

The Nature of Birds

Lecturer: Michael Runtz

Interest in birds has ‘soared’ during the pandemic. Whether you are a novice or a long-time birder, this series’ fascinating information and spectacular photography will help you better understand and enjoy the natural world around you. This extravagantly illustrated series by Carleton University’s celebrated naturalist Michael Runtz will examine the life of birds, providing exciting insights how our feathered neighbours acquire colours, fly, navigate, attain food, find a mate, and survive environmental stresses. In addition, you will learn tips on how to attract and identify birds, from an expert naturalist and educator.

Schedule of topics:

Week 1

How feathers define birds and how they acquire their colours

Week 2

The mysteries of migration and why some birds stay behind

Week 3

Adaptations for a varied diet that ranges from seeds and fruit to other animals

Week 4

How birds attract mates with song, fine food, and sometimes dance

Week 5

The investment of birds in building nests, incubating eggs, and taking care of young

Week 6

The basics of birding; how to find, attract, and identify birds