RULES

1ST BIRD ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION

Extremadura Birdwatching Fair: FIO
February 26-28, 2027



www.fioextremadura.es

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Feria Internacional de Turismo Ornitológico
Extremadura Birdwatching Fair
Parque Nacional de Monfragüe
Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla, Cáceres)

Extremadura

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA
Consejería de Cultura, Turismo y Deportes

As part of the **22nd Extremadura Birdwatching Fair: FIO**, we are pleased to invite illustrators and nature enthusiasts to participate in the **1st Bird Illustration Competition.**

For more than two decades, the fair has served as a meeting point for scientists, conservationists, birdwatchers and the general public. This year, we are celebrating this milestone with a new initiative aimed at promoting ornithological knowledge through the creation of artworks that combine careful observation and scientific study of birds with artistic creativity.

COMPETITION RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to illustrators and amateur artists aged 12 and over, regardless of nationality or country of residence.

The competition is not open to the organisers, sponsors, or any companies directly or indirectly involved in organising this competition.

2. THEME AND CATEGORIES

The theme of the competition is **"BIRDS"**. Participants may draw inspiration from local species, migratory birds, or any species of ornithological interest. Illustrations may emphasise either the scientific or the aesthetic aspects of birds, provided that the essential characteristics of the chosen species are faithfully represented.

* **Scientific Illustration (F1)** This category is dedicated to works that combine **scientific accuracy with a primarily educational and informative purpose**. Illustrations should use visual resources to explain, analyse, or facilitate the understanding of specific aspects of birds, such as their anatomy, morphology, identification, behaviour, diet, life cycles, or adaptations.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the **clarity of the information** presented, the accuracy of the elements depicted, and the ability of the work to convey knowledge in a clear and accessible visual format.

Works may incorporate anatomical views, enlarged details, different stages or positions, comparisons, sequences, diagrams, cross-sections, schematics, or other visual resources, provided these contribute to explaining the subject matter.

The main objective of this category is to communicate scientific knowledge through illustration.

* **Naturalist Illustration (F2)** This category is intended for works depicting birds in their natural environment, faithfully and accurately portraying their appearance, behaviour, and relationship with their surroundings.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the quality of observation, as well as the accurate representation of the species' anatomy, proportions, plumage, colour, posture, and behaviour, together with the depiction of its habitat and the natural elements that characterise it.

The main objective of this category is to portray and convey the experience of observing a species in its natural environment.

* **Conceptual Illustration (F3)** This category welcomes works that adopt a more abstract or conceptual approach to the representation of birds. Artists are encouraged to explore creative freedom, offering new artistic interpretations and concepts beyond literal representation.

* **Young Illustrators (F4)** This category is designed to provide a platform for emerging artists aged 12 to 18. It aims to inspire and encourage creativity by allowing young illustrators to develop their artistic talent while sharing their unique perspective of the natural world.

This is the only category that participants under the age of 18 may enter.

3. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

- Participants over the age of 18 may submit **one artwork per category** using the entry form available on the FIO website (www.fioextremadura.es). Entries may be created using either traditional or digital techniques. Each participant may submit only one illustration in each category, although they may enter multiple categories provided that each submitted illustration is different. Participants under 18 may only enter Category F4.
- Submitted artworks must **not contain signatures, initials or any other text**.
- Entries must be prepared in **A3 format (420 × 297 mm) and in RGB** colour mode. For the judging process, only JPG files with a maximum file size of 5 MB will be accepted (the resolution may be reduced to 72 dpi if necessary). Artwork created using traditional media must be scanned and submitted as a JPG file with a maximum size of 5 MB.
- Once the finalists have been selected, they will be required to submit a high-resolution version of their artwork for reproduction, in A2 format (420 × 594 mm), 300 dpi, and CMYK colour mode.

- Each illustrator must provide a description of **no more than 200 characters**, in either Spanish or English, explaining the artwork and its scientific, educational or cultural value. This information may assist the jury during the evaluation process.

HOW TO NAME YOUR FILE?

- Files must be named using either a pseudonym or a short version of the artwork title. Under no circumstances should the author's name appear in the file name.

- File names must comply with the following requirements:

    - The file name must begin with the category code (F1, F2, F3 or F4), followed by the title or pseudonym.

    - File names must not contain special characters (such as "#" or "<>"), punctuation marks, or accented characters.

    - Spaces must be replaced with an underscore (_). Example of a correct file name: F3_Martin_with_fish

- It is recommended that the title does not exceed 20 characters.

- Incorrectly named files may result in disqualification.

Participants declare that they are the sole authors of the submitted works, that the works do not infringe the rights of any third party, and that they assume full responsibility for any claims relating to image or copyright rights.

4. JUDGING CRITERIA

The jury will assess entries according to the following criteria:

- **Scientific Accuracy (F1)**: The illustration must demonstrate a high level of realism and scientific rigour in its depiction of birds.
- **Artistic Quality**: Technique, composition and creativity will be key factors in the evaluation.
- **Originality**: Special consideration will be given to works that demonstrate originality and successfully communicate an innovative or inspiring message.
- **Conservation Message**: Consideration will also be given to the artwork's ability to raise awareness of the importance of protecting birds and their habitats.
- **Original Work**: All submitted illustrations **must be original** and unpublished, and must not have been entered in any previous competition.
- **Artificial Intelligence**: **Any artwork created by, generated with, or assisted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be disqualified.**

5. COMPETITION SCHEDULE

The competition will follow the dates below:

- Submission period: from October 19, 2026, through January 8, 2027, at 23:59 CET.
- Online jury deliberation: January 11 – 15, 2027.
- Notification of finalists and winners by email: January 18, 2027.
- Extremadura Birdwatching Fair: FIO 2027 Awards Ceremony: Saturday, February 27, 2027, in Monfragüe National Park.

6. COPYRIGHT AND USE OF THE ARTWORK

By entering the competition, participants confirm that the submitted illustrations are entirely their own work and that they are the sole holders of the copyright. Any infringement of third-party rights shall be the sole responsibility of the participant.

Copyright of the winning illustrations shall remain with the respective authors.

Participants declare and guarantee that the submitted artwork is entirely original and has been created without any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems or software, whether in its conception, development or execution.

Any artwork found to have been wholly or partially generated, assisted or based on Artificial Intelligence will be immediately disqualified from the competition.

Any participant found to have breached this rule may be subject to sanctions at the discretion of the organisers, including permanent exclusion from future editions of the competition or the withdrawal of any prizes previously awarded.

Participants bear full responsibility for the originality of their work, its authorship, and compliance with these Rules. The organisers shall not be held liable for any claims brought by third parties arising from a breach of these conditions.

The Extremadura Tourism Board (Dirección General de Turismo de Extremadura) will retain a high-resolution (JPEG) copy of each winning illustration. The Extremadura Tourism Board reserves the right to reproduce and use the winning illustrations, without limitation in time or place, solely for activities related to the competition or for its promotion, and always on a non-profit basis. For any other use, the Extremadura Tourism Board will first seek the author's prior consent. Under no circumstances will the images be transferred or licensed to third parties. The author's name will always appear alongside the illustration or in the accompanying exhibition or publication credits.

7. JURY

Information regarding the members of the Jury will be published on the competition website.

The Jury will consist of internationally recognised illustrators, representatives of the organising committee and/or ornithology professionals. Based on criteria of creativity and technical quality, the Jury will select the winning and finalist entries. All evaluations will be carried out anonymously, with jurors assessing each illustration without knowing the identity of its author.

The Jury shall have the authority to resolve any issues not expressly covered by these Rules that may arise during the course of the competition.

8. PRIZES

- Category F1 (Scientific Illustration): €800
- Category F2 (Naturalist Illustration): €800
- Category F3 (Conceptual Illustration): €800
- Category F4 (Young Illustrators): an illustration materials package valued at €200.

The Jury may also award Special Mentions to outstanding entries that do not receive a prize.

Should additional prizes sponsored by the competition's sponsors be included, information about these prizes will be made available on the fair's website. Sponsored prizes will be presented during the same awards ceremony as the competition prizes. If the winner is unable to attend the event, they will be responsible for the cost of shipping the prize, which will be arranged by the prize sponsor.

Prize money will be paid by bank transfer.

All prizes are subject to any applicable tax withholdings required by current legislation.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2027, as part of the Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO) programme.

Winners who are unable to attend the ceremony agree to record and submit a short video presenting their artwork for screening during the event. Submission of this video within the specified deadline will be mandatory. If necessary, the organisers will contact the winning participants by email with detailed instructions.

9. EXHIBITION AT EXTREMADURA BIRDWATCHING FAIR: FIO

From all submitted entries, twelve illustrations of the highest quality—including the prize-winning works and the finalists selected by the Jury—will be chosen for exhibition. These illustrations will be professionally printed in a high-quality format and displayed during the Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO).

Authors of the selected illustrations authorise their inclusion in a permanent and/or travelling exhibition intended solely to promote the Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO).

The illustrations will not be used for any purpose other than those stated above.

10. DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with Organic Law 3/2018 of 7 December on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights, participants are informed that their personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the applicable data protection legislation.

11. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participation in this Bird Illustration Competition implies full acceptance of these Rules. For any questions relating to the competition, please contact the organisers by email at: concursoilustracion@fioextremadura.es