



Volume 31, Number 6  
<http://naturecalgary.com>

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

**\*\*Wed May 5:  
Montana Birding**

Our speaker series will  
take a break for the  
summer and resume in  
September.



*Juvenile Robin*  
© Stephen Spring

**Thank you to  
everyone who  
donated binoculars to  
Serraniagua Corporati,  
in Colombia.  
14 pairs were  
collected!**

For details of these  
and other volunteer  
opportunities, email  
[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

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

# Nature News

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

May 2010  
[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

## Nature Calgary General Meeting

**Wed May 5, 7:30 pm: "Birding beyond the Medicine Line - Montana and More".** Speaker, **John Carlson** will provide a tour of birding opportunities in Montana including some favorite locations and the birds found there that might be of interest to Alberta birders. In addition we will venture even further south to places that his interest in birds has provided the opportunity to enjoy. Come and hear stories of his adventures gathered during a lifetime of working with wildlife in Montana and beyond. Read more about John Carlson on his blog <http://prairieice.blogspot.com/>

**This is a special joint meeting with the Bird Study Group –everyone is welcome!**

*All general meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca).*

## Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates

**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, May 29 & 30.** 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 a 1/2 day. For Bird territories, contact Brian Elder, 374-1571, [brianeld\\*.\\*telus.net](mailto:brianeld*.*telus.net). For Plants, contact Suzanne Visser, 288-0658, [svisser\\*.\\*ucalgary.ca](mailto:svisser*.*ucalgary.ca) (remove \*s). If you are a past volunteer or a new one, please contact the coordinators to confirm your availability.

**Brooks/Lake Newell May Species Count** - May 22/23. **Milk River/Writing-on-Stone May Species Count** - 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](mailto:vintagebob*.*shaw.ca) (remove \*s) for details. Brochures are available at bird study and general meetings or at [www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com).

**Nature Calgary's Luncheon Banquet** will be Saturday, November 6 at Fort Calgary Barracks. Included in your ticket – free parking, book exchange and admission to Fort Calgary exhibits and park. 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. Tickets: \$35 Nature Calgary members, \$40 non-members. Contact Linda or John Stewart at (403) 244-0505 or [stewart3\\*.\\*telusplanet.net](mailto:stewart3*.*telusplanet.net). (remove \*s) to reserve your tickets or if you can assist with door prizes.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers who generously give their skills and time. Which position can you help with?

### Board positions needed:

**President** - organize Board meetings, introduce general meetings, and coordinate the society's contact with other groups. Time commitment ~ 10-15 hours per month.  
**Publicity Director** - promote Nature Calgary and coordinate staffing our booth at events. Time commitment ~ 2-4 hours per month. **Volunteer manager:** coordinate volunteers and thank-you event in May. Time commitment ~ 2-4 hours per month.

**Non-board positions** - Membership Promotion, Field Trip Leaders and Welcome Table Volunteers - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details of any of these positions.



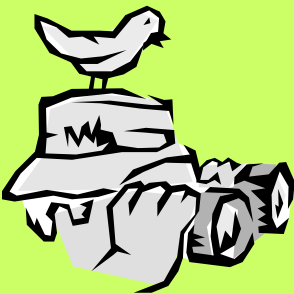
© Nicole Strandlund



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.

## Nature Calgary Study Groups

### Bird Study Group

**Wed May 5, 7:30pm: Montana Birding** with John Carlson  
(*Note: this meeting will be held at Fort Calgary*).

*Bird Study Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

It's not too late to join! Go to <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/> for information and watch the web and Nature News for updates. Updates are also posted at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdsCalgary2010>.

### Botany Study Group

**Thu April 15, 6:30 pm. Southernmost location of *Townsendia* in Calgary.** Bebo Grove, FCPP, at the end of 24<sup>th</sup> St SW. Leaders: Robin and Cedric Hitchon.

**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.

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

**Thu May 6, 7:00 pm. Spring Stroll in the Cross Conservation Area.** Call leader, Heide Blakely 403 281 4227 to register and for meeting location.

**Tue May 11, 6:30 pm. Birds and Blooms, Confluence Park.** Meet at parking lot at Beddington Trail and Beddington Blvd NE. Leaders: John McFaul, Suzanne Visser.

**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, 7:00 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 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](mailto:svisser*@*ucalgary.ca) (remove \*s) for further details.*

## 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](http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html)

Highlighted trips require pre-registration with the leader.

### ...April

**Until end of April:** Daily trips to observe Trumpeter Swans. 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.

**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: [dwaynelett\\*@\\*shaw.ca](mailto:dwaynelett*@*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.

### 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/>

**Spring Splash** at Bow Habitat Station

Saturday, April 17.

\$5 includes tours of the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery and new interpretive centre from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Free pancake breakfast from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

## Field Trips continued...

**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. At the bottom of the hill, turn left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

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

**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. Info? 403-984-3981 or 403-475-9347.

**Sat Apr 24, 2pm: (If rain or heavy overcast, Sun Apr 25). Botany of 12-Mile Coulee.** 100s of *Townsendia*, Early Cinquefoil & possibly 100,000 Prairie Crocus. From Stoney Tr, go W on Tuscany Blvd NW for 1km turn S on Tuscany Way and go 1.9km. Road 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: An easy walk birding McKenzie Towne Lake:** from Deerfoot Tr, exit E McKenzie Towne Blvd, 1st right at traffic circle, then left on Promenade Way; from 22X eastbound, left onto 52 St SE, then left on McKenzie Towne Dr, and right on Promenade Way. Street parking. Meet at the chess tables. Ruddy Duck, Y-headed Blackbird, etc. Leader, Tanya Barkauskas, 403-246-9108.

### ...May

**Sat 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.

**Sun May 2, 8am: Bird and explore regular and new sites in the Cochrane area.** Bring lunch. Meet at the Cochrane Ranch parking lot on Hwy 1A, just E of Hwy 22. Leader, Frank Hennessey, 403-932-4986.

**Sun May 2, 8am: Bird Mallard Point to Hwy 22X bridge.** Meet Mallard Pt parking lot, E end of Canyon Meadows Dr SE, then car-pool to FCPP boat launch on Bow Bottom Tr SE. Walk back on the E side of river. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

**Tue May 4, 6:30pm: First of weekly mid-week evening walks.** Tonight, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leaders, Sue/Russ Costello, 403-271-6958.

**Sat May 8, 8am: Bird E side of Bow River to Deerfoot Tr.** Meet Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs. Leader, Jim St Laurent, 403-246-6314.

**Sun May 9, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Park.** Meet S parking lot at Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way S of 62 Av SE. Go N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Sun May 9, Mother's Day.** Take your mother on a nature walk.

**Tue May 11, 6:30pm: Bird Confluence Park.** Meet in parking lot at Beddington Tr & Beddington Blvd NE. Western Meadowlarks/Vesper Sparrows usually present. Leader, John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

**Sat May 15, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary,** E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

**Sun May 16, 8am: Bird Griffith Woods Park.** Discovery Ridge Link SW (see April 18 for directions). Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

**Sun May 16, 8:30am: Bird E of Calgary.** Bring lunch. Meet at Carburn Park. From Glenmore Tr E onto 18 St SE to 2<sup>nd</sup> stoplight, then right and follow signs. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Mon May 17, 8:30am: Bird McKenzie Towne Lake:** from Deerfoot Tr, exit E onto McKenzie Towne Blvd, then 1st right at traffic circle, then left on Promenade Way; from 22X eastbound, left onto 52 St SE, then left on McKenzie Towne Dr, then right on Promenade Way. Street parking. Meet at the chess tables. Ruddy Duck, BI-cr. Night-Heron, Y-headed Blackbird, etc. Leader, Tanya Barkauskas, 403-246-9108.

Spring Splash cont'd...  
Lots of fun activities for kids. Birds Calgary 2010 will have a display table with activities at the event.

Bow Habitat Station  
1440-17A Street SE in  
Inglewood. See  
<http://bowhabitat.alberta.ca>

**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 Alberta Region**  
Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253  
[www.natureconservancy.ca](http://www.natureconservancy.ca)  
[alberta@conservationvolunteers.ca](mailto:alberta@conservationvolunteers.ca)

[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

Nature Calgary, PO Box  
981, Station M,  
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

**Memberships**  
Individual \$20.00/yr  
Family \$25.00/yr  
Contact Donna,  
403-276-7799

## Field Trips continued...

**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.

**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.

**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.

## Of General Interest

**Earth Day in Calgary, April 22, 11:30-1:00 pm** John Dutton Theatre, Downtown library. The City of Calgary invites everyone to attend a presentation by **Kevin Strange** (Senior Advisor of Conservation Outreach at the Calgary Zoo) called "**An Uplifting Earth Day.**" Kevin devotes his energy to positive conservation stories and is surrounded by people and organizations doing small, but nonetheless great things, for nature and the environment. Celebrate Earth Day with his light-hearted stories about nature, travelling, and spending a life-time working for plants and animals. Admission is free but please pre-register with [laura.st.louis@calgary.ca](mailto:laura.st.louis@calgary.ca).

**Wednesday June 2, the Mayor's Environment Expo** will host an 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](http://www.calgary.ca/mee). Pre-register with [christina.pickles@calgary.ca](mailto:christina.pickles@calgary.ca).

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/](http://www.ab.adoptaplant.ca/)

**University of Calgary Outdoor Centre** Summer Program Guide has many options for outdoor activities. See <http://www.calgaryoutdoorcentre.ca/>.

**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](mailto:lvaxvick*.*telus.net) and Jan [jebrigden\\*.\\*telus.net](mailto:jebrigden*.*telus.net) (remove \*) ph: 403-275-1582.

**Deadline for the June issue is Friday May 15, 2010.**