

Backyard Birding Specialists



ALBERTA

Come celebrate with us
Saturday, September 30, 2023
10:00am to 5:00pm



Crack an egg contest—everyone a winner!

10% to 100% OFF your purchase



Sweet Treats
REFRESHMENTS



In Store purchases only. No phone calls or curbside pickups on the day of the celebration. Thank you.



13.5 inches circumference
with a chain for hanging

5.5 lbs.
Medium
chip sun-
flower
seeds

5.5 lbs.
Medium
chip sun-
flower
seeds

Support Animal Wildlife Rescues

Purchase tickets to support [Calgary Wildlife](#) and [AIWC](#) and a chance to win 1st prize - Stained Glass Chickadees on display at The Wild Bird Store. **\$350.00 Value**; 2nd prize Squirrel Buster Plus + 5.5 lbs. medium chip sunflower seeds; 3rd prize Squirrel Buster Plus + 5.5 lbs. medium chip sunflower seeds

1st prize donated by [Windows of the West Stained Glass](#)

2nd & 3rd prizes donated by Brome Bird Care & Chin Ridge Seeds



All Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the two organizations.



Tickets are \$2.00 each and may be purchased by opening the link below and scrolling down to purchase tickets.

Tickets go on sale at 12:01am on Friday September 1, 2023

<https://www.wildbirdstore.ca/event/19963/>



The Bluejay's coloration does not come from pigments but is the result of the internal structure of the feathers. If a blue feather is crushed, the blue disappears because the structure is destroyed. This is referred to as structural coloration.

Bluejays are highly curious and intelligent birds. Young birds often playfully snatch brightly coloured or reflective objects, such as bottle caps or pieces of aluminum foil, and carry them around until they lose interest. In captivity, Bluejays have been observed using strips of newspaper as tools to obtain food, while captive fledglings have been observed attempting to open the doors of their cages.

Bluejays may learn to mimic human speech. They can also copy the cries of local hawks so well that it is sometimes difficult to tell which it is.

Bluejays also have quiet, almost subliminal calls which they use among themselves in proximity. One of the most distinctive calls of this type, is often referred to as the "rusty pump" as it resembles the sound of an old hand-operated water pump.

Bluejays differ from most other songbirds in using their call as a song.

In the old African American folklore of the southern United States, the Bluejay was a significant metaphysical creature. In some tales, this bird was credited with making the earth "when all de worl' was water" by bringing the first "grit" or "dirt".

"Anting" & Blue Jays: Taking a bath or preparing dinner? "Anting" is the process in which a jay, with wings spread and tail tucked between its legs, grabs an ant in its bill and rubs it through its feathers before swallowing the ant. A couple of ideas have floated around over the years to explain why a bird might engage in this behaviour, and researchers Thomas Eisner and Daniel Aneshansley set out to determine which of the two was most plausible.

The first idea was that Bluejays were taking a bath in the ant's formic acid, in the hope that it would rid them of the lice, mites and other parasites living in their feathers. Upon exposing those parasites to formic acid, however, scientists found that the acid has little to no effect on them. The second idea was that the Bluejays had found a way to make the ants tastier by removing the acid before swallowing the ants. Formic acid is very bitter, so most birds don't even attempt to eat ants. Getting rid of the acid could open up a whole new food resource! If the Bluejays weren't taking a bath, then perhaps they were preparing dinner?

To test this idea, Eisner and Aneshansley offered six different Bluejays two types of ants: one with the acid glands removed and one with the acid glands intact. When the birds encountered ants without acid, all six gobbled them up, no "anting" necessary. When they encountered ants with acid, however, the "anting" routine resumed. The presence of formic acid, therefore, appeared to trigger the behaviour! Excited, the ornithologists examined the contents of the ants before and after they were given to the Bluejays, and found that the acid had been completely ejected onto the feathers. Even more interesting, they found that the Bluejays grasped the ants so gently that they preserved the entire contents of the ants' stomachs, retaining all the extra nutrients. The anting process allowed them to get rid of the disgusting flavor while maintaining the maximum amount of food in the ant. Once the formic acid is removed, they calculated that Bluejays only need to consume 10 ants to have eaten the human equivalent of one scrambled egg; quite a nutritious meal indeed!



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.

Saturday September 2, 2023 Frank Lake Day Trip **please bring lunch**

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

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday September 16, 2023 Elliston Park/68th Street at Wetlands

(9:00am meet in East Elliston parking lot at 68th Street on right side before getting to the landfill)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday September 30, 2023 Inglewood Bird Sanctuary—9th Avenue S.E.

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

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

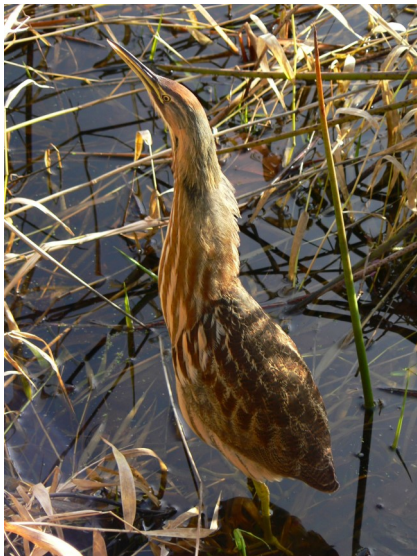
Tickets must be purchased through Eventbrite.ca—2023 WBS bird walks

AMERICAN BITTERN

You will have to be extremely lucky to spot one of these elusive birds, but hang in there—we did and were rewarded with a rare sighting! Unfortunately, it's easy to lose sight of them if you do spot one; this is especially true when they're striking a concealment pose with the bill and neck pointed skyward.

Both male and female are identical. The female is the sole provider of the young from building the nest to feeding the nestlings—the male has no involvement at all.

A group of bitterns is called a variety of things like a "freeze," "dash," "pretense," "pint," or a "siege"



Young American bittern



QUESTION: I live in a suburban area in Calgary and I was out walking my dog one evening. Suddenly, a very large bird that looked remarkably like an owl, crashed to the ground right near me. I did not know that such birds even lived in my vicinity. What kind of owl might it be?

RESPONSE: Any largish owl seen in the Calgary area is going to be either a Great horned owl (the provincial bird of Alberta) or a Barred owl. They are both quite common. The former are slightly larger and bulkier than the Barred owls, but the easiest way to tell them apart is whether they have feather tufts or so-called “ears” on the top of their heads. As is indicated by their name, Great horned owls definitely have obvious ear tufts, which, by the way, have nothing to do with hearing but more to do with communication and camouflage. And if, in future walks, you do not actually see the owl, their calls are quite distinct too. The Barred owl’s distinctive call sounds like “who cooks for you...who cooks for you all?” Unlike the Great horned owls, Barred owls never used to exist where you live. This species slowly moved across the continent to the west and they are now outcompeting the endangered Spotted owls for nesting and feeding territories and also killing smaller Western screech owls. You were also wondering why the owl you saw had crashed down to the ground out of a tree. Maybe it was going after some prey item that you and your dog flushed out or just fighting with another owl over territory. Perhaps it was just startled. It is not uncommon for owls to be somewhat blind on especially dark moonless nights. While they do have excellent night vision, they need at least a bit of light to work with.



Great horned owl (note the “ear tufts”)



Barred owl

<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.



ON LOCATION

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW)

Every Tuesday 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Crowfoot Arena (corner of John Laurie & Nosehill Drive NW)

Every Wednesday 2:00pm to 5:30pm

Calgary Horticultural Society (2725 33 Avenue SW)

Every second Friday starting April 14, 2023 1:00pm to 4:00pm

SEASONAL EVENT

Okotoks Farmers Market (322041 15 Street East Dewinton)

Dates: September 8th & 22nd 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Please place orders by 12:00noon the day before the truck is on location, either by emailing orders@wildbirdstore.ca or text (403) 701-4571



Saskatchewan Whooping Cranes Tour
with Gavin McKinnon

September 28 - October 2, 2023
\$390 / person

This short tour to central Saskatchewan has a very specific focus, to see one of the world's most endangered and spectacular birds, the Whooping Crane. For a few weeks each fall Whooping Cranes can be reliably within an hour of Saskatoon. This time of year is also the peak of large-scale waterfowl migration across the prairies. We will have the opportunity to see impressive flocks of Snow Geese. These flocks often include the smaller, less abundant Ross's Goose. While most breeding songbirds have vacated the region by this time there are still some species passing through, we will keep our eyes peeled for the Canadian breeding-endemic Harris's Sparrow. We can also expect to see numbers of American Pipits, Lapland Longspurs and if we are lucky a Smith's Longspur.



REGISTER NOW!
Visit meadowlarkbirding.com or email gmckinnonbird@gmail.com



Zygodactyl

Zygodactyl: adj. [Greek zygo (yoked, or paired) + dactyl (toed)] Having two toes facing forward and two facing backward. A feature of several orders of birds, including cuckoos, woodpeckers, and parrots.

Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation
FALL GOLDEN EAGLE MIGRATION COUNT

From September 20th to November 15th - Sunrise to Sunset
Hay Meadow, Mt. Lorette in K-Country
Visitors Welcome / See EagleWatch.ca for more

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)



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

Please phone the store at (403)640-2632 any day prior to 12:00noon on the Wednesday before your delivery with your order, place and pay for your delivery. Please phone with your order as early as possible to avoid disappointment. If you have any specials instructions, please do not forget to inform us when you place your order.

please note

As of October 1, 2023 The Wild Bird Store will resume delivery EVERY Thursday within City of Calgary limits



PLEASE NOTE: delivery charge within Calgary City limits is \$10.00

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 2023, your donations will go to:



Thank you for your support

aiwc.ca (Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation)



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



Do you need help attracting birds to your backyard?

Do you want advise on designing a backyard habitat for your feathered/winged friends?

Do you have a problem in your backyard we can help solve?

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 bird 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

*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



Monday, September 4, 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.



DID YOU KNOW? Senior's day is EVERY Tuesday. If you are over 60 you will receive 10% off your order

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

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,
cards & consignment items

HAPPY BIRDING!