



HUMMINGBIRDS



- Affectionately called “hummers”, these tiny birds have over 900 feathers. That may sound like a lot, but this is actually the fewest amount feathers of any other bird species in the world. They don’t need heavy feathers weighing them down—this helps them not only to fly easier, but faster
- Their tongues have tiny hairs on them. It is a total myth that hummers sip nectar through a straw-like tongue. They actually flick their tongue 18 times per second, collecting the nectar and pulling it into their mouths. The hair-like extensions help make the process easier
- A group of hummers is called a “charm.” They may also be referred to as a bouquet, shimmer or glittering
- Their brains are pretty heavy compared to the rest of their body. It represents approximately 4.2% of its total body weight. This is the most in the entire wild bird group
- They have amazing memories. These small birds can remember every flower and feeder they've visited, as well as how long it takes for a certain flower to refill
- Hummers are diurnal; meaning most are awake during the day and sleep at night. That being said, these special birds can migrate regardless of the time of day
- Hummers can really sleep. Hummingbirds have an evolutionary adaptation that benefits them during cold nights. Torpor is a deep sleep similar to hibernation in which the metabolic rate drops as much as 95%. This lowers the body temperature so much that a torpid hummingbird maintains a hypothermic threshold that nears death. It takes them 20 minutes to an hour to wake up from this state

Backyard Tips

Brightly coloured flowers that are tubular tend to produce the most nectar, and are particularly attractive to hummingbirds. These include perennials such as bee balms, columbines, daylilies and lupines; biennials such as foxgloves and hollyhocks; and many annuals including cleomes, impatiens and petunias. The Mimosa tree is a hummingbird’s favourite tree—commonly planted near back patios and are great where you need a small to medium sized ornamental.

Hummingbirds do not use a bird bath. However, they do like to bathe. Using a water mister attached to a bush in your backyard will give you another way to view hummingbirds in your backyard.



Use saucer shaped hummingbird feeders (these prevent leakage which attracts hornets and wasps which can be lethal to hummingbirds. Feeders can be placed close to your flowers, on a patio or deck near your container plants or on a window where viewing will be optimal.

Creating A Mason Bee Habit Seminars

Date: Wednesday April 12, 2023

~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

~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

LADYBUGS !! Woo Hoo

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





2023 Wings Over the Rockies Nature Festival

MAY 8—14, 2023

Wildlife and Landscapes—Exploring Connections

Our 26th annual festival is located in the beautiful upper Columbia River Valley centered around the mountain town of Invermere, British Columbia. Our even calendar will be published online on Thursday, March 30. Tickets will be available for purchase online on Tuesday, April 11 at 10:00am. Please plan to be an “early bird” to get your event choices! 70% of our festival tickets are purchased on the first day.

We plan to have over 100 events over 7 days, many new ones too! Please plan to come and join us in 2023 and make your connection with wildlife and landscapes.

CONTACT

Box 2633, Invermere, BC V0A 1K0

KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS Dr. Dale Leckie

P: (250) 342-2473

TF: 1-855-342-2473

info@wingsovertherockies.org



Eye for The Wild Amateur Photography Contest



2023

This year marks the fifth annual Eye for The Wild amateur photography contest, which launches on World Wildlife Day (March 3rd).

World Wildlife Day is a United Nations International day to celebrate all the wild animals around the globe and the contribution that they make to our lives.

In Alberta, we are fortunate to share our spaces with hundreds of different species of wildlife. To celebrate their beauty and contributions to the ecosystem, dust off your cameras and get to snapping!

The contest runs from March 3 to April 15, 2023.

For more information or to register, please visit:

<https://www.calgarywildlife.org/eye-for-the-wild>



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 April 8, 2023 Burnsmead Fish Creek Park

(9:00am meet in parking lot by water treatment plant)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday April 22, 2023 South Glenmore Park

(9:00am meet at 24th St. parking lot near Sailing Club)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday May 6, 2023 Griffith Woods Park (Discover Ridge)

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

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday May 20, 2023 Frank Lake (Day trip please bring water & lunch)

(9:00am meet at Wild Bird Store rear parking lot)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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



QUESTION: I had a House finch nesting in a hanging planter in my backyard last year and a Brown-headed cowbird laid an egg in their nest. If I see this happen again, should I remove the egg?

RESPONSE: House finches are commonly parasitized by Brown-headed cowbirds to the tune of about one-quarter of all their nests. This means that the latter species, which does not make its own nest, lays its eggs in the nests of other species, 220 of them to be exact. It is not really a good thing for the host species if only because the main goal of all wildlife species is to pass their genes onto the next

generation. If the Cowbird nestling does out-compete the host's young to their detriment, then the Finch pair ends up raising some other species' youngster and not their own nestlings containing their genes. As for you removing the Cowbird egg to help out the Finches, I can give you three reasons why you should not do so. First and foremost, it is totally illegal to tamper with the nest and eggs of any migratory bird species, including House finches and even Cowbird eggs. Second, the Cowbird's parasitic behavior is a natural process and we really should not interfere with it. Brown-headed cowbirds, which are far too often vilified by the public but are in fact quite interesting birds, deserve to live too, right? Here is one more reason. One study suggests that if you remove the Cowbird egg, there is a chance that the House finches will desert their nest. But let me leave you with some good news. A study in southern Ontario in the mid-1900s found that while 85 percent of Cowbird eggs do hatch in House finch nests, the vast majority of the Cowbird nestlings do not fare well, mainly because the host parents' diet is not that appropriate for them. So, the bottom line is that we should just let nature take its course and simply enjoy the drama and intrigue of it all.

DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D

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McGill University

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www.askprofessorbird.com



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ABOUT DR. DAVID

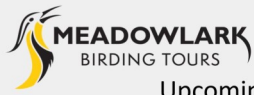


David M. Bird is Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology and the former Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre at McGill University. As a past-president of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, a former board member with Birds Canada, a Fellow of both the American Ornithological Society 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.



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.



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

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.



"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



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



BOWKAN BIRDERS SPRING SPECIES COUNT is sponsored by the University of Calgary, BioGeoScience Institute, also known as the Barrier Lake Field Station. It is an informal group of local naturalists who share an interest in our natural environment. They conduct Spring and Christmas Species Counts of birds, mammals, and in May, include flowering plants. The purpose of the count is to maintain an updated record of local flora and fauna. The results are added to that of all other Alberta counts.

For more information, visit: University of Calgary, home BioGeoScience Institute UCalgary

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



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!



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.

PLEASE NOTE: AS OF MAY 1, 2023 THE DELIVERY CHARGE WILL BE INCREASEING TO \$10 DUE TO INCREASEING COSTS FOR OPERATIONS.



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

PLEASE NOTE: Orders need to be in before 5:00pm on Tuesday preceding the “on location day”



Introducing a new Bird Seed Truck Location:

Every Second Friday starting on Friday April 14, 2023

From 1:00pm to 4:00pm at 2725—33 Avenue S.W.

(signs will be posted to direct people to where the truck is parked)

PLEASE NOTE: Orders need to be in before 5:00pm on Thursday preceding the “on location day”

Text us @ (403)701-4571 OR email us at 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.

PLEASE NOTE: AS OF MAY 1, 2023 THE DELIVERY CHARGE WILL BE INCREASING TO \$10 DUE TO INCREASING COSTS FOR OPERATIONS.

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

CLOSED Good
Friday April 7, 2023

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.



The Wild Bird Store
Is the warranty & repair depot for:
Squirrel Buster® Bird Feeders
Aspects® Feeders
Droll Yankee® Bird Feeders

And the warranty depot
for:
Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

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



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

HAPPY BIRDING!