

Grey partridge



A plump chickenlike bird with a rotund body, a small head, short tail, and a short, thick bill. Flies on short and rounded wings. The belly is white, usually marked with a large chestnut-brown horse shoe mark in males, and also many females.

Hens lay up to twenty eggs in a ground nest. The nest is usually in the margin of a cereal field, most commonly winter wheat. Grey partridges prefer to run rather than fly from predators in open areas.

During winter the birds burrow 10-to-15 foot long tunnels, under the snow to reach food and shelter, spending much of their time in them. They also tend to congregate into large coveys, huddling together in a circle with each facing outward for warmth.

Also known as the gray-legged partridge, English partridge, Hungarian partridge, or Hun is a gamebird in the pheasant family. The scientific name is the Latin for “partridge”, and is itself derived from Ancient Greek *perdix*.

The Grey partridge, introduced from Europe and Asia in the last century. The earliest attempt at introduction, which so far as known was made by Richard Bache, son-in-law of Benjamin Franklin, who stocked his plantation on the Delaware River near what is now the town of Beverly, New Jersey with Hungarian partridges, dates back to the latter part of the eighteenth century.

The Calgary Fish and Game Association introduced Grey partridges to Alberta around 1908. The first 15 pairs were from Hungary, which is why locals often call these birds “Huns.”

Another Calgary partridge...



The Chukar (pronounced “chew car”) partridge has well-marked black and a black band running from the forehead across the eye down the neck to enclose a white throat. Native to Asia, the species has been introduced into many other places and feral populations have established themselves in parts of North America and New Zealand. This bird can be found in parts of the Middle East and temperate Asia.

and white bars on the flanks and a black band running from the forehead across the eye down the neck to enclose a white throat.

FACTS

- The Chukar partridge was named after its common, very noisy song ‘chuck-chuck-chukar-chukar’
- Because of their pugnacious behavior during the breeding season, Chukars are kept in some areas as fighting birds

Help Your Garden Grow with Mason Bees

The Wild Bird Store is now offering Mason bee cocoons for sale. We suggest you order your cocoons now to avoid disappointment.

Please visit [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) to purchase your cocoons. Mason bees will be available for sale until March 8, 2023 or until supply is gone.

Price for a box of 10 is \$19.99 +GST and fees.

If this is your first time ordering, we recommend you order 3 to 5 boxes.



Mason bee stacking trays



**Mason
bee
house**

Creating A Mason Bee Habit Seminars

Date: Wednesday April 12, 2023

Creating A Mason Bee Habitat Seminar

~In Person Presentation at The Wild Bird Store~

Time: 5:00pm

Tickets: \$15.00 +GST +fee



In this seminar you will learn the best way to set up your backyard for these fast and efficient pollinators. How to choose the right house and nesting tubes, when to put the cocoons out, the importance of having the right clay, where to place the nesting house and how to harvest the cocoons in the fall.

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



Date: Wednesday April 19, 2023

Creating A Mason Bee Habitat Seminar

~In Person Presentation at The Wild Bird Store~

Time: 5:00pm

Tickets: \$15.00 +GST +fee



In this seminar you will learn the best way to set up your backyard for these fast and efficient pollinators. How to choose the right house and nesting tubes, when to put the cocoons out, the importance of having the right clay, where to place the nesting house and how to harvest the cocoons in the fall.

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



A graphic with a red banner containing the text "EXCITING NEWS!" in white, surrounded by yellow and blue shapes and small red triangles.

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 (excludes online)

For further information, pricing and scheduling, please contact

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

Email: 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 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

Why do we celebrate Easter with eggs?

Eggs represent new life and rebirth, and it's thought that this ancient custom became a part of Easter celebrations. In the medieval period, eating eggs was forbidden during Lent (the 40 days before Easter) so on Easter Sunday, tucking into an egg was a real treat!





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

RESPONSE: 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 is 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 bee keepers 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 an 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 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 humans.....some 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 aptly recounted the words of his old nutrition professor, "the greatest concentration of vitamins in North America is the urine of North America." I won't go as far as 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 if we haven't 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

david.bird@mcgill.ca
www.askprofessorbird.com



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

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.



City Nature Challenge 2023: Calgary Metropolitan Region

The fifth annual City Nature Challenge Calgary event will take place April 28-May 1, 2023! After five years, we've seen the success that CNC can have for engaging Calgarians with their local environments and we hope to make this the biggest event yet! Expect more cities than ever participating from around the world. We will be hosting public bioblitzes across the city with the support of local stewardship groups. If you have an interest in hosting or simply participating in an event, please contact us at citynatureyyc@gmail.com and keep your eye on our website www.citynatureyyc.ca for all the information and news.

MEADOWLARK
BIRDING TOURS

meadowlarkbirding.com
gmckinnonbird@gmail.com
 403-519-8703

Upcoming Tours in 2023!

Point Pelee Migration



Rose-breasted
Grosbeak

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

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!

Cold Lake Warblers



Canada
Warbler

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

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

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 March, April and May

2023, your donations will go to:

Ellis Bird Farm

<https://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca>



Thank you for your support

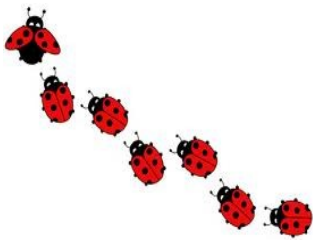
DID YOU KNOW?

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 for more information

or to reserve your spot



Once again The Wild Bird Store will have Ladybugs for sale. Starting March 1, 2023 you can order in quantities of **1000 \$19.99+fees & GST or 3000 \$56.99 +fees & GST** through Eventbrite. As this is a livestock item, there are no refunds.

Ladybugs will be available the 1st week of June 2023 and we will call you when they are available for pick-up. **Please note** because they are livestock, once you have been called to pick-up you will have 48 hours to do so. Thank you

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.



**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

**Earn and redeem customer loyalty points on the
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
(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)



*Staying
Connected*



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

First day of Spring Monday March 20, 2023

Daylight Savings starts Sunday March 12, 2023 at 2:00am

Follow us on:

Facebook@thewildbirdstoreyyyc

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.



birdandmoon.com

**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

DROLL YANKEES
The World's Best Bird Feeders®



SquirrelBuster
♦ WILD BIRD FEEDERS ♦



And the warranty depot
for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

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

HAPPY BIRDING!