



THE GREAT CANADIAN BIRDATHON

BIRDING FOR CONSERVATION



OFO's Celebrity Birders 2016 Bruce and Ben Di Labio

A native of Ottawa, Bruce Di Labio's passion for birds and birding began at the young age of seven when he hand-tamed a Black-capped Chickadee at his family cottage at Constance Bay, Ontario. From these simple beginnings emerged both a life-long passion and a career in the field of birding. During the late 1960s, Bruce birded areas in his neighbourhood. In the early 1970s, he spent most of his free time birding by bicycle in the Ottawa area with members of the "bike gang," getting a first taste for "year lists" and "big days." Weekend birding was quickly replaced by birding seven days-a-week which led to conducting field trips for the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

During the 1980s, Bruce worked for the Canadian Museum of Nature in ornithology and then The Canadian Nature Federation as Staff Naturalist. Later, Bruce began environmental consulting and branched out in his role as teacher and tour leader for beginner birders. He continues to author numerous articles for birding publications. During his travels, he has spent many hours photographing birds. He regularly gives presentations at schools, nature organizations, and birding conventions and most recently he writes a weekly column on birding in *The Ottawa Citizen*.

Ben Di Labio has followed his father's footsteps and has been an avid birder since age seven. Since Ben's first official outing in January 2005 when he saw 33 Great Gray Owls and five Snowy Owls, he was hooked on birding. Now Ben will combine forces with Bruce to represent OFO as our 2016 Celebrity Birders.

The Great Canadian Birdathon (formerly the Baillie Birdathon) is the oldest sponsored bird count in North America. Your tax deductible donation supports Bird Studies Canada, various bird observatories and monitoring programs such as the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. It also supports the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund which provides grants primarily to amateur field ornithology researchers. As well, a portion of all donations pledged for the OFO Team will be returned to OFO and will be specifically earmarked to the OFO Young Birders Program.

Please be generous and make your pledge today!



2016 Great Canadian Birdathon Pledge Form OFO's Celebrity Birders: Bruce and Ben Di Labio

Please print clearly and fill in all blanks. Tax receipts will be issued for amounts over \$10.

Please make cheque payable to "Great Canadian Birdathon"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Pledged: Flat amount \$ _____ OR \$ _____ per species



Please return completed pledge forms to:

Jeff Harrison, OFO Birdathon Coordinator, 19-1120 Bernard Ave, Outremont, QC H2V 1V3

To make a contribution online, after March 1st, go to: www.birdscanada.org, click on "Support Us", then under "Great Canadian Birdathon" click on "Sponsor a Birdathon Participant" and enter the participant's first name as "OFO Celebrity Birders"