



urban nature News

Your Local Birding & Nature Experts

Upcoming Events and More to Help Your Family Enjoy Birding!

Fall News 2021

MIGRATION IS UNDERWAY

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming the birds of spring to our yards and gardens. Now here we are enjoying the fresh days of fall. Days are getting shorter, shadows are getting longer and evenings temperatures are cooling. The grape jelly-gobbling orioles are on their way to Mexico and South America with the hummingbirds following close behind. We are still seeing hummers visiting nectar feeders as they pass through from locales further north. By leaving your hummingbird feeders up until the early weeks of October, you will be helping the late migrators fill up on their journey southward. The mid to late September migrators include the lovely rose-breasted grosbeaks, such peaceful birds with a beautiful song.

Do you keep track of migrating birds in a birding journal? It's always interesting to compare their comings and goings year after year. Migration begins as early as June for birds coming from the far north, but generally begins in late August continuing through mid November. Some of the October migrators include the white-crowned and white-throated sparrows, yellow-rumped warblers, ruby and golden-crowned kinglets, northern parulas, catbirds, brown thrashers, as well as a variety of shorebirds and hawks.

You will also see birds who flock together to migrate such as grackles and red-winged blackbirds, robins, and blue jays. Even european starlings are putting on spectacular air shows called murmuring. They will gather in groups of over 100 creating amazing shapes as they fly over in the late afternoon and early evening skies. Autumn certainly is a great time for birdwatching! So let's get your binoculars ready! **Urban Nature Store** has a wide collections on optics. see below



Crossfire_HD 8x42
Binocular



Vortex Viper HD 20-60x85
Angled Spotting Scope



Swarovski CL Companion
10x30 Binocular

What can we do to help migrating birds? You can turn your yard into a 5 star dining experience by offering fresh high quality food and clean water. Offer a choice of seeds to attract different species of birds. Small seeds such as our finch and friends mix is appealing to smaller finches, sparrows and other ground feeding birds. Many songbirds enjoy sunflower seeds or hearts, and peanut halves which are full of fat and calories. If you have a platform feeder, this will attract birds who are not fussy on cylindrical feeders. Ground feeders are also appealing to birds, the seed stays fresh as the mesh base keeps the seed dry.



Cedar Fly-Thru Feeder
WL-ATFLY



Handmade Ground Feeder
UNS-AHC2433

Water is also important and will give you the chance to see migrating birds who dine mainly on insects and not seed. Songbirds are attracted to many natural water sources such as ponds, rivers, and even puddles, but not all of us are privy to having these in our yards, so for us, birdbaths are the answer. Birdbaths come in many shapes and sizes. Some are on pedestals while others are created to sit close to the ground. By offering both styles you will be able to see which birds prefer which bath. Try to make sure that there is perching nearby to allow them to preen and dry their feathers in a safe place.

For birders, fall welcomes back species who ventured to their northern breeding range over the summer months. Be on the lookout for the return of dark-eyed juncos, american tree sparrows and purple finches.



Male - Rose-breasted grosbeak

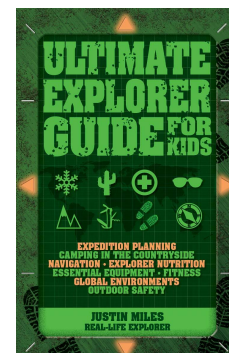
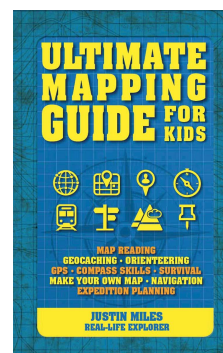
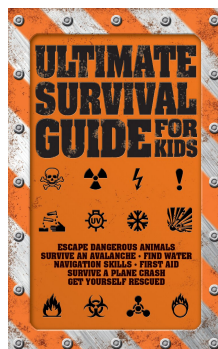
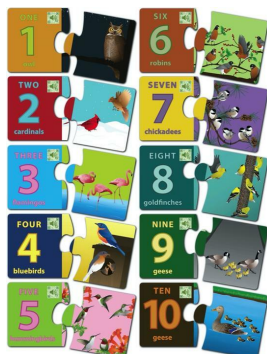


Urban Nature Store Kids Corner



It's never too early to get the little humans in your life excited about birds and it's the ideal time to get kids interested in fun, indoor activities. Urban Nature Store offers a great variety of puzzles, games, playing cards, and more to entertain the whole family! Many of our toys are designed to "teach" kids about nature and science, while providing fun. Puzzles are a great way for kids to build memory skills and are so much fun for the whole family to participate in. Urban Nature Store has puzzles for all ages in many styles to accommodate any preference. We even have a nice selection of puzzles for beginners to experts.

A great ones are the Numbers and Colors: 10 X 2pc Bird Puzzles by Cornell Lab of Ornithology for preschool ages help kids learn about colors.



Another great book is the ultimate guides for kids from Firefly is also available in explorer, mapping and survival guides helping kids learn some vital explorer skills.

Wild Republic offers many different Audubon Birds that are not only plush but soft, cuddly and educational. Created in conjunction with the Audubon Society, these birds play their own unique and realistic bird song provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and will help your child learn to identify not only the type of bird but also the sound (call) that certain types of birds make. What better way Blue jay - to bring bird-watching into your home? Two birds that are always popular in the fall time, are the Red-Winged Blackbird and the Blue Jay.



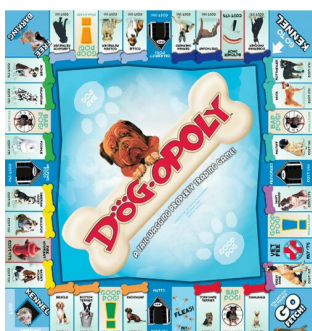
Audubon II Singing Plush Bird - Blue Jay



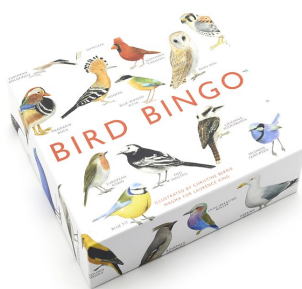
Singing Plush Bird Red-Winged Blackbird

Urban Nature Store also have many family board games one of the most popular games our customers love is Monopoly™ and Bingo™. These are games that have been played and enjoyed by several generations of families. Now we have several "theme" choices for both. Play Bird Bingo with your kids and see if you can spot all 64 species of birds, or Dog-Opoly makes the perfect gift for any dog lover.

Visit us Online UrbanNatureStore.ca we carry over 15 different varieties of "Opoly" and Bingo™ for you and your family to play and enjoy.



Dog-Opoly
730799050053



Bird Bingo
9781856699174

IT'S A BIRDS LIFE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



L	S	O	S	T	E	R	I	C	H	L	O	L	L
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EMU
OSTERICH
BLUE TIT
BLACKBIRD
BURROWING OWL
GOSHAWK
VULTURE
BARN OWL
ALBATROSS
GULL
HARRIS HAWK
PARROT
KESTREL
PIDGEON
PUFFIN
PENGUIN
ROBIN

How to Care for your Birdhouse in the Fall

Summer is coming to an end and the breeding season is over for our feathered friends. You may wonder if you should take your birdhouses down for the fall and winter months. The answer is no. Birds will often gather together in birdhouses, roosting boxes and pockets to share body heat which helps them survive harsh weather.

Now is the time to do a little maintenance to prepare houses for the upcoming winter season. Take your birdhouse down and use a stiff cleaning brush to remove all debris from the inside of the house. Once you have completed that, wash the house with a mild dish detergent such as Dawn, or a solution of one part bleach to 9 parts hot water. Rinse thoroughly with hot water and place the house outside until completely dry. Following the cleaning process you should check for loose screws and splinters. Tighten the screws and file or sand down any wood that has become rough on the inside or entrance to the house.



*Droll Yankees Bird Feeder Brush
DY-BFB*



*Woven Rope Roosting Pocket Birdhouse
with Roof GRD-BA05201*



*Woven Rope Teardrop Roosting
Pocket GRD-BA05202*



*Acorn Hanging Roosting House
SE-939*

You may also want to consider tucking a few roosting pockets into your shrubs and bushes. Woven rope pockets are hand made of 100% natural fibre and provide comfortable resting places for birds sheltering them from cold winds and storms as well as predators. Other styles are made of 100% organic natural materials. Birds prefer a house made of rough material because rough surfaces make entering and exiting easier. Make sure the openings are facing south or east to avoid prevailing winds coming from the west. This also applies to placement of bird houses or winter roosting boxes. What is a winter roosting box you may ask. A winter roosting box provides protection from the cold for many of your smaller backyard birds such as chickadees, nuthatches, titmice and wrens. The boxes are handmade in Canada from white pine.



Handmade Convertible Roost Birdhouse - UNS-AHC2435



Handmade Winter Roost Birdhouse - UNS-AHC2428

The entrance is located at the bottom of the box and has a predator protector. The inside features 3 staggered perches to accommodate roosting birds. The roof is stained dark brown to attract the sun's heat. To make cleaning easy, the front wall opens in an upward motion. Providing spaces for birds to take shelter in the upcoming season will help them survive the cold winter months.

Product Of The Month

Whole Peanut Wreath Ring



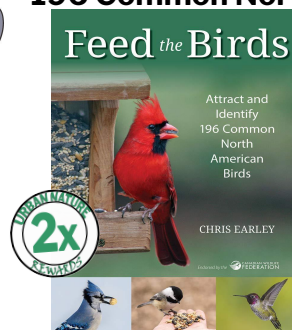
Be entertained while watching blue jays work at getting their peanuts from this fun feeder. Choose from a variety of colours.

- Attracts jays, cardinals, chickadees and woodpeckers.
- Easy to fill and clean



Book Of The Month

Feed the Birds: Attract and Identify 196 Common North American Birds



- Great identification guide
- Great Book For Kids of All Ages
- Building do-it-yourself feeders guide.
- With this book you will inspire a new generation of bird lovers.

URBAN NATURE STORE - FUN FACTS & TIPS

Leave your leaves

Leaving your fallen leaves alone helps your birds both directly and indirectly. The leaves trap and hold moisture from dew to rain, which helps keep your lawn from drying out. As the leaves break down (mowing over them can hasten this), they add valuable nutrients to the soil. Fallen leaves also attract and are fed upon by insects, which in turn are fed upon by birds such as robins, blackbirds, thrushes, bluebirds, catbirds, thrashers, and so on. A healthy lawn is a birdy lawn.



Fall Leaves on the Lawn



*Preparing Feeders
for Fall*

Check Your Feeders!

When fall is here, winter is just around the corner. Now is the time to look over those large capacity feeders that have been in storage since last spring. A regular routine of feeder cleaning will really help them through the winter. Are they fit for another winter of use? Do they need a good cleaning? Do you want to upgrade or expand your feeders and offerings? Avoid the holiday rush and get your shopping done now!

Suet Feeders

Suet feeders are also a good idea to add in the fall if you haven't used them in the summer months. Suet is high in fat and calories which helps the birds to stay warm. They need to consume more fat in the colder months to help them brave the elements. The greater variety of seeds you offer the more species of birds you will attract. **Urban Nature Store** offers wide selection of suet feeders and mill creek suets. You will be able to attract some different birds to your yard during migration.



*Pole Mountable
Caged Suet Feeder*

Tips on Keeping Songbirds Safe

There are small actions we as bird lovers can take to prevent illness and keep birds safe. Here are some tips to follow:

- Most important, keep your feeders and bird baths clean. During the warm summer months feeders should be cleaned weekly with a solution of 10% bleach and hot water. The same should be done with your birdbaths. Vinegar can also be used if you prefer.
- Air dry feeders completely before refilling.
- Discard any seed that has become wet, that might go moldy.
- Clean away seed shells that have accumulated under your feeder and discard.
- Move feeders around every 2 weeks to avoid build up of bird droppings under feeders.



By following these recommendations we can help bird populations stay healthy and happy.
Happy Birding!

By Jane Paradis

FREE MILL CREEK SUET **BUY 2 MILL CREEK SUET GET 1 FREE**



Limited Time Offer **Excluding Insect & Nut suet, Pure Suet, Robin Suet. No cash value.
Limit One Per Purchase. Valid In-Store only. Not applicable on other store purchases.
Valid until Oct 22nd - Oct 24th, 2021

**More Energy
For Birds
This Fall!**

