



Nature News

Volume 32, Number 7
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

June 2011

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

May 18: Natural Wonders of Southern Alberta, by Neil Jennings

General meetings will resume in September – see you then.



Great Horned Owllet, May 10, 2011
© Anne K. Elliott



Three-Flowered Avens (*Geum triflorum*)
© Suzanne Visser

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wednesday May 18, 7:30 pm: Exploring the Natural Wonders of Southern Alberta with Neil Jennings. Neil will take us on a fascinating journey of discovery to some of the beauty spots of southern Alberta including Waterton Lakes National Park, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, Dinosaur Provincial Park, the Whaleback, and a number of other special places. His presentation will be a great inspiration to explore these natural gems of Alberta this spring and summer.

*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

Nature Calgary Website: We are considering revisions to our website, www.naturecalgary.com. If you have any ideas or suggestions about what you'd like to see, please contact Jan Brigden or Linda Vaxvick (contact info on p.4) or Carol Hachey (403-230-9035).

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.

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"). Also see Alberta Invasive Plant Council www.invasiveplants.ab.ca for field guide. Forms and info: contact Linda Vaxvick (see p.4).

Calgary May Species Counts:

- Find the **Birds** within 80 km of Calgary **May 28 & 29**. Everyone is invited to participate, whether beginner or seasoned pro. New participants are especially welcome. Participation can be for both days, one day or a half day. For bird counts and routes/territories, contact Terry Poulton, 403-274-7393 (tpoulton*@yahoo.com).
- For **Flowering Plant** counts, contact Suzanne Visser, 403-288-0658 (svisser*@ucalgary.ca) for information and a plant checklist; note that plant observations made **May 25-31** are acceptable.

Whether you are a past volunteer or a new one, please contact the coordinator to confirm your availability.

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. Member price \$130 pp, non-members \$160, includes meals, two nights' accommodation. Stay at the church camp in Waterton National Park during flower season. Please contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 or andrewhart*@shaw.ca. Your reservation is confirmed when you send a cheque to Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4. Write "Waterton trip" on the envelope.

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

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

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

Updated Mon & Thu

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary has spring birding programs. See www.calgary.ca 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>.

Weaselhead Celebration Day, 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/>

Annual Nature Calgary Banquet – Save the date! **Saturday November 5, 2011** at 6 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion on Kensington Road NW. Easy access and parking are available there. For more information, or to volunteer to help make this event a success, call Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

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 page 1.

Banquet volunteers – see above.

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 in September – Tuesday evening field trips have started!

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 (remove *s).

Lots of news on Nature Calgary's **Bird Study pages:** www.birdcomp.fanweb.ca. Keen birders should check **Albertabird:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

Also see a **new blog, "Birds Calgary"**, by three Calgary birders with lots of photos: <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com>. Submissions by birders and photographers in the Calgary area are welcome.

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, and guidelines** - see http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html
- **Note:** Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

...May

Tue May 17, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk. Meet at **Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E end of 9 Av SE. Leaders, Sue & Russ Costello, 403-271-6853.

Wed May 18, 6:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun May 22, 7:15am: See endangered habitat of 17 At-Risk Species on Tax Recovery Lands in County of Vulcan and M.D. of Taber which may be lost if deal goes through. Meet either at 7:15am at Anderson LRT Station, Macleod Tr, S of pedestrian overpass, **or** at 8am at the gate to Frank Lake, S off Hwy 23, about 5 km E of High River. Potentially, a long day. Bring lunch, sun protection. Leader, Greg Wagner, 403-601-3893. For car-pooling from Calgary call 403-243-2248.

Mon May 23, 5:30am: Victoria Day. See 100+ species of birds within Calgary. Meet at Votier's Flats, FCPP. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Tue May 24, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk, **Lafarge Meadows, FCPP.** Meet at Boat Launch parking lot, S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Nimali Seneviratne, 403-265-8750.



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
(NOTE new website
address)
<http://www.adoptaplantalberta.com>

Calgary Science
Network
www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca
or ph: 403-771-4510

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

Alberta Native Plant
Council
www.anpc.ab.ca

Wed May 25, 6:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Fri May 27, 8am: See Yellow-bell, *Fritillaria pudica*, near Nanton at its most northern known site in Alberta. Meet at Fish Creek Public Library parking lot, Bonaventure Dr, just N of Anderson Rd SE. Leader, Anna Cairns. For info: 403-243-2248

Sat/Sun May 28/29: May Species Count: Find all the Birds/Plants in blossom within 80k of Calgary. For Bird territories, contact Terry Poulton, 403-274-7393, tpoulton*@yahoo.com. For Plants, contact Suzanne Visser, 403-288-0658, svisser*@ucalgary.ca. See page 1 for more information.

Tue May 31, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk. Meet at **boat launch on Heritage Drive SE. (Under Glenmore Trail on W side of Bow River)**. Leader, Andrew Hart (403) 279-5209.

...June

Wed 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.

Thu Jun 2, 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 4, 8:30am: Birding Hull's Wood, FCPP, turn left off Bow Bottom Tr SE shortly after entering park. Meet W end of parking lot. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Jun 5, 8am: Birding Marshall Springs to Votier's Flats area, FCPP. Meet at Marshall Springs parking lot on the S side of FCPP, just E of Sanderson Ridge condos, on N side of Fish Creek Blvd. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-270-4957.

Tue Jun 7, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk. **Meet Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Nimali Seneviratne, 403-265-8750.

Sat Jun 11, 3:30am: Dawn Chorus. Bring warm clothes. Meet parking lot, **Weaselhead** Natural Area. 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Tue Jun 14, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk. Meet in parking lot on 50 Av & 14A St SW. Walk to the **Glenmore Dam and into the Elbow River Valley** below. Leader, Jim St. Laurent, 403-246-6314.

Sat Jun 18, 12-3pm; Celebrate Weaselhead and Glenmore Park. See page 1

Tue Jun 21, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk, **Weaselhead Natural Area.** Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Phil Cram, 403228-4142.

Wed 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 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.

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

Tue Jun 28, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding walk, **Bowmont Park.** Meet at Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of 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.



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

Parks Canada Centennial events: May 19 marks the 100th anniversary of the world's first national park system, Parks Canada. Celebrate at The Banff Park Museum National Historic Site, and "Get to Know" the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains. Other events in Banff and Lake Louise: **July 1** pancake breakfasts; **July 17** Parks Day; **August 6** Nakoda Family Camp. More at <http://www.facebook.com/ParksCanada>.

Spring 2011 Naturalist Weekend at the U of Calgary Biogeoscience Institute. June 3-5 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 C; Dr. Ed Johnson, Director of the Biogeoscience Institute and John Swann, Manager of the Insect and Invertebrate Zoology Museum, U of C. Session topics are: Marco Musiani, "Ecological Functions of Wolves and Wavy Interpretations for Conservation Planning"; John Swann, "The Good, the Bad and the Bugly: New Discoveries and Faunistic Changes in True Bugs and Other Insects in K-Country"; Ed Johnson, "Forests". More info: Judy Buchanan-Mappin, ph. 403-220-5355; email: jmbuchan*@ucalgary.ca. (The fall naturalist weekend received excellent reviews from Nature Calgary members!).

Mayor's Environmental Expo June 7-9: workshops and exhibits aimed at young people, held in the new City Hall Atrium. Search for it on www.calgary.ca.

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park events: June 4, 11am – 4 pm, Creekfest at Glennfield Day Use Area. Speaker series (call 403- 238-3841 to register): **May 26**, "A Day in the Life of a Pronghorn" by Paul Jones; **June 23**, "Ethical Water: Learning to Value What Matters Most" by Robert Sandford. See <http://friendsoffishcreek.org>.

Advanced Vascular Plant ID Workshop – Saturday June 11, 9 am to 4 pm at Devonian Botanic Garden. Organized by the Northern Plant Diversity Centre Presenter: Joyce Gould. Registration through the Devonian Botanic Garden via email: DBGeducation@ales.ualberta.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council: Botany Alberta June 18-20 in Cold Lake, Alberta. See www.anpc.ab.ca for more information.

Calgary Parks news: A new volunteer opportunity for **Parks Interpreters:** these volunteers will help Calgarians to become eco-literate, good stewards of the land, and active participants in the sustaining 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

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

Alberta Nature Guide, by Krista Kagume and Gregory Kennedy, newly published by Lone Pine. This book shows how to identify nearly 400 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and ferns, and includes colour illustrations of each species, native uses of plants, and colour maps. This would be a handy book for a beginning naturalist. There is also a 46-page introduction that describes the ecoregions of Alberta and species you might find in each. Eighty top wildlife viewing sites are shown on a map and several representative areas that offer a broad range of habitats are described more fully. Local nature groups (including Nature Calgary) are mentioned in these descriptions as well as a list of provincial nature organizations.

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 2011 issue is Friday June 10, 2011.