



Newsletter



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[Opening hours](#)

Sunday - Monday
Closed

Tuesday - Wednesday
9:30 to 6:00

Hello,

The breeding season is well underway and birds are busy nesting all over the province.

In this newsletter you will find information on the Blue Jay and how to attract this bird to your home, our new products and suggestions as well as our great Swarovision binoculars sale. You will also have the opportunity to discover a very strange bird that was found in Laval. It is a rare hybrid that I had the chance to photograph and film in mid-June 2015. A very exciting discovery indeed.

Happy birding.

Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.

The wonderful Blue Jay

Thursday- Friday

9:30 to 7:00

Saturday

9:30 to 5:00



Come visit us!

5120 Rue de Bellechasse
Montréal, QC
H1T 2A4

*Calendar
of
events*

**Danville Migratory
Festival
October 10th to 12th**

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



Victoriaville et ses oies
October 24th, 25th, 2015



Photo: Karl Egressy

The Blue Jay or *Cyanocitta cristata*, is part of the corvid family -a family with some of the world's smartest birds - including ravens and crows. This azure-coloured bird with the piercing call is found in the southern part of Quebec all year long. It is also the provincial bird of Prince Edward Island. The male and female are practically identical, as both have a blue crest, and a plumage composed of a blue mantle, white patches on the throat, wings, and tail, and black stripes. The Blue Jay is not, in reality, blue. An illusion of colour, called structural colouration, appears when light is refracted on the internal structure of the feathers. The Blue Jay lives in deciduous and mixed forests, and can often be observed in parks and at feeders. As an omnivore, the Blue Jay eats many food items, ranging from seeds, fruits and nuts, to insects, fish, frogs, and even mice. These Jays can be considered predators, especially during nesting season as they also feed on eggs and nestlings left to themselves. When they come to feeders, these colourful visitors love eating peanuts, corn, and sunflower seeds.

Fun facts about the Blue Jay

1. They are largely vegetarian and feed on seeds, acorns, caterpillars, and insects. Eggs and nestlings were found to make up 1% of their diets according to one study
2. Blue Jays are very smart at retrieving stored food during winter months
3. Are able to choose and hide acorns that are not

Come observe thousands of Snow Geese and visit our kiosk!



Trip to Belize

November 14 to 24th, 2015

Rodger Titman and David Bird are organizing a birding trip to Belize for this coming November. After having participated one of their trips, I can highly recommend it. It will be entertaining and you will see a lot of birds. There are only a few spots still available. Please contact Rodger for information about the trip: rodger.titman@mcgill.ca



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Binocular Exchange Canada



Binocular Exchange Canada is a

affected by boring insects

4. The can hide up to 3000 to 5000 acorns each fall making them a great disperser
5. Can be seen in large flocks of up to 250 birds during migration
6. Young birds are more likely to migrate than adults but both will migrate
7. Blue Jay migration is not well understood as some birds will migrate one year and not the next
8. Tool use has been documented in captivity but not in the wild. Birds used pieces of paper in order to access food outside their cage
9. Black bands across face and throat will vary in size and shape. This may help them recognize each other
10. They use their crest to communicate. A raised crest is a sign of aggression
11. The Blue Jay is not always the dominant bird at the feeder
12. They will imitate the calls of birds of prey to trick other birds into leaving a bird feeder or food source
13. Blue Jays are relatively slow flyers, making them an easier prey to hawks, falcons, and owls
14. Males are slightly larger than females
15. Pairs mate for life
16. Molt occurs in summer and they will have a completely new plumage between June and September
17. They will often put white objects on the outside of their nests (birch bark, light-coloured leaves, etc.)

To attract them

- 1) The peanut wreath

project that aims to engage more people in outdoor activities 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.

<http://www.earthvalues.org/en>

Earthvalues



To attract Blue Jays, one option is to install a **peanut wreath**. By filling this feeder with **whole peanuts**, you will have the pleasure of witnessing these birds filling their beaks and gular pouch with peanuts before flying off again.

2) The Squirrel Buster Peanut Plus Feeder



Another option, one which ensures that you won't be bothered by squirrels, is to fill a **Squirrel Buster Peanut Plus feeder** with **shelled peanuts**. This feeder closes the access to seeds in response to a squirrel's weight. In

addition to the Blue Jay, woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches are also attracted to this feeder.

3) Country-style feeders



Blue Jays also like to perch on country-style feeders with a wide edge.

4) Corncob feeder



To attract Blue Jays, [Dried corncobs](#) can be hung using a corncob feeder. These jays are also attracted by [suet](#).

As a general rule, birds are able to cohabitate with Blue Jays and to share food offered at feeders. If however the aggressive behaviour of these birds is worrisome to you, you can install the feeders designed for Blue Jays at a safe distance from other feeders.

New Products & Suggestions

12 inch Hanging Birdbath



This lovely bath with heron motif is made of durable poly resin with hand-applied weathered stone finish. Includes steel chain with black powder coat finish.

If you already have a bird bath on a pedestal, this hanging bath could be an interesting addition to attract birds to a different location in your backyard.

Greater access to water invites more birds to come and visit!

14 Inch Summer Bird Bath

with round coil for 1 inch pole



Bird bath with a 14 inch (36cm) diameter and a depth of 1.5 inches (4cm). Comes with a round metal coil on which the bath is placed. The metal rod attaches directly to any 1 inch diameter pole.

Deck pole



This 24" pole with clamp is ideal for installing on deck railings. It is possible to add a 20" extension pole to give it more height.

Can be installed on railings 4" thick or less.

New "burgundy" colour

Sunflower feeder



Droll Yankees 15 Inch Feeder (Burgundy)

with 4 perches.

Rust proof metal parts (base, perches, and roof).

UV-stabilized polycarbonate tube.

Nyger feeder



Droll Yankees 15 Inch Burgundy Nyger Feeder

This finch feeder has 4 feeding ports with perches.
Metal components are protected against rust.

Aspects Super Tube Top

This squirrel baffle also keeps feeders dry when it rains,
allowing seeds to last longer.

It is highly recommend to use a dome to protect your nyger
feeder
from rain or humidity.

As of July 1st 2015,
we are offering a significant discount on all
current
SWAROVISION binoculars



SWAROVISION SAVINGS



SWAROVISION Savings - Special Pricing on all current EL Binoculars July 1, 2015 - November 15, 2015

SAVE BIG
with our
SWAROVISION SAVINGS!*

PRODUCT	SAVE UP TO	SWAROVISION SAVINGS CANADA RETAIL PRICING
EL 8X32 (GREEN OR SAND-BROWN)	260.00	2369.00
EL 10X32 (GREEN OR SAND-BROWN)	270.00	2479.00
EL 8.5X42 (GREEN)	300.00	2699.00
EL 10X42 (GREEN)	310.00	2769.00
EL 10X50 (GREEN)	330.00	2969.00
EL 12X50 (GREEN)	330.00	3049.00

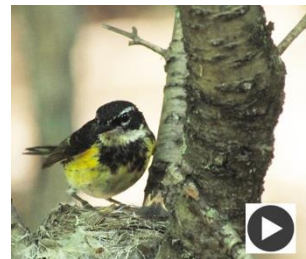
Prices subject to change without notice.

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

A very unusual bird!



Photos: Alain Goulet



Click on the 2 links above to watch the videos of this warbler

On June 17, 2015, Joël Coutu and Daniel Néron made the discovery of a very unusual bird. It bore a certain resemblance to a few species of warblers such as the American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The hybrid bird was discovered near a marsh surrounded by a regenerating hardwood forest in boisé Ste-Marie in Laval.

Its nest was also found nearby with a female American Redstart brooding 4 nestlings. The song of this mystery bird was similar to that of the American Redstart. I was invited to come and take some photos of this unique bird. More photos can be seen on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ccfanatureexpert> You do not need a Facebook account to view the photos.

A team from the McGill Bird Observatory came a few days later to band the bird in question and to take a sample to be sent away for its genetic analysis in order to trace the origin of its parents. We are eagerly awaiting the results of these tests.

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www.nature-expert.ca

5120 rue de Bellechasse
Montréal, Qc
H1T 2A4

Tel: 514-351-5496
Tel: 1-855-OIS-EAUX
Tel: 1-855-647-3289
Fax: 1-800-588-6134

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