



PRESS RELEASE

Unique moments in nature captured in national wildlife photography exhibition

OTTAWA – Where can you witness a protective mother duck battling a Great Blue Heron, or stare into the eyes of a luminescent dragonfly, and even catch a fox in “flight”? These unique moments are captured for all to enjoy in the first *Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year* exhibition co-presented by the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada, Canadian Geographic and the Canadian Museum of Nature.

The exhibition presents the 30 winning photographs from the first annual Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year Contest in 2008. It opens to the public on June 12, 2009 at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

“We’re pleased to partner with Canadian Geographic to present this collection of striking photographs which highlight the beauty, diversity, value and vulnerability of Canadian wildlife,” explains Joanne DiCosimo, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature. “This exhibition will later travel to other venues across Canada, beginning with our partners in the Alliance of Natural History Museums.”

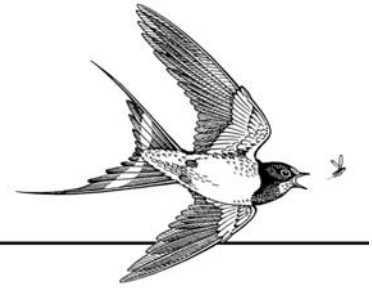
“Canadian Geographic is delighted to partner with the Canadian Museum of Nature on the 2008 Canadian Wildlife Photography contest and exhibition,” said André Préfontaine, President and Publisher. “Photography has always been an essential element of Canadian Geographic and wildlife photography in particular resonates with our readers. These winning photographs attest to our enduring fascination with the natural world.”

Modelled upon the British Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, the newly-created contest attracted more than 5,000 entries in its début year from both novice and experienced photographers. The winning pictures hailed from five categories: Birds, Mammals, Urban Wildlife, All Other Animals, and Baby Critters, a special category for entrants under 16.

Paul Parent from Montreal, whose vibrant-coloured image of a dragonfly won the “All Other Animals” category, says he is proud to have his photo included in a nationally travelling exhibition.

“Being able to share that instant when I took that picture with people, not only with friends and family, people who will visit the exhibit from all over the country inspires me to persist and continue my passion for Photography and Wildlife,” says Mr. Parent.

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William Bickle, photographer of the dramatic Blue Heron-Mallard confrontation, has watched the movements and personalities of the herons along the Moira River in Belleville, Ontario over the last couple of seasons.

“I feel very fortunate to have been there to witness and capture the image in those few seconds,” says Bickle. “The opportunity to have my photographs displayed in cities across Canada is one of the highest achievements and compliments I could attain.”

The photographs will be on view at the Museum until September 7, 2009. The Museum is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

Visit nature.ca for more information or call 613-566-4700.

Details about the [contest](#) can be found at www.canadiangeographic.ca/wildlifephotography.

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NOTE: Media are invited to a preview on June 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30, as well as to the opening reception at 6:00 p.m.

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The Canadian Museum of Nature is Canada's national museum of natural history and natural sciences. It promotes awareness of Canada's natural heritage through permanent and travelling exhibitions, public education programmes, active scientific research, a dynamic Web site, and the maintenance of a 10-million-specimen collection.

Canadian Geographic is a general interest magazine owned by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society. In stories, photography and maps, it reports on discoveries in the sciences, on the history of human settlement and endeavour, on environmental concerns, on wildlife management and mismanagement, on urban, rural and industrial development, on Canada's diverse cultures and on the manner in which language and the arts have been shaped by human interaction with the distinctive geography of Canada.

The Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada is comprised of 16 member institutions that include natural history museums, a zoo and an aquarium. Members share resources, expertise and experience about collections, research and educational programming.