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Come and visit us!

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Opening hours:

Sunday - Monday
Closed

Hello everyone,

We are very happy to welcome you once again to our annual **Bird Fest** which will be held on **Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 at Nature Expert**. Come and join us, and leading experts in the field, to celebrate the joy of wild birds. In this newsletter, you will find information about our Bird Fest, a follow up on squirrels from our last newsletter, and an article on bird migration. We also have some exciting new products which you may enjoy.

On a personal note, this is our 10th spring season as owners of Nature Expert and we count ourselves grateful to have such dedicated and passionate customers.

Thanks for joining us on our birding journey!

Alain and Dara Goulet
Owners and bird enthusiasts

Tuesday - Wednesday

9:30am to 6:00pm

Thursday - Friday

9:30am to 7:00pm

Saturday

9:30am to 5:00pm



Online store open

24-7

**Calendar
of
events**

**Springtime Bird
Walk and
Conference
on Mount Royal**

Nature Expert's Annual Bird Fest

**Celebrating our passion for
observing
and appreciating wild birds!**



Saturday June 3rd, 2017.

9:30am to 5:00pm

at Nature Expert, 5120 rue de Bellechasse, Montreal H1T 2A4

**Saturday and
Sunday, May 27 &
28, 2017 8:30AM**



Guided tour on Mount Royal to observe birds.

A conference will be given on Saturday, in English, by Joël Coutu entitled "Love with feathers".

A second conference, entitled "Où vont nos oiseaux?", will be given by Alain Goulet, in French, on Sunday.

**Fêtes des oiseaux
migrateurs - Danville**

October 7-9th, 2017



**Festival Victo et ses
oies**

Octobre 21 and 22nd, 2017

The following people and organizations will be on site:

Click on the links to learn more about them!

- [Gery 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 QuébecOiseaux](#)
- [Vortex Canada](#)
- [Bird Protection Quebec](#)
- [Le Nichoir](#) (bird rehabilitation centre)
- Thai food truck –[Tuktuk](#) from [Une nuit à Bangkok](#) Restaurant (lunch hour only)
- Several other bird-related activities
- **Due to a scheduling conflict, the digiscoping workshop originally planned for June 4th, 2017 will be postponed.

Prizes will be drawn and sales will be available on a wide variety of in-store products during Bird Fest.



Come and visit us at the Danville and Victoriaville birding festivals. Meet talented artists and enjoy the thousands of Snow Geese and other migratory birds making a stop-over on their way south.

[Binocular Exchange Program](#)



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);

Squirrels....the sequel!

Following our last newsletter, several customers mentioned that they feed squirrels so these creatures will leave their bird feeders alone. We must not forget that squirrels are major bird predators. They prey mainly on eggs and nestlings but can also kill adult birds -- as Pierre Morin found out at his feeders. Feeding squirrels might not be such a good idea after all!



Squirrel eating a Dark-eyed Junco. Photos: Pierre Morin



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.

www.earthvalues.org

Earthvalues



Bird Migration

When food sources diminish or disappear, some birds migrate from their wintering grounds to areas where it is easier to build nests and find food.



Piranga scarlate / Scarlet Tanager

© Michel Bordelean 2011

Most migrating species who nest in our forests travel from the southern United States, or from Central and South America.

The mechanisms which initiate migratory behaviour are diverse and are not completely understood. Migration can be triggered by various stimuli, such as changes in temperature, length of days and food availability, or by a genetic predisposition. For centuries, people who owned domesticated birds noticed that the migratory species seemed to become agitated during certain periods in spring and fall. The birds would repeatedly fly towards one side of their cage. German behaviour specialists named this type of behaviour *Zugunruhe* or migratory agitation.

Migratory birds can cover thousands of kilometers in their annual voyages, often traveling year after year in the same migratory corridor. However, recent studies using eBird data reveal that many small birds take different routes in the spring and fall to take advantage of seasonal

variations in temperature and food sources. The secrets of their navigational skills are astounding and not fully understood, in part because birds combine several different senses when navigating. Birds can get information from the sun, stars, and by detecting the magnetic field of the earth.



Paruline à tête cendrée - Magnolia warbler

© Michel Bordeleau 2007

Embarking on a journey that can be several thousand kilometers is a dangerous and arduous undertaking. The physical and mental abilities of birds are put to the test in an important way. The main physical stresses encountered are: the constant search for suitable food supply sites; bad weather; and increased exposure to predators.

In recent years, long-distance migrants have faced a growing threat, including communication towers and large buildings. Many species are attracted by the lights of large buildings and millions are killed every year in collisions with these structures. The Fatal Light Awareness Program, based in Toronto, Ontario, offers advice and information on this issue.



Passeris indigo / Indigo Bunting

© Michel Bordeleau 2011

Some places seem to possess a special attraction power resulting in a higher concentration of birds: these places often become well known as hot spots for bird watching. This is usually the result of local climatic conditions, an abundance of food, or topography that favours a rest stop.

For example, small songbirds migrating north in the spring cross the Gulf of Mexico and land on the US coast. When cold storms or fronts bring adverse winds, these birds may be near to exhaustion when they reach the ground. In this case, they move to a food supply, such as islands off the coast or peninsulas where a large number of migrants literally fall to the ground (the term often used to describe this event is a "Fall Out"). Potential places for this kind of unexpected event during migration have become very popular with birders, even gaining international reputations.



Peninsulas attract a high concentration of migratory birds. As the birds follow the land, a peninsula is often a place conducive to rest before flying over a body of water. This explains why spots like Point Pelee, Ontario, the Florida Keys and Cape May, New Jersey, have the reputation for being hot spots for bird migration.

Spring migration is a particularly good time to attract birds passing through. It may be of interest to you to prepare your backyard with plants suitable for attracting certain species and feeders for others, not to mention offering a water source which is indispensable both for drinking and to clean the bird's plumage.



Paruline jaune - Yellow warbler

© Michel Bordeleau 2008

New Products and Suggestions

Humm-Bug Feeder for Hummingbirds



This new feeder attracts hummingbirds, without the use of nectar! Simply add two or three bananas to the feeder... and wait for the hummingbirds to come! Fruit flies will lay their eggs on the bananas and will quickly multiply. Hummingbirds will be attracted by this excellent source of protein.

You can click on the following [video](#) to watch the hummingbirds in action!



Squirrel-proof "Slinky"



This new "slinky" squirrel baffle is in the shape of a long metal spring, and stretches out along the pole, deterring the squirrels from climbing the pole to access the feeders.

Discount on the Ultimate Bird Seed Catcher Tray



Originally \$49,99, this metal seed tray is on sale for \$14,99!
Designed to clamp onto a pole, it is possible to adjust the distance between the tray and the pole. This allows better alignment between the tray and the hanging feeder in order to catch falling seed. Made in Canada.



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