



# Nature News

Volume 37, Number 6  
<http://naturecalgary.com>

**Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)**  
**President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209**

**May 2016**  
**email: [president@naturecalgary.com](mailto:president@naturecalgary.com)**



Mountain Bluebird  
©Anne K Elliott



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Caltha palustris (Marsh Marigold) ©Charlie Bird

Members with no Internet access may contact Linda at 403-239-9434 to get printed copies of some items.

## Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

**Tuesday Apr 19: Waterton Wild: The Flora and Fauna of a Special Place, presented by Ian Wilson and Jacinthe Lavoie.** Enjoy a prelude to summer and a photographic tour of a special place, with a multimedia presentation featuring the wild creatures, wildflowers, and majestic scenery of Waterton National Park, from bears to Beargrass, birds to butterflies, and open meadows to mountain panoramas.

**Wednesday, May 18: **\*\*NOTE SPECIAL DATE\*\***: The Great Divide Trail, presented by Kathy Platcha and Geoff Ellwand.** The GDT traverses the continental divide between Alberta and BC for over 1200 km, and is 50 years old in 2016. Enjoy some of its spectacular scenery and learn more about this "crazy idea"!

*Speaker meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from September to May, at 7:30pm, at **Cardel Theatre** (180 Quarry Park Blvd SE), and are open to all. To suggest a speaker contact John McFaul at 403-289-9517 or [info@naturecalgary.com](mailto:info@naturecalgary.com).*

*The Theatre is made available to non-profit organizations at very low cost by Cardel Foundations. Please show your appreciation by bringing donations of non-perishable food for the Calgary Food Bank.*

*Directions: On Deerfoot Tr, take the EAST Glenmore Tr exit. After you cross the Bow River, take the next exit (18 St. SE) and head south. At the 5th intersection, turn left onto Quarry Park Blvd SE, and then left again into the parking lot for CARDEL. Cardel Theatre map at <http://cardeltheatre.com>*

## Issues, Events and Updates

**Annual Bus Trip – Online bookings now available.** On **Saturday June 4** the Annual Bus Trip will visit **Ellis Bird Farm** and **JJ Collett Provincial Natural Area**. Join Nature Calgary members and friends as we visit these two fabulous destinations north of Calgary. Ellis Bird Farm is both a working farm and a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and other native cavity-nesting birds. Myrna Pearman will give a short talk about the history of **EBF** then take us on a walk. Keep your fingers crossed that the resident owlets will still be in their nest. Weather permitting, Alisha Ritchie, resident grad student, will then give a presentation about her geolocator research.

Bring your lunch, or pre-pay for lunch at the **Ellis Café** (call 1-403-885-4477 or [email EBF](mailto:emailEBF)). Meal costs are the responsibility of participants.

After a 30-min bus ride, a local expert, Dr Charlie Bird, will accompany our group at **JJ Collett**, a natural area of 635 acres of Aspen Parkland underlain by ancient sand dunes. Trails wind through a mosaic of aspen, spruce, wetlands, and meadows. There is a visitor centre, gazebo and washroom at the parking area, and we will explore #1 trail with Dr Bird.

Bring your camera, binoculars, sunhat, walking shoes, water, and bagged lunch (if desired). Bus leaves Deerfoot Mall parking lot at 8:00 am sharp. Leaves EBF at 12:30pm and JJC by 3:30pm, arriving back at Deerfoot by 5:30pm.

Bus cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for non-members. Pay Leslie Nicholls, Bus Trip Coordinator at the April or May Nature Calgary meetings (cheque or cash), online, or by mailing a cheque to Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4 (write "Bus Trip" on the envelope).. Payment required **by May 15**. More details and online bookings on [website](http://naturecalgary.com). Please contact Leslie at [secretary@naturecalgary.com](mailto:secretary@naturecalgary.com) with any questions.



From Carthew pass  
©Andrew Hart

For latest sightings, check

**Albertabird**

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

**BirdTrax**

[https://sites.google.com/site/birdtrax/](https://sites.google.com/site/birdtrax/birdtrax/)

**Rare Bird Alert:**

Report rare bird reports to  
Bird Alert Compiler,  
Terry Korolyk at  
403-254-1878

Note: Remove the \*s in  
email addresses. They are  
used to discourage spam.



Great Gray Owllet  
©Dave Vernon

Nature Calgary is run  
entirely by volunteers!

**Opportunities:**

[Get Involved page](#)

**Thanks:**

[Volunteer Recognition  
page](#)

**Waterton Weekend: July 8-10.** Stay in Waterton National Park during flower season, one of the most delightful times of year in Alberta. Participants organize outings among themselves, depending on their interests and abilities. Families are welcome. Cost is only \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members, for two nights' rustic accommodation and meals. **Book by June 30.** You may [book online here](#). Or you may book the old-fashioned way by: contacting Andrew Hart at [president@naturecalgary.com](mailto:president@naturecalgary.com) and sending a cheque to Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4 (write "Waterton Trip" on the envelope).

## Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

**May 4: Streakers, Skulkers, and Loners: Moving beyond "little brown job" in sparrow identification,** by Dr Scott Lovell, assistant professor of Biology at St. Mary's University, Calgary. Dr Lovell will give an overview of sparrow identification, focusing on local species in the province. He will show that using morphological, behavioural, and ecological cues, makes most species readily identifiable.

*Bird Study Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, in Room 211, Biosciences Bldg, U of C. Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or [birdstudy@naturecalgary.com](mailto:birdstudy@naturecalgary.com).*

**Birds & Beers:** Mark your calendar for another Bird & Beers night in 2016: **Apr 29** at the Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Rd SW.

**Pelagic Birding Trip Sep 18, 2016:** Edmonton Nature Club is organizing a pelagic trip from Ucluelet BC, on the MV Frances Barkley. Cost \$200, subject to change. Ticket purchase is now open to the public, and the trip is expected to fill quickly. [More information and ticket purchase.](#)

**Calgary May Species Count (birds):** The count goes **May 28-29:** Calgary birders have been out in force every May since 1979, contributing to a broad census of the constantly changing patterns of bird distributions in North America. Last year we found 212 species. We need birders of **all levels of experience**, from team leaders who will be responsible for reporting on each area, through intermediate levels to beginners. Beginners will be put into groups with experienced birders, so don't worry! We may also limit the number of participants per count area, to ensure that we have all areas (especially within the city) covered. We ask that reports be submitted via **eBird or Excel spreadsheet** if possible as it helps to reduce error rate and facilitate reporting. Most of the areas involve driving, with some walking routes. **Please sign up as early as possible.** Contact Melanie Seneviratne at [melaniesene\\*.\\*@gmail.com](mailto:melaniesene*.*@gmail.com), or 403-815-1275.

**Brooks May Species Count May 20-22, and Milk River/Writing-on-Stone count May 27-29:** For camping at Tillebrook or WOS, go to the [Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca](http://Reserve.AlbertaParks.ca) website or call them at 1-877-537-2757. Edmonton Nature Club reserved some spaces at Tillebrook May 20-22, so ask for them. Contact Bob Parsons at [vintagebob2\\*.\\*@gmail.com](mailto:vintagebob2*.*@gmail.com) for more information.

**Crowsnest Pass Count May 25-26:** contact Pat Lucas by [email](#).

## Volunteer News and Opportunities

**Our Volunteer Coordinators:** For the following opportunities, please contact Ian Ross ([volunteers\\*.\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:volunteers*.*@naturecalgary.com) or 403-246-4213) for general inquiries; and Melanie Seneviratne ([melaniesene\\*.\\*@gmail.com](mailto:melaniesene*.*@gmail.com) or 403-815-1275) to volunteer at an event.

- **Fish Creek PP Spring Star Night:** Nature Calgary has been invited to participate in Star Night at Fish Creek Prov Park on **Sat April 16, 7-10pm**. Participants at previous Star Nights have had a great time, not only representing Nature Calgary, but being able to utilize telescopes and view other displays and presentations.
- **Nature Walk:** O.S. Geiger Elementary School has requested that Nature Calgary provide guides for their grade 1 students in **May** somewhere in FCPP. The walks will take place between 9am and 2pm but date has not been fixed. [We'll post it here](#) when we find out.



Early Cinquefoil (*Potentilla concinna*) ©Linda Vaxvick

### Field trips are free and open to all.

Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

Want to suggest or lead a trip? Contact Ian at [fieldtrips\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com)

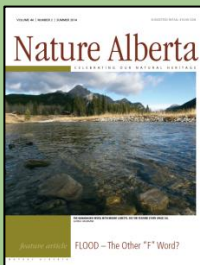
### New trips and updates:

<http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>. **Check often!**

### Leaders of Field Trips:

1) The new waiver form has a column for eBird users. Please **download the new waiver form** for all future trips, and share the list of birds seen after you input your list on eBird.

2) Please turn in signed **waiver forms** to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or at General and Bird Study meeting welcome tables.



Nature Calgary members can subscribe to Nature Alberta (quarterly magazine) for a reduced rate.

- **Publicity at IBS:** Inglewood Bird Sanctuary has requested that Nature Calgary have a table at their **International Migratory Bird Day** event, **May 8**, 11am and 3pm. Lunch provided.
- **Newsletter Co-editor:** We publish a 4-page newsletter 8 times per year. Each issue takes 4-6 hours of work using Microsoft Word.
- **Website Coordinator:** An assistant for this role is needed. The main tools used are WordPress and MailChimp, but we dabble in Dropbox, HTML, Flickr, Google Maps, PayPal, SurveyMonkey, Facebook, and others, and work with a contractor/web-host. Anyone with basic website skills can learn the tools they are not familiar with. We don't code except for a bit of HTML. This role could provide experience for an IT person between jobs.

## Nature Calgary Field Trips

**Sat Apr 9, 9:00 am: Birding for Beginners at Carburn Park.** With no leaves on the trees, and birds in flocks, now is a great time to learn about birds. From Glenmore Tr, go S at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn R, follow signs. Meet in parking lot. Families welcome. Leaders Stephen/Dorothy Spring, 403-238-0859.

**Sat Apr 16, 9:30am: Bird Calgary and area for gulls, shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, songbirds.** Trip will go until 3:30-4:00 P.M. Meet at North Glenmore Park Parking Lot C, the large one immediately west of the Point at the Rowing Club. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

**Sun Apr 17, 9:00 am: East of Calgary** (destination to be determined): Meet at Carburn Park. From Glenmore Trail, go S at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right & follow signs to Park. Meet in parking lot. Bring lunch. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

**Fri Apr 22, 10:00am: Earth Day walk on Nose Hill,** prime target species will be the Prairie Crocus. Meet at the 64<sup>th</sup> Ave and 14 Street NW entrance to Nose Hill. Walk will be 1 ½ to 2 hours in length. Leader John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

**Sat Apr 23, 8:30am: Bird North Glenmore Park.** Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403- 249-5997.

**Sat Apr 23, 9:00 am: Bird Inglewood Sanctuary.** The Sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE. From Deerfoot Trail, take Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St. SE, then turn left from this onto 9 Ave. Leader: Janet Gill, 403- 831-7828. Beginners welcome.

**Sun Apr 24, 9:00 am: Bird Frank Lake and area.** Meet at Anderson LRT station, S of pedestrian overpass for car-pooling. Bring lunch. Leader Tony Timmons, 403- 256-0754.

**Sat Apr 30, 8:30am: Bird North Glenmore Park.** Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403- 249-5997

**Sun May 1, 7:00 am: 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 leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

**Tue May 3, 6:30pm: First Tuesday evening walk of 2016. Bird Pearce Estates Park (Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery).** 1440 17A St SE, N off Blackfoot Trail. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

**Sun May 8, 8:30am: Bird Carburn Park.** Access is S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet in parking lot. Leader Sue Konopnicki, 403-283-0139.

**Tue May 10, 6:30pm: Birding Inglewood Sanctuary.** The Sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE (From Deerfoot Trail, take Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St. SE, then turn left from this onto 9 Ave.) Leader: Janet Gill, 403-831-7828. Beginners welcome.

**Sat May 14, 9:00am: International Migratory Bird Day. Bird Lafarge Meadows FCPP.** Meet at the boat launch, end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader Melanie Seneviratne, 403-815-1275.

**Sun May 15, 8:30am: Bird Frank Lake and Area.** Meet at Anderson LRT station (MacLeod Tr.), S of pedestrian overpass for car-pooling. At the meeting location, we may decide to change the destination(s). Return by 3:30pm. Bring lunch. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

**Thu May 19, 6:30PM: Meadowlark Meander to Confluence Park.** Meet at the parking lot just north of the intersection of Beddington Tr and Beddington Blvd. NE. Leader John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

**Sat May 21, 7:00am: Birds of B. Castell's yard,** S. of Priddis. See 20+ species, including close-ups of Evening Grosbeaks, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, etc. Half-day trip. May also visit Brown-Lowery Prov. Park for Calypso Orchids. Meet at Anderson LRT Stn, S of pedestrian walkway, next to Macleod Road for carpooling. Leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.



**Nature Calgary members receive a 10% discount** (with membership card) at **The Wild Bird Store** D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632  
**Fairplay Stores** 2604 Kensington Road Northwest 403-283-2117

#### Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.

Family \$25.00/yr.

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or [membership@naturecalgary.com](mailto:membership@naturecalgary.com)

**Join or renew online**  
<http://naturecalgary.com>



**All are welcome at the NABS conference July 8-10 at Ellis Bird Farm. Theme is "Unlocking the Mysteries of Bird Migration"**

Nature Calgary publishes

**Nature News** 8 times per year.

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[naturecalgary.com](http://naturecalgary.com) or phone 403-239-9434.

Mailing address: Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4

**Deadline for the next Nature News issue is Friday May 6, 2016**

**Mon May 23, (Victoria Day) 7:30am: Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA).** Go 1.6 km west of the City limit on Hwy 22X, then turn left onto 160th St, drive 1.6 km. Meet at the parking lot. \$2 at sign-in required. Register in advance with Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or [jamesbrydle\\*@shaw.ca](mailto:jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca). Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, rain gear.

**Tue May 24, 6:30pm: Evening bird walk, Mallard Point.** Meet parking lot east end of Canyon Meadows Dr. SE. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Fri May 27, 9:30am: Flora & Fauna, Waiparous area, Ghost River Watershed.** To get there, take Hwy 1A (Crowchild Tr), 14km past Hwy 22 at Cochrane, then right (North) onto Hwy 40. Go 14 km to Benchlands. Meet on Furthur Rd, 1st on left past Benchlands Firehall. Leaders Heinz Unger and Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

**May 28/29 Calgary Area May Species count weekend- see p.2.**

**Sat May 28, 8:30am: Bird North Glenmore Park.** Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403- 249-5997.

**Wed June 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 leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

**Tue Jun 7, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk. Weaselhead Natural Area,** meet in parking lot, 37th St & 66 Av SW. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Sun Jun 12, 3:30am: 17th Annual Dawn Chorus.** Meet Weaselhead Natural Area parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Wear warm clothes. We'll walk across the valley and up the S side, then return. Have recorded up to 75 species birds/mammals on previous trips. Leader, Gus Yaki-403-243-2248.

**Tue Jun 14, 6:30pm: Birding Inglewood Sanctuary.** The Sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE (From Deerfoot Trail, take Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St. SE, then turn left from this onto 9 Ave.) Leader Janet Gill, 403- 831-7828. Beginners welcome.

**Fri Jun 17, 9:30am: Flora & Fauna, Meadow Creek area, Ghost River Watershed.** To get there, take Hwy 1A (Crowchild Tr), 14km past Hwy 22 at Cochrane, then right (North) onto Hwy 40. Go 14km to Benchlands. Meet on Furthur Rd, 1st on left past Benchlands Firehall. Leaders Heinz Unger and Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

**Sat Jun 25, 8:30am: Bird North Glenmore Park.** Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403- 249-5997.

**Sun Jun 26, 9:30am: 8th Annual Flora & Fauna Fundraising for Ghost River Watershed Outing,** followed by BBQ-\$10 suggested donation. To get there, take Hwy 1A (Crowchild Tr), 14km past Hwy 22 at Cochrane, then right (North) onto Hwy 40. Go 14 km to Benchlands. Meet on Furthur Rd, 1st on left past Benchlands Firehall. Leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

## General Interest

**AWA talks**, all 7:00pm at 455-12 St NW, Calgary. **Registration \$5.** **Apr 12**, Residential Black Bear Monitoring in Crowsnest, by John Clarke and Christy Pool. **May 10**, Flood Management in High River, by Eva Bogdan.

**Friends of Fish Creek Star Night Apr 16**, 7-10 pm at Shannon Terrace: Free family event to use telescopes and learn about night creatures. Bring flashlight covered with red tissue paper.

**Alberta Native Plant Council: Workshop and AGM 2016 in Stettler, AB, Apr 30-May 1.** Talks on Rare Plant Conservation and outing to NCC Hayes property.

**Friends of Fish Creek Speaker Series**, 7:00pm at Shannon Terrace. Free for members, \$5 non-members. 403-238-3841. **May 25:** Journey through the Mountains and Meadows of Kananaskis, by John McFaul.

**Guided tour of native grasslands on Milk River Ridge:** [Lethbridge Horticulture Society](http://Lethbridge Horticulture Society) offers this tour **Jun 18** as part of [Garden Days](http://Garden Days). Ph 403- 380 3809 or [lethbridgehortsociety\\*@yahoo.ca](mailto:lethbridgehortsociety*@yahoo.ca)

U of C Active Living offers a lodge-based **Canoe and Birding Tour** of McLennan Lakes in northern SK. Two tours, Jun 19-25 and Sep 11-17. [Information and bookings](http://Information and bookings)

**North American Bluebird Society** is holding their [annual conference](http://annual conference) at Ellis Bird Farm, July 8-10.

**Nature Alberta Photo Contest 2016**, free, great prizes. Deadlines Jun 30 and Sep 30.