



Nature News

Volume 37, Number 7
<http://naturecalgary.com>



Osprey ©Kevin Stanwood



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

For latest sightings, check

Albertabird

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

BirdTrax

<https://sites.google.com/site/birdtrax/birdtrax>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

June 2016

email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

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 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.

*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

School Grants: Congratulations to three more schools in Calgary who have taken advantage of Nature Calgary's Grants for getting students out into nature. The schools that will receive the funding are: Ascension of Our Lord – Riverwatch Program; FE Osborne – field trip to Kananaskis Country and Headwaters of the Elbow River; Alex Munro – field trip to the Chinook Honey Company to complement their study of native insect pollinators. If you know of a school in Calgary who could use assistance for a field trip that takes the students into the natural environment, please have them look at our [Nature Calgary Grant page](#).

Annual Bus Trip: is fully booked, with a wait list. On June 4 the Annual Bus Trip will visit **Ellis Bird Farm and JJ Collett Provincial Natural Area**. Please contact Leslie Nicholls at secretary@naturecalgary.com with any questions.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Barn Swallow ©Anne Belton

Nature Calgary is run
entirely by volunteers!

Opportunities:
[Get Involved page](#)

Thanks:
[Volunteer Recognition
page](#)



Beaverhill Bird Observatory is accepting applications till May 15 for a **Young Ornithologists' Workshop** Jul 31-Aug 6. Students aged 15-18 will learn bird banding and identification skills from experienced bird banders at our banding station. Instruction, tours, tent accommodation and food provided. [Contact for more information](#)

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, 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 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 for more information.

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

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.](#)

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped promote Nature Calgary at the Calgary Horticultural Garden Show, the Climb for Wilderness, and International Migratory Bird Day, as well as leading walks with the Junior Forest Wardens. We had great coverage and exposure. Lots of people were interested in learning about birds in their backyard, nature as well as Nature Calgary in general. Keep spreading the word with like-minded people, and promoting Nature Calgary!

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:

- **Nature Walk:** Want to help kids learn about nature? O.S. Geiger Elementary School has requested that Nature Calgary provide guides for their students on **June 2, 10am-1pm** in FCPP's Bebo Grove.
- **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:** 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. 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 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.

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!**

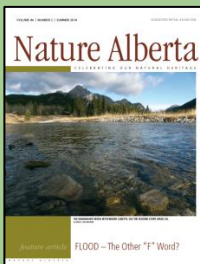
Leaders of Field Trips:

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.



Western Meadowlark
©Stephen Spring



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

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.

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. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, rain gear.

Mon May 23, Victoria Day, 5:30 am: Annual Nature Calgary Big Day. See over 100 species at various locations within the city limits. Meet at Votier's Flats, south end of Elbow Drive SW. We will car-pool for those who are staying the whole day (until evening). Bring lunch. Leaders: Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556, Rose Painter.

Tue May 24, 6:30pm: Evening bird walk, Mallard Point. Meet parking lot at 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.

Sat Jun 4; 9:30am; Bird Calgary and area to look for late Spring birds and others. A chance for Sabine's Gull. Meet at the large Parking Lot in Glenfield in east Fish Creek PP. Trip will go until 3:30-4:00. Bring lunch. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

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.

Sat Jun 11: Medicine Wheel & surrounding area of SE Alberta. Full day trip to explore the prairies of south eastern Alberta with destination of the Majorville Medicine Wheel. Greg Wagner has graciously agreed to lead a trip to this very special area to enable birders to see this area, with respect to be given to the birds and wildlife, since it houses many endangered or at risk species. Participants must be members of Nature Calgary, limit to 20 participants, 5 cars - first come first serve. Car-pooling will be arranged for those who are not driving. Participants must register through Melanie and advise if they will be driving and if there are any other people that will be in their vehicle. Time and location will be provided at time of registration. Contact Melanie Seneviratne. melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275.

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.

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

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 Monday June 13, 2016

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.

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.

General Interest

AWA talks, all 7:00pm at 455-12 St NW, Calgary. Registration \$5. **May 10**, Flood Management in High River, by Eva Bogdan.

Friends of Fish Creek Speaker Series, 7:00pm at Shannon Terrace. Free for members, \$5 non-members. 403-238-3841. **May 19:** Living without Limits, by Dr Ross Watson, retired head of Wm Watson Lodge. **May 25:** Journey through the Mountains and Meadows of Kananaskis, by John McFaul.

Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (Lesser Slave Lake). Annual Songbird Festival May 28-29. Guided walks, kid's activities, workshops. Details on [Website](#) or call 780-849-8240.

Alberta Native Plant Council: Outings in SW Alberta **June 4 and 11**, also **Botany Alberta, June 24-26** at Ft. Assiniboine Prov Park and Clyde Fen. See www.anpc.ab.ca for details.

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

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**.