

## Bohemian waxwing

The Bohemian waxwing is a bird of far northern latitudes around the world. These birds are found in the north and northwest, spending summers in Alaska and western Canada. In winter, though, they move south and east, overlapping with the more common and widespread Cedar waxwing, with flocks reaching the Atlantic coast in eastern Canada and the New England states. Or they may move southward in the Rockies, getting as far as Colorado.

## FACTS

- ⇒ Bohemian waxwings, unlike many songbirds, do not hold breeding territories, and they also don't have a true song. They communicate with high-pitched calls as they roam around in large groups looking for fruit
- ⇒ Only three species of waxwings exist in the world, the Bohemian waxwing of North America and Eurasia, the Cedar waxwing of North America, and the Japanese waxwing of eastern Asia
- ⇒ Bohemian waxwings have an uncanny ability to find fruit nearly everywhere, almost like they have a GPS tracker for berries. Flocks sometimes turn up in desert areas
- ⇒ Waxwings have red, waxy tips on some of their wing feathers and yellow tips on the tail. The colour comes from carotenoid pigments found in the fruit waxwings eat. As the birds get older, the waxy tips get bigger
- ⇒ Bohemian waxwings are important seed dispersers: the seeds of the eaten fruit pass through the digestive system and since the waxwings move through a wide area, the seeds get widely dispersed within good fertilizer i.e the rest of the bird poop



Bohemian waxwing



Cedar waxwing



Japanese waxwing



**DID YOU KNOW?** Return your seed bags or bring your own container to refill and we will give you a recycle discount

A graphic with a red banner containing the text "EXCITING NEWS!" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The banner is set against a background of yellow and blue shapes with black outlines, resembling a stylized bird or a burst of energy. There are small black triangles pointing outwards from the corners of the banner.

## EXCITING NEWS!

## 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 (All Discount restrictions apply)

For further information, pricing and scheduling, please contact

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

Email: [birdsbeesyyc@gmail.com](mailto:birdsbeesyyc@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 February 11, 2023 Carburn Park**

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

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca—2023 WBS bird walks

### **Saturday February 25, 2023 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—2023 WBS bird walks

### **Saturday March 11, 2023 Glenmore Weaselhead**

(9:00am meet at Weaselhead 37th Street Parking lot)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca—2023 WBS bird walks

### **Saturday March 25, 2023 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—2023 WBS bird walks

Upcoming Tours in 2023!

Point Pelee Migration

Cold Lake Warblers



May 9-13, 2023  
\$550/person | Leamington, ON

June 1-4, 2023  
\$425/person | Cold Lake, AB

Point Pelee is one of the best known birding destinations in North America. In this short 5 day tour we can expect to see over 150 species, many in their stunning breeding plumage. Up to 30 species of warbler can be encountered on this tour and this total often includes Carolinian specialties such as Prothonotary, Hooded, and Cerulean Warbler. Overshoots from the south such as Kentucky, Worm-eating and Prairie Warbler are sometimes observed. However it's not just warblers; at Pelee as we can expect to see various other passerines such as vireos, thrushes and sparrows. Beyond songbirds, we will also see numerous shorebirds and waterfowl also on their migration journey. At Point Pelee the possibilities are truly endless!  
**ONLY TWO SPACES REMAINING!**

While Cold Lake is not yet widely known as a top birding destination, but this secret won't be kept for long! Located in northeastern Alberta along the Saskatchewan border, Cold Lake boasts an impressive 22 species of breeding warbler. Mouth-watering species such as Connecticut, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided can be found reliably. However, it is not just warblers that make Cold Lake special, tantalizing boreal species; Yellow Rail, Nelson's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Boreal Chickadee and others are not uncommon. On this tour we do not only focus on detecting these warblers, our goal is to get extended views that provide excellent photographic opportunities.

Gavin McKinnon



*"Birding with Gavin is so incredibly rewarding, fulfilling, and fun! His enthusiasm for birding is truly authentic, and his knowledge is incredible! Gavin's ability to identify birds on the wing, his impressive recognition of vocalizations, his quick on the draw photography skills to confirm species, and his understanding of habitat and likely areas to have a variety of birds, are a few examples of what he provides. In addition, he is most willing to answer questions and help each member of the tour to not only see the birds, but to learn more about them." - Donna F. 2021*

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird enthusiasts of all ages around the world in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy – and it helps the birds! The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon with Canadian partner Birds Canada.

Visit [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) to learn more and get started!



Canada Jay Photo: Missy Mandel

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA

Audubon



© Terry Marron

We think of Bohemian waxwings, colourful winter visitors, as primarily consumers of sugary fruits, but their diet is not exclusively frugivorous. They (and Cedar waxwings) eat sap drips in spring, and aerial insects, especially emergent aquatic species, in the summer.

During the winter, in addition to fruits, Bohemian waxwings also feed on protein-rich foods when they are available. Pictured is one of many Bohemian waxwings that found a goldmine of protein—dead Bald-faced hornet larvae. While the hornet queen overwinters under loose bark or a similarly protected area, the larvae that are developing within the nest when a hard frost hits are killed. Bohemian waxwings apparently recognize this rich source of protein. Scale insects and tree buds (American elm and ash species) are also consumed in the winter and spring. (Photograph by Terry Marron).





**QUESTION: Is the colour of a feeder important to our backyard birds?**

**RESPONSE:** I have been told that a number of folks who have purchased Brome Bird Care feeders are painting the normally green feeders in different colours. While they do it for fun, it is true that some of the larger stores do offer a variety of bright coloured feeders. So, I have been asked...do birds really care about the colour of a given feeder? Well, there was actually a study done on this in 2017, albeit with feeder

birds in the UK. Students at the University of Hull offered the same food in eight identical feeders with the same seed but with the metal parts painted in different colours: red, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, silver and white. Over the winter, the students spent 185 hours recording 7,435 visits by 11 different bird species, most of which were various tit species (like our chickadees), house sparrows, and a couple of finch species. Red, yellow and blue were the least favoured followed by white, black and purple...but the birds definitely liked silver and green. I was not surprised that white was not favoured as it is widely believed to act as a warning colour in nature. Even when the students added an ultraviolet reflectance to the blue and red feeders, it did not make them more attractive to birds. Next, the students decided to find out what feeder colours the customers preferred. At a science festival, they presented the same choices to visitors to their booth. While the public did tend to like the brightly coloured feeders, the only colour that was mutually agreed upon between them and the birds was.....green. And that is the original colour of all of Brome Bird Care's feeders! Which means that Brome got it right in the first place!



<p><b>DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D</b> Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University</p> <p>david.bird@mcgill.ca www.askprofessorbird.com</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><b>WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG</b></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.

This quarter for the months of December 2022, January and February 2023, your donations will go to:

**Alberta Institute of Conservation (AIWC)**

<https://www.aiwc.ca>



## Thank you for your support

**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](mailto: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.

**Update**

**Store hours will be returning to normal**

**Monday December 5, 2022**

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



**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.

**DID YOU KNOW? EVERY Tuesday is Senior's day. Those who are 60+ receive 10% off**



**Sorry! Excludes optics, books, cards & consignment items**

# 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**

## 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](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)



# Popular Black-capped chickadee grows brain tissue to survive brutal winter



Winter brings fascinating changes to animals. While mammals add weight to stay warm as they hibernate, birds grow more feathers for their long migratory flight south.

And then there's the Black-capped chickadee, which adds brain tissue, instead of weight or feathers.

The palm-sized bird has a knack for having a good memory—but only in the winter. In colder months, this clever bird survives by feeding on seeds and other food items that it has stored in the ground by memorizing where it buries the

sustenance. When it gets hungry, it returns to the burial sites.

It is only capable of doing this in the winter because the memory portion of its brain—the hippocampus—is hard wired to increase in size. Some Chickadees have been shown to grow the piece of the organ by nearly a third, enabling them to recall hundreds of spots they've buried food.

This is the wonder of science that is being done right now. There are techniques allowing researchers to get very detailed real-time data on change in the hippocampus over time that's demonstrating unequivocally that it's actually getting bigger.

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Join Leduc County and Wizard Lake Watershed Association on February 11th from 11 a.m. to 3p.m. for the annual Winter Try It Festival!

A promotional poster for the Winter Try It Festival. The background is light blue with white snowflake patterns. At the top left, there are two skis. The main title "WINTER TRY IT FESTIVAL" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says "Feb. 11, 2023" and "WIZARD LAKE DAY USE AREA 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.". There are two illustrations: one of a person ice fishing and one of a person curling. At the bottom, there is a list of activities: "ICE SKATING | SNOWSHOEING | X-COUNTRY SKIING | CURLING | ICE FISHING | SLEIGH RIDES | FREE HOTDOGS, HOT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE | CAMPFIRE | DOOR PRIZES | TOBOGGANING | LIVE MUSIC | AND MORE". At the bottom left, it says "FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LEDUC-COUNTY.COM/RECREATION". At the bottom right, there is an illustration of a blue and white winter boot. The footer contains logos for Leduc County, Wizard Lake Watershed &amp; Lake Stewardship Association, and the City of Leduc.

The Festival takes place at the Wizard Lake day-use area and provides you with a chance to try a variety of winter sports and activities, including:

Ice skating, Snowshoeing, Cross country skiing, Curling, Ice fishing, and more for you and the family to enjoy!!

There will also be free hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, sleigh rides, a campfire, door prizes and live music!

For more information, visit [www.leduc-county.com/recreation](http://www.leduc-county.com/recreation) or email [RecPrograms@leduc-county.com](mailto:RecPrograms@leduc-county.com)

Maybe you and your family can find a new winter hobby!



5901 3rd Street S.E.,  
Calgary, AB T2H 1K3

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

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

Phone: (403)640-2632

Web: wildbirdstore.ca

email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

**CLOSED** Family Day Monday February 20, 2023

FOLLOW US ON:

Facebook@thewildbirdstoreyyc

Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyc



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.



**DID YOU KNOW? EVERY**  
Tuesday is Senior's day.  
Those who are 60+ receive  
10% off

The Wild Bird Store  
Is the warranty & repair depot for:

Squirrel Buster® Bird Feeders  
Aspects® Feeders  
Droll Yankee® Bird Feeders

**SquirrelBuster**  
WILD BIRD FEEDERS

And the warranty depot  
for:  
Leupold Binoculars & Spotting  
Scopes

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,  
cards & consignment items

**HAPPY BIRDING!**