



Volume 32, Number 5
<http://naturecalgary.com>

March 16: Edible & Medicinal Plants,
by Julie Walker

**April 20: Paddling
the Milk River, by
Joel Duncan**



Northern Goshawk at FCPP
© Stephen Spring



Potentilla concinna (Early
Cinquefoil)
© Suzanne Visser

Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

April 2011

President: Jim Donohue ph: 403-850-3003 email: president@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wednesday March 16, 7:30 pm: Discover the Edible and Medicinal Plants of Kananaskis Country with Julie Walker of Full Circle Adventures. The early explorers, ranchers and First Nation's people used these plants and you can find out how to add them to your dinner table! The introduced "weeds" of our gardens were often edible or medicinal plants brought to Canada by the European homesteaders. We will focus briefly on identification and the "best uses" for each plant. Stay afterwards for questions and to sample a native plant tea! **Bring your own go mug** to reduce dishes! Read more at www.full-circle-adventures.com.

Wednesday April 20, 7:30 pm: Paddling the Milk River with Joel Duncan. Join long time naturalist and Nature Calgary member Joel Duncan as he takes us on a canoe trip down the beautiful Milk River into fascinating Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park. His images of this unique region of Alberta with its intriguing landscape, pretty flowers, and interesting fauna will inspire you to make your own journey to explore this emerald thread of the southern Alberta grassland.

*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*

Issues, Events and Updates

Calgary Garden Show April 9-10, 2011: Nature Calgary will have a booth at this show. If you are interested in helping at the booth, please call Lenora & Dick Flynn, 403-271-1269.

Climb for Wilderness, April 16, 2011: NC will have a booth at this event. If you can help sponsor our climbers John McFaul and Val Scholefield, please call John McFaul at 403-289-9517.

Invasive Plants study project: NC is partnering in a research project led by the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society, supported by staff from the City of Calgary and Cows & Fish, to investigate control of invasive shrubs in riparian areas. The project will take place in the Weaselhead over the next three years, starting in May/June of 2011. Volunteers willing to help with this project are welcome! Contact Sarah Nevill at sarahcalgary*@yahoo.ca or 403-663-9951 for details.

South West Calgary Ring Road Issue: The Nature Calgary Board is drafting a letter to the appropriate city and provincial authorities, opposing the crossing of the Weaselhead natural area by this highway. For more information see www.saveglenmorepark.com, www.cswrr.info, and <http://blog.talkaboutwildlife.ca/>.

Brooks and Milk River May Species Counts 2011: May 21-22 for Brooks/Lake Newell and May 28-29 for Writing-on-Stone/Milk River. Brochures will be available at NC welcome tables. Book soon for these multi-club counts with Bob Parsons, 780-488-1344.

Annual Waterton weekend: July 15-17, 2011. Member price \$130 pp, non-members \$160. Stay at the church camp in Waterton National Park and enjoy the area during flower season. Book soon by contacting Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 or andrewhart*@shaw.ca.

Welcome and thanks to Sue Konopnicki, Nature Calgary's new Secretary.

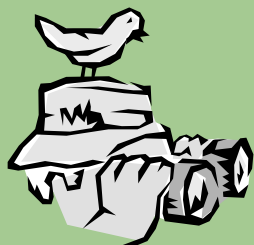
City of Calgary State of the Environment report just issued. Go to www.calgary.ca and search on environment report.

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers! Contact Jim 403-850-3003 to volunteer or for more details

Volunteers' opportunities <http://naturecalgary.com>

Winter meetings are held monthly by the **Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group**
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

Alberta Native Plant Council
www.anpc.ab.ca



Volunteers wanted – can you help?

Field trip leaders - show the way to your favourite natural area and help us to find new nature spots in and around Calgary. Others will help with identification!

Welcome Table volunteers - assist with questions and membership matters at general meetings.

Invasive Plants study project – see page 1.

Board vacancies: Volunteer Manager: recruit, support and thank our volunteers.

Publicity Director: coordinate our booth at events and promote Nature Calgary to Calgarians.

Botany Study Group chair: organize botany-related events and field trips.

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group:

Wed, April 6, 2011: Transatlantic Wetlands. Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (UK) to be presented by Andrew Hart and Weed Lake, Langdon, AB to be presented by Ian Halladay.

Wed, May 4, 2011: May Birding, presented by Terry Poulton.

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 403-279-5209 or [andrewhart@shaw.ca](mailto:andrewhart*@shaw.ca) (remove *s).*

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition Final Report:

We celebrated the winners of Nature Calgary's, Birds Calgary 2010 competition at an informal ceremony at Gus Yaki's home on Feb 12, 2011. The detailed list of winners, prizes, and species lists has been posted on the blog: <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com/>. At the March meeting of Bird Study Group we presented the results from 2010 and compared the data with year 2000.

On behalf of the organizing committee, thank you to everyone for participating. We hope you enjoyed the event. Please let me know if you would like a copy of anything by email: hheffler*@shaw.ca or 403-284-2961. I also want to thank the committee members for all of their diligent efforts over the past two years.

Here are a few highlights:

- Total number of species reported by all participants: 262.
- An additional 9 species reliably reported but not entered in competition.
- Highest individual count: Michael Harrison – 240 species.
- Six participants had counts over 200.
- About 35 separate participants in 12 categories.
- 38 photos entered by 13 competitors.
- Year 2000: number of species reported: 248 (plus 9 reliably reported outside competition).

"Bird of the Year" award for Katrina Lybbert and family who reported an Anna's Hummingbird on Oct 22.

Howard Heffler

(Editor's note: Members can opt to receive email notices of each new newsletter, as well as meeting announcements and notices of field trip changes, contact John Laurence [laurencj@telus.net](mailto:laurencj*@telus.net) .)*

2010 Birds Calgary Photo Contest winners:

Right: Willet © Brian Elder. First Prize



*Right: Red-breasted Nuthatch
© Ken Johnson.
Second Prize.*



These photos and other entrants can be viewed at <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com/>.

Right: Bohemian
Waxwing
© Matthew Sim
Third Prize

Inglewood Bird

Sanctuary has spring birding programs for adults and family nature adventures. See <http://www.calgary.ca/recreation/recguide/> for details, or pick up a free copy of the guide at IBS, or call 3-1-1.

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

Lead a field trip!

Share your
knowledge of a
favourite location!
call Gus
403-243-2248

Field trip leaders please
turn in signed **waiver
forms** to Nature Calgary,
Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary,
AB, T2P 2K4,
or at the General and
Bird Study meeting
welcome tables.
Latest version of the
waiver form is available
<http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

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

**Keen birders should
check
Albertabird
for latest sightings.**
See

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



Nature Calgary Field Trips

New Field Trip Leaders are welcome. Show us the way to your favourite natural area, or help us to find new nature spots in and around Calgary. Others will help with identification, and you can partner with an experienced leader to get started! Please contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 or Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

- Many meeting places are mapped on <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/location.html>
- **New trips, updates, guidelines** - see http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html
- **Note:** Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

...March

Fri Mar 18, 8:30pm: Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 19, 9am: Paleo 2011, 15th Annual Palaeontological Symposium. A FREE day of educational events and activities. Learn more about our birds' ancestors. Lower Level Hall, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW.

Sun Mar 20, 8am: Bird Marshall Springs area, FCPP. Meet parking lot, E. of Sanderson Ridge condos, N of Fish Creek Blvd SW, on S. side of FCPP. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Fri Mar 25, 8:30pm: Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 26, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Mar 27, 9am: Peak of Golden Eagle Migration, Mt. Lorette, Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, warm clothing. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW (NW corner, Sarcee Tr, N. of Hwy 1). Call leader, Andrew Hart, to register, 403-279-5209.

...April

Fri Apr 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call 403-243-2248 or email gyaki*@*calna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return.

**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>

**Adopt-a-Plant Program
and Southern Alberta
Rare Plant Study Group**

<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

**VOLUNTEER WITH LIKE-
MINDED GROUPS:**

**Calgary Science
Network**

Share your knowledge
and passion for nature
with Calgary students.
Classroom presenters
receive training and
support.

www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca

or ph: 403-771-4510

**Nature Conservancy
Alberta Region**

Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253

www.natureconservancy.ca
alberta@conservationvolunteers.ca

Sun Apr 3, 9am: Bird Glenmore Reservoir for early waterfowl. Meet Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Mon Apr 4, 9am, and daily during the Trumpeter Swan Migration season. April 15th to 27th is the best time to see these birds. 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 9, 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 10, 9am: Birding for Beginners. With no leaves & birds in flocks, now 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.

Sun Apr 10, 9am: See some of Calgary's rarest and most unusual trees: Silver/White Fir, *Abies concolor*; Foxtail Pine, *Pinus balfouriana*; Western White Pine, *P. monticola*; False Cypress, *Chamaecyparis pisifera*; Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, etc. Meet Stanley Park, 2 blocks W of Macleod Tr on 42 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Fri Apr 15, 9 am: Daily until end of April: Observe Trumpeter Swans with 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 16, 8:30am: Bird Rotary Park, FCPP, E side of Bow River. From 22X turn N on McKenzie Lake Blvd SE. After ½ block, turn left to McKenzie L. Golf Course. Follow road to river, then left under #22X to parking lot. Leader, Jim St Laurent, 403-246-6314.

Sat Apr 16, 9:30 am: Robert Bateman "Get to Know" event at Bow River Habitat Station. See page 6 for details.

Sun Apr 17, 8:30am: 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, TBA. Call 243-2248.

Sun Apr 17, 1:30pm: Flowering plants of Reader Rock Garden. Meet parking lot, S off 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Thu Apr 21, 6:30pm: Biology of Bebo Grove, FCPP, S end of 24 St SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Fri Apr 22, 8am: Earth Day/Good Friday. Bird South Glenmore Park & Weaselhead. Meet at parking lot W end of 90th Av. SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

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

Sat Apr 23, 9:30am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sat Apr 23, 2pm: (If rain or heavy overcast, Sun Apr 24). **Botany of 12-Mile Coulee.** See 100s of Townsendia, Early Cinquefoil & Prairie Crocus, etc. From Stoney Tr, go W on Tuscany Blvd NW for 1km to Tuscany Way. Turn S (left) and go 1.9km. Road becomes Tuscany Ravine Rd. Park under powerline. Leader, TBA. Call 403-243-2248.

Sat Apr 30, 8:30am: Bird the Bow River looking for early migrants. Meet in 1st parking lot at the FCPP Ranche HQ, off Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Phil Cram, 403-228-4142.

Sat Apr 30, 9am: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

...May

Sun 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 1, 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.

Tue May 3, 6:30pm: First of weekly Tue evening summer birding walks. Carburn Park. Take Glenmore Tr E. Once across the Bow River, be in right lane for 18 St S. Go S to 2nd stoplight, turn right and at 2nd intersection, turn left into park. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.



www.naturealberta.ca

... Alberta Natural History information, Conservation News & Issues, Magazine, Young Naturalists, and more.

Note: email addresses have extra asterisks to deter spammers.

NATURE CALGARY CONTACT INFORMATION

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

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

Note: most email addresses in this newsletter have extra asterisks to deter spamming.

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Ph: John
403-284-4245

Of General Interest

River Park-Sandy Beach-Britannia Slopes Parks public consultation process. The City of Calgary Parks is working on a draft design and management plan for River Park, Sandy Beach and Britannia Slopes in response to stakeholder concerns about environmental damage, aging amenities and user-group conflicts. Both facilitated public meetings and moderated online discussions are proposed between January and May 2011. For the public workshop **March 19, 2011** at Windsor Park Comm. Assoc, call 311. For more info go to <http://www.calgary.ca/> and search for "River Park plan".

SCIENCE Road Show, Sat Apr 9, 2011, 11am – 3 pm at Fish Ck Public Library. Discover science in everyday life with enthusiastic scientists and engineers from the Calgary Science Network! We'll have hands-on activities, engaging demos and real scientists to answer questions. Sessions will run at different times during the day. Join us for this FREE, FUN, FAMILY event. More info <http://www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca/events.htm>

2011 Canadian Wildlife Federation Robert Bateman Get to Know Contest: April 16 at the Bow Habitat Station, 1440 – 17A Street SE Calgary. Bow Habitat Station will be open at 9:30 a.m. for this special event that starts at 10 a.m. Then take part in the CWF Walk for Wildlife adventure, starting at 10:30 a.m., to log kilometres towards a national tally for wildlife education. Participants will also be able to explore Bow Habitat Station, interact with some furry and scaly visitors from the Calgary Zoo, create entries for the 2011 contest and win some wild prizes. **Preregister for this special event by April 6**, by calling Bow Habitat Station at 403-297-6561 or emailing bow.habitat@gov.ab.ca. Registered participants who attend the launch will receive free admission to Bow Habitat Station on the day of the event. All other visitors (over the age of 4) will be charged a reduced rate of \$5.00 per person on April 16. For more information about Bow Habitat Station, visit <http://www.bowhabitat.alberta.ca>.

Alberta Native Plant Council Annual Workshop: April 30, 2011: Fragments of the Rocky Mountains, Canmore, AB. **Botany Alberta June 18-20** in Cold Lake Alberta. See www.anpc.ab.ca for more information.

Spring 2011 Naturalist Weekend at the Biogeoscience Institute. **June 3-5, 2011** at the Barrier Lake Field Station in **Kananaskis Country**. Cost: \$125 + GST, includes 5 meals and accommodation for 2 nights. Guest scientists include Dr. Marco Musiani, a member of the Landscape Ecology Research Group, Faculty of Environmental Design, U of Calgary; Dr. Ed Johnson, Director of the Biogeoscience Institute and another scientist, TBD. More info: Judy Buchanan-Mappin, ph. 403-220-5355; email: jmbuchan*@ucalgary.ca. (The fall naturalist weekend received excellent reviews from Nature Calgary members!).

Calgary Parks news: A new volunteer opportunity for **Parks Interpreters:** By engaging Calgarians while they are in parks and providing interpretation of some aspect of that park, the volunteers will help Calgarians to become eco-literate, good stewards of the land, and active participants in the sustainment of parks. Training provided. Will be piloted in Reader Rock Garden, Carburn, Confederation, Prairie Winds, and South Glenmore Parks, Bowmont, Edworthy, and Nose Hill Natural Environment Parks. Call 311 and ask about the Parks Interpretive Program volunteer opportunity

CMBA Trail User Survey: Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance and Mt Royal University are sponsoring an online trail user survey to gauge the economic effects of various trail users in the Calgary area. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cmbalink5> by April 1, 2011.

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

Deadline for the May 2011 issue is Friday April 15, 2011.