



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

May 2011

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

April 20: Paddling the Milk River, by Joel Duncan

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



Mountain Bluebird,
April 10 2011
© Anne K. Elliott

Nature Calgary General Meetings

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.

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

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.

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, 1 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, 2011. Member price \$130 pp, non-members \$160, includes meals. 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.



Mountain Shooting Star
(*Dodecatheon conjugens*)
© Anne K. Elliott

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

Meetings are held 1st Saturday of each month by the **Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group** <http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

Alberta Native Plant Council
www.anpc.ab.ca

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?

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 to promote Nature Calgary.

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

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group:

Wed, May 4, 2011: Birding off the Beaten Track in Calgary, presented by Terry Poulton, Phil Cram, Frank Hennessy, Rob Worona, and Bernie Diebolt.

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).

Keen birders should check Albertabird for latest sightings. See

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>. Also see a new blog "Birds Calgary" with lots of photos: <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com>

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.

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.

...April

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, Gus Yaki. 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 Gnds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Mon Apr 19, 9am: Daily until end of April: Observe Trumpeter Swans with Dr. Len Hills on his daily research rounds. Meet at Petro-Canada Station, Hwys 1 & 22, S of Cochrane. If staying for full day, bring lunch. Call 403-932-2480 to register.

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 & Weasel-head. 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 to Tuscany Way. Turn S (left) and go 1.9km. Road becomes Tuscany Ravine Rd. Park under power line. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

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>

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

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, John McFaul 403-289-9517.

...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.

Sun May 1, 2pm: Nature of Votier's Flats, FCPP. Meet in parking lot, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

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.

Wed May 4, 6:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun May 8, 8am: Visit Frank Lake to look at the birds – and the insects that support them! Learn the reason for the varied birdlife – and the diverse aquatic invertebrates that the lake supports. Meet either at 8 am at Anderson LRT Station, Macleod Tr., S of pedestrian overpass, **or** at 8:45am at the gate to Frank Lake, S off Hwy 23, about 5 km E of High River. Bring lunch. Leaders, aquatic specialist, Danita Mazlankowski, 403-771-2461 and Greg Wagner, 403-601-3893.

Wed May 11, 6:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Wed May 11: 6:30pm: International Day of Biodiversity. In celebration of Biodiversity. **Weaselhead** Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St /66Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

**** new date and time Sun May 15, 9am: See hundreds of Whimbrels (over 1500 seen 2010) & other shorebirds migrating through the Taber area.** (Read Nature Alberta, Spring 2007, Vol.37, #1, pp 19-23). Four motels in Taber if staying overnight. Local Leader, Lloyd Bennett, Taber, 403-223-0456, lloydaben*@hotmail.com. Directions to Lloyd's place: From Taber, go 4 miles E on Hwy 3. Go N at the big green Viterra (formerly Agricore) building for 3.5 miles (exactly ½ mile past the second intersection). Lloyd's house is on the E, over 200 m from the road. There is a round slough on the W side of the road & a blue sign - 104043, Range Road 160. Meet at his place at 10am. For carpooling from Calgary, call 403-243-2248.

Sun May 15, 8:30am: Bird Hull's Woods and Lafarge Meadows, FCPP. Meet Hull's Woods parking lot off Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

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.

Wed May 25, 6:30am: Early morning birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9



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

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.

Of General Interest

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.

Adopt-a-Plant Alberta Workshop May 7, 9:30am to 4:00pm, U of C Biological Sciences Bldg Rm BS13. RSVP to facilitator Leslie Monetleone by Apr 29 at leslie@adoptaplantalberta.com. Spring training workshop for volunteers: planning access, survey techniques, data collection, GPS and navigation, plant id.

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 John Swann, Manager of the Insect and Invertebrate Zoology Museum, U of Calgary. 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!).

2011 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.

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 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

Parks Canada Centennial events: May 19, 2011, 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 1st pancake breakfasts; July 17 Parks Day; August 6 Nakoda Family Camp. More at <http://www.facebook.com/ParksCanada>.

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 June 2011 issue is Friday May 17, 2011.