



Nature Expert Spring 2015

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Newsletter



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Hello,

Things are stirring here at Nature Expert! In order to better serve you, we have remodelled our website from A to Z. With this new site, you will be able to compare multiple products at once in order to help you choose the ideal one. We will be able to make the website more interactive and to add even more products. In the next few days, you will be able to find us at

www.nature-expert.ca. We are always open

Opening hours

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

to our customers' feedback, so don't hesitate to let us know what you like and what you would like to see on our new website. As always, our website is bilingual and the language can be changed in the top left corner.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find information on the preparation of your backyard or garden to welcome the arrival of birds. We will speak of feeders, birdhouses, and many other accessories to use so that you can better appreciate the visit of your feathered friends.

Please take note that the digiscoping hike with Clay Taylor has been moved to June 14, 2015. There are still spaces available. If you are interested, you can communicate with us. Clay will also be present at Nature Expert on June 13th from 9:30 to 5:00.

We have added many items to our calendar of events. We will again be present at many festivals this year. I will also be giving a guided birding hike at the Mount-Royal cemetery as well as a presentation on birding equipment.

I look forward to seeing you in store, at a festival, or on the field.

Happy birding.

Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.

Calendar of events

Salon de la Nature de l'Estrie

April 25 & 26 with special

guest:

Zachary Richard



Centre Julien Ducharme 1671

Duplessis Sherbrooke

from 9am to 17:30

Come and meet us at kiosk #

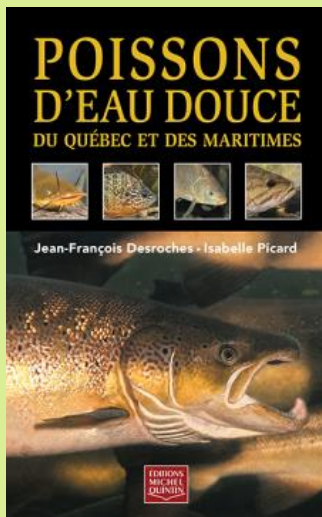
12.

Authors will be present for the signing of several books including Jean-François Desroches and Isabelle Picard (authors of the book "[*Poisson d'eau douces du Québec et des Maritimes*](#)").

The joys of a well thought-out bird garden

It is with great enthusiasm that we transition from winter into spring and start thinking about our feeder arrangements. You dream of welcoming your favourite species of birds to your feeder, while avoiding the ravages caused by squirrels and larger birds. Here is an example of a feeder installation that avoids all these problems and appears in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature.

Better safe than sorry.....



**Special Warbler
event - May 8th, 2015**



Birders will be aware of the recent publication of the unique "[Warbler Guide](#)" by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, followed more recently by an accompanying smartphone/tablet 'app' with interactive features that make it an essential tool in the field during warbler season.



Photo: Johanne Labelle

From left to right:

1) [Droll Yankees nyger feeder](#) topped with a [dome](#) to keep the seed nice and dry. An excellent feeder to attract goldfinches, nuthatches, chickadees, etc. throughout the year.

2) [Droll Yankees caged feeder](#) with dome and a [tray](#) to recuperate fallen seed. This feeder deters pigeons and

Bird Protection Quebec are bringing the authors of this book to Montreal where they will present a Friday evening illustrated lecture on warbler identification followed, the next day, by a guided warbler walk. Tom and Scott are perhaps the best and most knowledgeable warbler experts in North America – do not miss this one-off opportunity to meet the authors. **Friday, May 8 , 2015 at 19:00 in the Adam Building of Mc Gill University. Cost of the conference :10\$**
Click on the following link for details: [Warbler weekend information](#)



Le grand Défi
QuébecOiseaux
5th Edition
from May 9th to 24th, 2015

Le Grand Défi is the largest fundraising activity for Regroupement QuébecOiseaux. The funds collected are devoted to the conservation

other larger birds from having access to the seed, and the tray removes their presence on the ground under the feeder.

3) Large capacity [Vari-Craft feeder](#) with [Aspects dome](#). A small strip of mesh screening was added to the base of the feeder in order to discourage larger birds from eating the fallen seeds that may accumulate in the tray.

4) This setup includes a [74'' pole](#), a [20'' extension](#), and two superposed [double hooks](#), making it possible for four feeders to be hung. A cylindrical [squirrel baffle](#) prevents squirrels from climbing up the pole.

DIGISCOPING

of birds and their habitats in
Quebec.

***Form a team, choose your
formula and try to observe
as many species as you
can in 24 hours.***

<http://quebecoiseaux.org/index.php/gdqo>



**Birding hike
and lecture at Mount-
Royal cemetery
with Alain Goulet
May 24th 8:00 AM**

**Lecture (in French): well-
equipped for birding, from the
basic equipment to the latest
technology**

The outing starts at 8AM at the
entrance of the Mount-Royal
cemetery (by taking Mont-Royal
Blvd and Chemin de la forêt.



*Rufous Motmot, Costa Rica. Photo: Alain Goulet with
[Swarovski ATX 65mm spotting scope](#), [TLS-APO adapter](#),
and Olympus E-M10 camera*

If you would like to know more about photography with a
spotting scope (**digiscoping**), see the **Clay Taylor
workshop** in our calendar of events.

Protein Diet for Spring

Since spring is nesting time for birds, it is also the best
time to offer them [mealworms](#). Nestlings can easily eat

Digiscoping



Workshop with Clay Taylor from Swarovski Optik

June 13 and 14, 2015*

June 13 - Come and meet Clay in-store. Great way to ask questions about equipment and animal photography and test great optics. 9:30 to 5:00 at the Nature Expert boutique

June 14 - Registration required. Personalized workshop and digiscoping hike with Clay Taylor

A limited number of people will be taken on the hike. Please reserve your spot early by emailing us. The outing is from 8:00 to 12:00

Festival de Danville

the worms and other insects brought to them by their parents. It is a good idea to install a mealworm feeder near a birdbath so that even the non-seed-eating birds can see the worms. Install the feeder where you can easily see it. You will be able to see the coming and going of the parents filling their beaks with this precious source of protein, and it won't be long before the baby birds will follow.



October 10th to 12th

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



Victoriaville et ses oies

October 24th, 25th

Come visit our kiosk and come observe thousands of Snow Geese!



Trip to Belize

November 14 to 24th, 2015

Rodger Titman and David Bird are organizing a birding trip to Belize for this coming November. Having been on one of their trips in the past, I highly recommend



Insect suet is also just as appreciated. It can be placed in a regular suet cage. The insect suet that we have in-store is of high quality and can be offered to birds throughout the spring, autumn, or winter months.

Taking care of your feeders

Spring cleaning is upon us! The birds have left us with many residues on the ground (seeds, seed shells, etc.) The cleanliness of the feeding site and of your feeders is of primordial importance for the health of the birds you feed. Springtime is a great time to clean and disinfect your feeders. We recommend using a 50/50 mixture of water and vinegar to disinfect the feeders. Avoid using soap to clean hummingbird feeders, as soap residues could be ingested by the birds.

it. It will be entertaining and you will see a lot of birds. There are a few places left and you can contact Rodger for information about the trip

: rodger.titman@mcgill.ca



Binocular Exchange Canada



Binocular Exchange Canada is a project that aims to engage more people in outdoor activities

The cleanliness of the ground helps to keep away squirrels, raccoons, and large birds. For this reason, you can install seed recuperators and trays under your feeders.



Finally! [A seed catcher for poles](#)

The aluminum 15-inch tray is a wonderful and much awaited invention. It can be installed underneath any feeder, including the Squirrel Buster series. It has small holes so that water does not accumulate in the tray. Moreover, it is made in Canada. Pole and feeder not included.



The [Seed Hoop](#) recuperators are light and adjustable.

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.

Earthvalues



We have three different sizes available: 16", 24", and 36".



The **SeedSaucer** recuperator is designed so that seeds that fall end up in the bottom of the tray, where they cannot be accessed by squirrels and large birds. Made with thick and durable plastic. Made in Canada. 16-inch (41cm) diameter.

It's time for birdhouses



These cute little birdhouses are very popular this time of year. Their small opening is ideal for woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Classic birdhouses

Our selection of pine birdboxes is excellent for camouflaging. The wood will age until it adopts a grayish colour similar to that of the tree bark.



From left to right: Birdboxes

- 1) [Woodpecker, chickadee or nuthatch birdbox](#)
- 2) [Tree swallow birdbox](#)
- 3) [Bluebird birdbox](#)



- 4) Birdhouse for tree swallows. The slightly larger hole advantages tree swallows.

*Don't forget to install your
hummingbird feeder at the end
of April or beginning of May !*



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