

**CLOSED FOR
INVENTORY**

Monday October 2, 2023

We apologize for any inconvenience

Waxwing

September in Alberta sees a sometimes confusing migration. The Cedar waxwings, which have inhabited much of Alberta during their summer breeding season, leave for warmer climates, while the Bohemian waxwing, which have spent their nesting season in the far north, ventures into Alberta to spend the winter months eating mostly berries and crab apples. They are a common sight near cities and yards due to the increase of fruit trees planted by people. Usually they congregate in large flocks and are quite visible as they search the city yards for food. We have had them visit our yard to strip our Shubert tree of its autumn ripe berries—that is if the American robins don't get there first!

I did say confusing, because both species are very similar. It is by knowing this phenomenon occurs in Autumn, that you are able to be confident of which bird you are seeing. Well, you might think so, but Alberta does have a fair number of Cedar waxwings who choose to spend the winter in Alberta and will often be seen mixed in with a flock of Bohemians. All very confusing I must admit.

The Bohemian is larger at 54g, has white bars on the wings, and rusty colour under the tail. The smaller Cedar is only 32g. Both birds have the distinct black face mask and yellow tipped tails. Bohemians take on a cooler gray tone overall with a red-orange face, while Cedars appear sandy or tan. Bohemians also have more intricate patterning on their wings, with more white marks and a yellow streak running down their primary wing feathers. Finally, and perhaps most tellingly, Bohemians have rust-coloured undertail coverts—the feathers that meet the tail on the bird's underside—while Cedar's undertail coverts are white. Not much to go on when you are seeing a mixed flock flying over your neighbourhood, most likely while you are driving, not birding.

So I tend to recommend depending on winter versus summer to determine which of these delightful, rambunctious, highly social birds that appear to have no sense of personal space you are seeing. Whatever season, enjoy these elegant birds and forget about the ID challenge.

Cedar waxwing



The Wonderful World of Waxwings



Both Waxwing species play a key ecological role as year-round seed dispersers of native and introduced fruiting plants, a consequence of their voracious feeding on fruits and high degree of mobility. Even in summer, Bohemian and Cedar waxwings effectively disperse seeds of early-fruiting shrubs such as common Serviceberry and various Cherry species. One study suggested that Cedar waxwings may disperse Serviceberry seeds 50 miles or more! On the flip side, non-native invasives including Honeysuckle, Autumn or Russian olive, Bittersweet and Buckhorn are readily spread by the wanderings of waxwings.

To all of you who helped to make our 26th Anniversary a huge success!

Chin Ridge Seeds - Windows of the West Stained Glass

Leopold Optics - Brome Bird Care

Brown Sugar Bake Shop in Okotoks (cupcakes & squares)

All those who contributed to our door/draw prizes—you are awesome and your support is so appreciated!

.....and to our customers who shared our celebration—thank you for your continued support!



Looking forward to next year....



**A big round of applause
to our awesome staff—
your continued dedication
and support are so
valued!**

Bipedalism: Bipedal walking and running are the normal human gaits. Apes and a population of Japanese macaques sometimes walk bipedally. Kangaroos and a few rodents hop bipedally. Birds on the ground walk, run or hop. Some lizards run bipedally, and cockroaches have been filmed running bipedally at their highest speeds.

It always amazes me when driving along you spot a group of Grey partridge on the road and they try to outrun your car—you know you can fly, right? I remember being in Hawaii and as we drove along this road to get to a beach, we came across a group of Wild turkeys. You guessed it—rather than fly, they tried to outrun our car! Birds are so fascinating.



The Magnificent Frigatebird

This seabird has an impressive gular pouch but it is not the bird's only odd feature. He also boasts the largest ratio of wing area-to-body-weight of any other bird species, allowing it to soar continuously for long periods.

Coincidentally, Magnificent frigatebirds cannot swim or take off easily, so they fly over the ocean waters and scoop down to snatch fish and squid that swim near the surface with their long, hooked bill.



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. 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.

Saturday October 14, 2023 Carburn Park

(9:00am meet in parking lot at Carburn Park)

Ticket price: \$7.50 Fees and GST included.

Tickets must be purchased through www.wildbirdstore.ca —

Oct 14 Carburn Park



QUESTION: In 2023, Canada suffered the worst wildfire season ever. While the news media provided us with much information on the impact of these fires on humans, I cannot help wonder how they might affect the birds. Can you please comment?

RESPONSE: The most obvious negative impact is the immediate loss of habitat to the flames. And since these wildfires are taking out grasses and trees right in the middle of the breeding season, they are not only directly destroying the homes of the birds in these locations, but the flames and heat also kill the eggs and nestlings both directly and indirectly due to the parents abandoning their nests to save their own

lives. Some of these adult birds are not as mobile in the air as others and they may well get caught in the flames. But most birds are able to use their wings to escape the approaching fire. Take those sixty or so American white pelicans that showed up on Vancouver Island this summer, a place where they are not normally found. It is my guess that these birds were likely nesting on a lake in the interior of British Columbia and either the fire or the smoke drove them to leave the area to avoid dying. Judging by the time they showed up on the island, they likely left the eggs and/or young in their nests to die in the fire. Pelicans can easily cover 500 miles in a single day, so it was no big feat for them to vacate the area. But it is not just direct mortality in adults and young perishing in the flames that are concerning, there are also serious consequences from breathing in the smoke. Birds in general have very high metabolic rates and thus, require large amounts of oxygen for their activities. They possess a highly sophisticated and efficient system of air sacs working in conjunction with a pair of lungs very different from mammalian lungs. Not only does the inhaled smoke cause an impairment of this system, but it also damages the tissues sometimes beyond repair. This can also make them more susceptible to various infections. Equally damaging to the respiratory ability is the fact that woodfire smoke contains an untold number of toxic chemicals. To put this into perspective, cigarette smoke has more than 400! We have no idea of the impact of these chemicals on bird health. There is really only one good thing about forest fires—they do lead to a renewal of open habitat which can benefit a select number of bird species. Black-capped woodpeckers, and some owl and warbler species come to mind. But considering the level at which forest fires raged across Canada in 2023, they were undoubtedly a very bad thing for our birds in our country.

<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

Please place orders by 12:00noon the day before the truck is on location, either by emailing orders@wildbirdstore.ca or text (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)



In Store or on the Seed Truck

OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE



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 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 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 October 1, 2023: We will continue with every other week delivery.

Next date will Be Oct 5/2023



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?

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



*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, October 9, 2023

Follow us on:

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[Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyyc](https://twitter.com/wildbirdstoreyyyc)

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We apologize for any inconvenience

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

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!