THE WILD BIRD STORE

Backyard Birding Specialists

Birding News

NOVEMBER 2026

CANADA **ALBERTA**



Black-capped Chickadee

Is a non-migratory species. Its habit of investigating people and everything else in its home territory, and quickness to discover bird feeders, make it one of the first birds most people learn. They don't mind using tiny hanging feeders that swing in the wind, and also readily visit window feeders. Consider putting up a nest box to attract a breeding pair. Make sure you put it up well before breeding season. Attach a guard to keep predators from raiding eggs and young. Black-capped Chickadees are especially attracted to a box when it is filled with sawdust or wood shavings.

The Black-capped Chickadee hides seeds and other food items to eat later. Each item is placed in a different spot and the chickadee can remember thousands of hiding places.

Every autumn Black-capped Chickadees allow brain neurons containing old information to die, replacing them with new neurons so they can adapt to changes in their social flocks and environment even with their tiny brains.

Chickadee calls are complex and language-like, communicating information on identity and recognition of other flocks as well as predator alarms and contact calls. The more dee notes in a chickadee-dee-dee call, the higher the threat level.

Winter flocks with chickadees serving as the nucleus contain mated chickadee pairs and non-breeders, but generally not the offspring of the adult pairs within that flock. Other species that associate with chickadee flocks include nuthatches, woodpeckers, kinglets, creepers, warblers and vireos.

Most birds that associate with chickadee flocks respond to chickadee alarm calls, even when their own species doesn't have a similar alarm call.

There is a dominance hierarchy within flocks. Some birds are "winter floaters" that don't belong to a single flock—these individuals may have a different rank within each flock they spend time in.

Even when temperatures are far below zero, chickadees virtually always sleep in their own individual cavities. In rotten wood, they can excavate nesting and roosting holes entirely on their own.

There are also two other species that can be seen in Alberta. The Boreal and the Mountain, although they are seldom seen in Calgary.

There is also the Chestnut-backed chickadee which is an uncommon visitor to Alberta. These birds don't migrate but perform some seasonal movements in search of food and as a result they sometimes do turn up in Alberta, but that is considered rare. They are commonly found in the Crowsnest Pass or southern Alberta (near Waterton), but are at home throughout British Columbia.



Mountain chickadee



Boreal chickadee



Chestnut-backed chickadee



Black-capped chickadee

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Commencing October 1, 2026 deliveries

Will resume to EVERY Thursday

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



On Location:

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW):

Starting November 2026 to May 1, 2027

First Tuesday of each month – Tuesday November 3rd

PLEASE NOTE: Crowfoot location hours change to 2:00pm to 5:00pm September 2, 2026. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Crowfoot Arena (corner of John Laurie & Nosehill Drive NW)

Every Wednesday 2:00pm to 5:00pm

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

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.

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

OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE



Shop in Store

In Store or the Seed Truck



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. 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 YOUR ORDER IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

If you have any specials instructions, please do not forget to inform us when you place your order.

A minimum order of $25.00 (before GST) is required on ALL delivery orders

Delivery charge of $10.00 is applicable to every order

QUESTION: Is it true that I can buy a pair of binoculars that can help me identify almost all of thebirds in the world?

RESPONSE: Indeed, that is the case. Swarovski, the maker of my favourite binoculars, has brought high-class observation equipment to a whole other level with the invention of its brand-new Optik Ax Visio smart binoculars. Using, you guessed it, AI technology, these ultra-modern binos can help you identify in real time over 9,000 bird species and other wildlife with just the touch of a button. Not only that, a pair of these binoculars will also allow you to share your discoveries and offer even more practical extra functions. To give credit where credit is due, the person responsible for this incredible product is world-famous industrial designer from Australia, Marc Newson. It took five years of research and development. The built-in camera can capture photos and videos, which can then be immediately managed and shared with your smartphone using the associated Swarovski Optik Outdoor App. Within the app, you have the option to "share discoveries", meaning that it enables the user to guide another person to the observed object using arrow markers in the display, allowing everyone in your group with these binoculars to spot that rare bird themselves! I suppose that the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence was inevitable. When the Merlin app freely available from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology came out with both photo and sound ID, I thought at the time that was pretty cool. However, while I trust the sound ID, I have not been that impressed with the photo ID. It remains to be seen then how accurate these new smart Swarovski binos will be in identifying birds. And will it not take all the fun out of birdwatching such as playing detective and treasure hunter all rolled into one? One thing is certain though – the price tag for a pair will set you back about five grand U.S. I do not know many birders who can afford to shell out that kind of money.



Swarovski Optik 36005 AX Visio 10x32 Smart Binoculars with Built-in Camera and Compass, Bird, Mammal and Insect Identification AI Technology, Share Discoveries Mode, Captures Photos and Video

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





Great Blue Herons

- A group of herons, including great blue herons, is called a siege, or sometimes a sedge. The Book of St Albans (published in 1486) used the term sege to refer to a group of herons, but later texts used sedge and present-day texts use siege.
- The idea is that herons lay siege on their prey, waiting for it to surrender.

The great blue heron is the largest heron in North America, achieving a height between 3-4.5 feet (92-137 cm), with a wingspan that can reach over 6 feet (about 185 cm).

Despite their large size, they only weigh between 5-6 pounds (2.27-2.72 kg), thanks to their hollow bones, a feature shared by all birds.

- The great blue heron has a white counterpart.

The "great white heron," likely a subspecies, lives in Southern Florida, the Yucatan Peninsula, and in the Caribbean.

In areas where great blue herons and great white herons overlap, offspring with blue heron bodies and white heads and necks can be found, these are known as "Wurdemann's herons."

- They primarily nest in colonies called "heronries" in trees near water.

These nests can be 100 or more feet off the ground and range from about five to five hundred nests per colony.

- Great blue herons have specialized feathers on their chest that grow continuously and fray into bits of down. They comb and preen these fraying bits of down into their feathers, providing some protection from fish slime.
- During breeding season, great blue herons display bright blue lores, reddish irises, and orange-hued yellow bills.
- To keep cool in hot weather, great blue herons can be seen with drooped wings and open beaks, fluttering their throat muscles in a process called "gular fluttering."
- These birds fly with their necks tucked against their bodies in an "S" shape, differentiating them from cranes, which fly with outstretched necks.
- Great blue herons hunt well at dusk and in low light, thanks to a high percentage of rod-type photoreceptors in their eyes that improve night vision.



ALBERTA COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

WCS CANADA

Working together to help bats

Bats are vital to Alberta's biodiversity and play a key role in sustaining our ecosystems and economy. We are working with communities across Alberta to improve the management and public perception of bats in the province.

News and Highlights





To read more, please visit: **Wildlife Conservation Society Canada's Alberta Community Bat Program.**

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 Conservation and Ellis Nature Centre.

We ask for your support quarterly for each of these organizations

For September, October and November 2026 your donations will go to:

ALBERTA INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

200 million people globally are crazy about birdwatching - are you one of them?

The World's First Birding Content & Community Hub

Check out our Get Birding YouTube channel to discover tips on everything from birdfeeders to binoculars to backyard birding; how to photograph birds; bird identification; and interviews with celebrity birders.

Join our Members Club 'The Flock' to get:

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Special offers on birdwatching brands

Community hub access with birders across the world

Access to host questions

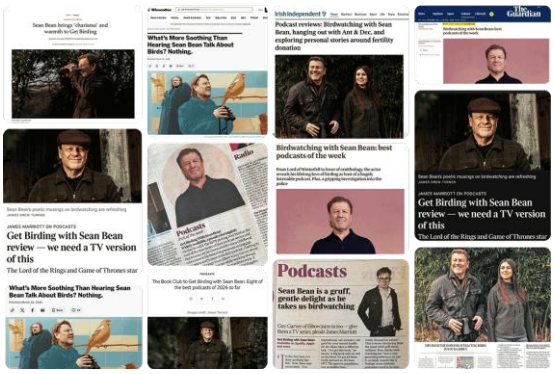
Subscribe to the Podcast

With four seasons to peck through, and new episodes dropping every fortnight with special guests and birdwatching tips, subscribe to Get Birding's award-winning podcast hosted by Sean Bean.

Get Birding's mission: to help everyone, everywhere access nature.

Birds are the easiest entry point to discovering nature, no matter where you live or who you are - impacting health, wellbeing and the planet.

Since 2021, Get Birding has championed diversity in wildlife, with our podcast hosts Sean Bean, Hamza Yassin, Dr Mya-Rose Craig & City Girl in Nature promoting birding for all.



To read more, please visit: Sean Bean birding

On Consignment:

We have a Customers gently used Scope and Tripod set up for sale in the store. Please come in and ask for details for this great opportunity to get a magnificent spotting scope.

Swarovski AT80 HD. 20-60 Times Eyepiece.











FOUND AN INJURED BIRD/ANIMAL? BELOW IS A LIST OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT IN YOUR AREA



1. Northern Alberta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (WILDNorth)
12515 128 Street, Edmonton
780-914-4118 www.wildnorth.ca

2. Alberta Society for Injured Birds of Prey (ASIBP)
51562 Rge. Rd. 222, Sherwood Park
780-922-3024 & 780-720-5507 www.raptorshelter.org

3. Medicine River Wildlife Centre (MRWC)
Twp. Rd. 360 between Rge. Rd. 40 and 42, Spruce View
403-728-3467 www.medicineriverwildlifecentre.ca

4. Alberta Institute For Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)
Twp. Rd. 282 & Rge. Rd. 30, Madden
403-946-2361 www.aiwc.ca

5. Cochrane Ecological Institute (CEI)
Twp. Rd. 280 & Rge. Rd. 51, Cochrane
403-932-5632 www.ceiwildlife.org

6. Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society
11555 85 St NW, Calgary
403-214-1312 www.calgarywildlife.org

7. Alberta Birds of Prey Centre
2124 16 Ave, Coaldale
403-345-4262 www.burrowingowl.com

*** Emergency *** 911
-In an emergency where there is immediate danger to humans

*** Report a Poacher *** 1-800-642-3800
-Report suspicious or illegal hunting and fishing activity, or dangerous wildlife encounters
-For reporting large, injured wildlife (bears, moose, deer and cougars)

When suspected sick, injured, trapped or in-need wildlife is found, please note the species, location and other relevant information and contact the nearest wildlife rescue organization for advice and so they can determine if rescue is required. Phone numbers valid as of 2023.

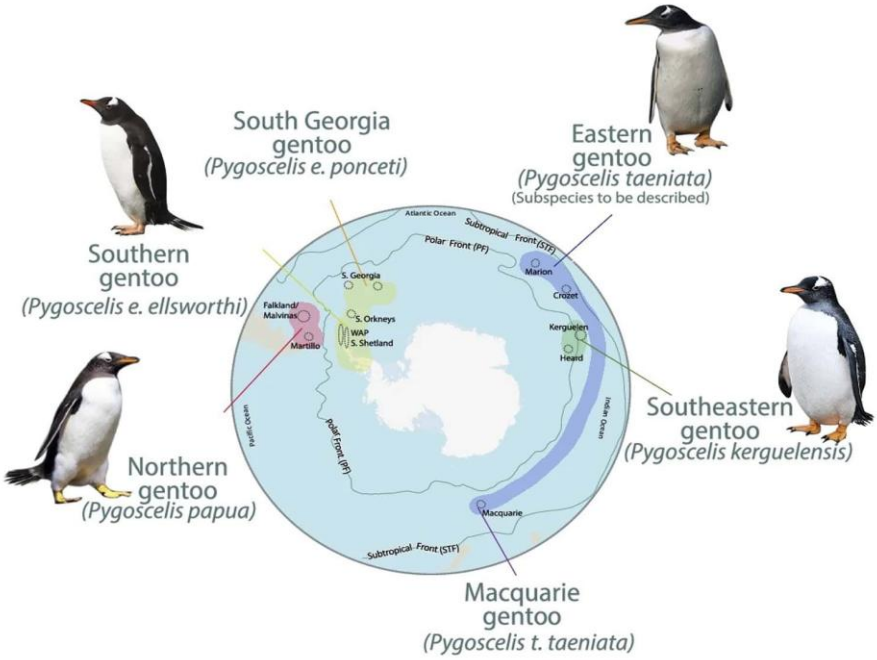
Made by Kamala and Kyle with the hope that it will help fellow wildlife lovers when they come across animals and birds in need!
www.KamalaKylePhotography.com

Amazing new penguin discovered for first time in over 100 years

Antarctica's four-foot-tall Emperor penguin may be the best-known member of the penguin family, but it is far from alone. Seventeen other penguin species live across the Southern Hemisphere, and many inhabit isolated islands that are difficult for scientists to reach and study.

A new species of Gentoo penguin has provided compelling evidence that Gentoo penguins actually comprise four distinct evolutionary lineages. The researchers propose recognizing all four as separate species, including one newly described from the Kerguelen Islands in the southern Indian Ocean known in French as the Desolation Islands, nearly 2,000 miles from any permanently inhabited landmass. That remoteness may help explain how an entire species of Gentoo penguins escaped recognition for so long. An international team led by researchers in Chile and at the University of California, Berkeley has now identified the population as a distinct species, making it the first new penguin species named in more than 100 years.

Four species have now been identified: the northern Gentoo (Pygoscelis papua), the southern Gentoo (P. ellsworthi), the eastern Gentoo (P. taeniata) and the newly described southeastern Gentoo (P. kerguelensis). The study also revises the status of the South Georgia Gentoo described in 2020, placing it within the southern species as a distinct subspecies rather than a separate species.



To read more on this discovery, please type in Google: New Penguin Species Discovered After More Than 100 Years

Staying Connected

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www.wildbirdstore.ca

info@wildbirdstore.ca

The Store is open Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

We are CLOSED Sundays, and ALL Statutory holidays for Faith, Family and Friends

We still offer curbside pickup every day we are open and delivery service on every Thursday from October 1st to June 1st

Wednesday, November 11, 2026



The Wild Bird Store will be CLOSED

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Chestnut-backed Chickadee Active and acrobatic, clinging to small limbs and twigs or hanging upside down from cones. In winter, Chestnut-backed chickadees flock with kinglets and nuthatches. Flight is generally short and undulating, with flock members setting out to cross openings one at a time. These birds don't migrate but perform some seasonal movements in search of food. They usually move to lower elevations in the same area upon the onset of winter and move back up to higher elevations in late summer.



HAPPY BIRDING!