



ALBERTA

Mac & Piper on the beach



Malcolm (Mac) Douglas Brown

Born: July 6, 1946

Went to the Lord: August 20, 2024

Born to Doug and Dorothy Brown the oldest of 4 siblings: Keith, Bruce and Regan.

Mac was, believe it or not, a real “ginger” with curly bright red hair in his younger years.

He shared his life with his beloved wife Linda and had two children: Marc (Tony) married to Barb who has one son (Kevin) from a previous marriage, and Kristin who has a daughter, Kayla, married Dave who has 3 children from a previous marriage: Adam, Aleece & Stephanie.

His love of the beach and collecting seashells followed him everywhere and he inherited his passion for “birding” from his dad.

His passion for The Wild Bird Store was endless—he loved the store, the “birding” community but mostly he loved the work.

If you knew Mac you knew his companion “Piper”

In Remembrance of Mac a tree will be planted by McInnis & Holloway at Sandy Cross Conservation Area which is located south of the 22x highway just west of Spruce Meadows.



Please plan to join us for a

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Malcolm (Mac) Douglas Brown

MCINNIS & HOLLOWAY

FISH CREEK (Bannister Road)

In the Chapel

10:00am Thursday, September 5, 2024

Please RSVP through The Wild Bird Store



Bohemian waxwing



In winter, the northern Bohemian waxwing mainly feeds on berries, preferably rowan berries. These magnificent birds can consume twice their own bodyweight. After a

cycle of frosts and thaws, the berries begin to ferment producing ethanol. The waxwing's favourite food regularly gets it drunk in the truest sense of the word. Usually, these songbirds cope well with this—thanks to their liver, which compared to their body, is enormous—the largest in the kingdom of birds. This helps the birds to convert fructose into energy. However, just like people, some individuals overdo their consumption of fermented grapes. This can prove fatal for the birds. The alcohol affects the behaviour and flightworthiness of the befuddled waxwings.

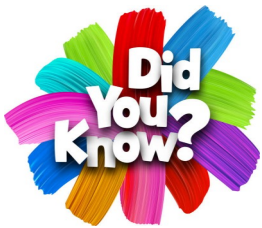
Bohemian waxwings are only rarely seen in central Europe, but when they are they are mostly in large flocks. These birds, found from Scandinavia to Russia, Alaska and Canada are considered to be invasive birds; it is only in severe winter weather that they leave their northern homelands to travel south. The origin of their name is also interesting: waxwing describes the stripe or droplet shaped ends of some secondary flight feathers that look as though they have red wax dropped on them. And in olden times, the Bohemians were thought to be a people prone to prowling around in brightly coloured costumes.

For the better part of two thousand years, the waxwing was credited with an amazing power. It was believed in all earnestness that these gentle, crested fruit-eaters glowed in the dark. It was reported that their feathers were said to “shine like flames” in the dark forests of central Europe. The Latin scholar Solinus went further: not only did waxwings throw off a warm glow, he said, the Germans used captive birds to light their way when they were obliged to travel by night.

But at the end of the sixteenth century, the great Italian bird man Ulysses Aldrovandi was skeptical. In his twelve-volume encyclopedia of ornithology, Aldrovandi admits that the waxy red tips on the bird's wing feathers are beautiful, but he dismisses the notion that they give off any kind of light.

How could he be so sure? “For nearly three months, I kept the bird alive in my house and observed it through the night.” He goes on to note the bird stubbornly failed to emit flames or light of any kind.

Today, no one thinks that waxwings glow in the dark. But that doesn't stop these winter nomads from brightening the birdwatcher's day.



A group of waxwings is collectively known as an “ear-full” or a “museum” of waxwings



SEPTEMBER 2024

Backyard Birding Specialists



CANADA



ALBERTA

Celebrate
WITH
WS

27TH
ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

10:00AM TO 5:00PM



Crack an egg; get a discount on your purchase



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

Door Prizes, Vendor donations



ALARM CALL—What the birds are telling us about climate change

Story by: Kurt Kleiner Western Alumni Magazine Spring 2024

PART THREE: Monitoring Migration

On the roof of the Western Interdisciplinary Research building, a huge, motorized satellite dish antenna peers up into the sky: by the end of next year it should begin to receive signals from Western Skylark, a small satellite Western students are currently building under the supervision of engineering professor Jayshri Sabarinathan.

When the satellite starts operating, it will collect information on bird movements from an existing network of ground based radio towers and relay the information to researchers at the Western Institute for Earth & Space Exploration. “It’s going to help us get access to the data more quickly than we can from remote areas that are difficult to access,” says Yolanda Morbey, Western biology professor and co-investigator on the project.

The existing network is called the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. The network (which includes Western) consists of more than 2,000 towers in 34 countries around the world. They receive signals from tiny radio transistors that have been attached to thousands of birds, as well as bats and insects.

“If we can understand bird behavior and physiology and their responses to the environment, we’ll be better able to predict what might happen under climate change or other habitat change, and identify places where some mitigation is required,” Morbey says.

When a tagged bird nears a tower within 15 km, the antenna records its signal, which is then uploaded to the network through internet cell phone connection. However, in remote areas without such connectivity, someone has to go to those towers and download the information manually.

“When you are talking about visiting a station that might be way, way up north or on an island somewhere, that can be quite a logistical challenge,” says Andrew Beauchamp, a PhD student working on the project.

Western Skylark will help solve that problem. Some of the remote towers will be fitted with transmitters that can send data up to the satellite, which will relay it to the satellite dish at Western. The satellite is being built as part of the CUBICS program funded by the Canadian Space Agency, intended to give students hands-on stand up to the vacuum, to experience in space systems engineering while supporting science missions. At the moment, the satellite, known as CubeSat, is a modest 30-centimetre-long rectangular frame with a 10x10-centimetre base that students will need to pack with radio transmitters and receivers, solar cells and other components that will let it perform its mission. “If you want something to survive in space, you have to make sure you build it so it can stand up to vacuum, temperature changes, and to Research, the radiation environment,” says Sabarinathan.

Back at the Advanced facility for Avian Research, scientists will continue to study birds not only for the sake of the birds, but for the sake of climate as well.

“Birds are the most visible indicators of biodiversity and environmental quality. The timing and patterns of their movements are changing along with the climate,” says Guglielmo. “We need to understand how changing temperature, humidity and wind conditions in the atmosphere, and habitat shifts on the ground, are going to affect their migrations so we can plan for how to maintain healthy ecosystems in the future.”

WATCH FOR THE FINAL INSTALLMENT “Navigating Western’s campus”

In the October 2024 issue of the Wild Bird Store Birding News

GUEST SPEAKER

Wildlife, Landscapes, and Geology

AN ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN
TOURING GUIDE



Dale Leckie, PhD

Wildlife (mostly birds), Landscapes, and Geology: Exploring Connections

If you want to view wildlife in spectacular landscapes, it helps to know a bit about the local geology. From rugged mountains, to the rain shadow of the prairies, to deeply entrenched rivers, and glaciated terrain, geology strongly impacts wildlife habitat.

Golden eagles soaring mountain peaks, Harlequin ducks feeding in the “kickpoint” of a river, and Burrowing owls on glaciated plains in the rain shadow of the Rockies are some of the birds Dale will discuss. Dale will also explore how geology influences the distribution of mountain goats, bighorn sheep, pikas, greater short-horned lizards, and pronghorn antelope. Join Dale for an informative and engaging event to investigate the close relationship between wildlife, landscape and geology.



Wednesday October 16, 2024

2:00pm and 6:00pm

Price per ticket: \$20.00 + GST

WHAT'S IN A NAME



The common name of the Bonaparte's gull honours Charles Lucien Bonaparte, a cousin of Napoleon Bonaparte who made important contributions to American ornithology while an active member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia during the 1820s.



Saturday Morning Bird Walks With

Jim St. Laurent



INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY September 14, 2024

9:00am meet at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary parking lot

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

BEDO GROVE Fish Creek Park September 28, 2024

9:00am meet at 24th Street parking Lot

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

CARBURN PARK October 12, 2024

9:00am meet at Carburn Park

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees

EAGLE WATCH—MT. LORETTE KANANASKIS October 26, 2024

9:00am meet at The Wild Bird Store to carpool. Bring lunch & dress warm

NOTE: All vehicles require Kananaskis day or year pass. We can stop at the visitor Center at park entrance to purchase one if needed. It is a per vehicle pass so carpoolers can share in cost of day pass if driver doesn't have a valid year pass. (I have a year pass so any passengers (3) I have are free.

Ticket price: \$6.00 +GST +fees



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.



QUESTION: I saw two grackles engaged in what seemed like a death struggle near my bird feeder. Is this a common behavior, is it harmful, and why do they do it?

RESPONSE: Real knock-down drag out fights among birds certainly do occur fairly frequently in the bird world. It is most commonly seen between birds fighting over a resource like a territory. And it can certainly lead to death. For example, I have learned accounts of Peregrine falcons using their talons to tear out the throats of other members of their own species in attempts to take over a nesting territory in a city. But those are to be expected among birds which are armed with sharp hooked beaks and strong toes equipped with razor sharp talons. But as you witnessed yourself, songbirds are not timid about getting into tooth and nail either. I will never forget a pair of superb starlings wrapped up in a vicious fight on the grass to the point where they did not even care that there were humans standing only a few feet away. It went on for at least five full minutes. Even when I broke them apart, they sought each other out and continued with their vicious brawling. A songbird usually employs its beak to grab on to the other bird's feathers and even grasping them with its feet. Every morning in Baja, I throw out chicken scratch and end up attracting in about thirty White-winged doves. But these ill-mannered and somewhat selfish birds seem to spend more time aggressively flicking their wings at each other than actually feeding on the plentiful seed. And that is likely what you were seeing in your two grackles...they were fighting over access to the feeder. Such birds do eventually break up their fight when one dominates the other.



Great blue herons fighting



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.

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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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.

This quarter for the months of September, October and November 2024 your donations will go to:



Thank you for your support

Ellis Nature Centre Lacombe

<https://ellisnaturecentre.ca>



Why do Blue-footed boobies have blue feet?

Blue-footed boobies' blue feet come from the nutrients of fresh fish they eat. The blue pigment can indicate if a Blue-footed booby is nourished. The more pigmented the blue, the healthier the bird.



The Blue-footed booby name originates from the Spanish word “bobo,” which means silly or foolish. These birds tend to have a lack of regard for possible danger, making them vulnerable at times.

Blue-footed boobies lay their pale bluish eggs on the ground without a nest. To incubate the eggs, the male and female will take turns using their feet to keep the eggs warm during the incubation period. Out of the two or three eggs that are initially laid, usually one or two hatch. The parent birds defecate while incubating, leaving a circle of feces around the nest called guano.

Blue-footed boobies stay cool through evaporative cooling—a method that uses evaporation to cool the air—by vibrating the bones in their throats to flutter the surrounding skin. They will also use a cooling mechanism called urohidrosis that involves defecating and urinating on their feet.

SENIOR'S DAY

Is EVERY Tuesday.

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



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.

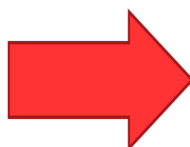


Home Delivery

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: For the summer months The Wild Bird Store will be doing deliveries EVERY second week—for the month of September that will be Thursday September 5th and Thursday September 19th.

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

The Wild Bird Store will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 to celebrate

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.



The Wild Bird Store
Is the warranty & repair depot for:
Squirrel Buster® Bird Feeders &
Aspects® Feeders



SquirrelBuster®
♦ WILD BIRD FEEDERS ♦



LEUPOLD
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And the warranty depot
for:
Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes



SENIOR'S DAY
Is EVERY Tuesday.
If you are over 60 you will receive
10% off your order

HAPPY BIRDING!

Sorry! Excludes optics, books, cards & consignment items