



Volume 31, Number 5
<http://naturecalgary.com>

**Wed Apr 21:
The Crown is slipping. Will it fall?**

**Wed May 5:
Montana Birding**
joint meeting with the
Bird Study Group



Common Merganser
© Timothy Tse



Common Goldeneye
© Timothy Tse

Used binoculars wanted!
Serraniagua Corporati, in Colombia, works to promote sustainable development, in part by teaching children about local birds and their habitat. Sadly, they only have a few pairs of binoculars to share-but you can help! Please call Jan at 403-275-1582 by March 27 if you have binoculars to donate.

Nature News

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
President: (position vacant)

April 2010
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary General Meeting

Wed April 21, 7:30 pm: The Crown is slipping. Will it fall? A clear-eyed look at what's in store for the Waterton-Glacier area. Long-time Rockies naturalist, conservationist and author **Ben Gadd** will have you alternately chuckling and wringing your hands during this illustrated talk. Part geography lesson, part eco-historical analysis and part polemic, much of this talk centres on the Rockies and foothills from Banff south.

*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

Urgent call for member involvement!

Nature Calgary has lacked a president for the past three months, which contravenes our bylaws and the Alberta Societies Act. We have continued with Directors and the Vice-President filling in as necessary but this is clearly not acceptable or sustainable in the long term. A continually renewed executive is needed to administer the society's business so that we can continue to offer the activities and projects that members have valued and enjoyed since the 1960s.

We are fortunate to have many skilled volunteers who contribute to the society by leading field trips, assisting with special events and filling board positions—but a volunteer to fill **the president's role is essential**. The President coordinates Board meetings, introduces general meetings, and coordinates Nature Calgary's contact with external entities, and requires a time commitment of about 10-15 hours per month.

To discuss this position, another volunteer role (see below for other jobs), or suggest possible candidates please call Jamie Noakes, 403-243-7232.

Calgary Horticultural Society's **Garden Show** will be at Spruce Meadows Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. Please drop by Nature Calgary's booth while you are there.

Waterton weekend July 16-18. To book, send a cheque to the CFNS mailbox (\$120 members, \$150 non-members). Call Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 with any questions.

May Species Counts 2010: Brooks Lake Newell May 22/23, and Milk River Writing-on-Stone PP May 29/30. Details in next month's Nature News.

Save the date! **Nature Calgary's Banquet** will be Saturday, November 6 at Fort Calgary Barracks. New this year the banquet will be a **lunch-time event!** In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Calgary Parks, speaker Anne Charlton will talk about the past, present and future of Calgary's urban and natural parks. Ticket details will be announced soon. If you can assist with door prizes please contact Linda or John Stewart at (403) 244-0505 or stewart3*@telusplanet.net. (remove *s).

Edmonton Nature Club invites interested Nature Calgary members to attend their annual **banquet** on Saturday, March 27, 6 pm, at the U of A Faculty Club. Speaker is Peter Pyle, Wildlife Biologist. For tickets, \$40 each, contact Katie (780) 425-5466 katie.calon*@gmail.com. In conjunction with the banquet the **2010 Western Canada Bird Banding Conference** is on Mar 26-27, U of A, cost \$20. Includes presentations and a field trip in Edmonton area. See www.beaverhillbirds.com or contact Geoff Holroyd 780-951-8689 or geoffrey.holroyd*@ec.gc.ca (remove *s).

For details of these and other volunteer opportunities, email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

or see the volunteers' page at <http://naturecalgary.com>



Northern Goshawk
© Phil Smith



Albertabird

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

Adopt-a-Plant Program
Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>



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

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers who generously give their skills and time. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet others with similar interests in a fun and rewarding experience. Would you like to participate?

Board positions: **President:** see above. **Publicity Director:** coordinates Nature Calgary's booth at events and promotes Nature Calgary to Calgarians. **Directors-at-Large:** participate in board meetings and individual projects. **Volunteer manager:** organizes volunteers and a thank-you event in May.

Non-board positions - Membership Promotion, Field Trip Leaders and Welcome Table
Volunteers are always welcome - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed Apr 7, 7:30pm: Vireos, with Scott Lovell

Wed May 5, 7:30pm: Montana Birding with John Carlson

(*Note: this meeting will be held at Fort Calgary.*)

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings. Contact, Andrew Hart at 403-279-5209 or [harta.*@telusplanet.net](mailto:harta*.*@telusplanet.net) (remove *s).*

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition! <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/>
Participants are asked to send lists of species seen in the first quarter of the competition by the **April 15 deadline**. See <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/results.html> for details on submitting your results, and remember to submit a separate checklist for each category you are entering.

It's not too late to join the competition! There will be prizes, events, field trips and get-togethers throughout the year. For information and to register see <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/> and watch the web and Nature News for updates. Updates are also posted at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdsCalgary2010>

Botany Study Group

Sat March 27, 8:30 am: Wildcat Hills, NW of Cochrane. All day spring nature walk. Bring warm clothing and lunch. We will be looking for early spring flowers (Easter daisy, crocuses) and migrant raptors. Max. 15 participants with preference to Nature Calgary members. Call Suzanne or Jamey at 403-288-0658 to register and for meeting location.

Thu April 22, 6:30 pm. 12-Mile Coulee. Early Grassland Flowers (Easter daisies, crocuses, moss phlox, early cinquefoil, Canada buffaloberry). Meet near the paved pathway entrance on Tuscany Ravine Rd NW, just past the junction with Tuscany Ravine Hts (condo complex). Leader, Linda Vaxvick, 403-239-9434.

Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. Contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658 or [svisser.*@ucalgary.ca](mailto:svisser*.*@ucalgary.ca) (remove *s) for further details.*

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Many meeting places are mapped on <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/locations.html>
Check http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html **for new trips and updates.**

Note: Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

...March

Fri Mar 19, 8:30pm: Watch for Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Meet Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Mar 21, 9:30am: Peak of Golden Eagle Migration, Mt. Lorette, Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, warm clothing. Meet Assumption School, 34th Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr, at Hwy 1). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Fri Mar 26, 9pm: Listen for Northern Saw-whet Owls, Sandy Beach Park. For the past two years, these owls have been heard here. Meet parking lot at W end of Riverdale Av SW, W off Elbow Dr. Bring flashlight. Register with leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Lead a field trip!

To share your knowledge of a favourite location call Gus at 403-243-2248

CFNS & Inglewood 24hr Rare Bird Alert

403-221-4519

Updated Mon & Thu

Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms**.

Mail to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or hand in at the General and Bird Study Group meeting welcome tables.

Latest version of the **waiver form** is available on the Nature Calgary web <http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

Thank you, to the many talented photographers who have generously allowed their images to be used in Nature News and on the website!



Hooker's Townsendia
© Linda Vaxvick

Nature Calgary is part of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, which publishes the magazine **Nature Alberta**.

See

<http://www.fanweb.ca/>

Sat Mar 27, 9am: Bird Glennfield area, FCPP, E of Macleod Tr, just S of Fish Creek. From N, go S on Macleod Tr, turn right onto Bannister Rd, go under Macleod Tr, then 1st left into FCPP. Meet at N end of 1st parking lot. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun Mar 28, 8:30am: Birding Marshall Springs area. S side of FCPP, accessed off Fish Creek Blvd. Go W on Anderson Rd SW which turns S and becomes 37 St SW, then turns E to become Fish Creek Blvd. From the 4-way stop at Fish Creek Blvd/Everridge Dr (Esso gas station/Tim Horton on SW corner), go E 0.7 km to turn N (left) into Marshall Springs parking lot, just past apartment buildings. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

...April

Thu Apr 1, 8:30am: 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.

Fri Apr 2, 9:30am: Bird Weaselhead & Glenmore Reservoir, for early migrants. Am. Tree Sparrows, Tundra & Trumpeter Swans, ducks. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader, TBA, 403-243-2248.

Sat Apr 3, 8am: Bird Frank Lake for waterfowl, other early migrants. Meet at the gate to Frank Lake, S off Hwy 23, about 5 km E of High River. If from Calgary, call 403-243-2248, to coordinate car-pooling. Leader Greg Wagner, High River, 403-601-3893.

Sun Apr 4, 2pm: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leaders Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2488.

Mon Apr 5, 9am: and daily during Trumpeter Swan Migration to end of April. Join Dr. Len Hills on his daily research rounds. Call 403-932-2480 to register. Meet at Petro-Canada Station, Hwys 1 & 22, S of Cochrane. If staying for full day, bring lunch.

Sat Apr 10, 8:30am: Bird Rotary Park, FCPP, E side of Bow River, S of 22X. From 22X turn N on McKenzie Lake Blvd. After ½ block, turn left to McKenzie Lake Golf Course. Follow road to river, then left under #22X to parking lot. Leader, Jim St Laurent, 403-246-6314.

Sun Apr 11, 9am: Birding for Beginners. With no leaves & birds in flocks, this is a good time to begin. Meet at Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr E onto 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, then right and follow signs. Leaders, Dorothy & Stephen Spring, 403-238-0859.

April & May, warm, sunny days. At the 2002 CFNS banquet, John Acorn gave a fascinating talk on **TIGER BEETLES**. Doug Waylett has found a site in FCPP where two species can be seen in April-May. If you can clamber steep clay slopes, he will lead you to them. Register in advance: dwaylett*@shaw.ca or 403-271-3190.

Sat Apr 17, 9:30am: Mid-spring round up. Calgary and vicinity for waterfowl, passerines, waders, raptors and gulls – full day trip. Meet boat launch parking lot at Hull's Wood, FCPP. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Apr 17, 8am: Birding Hull's Wood, FCPP, on left off Bow Bottom Tr SE shortly after entering park. Meet W end of parking lot. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun Apr 18, 1:30pm: Flowering plants of Reader Rock Garden. Meet parking lot, S off 25 Av SE, E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Apr 18, 8am: Birding Griffith Woods Park. Go 2.5km W from Sarcee Tr SW on Hwy 8, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge, past the traffic circle. Turn left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Thu Apr 22, 6:30pm, Earth Day: Walk on Nose Hill. Meet in parking lot, 14 St & 64 Av NW. Leader, John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

Sat Apr 24, 9am: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

Sat Apr 24, 9am: Interested in learning the MOSSES & LICHENS? Join leaders, Peter Whitehead, Doug Waylett and Sandra Davis at Bebo Grove, FCPP, S end of 24 St SW. Call 403-984-3981 or 403-475-9347 for info.

Sat Apr 24, 2pm: Botany of 12-Mile Coulee (If rain or heavy overcast, Sun Apr 25). See 100s of Townsendia, Early Cinquefoil & possibly 100,000 Prairie Crocus. From Stoney Tr, go W on Tuscany Blvd NW for 1km to Tuscany Way. Turn S (left) and go 1.9km becomes Tuscany Ravine Rd. Park under powerline. Leader, TBA, 403-243-2248.

Sun Apr 25, 8am: Bird Lafarge Meadows, FCPP. Meet at boat launch parking lot, S. end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sun Apr 25, 8:30am: Bird McKenzie Towne Lake - Ruddy Duck, Y-headed Blackbird. From Deerfoot Tr, go E on McKenzie Towne Blvd, 1st right at traffic circle, & left on Promenade Way. From 22X eastbound, left to 52 St SE, left on McKenzie Towne Dr, & right on Promenade Way. Meet, chess tables. Leader, Tanya Barkauskas, 403-246-9108.

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
<http://cpawscalgary.org>

Weaselhead Society
<http://talkaboutwildlife.ca>

Alberta Wilderness Association
<http://albertawilderness.ca>

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)
<http://www.caoc.ab.ca>

Friends of Fish Creek
<http://friendsoffishcreek.org>

Cross Conservation Area
<http://crossconservation.org>

Calgary Zoo
<http://www.calgaryzoo.org>

Nature Conservancy of Canada Alberta Region
Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253
www.natureconservancy.ca
alberta@conservationvolunteers.ca

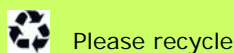


Red-breasted Nuthatch
© Phil Smith

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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



Of General Interest

AWA Tuesday Talks Series: March 23: Talk by Don Stiles - Pussy Willows and Flashes of Blue: Spring Has Arrived! Bluebird conservation is alive and well due to the many efforts of local conservationists. At AWA Office, 455 - 12 St. NW at 7 pm; cost \$5. See www.albertawilderness.ca/events or call 403-283-2025 to pre-register.

Calgary Rock and Alpine Society: Thursday April 8 7:30 pm Lakeview Community Hall. "Wild Flora of the American West", with Alan Bradshaw of Alplains. A talk about Alan's travels in the American West, showing photos of colourful, rare and unusual flora from the deserts to the alpine summits. See www.craggs.ca.

Friends of Fish Creek –Thursday, April 29, The Importance of Riparian Areas, with speakers Kathryn Hull and Amanda Halawell, from The Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish). See www.friendsoffishcreek.org/

Fragments of the Foothills, Alberta Native Plant Council (ANPC) workshop and AGM, takes place Saturday, **May 1**, Walking Eagle Inn, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. See www.anpc.ab.ca/ for information and registration form, or call 403-483-2476.

Annual Pathway & River cleanup May 2: A group leader and team of volunteers are needed for 3 hours' work on May 2. Group leader must register names of team by March 31, attend orientation on April 22, 7-8 pm, and conduct safety orientation for our volunteers. Free pancake breakfast. If you are interested in being Nature Calgary's group leader, or on the team, please contact Linda Vaxvick 403-239-9434 or one of the Board. For more information, see www.calgary.ca and search on "river cleanup".

Griffith Woods Transmission Line Pole Replacements – project update. AltaLink is replacing a portion of two transmission power lines that run through Griffith Woods Park. Construction is expected to be complete by March 2010. Further repair of pathways or other remediation work will continue after that in consultation with Calgary Parks. See www.altalink.ca/griffithwoods

BEN is the Botanical Electronic Newsletter. Information about the mailing list is at: <http://victoria.tc.ca/mailman/listinfo/ben-1>.

Adopt-A-Plant Alberta invites anyone interested in botany and rare plants to join Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group, which is based in Calgary. Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of every month from noon to 4pm, at the UofC Herbarium (basement of the Biological Sciences Building). Topics/agenda will be announced at www.ab.adoptaplant.ca/

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC) now rents bike lockers at Anderson, Brentwood, Canyon Meadows, Chinook, Crowfoot, Dalhousie, Fish Creek, McKnight, Shawnessy, Somerset, Sunnyside and Whitehorn LRT stations. For information call (403) 270-2262 or email caoc@caoc.ab.ca.

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

Campers Village (10% discount)	The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)
7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338	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 Linda lvaxvick*@telus.net and Jan jebrigden*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the May issue is Friday April 9, 2010.