



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

July-August 2011

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

Nature Calgary's Speaker series resumes in September.

Next meeting is September 21st .

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



Northern Shoveler
© Stephen Spring

Issues, Events and Updates

Nature Calgary Website - We are planning a major update to www.naturecalgary.com. If you have any ideas or suggestions about what you'd like to see, or can offer expertise, please contact Jan Brigden or Linda Vaxvick (contact info on p.4).



American Robin
© Timothy Tse

Celebrate the Weaselhead - June 18, noon to 3 pm at parking lot at 66th Ave and 37th Street SW. Live entertainment, treats, nature programs, displays and a special ceremony honouring the legacy of the late Grant MacEwan, former Calgary Mayor and Alberta Lt. Governor, who was instrumental in designating the Weaselhead as a protected area. See <http://blog.talkaboutwildlife.ca/>. The event is organized by: Weaselhead/Glenmore Preservation Society, Nature Calgary, City of Calgary, and Save Glenmore Park.

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet - Please join us on **Saturday, November 5**, at 6 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1910 Kensington Road NW (easy access with lots of free parking). Enjoy a full three course Roast Beef dinner or vegetarian option (pre-ordering required) followed by an excellent presentation.

Our **guest presenter is Andrew Brash**, a Calgary climber and teacher who has been following his passion for climbing and adventure for over twenty years. He's traveled and climbed in some of the most impressive mountain environments the world has to offer, including mountains in Tibet, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Alaska, Chile and Nepal. He is best known for his experiences on Mount Everest <http://www.andrewbrash.com/>.

Tickets are **\$40 for Nature Calgary members** and **\$45 for non-members**. Send cheques (payable to Nature Calgary) to: Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4 and please include your meal choice (beef/vegetarian) and contact information. For more information, or to volunteer to help make this event a success, call Penny Smith, 403-283-9260 or email pjsmith*@*cbe.ab.ca.

City of Calgary Invasive Plants EDRR process - Nature Calgary members have had good response in the past to the Early Detection Rapid Response process. Forms for reporting will be online this year, and the plant surveillance list expanded. More at www.calgary.ca (search on "invasive plants"). A field guide can be downloaded from Alberta Invasive Plant Council www.invasiveplants.ab.ca. Forms and info: contact Linda Vaxvick (see p.4).

Thank you Lenora Flynn - The twice-weekly Calgary Rare Bird Alert as seen on the Albertabird listserv is losing one of its long-time compilers. Along with other team members, Lenora has faithfully assembled the current sightings, dates and places for over nine years and posted them online.

Lenora and husband Dick have been active birders for more than 20 years. They support the May Species Count, run a Breeding Bird Survey route, participate in the Brooks Count, owl surveys, local bird banding, and are long-time active members of Nature Calgary. Recent travels have taken them on birding trips to Kenya and Papua New Guinea, but they actually watch birds everywhere they go! Thank you Lenora.



Striped Coralroot
(*Corallorhiza striata*)
© Jan Brigden

Weaselhead Invasive
Plants Project
Contact Sarah Nevill
sarahcalgary*@*yahoo.ca
or 403-663-9951 to help

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

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

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

More birding sites
www.birdcomp.fanweb.ca

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



Osprey © Timothy Tse

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>.

Volunteers wanted – can you help?

Welcome Table volunteers - assist with questions and membership matters at general meetings; bring and set up display.

Invasive Plants study project – see sidebar on page 1.

Banquet volunteers – see page 1.

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

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

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

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Next meeting is September 7th – Tuesday evening field trips have started!

Birding Blogs

Birds Calgary at <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com>.

Three avid Calgary birders have collaborated to produce a blog about birding in the Calgary area. Originally set up for the Birds Calgary 2010 Competition, Pat Bumstead, Bob Lefebvre, and Matthew Sim decided to keep the blog going, and use it to promote birding in Calgary. Articles, stunning photographs (including Sunday Showcase), Rare Bird Alerts and a list of upcoming Nature Calgary field trips are posted. Over 5,800 visitors viewed the blog in May, and the numbers continue to rise.

Calgary Birder at <http://calgarybirder.blogspot.com/>

A collection of personal reflections and photographs, along with maps of birding locations written by Calgary teacher David Pugh. "As a teacher I'm acutely aware of the need to connect with people using different media and I'm sure that blogging is key for getting younger people involved in birding (as it has been for me!)"

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 *)*

Nature Calgary Field Trips

New Field Trip Leaders are welcome. Share your favourite nature spot, in and around Calgary. Others will help with identification, and you can partner with an experienced leader to get started! 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, and guidelines -** http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html
- **Note:** Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

...June

Sat 18 Jun, 8am: See Piping Plovers and possibly observe banding, 10 min. walk from car. Meet at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary to carpool, or at 10:30am at junction of Hwy 855 going N from Hwy 9, about 10km W of Hanna. Bring lunch, sun and insect protection, footwear for possible muddy conditions, and full gas tank. Leader, Dave Prescott, Endangered Species Wildlife Specialist spoke to the Bird Study Group, Feb 2010. Registration required, gyaki*@calcna.ab.ca or 403-243-2248 (limit 20).

Sat Jun 18, 12-3pm: Celebrate Weaselhead and Glenmore Park. Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. More information on page 1.

Sun Jun 19, 8:30am: Birding Edgemont Ravines. N on 14 St NW or Shaganappi Tr NW, turning W (left) on Country Hills Blvd, then S (left) on Edgebrook Blvd NW, parking almost immediately on the left. Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920 (leave message).

Tue Jun 21, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Phil Cram, 403-228-4142.

Wed June 22, 7:30pm: Summer Solstice Orchid Walk, Bow Valley Provincial Park. Meet Bow Valley Provincial Park at the Many Springs Fen trailhead parking lot. Participants must register with trip leader Jim Posey at jpo*@persona.ca (remove *) or 403-949-4926 before noon the day of the walk.

Sat Jun 25, 8am: Bird William's Coulee, West of Nanton. Look for Rock Wren, hawks, Baird's Sparrow. All day, bring lunch, drink, sun and insect protection. Meet Anderson LRT station, next to Macleod Tr, S of pedestrian overpass. Leader, Rob Worona, 403-984-7655.



More nature activities in the Calgary area:

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 (NOTE new website address)

<http://www.adoptaplantAlberta.com>

Nature Conservancy Alberta Region

Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253
www.natureconservancy.ca
[alberta@conservationvolun
teers.ca](mailto:alberta@conservationvolunteers.ca)

Alberta Native Plant Council

www.anpc.ab.ca

Sun Jun 26, 7:30am: See Balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza sagittata*, 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.

Sun, Jun 26, 9am: Purple Springs Dunes near Taber - explore the fascinating landscape and unique flora and fauna with Lloyd Bennett. Meet at his home. From Taber go 4 miles E on Hwy 3, then N just E of the large green Viterra building (Range Road 16-0). Go N for 3.5 miles (1/2 mi N of 2nd intersection); Lloyd's address is 104043. Duration 3-4 hours. Walk about 1 km to a large sand dune. Phone 403-223-0456.

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

Tue Jun 28, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end Home Rd). Leader, Janet Gill, 403-230-5671.

...July

Fri 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.

Sat Jul 2, 8am: See flora & fauna, Plateau Mountain, Kananaskis. Meet Anderson LRT Station, S. of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr to carpool or at Jct Hwys 22 & 541 at Longview at 9am. All day, bring lunch. Leader, Greg Wagner, 403-601-3893.

Tue Jul 5, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, details TBA on website.

Sat Jul 9, 8-9:30am: Free Wetland Bird Tour at new **Ralph Klein Park**, 12350 84 Street SE. Approx 0.5 km south of 114 St SE & 84 St SE intersection. Register at 403 476-4350 or rkp*@calgary.ca.

Sat Jul 9, 8am: Bird the slope of North Glenmore Park. Trail may be steep and have difficult sections. Meet Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 403-246-6314.

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

Sun Jul 10, 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. Leaders, Jim & Katie Donohue, 403-850-3003.

Tue Jul 12, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, details TBA on website.

Tue Jul 19, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, details TBA on website.

Tue Jul 26, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, details TBA on website.

Wed Jul 27, 7pm: See Peregrine Falcon fledglings at U of C. Meet parking lot L1 by Craigie Hall, S. side of U of C, off University Dr NW. Leader, Elli Jilek, 403-220-5959.

...August

Mon Aug 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.

Tue Aug 2, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk, details TBA on website.

Sat Aug 6, 8:30am: Birding Brown-Lowery Prov. Park. Meet Anderson LRT (Macleod Tr) just S of pedestrian overpass. Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

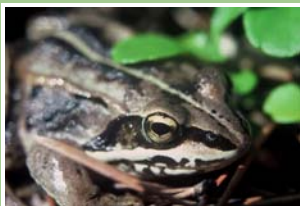
Sun Aug 7, 8:30am: Scenic 2.4km hike, S end of Upper Kananaskis Lake. Meet at Assumption School, 34th Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr at Hwy 1), to car-pool, We'll park in day use area of Upper Kananaskis Lake. Full day. Bring lunch, sun and insect protection, etc. Leaders, Stephen/Dorothy Spring, 403-238-0859, dorspring*@shaw.ca.

Tue Aug 9, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk, details TBA on website.

Sat Aug 13, 8:30am: Bird East of Calgary. Meet Carburn Park, S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs, to carpool. Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Tue Aug 16, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, Carburn Park/Ralph Klein Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet parking lot. If Ralph Klein Park is open in the evenings we will carpool there. Otherwise we will walk around Carburn Park. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Aug 20, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.



Wood Frog
© John McFaul



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

www.naturealberta.ca

Note:

Take out the *s that
have been added to
personal email
addresses.
This reduces spam.

**Nature Calgary
Contact Information**

naturecalgary*@*cfns.fanweb.ca

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

Memberships

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

Sat Aug 20, 8:30am: Bird Bearspaw area, meet W end of Royal Oak Shopping Centre on Country Hills Blvd NW; opposite Sleep Country to carpool. Leaders, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 and Ruth Gentry 403-454-0589.

Tue Aug 23, 6:30pm: Summer evening birding walk, details TBA on website.

Thu Sep 1, 7:30am: 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

Botany Alberta 2011 takes place June 17 - 19 at Cold Lake Provincial Park. Several fieldtrips into unique mineral springs, peat bogs, orchid fens, boreal eskers and intact balsam fir forests are planned as well as free time to explore. Sponsored by the Alberta Native Plant Council see www.anpc.ab.ca for more information and to register.

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park events: June 23, "Ethical Water: Learning to Value What Matters Most" by Robert Sandford. See <http://friendsoffishcreek.org>.

A new Alberta Bryophyte and Lichen Interest Group has been formed. New members are invited to join for excursions and workshops. Read more at <http://www.ablig.com/index.html>.

Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation have scheduled guided walks starting in May: www.grpf.ca or 403-265-5488.

Weaselhead Wednesday Walks: July 6, August 3, September 7 and October 1 from 7-9pm. Learn about the plants and animals that make the Weaselhead Natural Environment Area Calgary's most bio-diverse natural Area. Meet at the North parking lot located on the west side of the 66 Av & 37 St intersection at the picnic table on the west side of the lot (near the Weaselhead Sign). Contact Lisa Dahlseide Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society for more information 403-200-7111.

New titles from Lone Pine Publishing – copies of these books will be given away as door prizes at the Nature Calgary Banquet in November.

Wolves in Canada, by Erin McCloskey, is a primer on wolf biology, a history of wolves in Canada and an extensive overview of conservation activities. 208 pages, \$18.95. Features include:

- Wolf physiology, distribution, behaviour and interaction with other species
- Management programs for this endangered mammal
- The wolf in Native mythology
- The introduction of wolves from Canada into the U.S.
- Maps, illustrations and photos throughout.

Mammals in Canada, by Tamara Eder and Gregory Kennedy, celebrates the diversity of mammals across Canada. 448 pages, \$39.95. Features include:

- 188 species with details on habitat, food, young, den, range and similar species
- Colour-coded header bars and quick reference guide
- Range maps
- "Did you know" facts
- Detailed descriptions of our natural regions
- Tips on watching mammals
- Canada's top mammal-watching sites.

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

Deadline for the September issue is Friday August 12, 2011.