



Backyard Birding Specialists



CANADA



ALBERTA



DARK-EYED JUNCO

Dark-eyed juncos are birds of the ground. They hop around the bases of trees and shrubs in forests or venture out onto lawns looking for fallen seeds. You'll often hear their high chip notes, given almost absent-mindedly while foraging or intensifying as they take short, low flights through cover.

The Dark-eyed junco has a cute nickname: snowbird! This is because a junco bird seems to bring snowy winter weather on its wings as it migrates. In colder months they travel in flocks of 15 to 25 from northern evergreen forests to backyards all over the U.S. and Canada.

When it's cold outside, Juncos grow down jackets. The coat of feathers on a Junco bird is 30% heavier in winter than in the summer.

Both males and females are similar in size and colour. It takes careful observation and some patience to distinguish between a male and a female. Female Dark-eyed juncos have thinner necks because they lack the bulging neck feathers that males have.

There is a huge range of geographic variation in the Dark-eyed junco. Among the 15 described races, six forms are easily recognizable in the field and five used to be considered separate species until the 1980s. A field guide is the best place to look for complete illustration of ranges and plumages, but in general there are two widespread forms of the Dark-eyed junco; "slate-coloured" junco of the eastern United States and most of Canada, which is a smooth gray above, and "Oregon" junco, found across much of the western U.S. with a dark hood, warm brown back and rufous flanks. Other more restricted variations include the slate-coloured like "white winged" and Oregon-like "pink-sided" juncos of the Rockies and western Great Plains; and the Yellow-eyed junco-like "red backed" and "gray-headed" juncos of the Southwest.

Slat-coloured junco



Oregon junco





Have you purchased a Brome Squirrel proof feeder? Don't you just love your feeder that promises and delivers preventing squirrels from eating all your bird seed? Is your feeder damaged or need replacement parts? Did you know The Wild Bird Store is a Warranty Repair Depot?

The Wild Bird Store is an authorized repair depot and fully supports the Brome limited* lifetime warranty through in-store repairs of all Squirrel Buster products. Our bird feeding specialists will help you chose the right feeder for your yard.

Where ever you purchased your Squirrel Buster feeder; no matter how long ago; didn't keep your receipt? Doesn't matter—Squirrel Buster complete line of squirrel proof feeders have a guaranteed warranty for life (*the one exception is damaged caused by bears—this is not covered under warranty, but replacement parts are still available at a nominal fee).

All we ask is that when you bring your Squirrel Buster feeder to us for repair (yes, we do all the repairs in store) that it is clean. Don't forget—your Squirrel Buster feeder is dishwasher safe!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Q:** I dropped my feeder and a part broke—can I still get replacement parts?
- A:** We have parts for your feeders. Depending on the type and cause of the damage, the parts could be under warranty.
- Q:** I took my Squirrel Buster apart to put it in the dishwasher but have no instructions on how to put it back together. Can you offer any assistance?
- A:** Absolutely—we will be happy to share our knowledge with you and you won't believe how easy it is to re-assemble. The Wild Bird Store has a video of how to re-assemble your Squirrel proof feeder on our YouTube.

THE COMPLETE LINE OF SQUIRREL BUSTER FEEDERS—and yes; The Wild Bird Store carries the complete line (excluding the Mega 800 and the Squirrel Solution 150 - these two are only available in the United States)



Birdie Bucks



For the month of December,
every \$100 you spend at
The Wild Bird Store, you will
receive a \$5 coupon. The coupon
is valid for purchases in January
2024 only!

(Purchases must total \$100 before GST to receive coupon)

Alberta birds to be renamed as ornithological society makes extraordinary decision

The American Ornithological Society announced in early November 2023 that all birds in its geographic jurisdiction named after a person will undergo a name change in 2024, in a decision that affects as many as 80 species.

Some birds are named after people who have associations with the past that are exclusionary and harmful, according to the society.

Nicola Koper, co-author of *Best Places to Bird in the Prairies*, said the number of species that will be renamed is “extraordinary.” but it is not the first time a bird has been renamed.

“I think what’s really interesting about southern Alberta is that it’s the home of the very first species that was renamed because it was named after a person,” Koper said on the *Calgary Eyeopener*.

That grassland bird is now known as the thick-billed longspur. Its original name honoured John P. McCowan, an amateur naturalist who later became a general in the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War—the bird’s former name was perceived as a painful link to slavery and racism.

Each bird will be renamed to something that is visually descriptive.

Koper added she thinks the name changes will make it easier for people to learn more about the birds around them, and will make natural sciences more inclusive.

“If I’m driving through Calgary and I tell you I saw a yellow-headed blackbird, you don’t even need to look at a picture to know what I saw. But if I tell you that I saw a Cooper’s hawk, that doesn’t tell you anything about how spectacular it is,” she said.

There are about 37 bird species in Alberta that will undergo a name change, said Jocelyn Hudon, curator of ornithology at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton.

In addition to changing the existing name, the society said it will be updating the process by which English names are selected for bird species.

Cooper’s hawk



Thick-billed longspur



Yellow-headed blackbird



For more on this subject, please read Dr. David Bird’s Q & A on a following page



Bird puzzles and Christmas puzzles



2024 nature calendars



Wild Bird Ceramic mugs



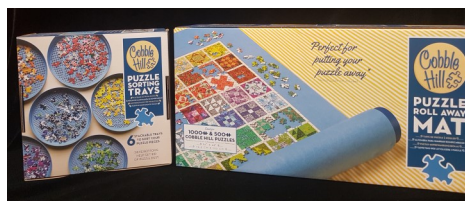
Christmas Ceramic Mugs



Enameled pins



"Wingspan" the game



Puzzle Tray & Mat



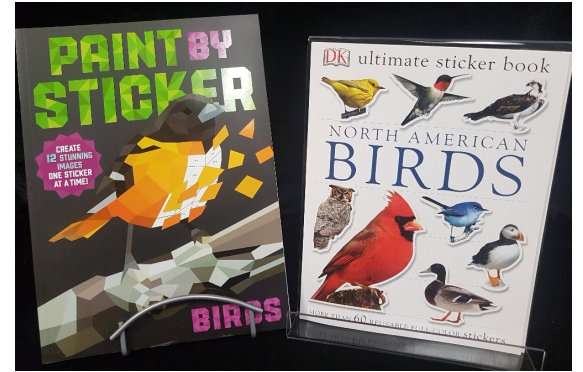
Bird games for the whole family



Activity Books for Children



Bird Song Books



Sticker Books

for the birds



Pine Cone & "No Waste" Wreath



Festive Fruits—2 Sizes



"No Waste" Pine Cone, Star & Small Wreath

Saturday Morning Bird Walks With

Jim St. Laurent

PLEASE NOTE: Jim will be away until January 2024 due to health reasons. The Wild Bird Store wishes him well. He is hoping to be able to do a Snowy owl prowl in early January 2024. Please stay tuned for an update on when Saturday morning bird walks will return.



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.



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.

The Cornell Lab 

All About Birds

WHY DON'T BIRDS GET COLD FEET?

Actually, songbirds do get very cold feet: the surface temperature of their toes may be barely above freezing even as the bird maintains its core body temperature above 100 degrees F (38 degree C). But most birds don't succumb to frostbite because there is so little fluid in the cells of their feet, and their feet are mostly tendons and bones with little muscle or nerve tissue.

Birds also have a countercurrent heat exchange system in their legs and feet—the blood vessels going to and from the feet are very close together, so blood flowing back to the body is warmed by blood flowing to the feet. The newly cooled blood in the feet lowers heat loss from the feet, and the warmed blood flowing back into the body prevents the bird from becoming chilled. And because bird circulation is so fast, blood doesn't remain in the feet long enough to freeze.

Birds may also alternate standing on one foot at a time, pulling one up into their warm downy feathers, while the other stands in the cold, and then reversing them. An when birds perch they can lower their bodies down to cover their feet, keeping their feet warm with their feathers.

Do cold feet bother birds? It's hard to say for sure, but we do know that birds like Common eiders and Snow buntings have few pain receptors in their feet.



The Wild Bird Store recommends that when the weather is going to be colder than minus 24 degrees Celcius that you unplug your heated bird bath or di-icer and get rid of the water until the temperature warms.



Dr. David Bird's response to proposed bird name changes

Sometime in the next 2 or 3 years, about 80 or so North American birds are going to be declared officially extinct....well, not the birds themselves but their current common names. This announcement on November 3, 2023 by the American Ornithological Society, which is officially in charge of deciding North American bird names basically means that we will no longer call Cooper's hawks Cooper's hawks or Stellar's jays Stellar jays. It is a decision meant to dissociate these birds from what are called problematic eponyms. For example: Hammond's flycatcher is named after William Alexander Hammond, a former U.S. Surgeon-General who held the view that the mental

and/or physical faculties of both Black folks and Indigenous peoples were not much higher than those of an organ grinder monkey! There are many other examples whereupon someone currently honoured with a bird named after him condoned slavery, for example. I was actually engaged in a Zoom conversation with over 100 North American ornithologists and birders about this very matter three or four years ago. I recall having strong mixed feelings about it because I thought that it was to take away the legacy of bonafided deserving people like Georg Wilhelm Steller, a distinguished German zoologist who has no less than three birds named after him—the Steller's jay, the Steller's eider and the Steller's sea-eagle. However, I also understand that to cherry-pick the birds with human names associated with them could take years of bitter debate and that perhaps giving the birds names that somehow connect the person viewing them with a geographical and/or physical identity to help them ascertain the species upon seeing it is not a bad idea. The Canada jay, whose range falls mainly in Canada, is a good representation of the concept. As for newly proposed names, a good birding friend came up with the name, black-crested jay, for the Steller's jay. Makes sense to me! It should also be noted that the Latin names will not be changed, thus preserving the legacies of deserving folks who discovered or first described the birds in the scientific literature. The really big winners in all of this, of course, will be active authors and book publishers involved with bird reference and guide books because these name changes, once decided upon and written in stone, will automatically mean that all of the current books on our shelves will become as obsolete as the birds' common names. Maybe not a huge headache considering that we are all headed toward electronic field guides. And a small price to pay perhaps for doing the right thing in today's society.



Hammond's flycatcher



<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

The Mobile Seed Truck is a mini version of The Wild Bird Store, and as such, we are limited to what we can carry. It is therefore, highly recommended that you place an order the day before the truck is to be at your desired location. This will ensure that when you come to the Mobile Seed Truck you get the items you need. You can place orders by emailing orders@wildbirdstore.ca or texting to

(403) 701-4571

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



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, call the store (403) 640-2632, 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 November 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:



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

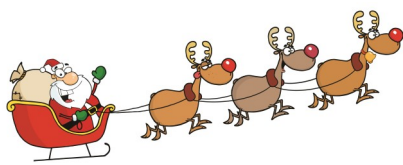
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*Staying
Connected*



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

Follow us on:

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Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyc



Holiday Hours

CLOSED Christmas Day Monday December 25th

CLOSED Boxing Day Tuesday December 26th

CLOSED New Year's Day Monday January 1,

2024

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



LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY

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WILD BIRD FEEDERS

And the warranty depot for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

SENIOR'S DAY

Is EVERY Tuesday.

If you are over 60 you will
receive 10% off your order

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,
cards & consignment items

HAPPY BIRDING!