



EMOTION'AILES

Aves Photo Contest Rules – 2025

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

The "GT Expos AVES" is organizing the "Emotion'Ailes" photo contest. The photographs will be exhibited in Namur. The awards ceremony will take place in September of this year..

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 01, 2025. 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 2024 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 « DocChoc »

In this category, we aim to highlight the environmental issues raised by human action or inaction through documentary or activist images or inaction of mankind through documentary or militant images. We expect participants to submit challenging images. The impact on the species photographed must be visible or understandable, whether it is considered by public or scientific opinion as negative, positive or debatable. The issues or actions highlighted in the image must be identifiable in the presence of the bird(s) concerned or elements that can clearly identify them. A detailed description must accompany the image. "Journalistic" photography has its place here.

(Pollution, human behaviour or intervention, appearance or rarity of species, reintroduction work, unusual behaviour of the species or behaviour that has changed as a result of human intervention, are only examples and should not be exhaustive).

6. Category « Youth » (birth date subsequent to September 20, 2007).

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.

**Only one award will be authorized in each category.
Two 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 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 22, 2025 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 1, 2024).

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).

This description will accompany the photo print during the exhibition (subject to feasibility during printing).

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. 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 in September of this year (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 the "GT Expos Aves" of Natagora and sponsors of the Emotion'Ailes contest. The organization reserves the right to announce the prizes on the contest website.

The winners will be invited to discover the results and withdraw their prizes at this ceremony in 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 18.1 - What happens to the prints after the exhibition period?

Printing a photo exhibition for a prestigious competition represents a high cost for organizers and requires significant storage space. Furthermore, since recycling is difficult, if not impossible, for some prints, we aim to minimize these various aspects as much as possible. Each nominee will receive an application to complete regarding the sale (or donation) of the unique print(s) created for the exhibition upon confirmation of their selection. The exhibition will be kept for a minimum of 12 months and may be exhibited in various locations throughout Europe or the world beyond Namur.

In this way, we offer the opportunity to:

- purchase your print(s) at a competitive price (excluding shipping costs).
- avoid waste production
- ensure the competition remains free of charge

Therefore, the organizer has no intention of making a profit from this sale, but simply to recover the maximum value of the printing costs!

As the anniversary date approaches, we will contact each photographer who has given their consent to this, asking if they would like to have their photos returned. If the photographer does not wish to have them, they may be offered for sale at the association's upcoming events. The organizers reserve the right not to sell, but to offer any of these photos to their partners or sponsors.

Photographs for which the photographer has indicated their refusal will be destroyed once they have been removed from the traveling exhibition catalog.

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.