



# CCFA - Nature Expert

Centre de conservation de la faune ailée

January 2013

Greetings and Happy New Year,

It has been one year since our move to rue de Bellechasse and we are very happy to be in our new location. It has been a pleasure to welcome you to our new store in 2012 and it will be a privilege to see you again in 2013. Snow and frigid weather have been a major part of this winter season and many of us wonder how our birds handle these conditions. What happens when birds face the cold and snow? What do birds eat when there aren't any bird feeders in their territory? Do birds depend on bird feeders in order to survive? You will find all the answers to these questions in this newsletter. Do not miss our Bird Fest on June 8th, 2013.

Happy birding.

Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast

## Bird Fest

8<sup>th</sup> June 2013!



Following our grand re-opening in 2012, many of our customers have told us how much they enjoyed the day and that they hoped that we would hold such an event again. We heard your comments! Bird Fest will be held on June 8th, 2013. At our store, Nature Expert, you will have the opportunity to meet:

- Jean Paquin, author and birding expert
- Daniel Dupont, photographer and author
- Vortex Optics
- Swarovski Optik
- Service environnementaux faucons (with their birds of prey)
- U.Q.R.O.P. (with their birds of prey)
- Regroupement QuébecOiseaux
- Bird Protection Québec
- Danie Gagnon, Wildlife artist

On June 8th, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet birding experts and artists
- Test the best birding equipment
- Discuss bird conservation with environmental groups
- See live birds of prey and have your picture taken with them
- Win one of several prizes (books, bird feeders, binoculars, etc)
- Take advantage of several in-store savings and promotions



The final list of artists, suppliers, birding experts and organizations will be in our next newsletter which will be sent to you in April.

### In this newsletter:

- Bird Fest 2013
- The bird quiz
- Bird Feeding: Do birds depend on us ?
- News and suggestions

### Hours of operation:

**Tuesday and  
Wednesday**  
9h30 - 18h

**Thursday and  
Friday**  
9h30 - 19h

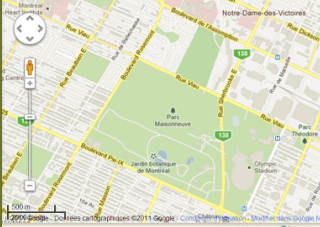
**Saturday**  
9h30 - 17h

5120 rue de  
Bellechasse,  
Montréal, QC  
H1T 2A4  
Metro Viau

[www.ccfa-montreal.com](http://www.ccfa-montreal.com)

Come  
visit us !

5120 Rue de  
Bellechasse



facebook

Click on the logo  
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  
page!



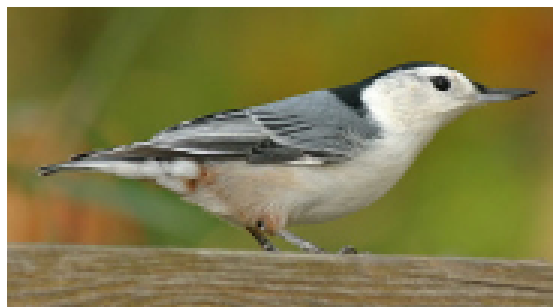
# Bird Feeding: Do birds depend on us ?

Birds are extraordinary creatures; we love their singing, their beautiful plumage and colours. Of course we love to have them at our feeders and observe their behaviour up close. Birds are quite smart and are constantly in search of food. But what do they eat in the wild? What are they eating in areas where there are no bird feeders? Do backyard birds depend on us to survive our harsh winters? Each species is specifically adapted to a specific diet. Depending on the season, birds change their diet according to their energy needs and food availability.



The Northern Cardinal is a seed eater and feeds on a variety of wild plants. It also eats spiders and insects such as grasshoppers, crickets and caterpillars. In spring and summer, it also feeds on wild berries such as blackberries and a variety of other berries.

In spring and summer (breeding season), the Black-capped Chickadee prefers insect eggs, larvae and pupae. At the end of the summer the chickadee will make food reserves for the winter. It will hide food under the bark of a tree or in a patch of lichens. They are even able to remember where they hid food 28 days later.



The White-breasted Nuthatch feeds on insect larvae, seeds, berries and like chickadees, it will hide food for future cravings. During the winter, it can feed on seeds of conifer cones, thanks to their specialized beak.

[www.cffa-montreal.com](http://www.cffa-montreal.com)

How many bird names can you find in the following phrase ?

*Eastern Meadowlark*

The answers was:  
4 bird names

- Eastern Meadowlark
- Tern
- Lark
- Owl

The winner is Steve Charlton !

THE PRIZE:  
THE PETERSON  
FIELD GUIDE  
NATURE IN WINTER



The diet of woodpeckers consists mainly of insects, beetles, ants, caterpillars, larvae and spiders. In summer and autumn they can also eat berries. Woodpeckers have a distinctive beak, which allows them to break the wood and find food in trees.



The American Goldfinch eats seeds from wild flowers such as thistles and sunflowers. During the summer, it will also feed on insects, caterpillars, fly larvae and wasps.



Blue Jays eat everything. It can eat wild fruit, seeds, insects, frogs, snails, caterpillars, mice, eggs and also nestlings. Its beak is capable of piercing through acorns, nuts and other hard shelled fruit. It also likes to hide food in leaves or trees for later retrieval.

Birds can find a wide variety of food in the wild. Bird feeders can help birds in winter if their natural food becomes temporarily unavailable during ice storms. But as a general rule, birds can find all they need in nature. Many studies have shown that they will use bird feeders for about 20% of their diet. 80% will be from natural sources. There's no harm in feeding them and it allows us an opportunity to observe them and learn about them.

*Viviana Brigada  
Dave Gagné*

*All Photos by Karl Egressy*

[www.ccfa-montreal.com](http://www.ccfa-montreal.com)

# QUIZ

## Question:

A farmer sends his friend Joe a box containing nine ducks. In order to control the number of ducks on arrival, he writes IX ducks on in Roman numerals on the box.

Unfortunately, the dishonest carrier, steals three of them and slightly modifies the writing on the box. How does he do it without erasing or smearing what is already written on the box and without raising any suspicion?

Send us your answer by email!

Nature Expert  
5120, rue de Belchasse. Montréal, Qc, H1T 2A4

Métro Viau

ccfa@videotron.ca

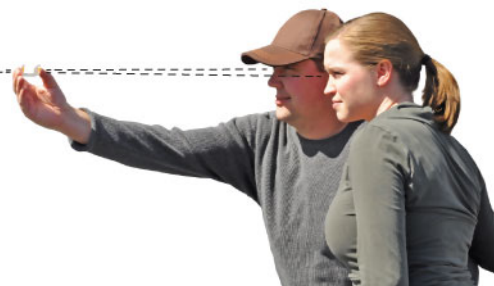
Tél: 514-351-5496  
Tél: 1-855-OIS-EAUX  
Fax: 1-800-588-6134

## New products and suggestions

### Spot-On Quick Sight



The Spot-On is a handheld observation tool which allows two people to quickly orient their view to the same bird. The tool is designed to be used at distances of about 15 meters (50 feet) and greater.



Now, in a few seconds, you can watch, aim and share your discovery. This is an excellent tool for photographers and birders who are in groups.

### The Sparrow Halo



The Sparrow Halo deters House Sparrows from feeding from bird feeders while allowing other birds to feed. According to a study conducted by Cornell University, the Sparrow-Halo is effective when used and prevents the majority of sparrows to access feeders when used.

### Droll Yankees High-capacity feeder

This Droll Yankees feeder is 122cm (4 feet) tall. It can hold 2.7 KG (6 pounds) of seeds and has 8 metal perches. It is ideal for those who have large flocks at their feeders and do not want to fill their feeders too often.



[www.ccfa-montreal.com](http://www.ccfa-montreal.com)