


## Nature Expert Winter Newsletter 2016



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**Hello and Happy 2016 to everyone.**

A New Year brings us new opportunities to enjoy birds and learn more about them. It is our wish and our mission to help you achieve this goal throughout the year whether via our newsletters, our activities or personalized advice. In this newsletter, you will learn about; traveling to observe birds; bird pellets; our 2016 Bird Fest and our new products and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you and serving you.

***Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.***



Birding with:

**ADVENTURE  
CANADA**



***Come visit us!***

5120 rue de  
Bellechasse  
Montréal, Qc  
H1T 2A4

**Opening Hours :**

**Sunday - Monday**

Closed

**Tuesday - Wednesday**

9:30 to 6:00

**Thursday- Friday**

9:30 to 7:00

**Saturday**

9:30 to 5:00

**Online Store Open**

**24/7**



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Adventure Canada is a company which organizes trips all over Canada, especially in higher latitudes and in less populated areas. For example, a trip to observe polar bears near Churchill, in northern Manitoba, was just recently organized in November. Near the end of the summer, Adventure Canada organizes many trips in the Arctic area, with visits to different communities in Greenland, Nunavut, and Northern Quebec. The trips really allow the travellers to be immersed in the culture of the local communities, with different cultural activities planned. Opportunities are also given to admire the work of local artists.

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## Calendar of events

### QuébecOiseaux's Grand Défi



During the month of May, Regroupement QuébecOiseaux organizes a fundraiser with proceeds going to organizations that focus on the conservation of birds and their habitat in Quebec. Different teams, comprised of 2 to 4 people, sign up for the Grand Défi and must observe the maximum number of bird species within a consecutive 24 hour time frame. This year, Alain Goulet will again be part of a team once again.

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**Springtime  
outing and  
conference on**



Transportation during these trips is mostly done by small expedition ships, which allow passengers to live comfortably during the trip and to approach the coast easily. Every day, travellers disembark and explore the territory. The trips are also geared towards the observation of fauna, be it polar bears, musk ox, walruses, whales, or certain species of birds found mostly in higher latitude areas. There are usually one or two birders who are part of the crew on every trip.

## Mount Royal

**Saturday and Sunday  
May 28 and 29, 2016  
8:30 AM**

Guided tour on Mount Royal to observe birds.

A conference will be given on Saturday, in French, by Joël Coutu. A second conference, entitled "Unusual Bird Stories", will be given by Alain Goulet in English on Sunday May 29th, 2016.

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**Bird Fest 2016 at  
Nature Expert  
Saturday June 4th,  
2016**



In fact, Adventure Canada is organizing a trip specifically for bird watching in Northern Canada, **from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2016**. The trip starts in Edmonton and continues in the North-West Territories and in Nunavut. Species of birds usually observed during this trip include king eiders, Sabine's gulls, and yellow-billed loons.



**Animal artists, experts in ornithology, birding experts, and representatives of different conservation organizations will be present. There will be a birds of prey kiosk and a Thai food truck as well as other bird related activities.**

**Digiscoping  
Sunday June 3rd  
and 4th, 2016**



You can visit Adventure Canada's website, [adventurecanada.com](http://adventurecanada.com), to familiarise yourself with the different trips organized by the company. The trips and programming take place primarily in English, although bilingual guides are present. Meals, accommodation and professional interpretive guide services are included in the cost of the trips. Founded in 1987, Adventure Canada has always had a conscientious attitude in regards to the respect of the environment and culture. If you decide to book a trip with Adventure Canada, please mention that you heard about their trips through Nature Expert.

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## Serge Beaudette



Serge Beaudette is a professional birder with a passion for birds and travelling. As a birding guide, Serge organizes trips in different countries across the globe every year.

On his website, [pitpitpit.com](http://pitpitpit.com) (in French only), you can learn all about the upcoming trips. Sleeping and living accommodations,

## with Clay Taylor

Back by popular demand. Clay Taylor, professional photographer, will be giving a workshop on digiscoping also known as photography using a spotting scope and a digital camera. The outing will take place in the Bois-de-l'île-Bizard.

This is the perfect opportunity to receive personalized feedback and tips concerning digiscoping techniques. If you are interested in attending this free outing, please RSVP, since there are a limited number of spots. Please RSVP by email.

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**Binocular Exchange Canada**

meals, on-site transportation, and birding guide services are included in the price of the trips. These trips are the only ones officially recommended by Regroupement QuébecOiseaux.

Upcoming trips include destinations such as Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Arizona, Catalonia, Florida, Colombia, and the Galapagos Islands.

You will also find on his website a great number of incredible photographs taken during past trips; below are some examples. Serge Beaudette also offers a number of conferences, in French, for birding clubs, garden clubs, or associations whose mandate is the protection of nature and the environment. These conferences broach subjects pertaining to nature and especially to birds (their intelligence, their plumage, their migration habits, etc.). There are also different chronicles and articles that can be found on the website, written by Serge Beaudette over the past few years and published by Tribune and Radio Canada.

We invite you to subscribe to Serge's newsletters on [pitpitpit.com](http://pitpitpit.com), to learn more about the different activities and trips he organizes. The monthly newsletter keeps you up to date with upcoming activities, allows you to vision breathtaking photographs, and offers anecdotes and tidbits of interesting information about birds. The newsletter entitled "PITPIT en voyage" is a sort of daily blog sent out whenever there is a birding trip in progress. The email is comprised of the day's best photos and short anecdotes, reflections and explanations. In short, the newsletter allows you to feel as though you're travelling along with Serge without having to spend anything!

If you would like to meet Serge and discuss travel and birds, he will be with us during our next Bird Fest at Nature Expert on June 4th, 2016!



**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 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





*Serge Beaudette - www.pitpitpit.com ©*



*Serge Beaudette - www.pitpitpit.com ©*

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**What are bird pellets?**





Several predatory birds that eat small mammals and birds will produce a pellet that they regurgitate. Because birds do not have teeth and hence do not chew their food, they end up ingesting hair, bones and feathers which cannot be digested. Once or twice a day, they will expel these pellets through the mouth. Each pellet's shape, colour and size is specific to each bird species. We can therefore identify the bird species to which it belongs and what that bird has eaten by opening up the pellet.

What most people don't know is that pellets are not a unique phenomenon found amongst owls and other birds of prey. Other birds such as waders, crows and even songbirds can regurgitate pellets. What will be found in these pellets are crustacean shells, indigestible plant parts, seeds and insect remains. The process is the same for these birds as it is in owls. I had the chance to observe and film a Rufous-tailed Jacamar passing a pellet during a trip to Costa Rica. These birds feed on insects and in the video, you can see in the video the pellet being passed through its mouth. You can find the link here: <https://youtu.be/cK3v0s33rCU>

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**Back again this year!**

**Bird Fest 2016 at Nature Expert**



**Saturday June 4, 2016. 9:30 to 5:00**

**Wildlife artists, birding experts, optics companies and representatives from different conservation organizations will be present. There will be a birds of prey kiosk and a Thai food truck as well as other bird related activities.**

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## **[New products & suggestions](#)**

***[Click on each item for more info](#)***

**Coffee from Costa Rica**



VILLA ALBA  
COFFEE



***100% Costa Rican Arabica Coffee - Ground Coffee - Dark Roast***

***From the highlands of Las Melizas Coto Brus, near La Amistad,  
the largest National Park of Central America, Villa Alba Coffee is***

*proud to offer you their SHB (strictly hard bean) coffee; a coffee considered to be the best quality in the world. This coffee is produced sustainably and with fair trade practices, keeping the best interests of the small farmers and consumers in mind. Their plantation also offers a favourable environment for birds as they have not cut large trees remain in order to nurture the entire ecosystem of the coffee plantation.*

*S.H.B. (Strictly Hard Bean) Coffee is considered to be the best as it grows over 1200 meters (3937 feet) above sea level. This means that the coffee beans will need more time to mature and will result in a bean with a richer flavour.*

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## Wooden cardinal shaped feeder



**Amusing sunflower feeder in the shape of a cardinal,  
made from durable white pine with a tray attracting many  
birds**

**54 cm X 15 cm X 40 cm**

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## Impressively realistic kites

Here is our new collection of ready-to-fly kites! They are impressively realistic, easy to assemble, and very stable.

### OWL



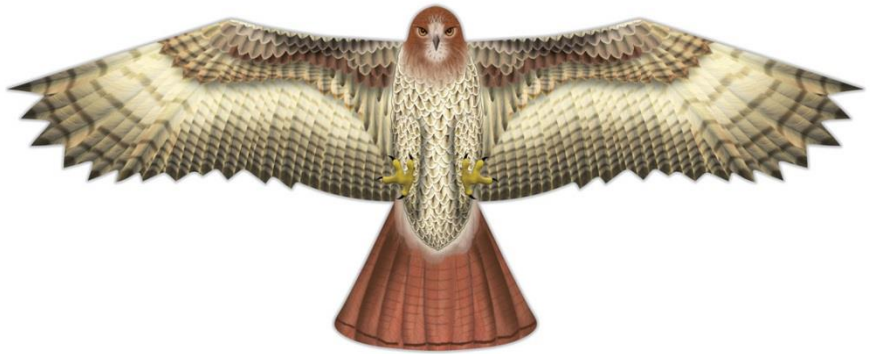
Supersized nylon kite - 67 inches wide (170.2 cm)

### EAGLE



Supersized nylon kite - 70 inches wide (177.8 cm)

**HAWK**



Supersized nylon kite - 70 inches wide (177.8 cm)

**Falcon**



nylon kite - 48 inches wide (122 cm)

## Macaw



nylon kite - 52 inches wide (132 cm)

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## Strawberry shaped feeder



**Add some colour to your garden and attract a wide variety of birds with this strawberry shaped sunflower feeder.**

**Height 16cm, Width 15cm**

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**Black Hummingbird Feeder  
Coach Lantern**



**Powder coated finish  
Base that comes apart for easy filling and cleaning  
15 oz (444mL) capacity**

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**Crystal Twister**



**with Cardinal**



**Perfect for Indoor or Outdoor Decor  
Mesmerizing Lighting Effect  
Height: 44 cm (17 in.)**

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**Vintage Glass Oriole feeder**



- Easy to fill wide mouth opening
- 4 flower feeding ports
- 16 oz (500mL) nectar capacity
- Easy to clean base