



Nature  
Expert Spring Newsletter 2016



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***Come visit us!***

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**(1-855-647-3289)**

**Hello everyone,**

Welcome to Spring and spring migration! With the change of season, we follow the annual cycle of saying hello and goodbye to the species that inhabit our neighbourhoods and regions. Come celebrate the observation of wild birds with us *and* have the chance to observe live birds of prey outside our Nature Expert boutique during **Bird Fest** on Saturday, June 4th, 2016. You will find further details below.

The month of May also presents us with an ideal opportunity to carry out important bird-related research. This year, I will join three other top birders to raise funds for important research for the conservation of Swallow populations. These populations have been in decline for years, and I am happy to lend my expertise to Regroupment QuebecOiseaux's efforts to preserve these precious species. If you are able to sponsor our team, **les ornitrotteurs**, please do so through the link found below.

As always, please be in touch with questions, comments, news and photos of all things birds. Happy birding!

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 hours, 7  
days a week



**Calendar  
of  
events**

QuébecOiseaux's  
Grand Défi

May 1st to May 31st, 2016



During the month of **May**,  
Regroupement  
QuébecOiseaux organizes a



*Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.*

**Back again this year!**



**Bird Fest 2016 at Nature Expert**

fundraiser with proceeds going to organizations that focus on the conservation of birds and their habitat in Quebec. Teams try to observe the maximum number of bird species within a consecutive 24-hour time frame.

This year, **Alain Goulet** will again participate in a team. His team is the Ornitrotteurs and he will be joined by none other than **Frederic Hareau**, **Jean-Philippe Gagnon** and **Serge Beaudette**. If you would like to donate to the project for the conservation of Swallow populations sponsored through the Grand Défi, you can do so here:

## Les ornitrotteurs



Springtime outing and  
conference on Mount  
Royal



**Saturday June 4th, 2016.  
9:30am to 5:00pm**

**at Nature Expert, 5120 rue de Bellechasse, Montreal**

**The following people and organizations will be on site:**

- Géry van der Kelen, wildlife artist / painter
- Robert Alvo, author of *Being a Bird in North America*
- Serge Beaudette and Jean-Philippe Gagnon, birding experts and guides
- Live birds of prey
- Adventure Canada
- Regroupement Québécois
- Swarovski Optik
- Vortex Canada
- Bird Protection Québec
- Le Nichoir (bird rehabilitation centre)
- Thai food truck – Tuktuk from Une nuit à Bangkok restaurant
- Several other bird-related activities

**Several prizes will be drawn and**

**Saturday and Sunday  
May 28 and 29, 2016 8:30 AM**

Guided tour on Mount Royal to observe birds. A conference will be given on Saturday, in French, by Joël Coutu. A second conference, entitled "**Unusual Bird Stories**", will be given by Alain Goulet in English on Sunday May 29th, 2016.

**Bird Fest 2016  
Saturday June 4th, 2016  
9:30am - 5:00pm  
at Nature Expert**



**Digiscoping Workshops  
with Clay Taylor  
Friday, June 3rd  
and  
Saturday, June 4th, 2016**



**sales will be available on a wide  
variety of in store products  
during Bird Fest.**

**People and organizations who will be present during  
Bird Fest:**

**Géry van der Kelen**



**Géry van der Kelen** is a wildlife painter whose paintings feature birds and mammals in their habitat. He will be present with several of his paintings: you might even see him in action while he paints another masterpiece.

[www.pinterest.com/jeanbiron7/peintures-de-g%C3%A9ry-van-der-kelen/](http://www.pinterest.com/jeanbiron7/peintures-de-g%C3%A9ry-van-der-kelen/)

Back by popular demand. Clay Taylor, professional photographer, will be giving a workshop on digiscoping, also known as photography using a spotting scope and a digital camera. The outing will take place in the Bois-de-l'île-Bizard. This is a perfect opportunity to receive personalized feedback and tips concerning digiscoping techniques. There will be 3 outings on June 3rd and 4th:

**Friday 7:00-10:00 AM**

**Friday 4:30-8:00 PM**

**Saturday 7:00-9:30 AM**

If you are interested in attending this free outing, please **RSVP to [info@nature-expert.ca](mailto:info@nature-expert.ca)** and mention which time slot you would prefer to attend. **Places are limited.**

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### **A Birding Safari to East Africa**

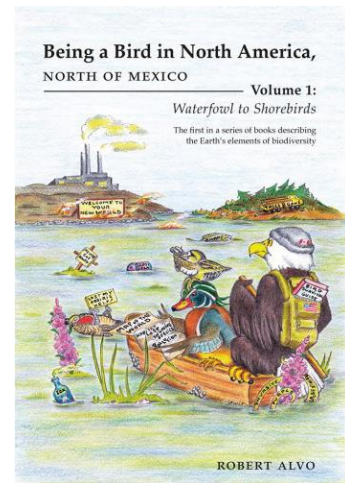


**September 25 to October 9, 2016 with David Bird and Rodger Titman**

**Limit 20 people**

See Shoebill and other waterbirds, bee-eaters,

## **Robert Alvo**



**Robert Alvo** is a conservation biologist and the author of the book *Being a Bird in North America*. As a conservation biologist, Alvo has conducted studies on the effects of acid rain on the Common Loon for over thirty years. He has also contributed to the work of organizations such as NatureServe, the Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, by writing up different species accounts and status reports. More than 200 bird species get a spotlight in his book, each accompanied by a cartoon, a global distribution map, and information concerning its conservation status and its lifestyle.

Alvo's book is intended for a wide audience, which includes birders, anyone with a passing interest in birds, nature lovers, anyone interested in conservation, or simply people who enjoy humour. Each species page is a lesson in itself and can be used for classes in environmental studies from perhaps grade 9 and upwards, although younger children will still enjoy the cartoons. Come and purchase a signed copy during Bird Fest!

[babina.ca/robert-alvo](http://babina.ca/robert-alvo)

hornbills, eagles, ostriches, weavers, the Big Five Mammals and a good sample of East Africa's bird species from dry savannah in the Rift Valley through tropical rainforest to mountain cloud forest and wetlands. Sites visited will include Lakes Naivasha, Elmentaita, Nakuru and Baringo in the rich Rift Valley, Kakamega Forest and the famous Maasai Mara with its herds of wild mammals in Kenya, and Queen Elizabeth National Park, Lake Mburo and Mabamba Swamp beside Lake Victoria in Uganda.

This is a birding expedition. Comfortable, safe accommodation in lodges and tented camps, food, transport and park fees included. Group travel. Participants must be autonomous.

Cost:

6 participants US\$4350 +  
airfare  
7-14 participants US\$4025 +  
airfare  
15-20 participants US\$3900 +  
airfare

If interested contact us for  
more details  
[atrodger.titman@mcgill.ca](mailto:atrodger.titman@mcgill.ca)  
Also check David Bird's  
website:  
[askprofessorbird.com](http://askprofessorbird.com)

Vortex Canada



**Serge Beaudette**



**Jean-Philippe Gagnon**

**Vortex Canada** is a distributor of internationally renowned optics products. These include binoculars, spotting scopes, tripods, and digiscoping adaptors. **Serge Beaudette** and **Jean-Philippe Gagnon** are both Vortex Prostaff, professional birders and international birding guides. Come and discuss travel, optics and birds with these 2 high-caliber individuals during Bird Fest.

[www.vortexcanada.net/birding-and-observation/](http://www.vortexcanada.net/birding-and-observation/)

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## Binocular Exchange Canada

Trade in your used birding  
equipment and receive a tax  
receipt



**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.

Contact us at Nature Expert for  
more information  
at: [info@nature-expert.ca](mailto:info@nature-expert.ca)

Earthvalues Institute is the

## Falcon Environmental Services



organization under which the project is run.

[www.earthvalues.org](http://www.earthvalues.org)



Founded in 1989, **Falcon Environmental Services, Inc.** (FES) is a company specialized in the training of birds of prey for reasons such as educational conferences, conservation, and the ecological control of nuisance birds. In 1995, FES started up an educational outreach program, Falcon-Ed, which gives presentations to schools, organizations, zoological parks, and others. FES helps out airports and landfill sites by preventing birds from entering specific areas to ensure the safety of all. They also give wildlife management training and act as an environmental consultant to ensure the conservation of endangered species while facilitating the cohabitation of humans and wildlife. Falcon Environmental Services, Inc. will be present during Bird Fest, accompanied by a few birds of prey.

**You will have the opportunity to have your picture taken with a bird of prey on your arm. Bring your camera!**

[www.falconenvironmental.com](http://www.falconenvironmental.com)

[www.falconeduc.biz](http://www.falconeduc.biz)

**[Adventure Canada](#)**





Walrus Photo: Andrew Stewart

Founded in 1987, [Adventure Canada](http://adventurecanada.com) is a company which organizes trips all over Canada, especially in higher latitudes and in less populated areas. Near the end of the summer, Adventure Canada organizes many trips in the Arctic area, with visits to different communities in Greenland, Nunavut, and Northern Quebec. These trips allow travellers to be immersed in the culture of the local communities through pre-planned cultural activities. Adventure Canada is organizing a trip specifically for bird watching in Northern Canada, from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2016. [adventurecanada.com](http://adventurecanada.com)

## Regroupement QuébecOiseaux



Created in 1981, **Regroupement QuébecOiseaux** is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote bird conservation, research and birding in the province of Québec. RQO increases our knowledge about birds in Québec through their species-at-risk projects as well as the QuébecOiseaux magazine.

[quebecoiseaux.org](http://quebecoiseaux.org)

## Swarovski Optik

**Serge Côté**





**Clay Taylor**



**SWAROVSKI**  
OPTIK

[Swarovski Optik](http://swarovskioptik.com) is a European company that manufactures high quality optical products which are amongst the best in the world. They produce binoculars, spotting scopes, tripods and adapters for digiscoping. Clay Taylor and Serge Côté, both technical advisers for Swarovski Optik, will be on hand during Bird Fest to answer your questions about optics and their use in birding.

[swarovskioptik.com](http://swarovskioptik.com)

## [Bird Protection Quebec](#)



Founded in 1917, **Bird Protection Quebec** (BPQ) was one

of the first conservation organizations in North America. BPQ works in conjunction with many other organizations to protect and preserve natural wildlife habitats in Quebec. Through the means of publications, monthly conferences, educational programs, and guided excursions, BPQ wishes to educate and sensitize the public regarding the important role that birds play in our world. They also offer research grants to scientists and other conservation organizations, and acquire land in order to create nature reserves.

[pqspb.org](http://pqspb.org)

## Le Nichoir



Founded in 1996, **Le Nichoir** is a rehabilitation centre for wild birds. This non-profit organization receives more than 1400 birds every year. Situated in Hudson, the centre welcomes injured or orphaned wild birds, cares for them, and then releases them back into their natural habitat. Through educational programs, conferences, and other public events, Le Nichoir also offers advice and information regarding wild birds and their environment.

[lenichoir.org](http://lenichoir.org)

## The Tuktuk food truck



**Une nuit à Bangkok (A night in Bangkok)** is a Thai restaurant situated not far from Nature Expert. The restaurant's food truck, named **The Tuktuk**, will be on-site the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, ready to serve fresh, tasty and colour-filled meals!

[letuktuk.ca](http://letuktuk.ca)

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And now, in other birding news....

**Pine Siskins**



I am seeing a new visitor at my feeder... Who could it be?

This bird is called a pine siskin! **Pine siskins** are small birds which are often confused with American Goldfinches. Both birds are part of the same genus (*Spinus*, of the fringillidae family), and are roughly the same size. What distinguishes the two birds is their plumage: the pine siskin's plumage is brownish, with dark brown streaks, and some yellow on the wings and the tail of the male while the goldfinch's tail is black with white stripes. The male's plumage during the summer is bright yellow in colour with a black cap and the female's plumage is olive-coloured. A goldfinch beak is conical and less pointed than the beak of a pine siskin. Pine siskins are nomadic and their movements are rather erratic: they generally do not visit the same places year after year. This year, our feeder in front of the Nature Expert boutique was invaded by visiting pine siskins! Please see the Nature Expert Facebook postings from April 23rd for more news about local Pine Siskins and to join in the discussion.



Above is a picture of a Pine Siskin on the left and a male American Goldfinch on the right, both enjoying some nyger seeds.

## **New Products and Suggestions**

**Platform Feeder with Adjustable Dome**



### Dorothy's feeder

For seed, fruit, mealworms and seed logs or wheels. Very large 13 inch platform with a 15 inch adjustable dome that keeps out larger birds and the weather - adjust the height along the dependable and durable brass rod according to your preference. Hang feeder from the brass rod or install on a pole. Made from UV-stabalized polycarbonate that will not yellow with age.

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## Feeder Fresh



Feeder Fresh is a bird-safe moisture trap and seed preservative that can be used in feeders and seed storage containers to reduce the negative effects of moisture, such as caking, mold and aging. Safely and effectively prevents growth of disease-causing mold to ensure your feeder stays clean, dry, and healthy for birds.

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**NEW**  
**Vortex Diamondback binoculars**  
**Version 2016**

Completely redesigned for 2016, the Diamondback binocular once again redefines the price vs performance ratio in the world of optics. Functionally, as well as aesthetically, the short hinge and upscale sleek new look not only grabs the eye, but leaves more room for your hands—making them physically easier to hold.

An all new optical system with enhanced, dielectric, fully multi-coated lenses serves up stunning views and impressive low-light performance—critical attributes when observing wildlife. And with their ultra-wide, best-in-class, field of view, you can efficiently cover ground and acquire subjects with ease.



Diamondback 8x28 & 10x28



Diamondback 8X32 & 10x32



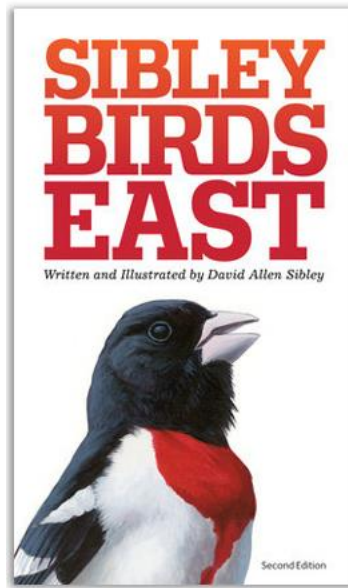
Diamondback 8X42 & 10x42



Diamondback 10X50 & 12x50

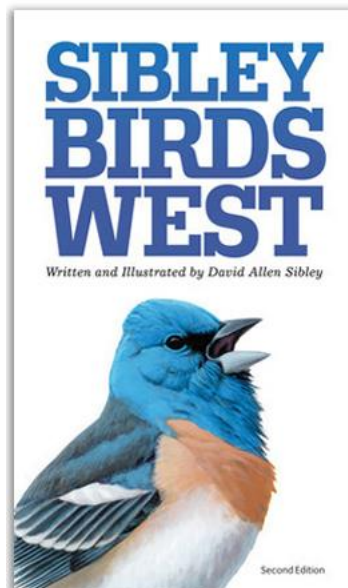
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**New books**



**The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North  
America.**

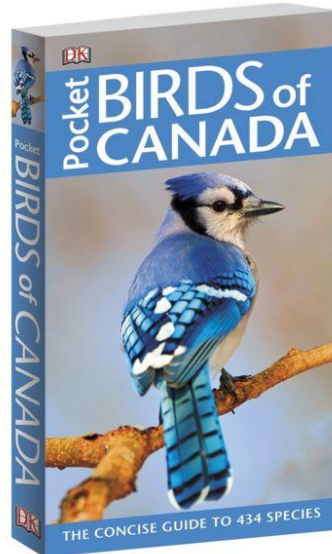
**Second Edition by David Sibley**



# The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America.

Second Edition by David Sibley

## Pocket BIRDS of CANADA



**Loons**

Loons are almost entirely aquatic birds; their legs are positioned so far to the rear of their body that they must shuffle on their bellies when they go from water to land. In summer they are found on rivers, lakes, and ponds, where they nest close to the water's edge. After breeding, they occur along coasts, often after flying hundreds of miles away from their freshwater breeding grounds. Excellent swimmers and divers, loons are unusual among birds in that their bones are less hollow than those of other groups. Consequently, they can expel air from their lungs and compress their body feathers until they slowly sink beneath the surface. They can remain submerged for several minutes.

**Red-throated Loon**

*Gavia stellata*

This elegant loon is almost unmistakable, with a pale, often white, spread third head, and a thin, upturned bill. Unlike other loons, the Red-throated Loon can launch straight into the air from both land and water. One male of this race is noted to use a "manney" as an elaborate breeding ritual, a pair of birds races side by side, upright across the surface of water.

**Pacific Loon**

*Gavia pacifica*

Although the Pacific Loon's breeding range is smaller than the Common Loon's, it is believed to be the more abundant loon species in North America. This cosmopolitan migrant along the Pacific Coast is spring shores to habitat in northern Alaska with the slightly larger and darker Black Loon. The Pacific Loon can remain underwater for especially sustained periods of time, usually in pursuit of fish.

The complex block contains text and illustrations. On the left, there is a photograph of two loons in water. On the right, there are several line drawings and small photographs of loons. One drawing shows a Red-throated Loon in flight, another shows a Pacific Loon in flight, and others show loons on land and in water. There are also small maps showing the distribution of these species.

Compact, easy to use, and illustrated with beautiful photography, this definitive guide features detailed profiles of 434 species of birds found in Canada.

Produced in association with David M. Bird,  
Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Biology at McGill University.

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## **SUGGESTIONS**

Indispensable for your comfort:  
**The binocular harness**





When comfort is key, why not lighten your burden?

Carry your binoculars with a binocular harness that spreads the weight of binoculars and cameras across your upper back and shoulders to eliminate neck strain. The harness strap keeps your binoculars from swinging as you walk. Elastic straps are fully adjustable and let you move your binoculars or camera up and out as needed.



The connecting strap and ring provided are intended to attach to your binoculars in order to allow the attachment and detachment of the harness as needed.

**Important Tip:** Never install a metal ring directly on your binoculars.

It will damage the harness/strap fixation ring on your binoculars.



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