



## The rarest bird in North America!



**Steller Sea-Eagle** spotted in Trinity, NL. 2022-07-20. Photo by Alain Goulet.

During a trip to Newfoundland, I was able to find the same Steller Sea-Eagle that was observed in Gaspésie last year and that spent the winter on the coast of Maine. It was an unlikely and highly improbable sighting and I still can't believe it happened. The odds were against me but on the morning of July 20, 2022, I went on a Zodiac excursion with Trinity Eco-Tours and I managed to find the rare bird. The Stellar Sea-Eagle was a good distance away and I was able to find a flat spot on the edge of the bay just big enough for me and my spotting scope. The photo was taken with my iPhone installed on my spotting scope.

**The birding season is far from being over!** With fall comes migrations and birding festivals. From Tadoussac to Baie-du-Febvre via Montmagny and Victoriaville, bird watching opportunities are endless. And with migration, the chances of seeing a rarity are higher because several species may decide to pass through our area during their journey. Before embarking on your birding adventures, we invite you



to attend Nature Expert's Swarovski Day on September 10, during which you will learn a lot about which binoculars and spotting scopes are best suited for birding and your specific needs.

Happy reading!

***Dara and Alain Goulet, proud owners and birding enthusiasts.***

**Those birds that adopt us**



*Merle d'Amérique - American robin*

© Michel Boudreau 2008

A text by Serge Beaudette - Pitpitpit.com

We sometimes seem to recognize certain birds found in our neighbourhood. Sometimes by a particular behavior, a special song, a habit. We even have the impression that after a round trip of several thousand kilometers, very often a bird returns precisely to us to reproduce. "Our" robin makes its nest in the same place and is not afraid of us... But is this really the case? It is not easy to recognize a Blue Jay amongst other Blue Jays. However, we can achieve this if the bird shows a physical characteristic that distinguishes it from others (for example, if it is missing a leg) or after close contact and long and sustained observation over several weeks (often in the context of certain scientific projects), which helps us to perceive differences that are often very subtle. As these are not opportunities that regularly arise in our lives with birds, recognizing them often passes as a diffuse sensation, mixed with doubts... a vague impression. Also, why would a bird that travels to South America for the winter precisely come to my backyard every year to breed when backyards like mine are everywhere on its path? Why would he bother to remember the exact way to get to my little yard? What would be the benefit?

It turns out that several birds benefit from this habit of returning to familiar ground to raise their offspring. Most Tree Swallows even return to the same nest box! Many of their offspring also often come to settle within a few kilometers of their birthplace. For my part, I have had some experiences in which I was certain that the bird I was observing was the same one observed the year before. Like this male Baltimore Oriole that I heard



*Colibri à gorge rubies / Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

© Michel Bordeleau 2011

at the end of May for a few years in the same place and that I recognized by an atypical and truly characteristic song.

I have also experienced on numerous occasions, along with dozens of other birders, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird returning to feed from an exact location. While the hummingbird feeder is not yet up, a hummingbird appears exactly where it was. The pole supporting the hummingbird feeder having been removed for the winter, the bird flies in place where the feeder should be as if it appears to be waiting for something! It's a bit of an unsettling experience when you consider that this bird migrates to South America has a brain the size of a grain of rice! It is very beneficial for a hummingbird to remember where food sources are and when they are available. It can thus advance its arrival from one year to the next, which gives it more time to claim a territory and carry out the many tasks related to reproduction. All of this has a direct and major impact on his reproductive success. It therefore pays to have this so-called "episodic" memory, of time and space!



For rural birds who make their nests in grasslands or cultivated fields, remembering their successful nests will make the difference between having offspring or not having any! These bird populations are all in steep decline because when nesting time comes in their open environment, none of them know if the land will be cultivated, mown, or not.

The first cut of cultivated land is done very early nowadays, when the chicks have not even emerged from the eggs. And the cuts follow one another throughout the season at a rate that prevents any successful nesting. It will therefore be essential for the couple to choose another place the following year in order to have better luck, on an uncultivated meadow. In the same way, a couple who has found a safe place and who had successful nesting, will have every reason to return to the same place year after year.

According to each species, and in a different way for each individual, there are many advantages to returning to the same place each year. By doing so, we learn about where the food is, about predators and their habits, where do nests have a better chance of succeeding, etc. It is not easy for us to know if we are visited by the same birds year after year but it is very possible too. It may encourage us to get to know them better, to get closer to what makes them different and to maintain a harmonious relationship to these feathered neighbors who may have known us for years!

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## About cleaning lenses!

After investing a good amount of money on your binoculars, it is important to keep them in excellent condition. Cleaning and protecting the lenses is paramount. We suggest that you clean your lenses before each outing with a microfiber cloth and cleaning products especially made for glasses or optical products. Never use Windex or any other similar harsh product. When in the field, do not use your sweater or jacket to clean your lenses as you may scratch them.

We recommend this cleaning product :



Here is an example of a customer who sent her binoculars for repair. You can see that her \$400 binoculars are not worth that anymore. Scratches will obviously affect the quality of your observations, not only showing the scratches but also in reducing the transmission of the light. (see Photo 1)



In this following example, a customer came to see us because his Zeiss binoculars were not as clear as they once were. I cleaned them with a Zeiss lens cleaner and a microfiber cloth. You can clearly see what the problem was with this pair of binoculars when you look at what came off on the lens cloth. (see Picture 2)



A protective binoculars case can be useful while travelling in the field. Keeping an extra case in the car can be a very good idea.



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## SWAROVSKI DAY ON SEPTEMBER 10



Come and meet Thomas Baney, our Swarovski representative. He will be at Nature Expert on Saturday September 10, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He will be able to show you several Swarovski products and answer all your questions. **We will be offering a 10% discount on all Swarovski products on that day.** Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

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## Cooper's Hawk



We had the chance to have a couple of Cooper's Hawk nesting a few minutes from Nature Expert in Cité Jardin this last spring. The nest was built in a maple tree and was easy to observe throughout the nesting season as the tree did not have many leaves. It gave us the opportunity to go and take several photos and videos to follow the development of the 5 nestlings who were all able to fledge from the nest. You can see these photos and videos on Nature Expert's Facebook page :

<https://www.facebook.com/ccfanatureexpert/>

## Tadoussac Migratory Bird Festival

A must for Quebec ornithologists, we will be, as is it now a custom for us, at the [Festival des oiseaux migrants de la Côte-Nord](#) in Tadoussac which will held from September 22nd to 25th. We will have a kiosk with a nice variety of products for bird watching (optics, feeders, books, etc.). Come and meet us there while enjoying a unique natural environment. There will be lots of activities during the festival and great restaurants in Tadoussac!



*Busard St-Martin / Northern Harrier*

© Michel Bordeleau 2013

## Then we hop to Victoriaville!

After Tadoussac, we will cross to the other side of the river to be present at the [Victo et ses oies](#) festival in Victoriaville from October 21 to 23. There too, we will have a kiosk with a nice variety of products (optics, feeders, books, etc.). We hope to meet many of you there. Come experience a massive arrival of geese on the

Beaudet Reservoir.



*Oie de Ross - Hybride - Oie des neiges*

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## NEW ARRIVALS



### 1000 pieces puzzles

We have three new 1000-piece vintage puzzles:

[Flower Garden](#), [Tropical Forest](#) and [Hummingbirds](#),

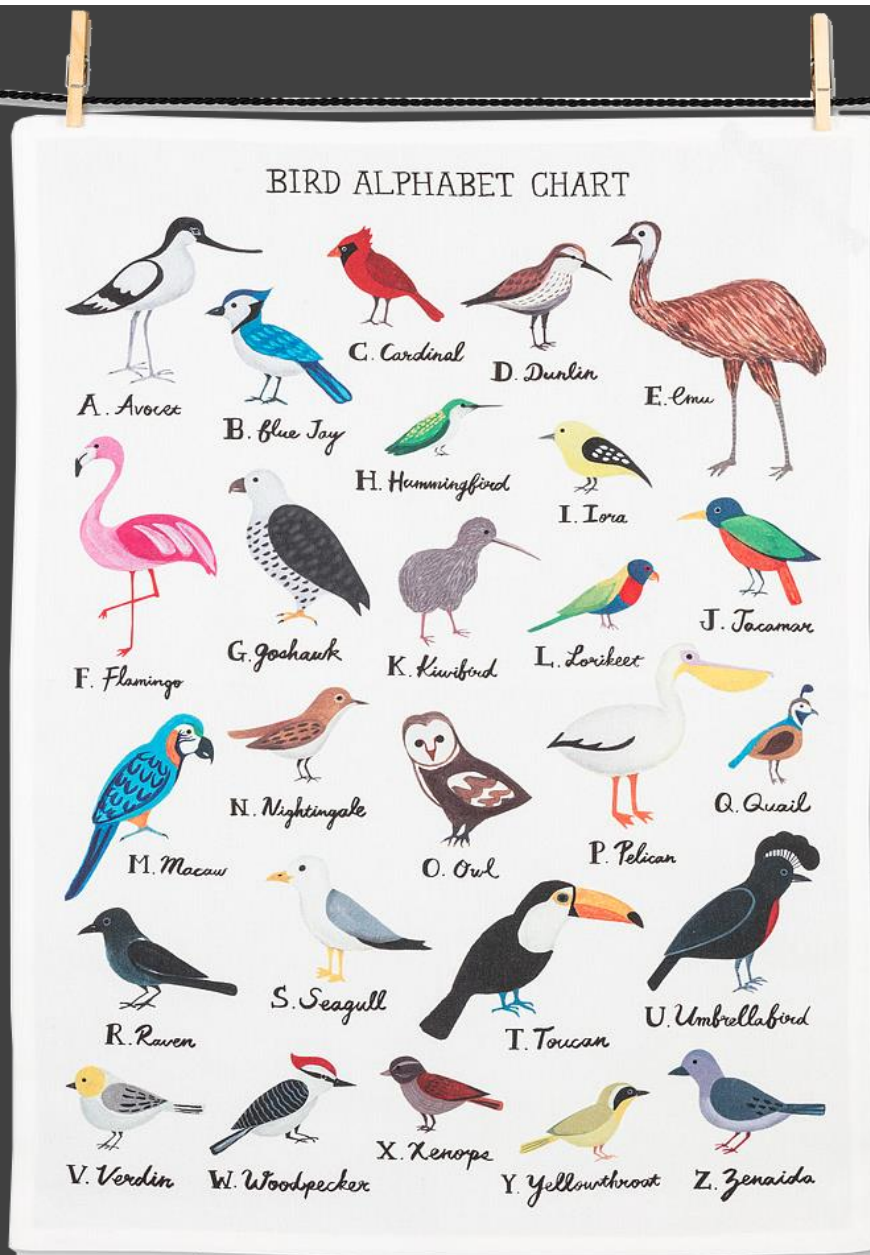


Let these birds add a nice complement to any hot beverage with this stylish Birds Mug.

Crafted out of Bone China, this elegant white mug features intricate, line-drawing illustrations of chickadees, cardinals and more perched on festive foliage to help brighten your morning coffee or tea.

12 oz or 350 ml capacity.

[See the product](#)



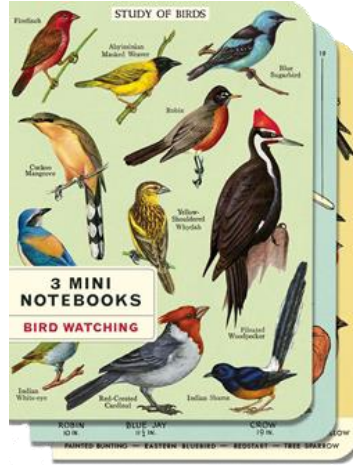
## BIRD ALPHABET TEA TOWEL

Learn about our fine feathered friends with this Bird Alphabet Tea Towel. Designed by Toronto artist Lily Kao, this 100% cotton tea towel features adorable illustrations of our favourite birds — one for each letter of the alphabet.

Machine washable.

20" x 28" / 53cm x 71cm

[See the product](#)



*Here are a few notebooks to help you make your lists of birds observed while in the field. You can also use them for any other list.*