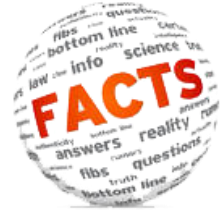




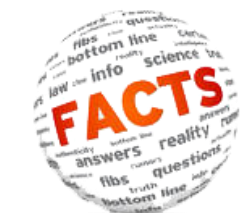
White-winged Crossbill

- Individual White-winged crossbills can eat up to 3,000 conifer seeds each day
- Adult White-winged crossbills molt their feathers once a year, usually in the autumn. The red feathers of the male (female is green) have unpigmented barbules that mask the red and make the bird appear pink at first in the fall. As these barbules wear off the bright red shows through, making the spring and summer male brilliantly coloured
- White-winged crossbills with lower mandibles crossing to the right are approximately three times more common than those with lower mandibles to the left
- White-winged crossbills are opportunistic breeders; they can start nesting at any point in the year when food is sufficient for the female to form eggs and raise young. The species has been recorded breeding in all 12 months
- In Europe, the White-winged crossbill is known as the “Two-barred” crossbill. This Old World form is larger than New World birds, with larger bills, less black in the plumage, different calls. The two forms are currently considered the same species, but may be distinctive.



Red Crossbill

- One of the great puzzles of bird classification is where to draw the line between species. Red crossbills of the many “types” now described are especially puzzling because these birds do not conform well to the usual concepts of “species” and “subspecies.” Unlike many subspecies, the different types of Red crossbills wander widely, sometimes joining up with other crossbill types. Even so, interbreeding between types appears to be very limited, suggesting that the types may on their way to becoming full species
- The Red crossbill is so dependent upon conifer seeds it even feeds them to its young. Consequently, it can breed anytime it finds a sufficiently large cone crop, even in the depths of winter
- A crossbill’s odd bill shape helps it get into tightly closed cones. A bird’s biting muscles are stronger than the muscles used to open the bill, so the Red crossbill places the tips of its slightly open bill under a cone scale and bites down. The crossed tips of the bill push the scale up, exposing the seed inside (SEE LINK TO WATCH CORNELL UNIVERSITY VIDEO) <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1649359052146633>



**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.**

**THERE WILL BE NO MOBILE SEED TRUCK ON
LOCATION AS FOLLOWS:**

WILDWOOD LOCATION:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 AND TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18

CROWFOOT LOCATION:

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 AND WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19

**NO DELIVERIES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 AND
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20**

We apologize for any inconvenience!

Our Spring 2025 Speaker Series starts in April! We have put together some exciting guest speakers with all new lectures. For this year's Spring Speaker Series we are offering an early bird special! Purchase your tickets in February and save \$5.00!

Speaker Series



Wednesday, April 2, 2025 6:00pm

Ticket Price: \$15.00 + GST

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2025

Matt Wallace is the organizer and founder of the Calgary City Nature Challenge (CNC). April 25-28, 2025 marks the 7th annual event for our city, but what's it all about? This presentation will tell the story of how the CNC has been a catalyst for the growth of citizen science in Calgary and dive into what we have learned about our urban biodiversity and how you can help to protect it by sharing your observations.



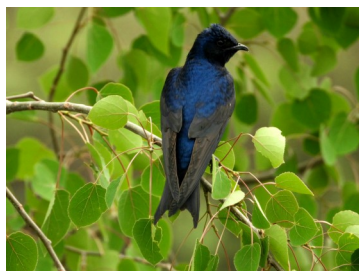
Purple martins 101

Please join The Wild Bird Store and local Calgary purple martin landlord Andrew Barnes shares with us everything you need to know about purple martins and how to become a purple martin landlord.



Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:00pm

Ticket price: \$15.00 + GST



Speaker Series

“The Wildlife Experience of Tanzania”. Chris Fisher

Join Chris Fisher for a mesmerizing photo celebration of one of the world’s greatest natural regions. Tanzania features several of the most critical national parks including Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti that are not only exceptionally biodiverse, but also bucket-list draws for ecotourism. Chris has guided multiple photo tours to Tanzania and will introduce you to the fabulous wildlife including some of our most cherished birds and mammals.



Wednesday April 16, 2025 6:00pm

Ticket price: \$20.00 + GST

Chris Fisher (MSc, PBIOL) is perhaps best known as the author of a series of books including “Birds of Alberta” - one of the most successful made-in-Alberta books in our province’s publishing history. He is regarded as one of our leading voices for all things Nature and is a frequent contributor in traditional and social media on wildlife and conservation stories. He has written and hosted documentary and TV series, produces the “Birds of Alberta” podcast, and leads wildlife tours throughout the world. Chris is sought-after as a sub-consultant for environmental work on sensitive species surveys, assessments, regulatory and mitigation needs for industrial development projects in Alberta and has been speaking to Albertans for decades about our wildlife.



Exploring Alberta’s Parks and Reserves—the Scenic Geology of Alberta

Allow Dale Leckie to help you explore Alberta’s most scenic sites. Dale tells the intriguing story of Alberta’s landscape evolution from Waterton Lakes National Park, to Dinosaur Provincial Park, into the Prairies, and across the North. With trips to Edmonton, Calgary, Crowsnest Pass, and Elk Island National Park, he takes you to explore volcanoes and glacial features long past.

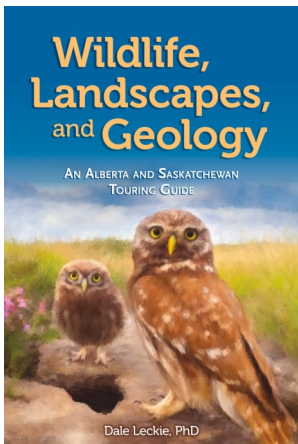
Dale also delves into the relationship between wildlife and landscape which is exemplified in the lives of Golden eagles over the Rockies, American pika over eroding mountains, the burrowing owls on glaciated plains, and greater short-horned lizards surviving in badlands and a vast rain shadow.

Using eye-catching illustrations and photographs, Dale blends storytelling with science, incorporating natural landscape beauty with art and history.

Wednesday April 23, 2025 6:00pm

Price per ticket: \$20.00 + GST

Dale Leckie, Ph.D., P.Geol. writes best-selling books on the geology and landscapes of Alberta. *The Scenic Geology of Alberta: A Roadside Touring and Hiking Guide* (2021) encourages people to get out and explore the natural beauty of the province. His most recent book “*Wildlife, Landscapes, and Geology: An Alberta and Saskatchewan Touring Guide*” (2024) explores relationships between wildlife and geology by getting people out to explore and appreciate nature.



Help Your Garden Grow with Mason Bees

The Wild Bird Store is now offering Mason bee cocoons for sale. We suggest you order your cocoons now to avoid disappointment. **Orders will be accepted from February 1 to February 28, 2025 ONLY**

Please visit the link below to purchase your cocoons.

Price for a box of 10 is \$21.99 and includes +GST and fees.

If this is your first time ordering, we recommend you order 3 to 5 boxes.



Creating A Mason Bee Habitat Seminars

Kris will be presenting in store seminars on Mason bees coming up in the month of April. Watch for the announcement in the March 2025 newsletter. Space will be limited.



EagleWatch.ca

Annual Seasonal Counts

The **Spring Counts** run each year from **March 1 to April 22**
The **Fall Counts** run from **September 20 to November 15**

2025 Spring Migration Count
At Mt. Lorette
Mar 6 – April 22

Since 1992, **Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation (RMERF)** volunteers have performed annual raptor migration counts at the same site location in the Kananaskis Country, Alberta, spring and fall; significantly providing data to the understanding of and amazement in watching Golden Eagles.

Mt. Lorette Observations

The main observation site is the [Hay Meadow, Mt. Lorette Site](#). The site is located in [Kananaskis](#) on the bank of the Kananaskis River. It has a view of the open valley, which allows excellent (though rather distant) viewing of the Fisher Range to the east. The bulk of the Golden Eagles and other raptors use this ridge as part of their preferred migration route.

Saturday Morning Bird Walks With

Jim St. Laurent

2025



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.

SNOWY OWL PROWL 2nd DAY TRIP Saturday February 8, 2025

9:00am meet at rear of Wild Bird Store and carpool

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

GRIFFITH WOODS PARK (Discovery Ridge) Saturday February 22, 2025

9:00am meet at Discovery Ridge S.W.

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

CARBURN PARK Saturday March 8, 2025

9:00am meet at Carburn Park

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

INGLEWOOD BIRD SANCTUARY Saturday March 22, 2025

9:00am meet in parking lot at Inglewood Sanctuary

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

HULL'S WOOD IN FISH CREEK PARK Saturday April 5, 2025

9:00am meet in parking lot Bow Bottom Trail S.E.

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

BURNSMEAD IN FISH CREEK PARK Saturday April 19, 2025

9:00am meet at 153rd Avenue Parking Lot

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

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



QUESTION: From which reptiles did birds evolve?

RESPONSE: It is a favourite question on ornithology exams —what is the name of the fossil that constitutes the so-called “missing link” between reptiles and birds? The answer is—*Archaeopteryx*.

Arch-what, you may ask? The largely intact fossil demonstrating a clear mix of reptilian and avian features was found in 1861 just a few years after Charles Darwin wrote his famous book, *On the Origin of Species*. It added a lot of weight to

his now widely accepted theory stating that one species could evolve into another. Since then, ten more *Archaeopteryx* fossils, no two alike and all of them crow-sized, have been found, all in a small area north of Munich in Germany. But in the summer of 2010, a twelfth one had been discovered, and in 2018 its formal description has been published, creating quite a buzz among evolutionary scientists. Why? Because this one represents a largely intact skeleton lying on its left side and it presents an opportunity to debate whether *Archaeopteryx* could actually fly. Examining the creature’s wing architecture using state-of-the-art scanning technology and comparing it to the extinct flying reptiles known as pterosaurs, scientists have concluded that it indeed could fly. Not like a diving peregrine falcon or a soaring albatross, but more like the quick bursts over short distances seen in pheasants, grouse and peacocks. It was originally thought that best flight *Archaeopteryx* could achieve was to glide from tree to tree like a flying squirrel. But this fossilized skeleton shows adaptations allowing active flight, albeit unique, which could have allowed it to escape predators and fly among islands. One scientist likened it to the stroke of a butterfly swimmer.



ABOUT DR. DAVID

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



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.

Global Bird Count in February

Join the world in connecting to birds **February 14–17, 2025**. Watch the video to learn more about the count.



Spend time in your **favorite places watching birds**—then tell us about them! In as little as **15 minutes** notice the birds around you. **Identify** them, **count** them, and **submit** your counts to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. **If you already use eBird or Merlin**, your submissions over the 4 days count toward GBBC.

Connect to Birds, to Nature, and with Each Other

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, **February 14–17, 2025**, when the world comes together for the love of birds.

To view video or for more information, visit: cornell lab of ornithology.com



City Nature Challenge

Started in 2016 as a competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the City Nature Challenge (CNC) has grown into an international event, motivating people around the world to find and document wildlife in their own cities. Run by Community Science teams at the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), is an annual four-day global bioblitz at the end of April, where cities are in a collaboration-meets-friendly-competition to see what can be accomplished when we all work toward a common goal.

The 2025 CNC takes place in 2 parts: #1 April 25—28, 2025 Taking pictures of wild plants and animals

#2 April 29—May 4, 2025 Identifying what was found

Results will be announced on Monday, May 5, 2025



info@wingsovertherockies.org

2025 Wings Over the Rockies Nature Festival May 5—11, 2025

2025 Theme—Our Place in Nature

Our 28th 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 in late March 2025.

PELICAN

The name comes from the Ancient Greek word “*peleken*”, which is itself derived from the word “*pelekys*” meaning “axe.” In classical times, the word was applied to both the pelican and the woodpecker.



DID YOU KNOW?

When a American white pelican is fishing he can hold up to 3 gallons of water in his pouch.



DONATIONS

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

For the months of December 2024, and January & February 2025 donations will go to Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society.



Thank you for your support



Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society

<https://www.calgarywildlife.org>



ON LOCATION

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW)

Every Tuesday 3:00pm to 5:30pm **PLEASE NOTE: Mobile Seed Truck will not be at this location Tuesday February 11, 2025 and Tuesday February 18, 2025**

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

Every Wednesday 2:00pm to 5:30pm **PLEASE NOTE: Mobile Seed Truck will not be at this location Wednesday February 12, 2025 and Wednesday February 19, 2025**

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

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 To inform us when you place your order.

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

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO deliveries
Thursday February 13, 2025 and
Thursday February 20, 2025**

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

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

The Wild Bird Store will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025

Web: wildbirdstore.ca

email: info@wildbirdstore.ca

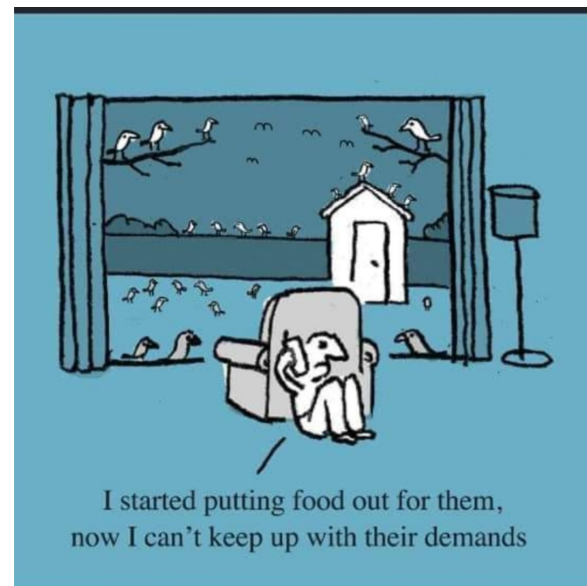


Follow us on:

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Twitter@wildbirdstoreyyc

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

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 ▶



LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY

And the warranty depot
for:

Leupold Binoculars & Spotting
Scopes