



CCFA - Nature Expert

Centre de conservation de la faune ailée

Spring 2013

In this newsletter:

- Bird Fest 2013
- The bird quiz
- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- News and suggestions

Hours of operation:

**Tuesday and
Wednesday**
9h30 - 18h

**Thursday and
Friday**
9h30 - 19h

Saturday
9h30 - 17h

**5120 rue de
Bellechasse,
Montréal, QC
H1T 2A4**

Metro Viau

Spring is here, even with this fresh snow of this last week. We are looking forward to the arrival of dozens of spring migrants, especially the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, featured in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on June 8th for our Birdfest. Again this year, we will have a lot of prizes to be drawn on that day : Bird feeders; bird books; assorted gifts and a pair of Swarovski binoculars worth \$1000.

Happy birding,
Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast

Bird Fest

June 8th 2013 !

Following our grand re-opening in 2012, many of our customers commented on how much they enjoyed the day and that they hoped we would hold such an event again. We heard your comments! Bird Fest will be held at our store, Nature Expert (5120 rue de Bellechasse, Montreal, H1T 2A4)

On June 8th, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet birding experts and artists
- Test the best birding equipment
- Discuss bird conservation with environmental groups
- See live birds of prey
- Have your picture taken with a bird of prey in order to raise funds for UQROP
- Win one of several prizes (books, bird feeders, Swarovski binoculars, etc)
- Take advantage of several in-store savings and promotions



We look forward to hosting:

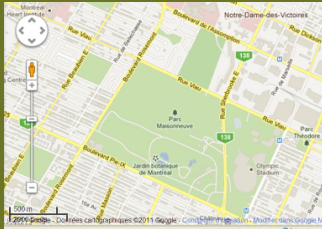
- Jean Paquin, author and birding expert
- Daniel Dupont, photographer and author
- Vortex Optics
- Swarovski Optik
- Services environnementaux faucons (with their birds of prey)
- U.Q.R.O.P. (with their birds of prey)
- Regroupement QuébecOiseaux
- Bird Protection Québec
- Danie Gagnon, Wildlife artist
- Mathieu Filion, Butterfly box maker



www.ccfa-montreal.com

Come
visit us !

5120 Rue de
Bellechasse



facebook

Click on the logo
to go directly to
Nature Expert's
Facebook page.
It's a great way to
contact us and
learn about differ-
ent contests!

Click Like on our
page!



A Very Special Bird!

Hummingbirds are distinct because of their size and the speed at which they flap their wings. They are known as "hummingbirds" for the sound produced by their wings when flying.

In Quebec and the Maritimes, we can observe the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. It is present from the end of April / early May to the end of September / early October. IT spends the winter months in Mexico and Central America to avoid severe cold.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird measures 8 to 9 cm and weighs three grams. Its wing beat is between 70 and 80 beats per second and has the unique ability to fly backwards.



Hummingbirds have a long beak with an extensible tongue that allows them to collect nectar from flowers; 90% of their diet is composed of nectar but they will feed on tree sap when nectar is not available. They also eat insects and spiders : in flight; from the trunk of trees; on tree leaves or in spider's webs. They will also find holes in trees in which they will feed on sap and insects.

A hummingbird consumes, on average, half its weight in sugar each day. Such a large amount of energy is needed because these birds have a very high metabolism and spend a lot of energy when they fly. They are also equipped with a heart bigger than average heart compared to their body size.

Hummingbirds are attracted to flowers so we have compiled a small list of flowers that you can plant in your garden to attract them:

1. Canada Columbine

Perennial - red and yellow

2. Bleeding heart

Perennial flower - shaped like pink drooping hearts.

3. Campanula

Perennial flower - red, yellow and orange.

4. Fuchsia

Shrub with drooping flowers - often bicoloured, purple, pink and white.

www.ccf-montreal.com

Answer to the last quiz

A farmer sends his friend Joe a box containing nine ducks. In order to control the number of ducks on arrival, he writes IX ducks in Roman numerals on the box.

Unfortunately, the dishonest carrier steals three ducks and slightly modifies the writing on the box. How does he do it without erasing or smearing what is already written on the box and without raising any suspicion?

Answer:

We received a lot of creative answers. The simplest answer, and the correct one, is to put a "S" in front of IX to make "SIX"!

5. Geranium

Perennial flower - pink- lilac or mauve- pink with white center.

6. Morning glories

Belong to perennials and vines - trumpet-shaped and different colors like pink, lilac, purple, blue and white

Hummingbirds are attracted to flowers with colors that contrast with their surroundings. The shape of the flower is also important; they prefer flowers that are trumpet-shaped or bell-shaped.



Hummingbirds are also excellent pollinators. When they feed on flowers, a small amount of pollen is deposited on the hummingbird beak and face that they then unknowingly take to other flowers to fertilize.

You can make your own hummingbird feeder nectar by mixing 1 cup white sugar with 4 cups boiling water. Before fall migration, you can make a more concentrated nectar, as more energy is needed, by mixing 1 cup of white sugar to 3 cups of boiling water.

It is best not to add red dye to the nectar you make as it has been shown through various studies that dye is harmful to hummingbirds. In fact, it is a myth that hummingbirds are more attracted to the colour red over other colours: this has never been proven.

The best practice to change the feeder solution once a week and rinse the bottle with hot water mixed with vinegar to prevent the build up of bacteria. The use of soap is not recommended as it can be harmful to birds. In addition, it is preferable to put your feeder in the shade to prevent fermentation.

To avoid having your feeders raided by ants, use an ant baffle filled with water and suspended above the feeder. Please contact us or visit our website to view our selection of hummingbird feeders.

*Viviana Brigada
Dave Gagné*

QUIZ

Can you identify this bird ?



Photo: Karl Egressy

Send us your answer by email !

Nature Expert
5120 rue de Belchasse Montréal,
QC H1T 2A4

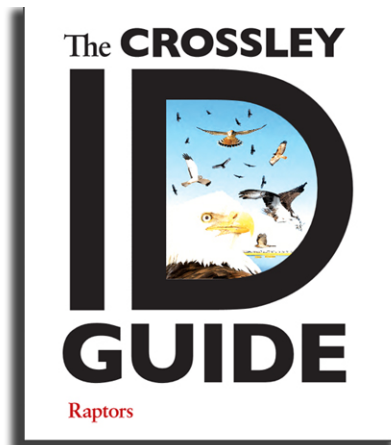
Métro Viau

ccfa@videotron.ca

Tél: 514-351-5496
Tél: 1-855-OIS-EAUX
Fax: 1-800-588-6134

New products and suggestions

The Crossley Guide - Raptors



Whether you are a novice or an expert, this one-of-a-kind guide will show you an entirely new way to look at these spectacular birds.

- The most complete guide to North American raptors, written by some of the foremost experts
- The first raptor guide using Richard Crossley's acclaimed, innovative composite images that show birds as they actually appear in the field
- 101 stunning color plates--including thirty-five double-page layouts--composed from thousands of photographs
- Comparative, multispecies plates and photos of mystery species that allow readers to test their growing identification skills
- Complete with introduction, 34 color maps, and detailed species accounts

Deck of Cards – Birds of Canada

We created this in-house deck of cards due to the high demand from our customer for a bilingual deck of cards. It is a great tool to learn your birds and it makes a great gift for bird-lovers. A different bird graces each card and its name appears in French and English.

Each deck contains 54 different birds and will be available in June.



This beautiful hummingbird feeder will brighten up your backyard or garden and will provide hours of enjoyment as you observe these fascinating creatures around your home.



www.ccfa-montreal.com