will not make any other use of the work without prior agreement of the author.

EXHIBITION

In order to realize the Photo Competition exhibition that will be presented during the 35th Bird and Nature Festival, a professional lab will be appointed to print the selected photos on the basis of the files sent. During the exhibition, visitors will vote for the photo of their choice to award the Public Prize.

Photographers having one or more photos exhibited will benefit from 2 complimentary exhibition tickets.

After the event, the winning photos and a selection of the best pictures will constitute a non-profit touring exhibition to promote the Festival.

TECHNOLOGY, FILES AND LIBERTIES REGULATIONS

The information provided by the participants are only used for the photo contest.

In all cases, it is recalled that, in accordance with the European laws and directives in force and the European regulation that came into force on May 25, 2018, relating to Information technology, files and liberties, the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, the photographers have the right to oppose, access and rectify data concerning them.

Consequently, any participant benefits from the organizer of the contest of a right of access, interrogation, opposition, rectification and suppression for his/her data, on simple request to the following address: rgpd@festival-oiseau-nature.com.

LIABILITY

The competition entry being processed through the Internet, it implies knowledge and acceptance of the limits of the Internet, especially regarding technical performance, highly variable flows and loading time. Consequently, the Festival cannot be held liable.

This regulation shall be filed with the lawyers SCP CASTANIE TALBOT CASTANIE HAMON, in Abbeville, and it is also available on www.festival-oiseau-nature.com.

In case of any dispute concerning the rules only the French language rules will be deemed authentic.

ADDRESS

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