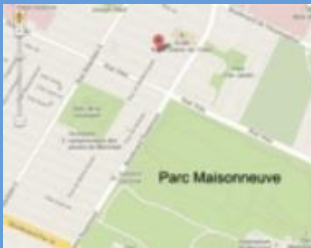




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Hello everyone,

Summer is here and birds are busy with their broods. What a joy to watch them build their nests, incubate their eggs and raise young. In this newsletter you will find information on our Bird Fest from this past June, an article on ducks, geese, and swans, a highly unusual chickadee story as well as our new products and suggestions.

Happy birding.

Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.

Water birds

The family with the greatest number of species in Quebec (32 nesting species) and in North America is the family that contains **swans, geese** and **ducks**: the **Anatidae**. All of them are adapted to life on the water and are thus characterized by their small legs, webbed feet, elongated body and flattened and rounded bill. Their relatively long wings allow the migrating majority of them to make long-range flights.

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



Often collectively referred to as waterfowl, this family shows great physical and behavioral variations between species. The **Trumpeter Swan** and the **Green-winged Teal** are good examples of the extreme variety in this group. However, many species are closely related and sometimes hybridize with each other.



Cygnus trumpetta / Trumpeter Swan

© Michel Bordeloux 2013

Trumpeter Swan



Eider à bec / Common Eider

© Michel Bordeloux 2013

Common Eider



Échasse rousse / Ruddy Duck

© Michel Bordeloux 2013

Ruddy Duck

The **Canada Goose** has the greatest variations in the Anatidae family. Separated in 2004 from the Cackling Goose, which itself has four subspecies, the Canada Goose includes seven subspecies distributed across North America. Its nesting habitat varies greatly between subspecies: from the tundra's small islands to large cattail marshes, the Canada Goose knows how to get the most out of wetlands.

**Calendar
of
events**



**Les ornitrotteurs
won the
Grand Défi
Québécoiseaux!**



Frédéric Hareau, Alain Goulet &
Serge Beaudette

**First in Quebec,
with a total of
130 birds species
seen or heard
in 24 HOURS!!!**

That represents more than 40%
of the 314 species
in Quebec, in the span of only
one day!!!

Out of 63 teams, The
Ornitrotteurs were also the team
that raised the largest amount of
funds that will go to bird
conservation. Thank you to
everyone who sponsored us
and encouraged us.



Photo: Thierry Grandmont

Canada Goose



Michel Bordeleau

Snow Goose

Its well known cousin, the **Snow Goose**, is also well adapted to Quebec's diverse bodies of water. Nesting in the Canadian Arctic, this species shows up in southern Quebec during its migration. Forming large impressive groups of several thousands of birds, the Snow Geese rebuild their reserves of fat while feeding along the St-Lawrence river. Marshes, as well as fields rich in plants and grasses, are the preferred habitat of the geese and these habitats allow them to complete their journey northward. They usually eat entire plants and digest their food in less than an hour or two. The Snow Goose also uses flooded cultivated fields in the spring to find food, although this is a phenomenon that has only been observed in the past few decades.

Danville Festival

October 8th to 10th, 2016



Come visit our booth, meet several talented artists and observe many migratory birds

Victo et ses oies Festival

October 22nd & 23rd, 2016

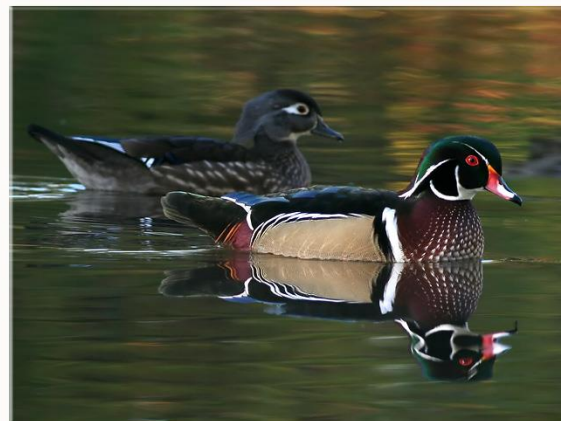


Come visit our booth, meet several talented artists and observe thousands of snow geese at Reservoir Beaudet in Victoriaville.



Mallard

Another representative of the family **Anatidae**, the **Mallard**, differs greatly from geese; it is smaller in size, has a shorter neck, and has a less bulky but more colorful body. This bird is also well known to birders. It has a high tolerance to the presence of humans and can be found as much in a waterfront park as in a large swamp. The Mallard is the ancestor of most domestic ducks and it has hybridized with many species of ducks. Although hybrid and domestic birds can be more difficult to identify, the adult male is easily recognizable with its green head, yellow beak and curved black tail. Interestingly, Mallard pairs will form in the fall or winter on the wintering grounds, where many courtship displays occur. This allows for Mallard couples to start looking for a site for the nest as soon as they arrive on the nesting grounds.



A Birding Safari in East Africa



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

Limit of 20 people

See Shoebill and other waterbirds, bee-eaters, hornbills, eagles, ostriches, weavers, the Big Five Mammals and a good sample of East Africa's bird species from the dry savannah in the Rift Valley to tropical rain forests to mountain cloud forests 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

Wood duck

The **Wood Duck** uses this same technique, but in a nesting environment quite different from the majority of Anatidae. They require the presence of trees with cavities near bodies of water in order to breed. Other species such as **Goldeneyes**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** will nest in cavities, but the Wood Duck is the only dabbling duck to do so. It is also the only duck in North America to have two broods per season.



Gorot d'Islande et gorot à œil d'or - Barrow's and common goldeneye

© Michel Bordenave 2007

Barrow's Goldeneye (left) & Common Goldeneye (right)



Hooded Merganser

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 at

rodger.titman@mcgill.ca

Also check out David Bird's
website:

askprofessorbird.com

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.



Common Merganser

Very diversified and well adapted to their environment, **Anatidae** are impressive birds that deserve special attention. Although the species mentioned above can usually be observed quite closely, many ducks and geese are often situated far away across a swamp or a river, making identification with binoculars difficult. A good spotting scope is recommended to fully appreciate the beauty of these aquatic birds.

Other anatidae



Harlequin Duck

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; tripod; 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

Earthvalues Institute is the organization under which the project is run.

www.earthvalues.org



Ring-necked Duck



American Wigeon



Northern Shoveler

Text by Thierry Grandmont

Photos taken by Guy St-Onge & Michel Bordeleau

Bird Fest 2016 is a success!

Our 2016 Bird Fest was a success again this year. We received had a lot of feedback from participants who loved meeting our exhibitors, see and hold birds of prey and eating excellent Thai food from the food truck Le Tuktuk. This event will be repeated once again in 2017. It will be a pleasure to see you again.



Photos from Simon Lefebvre & Karine Bertrand



Photos from Sylvain de Marbre

Congratulations to our winners!



Our winners on the picture, from left to right:

Robert Thibault, Vortex Vanquish 8x26; **Yvon St-Onge**, Swarovski Companion CL 8x30; **Jacynthe Landry**, Squirrel Buster Plus; **Noëlline Boulanger**, Vortex Vanquish 8X26; **Luc Bissonnette**, Tree Swallow birdhouse.

Our other winners:

Jacques Perras, Celestron Upclose 20X50; **Mihai Cristalov**, Celestron Upclose 20X50; **Catherine Dion**, Golden oak Feeder; **Francine Arseneau**, **Guy Sauvé**, *Les oiseaux du Québec et des Maritimes* (photo guide); **Marie White**, *Les oiseaux du Québec et des Maritimes*; **Liliana Turcanu**, *Où observer les oiseaux au Québec* (book); **André Carrier**, **Christiane Claude**, Kit & subscription to " Bird Protection Quebec; **Mario Grenier**, **Micheline Girard**, Subscription to QuébecOiseaux magazine.

Digiscoping Workshop with Clay Taylor and Serge Côté

The digiscoping workshops held on June 3rd and 4th with Clay Taylor and Serge Côté were also a great success. Several people attended in order to improve their technique. Here are some photos taken during these two workshops. You may find it hard to believe that these photos were taken by "beginners".



Least Bittern. Photo : Claude Tancrede



Marsh Wren. Photo : Timothy Ellwood



Photo : Timothy Ellwood

A Smart Chickadee



A nearly empty feeder that no longer attracts birds! This is not a problem for this Black-capped Chickadee. Notice what happens between the first and second picture. The feeder tube is almost empty but this chickadee finds a way to reach the seeds at the bottom using a twig as a tool. The use of tools is a sign of intelligence in the animal world. This feat performed by the chickadee is a great example of animal intelligence. Its survival instinct and creativity stands out brilliantly here!

Photos by Serge Seguin, Montreal

New Products & Suggestions

Click on each item for more details

Large 2-section feeder



This feeder has two separate chambers in which you can put two different kinds of birdseed.

There are 6 perches and is made of strong metal.

The feeder can hold a large quantity of birdseed.

Dome diameter 27cm, Feeder diameter 18cm

Total height 51cm, Feeder height 47cm

Set of 4 Bird Cups



Attractive gift box holding a set of 4 cups with Robert Bateman's signature bird paintings.



Loggerhead Shrike, Canada Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Height 4 1/4 inches, diameter 3

Robert Bateman Pair of Fox Cups



Group of Seven set of 4 Cups



Large mugs

580 ml or 19.6 oz

Canadian artist *A.J. Casson*



White Pine



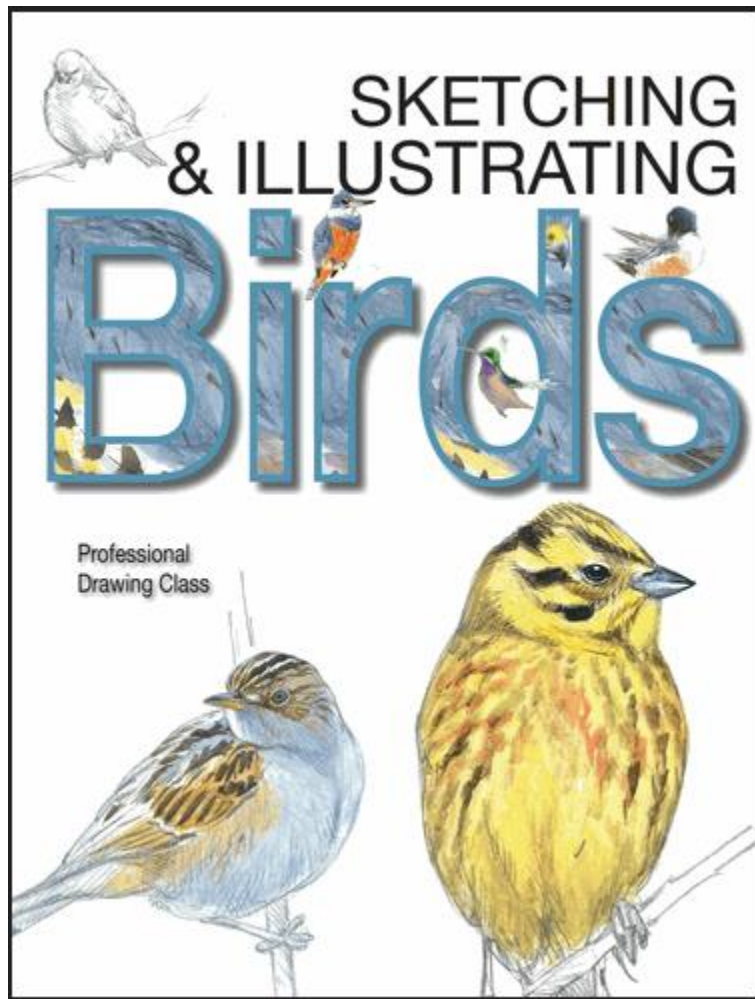
Jack Pine and Poplar

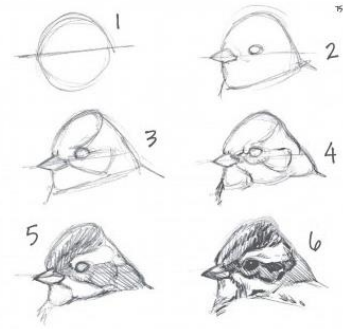


Each large mug comes with a gift box.

New Book

"Sketching & Illustrating Birds"





The groups of feathers that cover the head create a series of very recognizable outlines that help the different elements fit together and create the correct proportions.

1. First, draw the approximate outline of the head and a horizontal line to use as a reference for locating the eye and the beak.

2. When placing these two elements, you must keep in mind that the eye sits above the line of the beak, and that it is necessary to carefully delineate the separation between them.

3. Trace the outline of the main groups of feathers. In this case, the bird has a prominent crest that is quite different from the rest of the feathers of the head. A triangle defines the auricular feathers and the small tuft underneath the eye.

4. After detailing the groups of feathers, start working on the other details: the contour of the back of the head, the ear, and the line that begins at the lower angle of the beak and runs along the throat.

5. Now it is time to apply color or to shade the middle areas with a pencil.

6. To finish up, you now add the areas of darkest color. The areas of the head depend on the posture and on the greater or lesser extension of the neck.

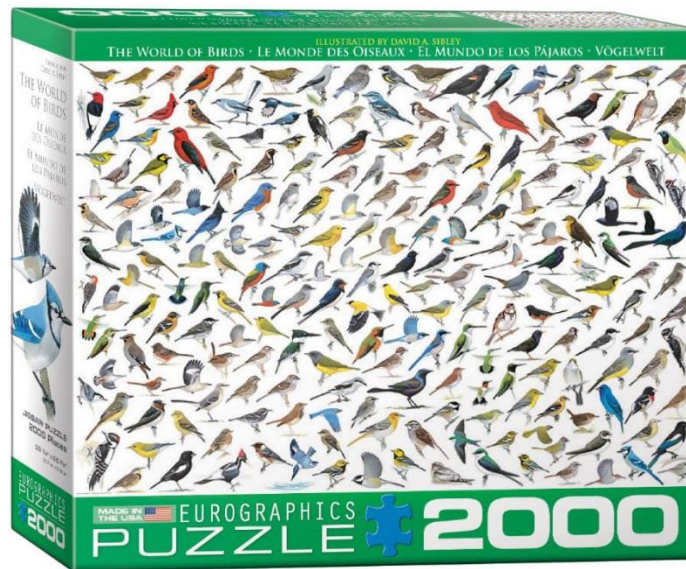
Whether you're an artist, scientist, bird enthusiast, or student, you'll love learning how to portray all kinds of birds artistically, from sketching them in their natural environments to learning how to render a head to foot, full-detail illustration. Discover all the techniques you need to know to represent the most common birds by studying their behaviors and habitats. Plus, learn about aspects of flight, as well as how to capture birds in motion, whether they're flying or running. You'll find a wealth of practical examples of all kinds of birds in different environments, all rendered by accomplished artists specially chosen for their diverse and unique illustration styles.

Hardcover, 192 pages.

Puzzles

[The World of Birds](#)

[2000 pieces](#)



Illustrated by David A. Sibley

Strong high-quality puzzle pieces. Made from recycled board and printed with vegetable-based ink. This superior quality puzzle will delight and educate all at the same time.

2000 pieces. Assembled size

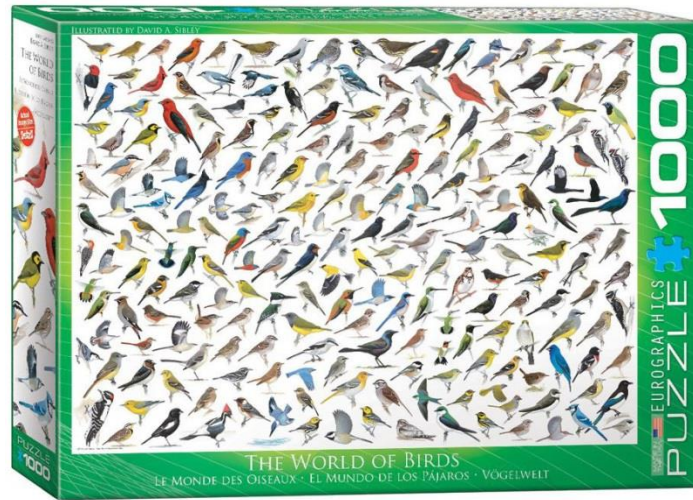
39¹/₄ X 26⁵/₈ inches



Also available in a smaller size

The World of Birds

1000 pieces



1000 pieces. Assembled size

26^{5/8} X 19^{1/4} inches

Kowa 1.6x Extender



Transform your Kowa TSN 880 or 770 spotting scope into a more powerful machine with the TSN-EX16.

It increases the magnification of your spotting scope by 1.6x. You end up with a magnification of 40-96x with a 25-60x eyepiece with virtually zero light loss.

NEW!

Vortex Summit Carbon Tripod



Lightweight, with all the stability you could wish for, with the added benefit of a fluid pan head and strong carbon fiber legs. Ideal for supporting spotting scopes and binoculars for hours of observations.

Weight 1.67 kg or 3.7 pounds

Clearance prices on quality binoculars and spotting scopes

Vortex Razor HD 85mm & 65mm



Razor 85mm HD: Sales Price \$1599 ([reg. \\$2199](#))

Razor 65mm HD: Sales Price \$1199 ([reg. \\$1639](#))

Both angled and straight spotting scopes available.

Diamondback Binoculars



Diamondback 8x28: Sales Price **\$179.99** (reg. \$219)

Diamondback 8x32: Sales Price **\$242.99** (reg. \$289)

Diamondback 8x42: Sales Price **\$264.99** (reg. \$349)

Diamondback 10x42: Sales Price **\$269.99** (reg. \$359)

Also available in 10x28, 10x32, 10x50 and 12x50

Viper HD Binoculars



Viper 6x32: Sales Price \$599 (reg. \$839)

Viper 8x32: Sales Price \$659 (reg. \$859)

**All clearance items available while quantities
last**

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