

Newsletter



# Nature Expert



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Hello,

Due to numerous requests from our customers, this newsletter will address the Goldfinch. Fall is a great time to observe and attract goldfinches to your feeders. You will learn everything you want to know about this delightful bird found at feeders around our homes. Please have a look at calendar of events in order to know where we will be this fall. We also invite you to leave your comments on our products. If you purchased a product from us, please click on the product and select Reviews. You will then be able to write your comments about this product.

Happy birding,

**Sunday - Monday**

Closed

**Tuesday - Wednesday**

9:30 to 6:00

**Thursday- Friday**

9:30 to 7:00

**Saturday**

9:30 to 5:00



***Come visit us!***

5120 Rue de Bellechasse  
Montréal, QC  
H1T 2A4

***Calendar  
of  
events***

**Danville Migratory  
Festival  
October 10th to 12th**

Come enjoy the migratory birds found  
around Étang Burbank and visit our  
kiosk!

**Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.**

## *The American Goldfinch*



The American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) is a small bird with a beautiful song and an easily recognizable yellow plumage in summer. Goldfinches are partially migrators. As a general rule, goldfinches are present year round in the north and middle portions of the United States, and are present in the southern part of Canada during the summer. During winter, they can be found almost everywhere in the United States, as well as in some parts of Mexico. A few American Goldfinches may still be seen in the south of Quebec during the winter. Goldfinches feel most at ease in open spaces, like alongside roads, at the edge of a forest, or in trees situated in open areas. They are predominantly granivorous, although they sometimes eat insects and berries. In the wild, the American



**Saturday November  
28th  
from 9:30 to 5:00**



Join the movement Saturday the 28th  
of November and support small  
businesses by buying locally!  
Come visit us and benefit from  
the one day  
20% discount on our locally made  
cardinal feeder as well as other  
exciting discounts in store.

Goldfinch feeds on seeds from plants such as nyger, dandelion, sunflower, cosmos, and ragweed. When they come to feeders, they mostly feed on nyger and sunflower seeds. They appreciate almost any type of feeder, and can even be observed feeding on the ground under feeders. They are not bothered by feeders that sway in the wind. Goldfinches are about the same size as the House Sparrow, but they are agile and have no problem eating upside down, which is something the House Sparrow has more difficulty doing. American Goldfinches molt two times a year, once in the springtime and once in the fall. The summer plumage of the male goldfinch is bright yellow, with a black patch on its head and black stripes on its tail. The female goldfinch does not have a black cap, and her plumage is more olive coloured than yellow. Both have a conical beak, orange in summer, brown in winter. During the winter season, the male and the female look alike; the plumage of both becomes browner and chamois in colour, sometimes with patches of yellow still on their faces. The American Goldfinch nests later in the year than most birds, generally between July and September. This period corresponds to the end of their molt and is marked by an abundance of food in the wild, which makes it easier for them to feed and raise their young. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) of North America have found that the American goldfinch population, in the South of Quebec among other places, is declining slightly.



### Victoriaville et ses oies

October 24th, 25th, 2015

Come observe thousands of Snow Geese and visit our kiosk!



### Trip to East Africa

April 10 to 28, 2016 with David Bird and Rodger Titman

US \$ 5200 pp plus airfare – Limit 20 people

See Shoebill and other waterbirds, 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.

This is a birding expedition. Comfortable, safe accommodation in lodges and tented camps, food included. Group travel by overlander truck. Participants must be autonomous.



Did you know? : The American Goldfinch

- The goldfinch is part of the Fringillidae family, just like House Finch, Purple Finch, and Grosbeaks
- There are 4 sub-species of the American Goldfinch dispersed throughout North America (*Spinus tristis tristis*, *S. t. pallidus*, *S. t. jewetti*, *S. t. salicamans*)
- Goldfinches can use their feet to eat, which is something not all fringillidae can do
- It is sometimes possible to observe that goldfinches feed themselves frenetically at feeders before a storm
- The females take care of the nest building. They sometimes undo other nests in order to use the different materials to build up their own
- The females use spider webs or silk from silkworms to ensure the cohesion of their nests. They can also use the inside of nyger plants as a duvet to carpet the inside of the nest
- The male feeds the female while she broods
- Brown-headed Cowbirds sometimes lay an egg in a goldfinch nest, but in most cases, the young cowbird does not survive very long, because of the granivorous diet
- The nest is constructed during the end of the summer months by the female goldfinch, in the

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at [atrodger.titman@mcgill.ca](mailto:atrodger.titman@mcgill.ca)  
More insight and photos are available  
on Dave's  
website <http://www.askprofessorbird.com/#!ask-professor-bird-tours/ck4>

You can also read our article on this  
very trip that I wrote a few years  
ago: [Trip to East Africa by Alain Goulet](#)



Photos: Alain Goulet

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## **Binocular Exchange Canada**

branches of a deciduous bush or tree, at a height of up to 10 meters.

- The American Goldfinch will nest only once a year, but they can nest up to three times in the same year
- More than one couple can nest in the same region, forming a colony
- The brood of goldfinches can comprise between 2 and 7 eggs, and the incubation period is generally about two weeks
- On average, newborns only weigh 1g
- Fledglings, during their first month, have a unique cry that permits the father to find them easily in order to feed them
- At 11 months old, the young goldfinches, now adults, are ready to mate
- Following an open vote in 2000, the American goldfinch was declared the avian emblem of Montreal
- The American Goldfinch is also the state emblem of New Jersey, Iowa, and Washington
- Their life expectancy is usually between 3 to 6 years. Their predators include snakes, squirrels, Blue jays, and cats
- The oldest goldfinch ever recorded was 10 years and 5 months old
- Goldfinches are nomadic birds and don't really defend their territory, unless they are protecting their nest
- These goldfinches continue to learn new song sequences throughout their whole life
- As a granivore, The American Goldfinche helps with the dispersion of seeds in the wild

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***New Products & Suggestions***



***Binocular Exchange Canada*** is a project that aims to engage more people in outdoor activities and to find a use for older, but working birding equipment.

At **CCFA – Nature Expert**, we will accept any equipment that would help a birder in an outdoor observation situation: binoculars; spotting scopes; backpacks; field guides (from anywhere in the world); cameras; tripods; ornithology textbooks; etc. Upon reception of the donation we will estimate the value of the equipment and Earthvalues will issue a charitable tax receipt, if desired.

**Earthvalues Institute** is the organization under which the project is run.

<http://www.earthvalues.org/en>

***Earthvalues***



## Pileated Woodpecker Thermometer



### **Wooden window thermometer**

height: 27 cm, width: 10 cm

This beautiful wooden sculpture can be enjoyed wether you are looking at it from inside or outside of your home or cottage.

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## Cardinal Lantern



This safe decorative lantern contains an LED light that flickers

and glows like a real candle. .

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Mug with nice gift boxe

*Robert Bateman collection*



Mugs with picture from the well known Canadian artist Robert Bateman come individually in a nice gift boxe



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## Porcelain Hummingbird Mug with Filter



This Hummingbird mug come with a filter to infuse tea or herb tea and a lid to keep it warm.

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## *Suggestions*

**Good idea for the cardinal**





Many solutions for keeping larger birds away from feeders also exclude the cardinal, which can be frustrating. One of our customers shared a trick she discovered that works well in her yard. She fixed a [domed feeder \(1\)](#) in the bottom half of a [squirrel-proof cage \(2\)](#) and adjusted the height of the dome so that there was just enough space, between the dome and the cage, to let the cardinal in. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. Denise Bonefon.

[1\) Aspects278 Dome Vista](#)

[2\) Squirrel proof cage](#)

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**As of July 1st 2015,**  
**we are offering a significant discount on**  
**all current**

## SWAROVISION binoculars



### SWAROVISION SAVINGS



SWAROVISION Savings - Special Pricing on all current EL Binoculars July 1, 2015 - November 15, 2015

**SAVE BIG**  
with our  
**SWAROVISION SAVINGS!\***

| PRODUCT                        | SAVE UP TO | SWAROVISION SAVINGS<br>CANADA RETAIL PRICING |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| EL 8X32 (GREEN OR SAND-BROWN)  | 260.00     | 2369.00                                      |
| EL 10X32 (GREEN OR SAND-BROWN) | 270.00     | 2479.00                                      |
| EL 8.5X42 (GREEN)              | 300.00     | 2699.00                                      |
| EL 10X42 (GREEN)               | 310.00     | 2769.00                                      |
| EL 10X50 (GREEN)               | 330.00     | 2969.00                                      |
| EL 12X50 (GREEN)               | 330.00     | 3049.00                                      |

Prices subject to change without notice.

  
**SWAROVSKI**  
OPTIK

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