

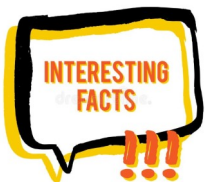


ALBERTA



**From their flaming red crest, to their maniacal laughing calls, this is one bird you don't want to miss.** There's no mistaking a Pileated woodpecker call—their loud, escalating shrieks bring to mind a maniacal laugh and can be heard from a distance. The birds also make a rapid series of cuk-cuk-cuk sounds in flight and when landing. Territorial calls—useful for alerting other woodpeckers that they've entered a Pileated's turf—are a higher pitched version of this call. The laugh and appearance of the Pileated is often cited as the inspiration for Woody the Woodpecker, but this seems to be inaccurate: credit apparently goes to the Acorn woodpecker.

The species earns its common and species name, *pileatus*, from the flashy red crest that covers the pileum, or top of the bird's head. Both males and females sport this distinctive red crest, but the male's extends further toward the bill.



1. The Pileated woodpecker is a fabulous gateway species into birding—especially for young kids. Large and easy to observe without binoculars, the Pileated is native to Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and the Eastern half of the United States.
2. Excluding the Ivory-billed woodpecker, which is largely believed to be extinct, 22 woodpecker species call North America home. The Pileated is the largest living woodpecker in North America—nearly three times taller than the petite Downy woodpecker.
3. Pileated pairs historically may have required an area as large as 300 to 900 acres to support nestlings, especially in the West, but some pairs now raise young on fewer than 150 acres. A sure sign that the resilient woodpecker is continuing to adapt: A pair recently nested in a 74 acre state forest on Staten Island in New York City.
4. They rarely nest in the same tree hollow twice. The strong bill of the Pileated woodpecker chisels a hole in dead (and, occasionally, live) wood to create a home to raise young. Cavity-nesting ducks that can't excavate their own holes, such as Wood ducks, rely on these abandoned Pileated cavities to nest.

5. Pileated woodpeckers drum slowly, accelerating and then trailing off at the end, distinguishing them from most other woodpeckers that drum at a steady rate. They can drum close to 17 beats per second and will perform 10 to 30 beats before they take a break. This behaviour helps them defend territories and attract mates as a part of courtship displays. However, louder drumming doesn't conclusively identify a Pileated woodpecker: A tiny Downy woodpecker's drumming can be deceptively loud if it's hammering away on a hollowed-out limb



Both males and females sport the distinctive red crest, but the male's extends further toward the bill.



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## Daylight savings will start at

### 2:00am Sunday, March 10, 2024

Daylight saving time first came into practice in Canada in 1908, after it was first proposed in 1885 by New Zealand entomologist George Hudson. He proposed the change because it would allow him more daylight hours to find and inspect insects.

The first documented cases of daylight saving adopted in the world happened right here in Canada. The small towns of Port Arthur and Fort William—which would eventually merge to become Thunder Bay, Ontario—adopted daylight saving on May 1, 1908.

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## PLEASE NOTE:

**The Wild Bird Store will be CLOSED on Good Friday  
March 29 and Saturday, March 30, 2024**

We apologize for any inconvenience!



# Saturday Morning Bird Walks With Jim St. Laurent

**Jim has been working very hard to resume his regular bird walks and appreciates your encouragement and support after his recent surgery.**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024 Bebo Grove Fish Creek Park**

9:00am meet in the parking lot at the end of 24th Street S.W.

**Saturday, March 16, 2024 Votiers Flat Fish Creek Park**

9:00am meet in the parking lot at the South end of Elbow Drive S.W.

**Saturday, March 30, 2024 Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**

9:00am meet in the parking lot at the Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 Burnsmead Fish Creek Park**

9:00 am meet at 153rd Avenue Parking lot

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 Ralph Klein Park 84th Street S.E.**

9:00am meet on site in the park

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 Frank Lake Day Trip**

9:00am Leaving from Wild Bird Store rear parking lot.

Stopping at Policeman's Flats on way south

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 North Glenmore Park—Weaselhead**

9:00am meet in 37 St parking lot

**Saturday, June 8, 2024 Weed Lake area (near Langdon) Day Trip**

9:00am Leaving from Wild Bird Store rear parking lot.

**Saturday June 22, 2024 Lafarge Meadows FCP**

From boat launch parking lot at south end of Bow Bottom Trail.

**Tickets for any of Jim St. Laurent's Saturday morning bird walks can be purchased on the Wild Bird Store website: [www.wildbirdstore.ca/events/](http://www.wildbirdstore.ca/events/) - Then search the month for the walk.**

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.

The Ibis are a group of long-legged wading birds in the family Threskiomithidae that inhabit wetlands, forest and plains. “Ibis” derives from the Latin and Ancient Greek word for this group of birds. There are 29 extant species and 4 extinct species of ibis.



Northern bald ibis



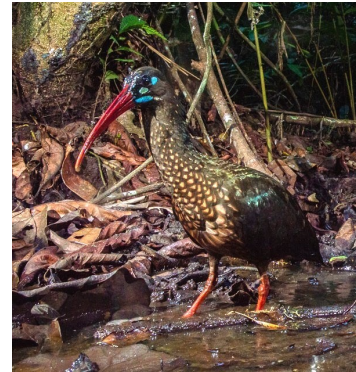
Crested ibis



Madagascar ibis



Scarlet ibis



Spot-breasted ibis

A few million years ago, Jamaica was home to one of the strangest boxers in the animal kingdom – a flightless bird called *Xenicibis xymptithecus* - Clubbed-wing ibis that could batter its enemies with club-shaped wings. *Xenicibis* is a large, extinct, flightless ibis. The only bird that has ever been discovered to have club-like wings.

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## Flaco, the escaped Central Park Zoo owl, dies

Flaco, the rare Eurasian owl that captured the attention of New York City and was dubbed “the most famous owl in the world,” died after reportedly colliding with a building on Friday, the Central Park Zoo said.

The beloved bird’s death comes just over a year after he escaped from his vandalized exhibit at the Central Park Zoo. The initial findings from a necropsy performed on Saturday February 24th are consistent with death due to “acute traumatic injury,” the Zoo said in an update.

Flaco unwittingly transformed from an obscure bird to a cause celebre after being reported missing on February 2, 2023, from the cramped Central Park digs that served as his home since 2010, when he arrived in the city as a fledgling from a North Carolina bird sanctuary. He had been hatched and raised in captivity for the first 12 years of his life.

Flaco had been released from captivity by Central Park vandals, police said. Despite an extreme search, Flaco was able to evade capture for an entire year—and developed a following.





Event ticket sales start 10:00am MDT, April 9, 2024

[info@wingsovertherockies.org](mailto:info@wingsovertherockies.org)

2024 Wings Over the Rockies Nature Festival May 6—12, 2024

Wings “Way Over” the Rockies—The BIG Picture

Our 27th annual festival is located in the beautiful upper Columbia River Valley centered around the mountain town of Invermere, British Columbia. Our Events Calendar will be viewable online starting Thursday, March 28, 2024. Buy your tickets online starting Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00am MDT. Please plan to be an “early bird” to get your event choices. Usually, 70% of our festival tickets are purchased on the first day.

We plan to have over 100 events during the 7 festival days, many new ones too!

We are excited to have as keynote speaker, Bob McDonald, host of CBC radio’s Quirks and Quarks program. Please plan to come and join us in 2024 as Bob and all of us explore “The BIG Picture”!



For more information,  
please visit:

[https://naturealberta.ca/  
snow-goose-festival](https://naturealberta.ca/snow-goose-festival)

The festival includes several guided hiking and bus tours scheduled for each day, a free Trade Show in the Tofield Arena with kids crafts and activities, concessions, speakers, a Saturday Banquet & Silent Auction, and more!

We are excited to announce the 2024 Snow Goose Festival is on **Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28**, to celebrate the spring migration of snow geese through Beaverhill Lake near Tofield Alberta.



27th Annual Songbird Festival – May 25 & 26, 2024

(Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory)

This local birding festival is an annual celebration of Spring Migration in the boreal forest including tours of the LSLBO, nature workshops, birding hikes, children’s activities, and of course, everyone favorite, the early bird Pancake Breakfast. For more information, please visit LSLBO’s website:

[Lslbo.org](http://Lslbo.org)

# CRESTON VALLEY BIRD FEST 2024



*Where the Birds Are ...*  
**MAY 10-12**



**PRESENTATIONS**

**WORKSHOPS**

**GUIDED CANOE TRIPS**  
at the Discovery Centre

**GUIDED BIRDING TOURS**  
Explore our valley birds by kayak, foot, or car  
with your family or at night!

**VALLEY EVENTS**  
Discover our local wildflowers, wine,  
beer, dairy, honey, stars, and bats!!

*Lazuli Bunting and the Skimmerhorns*  
*Artwork by: Eileen Gidman*

For more information, please visit their  
website at: [https://wildsight.ca/branches/  
creston-valley/birdfest/](https://wildsight.ca/branches/creston-valley/birdfest/)



## QUESTION: Is it possible for visually challenged people to enjoy birdwatching?

**RESPONSE:** It is safe to say that one does not come across that many blind birdwatchers out there. But it is also true that many of the world's best birders probably hear and list more birds by their calls and songs than by seeing them. Take the case of one Juan Pablo Culasso, Uruguayan who was born blind but can identify more than 2,000 different kinds of birds by their song. One of his favourite birding places is the tropical cloud forest of the Western Andes in Columbia. Some of his prized singers include the Sepia-brown wren and the Golden-crowned flycatcher. But the big story is that Juan Pablo and his partners in Columbia have developed birding trails that are helping others who are blind, or have low vision, to visit the cloud forest of San Antonio and enjoy the birds of the region. The route consists of six separate locations in the popular Kilometro18 district, named for its location along a highway that connects Cali with the port city of Buenaventura. It offers accessible roped paths with obstacles removed, tours with specially trained guides, audio recordings of 50 common birds, and even poles with bar codes which provide short audio descriptions of the birds in the region. This important bird area is home to 300 avian species, and Culasso says it is the first birding tourism route for people with visual disabilities in the Americas. One visitor described it this way. "It's wonderful, because it gives you as a blind person, autonomy." And when nature is accessible, Culasso says, everyone wins.



**DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D**  
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McGill University

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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](http://www.askprofessorbird.com) or email [david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca).*

# Creating A Mason Bee Habit Seminars



**Date:** Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

**Time:** 2:00pm

In Person Presentation at The Wild Bird Store

**Tickets:** \$15.00 +GST +fee

Ticket must be purchased through the Wild Bird Store website [www.wildbirdstore.ca](http://www.wildbirdstore.ca) and are non-refundable

**Date:** Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

**Time:** 5:30pm

In Person Presentation at The Wild Bird Store

**Tickets:** \$15.00 +GST +fee

Ticket must be purchased through the Wild Bird Store website [www.wildbirdstore.ca](http://www.wildbirdstore.ca) and are non-refundable

## 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@mcgill.ca](mailto:rodger.titman@mcgill.ca)

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



**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





## 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](mailto: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](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**

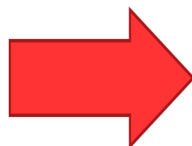
Phone your order in and pay for it at least 30 minutes prior to arriving at The Wild Bird Store for pick up. Park in the curbside parking stall, call the store (403) 640-2632, pop your trunk or hatch and leave the rest to us.



**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: 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 March, April and May 2024 your donations will go to:

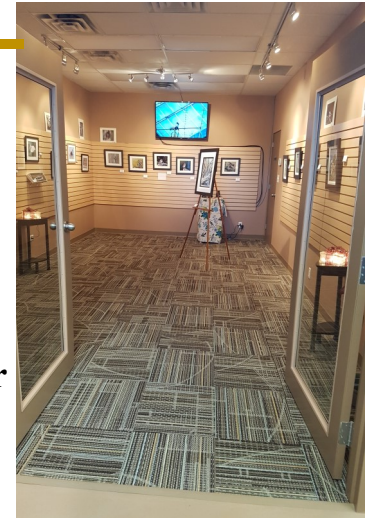


## Thank you for your support

[wwwcalgarywildlife.org](http://wwwcalgarywildlife.org)

**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

## SENIOR'S DAY

Is EVERY Tuesday.

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



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

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Connected*



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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](http://wildbirdstore.ca)

email: [info@wildbirdstore.ca](mailto:info@wildbirdstore.ca)

**CLOSED** Good Friday March 29, 2024



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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  
Droll Yankee® Bird Feeders



And the warranty depot  
for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting  
Scopes

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,  
cards & consignment items

**HAPPY BIRDING!**