



## PLEASE NOTE

**NO MOBILE SEED TRUCK at Wildwood Tuesday  
February 6th and Tuesday February 13th**

**NO MOBILE SEED TRUCK at Crowfoot Wednesday  
February 7 and Wednesday February 14th**

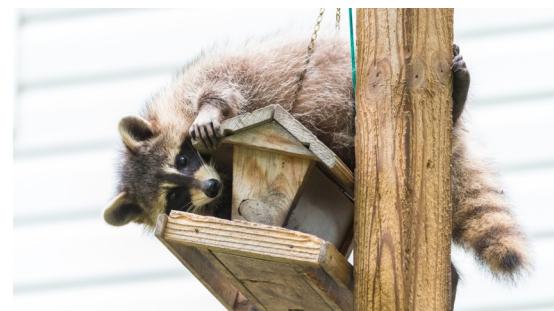
**NO DELIVERIES Thursday February 8th and Thursday  
February 15th**

## IT'S CALLED BIRD FEEDING PEOPLE

Although wild critters coming into your yard in search of food may be entertaining, it's not so entertaining for the birds. Winter and the harsh weather and lack of natural resources like insects, berries and nuts is an extremely difficult time for our feathered friends. They don't necessarily depend on our feeders for their daily sustenance, preferring to find resources naturally, but having to compete with other animals like squirrels, bears, raccoons and the like is serious to birds. Besides, most animals that come into our yards in search of food are not very grateful and end up making a mess and in most cases causing damage.

The crafty people who make bird feeders have seen the problems that arise when these outsiders attack our bird feeders and have come up with some very creative solutions. Take for instance the squirrel buster—brought to us by a Canadian Company that is guaranteed to stop squirrels from eating at your feeders. While they may try and sometimes for hours which is very entertaining to watch, eventually they get the message and move on.

So if you are experiencing the delightful antics of a backyard intruder at your bird feeder, seek the knowledge and experience of the staff at The Wild Bird Store. Twenty-six plus years of serving the southern Alberta birding community has taught them a thing or two and they are happy to help any way they can.





## Nailed It!

Check out this nest! Jack Perreault found this House Wren nest in one of his nest boxes as he was cleaning them out this fall. House Wrens typically make nests out of small twigs, but Jack says he counted 102 nails of varying types incorporated into these nesting materials. A typical two-inch roofing nail weighs about three grams, which is about a quarter of the weight of an adult House Wren—an amazing feat indeed!

## A Charming Bird That's Hard to Spot

A Brown creeper might easily be mistaken for a piece of moving bark as it climbs up tree trunks. This well-camouflaged songbird zips up each tree from bottom to top as it hunts for insects, probing into crevices with a slender, down-curved bill. In spring, they nestle their hammock-shaped nests under loose sections of tree bark. Brown creepers are the only tree creeper species in North America, and they live over a wide range, from southern Alaska to Newfoundland to Nicaragua.

Though Brown creepers are widespread, they can be difficult to find. These birds are small and inconspicuous, with calls and songs that are high-pitched even among other songbirds. Listen carefully for their high, insistent call and look for movement. With fewer leaves in the way, winter can be a great opportunity to spot the Brown creeper.





# Saturday Morning Bird Walks With Jim St. Laurent

As Jim is still recovering from surgery, the following (2) bird walks will actually be car trips

**Saturday January 20, 2024** Snowy owl trip to NE Strathmore area

Meet at The Wild Bird Store rear parking lot at 9:00am

Please bring lunch and dress for wintry weather

**\*\*This trip is subject to decent road/weather conditions\*\***

**[Purchase Tickets here As of Jan 1/24](#)**

**Saturday February 3, 2024** a car trip south to Frank Lake area for owls and other winter birds

Meet at The Wild Bird Store rear parking lot at 9:00am as I will not be going direct to Frank Lake but will stop at areas along the way including Policeman's Flats and be taking back roads

Please bring lunch and dress for wintry weather

**[Purchase Tickets here As of Jan 1/24](#)**

**Saturday February 17, 2024** Carburn Park

This will be a walking trip—meet at Carburn Park at 9:00am

Please dress for wintry weather

**[Purchase Tickets here As of Jan 1/24](#)**

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.



**QUESTION: An experienced birder friend told me that I should not give peanuts to birds because the birds do not have salivary glands and thus, they can choke and die after eating those brown skins coating the kernels. Is this true?**

**RESPONSE: This is a new one on me. I do occasionally get questions from folks wondering whether birds can choke on sticky peanut butter and my answer is always the same. There is no evidence to my knowledge to support such a claim. Now, your question is a wee bit different because you have been told by a birder whom you trust that Blue jays, eating peanuts in the shell, which they adore by the way, can choke on that rather dry brown skin coating the peanut kernel because**

**they have no salivary glands. In my forty years of researching and responding to questions about feeding birds, I have never heard of a case of a Blue jay or any other bird species for that matter having difficulty swallowing those brown peanut skins. And I know for a fact that birds do have salivary glands, but just not an overabundance of them compared to mammals. It also varies among different kinds of birds depending on their diet. For example, those birds that eat a lot of dry grains and seeds have more productive, more complex salivary glands than birds that eat small animals and fish. The saliva is used in the early part of digestion to break down carbohydrates and moisten the food. If I still have not convinced you, or your reputable birder friend, consider the fact that Blue jays in particular are well known to consume loose mortar and paint flakes, presumably for the mineral benefits. Now, if that would not make a bird choke, I do not know what would.**



<b>DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D</b> Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University			<b>CANADA JAY</b> <b>MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA</b>  FRIENDLY, SMART, LOYAL AND TOUGH. TRULY THE MOST CANADIAN BIRD!  AMICAL, INTELLIGENT, FIDÈLE ET ROBUSTE. UN OISEAU VRAIMENT CANADIEN!  <b>WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG</b>
david.bird@mcgill.ca www.askprofessorbird.com			

## 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).*



## ON LOCATION

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW) **NO Mobile Seed Truck Tuesday February 6th and Tuesday February 13th**

Every Tuesday 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Crowfoot Arena (corner of John Laurie & Nosehill Drive NW) **NO Mobile Seed Truck Wednesday February 7th and Wednesday February 14th**

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](mailto:orders@wildbirdstore.ca) or texting to

(403) 701-4571

**We offer a discount** if you return your 20 LB or 40 LB seed bags so that we can re-use them (sorry—not the Mother Nature bags which we cannot re-use), suet ball containers, or if you bring your own container or bag to fill . 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)



# 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.

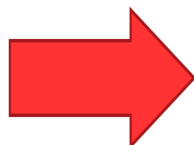


**Home Delivery**

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**

**NO DELIVERIES Thursday  
February 8th and Thursday  
February 15th. Deliveries  
will resume every Thursday  
on February 22nd.**



**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 December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024 your donations will go to:



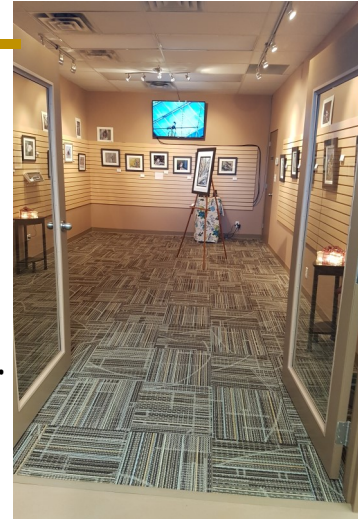
## Thank you for your support



[www.ellisbirdfarm.ca](http://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca)

**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

**please note**

**NO DELIVERIES Thursday  
February 8th and Thursday  
February 15th. Deliveries  
will resume EVERY**

**Thursday on February 22, 2024.**



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



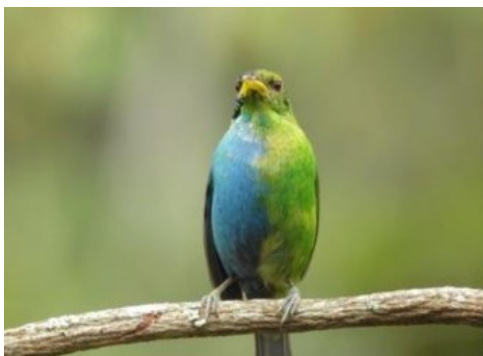
## This bird isn't just half green and half blue -- it's half female and half male

When the bird first appeared in front of bird watchers in Colombia, it was clear from its unique plumage—bright green on the left half of its body and blue on the right half, split neatly down the middle as though two birds had been glued together—that it was something special.

But what amateur ornithologist John Murillo didn't know as he snapped a photo of this rare, half-female, half-male bird, was that this was the first time in more than 100 years that this phenomenon had been recorded among this species of bird.

It's a rare condition called bilateral gynandromorphy, in which one side of an organism shows male characteristics and the other shows female.

This is only the second time that a bilateral gynandromorphy has ever been observed in a Green honeycreeper, a small bird that is commonly seen across a swathe of territory stretching from southern Mexico to southeaster Brazil.



It is also the first time that a living Green honeycreeper with bilateral gynandromorphy has been found.

The phenomenon arises from an error during female cell division to produce an egg, followed by double-fertilization by two sperm.

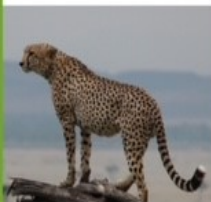
Cases of this unique condition have been recorded across numerous animal groups, but its most easily spotted among animals with strong sexual dimorphism distinguishing males from females, such as birds.

### BIRDING & WILDLIFE EXPEDITION TO KENYA

WITH DR. DAVID BIRD & DR. RODGER TITMAN

APRIL 4 - 18  
2024

**SEE** secretary birds and a variety of raptors, bee-eaters, hornbills, eagles, ostriches, weavers, the Big Five Mammals and a good sample of East Africa's bird species from dry savannah in the Rift Valley through tropical rainforest to mountain cloud forest and wetlands.



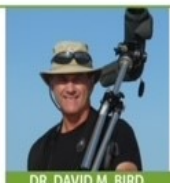
**VISIT** Lakes Naivasha, Baringo and Elementaita in the rich Rift Valley, Mpala Research Station, Kakamega Forest and the famous Maasai Mara with its herds of wild mammals.



#### FULL DETAILS, PRICING & ITINERARY:

CONTACT: DR. RODGER TITMAN  
rodger.titman@mccgill.ca

OR VISIT: [www.askprofessorbird.com](http://www.askprofessorbird.com)



**We offer a discount** if you return your 20 LB or 40 LB seed bags so that we can re-use them (sorry—not the Mother Nature bags which we cannot re-use), suet ball containers, or if you bring your own container or bag to fill. This discount is in addition to any other discount offered.

*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



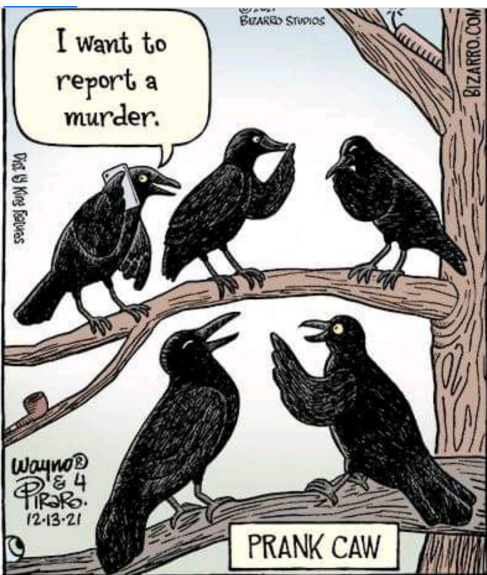
Monday, January 1, 2024  
The store will be **CLOSED**

Follow us on:

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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.



**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



And the warranty depot for:  
Leupold Binoculars & Spotting  
Scopes

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,  
cards & consignment items

**HAPPY BIRDING!**