



Nature News

Volume 38, Number 7
<http://naturecalgary.com>



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Calypso bulbosa var. americanus
©Jeff Thompson

Member discounts: Our thanks go to **Golden Acre Home & Garden** (620 Goddard Ave NE) which now offers a 15% discount to NC members with a current membership card.

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

June 2017

email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tues May 16, 7:30pm: Nature Calgary at Waterton National Park. Presented by Andrew Hart, past president of Nature Calgary. For the last nine years Andrew has led the annual Nature Calgary "**Waterton Weekend.**" The tenth trip will be this July, a wonderful way to enjoy the National Park in this 150th year of Confederation. Andrew will talk about the park, its flora and fauna, and some of the hikes we have enjoyed on past visits. The focus will be on places, birds, plants, and animals that participants can expect to see on a trip to Waterton.

*Our Speaker meetings are 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

2017 Annual Waterton Weekend: July 7-9 at the [Canyon Church Camp](#). Details TBA, check our [Special Trips Page](#).

Calgary May Species Count May 27 - 28: This year's count circle for birds extends from Olds to Nanton and from Exshaw to Standard. All levels of experience are welcome, from beginners to team leaders. Reports will be submitted via eBird or Excel spreadsheet. Most areas involve driving, with a limited number of walking routes. Please sign up as early as possible. Contact Melanie Seneviratne at melaniesene*@*gmail.com, or 403-815-1275.

Regional May Species Counts:

- **Brooks/Lake Newell: May 19-21.** Contact Bob Parsons, vintagebob2*@*gmail.com, or 780-906-2561. [Details on NC website](#)
- **Crowsnest Pass: May 24-25,** contact Marilyn Liddell, birds*@*crowsnestconservation.ca or 403-563-7545.
- **Milk River/Writing-on-Stone: May 26-28.** Bob Parsons, above. [Details on NC website](#)

May Plant Count, May 25-31. Volunteers survey their favorite natural area to record the distribution and phenology of flowering plants in Alberta. This is a Nature Alberta citizen science initiative supported by the Alberta Native Plant Council. Contact Kim at kim.mack*@*goldpaw.ca to sign up and get the 2017 information package.

School Grants: One of the latest recipients of Nature Calgary's grants for nature outings was Banting & Best School's Grade 1 class, who visited Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. They observed a Robin building her nest, deer, beaver evidence, and birds, and learned how animals adapt and survive. Links to reports from this and other schools can be found on our [Grants page](#).

BioBlitz 150 at the Weaselhead: June 24, sponsored by NC, AB Council of Environmental Educators, and Weaselhead Preservation Soc, features field trips led by experts to identify flora and fauna in the Weaselhead. Volunteers, p.2. Watch our website for more details.



Cameron Lake
©Andrew Hart

For latest sightings, check
Albertabird

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

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

Please contact
volunteers*@naturecalgary.com for general inquiries;
and Melanie Seneviratne
(melaniesene*@gmail.com
or 403-815-1275) to help
with the opportunities
listed.

Please contact Ian at
fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com if you can suggest or
lead a trip.



Baltimore Oriole,
©Ken Havard

Nature Calgary's Annual Bus Trip, Sat June 24th: This year, the trip will go to Waterton National Park. The bus will stop at the Maskinonge Lake lookout for Sandhill Cranes and other waterfowl. Lunch at nearby picnic area (participants bring their own lunch) will present an opportunity to see warblers and waterfowl on the Waterton River. The bus will then go to Cameron Lake to see wildflowers and potentially Steller's Jays, before stopping in the town site for approximately an hour. The cost of this trip is \$40.00 for members, \$60.00 for non-members. The bus will leave from Anderson LRT station at 7:30am and will return by 7:30pm. Meet in the parking lot south of the pedestrian overpass. Online payments using credit card or PayPal are [available here](#). Cheques should be addressed to Nature Calgary and mailed to: Nature Calgary, P.O. Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4. Please contact Penny Smith at 403-283-9260 or oban2010mull*@hotmail.com for more information.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Wed May 10: Chasing 300 by Gerald Romanchuk. A long-time volunteer of Edmonton Nature Club (serving on the executive since the club's formation 12 years ago), Gerald has been birding for over 15 years. He has led numerous club field trips and is co-moderator on the very popular Albertabird list-serv (Alberta Bird chat site). Gerald will talk about his quest to see 300 species of bird in Alberta in a single year, an accomplishment he achieved in 2013, landing him in very select company.

Bird Study Group: meets the 2nd 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.

Do you have historic bird data for Frank Lake that has not been entered in eBird? Please contact Greg Wagner at 403-333-1200 or greg.wagner*@athene.ca and he will enter it.

Team eBird's Global Big Day is May 13: Go birding for at least a few minutes on May 13 and submit your sightings to eBird. Last year, over 60% of the world's bird species were recorded on the Global Big Day. More information on the Nature Calgary website under Latest News.

Birds & Beers, May 26, 6:00pm at Royal Canadian Legion #285, 9292 Horton Rd SW.

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Sun May 14: International Migratory Bird Day, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Need a few people for our booth 11am to 3pm to promote our society. Shifts will be 10:30 am to 1:00 pm and 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Sat, Jun 24: BioBlitz 150 at the Weaselhead: Members needed to staff our table at this event 10am-3:00pm. Shifts will be 10:00am-12:30pm, and 12:30pm to 3:00pm.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Sat May 13, 9:00am: Bird Fish Creek PP. Meet at the Visitor Centre parking lot, first right in off Bow Bottom Tr SE in FCPP. The walk will go from the Visitor Centre to Bebo Grove and back and will extend into the afternoon. Bring lunch. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Wed May 17, 6:30pm: Bird Pearce Estates Park (Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery). A mid-evening walk at 1440 17a St SW, N off Blackfoot Tr. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Thu May 18, 8:00am: Bird Bowmont Park for late migrants. Meet at the W end of Bowmont Park, N of Bow River, E of 85 St NW bridge at off-leash parking area. Car pool to E entrance of Bowmont Park at 52 St NW and walk to W entrance at 85 NW. This walk is approximately 6 km including a few hills. Bring snacks and refreshments. Leader Dan Parliament, 403-247-4987.

Sat May 20, 8:30am: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Meet in the IBS parking lot at 2425 – 9 Av SE. From Deerfoot Tr, take Blackfoot Tr westbound to exit to 19 St SE, turn left onto 9 Av SE and drive 1 km east. Turn right into the parking area. Leader Janet Gill, 403-831-7828.

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: * in contact email addresses. Remove when sending email.



Western Meadowlark,
©Stephen Spring

Mon May 22, 5:30am: Victoria Day – Annual Nature Calgary Big Day. See over 100 species at various locations within Calgary. Meet at Votier's Flats, S end of Elbow Drive SW. From there, car pools will be arranged for those staying the whole day (until evening). Bring lunch. Leaders Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556, Dan Arndt, 403-836-7405, and Rose Painter.

Tue May 23, 6:30pm: Annual Meadowlark Meander. Meet at the Confluence Park parking lot at Beddington Tr and Beddington Blvd NE. Leader John McFaul, 403-289-9517.

Sat May 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.

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

Sat Jun 3, 7:30am: Bird at the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Register in advance by email (or phone) - contact Grant Brydle: jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca (or 403-720-4957). Will meet at the parking lot, south end of 160th St., 1.6 km south of Hwy. 22X. \$2 required for sign-in. Bring backpack with water, snacks, binoculars, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, bug spray and rain gear.

Calgary Big Week - June 4-10 There will be a series of outings. The aim is to see at least 175 species of birds during the week. Participants can join as many or as few of the outings as they wish. Registration is required for the first and last outings as carpooling will be required and spaces will be limited. Leaders Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Rose Painter. Contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 or Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556 for additional details.

Sun Jun 04, 5:30am: Calgary Region Big Week Kick-off. Registration required. Trip will extend into the late afternoon or early evening. This trip will focus on the Water Valley region. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent. Car-pooling from the Crowfoot LRT station, and could arrange for some participants to meet in Cochrane if needed. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Rose Painter. Please call Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556 to register.

Tue Jun 06, 6:30pm: Calgary Region Big Week. Evening Bird Walk. Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet in parking lot, 37th St & 66 Av SW. Part of the Nature Calgary big week with a target of finding 175+ species in the Calgary 80-km circle. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Rose Painter. Contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

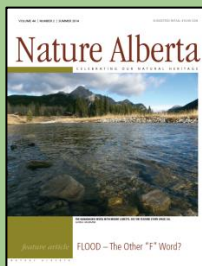
Wed Jun 7, 8:30am: Elbow Falls and Forget-me-not Pond. The pond is at Little Elbow Recreation Area and affords some of the most spectacular scenery in Kananaskis Country. An easy nature walk for families, photographers, and folks who enjoy the flora and fauna of Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, water, insect repellent, etc. Meet at Fish Creek Library, 11161 Bonaventure Drive S.E. Leaders Dorothy/Stephen Spring, dkrspring*@shaw.ca, 403-238-0859, 403- 519-2266. DIRECTIONS FROM THE LIBRARY: turn west onto Anderson Road and quickly move to the far left lane to turn left at the lights, onto Macleod Tr South. Proceed south on Macleod Tr and turn right onto 22X West. Continue west past Spruce Meadows on Hwy 22X, which becomes Hwy 66, to Elbow Falls. Turn left into the parking lot. After leaving Elbow Falls turn left onto main road (Hwy 66) and continue west to Forget-me-Not Pond at the end of the paved road, turning left to the parking lot. (Library to Pond is 74 km).

Wed Jun 07, 6:30pm: Calgary Region Big Week. Twitch 'n' Tour. Evening outing to a variety of locations within the Calgary Count Circle (80-km radius) to look for rare or uncommon birds. Meet at **Carburn Park**. From Glenmore Tr SE, go S at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet in parking lot to carpool. Call for information or to suggest target species. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart (403-279-5209), Rose Painter.

Thu Jun 8, 8:30am: Calgary Region Big Week. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Meet in the IBS parking lot at 2425 – 9 Av SE. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Rose Painter. Contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Thu Jun 8, 6:30 pm: Calgary Region Big Week. Twitch 'n' Tour. Evening outing to a variety of locations within the Calgary Count Circle to look for rare or uncommon birds. Meet at

Nature Calgary members receive a discount (with membership card) at The Wild Bird Store, D3-8330 Macleod Tr S (10%) Fairplay Stores, 2604 Kensington Road NW (10%) Golden Acre Home & Garden, 620 Goddard Ave NE (15%)



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

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.

Family \$25.00/yr.

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

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<http://naturecalgary.com>

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Deadline for the next Nature News issue is June 13, 2017.

Bowness Park, off 48th Av & 88th St NW. Meet in parking lot to carpool. Call to suggest target species. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart (403-279-5209), Rose Painter.

Sat Jun 10, 7:00am: Calgary Region Big Week Wrap-up. Registration required. All-day trip (into late evening). This trip will focus on the areas south and east of Calgary, and on birds not seen earlier in the week. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent. We will be carpooling from a location in south Calgary. Leaders, Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Rose Painter. Please call Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556 to register.

Sun Jun 11, 3:30am: Dawn Chorus, Weaselhead. Hear or see 40-70+ bird species. Wear warm clothes. Meet in parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader Rose Painter, 403-852-6130.

Sat Jun 17, 8:30am: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Meet in the IBS parking lot at 2425 - 9 Av SE. From Deerfoot Tr, take Blackfoot Tr westbound to exit to 19 St SE, turn left onto 9 Av SE, drive 1km east, go right into parking lot. Leader: Janet Gill 403 830-7828. New birders welcome.

Sat Jun 17, 9:15am: Bird the hills south of Calgary and the foothills in the Millarville area for songbirds, waterfowl, raptors and others. Meet at the 1st parking lot in the Glennfield area, Fish Creek PP, accessed by Bannister Rd, in the SE corner of the Macleod Tr-Canyon Meadows Drive overpass. Trip extends to afternoon, bring lunch. Leader, Terry Korolyk; 403-254-1878.

Tue Jun 20, 6:30pm: Lafarge Meadows, FCPP. Meet at boat launch parking area, S end of Bow Bottom Trail SE. New birders welcome. Leader Nimali Seneviratne 403-265-8750.

Sat Jun 24, 8:00am: Bird Brown-Lowery Provincial Park and area. Meet at the first parking lot in the Glennfield area of east Fish Creek PP for carpooling. Glennfield is the SE corner of the Canyon Meadows Dr - Macleod Tr intersection, accessed via Bannister Rd. Bring lunch. Expected return late afternoon. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Jun 24, BioBlitz 150, Weaselhead Natural Area. There will be walks led by experts in flora and fauna, to identify the many species that live there. More on NC website.

Sat 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

Kevin Van Tighem – Our Place: Changing the Nature of Alberta: May 9. Alberta Wilderness Association presents author and naturalist Kevin Van Tighem who will draw from his latest book to discuss some of our province's natural history changes over a half-century of fevered resource development. 7:00pm at AWA Cottage School, 455 12st NW Calgary. Admission \$5.

Help build 150 Bird Boxes for Canada's 150th Anniversary: May 12 & 26. Lee Valley Tools is supplying the location, tools and materials to create the bird boxes. Building events will be held on May 12 and May 26 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Call Ron Elliott 403-253-2066 to register.

International Migratory Bird Day: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, May 14, 11:00am.

Alberta Wilderness Association talks by U of C students May 16, 7:00pm. Alyssa Thompson: Ecology of Grassland Springs, and Brendan Hart: How Old Is the Bow River?

Friends of Nose Hill Society: May 17. Free guided walk on Nose Hill to identify wildflowers, led by John McFaul. Meet 7:00pm at Nose Hill parking lot, 14 St & 64 Av NW.

May Fish Creek Speaker Series: May 18. Beavers: Nature's Engineers or Troublesome Rodents? 7:00pm at Shannon Terrace. [Registration](#)

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation: Baby Boom, a talk and tour of the facility. May 28, 1:00pm-3:00pm. [Information and registration.](#)

Alberta Native Plant Council: June 2-4. Botany Alberta in the Castle valley area.

Great Divide Trail Association: talk on Medicinal Plants of the Southern Alberta Rocky Mountains, **June 13 6:30pm** at MEC Calgary. [Registration for talk.](#) GDTA's trail work in the Dutch Ck area starts July.

Friends of Fish Creek Prov Park: Annual Parks Day and Creekfest, Sat July 15, 11:00am-4:00pm at Bow Valley Ranch. **Capture Nature Photo Contest, deadline July 31.**