



Nature Expert Newsletter

The return of the Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux!

The Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux aims to raise awareness among the population about the protection of Quebec's birds and to raise funds for conservation projects. The event takes the form of a 24-hour ornithology marathon during which participants must observe as many bird species as possible from a fixed point or on the move, during any day of the month of May.

Nature Expert's owner, Alain Goulet and his team, Les Ornitrotteurs! will be taking on this challenge for 24 hours on May 19th. They are the reigning champions, having won in 2023 when they saw an astounding 148 species of birds, and this year they have set their goal at 150, but we know they will surpass it!

You can help this team raise funds for the Tadoussac Bird Observatory by donating in the link below. We thank you in advance!

<https://www.quebecoiseaux.org/fr/campagne-grand-defi/detail/grand-defi-quebecoiseaux-2024/4303/team/3/#don-details>



Exciting Sightings

Our customer, Jean-François Franche, took this incredible picture of Tree Swallows as they start to make home of a nest box recently installed at the Montreal Botanical Garden. We can see how much more vibrant bird plumages are in the spring, the blue in their heads is a beautiful iridescent hue. What a fantastic picture, thank you Jean-François!

Swallows eat mainly insects and will be attracted to areas that have a good source of flying insects. Their nesting season is between May and July, so keep an eye out for them!

Photo : Jean-François Franche



*A word from Marc Tellier, our
birdhouse expert:*

I have recently contributed to a nesting box project by the Société de biologie de Montréal at the Botanical Garden. Seven cavity nesting species of birds were selected, and 18 nest boxes were installed at specific locations at the

Montreal Botanical Garden.

I am very proud of this project, and the opportunity to bring our expertise to it. There are many species that can use nest boxes and you can visit the Botanical Garden to find them.

Bird Spotlight

Tree Swallow

- **Time of the year we see them most:** May - September
- **Migration Pattern:** from Canada to Mexico in September, and returns to Canada in April
- **Habitat:** Nests locally in Canada in tree cavities near water. More common in the countryside than in the city. Not a fan of trees or leaves, can be seen more on posts and bare branches. Easy to find.
- **Food Preference:** Only insects
- **Plumage:** White belly, iridescent bright blue in the back from head to tail, black wings.
- **Song:** Chirping with a distinct tchi and a liquid sounding wee-tree.

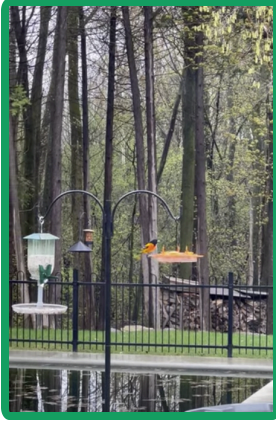
Photo : Michel Bordeleau



Backyard Chatter

Birding migration is here! As many of you may have noticed, more and more birds have been visiting backyards as they come back from their winter grounds. Now is the perfect time to clean and set up bird feeders, water baths and other bird friendly items to attract them to your backyard.

Things to keep in mind: clean your bird baths, if the water becomes stales birds won't use it, or they may even get sick. Fill up your bird feeders in order to help birds during the nesting season. And enjoy the view!



Product of the Moment

It is Oriole Season! And we have the perfect Baltimore Oriole Bird Feeder as well as BirdBerry Jelly for Orioles!

We thank our customer for sending us this amazing picture of a Baltimore Oriole in action in her backyard.



You can watch the video of this lively Baltimore Oriole eating from her feeder at: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/266hx9KAD9Y>

Buy Now

The most pressing question

This week, our most popular question has been regarding: Squirrels!

- How do I keep squirrels from my birds' food!?

As more and more birds arrive in our backyards, more squirrels arrive right along with them! And for all we complain about squirrels stealing birds' food, we can't but also marvel at their incredible resilience and cleverness to do so!

The best solution we offer our customers with this question is to either get an anti-squirrel bird feeder, or buy squirrel repellent grains, which have been spiced with capsicum (hot pepper), which the squirrels do not like, but has no effect on birds (either

as a taste or their digestion).

So yes, it is possible to have a squirrel free bird environment in your backyard, but beware, if they don't eat the bird's food, they might eat yours, for they are very clever indeed!



Birding Quiz

When most birds stand, do they stand on their toes or on the flat of their feet?

Tune into our next newsletter for the answer!

Photo : Michel Bordeleau



Until our next Sighting!

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