



CCFA - Nature Expert

Centre de conservation de la faune ailée

Summer 2013

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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

Our annual Bird Fest was held on June 8th and was a great success despite the misty rain we had for part of the day. We will definitely hold this event again next year. Mark your calendar for June 7th 2014! I want to thank everyone who attended, including each supplier, artist, and conservation organization. The digiscoping hike on June 9th was also appreciated by many and will also be repeated next year. Feel free to send us your feedback and suggestions about this event so we can continue to meet your needs.

Happy birding,

Alain Goulet, owner and birder



20 years at CCFA-Nature Expert



François Isabelle

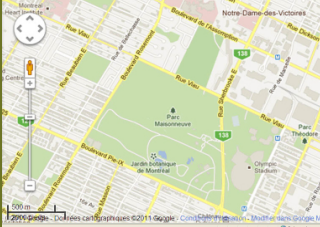
François Isabelle has now been working at CCFA-Nature Expert for 20 years. Come and celebrate this milestone with us on **Saturday September 7th, 2013**. Cake and refreshments will be provided.

Thanks François for your years of dedicated service.

www.ccfa-montreal.com

Come
visit us !

5120 Rue de
Bellechasse



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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
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Bird Fest and birds of prey around airports

During our latest Bird Fest, we had the opportunity to observe several birds of prey. Union Québécoise de réhabilitation des oiseaux de proie (U.Q.R.O.P.) had a Great-horned Owl and a Broad-winged Hawk at their booth. Pierre Molina of Falcon Environmental Services (FES), together with a Peregrine Falcon and a Harris' Hawk, piqued the interest of participants. Several of you were able to have your picture taken with a bird of prey. Consequently, we thought to provide a more detailed look at one of the valuable services provided by FES: a feathered security force for Canada's airports.

Falconers and falconry, with roots stretching far back into medieval times, have found a modern application. Falcons and other birds of prey have taken wing in order to reduce potential hazards for airplanes during the critical moments of take-off and landing. Teams of falconers, such as those at FES, are using predatory birds such as eagles, gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons to clear the air of gulls, geese, killdeer, and other species of birds.

The premise is simple and takes advantage of the natural predator-prey relationship in which birds, from instinct and experience, will flee an area where a bird of prey is present. Falconers swing a lure and as the bird follows, the swooping shape of the predator in flight triggers cries of alarm from nearby birds, heard over great distances. The message is clear to all who hear it: find a safer place to stay. A second method involves having a falcon zip back and forth between two handlers across a nesting area.

With the control of pesticides and the development of wildlife refuges, conditions are now more favourable and the populations of many of the larger species of birds are on the increase. And so it follows that the incidence of bird strikes in Canada is also increasing. Transport Canada has insisted that all airports have a wildlife control program in place.



Collisions between birds and aircraft can be very costly, both directly and indirectly. Damaged airplanes need to be grounded for repairs and are sometimes beyond restoration, leading to losses in the millions. Regrettably, collisions have even led to loss of life.

www.cffa-montreal.com

Answer to the last quiz

Can you
identify this
bird ?



Photo: Karl Egressy

ANSWER:

CERULEAN
WARBLER

Fortunately, one such disaster was masterfully evaded in 2009, when Capt. Chesley Sullenberger was able to safely glide a US Airways jet into the Hudson River after a bird strike knocked out the jet's engines following takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Each airport's needs are different, and traditionally airports have employed a variety of techniques to control birds on their runways. Noisemakers, pyrotechnics and propane cannons are used to startle birds.



As a last resort, shotguns have been used to remove birds altogether. Mowing grasses and covering ponds can help to keep the grounds less attractive for animal inhabitants: however, the predator weapon has its advantages. A falcon guarantees results every time. Birds get used to man-made scare tactics, but they instinctively flee a fast killer on the wing, and as such, problem birds are trained to go around an airport, not over it. Periodically wheeling and diving over the airport grounds, birds of prey gracefully go about the business of keeping local birds from getting too comfortable, thereby securing the airways for us.

Lana Marion

New products and suggestions

**We have received our
new Nature Expert
deck of playing cards !**



Roasted Mealworms: A wonderful treat for the birds you love!



Almost all birds love this nutritious snack including bluebirds, cardinals, chickadees and woodpeckers. Year round, set them out alone, combine them with seed or mix them with suet.

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QUIZ

Which strange bird never drinks a drop of water?

Send us your answer by email !

CCFA@VIDEOTRON.CA

Nature Expert
5120 rue de Bel-lechasse Montréal, QC H1T 2A4

Métro Viau

ccfa@videotron.ca

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

Cellular IR Digital Scouting Camera 8.0 MP by UWAY

The UWAY cellular surveillance camera transmits high quality (8MP) pictures and sound recording video directly from the camera to your cellular phone and/or email address. Its uses include home, cottage and business surveillance and animal monitoring for hunting and research. Some of the features include a highly sensitive passive infra-red motion sensor and numerous setting options to tailor the camera to your particular needs.



Butterfly Delights: Adorn your walls!



Choose from a variety of exquisite species of farm raised butterflies from Asia and the Americas. Each specimen is carefully and elegantly mounted in a box frame. Assembled in Québec.

Squirrel Buster Standard: A new squirrel-proof feeder!

It is weight-adjustable to feed preferred birds and leave out larger aggressive birds.

When a squirrel or large bird lands on the feeder, its weight closes the feeder and thus prevents them from feeding.

The feeder can hold 750 ml of seed.



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