



Spring is in the air!



Mourning Warbler@Serge Beaudette

We are pleased to introduce our new edition of the newsletter by Nature Expert. Spring is always a great time for birdwatchers with the return of migrants. Finally, we will be able to fill our feeders without a coat and without stalling in the snow up to our knees! Spring is not only the return of the sparrows but that of the Grand Défi! We invite you to go out birdwatching and if you need to change your binoculars, we have the new Curio from Swarovski in stock.

Good reading!

Dara and Alain Goulet, proud owners and birding enthusiasts



The Ornitrotteurs are back!

Once again, along with Serge Beaudette, Jean-Philippe Gagnon and Frédéric Hareau, I (Alain Goulet) will be doing the Grand Défi QuébecOiseaux on May 22nd.

We will try to see as many birds as possible within 24 hours, following a very specific route. We have chosen to pledge half of the donations collected

to the Rimouski Bird Observatory. A list of their projects is available via the following link (French):

https://www.facebook.com/ObservatoireOiseauxRimouski/?ref=page_internal

The other half will of course go to QuébecOiseaux.

If you want, you can make a donation to Ornitrotteurs by clicking on the following link: <https://www.quebecoiseau.org/fr/campagne-grand-defi/detail/grand-defi-quebecoiseau/1773/participant/42/#donation-details>

If you choose to do so, you can win one of the following prizes or one of the prizes offered by the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux for any donation over \$25.

- A pair of Diamondback HD 8x32 binoculars, courtesy of Nature Expert, value of \$370
 - A Squirrel Buster Plus feeder, courtesy of Brome Bird Care, value of \$160
 - A unique cardinal feeder, courtesy of Nature Expert, value of \$40
 - A pair of tickets to the Montreal Biodôme, value of \$34
 - A birding outing with the Ornitrotteurs with 3 of your friends in the company of Frédéric, Jean-Philippe, Serge and Alain, that is totally priceless!
- Here is a video of the outing with our lucky winner of 2021 (French): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOeCEdNU9g4>

Thank you for your support!!



Birdsongs

Serge Beaudette

Bird songs awaken memories

Live from Costa Rica, I shared the sound clip of an extraordinary song I heard there, that of the Black-faced Solitaire. I would describe it as a slow series of long whistles, interspersed with pauses, echoing in the lush forest high altitude. You'd swear it's a swing held by long rusty chains that rub on its rings. Shortly after, I received a touching reply from a friend who opened the extract without suspecting what was going to happen. Listening to the song of the bird, a strong memory rises from the depth of her being. In a big wave of sensations comes a mixture of nostalgia, joy and sadness. Nostalgia for a distant time when, to escape the difficult situations in her childhood, she took refuge with her grandmother with whom she swung for a long time, each telling their own story. What a joy to have access to this warm memory again; and sadness that this bygone era now boils down to hospital visits.

I frequently come across people with whom a bird's song arouses strong feelings, represents a familiar sound or, more often still, because it is heard repeatedly in a specific context, becomes associated with it, almost becoming part of it. Very engaging! Certain songs can also awaken the same memory for several people. For example, the hoot of the Common Loon, resounding with echo and depth on the quiet northern lakes, in the semi-darkness. Doesn't it remind you of the holidays? Camping? Peace? No wonder we also find it extensively in commercials. Or magic fluty, musical, metallic, and cavernous song of all our Thrushes, at the edge of the forest, at the end of the day. All have this ability to move with a



serenade as complex as it is mysterious and so soothing! Of all of them, the Song of the Hermit Thrush is my favorite. When we hear for the first time of the year, on a milder than normal winter day, the love song of the male Black-capped Chickadee, the "tee-too" in two whistles, it seems like the mercury is rising another ten degrees. And when the song of the Red-winged Blackbird is heard again, it is not necessary to wait until March 21st to feel like spring! Sometimes the same song awakens different feelings, depending on the people or the time of year.

The American Robin, who announces spring with his jig that is described as melancholic in several books, can become the obsession of insomniacs who sleep with the window open, when at three o'clock in the morning, he begins his concert. However, it is interesting to know that robins, in the countryside, do not sing earlier than other birds. In fact, it is a crepuscular bird whose eyes are sensitive to light. It starts to sing when the light level reaches a certain degree. So, it is because of light pollution

in cities that he sleeps so little. It affects his life much more than ours. For my part, I have strong memories (even despite myself) of the first time I identified a bird by its song. This is the case of the Northern Flicker when I was in 4th grade in elementary school, at an outdoor activity in Victoria Park. Or the European Starling that I recorded with my little cassette recorder which had cost me all my savings in 6th grade... The Common Yellowthroat is associated with my first scout camp, etc. I never get tired of certain songs, like that of the Winter Wren. My very strong enthusiasm that I can't hide remains always the same, without ever crumbling, year after year, even after having heard it sing thousands of times! With lungs the size of my little fingernail, this bird barely bigger than a hummingbird holds the record for producing the most notes per second and having the longest song. In my opinion, it is also the most dynamic and joyful.

Often, we see the birds without looking at them and even more often, we hear them without listening to them. However, if we concentrate on them, they generate or awaken great feelings in us, and contribute to making the experience we have of life so much richer! Keep your ears open and let yourself be surprised! For bird lovers, you can learn more and write to me by visiting: www.pitpitpit.com

Often heard in the forest at dusk, the song of the thrushes' magic flute brings a soft sigh of relief to those who hear it. (Photo of Hermit Thrush by Michel Bordeleau)

Many people associate the echoing song of the Common Loon as they toss from one lake to another, with calm and holidays. (Photo of Common Loon by Michel Bordeleau)

Produced for the first time during the warmer days of late winter, the love song of the male Black-capped Chickadee alone seems to raise the temperature another ten degrees. (Photo of Black-capped Chickadee by Michel Bordeleau)





[Don't miss our amazing Facebook videos of Eastern Bluebirds nesting!](#)

NEW PRODUCTS



CL Curio 7x21 Anthracite

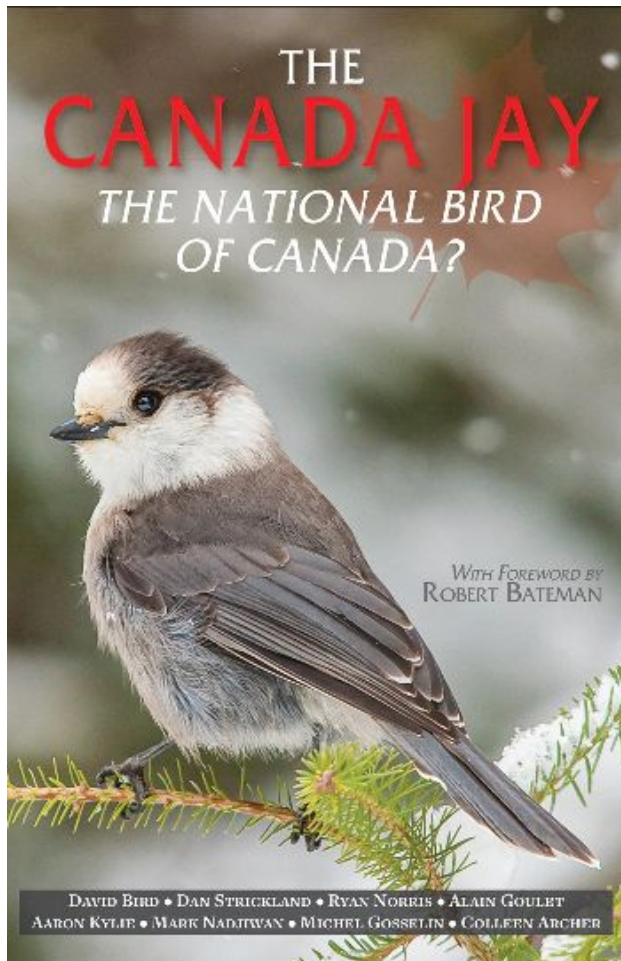
The CL Curio are the lightest, most compact binoculars in their class – small, handy, and foldable..



CL Curio 7x21 Orange

The CL Curio are the lightest, most compact binoculars in their class – small, handy, and foldable.

The Canada Jay as Canada's National Bird? presents a convincing argument for



the official recognition of the Canada Jay as our national bird by the federal government.

With chapters written by several authors, including experts on the Canada Jay species, whimsical poetry, perspectives from all three founding peoples of Canada, many excellent colourful photos and paintings by talented photographers and artists, and a Foreword by none other than Robert Bateman, the book promotes the idea that Canada needs a National Bird and that the Canada Jay best fits the bill. While the bird was proclaimed the winner of the 'contest' run by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society several years ago and

despite the fact that many Canadians now consider it to be our national bird, our federal government has yet to recognize it officially. One could not find a more Canadian bird than the aptly named Canada Jay!

This clever corvid breeds in every province and territory and its range almost mirrors our country's borders. It is extremely friendly, often landing on an outstretched palm even without food, and it is among the hardiest of all of our Canadian birds, staying north of the 49th parallel during winter and sometimes incubating eggs at -30 degrees °C! It is not hunted or killed for any reason and its popular name, whisky jack, originates from our Indigenous peoples.

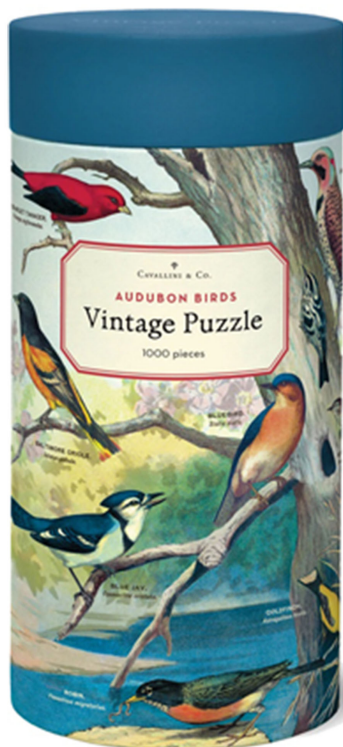
Best of all, it has not yet been chosen to represent any provinces or territories. Finally, the Canada Jay presents itself as an excellent 'poster child' for our boreal forests, for our national and provincial parks, and for climate change.

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Aspects Mini High View Hummingbird Feeder

[See the product](#)



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1000 pieces per puzzle
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Large Beneficial Insect House

Packaged in a 10-inch tube, with a
hand sewn muslin bag inside
Finished size of 20 x 28 inches

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Made of pine by a woodworker from
the Montérégie region.
Well designed to attract a variety of
beneficial pollinating insects.

[See the product](#)



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