Backyard Birding Specialists





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

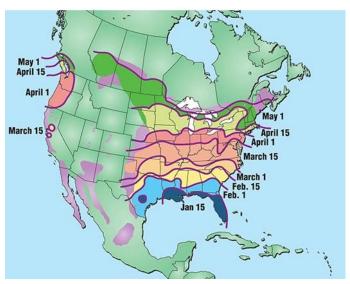
CURB SIDE PICK UP: call, place and pay for your order at least 15 minutes prior to your arrival. Please pull in to the curbside parking stall, pop your trunk/hatch, phone (403) 640-2632 to advise of your arrival and a team member will come out and load your vehicle with your receipts attached. Payment 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.



<u>Kindly note:</u> Due to circumstances beyond our control, ladybugs will not be available for sale at the Wild Bird Store this year. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your understanding.

Purple martin spring 2021 migration



For more information on Purple martin migration, please check out purplemartin.org



Get your tissues ready. Smithsonian Channel announced on Wednesday (March 24) that <u>Cher</u> & The Loneliest Elephant is arriving to small screens soon.

The emotional documentary featuring the iconic award-winning singer-actress and Kaavan the elephant is set to arrive on streaming service Paramount+ on the very fitting Earth Day (April 22), which was founded in 1970 to bring awareness to protecting the environment, and has led to the EPA, the Endangered Species Acts, and more. The

Cher spent last Thanksgiving leading a rescue team to save a four-ton elephant in the middle of the pandemic. Kaavan, a malnourished elephant living in Pakistan has spent nearly two decades in chains, living in a shed. He experienced depression, obesity, and the death of his mate.

Cher got wind of the crisis on social media, leading a team of veterinarians, animal aid groups, and sanctuary owners to the rescue. She co-founded Free the Wild and dropped the song "Walls," leading to Pakistan ordering that the elephant be freed last spring.

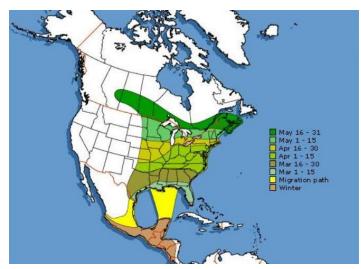
"I saw all the people being affected by it all over the world," Cher said in a statement. "People want a happy ending. People don't want to see animals suffer. And I know people are suffering too, but this is a story that can brighten their lives."

The goal was to relocate the elephant from Pakistan to a sanctuary in Cambodia, but Kavaan experienced Musth, a condition with male elephants that causes an increase in reproductive hormones. Cher flew to Pakistan to ensure the elephant would be safely rescued.



Hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere,. Over 330 species and 115 genera exist, mostly south of the U.S. Fewer than two dozen species venture into the U.S. and Canada; only a few species remain year-round.





Hummingbird Spring 2021 migration

When to Buy Commercial Hummingbird Nectar

Though it only takes a few minutes to make homemade nectar, if you don't have time to make your own hummingbird nectar, you can purchase powdered or liquid nectar concentrates to use as well. These concentrates often come in premeasured portions to fill a single feeder, depending on its capacity, and can be convenient for RV travelers, using at a campsite, or giving as a gift with a hummingbird feeder. If you do opt for commercial products, check ingredient lists to be sure the product does not contain unnecessary preservatives or dyes.

- ⇒ The beat of Hummingbird wings is so rapid, up to 55 times per second, that a "humming" sound is produced, and the wings appear blurred. They are the only bird species that can fly backwards, or even upside down
- ⇒ Hummingbirds can't walk or hop, but they can shuffle around a feeder with its extremely shortlegs, which are not very strong
- ⇒ The Hummingbird family is very large, with over 330 species and 115 genera, with almost half the species living in the "equatorial belt." Fever than two dozen species venture into the U.S. and Canada, and only a few species remain year-round
- ⇒ Many people refer to the first Hummingbird sighting of the year or early arrival as being "a scout." Some species of birds, such as Purple martins, do send a bird in advance of the migrating flock to scout out potential nesting and breeding areas. However, Hummingbirds are loners, and migrate alone. They do not scout out an area, and then return to notify others.



The Wild Bird Store recommends a saucer design hummingbird feeder. Will not leak and stops wasps and yellow jackets from gaining access to the nectar.

Bird Seed Truck



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

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 customer loyalty points on the Bird Seed Truck.

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 April, May and June 2021 your donations will go to:

Ellis Bird Farm in Lacombe

Wishlist - ellisbirdfarm.ca



Thursday, April 22, 2021

When life around the globe returns to normal, our world cannot return to business-as-usual.

Our global community has been shocked by the largest global crisis in a generation. COVID-19 has shown us the necessity of thinking ahead, but the next crises are already on their way. Climate change, species loss, pandemics and massive natural disasters might define the future — unless we do something now. We have the solutions, both natural and technological... **We just need the will**

www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes

Here you will find quizzes on: whales, protect our species, climate change, oceans and plastic pollution and a whole lot

more. Test your knowledge of our planet earth

RESOURCES FOR CLASSROOM, AT-HOME AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

NEW! CLIMATE CIVICS TOOLKIT

10 Simple Things to Do to Celebrate Earth Day

- 1. Plant something. ...
- 2. Ride your bike. ...
- 3. Let your voice be heard. ...
- 4. Tune in to Earth Day Live. ...
- 5. Buy reusable bags. ...
- 6. Use a refillable water bottle.
- 7. Get produce from a local market
- 8. Shop smart for clothes
- 9. Unsubscribe to catalogs
- 10. Spend time outside

The first Canadian Earth Day was held on Thursday, September 11, 1980, and was organized by Paul D. Tinari, then a graduate student in Engineering Physics/Solar Engineering at Queen's University. Flora MacDonald, then MP for Kingston and the Islands and former Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs. The principal activities taking place on the first Earth Day included educational lectures given by experts in various environmental fields, garbage and litter pick-up by students along city roads and highways as well as tree plantings to replace the trees killed by Dutch elm disease. [



P.E.I. man captures on-ice battle between Canada goose and bald eagle



A dark object on the ice was what captured the attention of photographer Patrick Keefe. Nestled between trees on the bank of Prince Edward Island's West River, Keefe whipped out his camera watching through his lens as the object came into focus as an American bald eagle.

There had been a battle—sprawled beneath the raptor's sharp talons was a Canada goose. It looked like it had already expired and Keefe proceeded taking photos of the eagle about to enjoy his reward. But then, movement. The goose was alive, and desperate to

survive.

The eagle rose above the goose, hovering eight to ten feet in the air, and without warning, folded its wings and descended in full assault mode. Webbed feet and a bill are no match for razor-sharp talons and a hooked beak. Or are they? In the video of this story, Keefe tells us what happened next.

To see his original photos and read his descriptions, find Keefe on Instagram as @altinortheast.



During the past months, our Habitat and Wildlife Operations Technician researched options to replace the "old pumphouse" nesting features and spent several hours building a new modular structure that will hopefully fulfill the nesting requirements for the Cliff Swallows. We assemble all the parts of the new structure on March 17th, at the same location where the pumphouse stood and now we just need to wait and see if the birds like it! Cliff Swallows return from their southern overwintering grounds as early as mid-April, and start nesting in mid- to late May.

The new structure is entirely made of wood and offers ample space for the swallows to build their nests. The thick wooden beams and roof/eave structure should provide enough insulation so that chicks in the nests do not overheat. The beams have been textured and roughened-up to provide better anchoring support for the nest to be built on. There are two "wings" to the structure to offer a variety of nesting aspects for the birds.







Known as a bilateral gynandromorph, this Northern cardinal is described as "a bird divided right down the middle, half male and half female". Photographed the in Warren County, Pennsylvania, about 55 miles southeast of Erie.

Black capped chickadee in SW Calgary with a deformed beak.

Eagle numbers soar in Calgary

Sightings of Bald eagles in Calgary this winter have been soaring in recent weeks, with some birdwatchers spotting as many as 20 of them in a single day along the Bow River near the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

These snowbirds sport white heads, but only upon maturity. Juveniles are dark brown or mottled in colour, causing them to be mistaken for Golden eagles.

However, if you're strolling along the Bow River and see a very large, dark-coloured raptor, chances are you're watching a young Bald eagle. Golden eagles, sometimes called "lions of the sky" are also dark coloured, but unlikely to be found in cities.

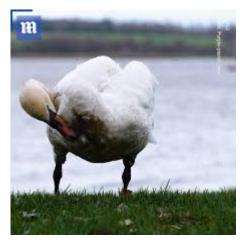


There may be more overwintering Bald eagles in Calgary because there is more open water and hence more overwintering waterfowl, their principal food source. Finding a weak of dead duck to eat can be the difference between an eagle living long enough to grow into its signature white-feathered cap or dying before its first birthday.

Northern flicker drumming



Northern flickers will "drum" at almost any time of year, but for different reasons. Sometimes it is to announce to other Flickers that this territory is taken, sometimes they will "drum" on the side of trees or cedar siding looking for insects/grubs. At this time of year it is undoubtedly because love is in the air and this is the way Flickers announce "I am available—come find me." This photo is our resident Flicker "drumming" on the power pole outside our garage, although his favourite place to "drum" is on our metal chimney—drives the dog crazy.



Swan is left with odd neck deformity after another swan crash -landed on to him

An oddball swan has been nicknamed 'Wonky' by wildlife rescuers after a clumsy member of his flock crash-landed on him - leaving him with a deformed NECK. The sight of the unusual-looking bird waddling along with his neck spiralling sideways and his head lolling to one side sparked fears for his concern from walkers. But after being checked over by wildlife experts and a vet this week he was given a clean bill of health and allowed back to his flock. This video was shot on the 11th March 2021.

ca.news.vahoo.com/swan-left-odd-neck-deformity-142900930.html



Black-browed babbler found in Borneo 180 years after last sighting

Stuffed specimen was only proof of bird's existence until discovery in rainforest last year

In the 1840s, a mystery bird was caught on an expedition to the East Indies. Charles Lucien Bonaparte, the nephew of Napoleon, described it to science and named it the black-browed babbler (*Malacocincla perspicillata*).

The species was never seen in the wild again, and a <u>stuffed specimen featuring a bright yellow glass eye</u> was the only proof of its existence. But now the black-browed babbler has been rediscovered in the rainforests of Borneo.

Two local men, Muhammad Suranto and Muhammad Rizky Fauzan, chanced upon a bird they did not recognise in Indonesia's South Kalimantan province in October last year and managed to catch it. They photographed the bird, released it, and reported their find to birdwatching groups.

Experts from the region confirmed the bird's identity, noting its strong bill, chocolate colouring and distinctive black eye-stripe. Unlike the taxidermied specimen, the live bird's iris was a striking maroon colour.

Robot aims to keep birds safer near power lines—Calgary Sun, March 22, 2021

Two Calgary companies hope a newly developed robot can help reduce bird collisions with power lines in Alberta.

Utility Altalink joined with FulcrumAir, an aerial robotics company, to create an autonomous drone that can install bird markers on transmission lines to prevent avians from hitting the infrastructure.

Traditionally markers would be installed using a helicopter or bucket truck, but a more automated way to install markers safely and efficiently which would reduce the environmental impact was needed.



Bird markers are small, reflective devices that are designed to make transmission wires more visible to birds in flight, reducing collisions between 60 and 90%. It reflects light in visible and ultraviolet light spectrums, which birds can see.

The new drone, called the LineFly, is placed atop power lines and travels down the wire, placing markers at predetermined intervals.



Junior Nature Sketch has 3 more classes for Spring!

The new season is upon us and we can all feel the warmth and beauty of spring quietly inviting us to go outside more! This is the perfect time to build some skills in our little ones so they can enjoy outside time even more. Our beloved Junior Nature Sketch program has 3 new classes open for registration: the 4-week programs will run on Saturday mornings in April, May, and June.

Classes are all online, and if you have a demanding schedule, fear not: they will be available to stream afterwards! Plus, the ticket cost is per household, so your whole bubble can learn online together. We also have gift certificates available if the young artist in your life is celebrating a birthday soon.

For more info or to register:

Nature Sketch - Journaling Art Class - The Bateman Foundation



Dr. David Bird and Dr. Rodger Titman's

The Bird Course—a virtual 2 day course Saturday June 5 & Saturday June 12

Sign up at www.tws-west.org





Join David Bird and Rodger Titman for a one-of-a-kind opportunity to acquire a great deal of knowledge about birds with no pressure. Two jam-packed Saturdays, a week apart, will delve into everything ornithological, from how feathers work to how birds do it.

The course will be held virtually over Zoom, on two Saturdays (June 5 and 12), starting at 8AM and lasting until 4:15PM Pacific Time. Participants will watch presentations, and have access to interact with two world-renown ornithologists.



Spring Birding Course

Registration Opens Tuesday, March 9 at 1:00 pm 12-week program begins Monday, April 5 and continues until Sunday, June

The number of course participants will be limited and health and safety precautions will be in place.

- Each session lasts approximately 2.5 hours
- Start times Monday Thursday: 9:15 am. Saturdays: 9:00 am, Sundays: 9:00 am and 1:15 pm
- Fee: Friends of Fish Creek Members: \$60.00 each, Non-members: \$100.00 each

For more information or to register:

Birding Course | Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

Our Birding Community



26th Annual Songbird Festival – stay tuned for more info soon!

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (Islbo.org)



ANNUAL CRESTON VALLEY BIRD FEST

http://www.crestonvalleybirds.ca/

The Creston Valley is a vital birdwatching site, important bird area, and staging area for migratory birds with over three hundred species recorded. The Creston Valley Bird Fest celebrates this incredible diversity in an environmentally sensitive manner, inviting residents and visitors to expand their interest in the world of birds.

The festival offers a variety of birdwatching activities guided by field experts on foot, kayak, canoe, bike, or safari bus! There are also workshops, photography/art displays, and other activities. Keynote Speaker to be announced.

Contact:

Ulrike Sliworsky Bird Festival Coordinator info@crestonvalleybirds.ca



Mark your calendar now for the 2021 festival - May 10th to 16th

Wings Over the Rockies Festival | May 2021



Purple Martins - City of Camrose

The 2021 Purple Martin Festival is tentatively scheduled for June 19, 2021. Come listen to guest speakers, learn about purple martins, and bring the kids for some kid-oriented events!

Birding Alberta

Frank Lake

This 750-acre site is approximately 8 km W of High River and consists of upland, riparian and wetland habitat.

Wildlife in the area includes waterfowl.

Restrictions

Day use only. No open fires. Foot access only. Livestock may be present. Call Kade McCormick at 403-465-3310 for



Beaverhill Bird Observatory



The Beaverhill Bird Observatory has operated a field station near Tofield, Alberta since 1984. We teach visitors about bird biology and conservation, give educational talks at local schools, host a week-long Young Ornithologists' Workshop for high school students, and provide internships to university students so that they can gain hands-on experience in the natural sciences. Our research projects monitor the migration, reproductive success, and survivorship of numerous bird species and our data sets now span more than three decades. We also act as stewards of the internationally recognized Beaverhill Natural Area, where more than 270 species of birds have been observed and 145 are known to breed.

Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary

Gaetz Lakes **Sanctuary** is Alberta's oldest federal migratory **bird sanctuary**.

Since 1924, the Gaetz Lakes have been protected as a federal migratory bird sanctuary. Now part of Waskasoo Park, the Sanctuary's 118 hectares (almost 300 acres) are set aside as a home for plants, mammals, birds, and other wildlife. Five kilometres of trails, a bird blind, and viewing decks introduce you to a variety of habitats.



Police Outpost Provincial Park

Birding: Loons, Swans, Sandhill cranes and other species in wetlands, along trails and on the lake





BACKYARD TRELLIS GLASS SEED FEEDER-DESIGNER SERIES

Elegant brushed copper finish. Extended seed tray limits seed spillage. High capacity, glass seed holder. Completely disassembles for easy cleaning. All metal and glass construction. Quarter turn lid makes for quick and simple filling. Weather resistant finish.

WINDOW GEMS™

Triangle houses hanging or post mount













How Sweet Rustic Woodcraft



Window Gems are prismatic, static cling vinyl decals that help prevent bird strikes.

What Is It?

Electron microscope image of a spider's silk spigot.





Answer in June 2021 newsletter

We are looking for a welder with wrought iron skills

To create deck mounts, shepherd hooks, bird bath stands and customer orders made of wrought iron. Examples of the wrought iron products we sell are on view in our store and on our website at: www.wildbirdstore.ca

Please email Kris at info@wildbirdstore.ca





Do you have woodworking skills?

The Wild Bird Store is looking for local talent to build wood products, including bird houses, bird feeders, bird baths and accessories to join our team of builders. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

Please email Kris at info@wildbirdstore.ca

Seminars



Kris Brown-Schoepp

Hummingbirds

Thursday, April 8, 2021

@6:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 +fees and GST

Thursday, April 22, 2021

@6:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 +fees and GST

<u>Please note:</u> This will be a "virtual seminar". Please visit Eventbrite.ca to purchase tickets for either of these seminars.

You too can have these "garden jewels" in your backyard. Kris will offer tips on how to attract them to your yard and keep them coming back year after year. The right food, the necessity of water and plenty of tips.



Kris Brown-Schoepp

Mason Bees

Thursday, May 6, 2021

@6:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 +fees and GST

Thursday, May 20, 2021

@6:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 +fees and GST

<u>Please note:</u> This will be a "virtual seminar". Please visit Eventbrite.ca to purchase tickets for either of these seminars.

Learn how to have success with your Mason bee cocoons and how to harvest next years cocoons. We will instruct you on how to store your cocoons, when to place them outside and how to insure the hatching bees will lay their cocoons in the proper place.



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! Go to **eventbrite.ca** to register for any or all upcoming seminars.

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.

Rare Surd



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.



The Esmeraldas Woodstar is one of the world's rarest and smallest hummingbirds, measuring barely 2½ inches long. It's barely bigger than a bumblebee and lighter than a dollar bill!

Called "Estrellita" (little star) by local people, this tiny bird is a big conservation concern. Fewer than 1,000 individuals are thought to remain, making the Esmeraldas Woodstar an urgent conservation priority.



Question: What do you think about these new products out there on the market that are geared toward to improving the sugar solutions that we offer to hummingbirds?

Answer: There are actually a number of such products available to folks offering sugar solutions to hummingbirds and for various purposes. For example, one new product on the market called *Hummingbird Healthy* contains a 'special blend of essential oils formulated specifically for hummingbirds' that is all-natural and contains no traces of copper. The idea is that first, it provides an alternative to the practice of adding a wee bit

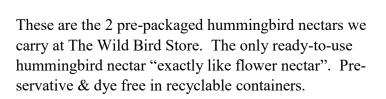
of copper to one's sugar solution to stave off spoilage by bacteria, algae and/or mold. In fact, one can buy another product called *Nectar Defender* that supposedly does exactly that. *Hummingbird Healthy* has been touted as an alternative food source for hummers to discourage them from visiting feeders set up by beekeepers to feed their bees. Unfortunately, the bees like it too! However, there are several strategies one can employ to discourage the bees from visiting one's hummingbird feeder. And I suppose that if someone wants to leave their nectar solution out there in their feeders for extended period, then products like *Nectar Defender or Hummingbird Healthy* might be useful. But until someone can demonstrate to me through a carefully designed scientific experiment that hummingbirds are either harmed or derive no benefit from the basic 1:4 sugar/water solution that millions of North, Central and South Americans offer to them, hopefully in a fresh clean manner, then I see no real need for products that boast of being healthier for the birds. To me, it is rather like the debate over vitamin supplements for humanssome folks totally believe in them, some take them to hedge their bets, and some, like me, would rather just eat healthily than gobble down yet more pills and lighten my wallet. As a good friend of mine so aptly recounted the words of his old nutrition professor, "the greatest concentrations of vitamins in North America is the urine of North America". I won't go as far to say that these hummer supplements are just a gimmick to take money out of people's pockets, but I cannot help wondering at times whether we have just gone too far with feeding the birds. Sort of like what we have done with our pets.

--- David M. Bird, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology, McGill University <u>www.askprofessorbird.com</u>

ABOUT DR. DAVID

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













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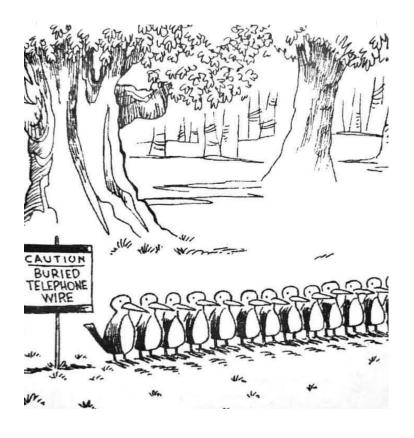
Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Sundays and <u>ALL</u> Statutory holidays for Faith, Family & Friends Showroom is open with some restrictions. We still offer curbside pick up and delivery service on Thursdays



Good Friday, April 2, 2021 (Closed) Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Closed)

Go to YouTube, type in the search bar "The Wild Bird Store" to watch our videos and to help us become more visible. 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









And the warranty depot for: Leupold Binoculars & Spotting Scopes

HAPPY BIRDING