



Nature News

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www.naturecalgary.com

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
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May 2009
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

May 20 Charles Darwin and "On the Origin of Species"

Join us for the last meeting before the summer break. Nature Calgary's speaker series resumes in September.

Nature Calgary General Meeting

Wed May 20: 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "**On the Origin of Species**". Speaker, Dr. Jeremy Fox will give a talk focusing on Charles Darwin's revolutionary work: On the Origin of Species, which few people have actually read. [Jeremy Fox's website](#). (Speaker to be confirmed)

*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.*

Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates



Merlin © G.&N. Simpson

Calling All Photographers !!

The Nature Calgary web and Nature News needs photographs!

Please contact Jan Brigden, email jbrigden@telus.net or ph. 403-275-1582

Only 16 seats are left on the **Nature Calgary Bus Trip** to the **Alberta Birds of Prey Centre, Coaldale** on Saturday May 23. **Call 403-249-2641 now to register!** Cost: members \$45, non-members \$50. More details at www.naturecalgary.com/events.html.

Nature Calgary 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 4. More details at www.naturecalgary.com/events.html.

Congratulations to **Suzanne Visser** (Nature Calgary) and Judy Boyd (Red Deer River Naturalists) who were presented with 2008 FAN Volunteer Awards for their efforts as FAN's provincial compilers for the Spring species counts. The job entails gathering all the data from Alberta's Spring Bird and Flower Counts, checking for accuracy, organizing it into one, easy-to-read document and handing it off to FAN for distribution. These counts are a good, long-term record of sightings: blooming times for flower species; and species and abundances for birds. Compiling this data takes a considerable amount of work, but the results are gratifying and truly provide a valuable service. Suzanne has been assisting with the May Flower Counts for many years. In 2008, she took on responsibility for all of Alberta.

Nature Calgary acknowledges **Simone Marler** and **Shell Canada's Community Service Fund** for a grant of \$1000 towards the purchase of a new laptop computer and related equipment. The fund supports Shell employees who volunteer in a community organization for at least 40 hours per year. Simone served on the society's executive, the Bird Study Group Council, and participates in bird counts and has had a Breeding Bird Survey for the past 4 years. The Board felt that having a dedicated computer that could be kept with the group's overhead projector would improve the efficiency of meetings. No more switching computers back and forth, presenters can now bring their presentations on a memory stick and the equipment is "good to go".

Thank you to our volunteers who contributed to a very successful Nature Calgary presence at the Garden Show last weekend. Donna Wieckowski organized our participation with the help of Cathy Noakes, John McFaul, Robin Hitchon, Chris Havard, Aileen Pelzer, Jim Foley, John Stewart, Linda Stewart and Arthur Wieckowski.

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet, Saturday, November 7, with Speaker: Dr. Stephen Herrero, world-renowned expert on grizzly bear ecology, behaviour and conservation. Contact Linda and 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](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)
or see the [volunteers'](#)
page at
www.naturecalgary.com

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

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

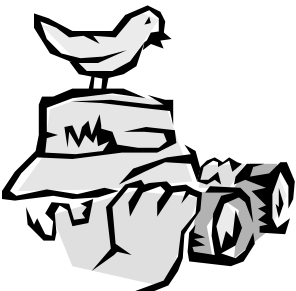


Hooker's Townsendia
© L. Vaxvick

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



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

Lead a field trip!
Share your favourite

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.

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed May 6, 7:30pm - Eric Tull - *Birding the Grasslands, Non-Passerines*

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

City of Calgary 2010 Big Year Competition: Bird Study Group is organizing a City-wide, friendly, birding competition, open to Nature Calgary members and the public next year. Aims of the competition will be to promote awareness and interest in birding and natural history in Calgary, and to enhance public concern for the protection and enjoyment of Calgary's natural areas. More information will be available soon on the Birding section of Nature Calgary's website.

ird 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 Apr 23, 7pm: Early Grassland Flowers 1 Confluence Park. Meet at Beddington Tr and Beddington Blvd. Leader: Suzanne Visser.

Sat Apr 25, Alberta Native Plant Council workshop in Edmonton. Fragments of the Parkland. Visit: www.anpc.ca for details and registration form.

Fri May 1, 6:30pm: May Day Walk, Cross Conservation area. Meet S Glenmore parking lot at 90 Av & 24 St. Register with Heide Blakely, 403-281-4227. Limit: 15 participants.

Thu May 7, 7pm: Nose Hill, Early Grassland Flowers 2. Meet Brisebois Dr and John Laurie Blvd. Leader: TBA.

Sat May 16, Medicine Hat College, see www.ab.adoptaplant.ca/.

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.

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

Nature Calgary Field Trips

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

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

Calgary May Species Count Sat/Sun May 30/31

Brooks/Lake Newell Species Count Sat/Sun May 16/17

Milk River/Writing-on-Stone Sat/Sun May 23/24

Details of the Calgary counts are in the Bird and Botany Group section above.

For Brooks/Lake Newell and Milk River/Writing-on-Stone counts see birdcomp.fanweb.ca or call Bob Parsons 780-488-1344.

... April

Sun Apr 19, 8:30am: Bird Sibbald Creek – all day. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW (N of TCH #1, W of Sarcee Tr). Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

location, call Gus at
403-243-2248

Calgary Earth Day
events can be found at
www.calgary.ca/footprint

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
[Waiver and Release](#).

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



*Richardson's ground
squirrel © B. Eastep*

**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

Wed Apr 22, 9:30am: Earth Day. Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Aileen Pelzer, 403-243-2248.

Wed Apr 22, 7pm: Earth Day. Nature on Nose Hill. Meet parking lot, 14 St & 64 Av NW. Leader, John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

Sat Apr 25, 9am: Bird Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111-52 St NW (N end Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

Sat Apr 25, 2pm (If rain or heavy overcast, Sun Apr 26): Botany of 12 Mile Coulee. 100s of Townsendia, Early Cinquefoil & maybe 100,000 Crocus. From Stoney Trail, go W on Tuscany Blvd NW, turn left on Tuscany Way and continue 1.9 km (road becomes Tuscany Ravine Rd). Park under power-line, pathway is on left. Leader, TBA. Call 403-243-2248.

Sun Apr 26, 8am: Bird NW of Cochrane. Meet Cochrane Ranche parking lot on #1A, just east of #22. Bring lunch. Leader, Frank Hennessey, 403-932-4986.

Sun Apr 26, 8am: Birding the Bow from Burnsmead to Hwy 22X. Meet Burnsmead parking lot, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left before entering FCPP. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

... May

CHANGED to Thurs, Apr 30, 7 am ~~Fri May 1, 7am~~: 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.

Sat May 2, 8:am: Birding Irricana Sloughs area for shorebirds, waterfowl, etc. Meet E of Deerfoot Tr on 64 Av NE, S into Deerfoot Mall, turn E, park on N side. Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

Sat May 2, 8:30am: Birding Mallard Point, E end of Canyon Meadows Dr SE. Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-271-0923.

Sun May 3, 8:30am: Birding for early migrants, Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs. Meet parking lot. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun May 3: Citywide litter pickup; join or create a group today.

Tue May 5, 6:30pm: First of weekly Tuesday evening bird walks. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leaders, Sue/Russ Costello, 403-271-6858.

Sat May 9, 8am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun May 10, 8am: Migrant birds in 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.

Sat May 16, 9am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun May 17, 9am: Grassland birding, Kininvie Marsh & surrounding area. Meet Tillebrook Prov. Park entrance (E of Brooks). Full day but leave any time. Call leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830 (Calgary) or Cell 403-922-3227, (leave message on **both** phones) in advance, for possible carpooling. Note: you may join the Brooks May Species Count, Sat May 16 and stay over (motel in Brooks or camp at Tillebrook) for this trip.

Mon May 18, 8/9am: Victoria Day. Badlands birding, Dinosaur Prov. Park. Meet Tillebrook Prov. Park entrance at 8am, or at overlook parking, Dinosaur Park entrance at 9am. Leave for Calgary mid-afternoon. Call leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830 (Calgary) or Cell 403-922-3227 (leave message on **both** phones) in advance, for possible carpooling.

Mon May 18, 5:30am/7am: Victoria Day. See 100+ species of birds in Calgary. Meet either at Votier's Flats, FCPP, at 5:30am, **or Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E end of 9th Av SE, at **7am**. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Tue May 19, 6:30pm: Bird the Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 246-6314.

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

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.

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Sat/Sun May 30/31: May Species Count: Birds and/or plants in blossom within 80K 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.

Cross Conservation Area
www.crossconservation.org

Nature Conservancy of Canada Volunteer Events
www.conservationvolunteers.ca

Join the Alberta Environmental Network mailing list
www.aenweb.ca/lists



Pussy Willow
© R. Veltri

Of General Interest

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?” and one guest TBA. More info: Judy Buchanan-Mappin, ph. (403) 220-5355; email: jmbuchan@ucalgary.ca.

Calgary Outdoor Festival is a weekend of mountain films, international speakers, educational workshops, and outdoor merchant events. Both the workshops and the film festival’s venues are located in the Kensington district and run from Wednesday, April 22nd through Sunday, April 26th, see www.calgaryoutdoorfestival.com.

Karelian Bear Shepherding Institute of Canada presents: Travel Safely in Bear Country. Bear safety expert Jay Honeyman will provide you with essential (and immediately usable) knowledge on how to recognize, avoid, and respond to potentially dangerous encounters with bears. Saturday, **April 25 10am – 12pm** at the Plaza Theatre, Kensington Road NW. Free admission.

Botany Alberta, Waterton, Saturday and Sunday, June 13 – 14, 8:30 am both days. Join Alberta Native Plant Council on their annual plant survey at NCC properties near Waterton Lakes National Park. Bring your camping gear and take in the Waterton Wildlife Festival at the same time.

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 – 4hours). 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.

Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS) Thursday May 14 “The World of Saxifragas” speaker Malcolm McGregor, Social 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 pm free admission to CRAGS members and first time visitors. Saturday May 23, Annual Plant Sale for 1-4pm free admission. Both events at Lakeview Community Association Hall, 6110 - 34 Street SW, see www.CRAGS.ca or call 403-276-5831 for information.

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation, 6th annual ‘Call of the Wilds’ Fundraiser & Silent Auction, **May 23** at the Red & White Club, McMahon Stadium; in support of injured and orphaned wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release. Call 403-946-2361, or see www.aiwc.ca for tickets and information.

Nest Watch invites you to register your nest box (or boxes) with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s program at www.RegisterYourNestbox.org. It’s free and yields valuable information about breeding birds and how their natural rhythms may be changing. Everything you need to register your nest box and get started is [available online](#), including directions on how you can monitor nest boxes without disturbing the birds. Popular [NestCams](#) are back in action! Peek into nests and nest boxes via live cameras focused on Eastern Bluebirds, Barred Owls, Wood Ducks, Barn Owls and more.

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 jebrigidgen*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the June issue is Friday May 15, 2009.