



Nature News

Volume 30, Number 7
www.naturecalgary.com

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
President Cliff Rhodes ph: 403-239-6444

June 2009
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

May 20, 7:30 pm
Charles Darwin and
"On the Origin of
Species"

Join us for the last
meeting before the
summer break.

Nature Calgary General Meeting

Nature Calgary's speaker series resumes in September.

All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, in **The Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary**, and are open to the public. To suggest a speaker or topic please call John McFaul 403-289-9517 or email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca.



Colonel Walker House,
Inglewood Bird Sanctuary
© U. Knight

Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates

Nature Calgary representation. NC and its membership are frequently asked to provide comment and expertise on local issues and to give input to various stakeholder groups. To ensure that everyone stays informed and up-to-date, that Nature Calgary presents a unified front and that other groups have a single point of contact with us, Nature Calgary requires that all **members who wish to represent Nature Calgary** on an issue, in a stakeholder group, or to any external organization, **seek prior authorisation** from the Nature Calgary Board. Please contact Jamie Noakes 403-243-7232 or janoakes@telus.net to discuss or offer your time and expertise.

Waterton Weekend at Canyon Church Camp: Fri-Sun, June 26-28.

Accommodation is in dormitory style cabins, all meals provided. Participants make their own travel arrangements. Cost is \$120 for members (this rate subsidized with funds from the Kayak Foundation), \$160 for non-members. To register send a cheque to: CFNS, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4. Mark the envelope "Waterton Trip" and provide contact details. **Registration deadline is June 10.** More details at www.naturecalgary.com/events.html.

Invasive Plants Wiki:
View and contribute to
this Alberta Native Plant
Council list
www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition! Join us in 2010 in our Calgary-wide birding competition! It's free and open to all. There will be prizes, fun events, field trips and get-togethers throughout the year. Sign up now to be kept up-to-date with news about the competition and to be informed of events in which you can participate. For more information see <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/> and watch the web and Nature News for updates.



Northern Hawk Owl
© V. Scholefield

Calgary May Species Counts: Sat/Sun, May 30/31. Find all the Birds, or Plants in bloom within 80km of Calgary. Everyone is invited to participate, whether beginner or seasoned pro. Participation can be for both days, 1 day or a 1/2 day. For Bird territories, contact Brian Elder, 403-374-1571, brianeld@telus.net. For Plants, contact Suzanne Visser, 403-288-0658, svisser@ucalgary.ca. If you are a past volunteer or a new one, please contact the coordinators to confirm your availability.

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet, Saturday, November 7, with speaker Dr. Stephen Herrero, world-renowned expert on grizzly bear ecology, behaviour and conservation. Contact Linda or John Stewart at 403-244-0505 or stewart3@telusplanet.net for information or to volunteer your help with the event.

For details email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca or see the [volunteers' page](#) at www.naturecalgary.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary Board openings: Publicity Director, Volunteer Coordinator and Directors-at-Large - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Non-board positions: Membership Promotion, Field Trip Leaders and Welcome Table Volunteers to host the tables at monthly general and/or bird study group meetings.

[Albertabird groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird)

**CFNS & Inglewood
24hr Rare Bird Alert
403-221-4519**
Updated Mon & Thu



Willow salix © U. Knight

**View the Early Spring
Plants photo gallery
on the website**

[www.naturecalgary.com/
botany_galleries.html](http://www.naturecalgary.com/botany_galleries.html)

**More photo galleries
will be added soon.**

Adopt-a-Plant Program
Conservation of Alberta's
rare native plants.
For workshops and
events see
www.ab.adoptaplant.ca

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Sat/Sun May 30/31: May Bird Species Count: for Bird territories, contact Brian Elder, 403-374-1571, brianeld@telus.net.

Calgary 2010 Big Year Competition – see above.

*Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C except June through August when field trips replace the meetings. **Contact Eric Tull** 403-295-0830, tull@ucalgary.ca for further details.*

Botany Study Group Field Trips and Events

Thu May 21, 7pm: Paskapoo Slopes. Call Suzanne for meeting place.

Thu May 28, 7pm: Woodland Plants and May Plant Count, Griffith Woods. Meet at Discovery Ridge Link. Leader: Suzanne Visser.

Sat/Sun, May 30/31. May Flowering Plant Species Count. Join this province-wide Count. Call Suzanne for information and plant checklist to record observations. Observations made during Count week (May 25-31) are acceptable also.

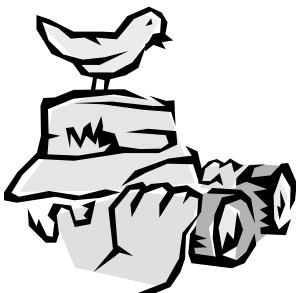
Thu June 4, 7pm: Shannon Terrace. Meet at Shannon Terrace parking lot in west Fish Creek Provincial Park. Leaders: Robin and Cedric Hitchon.

Sat/Sun June 13-14: Alberta Native Plant Council's annual plant survey at NCC's properties near Waterton Lakes National Park (taking place during the Waterton Wildflower Festival). Register at: <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/>.

Thu June 18, 7pm: Big Hill Springs Provincial Park. Meet in parking lot. Leader: Suzanne Visser.

Thu June 25, 7:30 pm: Summer Solstice Orchid Walk. Bow Valley Provincial Park. Leader: Jim Posey. Meet Bow Valley Provincial Park at the Many Springs Fen trailhead parking lot. Waterproof footwear is suggested. Participants must register with trip leader at jpo@persona.ca or 403-949-4926 before noon the day of the walk.

*Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. **Contact Suzanne Visser** 403-288-0658 or svisser@ucalgary.ca for further details.*



**All Nature Calgary
field trips are free and
open to all.**

Lead a field trip!
Share your favourite
location, call Gus at
403-243-2248

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Check www.naturecalgary.com field trips pages for new trips and updates.

***** Highlighted trips require pre-registration.**

... May

Thu May 21, 7:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end 9 Av SE. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sat May 23, Nature Calgary Bus trip to Birds of Prey Centre, Coaldale.

Tue May 26, 6:30pm: Birding Pearce Estate (Bow Habitat Station), 1440-17A St SE, N of Blackfoot Tr. Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920.

Fri May 29, 6:30pm: Search for 3 species of hummingbirds, Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat/Sun May 30/31: May Species Count: Birds and/or plants in bloom within 80km of Calgary. For Bird territories, contact Brian Elder, 403-374-1571, brianeld@telus.net: For Plants, contact Suzanne Visser, 403-288-0658, svisser@ucalgary.ca.

Field trip leaders

remember to send signed **waiver forms** to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or leave at the meeting welcome tables.

NC Waiver form is at tinyurl.com/ncwaiver or go to the Field trips page and follow the link.

Please submit a list of bird species seen on trips to brooke@webfoundations.com

More nature activities in the Calgary area

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

www.cpawscalgary.org

Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society

talkaboutwildlife.ca

Alberta Wilderness Association

www.albertawilderness.ca

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)

www.caoc.ab.ca

Friends of Fish Creek

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Cross Conservation Area

www.crossconservation.org

... June

Mon Jun 1, 6:40am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Tue Jun 2, 6:30pm: Birding Edworthy Park. Meet S side of Boothman Pedestrian Bridge accessed from Shaganappi Tr & Bowness Rd if N of river, or from W end of Spruce Dr if S of river. Leaders, Sue/Russ Costello, 403-271-6858.

Sat Jun 6, 8am: Bird/botanize farm property of Louise/Marlin Moore, 2 mi N of Bergen Cross Rd on Hwy 22. Rugged trails, wear sturdy footwear. Bring lunch. Great waterfowl viewing nearby. Meet at Dalhousie LRT Station (Crowchild Tr.). For more info, phone Calgary 403-245-4271/Farm 403-335-9351. Leader, Shirley Fraser, 403-243-0079.

Sat Jun 6, 9am: Bird Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW. (N end Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

Sat Jun 6, 11am: Butterfly identification, if sunny. Meet at Brisebois Dr entrance to Nose Hill Park off John Laurie Blvd NW. Leader, Ted Pike, 403-243-1442.

Sun Jun 7, 7am: Annual Bird Census, Livingston Creek Ranch Golf Course, Sibbald Creek. Meet at Golf Course entrance on Hwy #68, about 1 km south of Hwy #1. Leader, Paul Anderson, 403-932-5458.

Tue Jun 9, 6:30pm: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Carole Hachey, 403-230- 9035.

Sun Jun 14, Bird Purple Springs (Taber) area for rare grassland species (Baird's/Grasshopper Sparrows, Longspurs, etc.). Call Calgary leader Eric Tull, 403-295-0830, for car-pooling. Local leader, Lloyd Bennett, Taber, 403-223-0456. Directions to Lloyd's place: From Taber, go 4 miles E on Hwy 3. Turn N at the big green Yiterra (formerly Agricore) building for 3.5 miles (exactly 1/2 mile past the second intersection). Lloyd's house is on the E, over 200 m from the road. There is a round slough on the W side of the road & a blue sign - 104043, Range Road 160. Meet at his place at 2pm. Map available at tinyurl.com/djzlg4.

Tue Jun 16, 6:30pm: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end or Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sat Jun 20, 3:30am: Dawn Chorus, Weaselhead. Hear 40+ bird species. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Dress warmly. Leaders, Gus Yaki/Aileen Pelzer, 403-243-2248.

Sun Jun 21, 7am: Sheep River Valley for Lazuli Buntings. Meet Anderson LRT (Macleod Tr) S of pedestrian overpass. Bring lunch, leader, Mike Harrison, 403-236-4700.

Sun Jun 21, 8am: Birding Griffith Woods Park, 2.5 km W from Sarcee Tr. on Hwy 8, then left on 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge. Continue straight at traffic circle, then left on Discovery Link to parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sun Jun 21, 9am: See 30 of the largest or most unusual tree species within a 3 km radius in Calgary. Meet at Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, two blocks W of Macleod Tr. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248. Email gyaki@calcna.ab.ca to register and receive advance information.

Tue Jun 23, 6:30pm: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd), Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920.

Wed Jun 24, 6:30pm: Visit private garden for 70 species of Cactus and succulents. Meet at 4915-15 St SW. Host, Hugo Render. For more info, 403-243-2248.

Sun Jun 28, 9:30am: Tour of the private Canadian Rocky Mountain Ranch in the foothills southwest of Calgary to see Bison and Elk, including young, up close. Bring lunch! Optional unguided hillside nature walk after lunch. Meet at Anderson LRT Stn (Macleod Tr), S of pedestrian overpass, to carpool. Hosts, Pat & Dr. Terry Church. Limit: 20 participants. To register, call 403-249-2641.

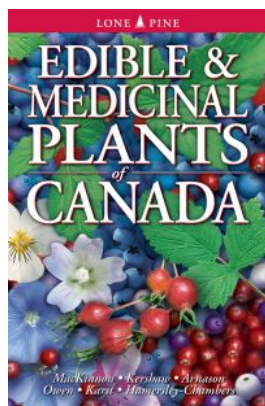
Tue Jun 30, 6:30pm: Bird Griffith Woods Park, 2.5km W on Hwy 8 from Sarcee Tr SW, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge. Continue straight at traffic circle, then left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Nature Conservancy of
Canada
Volunteer Events
www.conservancyvolunteers.ca



Golden bean © U. Knight

Thank you to the
photographers who have
contributed photos to
enhance the newsletter.
More are welcome!
Please contact Jan at
403-275-1582 or
jebrigden@telus.net.



Of General Interest

Photo Contests 2009-2010 - The Natural Areas Adopt-A-Park program is looking for photos taken in Calgary's Natural Environment Parks taken by amateur photographers. For more information see www.calgary.ca and search on "photo contest", or contact Linda Vaxvick at 403-239-9434.

Bowmont NEP: deadline Oct 9, 2009

Twelve Mile Coulee NEP: deadline Feb 12, 2010

Weaselhead NEP: deadline Jan 10, 2010

Biogeoscience Institute, University of Calgary, Spring Naturalist Weekend, June 19-21, 2009 at the Barrier Lake Field Station in Kananaskis Country. Cost: \$100 + GST, includes 5 meals and accommodation for 2 nights. Hosted by Dr. Ed Johnson featuring Dr. Rob Longair – "The sting's the thing: wasps, bees and ants", Dr. Marc Macias Fauria – "What shapes treeline in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta?". More info: Judy Buchanan-Mappin, ph. (403) 220-5355; email: jmbuchan@ucalgary.ca.

Trailminders of the Bow Valley – Canmore Walking Weekend. Sat/Sun, June 20/21, Step out and touch Canmore's natural scenery! Group hikes, open and free to all hikers, are planned on local trails on both days: Day-long hike (5 – 7 hours), or half-day hike (3 – 4 hours). Group limit of 20 on each trip. For further information, contact Trailminders of the Bow Valley, trailminders@yahoo.ca, ph/fax 403-678-5551 or PO Box 8063, Canmore, Alberta T2W 2T8.

Summer reading – newly published books with local content

Superguide: Wild Animals of Western Canada, by Kevin Van Tighem, Rocky Mountain Books <http://rmbooks.com/>. An excellent guide to all the major animals that live in western Canada. There are over 40 profiles that range from mighty grizzly bears to graceful whales.

Grass, Sky, Song, HarperCollins Canada. Saskatchewan author Trevor Herriot draws on 20 years' experience as an observer of nature to reveal the spirit of the grassland world, and the uniqueness of its birds.

Titles from Lone Pine Publishing www.lonepinepublishing.com:

Edible and Medicinal Plants of Canada, by Amanda Karst, Linda Kershaw and Patrick Owen. This book describes nearly 600 common trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, mosses and lichens that have been used by people from ancient times to the present. More than 800 colour photographs and illustrations.

Squirrels of North America, by Tamara Eder. Features all 66 species of squirrel found on the continent, organized by colour-coded groups. Each account includes: a full colour illustration, information highlights concerning distinguishing features, size, habitat and nesting, comprehensive natural history, illustrations and names of similar species, and a range map.

Canadian Rockies Access Guide – Revised, by John Dodd and Gail Helgason. Significantly updated and expanded this book covers Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho, Waterton and Kananaskis parks. Full colour photographs, maps and wildlife illustrations are included.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology www.birds.cornell.edu/ has a new free series of web videos on "Inside Birding" and a newly redesigned **All About Birds** website. You will learn the secrets of the "four keys" to bird identification, and have a world of information about birds at your fingertips. [Read more about it...](#)

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca or
Nature Calgary, PO Box
981, Station M,
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

Nature Calgary Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Contact Donna,
403-276-7799
♻️ please recycle

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below
(with membership card)

Campers Village (10% discount)

7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338

The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)

D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Calgary Honda (special discounted rates)

Anderson & Macleod 403-253-6531, x 4021

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Brooke brooke@webfoundations.com ph: 403-295-0830 and Jan jebrigden*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the July/August issue is Friday June 12, 2009.