



◀ **BLORPLE** — A male ruddy duck beats its beak against its chest to create bubbles in the John E. Poole Wetland on June 30. The bubbles were part of a mating ritual.

▼ **I'M NOT RUSTY!** — A yellow-headed blackbird sings at the Poole Wetland boardwalk in St. Albert on May 23. The song of these birds resembles the dulcet tones of a rusty hinge.



◀ **TIGHT FORMATION** — Two pelicans (part of a pod of about six) soar across Beaumaris Lake near St. Albert on May 29.

▼ **IN-FLIGHT MEAL** — A black tern carries a dragonfly at the John E. Poole wetland, presumably to feed to a fledgling hidden in the reeds, on July 23.

# for the birds

Photos by Kevin Ma of the St. Albert Gazette



▲ **WOBBLY** — A black tern fledgling was a bit unsteady on its feet at the John E. Poole Wetland boardwalk on July 23. It was one of the many fledglings that had gathered on the boardwalk that week to be fed by their parents.

▶ **ON REFLECTION** — A probable American wigeon floats in Grandin Pond on May 23. The male was hanging out with its apparent mate.



▲ **OPEN WIDE** — A female red-winged blackbird feeds one of its fledglings at Grandin Pond on June 25. The fledgling was one of several baby birds at the pond, each of which would squawk and flap with excitement when their parent dropped by with delicious bugs.

▶ **IN-FLIGHT MEAL** — A grackle flutters between trees as it carries what appears to be a fish back to its nest near Beaumaris Lake on June 5.



**BIG FAMILY** — A female bufflehead hangs out with many babies at the John E. Poole Wetland on June 12. The babies practiced diving soon after this photo.