

Thank you all for attending and for your interest in birds and birding. In no particular order, here are a number of references and links that I recommend.

### **Bird Identification and bird feeding:**

- 1) Book - *Feed the Birds* by Chris Earley
- 2) Book – *How to Feed Backyard Birds: A Step-by-Step Guide for Kids* by Chris Earley. Note I was not aware that he written this one when I gave my talk!
- 3) Cornell’s free Merlin app [Download Merlin Bird ID for iOS and Android – Merlin Bird ID – Free, instant bird identification help and guide for thousands of birds \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#)
- 4) Online course on feeder birds: [Feeder Birds: Identification and Behavior | Bird Academy • The Cornell Lab \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#)

### **Other books:**

- 1) *What it’s Like to be a Bird* by David Allen Sibley
- 2) *Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas* by Robert Curry (may be out of print)
- 3) Anything by Jennifer Ackerman
- 4) Other field guides by Chris Earley

### **To listen to bird songs:**

- 1) Xeno-canto [xeno-canto :: Sharing wildlife sounds from around the world](#)
- 2) Cornell [Cornell Lab of Ornithology—Home | Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

### **Feeder cams:**

- 1) Algonquin Park Visitors Centre [Algonquin Park Live Webcam | Algonquin Provincial Park | The Friends of Algonquin Park](#)
- 2) Ontario Feeder Watch in Manitouwadge [Ontario FeederWatch Cam | Cornell Lab Bird Cams Cornell Lab Bird Cams \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#)
- 3) Cornell Lab, Ithaca NY [Cornell FeederWatch Cam | Cornell Lab Bird Cams Cornell Lab Bird Cams \(allaboutbirds.org\)](#)

The first two are fantastic for seeing boreal birds like Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and maybe even a Canada Jay.

### **Helping to keep birds safe:**

- 1) Keeping cats indoors: [Cats and Birds | Cats and Birds](#)
- 2) Helping our birds: [Your Guide to Helping Canada’s Birds - Birds Canada | Oiseaux Canada](#)
- 3) Cleaning and disinfecting your feeders: [Keeping Feeder Birds Healthy - Birds Canada | Oiseaux Canada](#)
- 4) Window Treatments to prevent bird collisions: [Feather Friendly](#)
- 5) Lights out to prevent bird collisions: Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) [Home - FLAP Canada](#)

### Developing bird friendly gardens and yards:

- 1) Birds Canada [Home - Bird Gardens](#)
- 2) Audubon [How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly | Audubon](#)
- 3) See several separate documents on leaving the leaves

### Bird advocacy:

- 1) Burlington Hamilton Bird Friendly City: Email [birdfriendlycityhamburl@gmail.com](mailto:birdfriendlycityhamburl@gmail.com)  
Look for them on Facebook and Instagram. Their link page with many interesting links:  
[birdfriendly.hamburl](#) | [Instagram, Facebook](#) | [Linktree](#)
- 2) Birdsong Hamilton: Look for us Twitter and Facebook. Also blog at [Birdsong Hamilton – About Us – The Experienced Intermediate Birder \(wordpress.com\)](#)

### Charitable organizations that would appreciate your support:

- 1) BurlingtonGreen Environmental Assoc. [Home - BurlingtonGreen](#)
- 2) Nature Canada [Nature Canada - Protecting Canadian Wildlife & Wilderness Since 1939](#)
- 3) Birds Canada [Home - Birds Canada | Oiseaux Canada](#)
- 4) The Owl Foundation [The Owl Foundation](#)
- 5) Hamilton Naturalists' Club [Home - Hamilton Naturalists' Club \(hamiltonnature.org\)](#)
- 6) Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge [Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge](#)

### Stores dedicated to birds:

- 1) Wild Birds Unlimited - 3350 Fairview St, Burlington (Dave Wood) [Wild Birds Unlimited - Nature Shop \(wbu.com\)](#)
- 2) Urban Nature – stores in St. Catharines, Etobicoke, Kingston, North York, Mississauga, Oshawa, Pickering, and Markham (Paul Oliver). Their website has a wealth of information [Wild Birding Store Canada, Backyard Birding Products & Supplies - Urban Nature Store](#)
- 3) The Backyard Birder – Sudbury [Backyard Birder | Home and Garden Gift Store – Backyard Birder Home & Garden | Gift Store](#)

### Keeping out pigeons and doves:

This is copied from a Wild Birds Unlimited website, and is their number one recommendation to avoid pigeons and doves: Feed Foods Without “Fillers”: Many bird seed blends from other stores include “filler” ingredients such as millet, cracked corn, red millet, canary seeds, milo, wheat and oats in large quantities. “Filler” ingredients such as wheat and oats are not eaten by any backyard birds except House Sparrows, Rock Pigeons (or just plain old Pigeons as most people know them) and Mourning Doves. Corn and millet are eaten by some birds but when used in large quantities to fill up a bag of seed to drive the cost down most of it ends up being wasted because feeder birds such as finches and chickadees throw it on the ground in search of sunflower seeds. Seeds dropped on the ground in great quantities can attract doves and pigeons. Bottom line good quality blends can help keep doves and pigeons away from your bird feeders

**Local clubs:**

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club (<http://hamiltonnature.org/>) has many very experienced members. They lead occasional birding field trips, and hold monthly meetings. Members contribute to online alert system for rare bird alerts.

The Pipits ([Ontario Birding | The Pipits](#)) is a nature group primarily focused on birds, run by a friend, Colleen Reilly. The Pipits hold weekly field trips and zoom meetings, and Colleen makes it not only informative and educational, but a lot of fun.

**Facebook:**

There are hundreds of birding and bird photography Facebook groups, but I have two favourites, both run by friends of mine. Birds, Blooms, Beasts, Bugs and Butterflies, or B5 for short, is run by Barb Canney. Like Colleen, Barb makes her group both fun and informative, and it is global in scope, so you'll see lots of fascinating posts from all over the world.

The other group, Ontario Bird Photography, is run by a great birding friend, Bill McDonald. This site is more focused on excellence in bird photography; you will see many National Geographic quality shots.

**Making your own hummingbird nectar:**

Do not buy coloured nectar. The food dye is not good for the birds. Boil water. When cooled make a solution of one cup of white sugar with four cups of water. Stir and keep refrigerated. Clean and change the nectar frequently, even daily, when it is hot and humid.

**Favourite local birding spots:**

Burlington – LaSalle Marina Park, Paletta Mansion, Kerncliff, Joe Sams, Woodland Cemetery, Valley Inn, RBG properties

Oakville – Sedgewick Forest, Bronte Harbour, Bronte Bluffs, Bronte Provincial Park, Shell Park, Creek Path Woods

Hamilton – Hamilton beach, Bayfront Park, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Desjardin Canal, Spencer Creek trails, Christie Lake Conservation Area

**If you have an injured bird:**

See three separate PDF files on this topic

**My contact info:**

I would be delighted to have you follow my book and birding activity, by sending a friend request to <https://www.facebook.com/TheBirderBob/>, or by following me on Twitter at @ThebirderBob, BlueSky at @thebirderbob.bsky.social, or Instagram at thebirderbob. If you have any questions or are looking for help with a bird ID, don't hesitate to email me at [robertcbell5@gmail.com](mailto:robertcbell5@gmail.com)

**Final word:**

No doubt I've forgotten to include a few things, so apologies to those charitable organizations, clubs, stores, etc. that I've left out!