



## AMERICAN ROBIN

### American robin vs European robin

American robins are members of the thrush family  
These birds typically join large flocks of other robins  
during the fall and winter

Look for American robins across the U.S., Canada  
And parts of Mexico, but they are less  
Widespread in winter

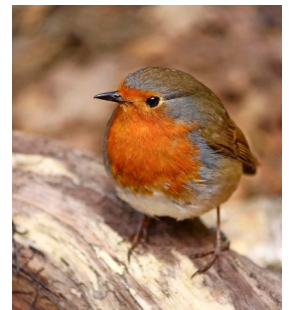
Both males and females sport bright orange chests  
And dark heads and backs, though the female  
Robin's colouring is often more dull

European robins are a member of the Old World flycatchers

More solitary in all seasons than the American robin

Look for European robins throughout Europe and western Asia,  
and locally in northern Africa

Males and females look similar with orange faces and chests -  
sometimes outlined with a grayish border—and olive-brown  
heads and backs



## FACTS

- During the breeding season, male American robins grow black feathers on their heads to attract females. Once the mating season is over these feathers are lost
- There is a Crayola crayon name Robin's egg blue
- These birds have been observed wading belly deep in water to catch small fish
- A group of robins are collectively known as a "worm" of robins

**Wild Bird Store Tip:** Provide a spot in your backyard or garden and keep it soaked with water so that the American robin can come and search for worms.

To encourage American robins to nest in your backyard (where you would like them to nest) put up a robin shelf (available at The Wild Bird Store).

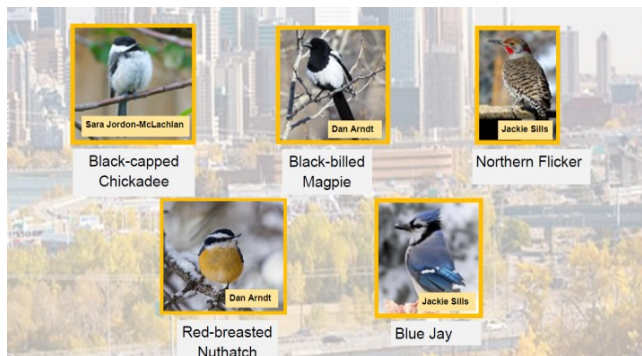


# Calgary's official bird is.....

After collecting more than 36,000 votes, the City of Calgary has announced that the Black-capped chickadee was chosen by the residents of Calgary. The small bird came in first out of five birds, capturing a healthy 44% of the vote. The bird vote actually got more feedback than the Olympics for 2024.



Only about 20% of the Black-capped chickadee's daily energy intake comes from feeders, and about half of the overall winter diet is made up of such animal matter as spiders, dormant insects and even carrion.



<https://www.meadowlarkbirding.com/>

Contact Meadowlark Birding Tours (403)519-8703

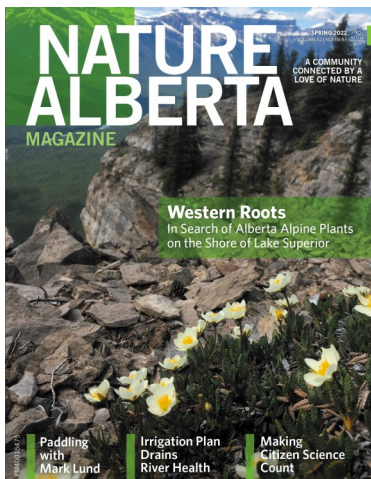
gmckinnon-bird@gmail.com

## Set-Date Tours

Set-date tours are scheduled many months if not years in advance to maximize enjoyment and birding opportunities. The group size for these tours can range between four and ten participants depending on logistics, focus of the tour and location. These tours can be viewed and booked anytime through our website.

## Calgary Day Trips

Calgary day trips are tailored to fit your exact needs and circumstances as well as your personal goals. Do you want to spend a day of targeting specific birds you need for your life list? Maximize the number of species? Or even just a casual stroll through a local park? All of these can be arranged to fit your preferences and schedule.



The Wild Bird Store is pleased to announce that we will be carrying the print edition of NATURE ALBERTA. This is the only place in Calgary to get a copy without a subscription. Look for it in-store May 1st.

In the Spring issue of NATURE ALBERTA magazine, Alberta's waterways will be explored with paddling expert Mark Lund. Also, Biologist Lorne Fitch examines the strain irrigation expansion plans will put on southern Alberta's river systems. And the spectacular wildlife photography of Rick Price practically flies off the page!

As always, the Nature Kids section is filled with info and activities to inspire the next generation of naturalists!

Retail Price per copy: \$9.99 +GST

# SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

With Jim St. Laurent

Jim's years of guiding bird walks has been instrumental in teaching "birders" how to get the most out of their birding excursions. Children 12 and older are most welcome as long as accompanied by an adult and have purchased a ticket through Eventbrite.ca

All participants on any bird walk must have purchased a ticket through Eventbrite.ca and present the ticket to Jim prior to the bird walk.

The weather plays a big part in bird walks and Jim reminds participants to dress anticipating weather changes and to carry water to keep hydrated.

## Saturday July 9, 2022 Burnsmead in Fish Creek Park

(9:00am meet in parking lot at Burnsmead ).

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

Ticket must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca—2022 WBS bird walks

## Saturday July 23, 2022 Ralph Klein Park

(Meet at park off 84 Street S.E. about 2km south of Shepard. Access off 114 Avenue at Stoney Trail)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

Ticket must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca—2022 WBS bird walks



## CAPTURE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

May 2 – July 27

**This Year's Themes:**  
*Peekaboo!*  
*Seasonal Highlights*  
*Repetition*  
*Shadow and Light*

**Winners Announced September 1!**

Join the Friends of Fish Creek for our annual photo contest! Submit your photos at any point between May 2 and July 27, but the earlier the better, to gain the most votes in our online photo gallery and increase your chance of winning an exciting prize package!

All photos must be taken in Fish Creek Provincial Park.  
 \$25 registration fee for adults, free for youth 17 and under!

**Amazing prizes provided by:**  
 The Bow Valley Ranche Restaurant, The Apothecary in Inglewood, RMB Photography, Vistek, Elements Outfitters and SportChek!

**SPONSORS:**  
 ELEMENTS OUTFITTERS, Vistek, RMB PHOTOGRAPHY, THE APOTHECARY IN INGLEWOOD, Bow Valley Ranche Restaurant

To register or for more information visit [friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature)

Photos Courtesy of Emma Norris and Abby Keeler. Graphic by Mohamed Hassan on pixabay.

**CALGARY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### Did you know that Calgary Horticultural Society members receive a 10% discount at this store?

We extend our thanks to the Wild Bird Store for being a 20-year supporter of the Calgary Horticultural Society. We are excited that they are adding to their support by joining us—as a NEW Corporate Member!

Visit [calhort.org](http://calhort.org), be inspired or resolve gardening challenges—a valuable resource hub for Calgary area gardeners. We put fun into gardening ... and there are member benefits:

- Year-round learning for all gardening interests and experience levels. Visit our What's Happening Calendar to keep informed
- Meet other gardeners and learn ways to grow in our unique climate. Bring a Friend—share your member experience
- FREE Member Talks (8 per year)
- FREE Member events all year long: Open Gardens tours, plant shares, member nights, and more...
- Member pricing and discounts on workshops, courses, and events
- Shopping discounts at local businesses
- Volunteer opportunities that bring communities together

We invite you to ...

**Join Us!**  
 Become a Calgary Horticultural Society member.

[@calhort](https://twitter.com/calhort) [facebook.com/calhort](https://www.facebook.com/calhort) [calhort.org](http://calhort.org)





**QUESTION: I am getting conflicting advice on whether to take down my feeders due to avian flu. The SPCA is recommending that we take them down, whereas Birds Canada and Cornell Laboratory are both telling us that it is okay to leave them up. Whom should I listen to?**

**ANSWER:** Probably one of the most vexing challenges faced by those of us is whether to take one's feeders down when faced with the possible presence of a bird-killing disease. The latest one has to do with avian flu, one of the more dangerous diseases threatening our birds. This nasty pathogen has now shown up in North America and confirmed cases of wild birds being infected by it are certainly out there. But does that mean that we must take down our feeders as recommended by some organizations concerned with animal welfare?

First of all, avian flu usually affects poultry flocks. Because these domestic flocks do occasionally come into contact with waterfowl like ducks and geese, which in turn are preyed upon by raptorial birds like Bald eagles and Peregrine falcons, avian flu can certainly enter wild bird populations. But the odds of the disease affecting the songbirds visiting our feeders is exceedingly unlikely. And that is exactly why the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the American Bird Conservancy and Birds Canada are NOT recommending that we take down our feeders. This is completely contrary to what your local SPCA is telling us to do. But I would rather listen to advice given by organizations who actually have bird experts on their staff rather than organizations which deal mainly with dogs and cats. Moreover, I would also ask why the SPCA is not also recommending to the public to keep our cats indoors to help stop 2 billion birds from being killed every year in the US alone and that we take steps to minimize bird collisions with windows. Why is avian flu so much more important than that?

<p><b>DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D</b> Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University</p> <p>david.bird@mcgill.ca <a href="http://www.askprofessorbird.com">www.askprofessorbird.com</a></p>			<p><b>CANADA JAY</b> <b>MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA</b></p> <p>FRIENDLY, SMART, LOYAL AND TOUGH. TRULY THE MOST CANADIAN BIRD!</p> <p>AMICAL, INTELLIGENT, FIDÈLE ET ROBUSTE. UN OISEAU VRAIMENT CANADIEN!</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG">WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG</a></p>
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## 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](http://www.askprofessorbird.com) or email [david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca).*

# 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 June, July and August 2022 your donations will go to:

**Ellis Bird Farm**

[www.ellisbirdfarm.ca](http://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca)



**Ellis**  
Bird Farm

## The History of ELLIS BIRD FARM (Opens for the season May 23, 2022)

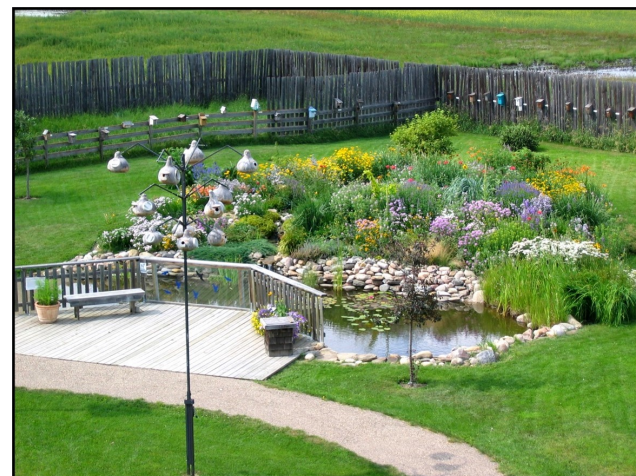
The Ellis family of Pakenham, Ontario, came west in 1886 to settle on a ranch near Calgary. Their son John, then a teenager, was married in 1894 to Agnes Clark who had come west from Ontario in 1888 to teach school. They lived near Calgary until 1906 when they moved with their family of four children to a quarter section homestead in the Joffre district. In 1907 they built a two-storey frame house and subsequently enlarged the farm by the purchase of an additional five quarters.

After John and Agnes passed away in the early 1950s, two of their children, Charlie and Winnie, took over the farm operations. At about the same time, Charlie began a project that was to dominate the rest of his life; he set out his first nesting box for the Mountain bluebirds.

In the years that followed, Charlie and Winnie rimmed the fields with some 300 nest boxes for Mountain bluebirds and Tree swallows, built and erected houses for Black-capped chickadees, Purple martins and Northern flickers, and established a huge program for feeding winter birds.

The Ellis Farm quickly gained recognition as a sanctuary for all wildlife and Charlie became widely known as Mr. Bluebird, a title bestowed by the well known naturalist, Kerry Wood.

In the early 1980s, Charlie's greatest concern was the fate of "his" Bluebirds should he no longer be able to tend his nest box trail. Coincidentally, Union Carbide was looking for a site to build an ethylene Glycol plant. During negotiations to acquire Charlie's land, Carbide was willing to be legally bound to make provision for the care of Charlie's birds in the future. Following a suggestion by the Red Deer River Naturalists, Carbide agreed to continue the Ellis legacy through a non-profit charitable company, Ellis Bird Farm Ltd. Union Carbide later merged with Dow Chemical and Dow continued to support EBF. In 2004, MEGlobal Canada was formed as a joint venture between Dow Chemical and Petrochemical Industries Company of Kuwait, MEGlobal provides annual funding to EBF for operations.



# Bird Seed Truck



## CROWFOOT YMCA/ARENA

(corner of John Laurie & Nosehill Drive NW)

**Every Wednesday 2:00pm to 5:30pm**

To ensure you get 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 OR email us at [orders@wildbirdstore.ca](mailto:orders@wildbirdstore.ca)**

**Earn and redeem customer loyalty points on**

**Mobile Seed Truck**

## The Showroom is OPEN

To the general public with recommendations to continue social distancing when possible.

If you feel unsafe in shopping in our 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:** phone, place and pay for your order at least 30 minutes prior to your arrival at The Wild Bird Store. Please pull into 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 (Sorry! No cash)

**DELIVERY:** Deliveries will still be made on Thursdays ONLY. Please phone the store at (403) 640-2632 any day prior to 12:00noon 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.





# OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE

In Store or on the Seed Truck, social distancing is encouraged.



**Shop in Store**



**Curbside Pick up**

Phone your order in and pay for it at least 30 minutes prior to arriving at The Wild Bird Store for pick up. Park in the curbside parking stall outside the phone us at (403)640-2632 when you arrive, pop your trunk or hatch and leave the rest to us.



**Home Delivery**

Deliveries will still be made on Thursdays ONLY. Please phone the store at (403)640-2632 any day prior to 12:00noon 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.



**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](mailto:info@wildbirdstore.ca)



(Please 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 (sorry, excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items) and can be used in-store and on Mobile Seed Truck. As a loyalty member, our monthly promotional and in-store “specials” are automatically given at the cash register.



**Combining our Seniors** 10% discount with the loyalty program (sorry—excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items.)



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



**Discount for Military Members & Veterans** 10% discount on purchases in-store or on Mobile Seed Truck (sorry—excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items)







We've all heard the words "in the right place at the right time" and this saying applies to birding in a huge way. On our birding road trip of Tuesday May 17th this point was made clear in a very obvious way.

We had been searching for the Northern shrike in all the places we had seen the family of 5 last year with hopes they had returned in 2022 to raise another family. Back and forth we drove along a stretch of road to no avail, so we decided to take a side trip and check out an active Bald eagle nest. After seeing the nesting Bald eagles a discussion followed as to whether or not we should continue along the dirt road heading south or drive back and head further east in the hopes of seeing our Badger. The decision was made and as it turned out we were in the right place at the right time. As we approached the intersection where we would turn East, right beside the road in a small tree sat a Northern shrike. Somehow three people had made the right decision!

As it turns out, when we stopped to think about "the right place at the right time" other rewards came up—like the time we took a "No Exit" dirt road (we love No Exit dirt roads rarely travelled so relatively quiet, we have come across some amazing sightings) came to the end, turned around to drive back and right in front of the car a Badger ran across the road and into his burrow in the roadside ditch only to turn around and come back out and defiantly stand his ground so we were able to get some photos of him which we shared in our May 2022 newsletter.

The point is—when you go out birding try to be flexible and remember always—birds fly and therefore tend to move around. We all have a list of birds we would love to see, but being in the right place at the right time always plays a huge part. Whenever and wherever you go birding, you are sure to see birds—maybe birds you have already seen before but sometimes we get lucky and are in "the right place at the right time". One thing is for sure—whatever birds you see it will add joy to the experience.

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What's In A  
Name?  
∞



## Northern shrike

The scientific name of the Northern shrike is *lanius excubitor* translated to "butcher watchman." The Northern shrike is also known as "the butcher bird" because of its unusual practice of impaling its prey on thorns or barbed wire, much in the way butchers hang their meat in their shops.

Does your Droll Yankee or Aspects feeder need  
some replacement parts?

Did you know that we can repair/replace parts and  
make it look like brand new?



The Wild Bird Store

Is the warranty & repair depot for: As-  
pects and Droll Yankee Feeders

**DROLL YANKEES**<sup>®</sup>  
The World's Best Bird Feeders<sup>®</sup>



*Staying  
Connected* -----



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Calgary, AB T2H 1K3

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

We still offer curbside pick up every day and delivery service on Thursdays.

FOLLOW US ON:

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Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyyc

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.

**PLEASE NOTE: As of  
December 1, 2021 a \$6.00  
delivery fee will be applied to  
all delivery orders within the  
City of Calgary.**



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!**