



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>



Yellow Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) ©Stephen Spring



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Western Grebe

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

July-August 2016

email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tues Sep 20: Topic TBA

Speaker meetings will be held on the 3rd 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.

Issues, Events and Updates

School Grants: If you know of a school in Calgary who could use financial assistance for a field trip that takes the students into the natural environment, please have them look at our [Nature Calgary Grant page](http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/), <http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/>.

Annual Bus Trip on June 4 to Ellis Bird Farm and JJ Collett Natural Area was a great day with 66 Nature Calgary participants. Thanks to organizer Leslie Nicholls and helpers Sue Konopnicki, Val Pritchard, Linda Vaxvick, Lorne Kingwell, and Joey Stewart. Also, a special thanks to Myrna Pearman, Alisha Ritchie, the staff of the Ellis Bird Farm and Café, and Dr Charlie Bird and Kelly Bell of JJ Collett Natural Area, who all made our trip informative and fun. See p.4 for photos.

Waterton Weekend: July 8-10. Stay in Waterton National Park during flower season. 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 by contacting Andrew Hart at president*@naturecalgary.com and sending a cheque to our PO box (see p.4). Please write "Waterton Trip" on the envelope.

Community Natural Foods (6120 1A Street SW) has chosen Nature Calgary to receive funds through their reusable bag credit program during July. Shoppers get a token for each reusable bag, which they can deposit in one of three boxes for various charities. CNF's Change for the Earth program donates 5¢ per token to the charity. Thanks to CNF!

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Bird Study Group has finished its season of meetings, till September.

Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or [birdstudy@naturecalgary.com](mailto:birdstudy*@naturecalgary.com).*

WildResearch Nightjar Survey: WildResearch is seeking volunteers to survey for nightjars across Alberta. Due to their nocturnal habits, little is known about Common Nighthawk and Common Poorwill populations and there is concern that they are declining. Help us learn more. Signing up for a WildResearch Nightjar Survey route will require two to three hours of surveying and one hour of data entry. Each route needs to be surveyed **once between June 15 and July 15**. Go to www.nightjar.ca to sign up.

Western Grebe sightings: The western grebe has been listed as a Threatened species in Alberta. However, data is sparse and outdated. Birders are asked to help by sending Western Grebe sighting information on Alberta lakes to Dave.Prescott*@gov.ab.ca (even if no birds are seen). [More information on survey methods and list of candidate lakes.](#)

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped guide elementary school pupils for a nature walk in Bebo Grove on June 2.

Volunteer Opportunities: Please contact volunteers*@naturecalgary.com for general inquiries; and Melanie Seneviratne (melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275) to volunteer for the following:

- **Newsletter Co-editor:** We publish a 4-page newsletter 8 times per year. Each issue takes 4-6 hours of work using Microsoft Word. A co-editor to share the work is needed.
- **Website Coordinator:** A replacement for this role will be needed by **Oct 2016**. The main tools used are WordPress and MailChimp, but we dabble in Dropbox, HTML, Flickr, Google Maps, PayPal, Facebook, and HTML, and work with a contractor/web-host. This role could provide experience for an IT person between jobs or recently retired.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

More field trip leaders are needed for summer Tuesday evening bird outings (6:30pm to 9:00pm). Please contact Ian at fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com if you can help. You don't have to be an expert, just know of a good place to bird, and be willing to coordinate people.

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 June, 18, 5:30 am: Calgary Region Big Day. Registration required. All-day trip (into the evening) to find 125+ species in the Calgary 80-km circle. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent. We will be car-pooling from the Crowfoot LRT station, and will try to arrange for some participants to return early if needed. Please call the leaders for details and to register. Leaders Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556, Andrew Hart, 403 279-5209, Rose Painter.

Tues Jun 21, 6:30pm: Bird Carburn Park: Carburn Park 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, 403-918-6637.

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.

Sat Jun 25, 8:00am: Bird Brown-Lowery Prov. Park. Meet at Anderson LRT Station (off Macleod Tr.), S of pedestrian overpass, for carpooling. Bring lunch. Expected return to Calgary late afternoon. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

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.

Thu Jun 30, 6:30pm: Tour of Don Stiles' Red Deer Lake nestbox trail SW of Calgary. See young Mountain Bluebirds and/or Tree Swallows in the nest. There will be opportunities to watch for other bird species and flowering plants. Meet at the Anderson LRT station, next to Macleod Trail just S of pedestrian overpass. Leader, Don Stiles, 403-271-4689.

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

Sun Jul 3, 8:30am: Nature Walk in Bow Valley Provincial Park. An easy walk at Many Springs, for wildflowers and birds. Meet at Fish Creek Library, 1161 Bonaventure Drive SE (corner of Anderson Rd and Bonaventure Dr). Bring lunch, drinks, insect repellent, etc. Leaders, Stephen/Dorothy Spring, 403-238-0859 or 403-519-2266, dorspring*@shaw.ca

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!

Opportunities:
[Get Involved page](#)

Thanks:
[Volunteer Recognition page](#)



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

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

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

Rare Bird Alert:

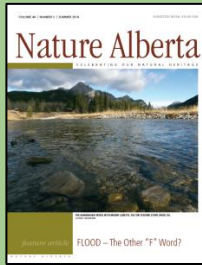
Report rare bird reports to Bird Alert Compiler, Terry Korolyk at 403-254-1878

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.

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

Tue Jul 12, 6:30pm: Birding Walk at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE. From the Deerfoot Trail, take the Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St. SE, turn left onto 9 Ave. SE. & drive approx. 1 km east, turn right into parking area. Meet in the parking lot. Leader, Janet Gill, 403-831-7828. **Beginners Welcome.**

Sat Jul 16, 9:30am: Clear Lake and Pine Coulee Reservoir in the Stavelly area for large numbers of waterfowl and others. A good chance for rarities or unusual birds. Meet at the main parking lot just off Bannister Road in the Glenfield area of Fish Creek PP in Calgary. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Jul 23, 7:30am: Bird at the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Go 1.6 km. west of the City limit on Hwy 22X, turn left onto 160th St for another 1.6 km. Meet at the parking lot. \$2 required at sign-in. Register in advance by contacting leader Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray and rain gear.

Sun Jul 24, 7:30am: Bird at Bow Valley Prov Park. Expect to walk 10-12 km. Bring lunch. Meet Assumption School, NW corner of 34 Av NW & Sarcee Tr. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Jul 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.

Mon Aug 1, (Heritage Day), 7:00am: 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.

Sat Aug 13, 8:30am: Bird the Kananaskis Field Station area. Meet at Assumption School parking lot, 34 Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Trail at Hwy 1). Bring lunch, water, bug spray, etc. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

Sat Aug 20, 8:30am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary for fall migrants. The Sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE. From the Deerfoot Trail, take the Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St. SE, turn left onto 9 Ave. SE. & drive approx. 1 km east, turn right into parking area. Meet in the parking lot. Leader, Janet Gill, 403-831-7828. **Beginners Welcome.**

Tue Aug 23, 6:30pm: Birding Walk at Confluence Park, NE Calgary. Take Deerfoot Tr to Beddington Tr/11 St NE exit, follow Beddington Tr west to Beddington Blvd (1st set of lights), turn right into parking area. Meet in parking lot. Leaders, Bernie Diebolt 403-975-0665, Janet Gill, 403-831-7828. **Beginners Welcome.**

Sat Aug 27, 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, Aug 28, 9:30am: East side of Fish Creek Prov Park and possibly other Parks in Calgary for migrating songbirds, accipiters, and, other birds. Meet at the main parking lot in the Glennfield area just off Bannister Rd. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Tues Aug 30, 6:30pm: Bird Carburn Park: Carburn Park 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, 403-918-6637

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

General Interest

Guided tour of native grasslands on Milk River Ridge: Lethbridge Horticulture Society offers this tour **June 18** as part of Garden Days. Ph 403-380-3809 or lethbridgehortsociety*@yahoo.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council: Botany Alberta, June 24-26 at Ft. Assiniboine Prov Park and Clyde Fen. See www.anpc.ab.ca for details.



North American Bluebird Society is holding their annual conference at Ellis Bird Farm, **July 8-10**. All are welcome. Theme is **“Unlocking the Mysteries of Bird Migration”**.

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

Great Canadian Bumble Bee Count, June 1-July 15. Take and send photos of bumble bees. Information and registration

Pronghorn Corridor Enhancement Project (Antelope Fencing): Volunteers organized by Alberta Fish & Game Assoc will be modifying fences to allow pronghorns to pass easily on their migrations. Pronghorns don't jump fences like deer do! Dates are **July 16-17** near Seven Persons, **Aug 6-7** near Patricia, and **Sep 24-25** near Milk River. If you are interested in participating in one or all of these projects, please contact T.J. Schwanky at tj-afga*@shaw.ca or 403-932-3585. It's a great opportunity to have some fun, meet some new friends and to really make a difference for pronghorn in Alberta. More information

Friends of Fish Creek: Parks Day and Creekfest, Sun July 17 with family activities. FFCPPS offers at least 10 walking and mini-bus tours through the summer for a small fee or donation. Their Photo Contest closes **Aug 15**.

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.

Family \$25.00/yr.

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or membership@naturecalgary.com

Join or renew online

<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to: newsletter@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 Aug 12, 2016

Gallery

Some photos from the June 4 bus trip.



Great Horned Owllet, ©Jean Kensit



Dr Bird (left) with our group at JJ Collett Natural Area © L.L.Vaxvick



Purple Martin pair ©L. Vaxvick



Myrna Pearman leading tour at EBF ©L.L.Vaxvick



Tree Swallow ©Pam Hawkes