





Photo: Michel Bordeleau

 [Join us on Facebook](#)

 [Share this newsletter with a friend](#)



Come and visit us!

Please note

The speed limit on many streets in Montreal is now 30km/hr

5120 rue de Bellechasse
Montréal QC
H1T 2A4

514-351-5496
1-855-OIS-EAUX
(1-855-647-3289)

Dear Birders,

Autumn weather is on its way and some birds have already started their migration south. This is our last chance to see some species until next spring when they will return.

In this newsletter, you will find information on the Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux, the Tadoussac Fall Migratory Festival, woodpecker identification, and a solution to prevent smaller squirrels from accessing Squirrel Buster feeders.

We wish you a pleasant read and happy birding during this late summer season and throughout the fall migration.

Alain and Dara Goulet

Owners and avid birders

Opening hours:

Sunday - Monday

Closed

Tuesday - Wednesday

9:30am to 6:00pm

Thursday - Friday

9:30am to 7:00pm

Saturday

9:30am to 5:00pm



Online store open 24-

7

**Calendar
of
events**

Festival des oiseaux migrateur
de la Côte-Nord - Tadoussac

September 13-16th, 2018



Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux



On May 27, 2018 our team 'Les Ornitrotteurs' comprised of Serge Beaudette, Frédéric Hareau, myself (Alain Goulet), and Jean-Philippe Gagnon (see photo above) participated in the [Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux](#) and we had a wonderful adventure. I would first like to thank everyone who made a donation to our team.

Thanks to you, we were able to collect \$ 3,627. These funds will go to the conservation of and research on wild birds found in the province of Quebec. Half of the raised funds will be donated to the Regroupement Québécois and the other half will be donated to the Tadoussac Bird Observatory.

Our goal was to beat our personal team record of 130 species observed in 24 hours set in 2016. Thanks to a precise itinerary, hard work, lots of coffee, and a bit of



Photo: Michel Bordeleau

Nature Expert will be present with a kiosk on Saturday September 15th, 2018. Come and visit us in Tadoussac!

Victo et ses oies festival

October 27th and 28th, 2018

Nature Expert will be present with a kiosk on Saturday and Sunday. Come and visit us in Victoriaville!



Photo: Michel Bordeleau

luck, we managed to reach 148 species in 24 hours. Here are the most interesting species that we observed ('interesting', in this case, refers to species that are either rare, threatened or unusual for southern Quebec):

- Golden-winged Warbler
- Sedge Wren
- Eurasian Teal
- Glossy Ibis
- Sandhill Crane
- Whip-poor-will (12+)
- Least Bittern
- Canada Warbler
- Caspian Tern
- All the Swallows
- Chimney Swift
- Upland Sandpiper
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Vesper Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Black-billed Cuckoo (6!)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl (6!)
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Eastern Towhee
- American Kestrel
- Bald Eagle (8+)
- Red-breasted Merganser

Binocular Exchange Program



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 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.

www.earthvalues.org

Earthvalues





Do you enjoy traveling to look for birds?

Join Serge Beaudette. His trips are breathtaking. I (Alain Goulet) went on one of his trips and simply loved it.

You will find all his travel destinations on his website:
PITPITPIT.COM

Have a nice trip! You will be in good hands.



Serge Beaudette

For a more detailed account of our adventure, you can read Serge Beaudette's excellent blog (in French).

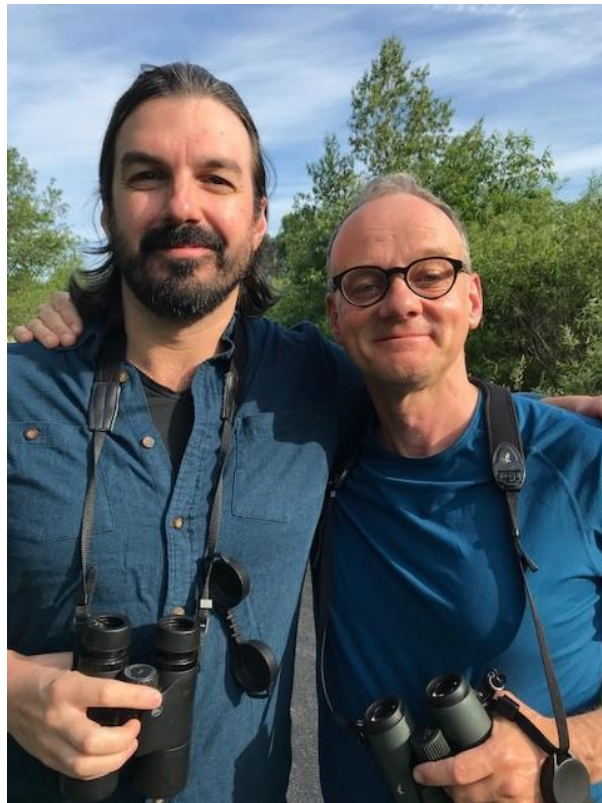
[Grand Défi - Part 1](#)

[Grand Défi - Part 2](#)

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported us. It is very encouraging to know that there are many people who want to get involved and invest in bird conservation.

Alain Goulet

Tadoussac Birding Festival



Damien Robitaille and Pierre Verville, co-spokespersons of the festival

This year marks the tenth edition of the “Festival des oiseaux migrateurs de la Côte-Nord”. Nature Expert will be present with a kiosk at the dunes of Tadoussac and also as one of the main sponsors of the festival.

There will be many activities (in French) which aim to please all birdwatchers, such as:

New birding excursions

4 conferences for the general public

4 documentaries will be projected

Numerous free activities

The possibility to observe more than 100 species, including several boreal (Black-backed Woodpecker) and marine species (phalaropes, jaegers, alcids).

Nature Expert will show a variety of spotting scopes and Phone Skpe adaptors on Saturday from 11:00 to 12:45 and we will answer all your questions about spotting scopes and accessories.

[Click here for more information \(in French\).](#)

You will also have the chance to meet Damien Robitaille and Pierre Verville during the festival!

All information can be found on the festival website, and reservations can be made directly through the site:

festivalmigrateurs.com

Woodpeckers: Hairy or Downy?

Woodpeckers are very pleasant to observe at our feeders. Of the 9 species of woodpeckers found in north-eastern North America, 2 are almost identical: the Downy Woodpecker and the Hairy Woodpecker. Are you able to easily distinguish them? We will describe each of their characteristics, and then you will have the opportunity to take a quick visual quiz. For both species, the male has a red patch on the back of the head, while the female does not.

Downy Woodpecker

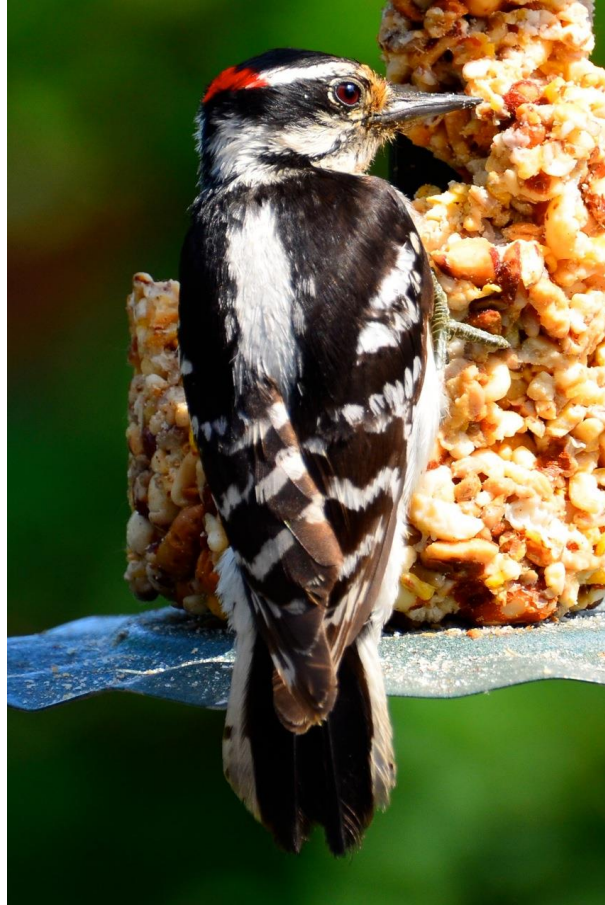


Photo: Pierre Morin

- 18cm, 27g (size of a House Sparrow)
 - Small beak
 - Body generally stocky and round
- External rectrices (tail feathers) have black spots
 - Round head
 - No black line above folded wing
- Quick succession of notes descending in pitch at the end

Hairy Woodpecker



Photo: Michel Bordeleau

- 27cm, 66g (size of a Northern Cardinal)
 - Larger beak
 - Body seems elongated
- External rectrices (tail feathers) without black spots
 - More elongated head
 - Black line above folded wing
- Its cry is similar to that of the Downy's, but the notes do not descend at the end

Who am I?

Hairy or Downy?

Try to identify the following 10 woodpeckers.

The answers are at the bottom of the page.



4 photos above: Pierre Morin

6 photos below: Michel Boredleau



Problems with red squirrels and chipmunks



Red squirrels. Photo: Michel Bordeleau

Squirrels love to eat seeds from feeders, and preventing them from having access to your seeds is not always easy.

Squirrel Buster feeders are an excellent choice to exclude grey squirrels. However, the feeders are not always effective against red squirrels and chipmunks, which are much lighter than grey squirrels. We tried to find a solution with a customer who bought a [Squirrel Buster Standard](#) feeder and had problems with red squirrels who were able to feed from it.

By itself, the [Squirrel Buster Classic](#) feeder is not effective against red squirrels or chipmunks (especially young red squirrels and young chipmunks). There is a small piece of metal that can be placed under this feeder to add weight to prevent large birds and smaller squirrels from accessing it.

I've found a way to install this same metal piece on the [Squirrel Buster Mini](#), [Squirrel Buster Standard](#), [Squirrel Buster Peanut Plus](#) and [Squirrel Buster Legacy](#) feeders to add weight to the exclusion mechanism to make it more

sensitive. The cage around these feeders will therefore close more easily under the weight of large birds, red squirrels and chipmunks.

Here's how to install the part:

1. Remove the green hanger assembly of the feeder
2. Add the round metal piece over the central metal rod



3. Push up on the body of the feeder to raise the metal rod
4. Re-insert the green hanger assembly of the feeder



5. You're all set!



Your feeder is now ready and should close under the weight of red squirrels, chipmunks and large birds.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to obtain this piece or to share your experience with this new method.

Solution to the woodpecker quiz:

**Downy
Woodpecker**

Hairy Woodpecker

**Hairy
Woodpecker**

**Downy
Woodpecker**

**Downy
Woodpecker**

**Hairy
Woodpecker**

**Hairy
Woodpecker**

**Downy
Woodpecker**

**Yellow-bellied
Sapsucker**
**We cheated a
little by
including
another
woodpecker
species!**

**Downy
Woodpecker**



Nature Expert

5120 rue de Bellechasse
Montréal QC
H1T 2A4

Tel: 514-351-5496

Tel: 1-855-OIS-EAUX

(Tel: 1-855-647-3289)

Fax: 1-800-588-6134