

**Ornithology Trial Event Rules 2019**  
Life Science Committee

1. **DESCRIPTION:** Participants will be assessed on their knowledge of North American birds.  
**A TEAM OF UP TO: 2** **APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 minutes**
2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:**
  - a. Each team may bring one Official National Bird List as well as one two-inch or smaller standard binder containing information in any form and from any source attached using the available rings.
  - b. The Official National Bird List does not have to be secured in the binder.
  - c. If the event features a rotation through a series of laboratory stations in which the participants interact with samples, specimens, or displays no material may be removed from the binder while at, or in-between, laboratory stations.
3. **THE COMPETITION:**
  - a. Each team will be given an answer sheet on which they will record answers to each section.
  - b. The competition may be run as timed stations and/or as a timed slides PowerPoint presentation.
  - c. Specimens/pictures will be lettered or numbered at each station. The event may include preserved specimens, skeletal material, recordings of songs, and slides or pictures of specimens.
  - d. Participants should be able to do basic identification to the level indicated on the Official List. States may have a modified state or regional list. See your state web site.
  - e. No more than 50% of the competition will require giving common or scientific names.
  - f. Each specimen will have one or more questions accompanying it on some aspect of its life history, distribution, anatomy and physiology, reproduction, habitat characteristics, ecology, diet, behavior, conservation and biogeography.
  - g. The ecology questions may pertain to any ecological aspect of the species, including behavior, habitat, niche, symbiotic relationships, trophic level, adaptive anatomy such as bill size and shape, migration, distribution or occurrence (rare, common, special concern, endangered.)
  - h. The National competition will be based on the Official National Bird List - see [http://www. soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).
  - i. States may have a modified state or regional list which will be posted on the state website no longer than November 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. **SAMPLE ACTIVITIES:**
  - a. Identify the order, family, and/or genus of the provided sample.
  - b. What conclusion can be drawn about the habitat(s) of the given specimens?
  - c. Which of these animals does not fit within this taxon?
  - d. What unique anatomical feature distinguishes the animal shown in the picture?
  - e. Consider the potential impact of human activities on the survival of birds.
5. **SCORING:**
  - a. High score wins.
  - b. Selected questions may be used as tiebreakers.