



Volume 31, Number 7
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature News

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

June 2010
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

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.

Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates

At the Federation of Alberta Naturalists AGM in April 2010, Nature Calgary members **Val Scholefield and June Vermeulen** were honoured with the Volunteer of the Year award, along with Marilyn Ross and Elaine Cathcart, for their work proofreading **Nature Alberta**, the magazine published by FAN.

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.

Calgary May Species Counts 2010: Find all the Birds/Plants in bloom within 80 k of Calgary. Everyone is invited to participate, whether beginner or seasoned pro. Participation can be for both days, 1 day, or ½ day. For Bird territories, contact Brian Elder, 403-374-1571, brianeld*@*telus.net. For Plants, contact Suzanne Visser, 403-288-0658, svisser*@*ucalgary.ca (remove *s). If you are a past volunteer or a new one, please contact the coordinator to confirm your availability.

May Species Counts for Brooks & Lake Newell May 22/23, and **Milk River & Writing-on-Stone PP** May 29/30. Participants can join the Grassland Tour at any point. Bob Parsons is coordinating these joint Edmonton/Calgary initiatives, contact him at 780-488-1344 or vintagebob*@*shaw.ca (remove *s) for details. Brochures are available on Nature Calgary website.

Nature Calgary's Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 6 at Fort Calgary Barracks at 11:30 am. New this year, the banquet will be a **lunch-time event!** In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Calgary Parks, Anne Charlton (Director of Calgary Parks Dept.) will speak about the past, present and future of Calgary's urban and natural parks. Tickets are \$35 for Nature Calgary members or \$40 for non-members, (includes free parking and admission to Ft Calgary). Order tickets by Oct 12 from Linda or John Stewart at (403) 244-0505 or stewart3*@*telusplanet.net. (remove *s). Mail cheques payable to Nature Calgary to 830 - 18 Av SW, Calgary T2T 0G7; please include your meal choice (beef/vegetarian) and contact information.

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?

We particularly need **Welcome Table volunteers** for our monthly meetings at Fort Calgary, which re-start in September 2010. These volunteers bring and set up the banners and other material, and assist prospective members.

Board positions: 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.



Mountain Bluebird ©
Anne K. Elliott



Nature Calgary Luncheon
November 6, 2010

For details of these and other volunteer opportunities, email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca or see the volunteers' page at <http://naturecalgary.com>



Albertabird

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

Adopt-a-Plant Program

Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants

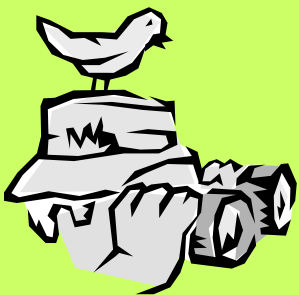
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>



Yellow Ladies Slipper
©Stephen Spring



Penstemon nitidus
© Anne K. Elliott



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

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Bird Study Group meetings will resume in September.

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 (remove *s).

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition:

It's not too late to join! Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdsCalgary2010> for the latest news. The first quarter is over and the results are in. About 90 species were reported by the participants and the highest individual had 81. Not bad for January, February and March. We are into the second (and bird-y-est) quarter, so now is a good time to share in the adventure.

Botany Study Group

Thu May 20, 7:00 pm: Preliminary May Count with Friends of Nose Hill. South-facing slopes of Nose Hill. Meet at Brisebois Drive and John Laurie Blvd NW. Leader: Suzanne Visser.

Thu May 27, 7 pm: Woodland Plants and May Plant Count, Griffith Woods. Meet at Discovery Ridge Link SW. Leader: Suzanne Visser.

Sat/Sun, May 29/30. May Count for Plants in Flower. Participate in this province-wide count. Call Suzanne for further information and plant checklist to record observations. Observations made May 25-31 are acceptable also.

Sat May 29, 9 am: Interested in learning the LICHENS, MOSSES & LIVERWORTS? Join leaders Peter Whitehead, Doug Waylett and Sandra Davis at **Brown Lowery Provincial Park**. This should also be prime viewing for the Calypso Orchids! Please bring a lunch. We will car pool from the Fish Creek Library. Info? 403-984-3981 (Doug) or 403-475-9347 (Sandy)

Thu June 3, 7 pm: Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park. Meet at Shannon Terrace parking lot in west Fish Creek Provincial Park. Leaders: Robin and Cedric Hitchon.

Sat June 19, 9 am: Interested in learning the LICHENS, MOSSES & LIVERWORTS? Join leaders Peter Whitehead, Doug Waylett and Sandra Davis for a day trip to **West Bragg Creek**. We will be carpooling from the Canadian Tire parking lot off Richmond Rd SW, just east of Sarcee Trail. Please bring a lunch. Info? 403-984-3981 (Doug) or 403-475-9347 (Sandy)

Tue June 22, 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. Participants must register with trip leader at jpo*@*persona.ca (remove *'s) or 403-949-4926 before noon the day of the walk.

Sat June 26, 10 am: Weekend Orchid Exploration in Seebe/Yamnuska area. Meet in parking lot for Yamnuska Natural Area. Please register with leader Linda Vaxvick 403-239-9434 to discuss locations for wildflowers, and arrange carpooling.

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

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Many meeting places are mapped on <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/locations.html>

New trips and updates - see http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html

Note: Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

...May

Tue May 18, 6:30pm: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader Phil Cram, 403-228-4142.

Sat-Sun May 22, 23 Brooks/Lake Newell Species Count – see issues and events.

Sun May 23, 8am: Majorville Medicine Wheel & area, W of Bow City, mainly for breeding prairie birds. Meet at gate to Frank Lake, S off Hwy 23, about 5 km E of High River. Bring lunch. If from Calgary, call 403-243-2248, to coordinate car-pooling. Leader, Greg Wagner, High River, 403-601-3893.

Sun May 23, 8am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (IBS), other parks and sloughs. Bring lunch. Meet at IBS, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Tony Timmons. 403-256-0754.

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!**

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

See

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

Mon May 24, 5:30am: Victoria Day. See 100+ species of birds within Calgary. Meet at Votier's Flats, S end of Elbow Dr. All day. Bring lunch. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Tue May 25, 6:30pm: Birding Hull's Wood, FCPP, left off Bow Bottom Tr SE shortly after entering park. Meet W end of parking lot. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Wed May 26, 6:30pm: WILLOW identification in Fish Creek Prov. Park. Please register your intention to participate; supply email/phone contact, to leader Ian D. Macdonald: iandmacdonald*[@*canada.com](mailto:iandmacdonald*@*canada.com), 403-256-6354, for meeting location and if he should need to change date. (remove * in email address)

Sat May 29, 9am: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

Sat-Sun May 29, 30: Calgary May Species Counts. For birding territory, contact Brian Elder, 403-374-1571; for botany, contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658.

Sat-Sun May 29, 30: Milk River/Writing-on-Stone Count- see issues and events.

...June

Tue 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 1, 6:30pm: Bow River birding. Meet at boat launch on Heritage Dr SE (under Glenmore Trail bridge west of Bow River). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Thu Jun 3, 6:30pm: Search for three species of Hummingbirds. Meet Weaselhead Natural Area parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader, Andrew Holder, 403-607-3198.

Sat Jun 5, 8:30am: Birding 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.

Sat/Sun Jun 5/6, 8:30am. On Sat. join **Cypress Hills** park staff and other experts at the Visitor Centre, in the search for the unique birds of this outlier in SW AB on the 24th Annual Bird Count. **On Sun, join a special trip** with Yousif Attia, formerly of Calgary, now studying the bird-life here. Travel to Elkwater or Medicine Hat on Fri. Motel and camping available. To register for one or both days, and for accommodation arrangements, meeting place, etc., contact Yousif at [@*gmail.com](mailto:ysattia*) (remove *'s).

Sun Jun 6, 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.

Sun Jun 6, 7:30am: See Balsam-root, *Balsamorhiza sagottata*, at its northernmost known station in Alberta, along with many other rare plants in Kananaskis Country. Some elevation gain. Meet at Anderson LRT station. Bring lunch, water. Leader, Dave Vernon, 403-243-2248.

Tue Jun 8, 6:30pm: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Nimali Senevirante, 403-265-8750.

Sat Jun 12, 3:30am: Dawn Chorus, Weaselhead. Hear 40+ bird species. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leaders, Gus Yaki/Aileen Pelzer, 403-243-2248.

Sun, Jun 13, 8am: Bird Griffith Woods Park. 2.5km W from Sarcee Tr SW on Hwy 8, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge, past the traffic circle. At the bottom of the hill, turn left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Tue Jun 15, 6:30pm: Birding Edworthy Park, accessed from Shaganappi Tr & Bowness Rd over the Boothman Pedestrian Bridge if N of river, or from W end of Spruce Dr via Edworthy St SW if S of river. Meet in large parking lot, S of RR tracks, Leader, John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

Sat Jun 19, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Jun 20, 8am: All day Plateau Mountain trip for specialty mountain birds, wildflowers, etc. Bring lunch, water, extra clothes, sun and insect protection. Meet in parking lot, Longview Bar, Hwy 22. Leader, Greg Wagner, High River, [@*irisenvironmental.ca](mailto:greg_wagner*), 403-601-3893 (remove * in email address).

Tue Jun 22, 6:30pm: Tour of Don Stiles' Bluebird Trail in foothills, just SW of Calgary. Meet Anderson LRT station, next to Macleod Tr, S of pedestrian overpass. See young bluebirds in nest, and other locally nesting species. Leader, Don Stiles, 403271-4689.

Sun Jun 27, 8:30am: Bird LaFarge Meadows, FCPP, home of Western Kingbirds. Meet at boat Launch, S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Nimali Seneviratne, 403-265-8750.

Tue Jun 29, 6:30pm: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leaders, Dick and Lenora Flynn 403-271-1269.

Thu Jul 1, 6:30am: 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.

Of General Interest

Friends of Fish Creek Speaker Series: Invasive Alien Plants by Don and Virginia Battiste. **Thurs May 27**, 7 pm. Register by calling 403-238-3841.

Banff National Park Research Updates Speaker Series at Whyte Museum, 7-9 pm.

May 20: New Canadians and National Parks; Groundwater & Lake O'Hara Study.

May 27: Bear and Ungulate Mortality and the CPR; Rock Snot.

Wednesday June 2, the Mayor's Environment Expo will host a free environmental presentation from 12-1 pm at the Glenbow Museum ConocoPhillips Theatre. Bring your lunch and be inspired. Good Earth Café will supply coffee and cookies. For details go to www.calgary.ca/mee. Pre-register with expo@calgary.ca.

Nature Conservancy of Canada has eight **volunteer days** in Alberta in June, July, August 2010. For more information see <http://www.conservationvolunteers.ca/> or call 403-444-3547.

U of C Biogeoscience Institute: Open House at the Barrier Lake Field Station. Sunday July 18, 10 am to 4 pm, free. Research displays on eagles, butterflies, climate change, bumblebees, orchids, alpine plants, pollinators, small mammals; environment education activities. Also – advance notice for their **Fall Naturalist's Weekend** on Sep 17-19, 2010 (cost \$125/person).

Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch program is about collecting information about nesting birds. Volunteers gather information from across the continent see <http://www.nestwatch.org> for details.

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.

Natural Areas Photo Contests: Take some photos on your trips to these Calgary Natural Environment Parks and enter them in the contests: **Bowmont** (deadline Oct 8, 2010), **Twelve Mile Coulee** (Feb 11, 2011), and **Weaselhead** (Jan 2011). Go to www.calgary.ca and search on "photo contest".

Interested in invasive plants? The Weaselhead Preservation Society invites members of Nature Calgary to help with research, monitoring, early detection and control. For more info go to <http://talkaboutwildlife.ca> or email sarahcalgary*@yahoo.ca. (remove *)

The name of the **Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC)** is changing April 2010 to the Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS). Part of Alberta Parks, The **ACIMS** collects, continually updates, analyzes and disseminates information about the location, condition, status, and trends of selected elements, including species and plant communities.

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

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

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

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Linda lvaxvick*@telus.net and Jan jebriqden*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the July/August issue is Friday June 11, 2010.