



## OTTAWA VALLEY WILD BIRD CARE CENTRE

### September Newsletter



#### Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Fall is a busy time for many migratory birds getting ready to fly to their overwintering homes. The tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that once graced our flower gardens weigh but a few grams, yet fly a distance of around 2,200 kilometers to their wintering territories, and manage to cross the Gulf of Mexico without stopping! Have you noticed that the once lean birds that arrived in spring are getting chubbier later in the season? It's not just your imagination. They put on some extra weight to build up their fuel reserves for their long trips south!



#### American Goldfinches

American Goldfinches breed much later than most North American birds. Coinciding with the seed production of their favorite plants such as thistles and milkweeds, they use the fluffy thistledown for lining their nests. The seeds are an important source of food for their chicks as well. Some other species have more than one clutch in a single breeding season, including the American Robin, which is why you may see a few fledglings and juveniles later than you may expect.

Birds can encounter human-made obstacles, invisible glass surfaces (e.g. windows), pesticide-laden plants and outdoor roaming cats.

You can help by:

1. Marking your windows to make them visible to birds (tempura paint patterns on the exterior surface of the window or by using commercial products such as [Feather-Friendly](#))

2. Keep your cats indoors or on a leash, and advocate for bird-friendly by-laws and practices
3. Reduce your lawn size and use native plants
4. Aim to be pesticide-free
5. Purchase bird-friendly coffee
6. Reduce your use of plastics
7. Watch birds and share what you see ([eBird](#), [Project FeederWatch](#), for example)

And yes... keep your hummingbird feeder up for several weeks after the last hummingbirds leave, because you never know when a straggler may stop by. Their migration is most greatly influenced by day length, so you don't need to worry that your feeder will keep them from migrating.



## Merlin Release

The Centre is celebrating 11 successful Merlin releases so far this year and it is all thanks to the caring rescuers who noticed these birds in need of help and brought them to the Centre. Together we are making a difference for wild bird conservation, one rehabilitated bird at a time!

[Click to Watch the Release Video](#)

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## 2024 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

<p><b>2nd PLACE</b></p>  <p>Bill McMullen</p>	 <p>Chris St. Michael</p>	<p><b>3rd PLACE</b></p>  <p>Tom Regan</p>
 <p>Raghavendra Rampur</p> <p><b>HONOURABLE MENTION</b></p>	<p><b>1st PLACE</b></p>  <p>OTTAWA VALLEY WILD BIRD CARE CENTRE</p>	 <p>Larry Penn</p> <p><b>WBCC TOP PIC</b></p>

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of the 2024 Calendar Photo Contest Winners!

1st Place: Chris St. Michael, with his epic shot of a Belted Kingfisher. He is receiving a \$250 gift card from [Wild Birds Unlimited - Ottawa](#) or Kanata location and a half-day birding excursion for two from Always An Adventure Inc. (\$150 value).

2nd Place: Bill McMullen for his stunning winter Evening Grosbeak capture and he will also enjoy a \$150 from [Wild Birds Unlimited - Kanata](#) or Ottawa location.

3rd Place: Tom Regan for his beautiful and unique Baltimore Oriole and he will join the Wild Birds Unlimited shopping spree with a \$100 gift card.

The Centre's Top Pic was awarded to Larry Penn for a Marsh Wren photo that made us all smile. We look forward to giving Larry a personal tour of the Centre and he will receive a \$100 gift card from Wild Birds Unlimited!

We are now in the final stages of pairing these and many other amazing photos with stories from the Centre. Stay tuned for the launch of the 2024 fundraiser calendar!

**Thank you to everyone who submitted photos, our generous prize sponsors, [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) and [Always an Adventure](#). A special thank you to photo judges, Tony Beck and Nina Stavlund, for all of their time and talent narrowing down hundreds of photos to the top few winners.**



## 50/50 Lottery Winner

The winning ticket was drawn on September 1, 2023: Ticket #: D-7261. Congratulations to long-time supporter, Yvonne Pratt, who is walking away with a huge smile and \$8,260!!

Many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and who helped make this fundraiser such a success. Net funds will help support the care of the wild birds who need a helping hand and an opportunity for a second chance at life in the wild!



## Annual Report

Featuring highlights of the year and much more, our 2022 Annual Report is now available on our website.

[2022 Annual Report](#)

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