



CCFA
Nature Expert

In this issue:

- Our contest celebrating 30 years in business.
- Our bird quiz
- Our new products and suggestions

Hours of operation:

Tue./Wed. : 9h30 - 18h
Thurs./ Fri. : 9h30 - 19h
Saturday : 9h30-17h
Sunday/ monday:
closed

7950 rue de Mar-
seille, Montréal, QC
H1L 1N7

Métro Honoré-
Beaugrand

Centre de Conservation de la Faune Ailée Nature Expert

January 2011

Dear friends,

CCFA is celebrating its 30th anniversary! Keep your eyes open for the special events that will be connected to this celebration throughout 2011. To begin, we are proud to present our new CCFA- Nature Expert logo (top left). We are also proud to launch our contest "**Bird Stories**" with over **\$ 5000.00 in prizes**. You'll find the details in this newsletter and on our website. Thank you for making CCFA - Nature Expert the destination of choice for your birding products over the years. I want to wish you a Happy New Year for 2011 and we look forward to celebrating with you.

Alain Goulet, Owner.

Bird Stories - A Contest

In August 2006, I visited the amusement park, La Ronde, in Montréal. No, it wasn't for birding but to experience a few thrills on their famous roller coasters. The day was going well and I rode many of the largest rides. When the time came to face the Vampire, I stood in line and after a while, I was seated and waited patiently while the employees made their final safety checks. As I waited, I suddenly saw a bird falling from the sky, slowly, swirling down from left to right, but always in my direction. I extended my hands forward effortlessly, and the bird landed gently in my hands.

Several things came to mind at that moment: Am I going to ride the Vampire with this bird in my hands? I will not be able to make five inversions and reach speeds of up to 80 km / h while protecting the bird adequately! So I signaled to a La Ronde employee and showed him the living bird in my hands. The look on his face seemed to say: "A rider with a bird in his hands ... that was not covered in my training!"

He ordered that the ride be stopped and I was asked politely to get off the ride with my bird.



www.ccfa-montreal.com

Quiz

The bird quiz will be on vacation for the month of January and February.

Quiz from our last newsletter:

Question: What is the most common breeding bird in Quebec for which we have never found a nest?

Answer: We received many responses and we were able to fool many birders with this quiz. One had to think about the behavior of the bird in order to get the right answer to this trick question. The right answer: the Brown-headed Cowbird. The reason that a nest was never found is that this species does not build a nest but lays its eggs in the nests of other birds!

Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to our winner :

Diane Levesque

She has won a Cardinal Feeder, a book on the Snowy Owl, and the book Nature sans frontière.

I was then surrounded by a few employees while the passengers of the Vampire were looking at me wondering what just happened.

I took a look at the bird that I identified when it landed in my hands. It was a Brown Creeper and was covered with spider webs - likely the reason it "fell" from the sky into my hands. He was very lucky to land in the hands of what may have been the only birder on that ride. He was probably feeding on insects and spiders when he was caught in some spider webs which prevented him from flying freely. So I did my best to remove the webs one by one from his small body. After a minute, I released the bird which gladly flew away.

The ride came back and I took my seat once again. I also looked up in case the creeper's partner was also present. What a unique and amazing encounter with a Brown Creeper that was!

Alain Goulet



Brown Creeper. Photo: Simon Duval

It is in the spirit of sharing bird stories that we celebrate our 30 years at the service of birders. Centre de conservation de la faune ailée / Nature Expert, in cooperation with Regroupement Québec Oiseaux is proud to launch the contest: **Bird Stories.**

Send us your true and most unusual bird stories and you will have a chance to win one of many birding products from over **\$ 5,000 in prizes.**

What kind of true story can you submit?

My story illustrates the kind of story we're looking for: fascinating stories; unusual or unlikely interactions between humans and birds; or any unusual bird behaviour (see photo below).

Your stories must be 500 words or less and be sent to us before July 1st, 2011. If you have one or more photos that illustrate your story, please send them to us as well. Who knows, your story might be published!



My niece Mackenzie Harvey feeding peanuts to a Black-capped Chickadee. Photo: Alain Goulet

OUR MAJOR CONTEST SPONSORS:



Here are the prizes you can win in the Bird Stories contest:

1st Prize: A pair of Swarovski binoculars SLC 10x42
Suggested price: \$ 2,100.00



2nd Prize: A pair of Vortex binoculars Viper 8x42 HD
Suggested price: \$ 760.00



3rd Prize: A pair of Vortex binoculars Diamondback 8x42
Suggested price: \$ 300.00



Several other prizes will be available including:

- Magazine subscriptions to Québec Oiseaux
- Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Québec
- Books from Éditions Michel Quintin
- Woodstream Bird Feeders
- Squirell Buster Plus Feeders
- Cardinal Feeders
- Camera Bags
- Accessories from Eagle Optics

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS:



Our new products and suggestions

Friends,
Joins us on Facebook!
Its a great way to ask
us your questions.

Unsubscribe:
If you do not wish to
receive this newsletter
anymore, please re-
ply by email and we'll
remove your name at
your request.

Prérez vous recevoir
une version francaise
de notre bulletin?
Avissez nous par cour-
riel:
ccfa@videotron.ca

CCFA-Nature-Expert
7950, rue de Marseille
Montréal, Qc, H1L
1N7

(Métro Honoré-Beau-
grand)

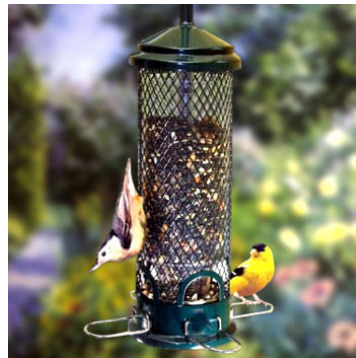
ccfa@videotron.ca

Bird Feathers



This guide teaches birders to use the characteristics of wing types and feather morphology to identify feathers - not only by species but also by their place on the bird's body. The introductory chapters give a detailed overview of the feather - how feathers developed, the parts of a single feather, and the variety of types of feathers on a bird. In the feather identification section, over 400 colour photographs show feather samples from 379 bird species from all over North America. Along with the wing type of the species and a map showing its range, several types of feathers are included for each bird; each feather is labelled with its type and its size.

Squirrel Buster Mini



The Squirrel Buster Mini is guaranteed to be squirrel proof. Openings in the bottom of the metal mesh shroud are aligned with the seed tray and allow birds access to the seed. When a squirrel climbs onto the feeder, its weight automatically forces the shroud down, closing access to the seed tray. Squirrels are kept out but not harmed in any way. The seed ports have perches for the perching birds but the metal mesh shroud also offers a large clinging area. Because of the combined perching and clinging surfaces, you will find an enhanced level of bird activity with the Squirrel Buster Mini. The patented Seed Tube Ventilation System in Squirrel Buster Mini permits humidity and hot air to escape through vents at the top of the feeder. The seed stays fresher and attracts more birds.

Droll Yankees Seattle Dome



The Seattle Rain Guard Dome shields the ports on a tube feeder, keeping the seed dry. Made to slip onto feeder tubes with a 2.5-inch outside diameter. The polycarbonate UV stabilized dome comes with instructions and a spring clamp to keep it elevated to the position you want. Dome measures 10 inches in diameter.

www.ccfa-montreal.com