

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO deliveries for
Thursday January 19 and Thursday January 26, 2023
We apologize for any inconvenience!**

AMERICAN ROBIN

Used to be the American robin was the harbinger of spring in Alberta, but that has all changed. American robins usually go south to the warm weather of Mexico and the southern United States. But in recent years, more and more are choosing to remain further north—both Edmonton and Calgary have over-wintering robins. While the numbers may seem large, consider that in Spring/Summer there are literally tens of thousands of breeding pairs in Alberta.

Robins maintain a body temperature of about 104 degrees no matter the temperature outside. In the winter, they generate body heat by shivering and maintain their warm temperature by fluffing their feathers, which acts as a shield from blowing wind and snow. All of this temperature regulation takes a lot of energy, which they get from their food. Studies suggest that more robins over-winter here than we may realize, and rather than migrating, they simply change their behavior.

In the winter months robins are non-territorial and will gather in nomadic flocks to feast on berries, while in the spring the flocks disband to seek out and claim suitable nesting territory. Once nesting territories are established, American robins will aggressively defend their areas until the last chicks of the season have flown the coop, flocking together once again when fall blows in. So while many do migrate south, because of their nomadic tendencies through the winter & solitary nature in the spring and summer, there may be more robins who over-winter than we see.

So what can backyard birders feed over-wintering American robins? If you have a heated birdbath, you can place dehydrated mealworms in the water. American robins will also eat suet especially if it contains mealworms and seem to like hulled sunflower seeds. Planting fruit-bearing trees like Mountain ash, Juniper and Shubert will also attract American robins as well as Bohemian waxwings.

Fun Facts

- Robins eat a lot of fruit in fall and winter. When they eat honeysuckle berries exclusively, they sometimes become intoxicated.
- Robin roosts can be huge, sometimes including a quarter-million birds during winter.
- Contrary to popular belief, American robins don't find earthworms by hearing or smelling them. Robins find earthworms by cocking their head to one side, independently using each eye to look for visible signs of worms.



A graphic banner with a red background and white text that says "EXCITING NEWS!". The banner is surrounded by colorful geometric shapes in blue, yellow, and black.

EXCITING NEWS!

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 January 14, 2023 SNOWY OWL PROWL

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

PLEASE NOTE: this is an all day event. Please dress according to the day's forecast and bring water and a lunch.

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Saturday January 28, 2023 GRIFFITH WOODS

(9:00am meet in parking lot 160 Discovery Ridge Blvd. S.W.)

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

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

Upcoming Tours in 2023!

Point Pelee Migration



May 9-13, 2023
\$550/person | Leamington, ON

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!

Cold Lake Warblers



June 1-4, 2023
\$425/person | Cold Lake, AB

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.

Gavin McKinnon



"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



New Species of Scops-Owl Discovered in Africa

The family of scops-owls is restricted to the Old World. First introduced in 1769 by Welsh naturalist Thomas Pennant, it is the largest genus of owls with over 50 species.

Ornithologists have discovered a new species of the scops-owl genus inhabiting the forest of Principe Island, part of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe in Africa.

The newly-described species, occurs at low elevations of the old-growth native forest of Principe Island, located in the Gulf of Guinea, approximately 220km offshore Gabon.

The bird is currently restricted to the uninhabited southern part of the island but fully included within Principe Obô Natural Park.

National Bird Day

Observed Every Year on January 5



www.earthreminder.com

National Bird Day History

National Bird Day seeks to raise awareness about birds and the harmful effects of the illegal bird trade. This day aims to reduce the suffering of birds by campaigning against bird breeding mills and by advocating for the improved welfare of birds in captivity. It further aims to acknowledge the importance of birds to Earth's ecosystems.

National Bird Day was established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition. It is observed annually on January 5th.

National Bird Day

Top Events and Things to Do

- Visit a bird sanctuary or conservatory to experience the beauty and diversity of birds: like the Birds of Prey Centre in Coaldale, Alberta
- Go birdwatching. It can be a fun and exciting experience to see your local wildlife. Be sure to keep the area clean and hospitable for the animals that live there.
- Donate to a reputable charity or organization that works to protect birds like the *Birds Conservancy of the Rockies*



QUESTION: How do birds deal with the chilly temperatures in winter?

RESPONSE: Birds have an amazing number of behavioural and physiological adaptations for surviving the coldest of conditions. It has a lot to do with their most unique feature—feathers. If you’re looking for natural lightweight insulation, you couldn’t find better than bird feather coats. Just like we throw on extra clothing to combat winter cold, some birds enhance their insulation from feathers by molting into

fresh, thick plumage. Some sparrows that spend their winters in chilly areas actually increase their plumage weight by as much as seventy percent from summer to winter! They also fluff out their feathers to create warm air pockets to increase the insulation value of its plumage. And here’s another trick we humans can’t do. At night-time, especially in especially in extremely cold weather, birds can lower their body temperature a few degrees to conserve energy. When a bird becomes cold, it tenses its breast muscles and begins to shiver to generate body heat. In really cold wintery weather, birds favour sheltered or wind-protected areas in both feeding and roosting locations and waterfowl often tuck their heads into their “armpits”.

So, don’t worry about the birds in winter. Nature has provided them with quite an array of adaptations. After all, if they couldn’t handle it, they wouldn’t stay, right?

<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.

OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE

In Store or on the Seed Truck, social distancing is encouraged.



Shop in Store

Update

Store hours will be returning to normal

Monday December 5, 2022

10:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Saturday



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 NOTE: There will be NO deliveries Thursday January 19 and Thursday January 26, 2023

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.



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

To ensure you get you want, please have your order in by 5:00pm on

Tuesday and we will set it aside for you

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.

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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

Phone: (403)640-2632

Web: wildbirdstore.ca

email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

FOLLOW US ON:

Facebook@thewildbirdstoreyyc

Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyc

Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Sundays and ALL Statutory holidays for Faith, Family & Friends

PLEASE NOTE: As of Monday December 5th The Wild Bird Store will once again be open on Mondays. We apologize for any inconvenience this disruption in store hours may have caused to our customers.

NEW YEAR'S 2023 HOURS

Sunday January 1, 2023 CLOSED

Monday January 2, 2023 10:00am to 5:00pm

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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.



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

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



And the warranty depot
for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes

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

HAPPY BIRDING!