

EXTREME PERFORMANCES

Faucon pèlerin – Peregrine Falcon – *Falco peregrinus*

Marais Réal D. Carbonneau, Sherbrooke

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest diving bird in the world. On average, it dives at 180 km/h, but has been recorded at an astonishing 389 km/h!

Colibri à gorge rubis – Ruby-throated Hummingbird – *Archilochus colubris*

Stoke

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird beats its wings 55 to 75 times per second. While diving or during mating flight, it expresses its excitement by reaching up to 200 beats per second.

Marmotte commune - Woodchuck - *Marmota monax*

Unknow location

In hibernation, the body temperature of the Woodchuck drops from 37°C to about 6°C.

Rainette versicolore - Gray Treefrog - *Dryophytes versicolor*

Melbourne

As well as having the ability to change colour in a few minutes, the Gray Treefrog can climb trees over 50 metres high.

Mésange à tête noire – Black-capped Chickadee – *Poecile atricapillus*

Parc Jacques-Cartier, Sherbrooke

This bird's coat of feathers weighs approximately 10% of its total weight, which would be the equivalent of a human that weighs 90 kg having a coat that is 9 kg. Such heavy material is, however, highly useful during nights of extreme cold. To save their energy, the Black-capped Chickadee lowers its temperature by around ten degrees Celsius.

Cougar - Mountain Lion - *Puma concolor*

Zoo Sauvage de Saint-Félicien, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

In a high jump competition, the Mountain Lion would be crowned champion. It can jump up to 5 metres high from a standing position. By comparison, Cuban athlete Javier Sotomayor was the first person to reach 2.44 metres with a running start.

Pélican brun – Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Jensen Beach, Florida

The Brown Pelican's pouch can hold up to 11 litres of water.

Urubu à tête rouge – Turkey Vulture – *Cathartes aura*
Florida

The Turkey Vulture is capable of gliding for 6 hours without beating its wings.

Sympétrum éclairéur - White-faced Meadowhawk - *Sympetrum obtrusum*
Estrie

As well as zipping away at 55 km/h, some dragonflies have the ability to fly backwards, up and down vertically, stay in place, or suddenly change direction. They may be the only insects that can fly in reverse. Their wing structure has inspired some of the features used for helicopter rotor blades.

Monarque - Monarch Butterfly - *Danaus plexippus*
Sherbrooke

During its two-month migration, the Monarch Butterfly travels distances from 2 000 to 5 000 kilometres. In the insect world, it is the 2nd biggest traveller behind the *Wandering glider*, which can cover a distance of up to 7 000 kilometres.