



urbannatureNews

Your Local Birding & Nature Experts

Upcoming Events and More to Help Your Family Enjoy Birding!

Fall News 2023

The Wonder of Bird Migration

As we approach our local fall bird migrations, I am always amazed at this remarkable and awe-inspiring natural phenomenon. Here are amazing facts about bird migration, which I always find amazing:

Incredible Distances: Some migratory birds cover astonishing distances during their journeys. For instance, the Arctic Tern holds the record for the longest migration, Often flying over 50,000 kilometers annually from its breeding grounds in the Arctic to its wintering grounds in the Antarctic and back.

Precise Navigation: Birds possess remarkable navigational skills. They use a combination of visual landmarks, the position of the sun and stars, Earth's magnetic field, and even odors to find their way during migration.

24-Hour Flights: Some species of birds undertake non-stop flights during migration. For example, the Bar-tailed Godwit flies for up to nine days continuously without rest or food during its journey across the Pacific Ocean.

Seasonal Timing: Bird migration is highly synchronized with the changing seasons. Birds migrate to take advantage of favorable weather conditions, abundance of food, and breeding opportunities in different regions.

V-Shaped Formations: When flying long distances, many bird species -

form V-shaped flocks to reduce wind resistance and save energy. The lead bird rotates periodically, allowing other birds to take turns at the front.

Global Scale: Bird migration occurs all over the world. Birds migrate between continents, traverse oceans, and cross mountain ranges during their journeys.

Migratory Connectors: Some birds act as "migratory connectors," linking ecosystems and habitats. For example, birds that breed in the Arctic and winter in the tropics transport nutrients across vast distances, benefiting ecosystems along their migratory routes.

Cultural Significance: Bird migration has cultural significance in many societies. In some cultures, migratory birds are seen as symbols of freedom, change, and renewal.

Sensory Changes: During migration, birds undergo physiological changes, such as increased fat storage and altered hormone levels, to prepare for the rigorous journey.

Conservation Challenges: Bird migration faces numerous threats, including habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and collisions with man-made structures like buildings and wind turbines. Conservation efforts around the world are essential to protect migratory birds.

Global Events: Birdwatchers and scientists celebrate the wonders of bird migration through events like World Migratory Bird Day, bringing attention to the importance of conserving migratory bird populations.

Adaptive Strategies: Some birds use different migration strategies based on factors like age and experience. Young birds may follow experienced adults or take alternative routes to avoid risky areas.

Bird migration is an astonishing display of nature's resilience and adaptation. It continues to captivate and inspire me.



Mini Mixed Seed Feeder
UNS-STOVMINI1



Brome Buster Plus Squirrel Proof
Feeder - BRM -1024



Red Cardinal Wild Bird Feeder
-NONO-C00322



Mosaic Birds Humble Bird
Feeder, Clear -COUR-M045200



Absolute II Squirrel-Proof
Bird Feeder WL-7536

By Paul Oliver, Founder, Urban Nature Store



Using Birding to Encourage Kids to Embrace the Outdoors and Put Away Their Cell Phones:

In today's digital age, where screens dominate our lives, it has become increasingly challenging to motivate kids to step away from their electronic devices and engage with the natural world. However, there is a delightful and educational solution: birdwatching. Birding offers a captivating opportunity to entice kids outdoors, fostering a deeper connection with nature and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

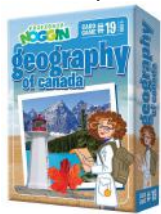
Discover the Wonders of Birding

Birding, is the activity of observing and identifying birds in their natural habitats. This engaging pastime not only provides a chance to witness the breathtaking diversity of bird species but also offers a multitude of benefits for kids' physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Here's how you can utilize birding to lure kids away from their screens and into the wonders of the natural world:



Tools of the Trade: Equip kids with the basic tools of birding: binoculars, a field guide, and a notebook. These tools empower them to actively participate in the experience and document their findings.

The Great Outdoors as a Classroom: Teach kids that nature is a living classroom full of valuable lessons waiting to be learned. Show them that every bird has a unique story to tell, from its distinctive markings to its habitat preferences.



Professor Noggin's Geography of Canada -OMG-11419



Build A Bird Bungalow TS-29535



National Geographic 8x21 Binoculars NATG-80-10821CP



4M Volcano Making Kit TS-3431



The Little Book of Woodland Bird Songs

Practical Tips for Birding with Kids

- **Start Local:** Begin with birds commonly found in your area. This increases the likelihood of successful sightings and keeps kids engaged.
- **Research Together:** Explore field guides, websites, and apps to learn about local bird species. Engage kids in the research process to build excitement.
- **Choose the Right Spot:** Opt for parks, nature reserves, or even your own backyard as birding locations. These areas offer diverse habitats and higher chances of bird encounters.
- **Be Observant:** Encourage kids to use all their senses to identify birds. Pay attention to colors, calls, flight patterns, and behavior.
- **Document Discoveries:** Provide kids with a notebook or a birding journal to record their observations, drawings, and reflections. This adds a creative element to their birding experience.
- **Create Challenges:** Turn birding into a game by setting challenges such as identifying a certain number of bird species or spotting specific bird behaviors.

Benefits of Birding for Kids

- **Unplugging and Reconnecting:** Birding is the ultimate antidote to screen addiction. It encourages kids to disconnect from digital devices and reconnect with the sights and sounds of the natural world.
- **Patience and Focus:** Birding requires patience and attention to detail. As kids learn to patiently await bird sightings, their ability to focus and appreciate subtleties grows.
- **Physical Activity:** Birding involves walking, hiking, and exploration. These physical activities promote an active lifestyle and combat the sedentary nature of screen time.
- **Mental Stimulation:** Identifying bird species, deciphering their behaviors, and noting their features engage kids' cognitive skills, enhancing their ability to observe and analyze.

Did you know?

Fastest Bird: The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird in the world, capable of reaching speeds of over 240 miles per hour, during its hunting stoop.

Tips To Help Birds During Fall Migration

By Paul Oliver

Fall migration is a critical time for birds as they prepare to travel long distances to their wintering grounds. Here are a few tips to help birds during fall migration:

Provide Ample Food: As birds fuel up for their journey, ensure your backyard feeders are stocked with a variety of foods, including high energy seed such as sunflower hearts and fatty foods like suet and suet nuggets. High-energy foods are especially important during this time.

Clean and Fresh Water: Offer a clean and reliable water source for birds to drink and bathe. A birdbath or shallow dish with fresh water can be a valuable resource, especially during dry periods.



Handmade Ground Feeder
UNS-AHC2433



Acorn Hanging Roosting House
SE-939



Armstrong Birder's Choice Suet Cake
AMC-82004



3-in-1 Heated Bird Bath,
Green - FI-GBD-75

Minimize Pesticide Use: Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides in your yard, as these chemicals can be harmful to birds and the insects they rely on for food.

Reduce Outdoor Lighting: Bright lights can disorient and confuse migrating birds at night. Minimize outdoor lighting during fall evenings to help them stay on course during their journey.

Avoid Window Collisions: Make windows more visible to birds by applying window decals, tape strips, or using window screens. This helps prevent collisions, which can be deadly for migrating birds not familiar with your area. The Window Alert decals are great, as the birds see them, but for humans it does not block our view and is seen only as a faint outline.

Delay Yard Cleanup: Delay trimming and clearing of garden vegetation until after fall migration. Many birds rely on seeds and insects found in overgrown plants for sustenance.

Be Mindful of Cat Predation: Keep pet cats indoors or supervised on leashes during migration. Cats are a significant threat to migratory birds, especially when birds are tired and vulnerable during their journey. The Prey Saver Cat Collar is a great way to help our birds.



Window Alert UV Liquid 1 oz
SE-WINDAUV



Window Alert Leaf Medley Transparent
Bird Strike Deterrent, 5PK



Prey Saver Cat Collar, Sunshine Yellow
CKF-01660



Wilderness Fred's Window
Anti-Collision Decal, 2PK

Product Of The Month

Brome Tube Feeder 150 solution

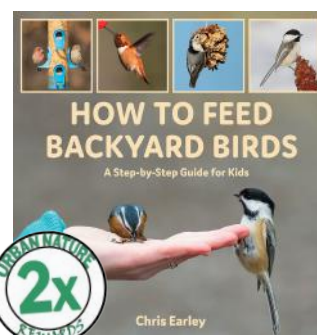


- Wide Ports attracts variety of songbirds Including Cardinals
- Detachable cover with rotating hanger.
- Heavy duty UV stabilized poly tube.
- Posigrip perch
- Easy off ports
- All Birds Love it!



Book Of The Month

How to Feed Backyard Birds



- A Step-by-Step Guide for Kids is the perfect for beginners.
- A wide variety of feeders and feed types are presented with helpful tips
- Colorfully designed and full of photographs.

How Do Birds Find A Feeder

Birds find a bird feeder primarily through a combination of visual cues, memory, and exploration. Here's how the process generally works:

Visual Attraction: Bird feeders are usually designed with bright colors making them more noticeable to birds from a distance. The sight of other birds actively feeding at the feeder can also attract newcomers. Different bird species may be attracted to different feeder designs and types of food.

Memory and Learning: Birds have excellent spatial memory. Once they find a reliable food source, such as a bird feeder with a steady supply of food, they remember its location and return to it regularly. This memory allows them to revisit the feeder even after a temporary absence.

Social Learning: Some bird species learn from each other and follow the behavior of fellow birds. If one bird discovers a bird feeder, it may share this information with its flock or other birds, leading to increased visitation to the feeder.



Cedar Fly-Thru Feeder WL-ATFLY



Absolute II Squirrel Proof Hopper
Bird Feeder- WL-7458



Clingers Only Bird
Feeder SE-CLING



Arundale Sky Cafe
Bird Feeder AR-360

Exploration and Trial-and-Error: Young birds, in particular, are curious and may explore their surroundings in search of food. They might stumble upon a bird feeder while exploring and learn to associate it with a food source.

Predatory Safety: Bird feeders can provide a safe space for birds to feed away from predators. Placing feeders near protective cover, such as trees or shrubs, can encourage birds to use them as a secure feeding station.

To attract birds to your bird feeder, consider the following tips:

- Choose a variety of bird feeders, including tube and hopper feeder and food types to cater to different bird species.
- Place the feeders in a visible and accessible location, preferably near natural shelter.
- Keep the feeders clean and regularly filled with fresh food to establish a reliable food source.
- Be patient, as it may take time for birds to discover and become familiar with the feeder's location.

By Paul Oliver, Founder, Urban Nature Store

The Annual Urban Nature Store Photo Contest!

HOW TO ENTER?

(1) To participate, submit A photo at contest@urbannaturestore.ca from any 3 categories; 1. **Birds at a feeders** 2. **Birds in flight** 3. **Birds doing anything**

CHANCE TO WIN - Prizes (Kowa are the Primary Sponsors)

First Place: Kowa Genesis Prominar XD33 8x Binocular

Second Place: Kowa 8x42 SV II Binocular

Third Place: Kowa 8x25 BD Roof Prism Binocular, Green

All entries must be submitted by October 31, 2023 and winners will be announced on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

