



Hummingbirds are highly maneuverable fliers, flitting forward and backward as they home in on flowers. But in the dense foliage many inhabit, they often encounter gaps that are too narrow for their wingspan. Since they can't bend their wings in flight, how do they get through? Researchers used high-speed cameras to capture their movements, discovering two unique strategies: they sidle through while fluttering, or fold their wings in a tuck and glide. For more information on this and other subjects related to Hummingbirds, go to Science Daily and in the search type hummingbirds.

Go to YouTube to see Hummingbirds Fly, Shake, Drink in Amazing Slow Motion | National Geographic

A fascinating Hummingbird fact: they have superb visual acuity. They see colour better than we do, with their vision extending into the ultraviolet spectrum. Their eyes are adapted to see warm shades better than cooler shades. This ability to easily pick out orange, yellow and red flowers amid a sea of cool green, led to the long-held assumption that they prefer red over other colours. Scientists have since learned that the richness of the nectar matters more than the colour of its source.

Turn your yard into a Hummingbird Haven

Hummingbirds are attracted to the nectar from a variety of flowers. They work as natural pollinators as they move between blossoms, so the more flora, the better.

Hummingbirds like to nest and roost in spots that are protected, secluded and not too close to the ground, so trees and shrubs are critical. The birds use bits of lichen, plant downs and fibers, twigs and spider webs to create cuplike nests that they attach to branches. These larger plants also attract a bounty of insect life, an important source of protein for Hummingbirds.

Embrace native plants - native flowers often attract native insects, which promote native birds.

Nix pesticides—the number one threat to Hummingbirds. Pesticides can interrupt migratory instincts and cause the birds to lose weight. Additionally, these toxic substances can kill off the insects they rely on for food, as well as spiders, whose webs are a key building material for their nests.

Continued on page 2.....

Turn your yard into a Hummingbird Haven continued.....

Get a good feeder. There are many feeders on the market, but there are only two important elements to a good one: You must be able to see clearly into the area holding the nectar, and the feeder must be easy to take apart for thorough cleaning. In addition, buying a “saucer-type” feeder will prevent leakage which can attract bees, wasps and ants.

A birdbath is a nice addition: it gives Hummingbirds a place to drink and bathe. Just make sure to check it once a week or so to ensure the water is clean. Putting stones that break the surface of the water allows Hummingbirds to know the depth of the water and gives them something to perch on, since Hummingbirds have very weak feet. Adding a mister or a dripper is also an excellent idea and can be attached to the birdbath rim or a branch of a tree or shrub for more protection.

Mind your pets: cats and dogs are threats to the birds in your yard, so keep them inside or limit their time outside to when someone can keep an eye on them. Don't think Hummingbirds are exempt from these risks because of their speed or small size.

guest
speaker



The American kestrel: common to scarce

Monday, June 10, 2024 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Tickets \$25.00 + GST can be purchased through our website:

www.wildbirdstore.ca

This presentation by Dr. David Bird will provide the latest figures on population trends, assess the various hypotheses, and conclude with a discussion of what can be done and what is being done to stem the decline.

As an Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology of McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Dr. Bird has published close to 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers and supervised 50 graduate students on a wide range of wildlife themes, mostly on birds of prey and in more recent years, the application of UAV's (drones) to wildlife research and conservation. Until his retirement to Vancouver Island in 2013, he taught several university—level courses, including ornithology, wildlife conservation, animal behavior, and scientific/public communication. He has written and/or edited more than a dozen books, the most recent ones being the third edition of *Birds of Canada*, the second edition of *Pocket Birds of Canada*, and *The Canada Jay—A National Bird for Canada?*

Besides his innumerable public lectures and radio, television and newspaper appearances, Dr. Bird is a regular columnist/contributor on birds for two magazines, *Canadian Wildlife* and *BWD* (formerly know as *Bird Watcher's Digest*). He is currently heading a national team to establish the Canada Jay as Canada's national bird.

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 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 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

OR VISIT: 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

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, 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

Future Saturday Morning Bird walks with Jim

Saturday, May 4, 2024 Frank Lake Day Trip from Wild Bird Store rear parking lot. Stopping at Policeman's Flats on way south

Saturday, May 18, 2024 North Glenmore Park—Weaselhead

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

Tickets for any of Jim St. Laurent's Saturday morning bird walks can be purchased on the Wild Bird Store website: www.wildbirdstore.ca



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 our website: www.wildbirdstore.ca

All participants on any bird walk must have purchased a ticket through our website: www.wildbirdstore.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.



QUESTION: I know that Hummingbirds can do some pretty amazing things, but is it true that they also have the ability to smell?

RESPONSE: We have always known that Hummingbirds use visual cues to locate flowers and collect their nectar. And they can even use their amazing spatial memories to remember what flowers they have visited. But who would have thought that they also use smell? Ashley Kim and her co-investigators at the University of California at Riverside decided to put this to the test by offering over 100 Hummingbirds a choice between two feeders, one with just sugar water and another with added scents indicating the presence of certain insects. You see, bees, wasps and ants not only drain the nectar in flowers they visit, they can also repel Hummingbirds from flowers they occupy. Wasps physically chase them off, whereas ants deposit irritating formic acid. Because these creatures sometimes deposit chemical cues during foraging and agonistic interactions, the researchers wanted to find out if bees use smell as part of their procedure to avoid wasting time on flowers already visited by other nectar-seekers or worse, being physically repelled by competitors. The results were interesting. Kim and her team found that their Hummingbirds did indeed avoid flowers with the scent of two kinds of ants, but not less harmful honeybees. But would that mean that Hummingbirds would also avoid sugar water feeders if wasps and/or ants had left chemical cues on them? While the scientists did not test that hypothesis, I am guessing that the hummers will not avoid them for several reasons. First, I am not sure that wasps and ants can leave chemical cues on a smooth plastic feeders. Second, unlike flowers, feeders are only limited in the nectar they supply by how often we fill them. Third, I do not believe that Hummingbirds use the same foraging strategies with our feeders. If the wasps and ants are not present on a given feeder, that should mean open season for any Hummingbird.



See the ants on the hummingbird feeder?



See the wasps on the hummingbird feeder?

<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.



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

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:

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



**Snow Goose
Festival 2024**

April 27-28



Snowgoosefestival.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

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

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:

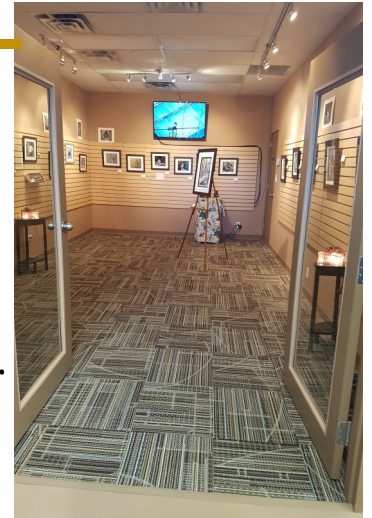


Thank you for your support

wwwcalgarywildlife.org

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

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

OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE

In Store or on the Seed Truck



Shop in Store



Curbside Pick up

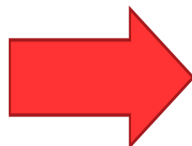
Phone your order in and pay for it at least 30 minutes prior to arriving at The Wild Bird Store for pick up. Park in the curbside parking stall, call the store (403) 640-2632, pop your trunk or hatch and leave the rest to us.



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



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

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

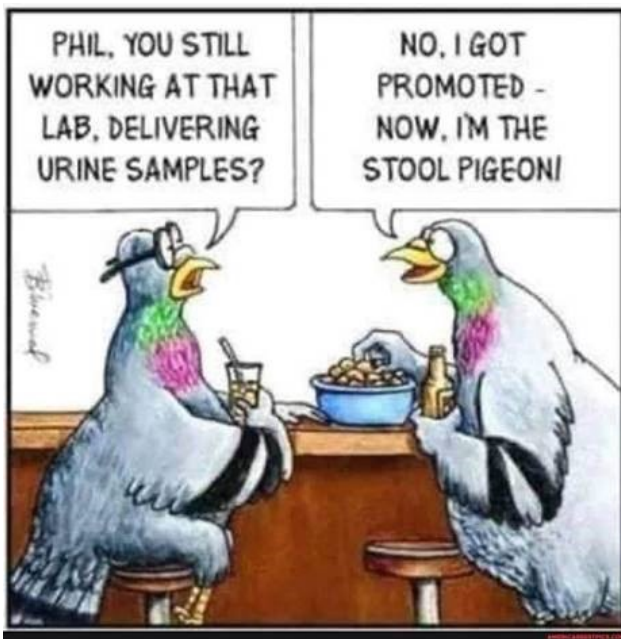
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Go to YouTube, type in the search bar “The Wild Bird Store” to watch our videos and to help us become more visible. Be sure to click on “subscribe” before you leave the page.



SENIOR'S DAY

Is EVERY Tuesday.

If you are over 60 you will receive
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Sorry! Excludes optics, books,
cards & consignment items

HAPPY BIRDING!

The Wild Bird Store

Is the warranty & repair depot for:

Squirrel Buster® Bird Feeders

Aspects® Feeders



SquirrelBuster®

♦ WILD BIRD FEEDERS ♦

And the warranty depot for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes



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AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY