

NORTHERN FLICKER




Two subspecies of this woodpecker occur in Canada: the “yellow-shafted” and the “red-shafted.” As you might have guessed, they are distinguished by the colour of their flight feather shafts, among other differences. Red-shafted birds are found in the western provinces, while their yellow-shafted counterparts dominate the east. In parts of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan, you may observe hybrids combining features of both subspecies.

Northern flickers can reliably be encountered at some point during the year in every Canadian province and territory except Nunavut. You might also notice their bright white-rump patches as they fly up into the trees.

In order to peck away for communication, nest excavation and hunting, Northern flickers like other woodpeckers have a few adaptations to prevent them from getting headaches, including plate-like bones in their skulls to increase flexibility, a specially formed hyoid bone that wraps around the whole skull and acts as a seatbelt to reduce impact and a lower jaw bone that is longer than the upper. This differing length in bones helps direct the shock from pecking to the body rather than the head!

The flickers feet are short with two toes in front and two toes behind. The tail feathers are pointed at the tip which allows them to grip onto the bark of a tree for support. The strong bill is slightly arched and nearly as long as the head. It has a worm-like tongue, with a hard sharp tip that can be extended far beyond the end of the bill to spear an insect in a hole. The body of the tongue is covered with sticky spit to capture ants and other small insects.

It is also uncharacteristic of a woodpecker in that it sits on branches, rather than along the bark of a tree. Flickers also fly in the undulating manner of most woodpeckers, interspersing periods of gliding and flapping.

 **Reminder!** Never store your seed in the house. Rather store it in the garage or garden shed or even outside especially during the winter. Make sure the seed container is secured to prevent squirrels and other critters from getting into it.

Inspiration

One fine April morning in 1919, an 11-year-old boy name Roger Tory Peterson was exploring a natural area in Jamestown, New York. He happened along what appeared to be a clump of dead feathers stuck to the side of a tree, and investigated.

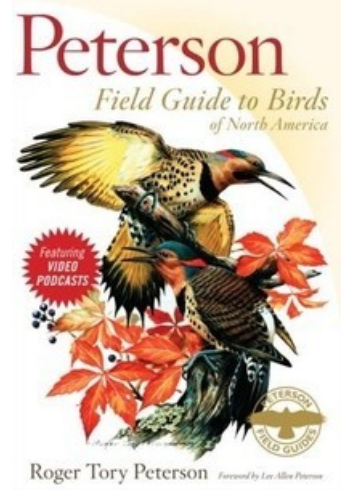
Poking the inert tuft with a finger, the object sprang to life and burst into flight, revealing underwings the colour of molten gold.

Peterson's inaugural experience with a woodpecker called the Northern flicker would shape his life. He was instantly smitten with birds and would become a renowned artist, writer and conservation tour de force.

His "A Field Guide to the Birds" appeared in 1934 with numerous subsequent editions. The Peterson bird guides became a series of books covering numerous branches of natural history and influenced the careers of scores of naturalists and scientists.

Perhaps no one has done more to promote birds and natural history than Peterson...and the Flicker was his inspiration.

A beautiful, conspicuous and charismatic bird, the Northern flicker has been branded with scores of colloquial names. Frontier ornithologist John James Audubon dubbed it the golden-winged woodpecker. Gary Melter in his book "Bird is the Word" notes that Flickers have at least 160 nicknames including cotton-rump, high hole and yellow hammer.



SENIOR'S DAY

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Sorry! Excludes optics, books, cards & consignment items



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

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 recycle bin. This discount is in addition to any other discount offered.

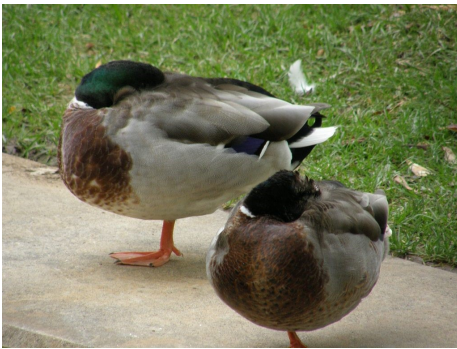


QUESTION: How do birds deal with the chilly temperatures in winter?

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 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 wintry 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?

Why do sleeping ducks tuck their head under a wing?

Since they have no pillow, when ducks sleep, they rest their heads on their backs. In doing so, their bills nuzzle down into their feathers and appear to be under the wing. It’s possible that as they relax in sleep, the bill may slide and end up resting partly under the wing, but this is incidental rather than deliberate.



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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.

RARE BIRDS IN THE WORLD

Stresemann's Bristlefront: One of the rarest birds on earth—so rare that there is only one left. Researchers thought all was lost until in December 2018 in Brazil, one Bristlefront was spotted. You would think this would have brought hope for the species, but unfortunately due to the loss of most of their habitat in the Atlantic forests of the Americas, the chances are pretty slim. The Atlantic forest has been reduced to less than 8 percent of what it was and as a result, many species have become completely extinct.

These long tailed burrow nesters get their name from the feathers on their heads. They are almost 8 inches long. The male is charcoal gray and the female a reddish cinnamon brown.

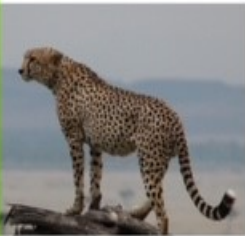


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WITH DR. DAVID BIRD & DR. RODGER TITMAN

APRIL 4 - 18
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CONTACT: DR. RODGER TITMAN
rodger.titman@mcgill.ca

OR VISIT: www.askprofessorbird.com



DR. DAVID M. BIRD



DR. RODGER TITMAN

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 recycle bin. This discount is in addition to any other discount offered.



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choose from. Don't be disappointed—supplies are limited.



2024

Calendars. Several to choose from.



USED BOOK SALE



UP to 50% OFF gently used wild bird books



Bag of Wood - \$5/bag or 5 for \$20. Bag is about 2 ½ feet tall, small blocks of cedar, pine and cut up pallets.



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

Please place orders by 12:00 noon the day before the truck is on location

Text us @ (403)701-4571 OR email us at orders@wildbirdstore.ca

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

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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:



Thank you for your support

aiwc.ca (Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation)



DID YOU KNOW?

coffee, tea and water are available.

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,



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



Saturday, November 11, 2023

The store will be **CLOSED**

Follow us on:

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Go to YouTube, type in the search bar “The Wild Bird Store”

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HAPPY BIRDING!