

Backyard Birding Specialists



ALBERTA

Calgary's Favourite Songbird **Black-capped Chickadee**

May 14, 2022—after more than 36,000 votes cast, Calgaryans chose the *Black-capped chickadee* to be the City of Calgary's official bird.

In order to effectively attract Black-capped chickadees, you must meet their basic needs for food, water, shelter and nesting sites. While these birds do have some specialized needs, they don't tend to be too fussy about how those needs are met, and it's easy to make your yard chickadee-friendly.

FOOD: These small birds have big appetites. Insects are a key Chickadee menu item, and they also sample berries and snack on seeds and nuts. To offer these foods in your yard, minimize insecticide use so Chickadees can enjoy the bug buffet. Plant native berry bushes for a sweet treat and add some sunflowers with big heads for these little birds to cling to as they pluck out the seeds. You can offer whole peanuts or peanut hearts. Chickadees favourite food is black oil sunflower seeds in the shell but they will happily accept shelled sunflower hearts. In addition they will snack on suet and they will even snack on suet or peanut butter smeared directly on tree trunks for fast and easy access.

WATER: Clean, fresh water is essential for any bird but Chickadees will visit water sources to drink and bathe. Since they are tiny birds, baths should be shallow (or add a flat rock as a platform for them to sit on) to permit safe access. These birds also stay in their range year-round, which means a heated birdbath is a good idea to provide a winter water source.

SHELTER: Shelter helps keep these birds safe from predators and poor weather, and Chickadees prefer to hide in dense, mature evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. A brush pile can be a good alternative.

NESTING SITES: Black-capped chickadees are cavity-nesting birds. Leaving old, hollow trees available for their nesting needs is a great way to attract Chickadee families, and they will also reuse old Woodpecker holes as their new residences. Small sized birdhouses can also tempt Chickadees to move in, so long as the entrance hole is roughly 1 1/8 inch in diameter. Adding some pine wood shavings inside the house can make it more attractive to these birds, and Chickadees also love to use pet fur as nesting material. Just be sure the fur hasn't been flea-treated, as dense concentrations of those chemicals are highly toxic for nesting birds.

FACTS:

- To keep warm the Chickadee erects its soft, thick feathers to trap warm air close to its body. This serves as good insulation against the cold
- When breeding season begins, the tiny brains of Chickadees and other songbirds enlarge to enable the birds to create more sounds
- The song of the Black-capped chickadee is one of the most complex vocalizations of all animals, acting as a contact call, an alarm call, to identify an individual, or to indicate recognition of a particular flock
- They cache food in hundreds of different sites, recalling those locations and retrieving food up to 28 days later
- A group of Chickadees are collectively known as a "banditry" and a "dissimulation" of Chickadees



NEW service now being offered!

The Wild Bird Store in partnership with Andrew Barnes, now providing at home wild bird consulting service.

Specializing in helping you and your property become Wild Bird friendly for maximum results.

Services offered will include:

Bird feeder(s) recommendations for species focus and seed types

- Type(s) of seed and for which species it will be best suited
- Preferred location for maximum results
- Bird feeder accessories
- Hummingbird feeders and accessories

Nesting

- Nest box selection for native species—including all cavity nesting and platform species for Alberta
- Preferred location for nest boxes
- Maintenance tips
- Advice on how to deter invasive species (House sparrows and European starlings)

Watering needs

- Bird baths
- Heaters and heated baths
- Accessories including drippers and bubblers
- Location dos and donts
- Maintenance tips

Bat Houses/Chambers

- Location requirements
- Housing styles—including single vs multiple chambers

After each visit all discussion points and recommendations will be provided along with a 10% OFF coupon to be used at the Wild Bird Store on your next purchase.

PLEASE NOTE: 10% coupon is only valid for a one-time purchase and must be presented at time of purchase. In-store ONLY (excludes online)

For further information, pricing and scheduling, please contact

Andrew Barnes cell # (403) 923-8121 (call or text)

Email: andrewbarnes403@gmail.com



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 October 1, 2022 CARBURN PARK

(9:00am meet at Carburn Park parking lot)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday October 15, 2022 WEED LAKE AND AREA (day trip driving)

(9:00am meet at rear of Wild Bird Store) **PLEASE BRING A LUNCH**

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday October 29, 2022 GRIFFITH WOODS

(9:00am meet at Discovery Ridge S.W.)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday November 12, 2022 BEBO GROVE (Fish Creek Park)

(9:00am meet in parking lot Bebo Grove)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday November 26, 2022 INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY

(9:00am meet in parking lot at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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



QUESTION: Will Chickadees use roosting boxes if I put them up?

RESPONSE: Apparently, some nature stores are selling a product billed as a Chickadee winter shelter. I do not believe that this is suitable for this species because they are not known to roost communally in cavities to conserve body heat in really cold temperatures. I checked out my sources of information on Chickadees, in particular Susan Smith’s seminal book on the species. There has been one published report of a single observation of a group of Black-capped chickadees, but apparently it was second-hand information and not to be truly trusted. As Smith points out, it is indeed odd that Black-caps do not utilize this behavior to keep warm on very cold winter nights if only because two other closely related species, Long-tailed tits and Common bushtits, commonly engage in this behavior. I won’t say that Black-capped chickadees never do it, but I am pretty sure that it is not very frequent.

So, what about Nuthatches, you ask? Well, of the four main Nuthatch species we have in North America, only one—Pygmy nuthatch, regularly adopts this tactic to beat the cold. Sometimes as many as 100 members of a flock can crowd into a roosting hole and yes, sometimes the ones on the bottom can get suffocated to death.

My advice to store owners would be to not sell the Chickadee winter shelter for that particular species, but inform the manufacturer to provide their product only to stores found within the range of the Pygmy nuthatch and change their advertisement to match that species.

Pygmy nuthatch



<p>DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University</p> <p>david.bird@mcgill.ca www.askprofessorbird.com</p>			<p>CANADA JAY MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA</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>WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG</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 or email 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 Conversation and Ellis Bird Farm.

We ask for your support quarterly for each of these organizations.

This quarter for the months of September, October and November, your donations will go to:

Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation

<https://calgarywildlife.org>



Thank you for your support

ON CONSIGNMENT



DID YOU KNOW?

The Wild Bird Store offers the “Book Nook” as a gathering place for your next meeting. The room is for rent for \$50.00 +GST fee which includes the set-up of the chairs, video equipment, coffee, tea and water are available.

Please contact info@wildbirdstore.ca for more information
or to reserve your spot



OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE

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



Shop in Store



Store hours as of October 3, 2022
10:00am to 5:00pm Tuesday through Saturday



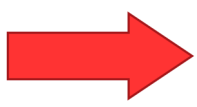
Curbside Pick up

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.



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

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.



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



(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)





Speaker Series

October/November 2022



Birding in Alberta's National Parks

Wednesday October 26, 2022 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Ticket price: \$15.00 +GST +Fees

Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca and are non-refundable

Daniel Arndt will discuss his recent trips to Banff, Jasper, Elk Island and Waterton as well as his past experiences with lots of colourful photos not only of the birds but of the wildlife he has captured in these National Parks.



Andrew Barnes "Purple Martin Papa" will present an update on his Purple martin colony in 2022

Wednesday November 9, 2022 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Ticket price: \$15.00 +GST +Fees

Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca and are non-refundable

Andrew will discuss the successful summer of 2022 at his established Purple martin colony Behind his home in New Brighton. Presentation will include photos of not only the Purple martins but of the many other species who frequent the lake behind Andrew's home.



Wildlife Photography in the Backcountry

Wednesday November 16, 2022 6:00pm—7:30pm

Ticket Price: \$15.00 +GST +Fees

Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca and are non-refundable

Join Kamala and Kyle as they reveal how time spent in nature partaking in extreme mountain recreation like scrambling, caving, rock and ice climbing has led to a love for wildlife photography, as they share some of their unique wildlife experiences on their backcountry adventures.

*Staying
Connected*



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Web: wildbirdstore.ca

email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

FOLLOW US ON:

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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.

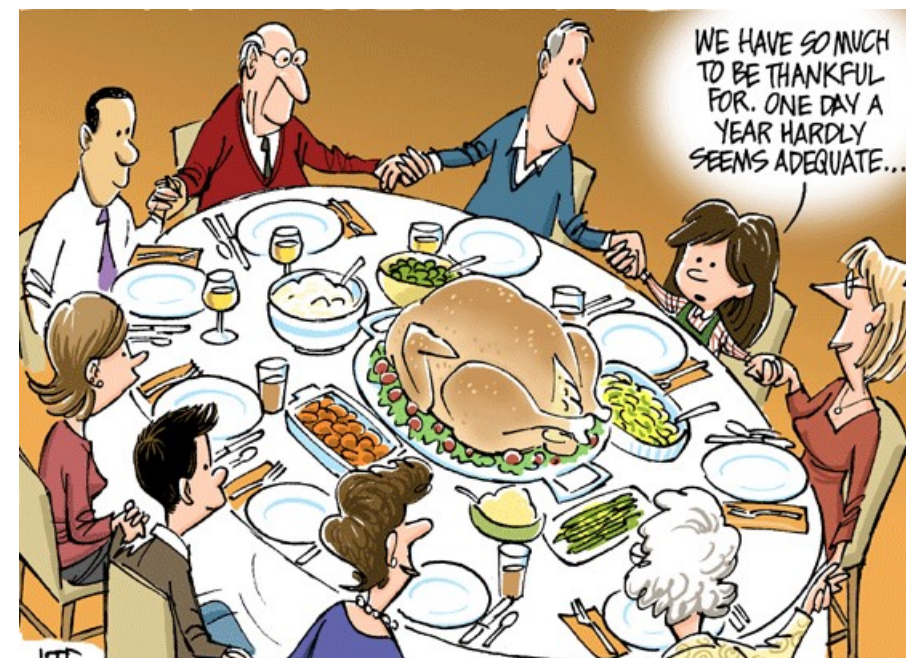
Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

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

And as of Monday October 3, 2022 we will be **closed** on Mondays until further notice

We still offer curbside pick up every day we are open and delivery service on
Thursdays

CLOSED Thanksgiving Monday October 10, 2022 



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



LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY

And the warranty depot for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

HAPPY BIRDING!