


# CCFA- Nature Expert

Centre de conservation de la faune ailée



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## 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

Hello,

We are in the throes of winter and our well-adapted winter birds are present. Snowy Owls are numerous again throughout the southern portion of the province. In this newsletter you will find information on how to take care of our winter birds and in contrast, how to prepare for a birding trip to warmer regions.

Please note that we will not hold our Bird Fest this year. Instead, Clay Taylor will be present in the store on June 6<sup>th</sup> and will lead a personalized digiscoping hike on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Come and enjoy the knowledge and experience of this exceptional birder and photographer.

In this issue, you will also find an article on choosing a Canadian National bird. Please remember to visit the web site at the end of the newsletter and vote for the Gray Jay as our future National bird of Canada.

A new version of our website is currently under construction and should be ready by March 2015. Based on your feedback, we are improving several features with the goal of making your online experience faster and even more accessible.

Happy birding!

Alain Goulet, owner and bird enthusiast.



[Come visit us!](#)

[5120 Rue de Bellechasse](#)  
[Montréal, QC](#)  
[H1T 2A4](#)

**Calendar  
of  
events**



## **Workshop with Clay Taylor from Swarovski Optik**

June 13th and 14th\*

**June 13th** - Come and meet Clay in store. Great way to ask questions and test great optics

**June 14th** - Personalized workshop and digiscoping hike with Clay Taylor



Before leaving, it is an excellent idea to have a good birding guide detailing the different species found in the area and the different observation sites where you will be most likely to spot them. These extremely well documented guides are updated regularly according to the latest research and discoveries. They are also full of gorgeous illustrations and/or photographs. Excellent guides have the following characteristics: detailed illustrations in keeping with reality; a distribution map on the same page as the species or on the page immediately following; a description of the most important characteristics used for identification of the species; a description of the bird's song, behaviour, and habitat; and a small format to facilitate bringing it on to the field with you.

**If I'm going on a trip, I'm bringing:**

A limited number of people will be taken on the hike. Please reserve your spot early by emailing us.

\*Dates subject to change.

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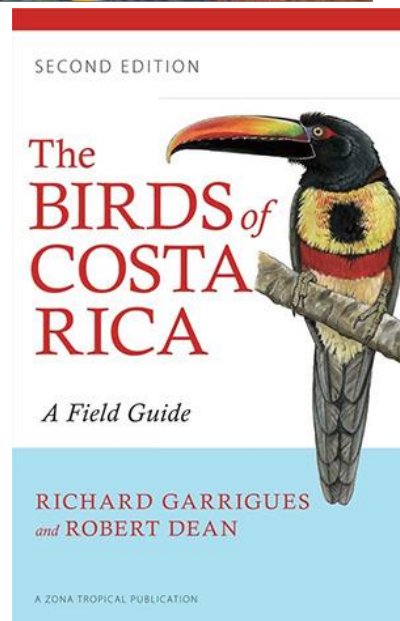
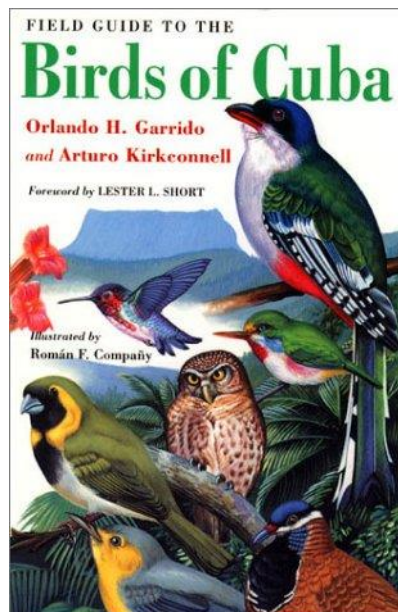
## Binocular Exchange Canada

**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

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

### 1) A good field guide



### 2) Trustworthy lightweight and waterproof binoculars



**Vortex Viper 8X28 - Weight 335g**



**Swarovski CL Companion 8X25- Weight 345g**

Changes in temperature can be extreme when arriving in a warm country, not to mention that there is often a high degree of humidity. Nothing is more frustrating than to miss out on an exciting observation because of condensation-filled binoculars. The waterproof quality of your binoculars is also of the greatest importance in desert destinations where fine sand can infiltrate the mechanism (eye cups, focus knob, etc.). If you are devoting your trip mainly to bird watching, it would be

prudent to have a second pair of binoculars as a backup if ever your main binoculars are damaged during your stay.



**Eagle Optics Shrike 8X42 - 149.99\$**

### I'm staying home

If you plan to stay at home and brave the cold like the Gray Jay, it can be an option that is just as interesting and fulfilling as travelling when you have the opportunity to feed the birds present in your backyard. Here are a few suggestions to care for our winter companions.

### Domes

A dome is your feeder's best ally to confront rainfall or snowfall. It protects the food and serves as a shelter that is no doubt appreciated by the birds. Many of the larger domes are also squirrel-proof.





Photo: Danielle-Perez Montréal, Janvier 2009

Because of its conical shape, the [mandarin dome](#) allows the feeder to be placed under the dome where it is safe from the elements. It is also designed to tilt under the weight of a squirrel trying to access a feeder's contents. Not all domes are squirrel-proof but this one is.

If you already own a **Squirrel Buster Plus** feeder, there is a **dome** made specifically for this feeder that is inserted directly onto the tube.





The dome protects the feeder's openings and avoids the blocking of the squirrel-proof mechanism.



Photo: Marcel Perez, Janvier 2009

Domes also prevent ice deposits from forming on the cardinal feeder's tilting perch.



Photo: Johanne Labelle, 2014

Domes can be used year round and can extend your feeders' lifespan by shielding the plastic from ultra-violet rays.

And it goes without saying that a trusty pair of binoculars or spotting scope can greatly enhance your bird-watching experience.

## **The search for a Canadian National Bird**

There are movements afoot in Canada to select a National Bird as part of the Canada celebrations for its 150th year of existence in 2017. I, Alain, strongly favour choosing the Gray Jay, formerly known as the Canada Jay.



Here are the reasons why I think the Gray Jay would be a great choice:

- 1) Found in all thirteen provinces and territories; it is only barely found in the USA (the Rocky Mt. region and Alaska);
- 2) A member of the corvid family, arguably the smartest birds on the planet;
- 3) Extremely friendly toward humans, like all Canadians;
- 4) Very hardy like all Canadians, having highly adapted itself to living in very cold regions;
- 5) Figures strongly in First Nations folklore, also called the Whiskey Jack;
- 6) It is not an endangered species and thus, not at risk of disappearing;
- 7) Figures prominently in the boreal forest ecological zone, which constitutes a vast portion of our country worthy of protection, yet under pressure from clear-cutting and oil and gas development;
- 8) Not a hunted species, so it is not shot by Canadians;
- 9) Not an official bird species for any of the 10 provinces or recognized territories, nor any other country (common loon is Ontario's bird; snowy owl is Quebec's bird);
- 10) Formerly called the Canada jay by ornithologists, its French name is *Mésangeai du Canada* and its Latin name is *Perisoreus canadensis!*
- 11) Stays in Canada year-round;
- 12) Not flamboyant in its appearance, best representing the conservative nature of Canadians!
- 13) Not regarded as an obnoxious or nuisance species (like the Canada goose which is culled in the U.S.);
- 14) Cannot be confused with any other bird species (for example most Canadians cannot tell the difference between a raven and a crow);
- 15) Not a circumpolar species, i.e., not found in other northern countries (as are the snowy owl and raven).

**Have I been able to persuade you?**

**To vote for the Gray Jay, please click on the image below:**



**Help us determine Canada's national bird!**  
Vote at: [www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/)  
My vote for Canada's National Bird goes to the  
**Gray Jay**

**Aidez-nous à désigner l'oiseau emblématique du Canada. Votez à:**  
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/fr/default.asp>  
Mon vote pour le véritable oiseau canadien va au  
**Mésangeai du Canada**

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**Here are the current official provincial and territorial emblematic birds:**

**British Columbia : Steller's Jay**

**Alberta : Great Horned Owl**

**Saskatchewan : Sharp-tailed Grouse**

**Manitoba : Great Grey Owl**

**Ontario : Common Loon**

**Quebec : Snowy Owl**

**New Brunswick : Black-capped  
Chickadee**

**Nova Scotia : Osprey**

**Prince Edward Island : Blue Jay**

**Newfoundland and Labrador : Atlantic  
Puffin**

**Nunavut : Rock Ptarmigan**

**Northwest Territories : Gyrfalcon**

**Yukon: Common Raven**

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

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