

BOBOLINK



What is this species' conservation status? The Bobolink is assessed as threatened in Canada by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and listed under the Species at Risk Act. Bobolink populations are declining because of the loss of prairies and other grasslands habitats.

Bobolinks are adversely affected by mowing as they nest on the ground, forming their homes from twigs and grass. They arrive in Canada to breed in mid-May, with young hatching in mid-June. Hatching occurs at the same time when many farmers harvest their first cut of hay, resulting in nest failures.

Bobolinks are known for their bubbling songs and their striking black and white plumage. Once common in hayfields throughout the Northwest, Bobolinks have been in decline since the 1900s. Their decline is hastened by the intensification of farming practices: many fields are now being mowed earlier and more frequently than they were in the past.

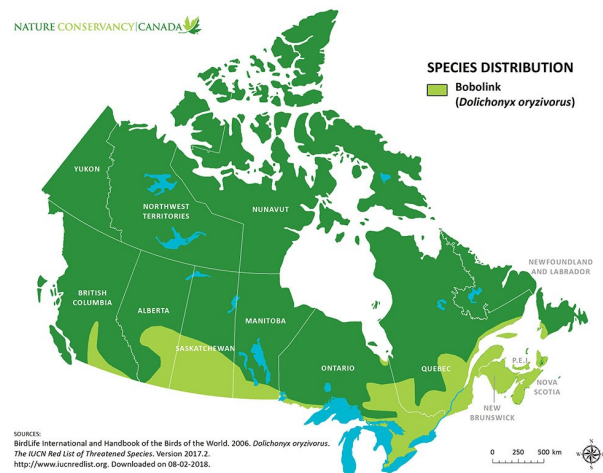
Conserving Bobolink habitat will also aid in maintaining populations of other declining grassland birds such as Eastern meadowlarks, Savannah sparrows, Upland sandpipers, and Grasshopper sparrows. The conservation of grassland birds is intricately tied to a healthy agricultural industry.

[Bobolink - YouTube](#) Listen to their song—often compared to the sound of R2D2

Cool Facts

During migration and winter, Bobolinks become almost entirely granivorous (seed-eating), feeding on wild and domesticated rice, sorghum, oats, and other grains.

The male Bobolink, with his flashy black-and-white breeding plumage, seems to be wearing a “backwards tuxedo.” No other North American songbird is black underneath and white on the back.



PATIENCE is key

If you have an absence of birds in your yard or at your feeder, the following reasons may be why:

ROAMING CAT especially in your backyard is a situation that has to be addressed. If you know where the cat lives, you might approach the neighbour and discuss your concerns. Calgary has a by-law that states that a cat is allowed to be free outside, but only in your own yard. The problem is the cat doesn't know the law. They roam naturally and eat whatever they find: a mouse, a bird etc. Give birds a place to retreat to when the threat of a roaming cat is present like a bush or tree or a brushpile. Do not put feeders on or near fence or hang them from a tree. Trim the bottom of hedges so that cats cannot hide and ambush the birds.



CONSTRUCTION you may have to delay setting up a feeding station in your yard until the construction is done. But consider, if the construction is in the backyard such as you are building a new deck, you might want to set the feeding station up in the front yard. Nothing wrong with having feeding stations in both yards.



BIRD OF PREY There is only one solution here—stop feeding birds and hopefully the bird of prey will move to a more productive location. This may take up to three weeks. This rule also applies to birds at your feeding station that you don't want. In the fall pesky birds like Starlings, Grackles and Cow birds gather en masse in preparation for their migration south for the winter. As they gather, they descend on backyard bird feeders creating sheer havoc.



SQUIRRELS at your feeder prevent the birds from feeling safe while trying to eat. If you like to feed squirrels, set up a squirrel feeder several feet from your bird feeders and feed them peanuts in the shell which songbirds are not able to crack open.

Relevant at this time

WILD FIRE SMOKE As this is a concern for humans right now, imagine how tiny songbirds can suffer when breathing in the smoke. They cannot hide in their house with all the windows closed, so are exposed to the smoke 24/7. Their eyes become irritated, their nostrils and eventually their throats and lungs fill up with smoke particles and they eventually do not want to eat. In this instance there is not much that we can do to help them through this difficult time.



You missed out on the zoom seminars with Dr. David Bird especially the one on roaming cats and then backyard bird feeding where Dr. Bird addressed some of the problems that may arise in backyards when feeding birds. So informative with lots of relative information and statistics. But not to worry—watch for another

zoom presentation by Dr. David Bird in the near future.



Celebrating our 24th year ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, October 2, 2021

10:00am to 5:00pm



Make a purchase/crack an egg
Every egg is a winner!



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 Bird



Can you spot the Northern potoo?

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.



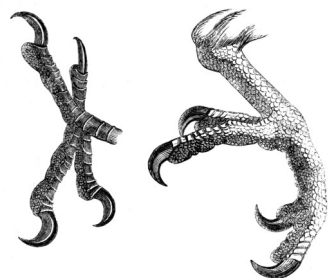
The Northern potoo is related to Nightjars and Frogmouths. They are sometimes called poor-me-ones after their haunting calls. They are found in tropical Central and South America.

These are nocturnal insectivores which lack the bristles around the mouth found in the true Nightjars. They hunt from a perch like a Shrike or Fly-catcher. During the day they perch upright on tree stumps, camouflaged to look like part of the stump. The single spotted egg is laid directly on the top of a stump

7 Types of Bird Feet

ANISODACTYL FOOT

This is the most common foot in the bird world. It is found in birds such as robins, jays, and chickadees. The first digit (also called the hallux) faces backward while the other three digits point forwards. This type of foot can be found on most birds that regularly perch.



ZYGODACTYL FOOT

This unique foot can be found on Woodpeckers, Owls and most parrots. It is the second most common toe arrangement. In this foot, the first (hallux) and fourth digit face backward while the second and third digits face forwards.

In Woodpeckers, this type of foot is excellent for clinging to the trunks of trees. The two toes in the back give the bird more support. For Parrots, this type of foot is excellent for holding food. Parrots often feed by holding their food in one foot and bringing the food up to their beak, just like we use our hands to eat. Although Owls have this toe arrangement, they have the special ability to rotate their fourth digit to the front. This helps the Owl perch, hold its food, and grab its prey.

SYNDACTYL FOOT

This foot has two toes that are fused together: digits 2 and 3. Kingfishers have this type of foot.



PAMPRODACTYL FOOT

In this foot, all four toes can be moved to the front. The first and fourth digits can be rotated from the front to the back. Swifts have this type of foot which helps them cling to vertical surfaces such as the inside of chimneys.

TRIDACTYL FOOT

Some birds are missing their first digit, also called the hallux. This is the case for the Northern three-toed woodpecker.



DIDACTYL FOOT

The Ostrich is the only bird to have this type of foot. "Didactyl" simply means "two-toed." It does not have anything to do with the arrangement of the toes.



Bird Seed Truck



Crowfoot YMCA/Arena

(corner of John Laurie Blvd. & Nosehill Drive NW)

Every Wednesday 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



Earn and redeem customer loyalty points on

The Bird Seed Truck

The Showroom is OPEN

To the general public with recommendations to continue to social distance when possible. If you feel unsafe in shopping in store, we would recommend that you take advantage of our other options for all your wild bird feeding needs such as:

We also offer these alternatives

CURB SIDE PICK UP: call, place and pay for your order at least 15 minutes prior to your arrival at The Wild Bird Store. 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.

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 these organizations.

For July, August and September 2021 your donations will go to:

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)
Madden, Alberta

[Wishlist - Alberta Institute For Wildlife Conservation](#)



Who are firehawk raptors and how can they make wildfires worse?

The Economic Times News April 12, 2020

Firehawk raptors

When Australia was burning earlier this year, authorities realised that not only do they have to deal with the ravaging wildfires but also some winged arsonists who were fanning the flames. Researchers confirmed what indigenous people have known for a long time — “firehawk raptors”, can make bushfires worse. Researchers say hundreds of these raptors come together along burning fire fronts, pick up smouldering sticks and drop them up to a km away to spread the flames. Why? To flush out prey via flames or smoke. Then the birds go on a feeding frenzy on the scorched land. These raptors include the Whistling kite, Brown falcon, and Black kite.



SPEAKER SERIES

The Wild Bird Store has once again gathered together a group of birding/nature professionals who will treat you to a series of presentations that will be both inspiring and educating to the Calgary Birding community. Please go to [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) where you can register for individual or all of the presentations.

Due to Covid19 restrictions still in place, these presentations will be through "Zoom" but we suggest you sign up early as there are a limited number of spots available for each presentation.

PLEASE NOTE: Ticket sales for the speaker series are going fast. There are a limited number of participants for each speaker. To avoid disappointment please register as soon as possible.



www.myrnapearman.com

Myrna Pearman recently retired as the Biologist and Site Services Manager at Ellis Bird Farm Ltd. (1987 to 2020) where she spearheaded many conservation, education and research initiatives. A keen photographer and writer, she has authored/ co-authored numerous books, writes nature photo essays for several magazines, and is actively involved with the Red Deer River Naturalists. She was recently named a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Beauty Everywhere:

Finding Nature in Our Own Backyards.

Thursday, September 9, 2021 6:00pm

\$15.00 + fees and GST

With travel restrictions being imposed over the past year, nature seekers and photographers have been spending more time in their own backyards and gardens, and have been exploring and appreciating local parks and natural areas. Myrna will talk about nature and the remarkable biodiversity that can be found in both the urban and rural areas of Alberta.

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JAY INGRAM Canadian science author, broadcaster and public speaker

The Future of Urban Wildlife

Thursday, September 16, 2021 6:00pm

\$15.00 + fees and GST

Two out of every three people will be city dwellers by the middle of this century. That's about 6.5 billion people worldwide. Over the same period of time existing urban wildlife will continue to share this space, and new contenders will undoubtedly arrive. Of those, some will be accidentally brought by humans, some will be introduced deliberately and some might even make their way on their own.

The question is, how will the humans handle it. There's good evidence that a city with plenty of parkland and diverse environments can support biodiversity - but will the cities of the future take that into account? And what about the wildlife, plants and even microbes that become urbanites - will they start to evolve into specialized urban versions of their wild cousins?

Urban wildlife, from the madness of introducing all the birds of Shakespeare to North America to that provider of

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Gavin McKinnon With a passion for birding, Gavin brings a young and enthusiastic perspective to Alberta’s birding community.

BIRDING ALBERTA

Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:00pm

\$15.00 + fees and GST

“Alberta has a diverse array of habitat, from the Rocky Mountains in the west to the Shortgrass Prairie in the east. Due to this wide range of habitats, hundreds of bird species can be found within the province. In this presentation Gavin McKinnon will provide an overview of his favorite birding hotspots as well as some tips on how to find a few of the most elusive species. Gavin will also share some of his favorite birding experiences from these regions.”

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TOM HINCE—is a former birding segment host on the Daily Planet with the Discovery Channel in Canada, and communications specialist with Parks Canada (at four different national parks). For the last two decades, he has organized and guided birding tours and safaris around the world (with his company BirdwithTom.com). Tom has guided ten trips to the Yukon and the Dempster

North to the Dempster Highway

Thursday, September 30, 2021 6:00pm

\$15.00 + fees and GST

The Dempster highway is the greatest wilderness drive on the continent. Where else can you drive for hours and not see or hear ANY signs of humans except the road you travel on? No buildings. No people except the odd passing car every hour or two. No noisy chainsaws or jet skis. Just breathtaking scenery, solitude, and the luring possibility of epic encounters with mammals and birds. Just getting to the start of the “highway” is a challenge. Our journey will take us on the Alaska highway in northern BC through the southern Yukon and onward to the Dempster. It will end (as the newly opened extension does) at Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean. And yes, there will be a few surprises like flat tires

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BRIAN KEATING —Calgary Zoo’s Honorary Conservation Advisor to their outreach projects

Former Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the U of C

Owner of www.goingwild.org & co-produce of www.greatBIGnature.com

INSPIRED BY NATURE

Thursday, October 7, 2021 6:00pm

\$20.00 + fees and GST

Feeling overwhelmed? Feeling uptight? Feeling like the world is coming apart?

Get out. That’s right. Get out and go for a walk in nature. It’s time for a good hit of vitamin “N”.

This past year and a half has been difficult for all of us but one constant that we could all depend on was the restorative powers of nature. Birds continue to migrate, sing and reproduce. Mammals continued to walk our forests, valleys and grasslands.

Brian will take you to some local and international wild landscapes, and introduce you to some of the creatures who inhabit them. You’ll venture into places that he’s explored and learned from during the past two years.

He’ll first spend some detailed time our Western Canadian landscapes, taking a surprisingly intimate look at some of the wildlife in our backyard, before venturing overseas to explore some biologically rich places in Asia, Africa and South America.

This is a celebration of the wild places that still exist on our beautiful planet, and is designed to inspire and enthuse, offering hope for a better tomorrow.

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CHRIS FISHER (MSc, PBIol) is perhaps best known as the author of a series of books including “Birds of Alberta” - one of the most successful made-in-Alberta books in publishing history. He is regarded as one of our leading influencer for all things nature and is a frequent voice in Alberta media on wildlife and conservation stories. He has written and hosted documentary and TV series and travelled to all seven continents guiding adventure seekers to explore wildlife and natural environments,

Birds: Our Poets of Nature

Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:00pm

\$15.00 + fees and GST

Go looking for our Alberta birds and quite often you end up finding yourself.

Join “Birds of Alberta” author Chris Fisher as he celebrates our province’s most loved birds. Their diverse beauty and ecological persistence has provided Albertans a vital, extra sense of wonder and meaning during these recent challenging times. Birds are our most accessible and authentic ties to the Natural world - and Alberta’s birds have never before been as meaningful and valued part of our lives.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)

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Kirsten Pearson, BSc., P. Biol., RPBio

Josh Sullivan Wildlife Biologist/Field Coordinator

Fundamentals of Migration:

The Five Ws.

Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:00pm

Tickets \$15.00 + fees and GST

Let's dive into the who, what, when, where, and whys of avian migration! We'll cover form, function, migration routes, adaptations to long haul flights, some of our most interesting migrants, and more!

Tickets must be purchased in advance through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)



Question: Did that recent outbreak of cicadas in the U.S. affect the birds in any way?

Answer: : From May through early July, most of the eastern and central United States were besieged by a group of insects collectively called periodical cicadas. There are two kinds of periodical cicadas, one that emerges every thirteen years and another that emerges every seventeen years. The one that showed up this year belongs to the latter kind. It is called Brood X (like the Roman numeral for ten) because this is the tenth recorded occasion that they have crawled out of the ground to emerge all at one time to sing, reproduce and die. They coat the limbs and leaves of trees everywhere while making a heckuva lot of racket with their so-called singing. By early July, the vast majority of the cicadas numbering in the hundreds of billions will be dead. So, this begs the question – how does this periodical emergence affect the birds? Well, they certainly are not microscopic....in fact, they are about as long and thick as your baby finger. They are easy prey for predators – they stick out, they are slow-moving, and they literally have no defense mechanisms whatsoever. They also emerge at the same time that birds are beginning to nest. So....a huge buffet for birds at the right time, you'd think! But interestingly though, only a handful of birds have been historically recorded as including cicadas in their diet. That doesn't mean that birds don't eat them; they just haven't been recorded. This is now changing. Thanks to the growing interest in Citizen Science where volunteer observers pass on their observations to scientists collecting data, more than 300 observations of almost 50 bird species from six states have been submitted to a scientific survey. This is more than twice the number of cicada-eating species that have been previously documented in the scientific literature. Some of the newly logged species include Lincoln's Sparrow, Mallard, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Carolina Chickadee, and Northern Waterthrush.

If you wish to learn more about this...visit the web site called www.friendstocicadas.org.

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

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 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 about him, visit www.askprofessorbird.com or email david.bird@mcgill.ca.



CANADA JAY
MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA

FRIENDLY, SMART,
LOYAL AND TOUGH.
TRULY THE MOST CANADIAN BIRD!
AMICAL, INTELLIGENT,
FIDÈLE ET ROBUSTE.
UN OISEAU VRAIMENT CANADIEN!

WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG



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Phone: (403)640-2632
Web: wildbirdstore.ca
email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

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

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

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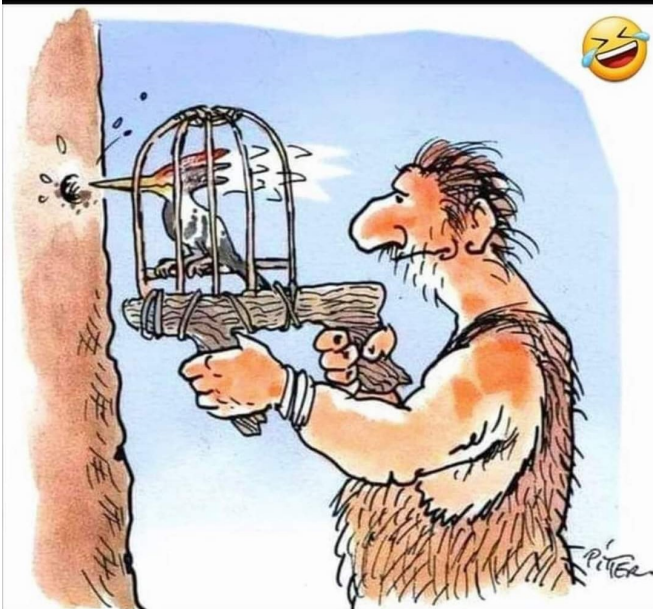


CLOSED

Monday August 2, 2021

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 worlds first tool...



made by Black & Pecker

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
WILD BIRD FEEDERS



And the warranty depot for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

HAPPY BIRDING!