

Backyard Birding Specialists

 **CANADA**

 **ALBERTA**

JANUARY 2021

The Showroom is OPEN



A friendly reminder that face masks are mandatory for all indoor spaces. We request that you maintain social distancing whenever possible while shopping. Our staff will be sanitizing prior to the store opening and throughout the day.

Visa, Mastercard, Debit and cash will be accepted for in-store purchases

Return of containers and seed bags will now be accepted for recycle/reuse discount

CURB SIDE PICK UP: call, place and pay for your order at least 15 minutes prior to your arrival. Please pull in to the curbside parking stall, pop your trunk/hatch, phone (403) 640-2632 to advise of your arrival and a team member will come out and load your vehicle with your receipts attached. Payment can be made by Visa, Mastercard or E-transfer (NO CASH)

DELIVERY: Deliveries will still be made on Thursdays ONLY. Please phone the store at (403) 640-2632 any day prior to 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before your delivery; place and pay for your delivery. Please phone with your order as early as possible to avoid disappointment. If you have any special instructions please do not forget to inform us when you place your order.

Bird Trivia



Penquins were first discovered in 1520 during Magellan's circumnavigation. A crew member name Antonio Pigafetta then referred to these birds as "strange geese." The penquins that were found during the circumnavigation in the Falkland Islands are now referred to as Magellan penquins.

What Is It?



Photos by Catherine Hamilton

See February 2021 newsletter for the answer—truly fascinating!

UPDATE: Rockefeller, the tiny owl that hitched a ride on the Rockefeller Christmas tree



The adult Saw-whet owl which was rescued after accompanying the 75 foot Norway spruce from Oneonta, in upstate New York, was released on November 19, 2020.

When the owl was found, she hadn't eaten or drunk in days, but began to recover after getting fluids and food.

The Ravensbeard Wildlife Center said a return trip to Oneonta would likely be too traumatic for the bird, so it was released on facility grounds in the upstate town of Saugerties.



With face masks now compulsory on public transport and indoor spaces in Calgary, discarded face coverings can harm wildlife.

Please remember to cut off the white ear straps before disposing of your face mask.

This should also apply to plastic shopping bags and plastic can holders.

We should also cut up disposable gloves too to stop animals getting trapped in them.



Is it a Repoll? Is it a House finch?

If you are a beginner backyard birder identifying these two very different birds can be daunting. Here are a few simple tips which will clarify the difference:

- First and foremost what time of year is it and what is the temperature. Redpolls (common and hoary) are an Arctic species that only move south in search of food and only in the winter when the weather is cold. The Common redpoll is more abundant than its cousin, the Hoary redpoll. If the weather is a balmy 70degrees and it's the spring, summer or fall you are definitely not seeing a Redpoll
- The House finch is an aggressive species and has no problem holding its own against the House sparrow. The Redpolls will bicker amongst themselves, but will not eat with either the House finch or the House sparrow and when the competition at a feeder gets in the way of their feeding, they will often seek out a quieter feeder even in another backyard
- The House finch will eat almost any seed—the Redpolls will not. They prefer nyjer or shelled black oil sunflower kernels
- Redpolls, being an Arctic species, will often bury themselves in snowdrifts or snow banks to keep themselves cool

So exactly how do you differentiate between the two species?



Common redpoll male—note the slight “blushing” of red on the breast and the obvious “red dot” on the forehead—often described as resembling a blood shot



Hoary redpoll can appear almost devoid of the pink blushing on the breast, but has the same “red dot” on the forehead. If you have a flock of Common redpolls you may see one or two Hoary mixed in but they are not as common as their cousins



The House finch has a very interesting story. Originally from Mexico and because of their bright red colouring (only the males) and their melodious song were sold as pet caged birds during the early 1900s in New York city. It was a criminal offense, so when the “copers” were spotted, the sellers would release the birds to avoid prosecution. It didn't take the House finch long to find its way all across North America, especially when backyard birders loved to see them at their feeders so they put out seed for them.



Q: Do Blue jays stash away all those peanuts? I struggle to comprehend that they could eat all that I put out each day so quickly!!

- Susan J

A: I could not help chuckling at your question about those seemingly greedy little Blue jays! I too have had similar experiences with these birds, particularly with peanuts in the shell placed in an open feeder. One puts out a handful or two of those food items in a bowl, and within hours, sometimes minutes, a Blue jay comes in, grabs one or two, and flies off with it, only to return in minutes for another beakful. Blue jays are among the

smartest birds on the planet, and rather than having to share the peanuts with other bird species, they just keep coming back to the feeder, grabbing as many peanuts as they can carry in their beaks, and fly off to store them somewhere safe. And they usually don't stop until the feeder is empty! They usually hide the peanuts by burying them just under the soil and leaf litter in some favourite places. And they are pretty good at remembering those sites too. A couple of tips – avoid feeding them the salted peanuts made for humans and only put out enough at a time to keep them from getting moldy. And apparently you can buy squirrel-proof peanut dispensers! I am waiting for someone to invent a feeder that makes it a wee bit tougher for those jays to remove the peanuts. It would be nice to see these strikingly coloured birds stick around the feeder a bit longer.



ABOUT DR. DAVID BIRD

David M. Bird is Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology and the former Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre at McGill University. As a past-president of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, a former board member with Birds Canada, a Fellow of both the American Ornithological Society and the International Ornithological Union, he has received several awards for his conservation and public education efforts. Dr. Bird is a regular columnist on birds for Bird Watcher's Digest and Canadian Wildlife magazines and is the author of several books and over 200 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He is the consultant editor for multiple editions of DK Canada's Birds of Canada, Birds of Eastern Canada, Birds of Western Canada, and Pocket Birds of Canada. To know more

At The Wild Bird Store we don't know all the answers either, so often we consult with Dr. David Bird who has spent his life researching the life of birds.

We would encourage you to submit any questions you may have regarding backyard birding prior to the 15th of the month. We will ask Dr. Bird for his input which can then be shared with readers of our monthly newsletter.

Please be patient—we will answer all questions submitted in the order in which they are received.

Bird Seed Truck



On location at Crowfoot YMCA/Arena
(corner of John Laurie Blvd. & Nosehill Drive NW)
Every Wednesdays 2:00pm to 5:30pm

To ensure you get what you want, please have your order in by 5:00pm on Tuesday and we will set it aside for you.

Text us @ (403) 701-4571



email us at orders@wildbirdstore.ca



Can't make it to our location? We also deliver. Send us your order by email to orders@wildbirdstore.ca. We deliver on Thursdays and require your order no later than 12 noon on the previous day.. Delivery charge is applicable unless brought to Crowfoot location on

earn and redeem

PLEASE NOTE: If the Wild Bird Store is closed then the Mobile Bird Seed Truck will not be on location. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your continued support.

DONATIONS



Located at The Wild Bird Store (near the seed bins). We collect your cash as well as “wishlist” donations and arrange to deliver them to local wildlife organizations including Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation, Alberta Institute of Conservation and Ellis Bird Farm. We ask for your support quarterly for each of this organizations. For January, February and March 2021 your donations will go to:

Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wishlist - Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society CWRS
treating injured and orphaned wildlife





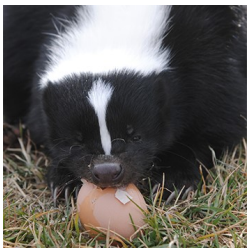
CWRS Wildlife Hospital

CWRS has a fully functional veterinary hospital that is certified by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA)? We have 2 veterinarians and 3 veterinary technologists on staff.

Permanent Residents

The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) strives to release all rehabilitated animals back into the wild. However, occasionally we receive an animal that cannot be released and is a suitable candidate for permanent residency based on the role the animal can play at our society. Our educational ambassadors become part of our educational programming, inspiring thousands of citizens every year.

Education Ambassadors



Oliver



OPHELIA, Great Horned Owl



LITO, Swainson's Hawk

There are many ways to help.....



Gift Catalogue



Monetary Donation



Leave a Legacy – Planned Giving



Sponsor a Permanent Resident



Calgary Wildlife Wish



Sponsor an Animal

Check out their website...

calgarywildlife.org

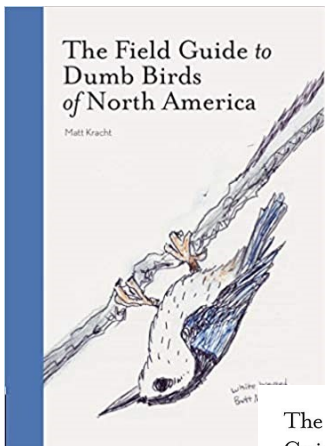
Bird Book Nook



We have also set up one of many jigsaw puzzles—please feel free to place puzzle pieces while enjoying your visit. Be sure to check out our many jigsaw puzzles for sale all with a wild bird theme and in sizes of 500 or 1000 pieces.

The Galler-oom has been transformed into Bird Book Nook, a library of the birding/nature books that we carry as well as some local artwork and birding/nature videos on the TV screen. We invite you to browse the new set-up and enjoy the many publications we carry.

The Bird Book Nook is also for rent for small groups of 35 people or less that need a meeting or event space. Table and chairs are available as well as refreshments for \$50/hour. For more information or to book the room, please email info@wildbirdstore.ca.



We now have the companion 2021 Page a day calendar for the Field Guide to Dumb Birds of North America

Disclaimer: This book contains information that may not be suitable for some people

The Field Guide to Dumb Birds of North America
Matt Kracht



365 dumb facts and avian idiots for every day of the year!

We offer a discount if you return your seed bags (sorry—not the Mother Nature bags which we cannot re-use), suet ball containers, if you bring your own container to fill or use a bag from our re-cycle bin. This discount is in addition to any other discount offered.



Write a Google review on your experience at The Wild Bird Store, and as a thank you, we will give you 100 customer loyalty points (\$5.00 value). To get a promo code, kindly email info@wildbirdstore.ca



(one Google review per customer)

Earn 200 customer loyalty points (\$10.00 value) by referring a friend, acquaintance or fellow birder.

Please visit the store to get a promo code.



No need for a card, just give your phone number. You earn \$1.00 for every \$20.00 spent (excludes “sales” items, books & optics) and can be used in-store and on Mobile Seed Truck. As a loyalty member our monthly promotions and in-store “specials” are automatically given at the cash register.



Combining our Seniors 10% discount with the Loyalty Program. (Excludes “sales” items, books & optics).



Discount for membership 10% discount for members of Fish Creek Park, AIWC, Priddis Golf Club, Nature Calgary, Sandy Cross Conservation and Springbank Garden Club. Must present valid membership card at time of purchase.



What's in a name?

common redpoll of the family (*Acanthis flammea*)

The current genus name *Acanthis* is from the Ancient Greek *akanthis*, a name for a small now-unidentifiable bird, and *flammea* is the Latin for "flame-coloured".

Seminar



Winter Bird Feeding 101

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

@ 6:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 +fees and GST

Kris Brown-Schoepp

Please note: This will be a "virtual seminar". Please visit [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) to purchase tickets for this seminar.

Learn about what foods have high protein for those cold winter days/nights ahead; the importance of open water, creating a brush pile; providing shelter for songbirds during cold winter nights....and a whole lot more! Question period will follow this presentation.

Don't Delay!

Even though this is a virtual seminar, there will be a limited number of spaces available due to the Q&A portion of the presentation. So don't be disappointed—book your spot now!

What is the most common bird on earth?

Technically, it's the domestic chicken with an estimated 50 billion birds.

However, the most common wild bird is considered to be the Red-billed quelea, a migratory, sparrow-like bird of the weaver family, native to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Post-breeding population sometimes peaks at an estimated 1 1/2 billion individuals.

For thousands of years, subsistence farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa have been at the mercy of the voracious Red-billed quelea bird: sky-blackening flocks of the tiny "feathered locust" still decimate fields across the continent.

The average Quelea eats around 10 grams of grain per day—roughly half its body weight—so a flock of two million can devour as much as 20 tons of grain in a single day. With an estimated adult breeding population of at least 1.5 billion, it is estimated the agricultural losses attributable to the Quelea in excess of US\$50 million annually.

I guess we should all be thankful in Alberta that they don't come to our backyard bird feeders! Just saying.



The only poisonous wild bird in the world

Gets its poison from the food that it eats- the poisonous Choresine Beetles.

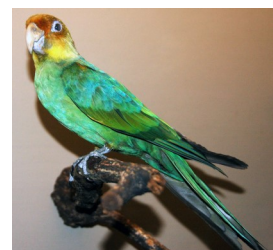
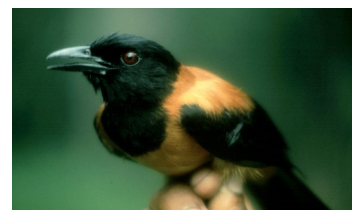
Interesting

Exploring the Mississippi river with his hunting dog, Dash, some time in the early 1800s, artist and ornithologist, John James Audubon, decided to perform a little experiment.

According to the native Americans and some scattered literary references, the beautiful green and gold Carolina parakeets that once littered the south-eastern United States, were deadly toxic, and John had to know for sure. So he caught some by the side of the river, boiled them up and fed them to his dog to see what happened.

Was Dash OK? No one knows, but all mention of her in John's well-kept diary stops dead at this Mississippi meal.

Hooded pithui



NEW!



CHECK OUT

Our impressive library of jigsaw puzzles for the entire family to enjoy. We also carry puzzle piece sorting trays and puzzle mats.



Our "Gone Nuts" wreath Wild Birds really do go crazy for this nutty wreath which is high in fat and protein. Perfect to help the birds make it through the Canadian winters.



There are many designs to choose from—large or small and be sure to check out the "pizza in a box" looks just like a pizza but is made for the birds. Just insert it into your flythrough bird feeder!

*Staying
Connected* -----



5901 3rd Street S.E.,
Calgary, Alberta. T2H 1K3
Phone: (403) 640-2632
Web: wildbirdstore.ca
Email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

Showroom is now open to customers (with some restrictions)

Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Sundays and ALL Statutory holidays for Faith, Family & Friends

HOLIDAY HOURS

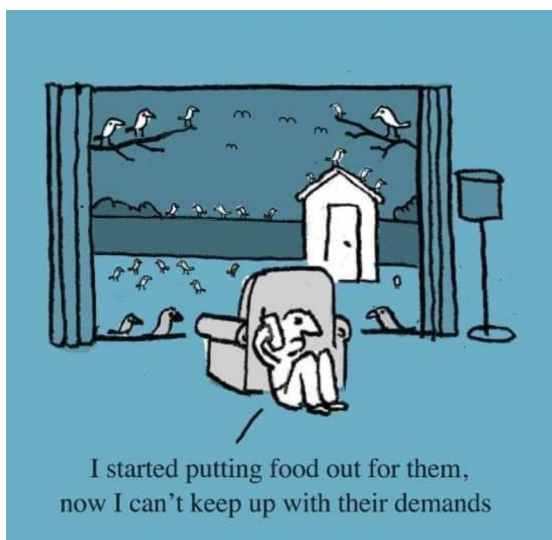


New Year's eve Thursday, December 31st Closing at 3:00pm

CLOSED New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2021

Wild Bird Store YouTube Videos

Go to YouTube, type in the search bar "The Wild Bird Store" to watch our videos and to help us become more visible . We are continually adding more content, so check us out often. Be sure to click on "Subscribe" before you leave the page.



The Wild Bird Store

Is the warranty & repair depot for:

Squirrel Buster® Bird Feeders

Aspects® Feeders

Droll Yankee® Bird Feeders

DROLL YANKEES
The World's Best Bird Feeders®



SquirrelBuster
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LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY

And the warranty depot for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

HAPPY BIRDING!