



# EMOTION'AILES

## Aves Photo Contest Rules – 2023

### Preamble

To learn and teach, to protect and love... birds: these are the purposes of Aves-Natagora. Our contest will be driven by these targets. This is why we wish to emphasize the following values: photographers will make sure species remain unhurt and protected when the pictures are being taken.

### Article 1

In the context of the Namur Aves Wildlife Pictures Exhibitions (Belgium), Aves-Natagora is organizing the “Emotion’Ailes” photo contest. The photographs will be exhibited in Namur. The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday September 23, 2023. Remark: the Covid-19 crisis may impose to the organizers to find alternative solutions for the exhibition and the awards ceremony.

### Article 2

Selected photographs are photographs of free wild birds. Digital settings such as adjusting the tone , contrast, lightening , darkening , cropping, sharpening , noise reduction , minor cleaning , HDR , panorama stitching , the overlays , focus staking (the shots must be at the same place at the same time) are permitted and must be reported in the caption of the image (in the “additional info’s” field). These settings must not mislead the viewer or misrepresent the realities of nature. Images made partially or entirely using artificial intelligence (AI) software are strictly prohibited.

Pictures whose competition version deviates too much from the RAW or the native file in order to create an atmosphere that was not the one at the time of shooting are less likely to seduce the jury. This will give priority to natural environments.

### Article 3

The following photographs are not eligible:

- A photograph that shows a clear negative impact on nature, no matter the species; a photograph that shows birds, whether domesticated or captive, whose wing has been deliberately clipped or broken in order to hinder flight.
- A photograph that infringes on the rules described in Articles 2 or 3 will be eliminated by the pre-selection panel. These rules remain effective even after the awards ceremony.

### Article 4

The contest is open to all photographers, amateurs and professionals, either using films or digital media, from all over the world. The organizers of the Namur Aves Wildlife Pictures Exhibitions, and members of the jury, are not eligible to compete for an award.

### Article 5

The participation to the contest is FREE.

### Article 6

Participants warrant that they hold the copyright of the submitted photographs. If their work is pre-selected in the short list, they agree to grant the Namur Aves Wildlife Pictures Exhibitions organizers the right to use their work both during the contest and for the previous promotion, as well as for the promotion of the Namur Aves Wildlife Pictures Exhibitions in current and subsequent years.

# HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

## Article 7 - Sending images

Photographs entered into the contest must be sent exclusively in digital format via the site <https://www.exposaves.be>. This site will be on line on May 5, 2023. Specifications are as follows:

- Format JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg, .JPG, .JPEG)
- 3500 pixels for the longest side
- No border, watermark or signature should appear on the picture.
- The photograph cannot be fully compressed.
- Each photograph must be accompanied by a detailed description.

For the purposes of the contest exhibition, a professional studio will make high-quality prints based on the file sent by the participant. Then photographers will take care to adjust their file in a proper way. A photograph that does not meet the above requirements and dimensions will be excluded from the contest.

**Each entrant may submit up to 16 photographs with a maximum of 4 images per category.** He/she may choose the category for which each photograph is submitted. One and the same photograph may not be entered for more than one category. The jury reserves the right to move images from one category to another if appropriate.

## Article 8 - Old and other competitions

Photographs (pictures) that have been nominated (that is to say exhibited) in previous editions of the Aves Emotion'Ailes contest are ineligible for the present contest. Looking for new and fresh pictures, the jury will probably not focus his attention on award-winning photograph in another main contest; nevertheless jury stays the only judge for this point.

## Article 9 - Categories

The Categories for the 2023 Aves Emotion'Ailes contest are:

### 1. Category « Birds in all its states »

This category takes all pictures of wild birds. The picture illustrates the bird in a visible way. The subject should occupy most of the image space. The photos do not have to be a chest shot and can show the entire birds. Pictures showing bird and not fitting in other category can also be entered in this category.

### 2. Category « Action »

The photograph will be more than just an illustration of behavior. It will catch one or more birds in action. The evident vitality and energy of the photograph will be an asset.

### 3. Category « Light and atmosphere »

The light and the atmosphere ("ambiance") must make the audience share the emotions of the moment.

### 4. Category "Artistic vision"

The aesthetic vision and creativity (during shooting) must highlight an original way to watch the birds. Impressionism, graphic, mimetism, ...are finding here the place to be... Photographed bird(s) and original picture must stay the basics of the finalized image. Be original and surprise us !

### 5. Category « Annual theme » The theme for 2023 is « SYMMETRY »

We expect from the participants images in which the subject is photographed in a harmonious and regular way to underline as perfectly as possible a symmetry, either by the physiognomy of the subject, or by the intermediary of two or more birds forming the illusion of a symmetry (birds back to back, face to face with or without an element of the decor), or by reflection or any other natural result. **All this must be done at the time of shooting, without retouching, excessive cropping or multiple exposures.**

### 6. Category « Youth » (birth date subsequent to September 24, 2005).

The category covers ONLY pictures of birds. *The participation of young photographers in other categories remains possible.*

### 7. Category "Z'Autres z'Ailes" (Other wings):

The Emotion'Ailes contest want to open its categories to other animal species. This category covers any image of an animal (except birds) using its wings to fly.

### 8. Category « Birds photographed in Belgium

This category is intended for birders-photographers having photographed, in Belgium, a rare species, occasional or particularly discreet species. The jury will take special care to verify that the photos were taken in Belgium.

**Only one award will be authorized in each category.  
Three other prizes will be awarded as follows:**

- **The « Grand Prize of the Jury »** will reward the photograph who won the most support from the jury members.
- **The Prize “Pure Wild”**, exclusiveness of the AVES Emotion'Ailes contest, will reward the photographer who has produced a picture from scratch (site location, the hide... and the picture). The photographer who decides to participate in this category must unequivocally take all necessary steps to make the shooting of the picture feasible. He must be the main actor and will design the structure (s) and/or approach by himself. The photograph who will receive the award must abide by the following requirements:
  - The image may not be taken from existing bird hides (free or not) built up by a third party with the purpose of making photographs. Public observation sites free of charge are not excluded.
  - Photographs taken during walks or observation approach (free or not) organized by third parties with the specific purpose to make pictures of the topic represented on the photograph may not compete.
  - No alive or dead baits, killed with the purpose of taking pictures, shall be used.
  - The wildness of the bird must be preserved throughout the whole shooting.

These criteria are not exhaustive. The panel has the right to appreciate whether the circumstances as described in the detailed description correspond to the characteristic “Pure Wild”. In order to compete in this category with one or more pictures, each entrant must describe clearly the shooting conditions and previous arrangements for each image in the “additional info's field”.

He should also check the box: this picture is competing for the category “Pure Wild”. In order to be able to compete for this prize, the photograph should first compete in another category.

The photographers who believe that their photos comply with the philosophy of this award are invited to give as much details as possible about their approach to take the picture.

Note from the organizers regarding this prize:

Going back to the roots of the nature and animal art photography, this award acknowledges the work and personal initiative of a particular person. It should not be misinterpreted: it is in no way some sort of discrimination towards the other photographs who cannot compete for this prize but still are most welcome to compete in other categories.

Such a prize will be successful only if photographers are fair players. It is totally based on confidence and honesty. The organizers are aware that they will not be able to check all entrants' honesty. It is generally the case for most contests. However, experience has demonstrated that, as refers to nature and animal art photography, everything ends up by being known (especially when the image rests on someone else's work and/or site location arrangements).

A photograph that has not been screened in the first instance will be immediately disqualified even though it was nominated and the information will be disseminated through appropriate communication means.

The organizers are conscious of the innovative character of this prize. They will pay attention to the spirit that will lead the prize organization and participation.

- **The « Prize of the public »:** During the exhibition, visitors will be able to vote for their favorite photo. The photograph that receives the largest number of votes will be awarded with the "The Prize of the public".

The jury reserves the right to make additional "special mention" awards. The jury reserves the right not to award any particular prize. A photograph may be awarded in only one category. This does not cover the prize "Pure Wild", the "Prize of the Public" or any additional prize given by sponsors of Emotion'Ailes contest.

## Article 10

**Deadline for submissions: June 18, 2023 at midnight (12 pm).**

Submission will be at candidates own expenses and risks. Candidates should submit their computer files via an upload site where access is restricted to the competitors only. The application form can be completed online (access will be given on May 5, 2023). The correctly uploaded photos will be visible to the participant and a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided.

**Check your spam box if necessary.**

In case of **persistent technical problem**, please contact : francoise.coune@aves.be

## Article 11 - Description and control of images

A short text introducing the photographer and his work as well a detailed description of the shooting conditions must be provided with each photo (in the “additional info's” field).

The legend information must be complete and accurate and include the following elements:

- Description of the shooting: context, observed behavior, exact location, use of a bait;
- Technical information: camera, lens, aperture, shutter speed, flash use, or other specific equipment, ISO;
- Any image processing other than the lens profiles, color temperature, dust suppression, global and local saturation, the exposure changes, the sharpening and cropping.

An unaccompanied image of the pre-mentioned elements will be excluded.

By the end of the jury's deliberations, the raw or native file of selected pictures will be requested to winners photographers. These raw or native files should be provided **QUICKLY** by return mail.

**The RAW + JPEGs of the finalist photographers will be analyzed and verified. The contest organizers and the jury will have the opportunity to decide whether the photo will be selected and included in the exhibition or not.**

## **Article 12 - File damage**

The organizers are not responsible for any damage to digital files during the upload.

# SELECTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

## **Article 13 - Preselection**

A pre-selection of the photographs submitted to the contest will be conducted by the organizing team made up of photographers and ornithologists in June 2023. Other persons may be called upon to join the team.

## **Article 14 – Composition of the jury**

The official jury is made up of wildlife photographers, a scientific advisor and Aves representatives. The jury is made up of minimum five persons. They will be assisted by the technical team of the contest. The jury reserves the right to see photographs that were not selected by the pre-selection panel.

## **Article 15 - Nominees**

Photographers whose work is selected will be notified by e-mail.

The final results will be announced officially during the awards ceremony that will take place on September 23, 2023 (see remark in Article 1). Results will be communicated to winners by e-mail after the official announcement. Results will also be displayed on the contest website.

## **Article 16 - Exclusion**

The jury's decisions are final. The jury is bound by a duty of confidentiality regarding the content of their deliberations. If, after the ceremony, the organizers find out that an image nominated or awarded has not fully respected one or more articles of the contest rules, this image will be automatically and officially disqualified, with no limit in time. The jury's decision will be made public by an appropriate communication.

# PRIZES

## **Article 17**

Prizes are offered by Aves - Natagora and sponsors of the Emotion'Ailes contest. The organization reserves the right to announce the prizes on the contest website.

Every prizewinner will be invited to attend the awards ceremony. If the prizewinner does not get the prize back during the 6 months after the award ceremony, the prize will be used for the next contest.

The winners will be invited to discover the results and withdraw their prizes at this ceremony on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the Bourse. Prizes can be removed until Sunday 18h at the "Galerie Cap Nord" SPW, Boulevard du Nord. Unreturned lots will be kept available at the Natagora office, Traverse des Muses,1 at 5000 Namur. Whenever possible, prizes may be sent to the address of your choice against payment of delivery charges.

## **Article 18 - Reproduction of photographs**

Every winner of a prize hereby authorizes the organizers to reproduce their work for the needs of the exhibition as well as for the contest and the Namur Nature and Wildlife exhibitions communication campaign (media, press articles, exhibitions).

The winning photographs will be published in the Natagora Magazine, on Aves and Natagora websites, in the portfolio of the festival, on the festival websites and in the specialized press. They will be used only in the framework of the contest promotion and/or the nominated and winners' presentation.

## **Article 19 - Complaints**

The participation in this contest implies that the entrant fully agrees and accepts the present rules of the contest, without any possibility to make a claim about the results. Participation also implies that the photographer has obtained the written agreement

of the persons appearing on the picture, should the photograph infringe on the copyrights, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity.

Prizes cannot be exchanged. Prizes not claimed within six months will be made available again in the next contest. Competitors who are not able to collect their prize in person may request that their prize is sent to them.

## **Article 20 - Force majeure**

In case of force majeure or any other reason beyond their control, the organizers may not be held responsible if dates have to be changed or if the contest should be modified or even cancelled.