



Birding News

SEPTEMBER 2025



ALBERTA

28 Years ANNIVERSARY Celebration

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025

10:00AM TO 5:00PM



Crack an egg—where everyone gets a discount”



Cupcakes & squares from Brown Sugar Bake Shop in Okotoks. As well refreshments will be available.

“Door Prizes from many of our suppliers”





AMERICAN CROW

The American crow is the only bird that dares to attack an eagle, but the eagle never fights back. Here is why:

1. The crow is the only bird bold enough to sit on the eagle's back and peck at its neck. Relentless. Annoying. But the eagle....stays calm.
2. The eagle doesn't flap. Doesn't fight. Doesn't waste energy. It does only one thing: it rises.
3. The higher the eagle soars, the thinner the air becomes. The crow? It can't handle the altitude.
4. Eventually, the crow gasps. Loses strength....and falls off. Not because the eagle attacked, but because the eagle ascended.

American crows are a familiar sight across the country, common everywhere except our hottest and driest deserts.

While crows in folklore and fiction are often associated with trickery and death (a group of crows is, after all, called a "murder"), recent research has shed new light on just how intelligent and family-oriented these birds can be. So throw out any pre-conceived notions you might have about crows, and get to know one of Canada's cleverest birds a little better.



1. Crows might be associated with carrion, but the crafty corvids are opportunistic eaters who use their intelligence to eat just about anything—from crops to other birds' eggs—they can get their beaks on. American crows have been seen digging pits to forage for clams, distracting river otters to steal fish, dropping nuts on hard surfaces to open them and stealing pet food from outdoor dog dishes.
2. Crows' penchant for crop thieving in particular has made them some enemies over the years. (Scarecrows and other figures meant to frighten crop destroying bird go back centuries. In the 1930s, there was even a brief attempt to eat away at their numbers by popularizing them as a dinner item. A man in Tulsa, Oklahoma hosted a series of "crow banquets" to prove how tasty the birds were, and apparently impressed the governor of Oklahoma so much that he established a "Statehouse Crow Meat Lovers Association." Luckily for the crows, however, eating crow never really caught on—the fad faded by the early 1940s.
3. Recent research has shown that crows are also known to hold "funerals" and "wakes." When an American crow finds the dead body of another crow, it will call out to alert others in the area, who will gather and begin to make a ruckus themselves. Researchers think the behavior helps crow communities learn about potential threats, so they know which locations and predators to avoid in the future.
4. This communal learning is possible because crows are particularly social and family-oriented birds. American crows will form large flocks to forage at garbage dumps and farms during the day, and they roost in numbers ranging from hundreds to two million in the winter. They also form close family units of up to five generations. Yearlings and two-year olds will even give their parents a hand with chick-rearing, helping to build the nest, keeping it clean, and feeding their mother while she is sitting on the nest.

Why do we not see baby crows? You might not realize you're looking at a baby crow since they are close to the same size as adult crows when we first see them. In addition, it's not common to see hatchling crows because their nests are high up in trees where humans don't generally hang out.



**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE TEMPORARY
CHANGES IN 2025**

**As of January 6, 2025 The Wild Bird
Store will be closed on Mondays until
further notice.**

PLEASE NOTE:

**As of Thursday May 1, 2025 home
deliveries will be EVERY other Thursday.**

HOME DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2025

Thursday September 4, and Thursday September 18

Location:



Speaker Series

AMAZING AND COLOURFUL BIRDS OF BELIZE AND GUATEMALA



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1ST 6:00PM

TICKET PRICE: \$20.00 + GST

**(Tickets can be purchased through the Wild Bird Store website
and are non-refundable)**

www.wildbirdstore.ca

Daniel Arndt's biography

Daniel Arndt is a wildlife biologist, photographer and wildlife tour operator based in Calgary, Alberta.

This presentation covers the amazing and colourful birds of Belize, with a brief excursion to birding in the nearby Mayan City of Tikal, in Guatemala, including photos taken on two trips in 2017 and 2020. Belize is a gentle introduction to tropical birding, with a variety of habitats, comfortable amenities, no language barrier, and many familiar species to North American birders.

Location:



Speaker Series



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8TH 6:00PM

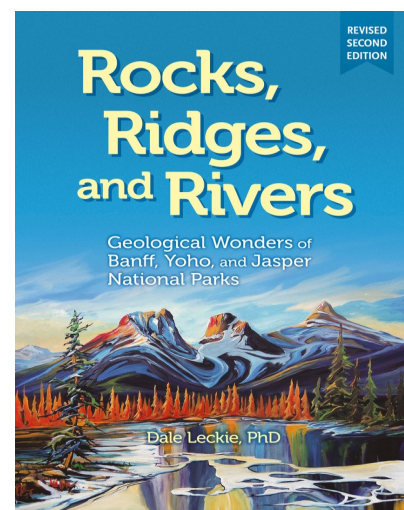
TICKET PRICE: \$20.00 +GST

**(Tickets can be purchased through the
Wild Bird Store website and are non-refundable)**

www.wildbirdstore.ca

Scenic Wonders of Canada's Mountain Parks – Exploring Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks

Did you ever wonder how the spectacular Rocky Mountains came to be? Allow geologist Dale Leckie to guide you through one of Canada's most amazing UNESCO World Heritage Sites—the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks. Leckie tells the dramatic story of the Rockies, its rivers and valleys, glaciers and hot springs, caves and karst, mountain building, and erosion. This talk describes localities through Banff, Yoho and Jasper National Parks that travelers would be wise to seek. All the geological wonders can be seen from roadside pullouts or after short walks along well-maintained paths. With eye-catching illustrations and photographs, this talk blends storytelling with science, and natural beauty with easy-to-understand explanations. Dale will tell you what you need to know to experience and understand the geologic natural history of Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks, where more than half a billion years of history waits to be discovered. He answers your questions about features that make the Rockies such a profound destination, including Lake Louise—what geological processes created its turquoise waters? Miette Hot Springs—what makes the water so hot? Emerald Lake—how did glaciation create this body of water? Athabasca Glacier—what does this glacier tell us about ancient climate?



Location:



Speaker Series

Calgary's Best Walks & the Joy of Walking

Lori's visual presentation celebrates the joy of exploring Calgary on foot and becoming a tourist in your own city. Through her writing and presentations, Lori entices us to become explorers, to rediscover our communities, to find surprise and delight in overlooked corners, and to slow down and truly see the place we live.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29th 6:00PM

TICKET PRICE: \$15.00 +GST

(Tickets can be purchased through the Wild Bird Store website and are non-refundable)

www.wildbirdstore.ca

LISTEN to Lori's [CBC Homestretch walk series](#) with Jenny Howe

(began July 7)

LISTEN to Lori's 2025 interview on the [CBC Eye Opener](#)

READ Lori's [Calgary Herald "Ode to Walking" article](#)

READ Lori's [Calgary Herald Walking Series](#)

WATCH Lori show highlights from Calgary's

Lori's biography:

Lori Beattie the author of *Calgary's Best Walks*, now in its 3rd edition, and *Calgary's Best Bike Rides*, and writes and chats about walking, biking, hiking and connecting cities on foot and by bike in monthly articles in the *Calgary Herald*, her walk series on CBC Homestretch and many years as segment host on CTV Morning Live. She is also the owner and guide of Fit Frog Adventures where she leads year-round Calgary walks, hikes, and snowshoe days. She presents to groups on the pleasure of self-propelled urban exploration, being a tourist in your own city, building communities



Location:



Speaker Series



Costa Rica:

An introduction to a neotropical birding paradise

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 6:00PM

Ticket price: \$15.00 +GST

(Tickets can be purchased through the Wild Bird Store website and are non-refundable)

www.wildbirdstore.ca

Gavin McKinnon's biography

Gavin has had a passion for birding from a young age, which stems from a family trip to Point Pelee National Park on the northern shores of Lake Erie. Since then, Gavin has traveled extensively across Canada and the United States. He has also ventured farther afield and led tours in the Neotropics and Africa. After high school, Gavin attended Lethbridge College, where he studied Renewable Resource Management. Gavin enjoys sharing his knowledge and passion for birds, which led him to form his own company, Meadowlark Birding Tours, in 2022. Gavin lives in Calgary, enjoys birding locally, and is currently working on a new field guide to the birds of his home province of Alberta.



Saturday Morning Bird Walks With Jim St. Laurent

2025

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.



We offer a discount if you bring your own container Or bag to refill (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.

Dear fellow birders,

In 25 years or so of leading Wild Bird Store walks I've met a lot of wonderful folks! I've enjoyed every minute of it. The best part has been seeing the reactions of people experiencing a lifer or an interaction for the first time. Now I am finding increasingly difficult to walk longer distances so I will be discontinuing walks at the end of September. However I can still drive! So in late November I will schedule some car/day trips over the winter months to search for Snowys, buntings, larks, raptors and other cold weather critters.

Thank you all for being with me on the journey.

Jim St Laurent



The Wild Bird Store would like to thank Jim for his many years and many, many birdwalks that he has led for us. We wish Jim all the best as he transitions to a different format with us, and hope that he is able to lead many more birding tours over the next many years.

Carburn Park Saturday September 6, 2025

9:00am meet at the parking lot for Carburn park. 67 Riverview Dr. SE

Ticket price: \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)

Bebo Grove: Saturday September 20, 2025

9:00am meet at the parking lot for Bebo Grove 13610 24 St SW

Ticket price: \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)



QUESTION: I love to watch birds bathing, but I live where it can get pretty cold. What are your thoughts on electric bird bath heaters?

RESPONSE: You know, birds do like bathing at all times of year and it is really fun to watch them do it—they truly seem to enjoy themselves. However, even birds have got to be careful under certain kinds of weather conditions, in particular exceptionally cold temperatures that are well below freezing. I have heard of cases of dead birds being found in a yard just after they had bathed in a neighbor's bird bath warmed by a heater and the temperature suddenly dropped precipitously. And I will never forget my own experience with my captive Peregrine falcons in Montreal quite a number of years ago

whereupon we impulsively decided to put out baths for them at the onset of winter. Most of the falcons immediately used them but suddenly we were faced with an overnight cold snap and we almost lost a number of those falcons to hypothermia. In other words, the birds seemed to have had no clue that the temperatures were going to drop precipitously. While some wildlife conservation organizations decree that heated bird baths are dangerous to birds and thus, should never be used, I believe that one has to use some common sense. If you are living in a region where the temperatures can suddenly drop to well below freezing in winter and you have a bird bath equipped with a heater, you should indeed pay attention to changing weather systems and consider covering your bird bath with a garbage bag with incoming cold weather. Alternatively, you can add some rocks to your bird bath so that there is not enough room to bathe in it, but still allow the birds to get a drink.

Birds do not need to bathe often, but they do need a drink now and then. Having said all that, perhaps the safest thing to do in regions experiencing cold weather in winter is to simply shut the bird bath down for the season. Birds that do not migrate but remain in Canada for the winter are usually able to find a water source for drinking somewhere, including ingesting snow. However, melting the latter with one's body heat does involve using energy and thus, it is not a preferred source of water.



DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University david.bird@mcgill.ca www.askprofessorbird.com		CANADA JAY MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA FRIENDLY, SMART, LOYAL AND TOUGH. TRULY THE MOST CANADIAN BIRD! AMICAL, INTELLIGENT, FIDÈLE ET ROBUSTE. UN OISEAU VRAIMENT CANADIEN! WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG
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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.

Waterton Wildlife Weekend Festival Guide



Waterton Lakes National Park

The Waterton Wildlife Weekend is an annual event held in Waterton Lakes National Park in southwestern Alberta, celebrating the park's diverse wildlife. While the specific dates for 2025 haven't been announced, the event typically takes place in mid-September. It's a collaboration between the Waterton Park Community Association and Parks Canada. The weekend focuses on activities related to the park's over 250 birds species, 60 mammal species, 24 fish species, 10 reptile and amphibian species, and thousands of invertebrate species.

For more information and dates of this event, please google:

waterton lake national park wildlife weekend 2025



THE GREAT MIGRATION GATHERING:

Going into September you will no doubt notice the gathering of Common grackles, European starlings, Brown cowbirds and sometimes a few Red-winged blackbirds mixed in for good measure. They gather in huge numbers to prepare for the migration south for the winter and of course, being a long and strenuous journey, they need to bulk up on food for energy. That is where you come in—you have been feeding the lovely backyard birds of summer, but all that is about to change. No other song bird will challenge these hoards for space to feed at your feeders. There unfortunately is only one solution—take your feeders down (good opportunity to clean and sanitize them for the winter months ahead.) And don't worry about your lovely backyard birds—once the masses have left they will be back to enjoy your offerings. It happens every Fall!

DONATIONS



"Since 1993, the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) has championed the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. Accredited by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, AIWC serves Calgary and southern Alberta, caring for over 1,700 animals annually—from

Located at The Wild Bird Store (near the seed bins). We collect your cash as well as "wishlist" donations and arrange for delivery of the donations to these organizations that we support..

For the months of September, October & November 2025 donations will go to:

Alberta Institute of Wildlife Conservation

www.aiwc.ca

Thank you for your support



The search continues for the elusive Common nightjar. I must admit we are not early to rise birders, but during the summer we do tend to stay out as long as there is light. Kris has added another bird to our hunt—Pygmy owl. Definitely a challenge, a tiny owl (only 6 inches) who tends to be on the ground in fields or in trees. Not an easy find - we shall keep you posted as to our success as we head into Fall.

The Swainson's hawk was prevalent throughout our trips, but the Eastern kingbird did it's very best to offer a challenge.

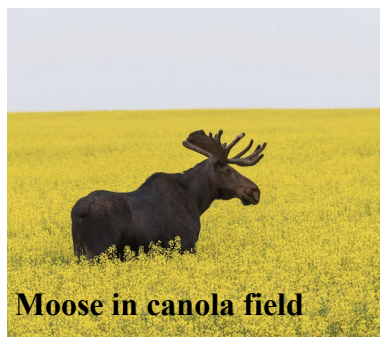
Thanks to one of the Wild Bird Store's customers, we were once again able to find the Bobolink and he never disappointed to be at that location when we ventured out to see him.

As I have noted before, it's not just about birds when we go out on our birding trips. All nature seems to fascinate us including the host of beautiful flora throughout the summer, and sometimes a surprise we had not expected. Like a badger running across the road, or while looking at some Alpacas a red fox trying his best not to be seen. But the funniest thing we saw this summer was a total surprise! Driving down a dirt road (we always try to avoid paved roads) Kris slammed on the brakes and we did what we call "backwards birding" which in this case had nothing to do with birds. Kris had seen something out of the ordinary in a canola field. It wasn't moving and a conversation ensued as to what it might be—a real moose (not where you would ever expect to see a moose) or some farmer's idea of a joke—a statue of a moose.

Then Kris saw an ear twitch and sure enough it was a moose in the middle of this huge yellow field. Out comes google and sure enough we found out moose love canola (sometimes even flax fields). Well that was certainly an eye opener for us both. Every canola field we encountered thereafter Kris would ask if I saw a moose. Never did and may never see another one, but we will keep looking. Animals and birds do the strangest things.

Another strange observation—this time it was immature Swainson hawks. As big as the parents we saw several on the road and they didn't care about us or the car. Kris finally determined they were eating bugs off the road—now I know that is not how their parents taught them to hunt for food, but after all a meal is a meal, right?

We have enjoyed a wonderful summer of birding and also seeing the sights of this glorious province. But just because summer is at an end and migration south will start again soon, the birds that make Alberta their home all year round will continue to give us joy every time we venture out. We encourage you to do the same—
HAPPY BIRDING!



Moose in canola field



Bobolink



Swainson's hawk



The fearsome badger



Ruffed grouse

Coutts Centre

FOR WESTERN CANADIAN HERITAGE

Launched in June 2011 thanks to a generous gift from the late Dr. Jim Coutts. The Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage preserves and celebrates the diverse heritage that is central to the spirit of the west, honouring both its namesake and the land he so admired.

Just east of Nanton, Alberta, the Coutts Centre is comprised of a quarter section of land on the more than 100-year-old property that once belonged to Jim's grandfather. The quarter section of land includes the original homestead, extensive gardens and restored buildings.

This unique property is a living testament to Jim's family history and his own legacy as a community-driven Albertan. The Centre supports community involvement with artist residencies, festivals, weekend brunches and live music, and encourages community use through rentals and event bookings.



University of
Lethbridge



403-915-6497

cuoutts.centre@uleth.ca



The Coutts Centre is an extensive garden venue that hosts various types of events, including weddings, meetings and workshops.

The Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage and where Jim Coutts' homestead is situated is on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot; the Siksika, Piikuni, Kainai, Tsuu T'ina and the Stoney Nakoda First Nations and the peoples of Metis Region 3.

We are living and benefitting from Blackfoot Confederacy and acknowledge the peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial. Together we are all treaty people and recognize that there is much to repair toward reconciliation .

We at Coutts Centre work to respect indigenous traditions of land protection along with showcasing the settler history who homesteaded on these prairies.



ON LOCATION

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW)

Every Tuesday 3:00pm to 6:00pm, Until the end of September.

For the winter months we will be at the Wildwood Community Centre the First Tuesday of every Month.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

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)





5901 3rd Street S.E.,
Calgary, AB T2H 1K3

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

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

Please remember that as of January 6, 2025 the Wild Bird Store will be closed on
Mondays until further notice. We appreciate your understanding!

Phone: (403)640-2632

Monday, September 1, 2025

Web: wildbirdstore.ca

email: info@wildbirdstore.ca



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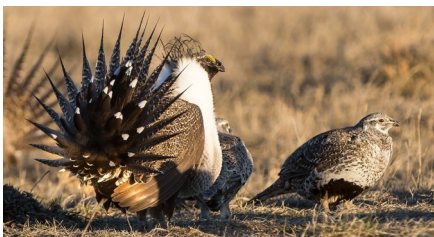
Go to YouTube, type in the search bar "The Wild Bird Store" to watch our videos and to help us become more visible. Be sure to click on "subscribe" before you leave the page.

Greater sage-grouse

It was known as simply the Sage grouse until the Gunnison sage-grouse was recognized as a separate species in 2000.

They migrate more like big game species than other bird species. Like elk or deer, they move in the tens of miles as opposed to the thousands of miles travelled seasonally by songbirds or waterfowl.

They eat 100% sagebrush leaves in the winter.



SENIOR'S DAY

Is EVERY Tuesday.

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

**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 •



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