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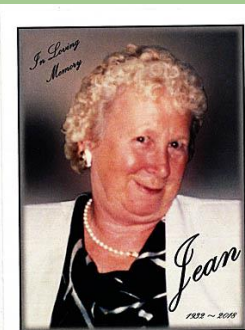
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Common Nighthawk
©Anne K. Elliott



Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

April 2018

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Wed Mar 21: Trekking Across Alberta Near the 49th Parallel - From Saskatchewan to BC. In May and June 2017, Gus Yaki, a life-long naturalist in his 85th year, led a trek across southern Alberta. The trip's purpose was to observe that area's unique flora and fauna, to show fellow travellers the rich diversity of species that live in the area, and to raise funds for conservation organizations. This talk will cover the section from the SK border to Writing-on-Stone.

Tue Apr 17: Wings over Canada, by Ian Wilson and Jacinth Lavoie. Ian and Jacinth will share their recent 5-month photography & camping trip across the country, showing us birds from shorebirds to songbirds, and raptors to waterfowl. This presentation is a mix of vivid images, classical music, and entertaining stories ranging from watching the intricate mating ritual of cranes, to cedar waxwings feeding a nest of young birds, and gannets diving for fish.

Wed May 16: Enjoying the Night Sky from Your Backyard. Don Hladiuk (best known as the Star Man on CBC's Calgary EyeOpener) will use beautiful photos of astronomical objects to show us how to navigate the starry sky and enjoy its wonders from within the lights of a big city. Details in next newsletter.

Speaker meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday 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 (NEW!): From the north: From Glenmore Tr east of Deerfoot Tr, you have two choices. **(a)** exit south onto 18 St. SE. At the 5th intersection, turn left onto Quarry Park Blvd SE, and then left into the Cardel parking lot. **(b)** From Glenmore Tr, exit south onto 24 St SE. Drive 1.7 km south to Quarry Park Blvd SE and turn right. Continue to the Cardel parking lot on your right.

From the south: From Deerfoot Tr northbound, take the 24 St SE exit northbound. Continue to Quarry Park Blvd SE and turn left. Continue to the Cardel parking lot on your right.

Cardel Theatre map at <http://cardeltheatre.com>

Issues, Events and Updates

Jean Maudsley, an honorary member of Nature Calgary, passed away on February 13, 2018. From 1986 to 1995 Jean was the president of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. She was instrumental in bringing order to the affairs of the club. During her presidency numerous books were published by the society. These include Nose Hill – A Popular Guide, Alberta Berries and A Birdfinding Guide to the Calgary Region. She had an interest in birds, but her real passion was for the wildflowers of Alberta. Nature Calgary extends its condolences to her family and friends.

Membership Committee: Volunteers needed to sit on a Membership Committee to investigate all aspects of current NC membership practices. This would be a short-term commitment. Please reply to Val Pritchard at membership*@naturecalgary.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

contacts:

volunteers*@naturecalgary.com for general inquiries; and Melanie Seneviratne (melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275) for the events posted on the right.

For latest sightings, check Albertabird

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

BirdTrax

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

Rare Bird Alert:

Report rare bird reports to
Bird Alert Compiler,
Terry Korolyk at
403-300-1067
(New number Sep 2016)



The Nature Kids program is for youth (ages 4-12) and families who like to learn about nature and have fun at the same time. As a member of Nature Kids, you have access to Explorer Day events with local chapter leaders, quarterly editions of NatureWild e-Magazine, and the Nature Heroes program. To connect with the Nature Kids team email us at nkcalgary*@naturealberta.ca

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Sat Apr 21: Fish Creek PP Spring Star Night, Shannon Terrace. Nature Calgary will once again be participating in Star Night at Fish Creek PP. Participants have the opportunity to utilize telescopes and view other displays and presentations. It is a great way to help promote Nature Calgary! If you can volunteer at the Spring Star Night, please contact Melanie Seneviratne (see left).

Nature Kids Needs You! Nature Kids Calgary, under the guidance of Nature Calgary and Nature Alberta, is now planning activities for spring, summer and fall, 2018. Our goal is to engage children ages 4 to 12 years and their families in outdoor activities that foster observation skills, scientific investigation, environmental stewardship and healthy living. Each month, for two to three hours on a Saturday or Sunday, volunteers plan and facilitate an Explorer Day activity focusing on a nature theme or issue. If you have a passion for nature or are knowledgeable in a specific area, such as geology, botany, tracking etc., and would be willing to share your expertise, please contact Joan Walker at herbiehilda*@gmail.com.

Banff BioBlitz, May 5: Survey Leaders, Assistants, others needed. Training Apr 21. See p.4.

International Migratory Bird Day: Help at Nature Calgary's table at IBS, **Sun May 13** 11am - 3pm. Lunch is usually provided by IBS. Shifts will be 10:30-1:00 and 1:00-3:30 or the full day. Please contact Melanie Seneviratne (contact info at left).

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

**** Reminder: Bird Study Group is no longer held at the U of C Biosciences building. Until future notice, meetings will be held at Cardel Theatre (180 Quarry Park Blvd SE) at 7:30pm. Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or birdstudy*@naturecalgary.com.**

Wed Apr 4, 7:30pm: Cruise the World for Birds, presented by Chris Fisher. Join best-selling *Birds of Alberta* author and popular keynote speaker Chris Fisher for a worldwide journey for birds and for meaning. For more than five years, Chris served as lecturer/naturalist for a major cruise line. From Alaska to the Antarctic and Stockholm to Samoa, birds were a constant, yet ever-changing companion to his voyages. This presentation will not only be a natural history showcase of little-seen pelagic species, but will also show how our wildlife encounters enrich our lives and create most cherished moments.

Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors has two or three trails available for 2018, NW of Calgary. Monitors check the nestboxes 4 or 5 times a season to count eggs and young of bluebirds and tree swallows. If you have an interest, reply to Don Stiles, stilesdj@shaw.ca or 403-271-4689.

Calgary Area May Species Count: May 26-27. Birders of all experience levels welcome! Sign up soon with coordinator Melanie Seneviratne (see above left).

Brooks/Lake Newell May Ssp Count May 18-20. Milk River/Writing-on-Stone May 25-27. Contact Bob Parsons vintagebob2@gmail.com or 780-488-1344.

Crowsnest Pass May Bird Count - May 30 Crowsnest River valley & adjacent eastern foothills/grassland; **May 31** Rocky Mtn eastern slopes & Oldman River valley. Contact Marilyn: birds*@crowsnestconservation.ca or 403-563-7545.

Nature Kids Events

Sat Apr 28, 10:00 to 12:00pm: Nature Kids Explorer Day Activity: Walk Amongst the Monsters, see Calgary's Massive Douglas Fir! Join local naturalist Andrew Stiles for a stroll through a unique Douglas Fir sanctuary. Here we will learn the history and important characteristics of these enduring conifers, some as old as 289 years. Meet at 8840 33 Ave NW, Calgary. Leaders: Joan Walker, herbiehilda*@gmail.com or 403-271-4578; Katie Donohue, katiedonohue26*@gmail.com

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Please contact Ian at [fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com](mailto:fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com) if you can suggest or lead a trip. You don't have to be an expert, just know of a good place to bird or botanize, and be willing to coordinate.*

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.



*Pine Grosbeak male
©Anne K. Elliott*

Sun Mar 11, 8:30am: Brown-Lowery 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 Howard Heffler, 403-284-2489.

Sat Mar 17, 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 Mar 18, 9:00am to late afternoon: Bird Frank Lake area east of High River for early arrivals. Meet at Carburn Park. From Glenmore Tr, go S at 18 SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right and follow signs to the park. Meet in the parking lot and bring lunch. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Mar 24, 8:30am to about 4:40pm: Birding West of Calgary. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW (just N of TCH #1, at Sarcee Tr). Bring lunch. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Mar 25, 9:30am: East of Calgary and Calgary area for Spring-arriving waterfowl, Gulls, Raptors, and early Spring and late winter Songbirds. Trip will go until 3:30 - 4:00pm. Bring lunch. Meet Glennfield parking lot in E Fish Creek P.P. (off Bannister Rd in the SE of the Macleod Tr-Canyon Meadows Dr overpass) to arrange carpooling. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Mar 31, 09:00am to 11:30am: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 AVE SE. From Deerfoot Tr take Blackfoot Tr west, turning left onto 19 St SE then left again onto 9 Ave SE. Drive 1 km east to sanctuary entrance, meet in parking lot. Note: the Zoo Bridge is now open for anyone travelling Memorial Drive from the west. Families and beginning birders welcome. Leader: Janet Gill, 403 230-5671 or 403 831-7828.

Sun Apr 1, 8:30am to 12:00pm: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SE, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hrs). Call leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sun Apr 8, 9:00am to late afternoon: East of Calgary (destinations 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.

Thu Apr 12, 8:30am to approx. 12:30pm: Bird Lafarge Meadows in Fish Creek PP. Meet at boat launch parking lot, S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. If we have enough vehicles, and the weather permits, we will carpool to 194 Av to achieve a single directional walk. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Apr 15, 9:00am to late afternoon: Bird Frank Lake. Bring lunch. Meet at the first parking Lot in the Glennfield area of east Fish Creek PP (off Bannister Rd, SE of the Macleod Tr-Canyon Meadows Dr overpass). Leader Tony Timmons, 403 256-0754.

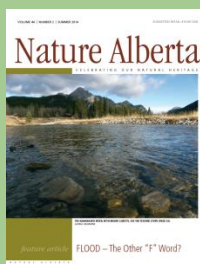
Sat Apr 21, 10am to about 12pm: Nose Hill Earth Day Crocus Cruise trip. We will meet at the 64th avenue and 14 Street NW entrance. Leader John McFaul, 403 289-9517.

Thu Apr 26, 8:00am to about 12pm: Bird Bowmont Park for early migrants. Meet at the west end of Bowmont Park, north of Bow River, east of 85th Street NW bridge at off-leash dog park parking area. Car pool to East entrance of Bowmont Park at 52nd St NW. Walk from east entrance (52nd St NW) to west entrance (85th St NW) of Bowmont Park - approx 7 km - some hills. Bring snacks and refreshments. Leader Dan Parliament 403-247-4987.

Sat Apr 28, 8:30am to about 12pm: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. (no 37st access). Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997

Sat Apr 28, 10:00 to 12:00pm: Nature Kids Explorer Day Activity: Walk Amongst the Monsters, see Calgary's Massive Douglas Fir! (See p.2) Join local naturalist Andrew Stiles for a stroll through a unique Douglas Fir sanctuary. Here we will learn the history and important characteristics of these enduring conifers, some as old as 289 years. Meet at 8840 33 Ave NW, Calgary. Leaders: Joan Walker, herbiehilda*@gmail.com, 403-271-4578; Katie Donohue, katiedonohue26*@gmail.com

Sun Apr 29, 1:30pm to 3:30pm: Flowering plants of Reader Rock Garden. Meet in the parking lot S off 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr and S of Stampede Grounds. Leader: Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.



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

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

Nature Calgary publishes
Nature News 8 times per year.
Send copy to:
newsletter*@naturecalgary.com.

Mailing address: Nature
Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4
Deadline for the next Nature
News issue is April 8, 2018.

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Tue May 1, 7:00am to 10:30am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SE, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hrs). Call leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

General Interest

Calgary: City of Animals is a book edited by Jim Ellis about how interactions with animals shape Calgary, and how humans and other animals can continue to co-exist.

Friends of Kananaskis Events: Mar 15 7:00pm, John Paczkowski, Wolverines in South-Central Alberta, U of C Science Theatre ST135, by donation at door.

Alberta Native Plant Council: Workshop and AGM, Mar 17, Devon Golf & Conf Centre.

Theme is *Submerged: A Look into Alberta's Semi-aquatic and Riparian Zones*. Workshop will include a native seed exchange and PlantWatch's botany book exchange.

Friends of Fish Creek Events – see www.friendsoffishcreek.org for registration.

Wed Apr 11, 7pm-9pm: Night Sky Wonders with local astronomer Don Hladiuk.

Thu Apr 19, 7pm-9pm, ReWilding, a story of Fish Creek Restoration, talk by Drew McKibbin.

Apr and May, Good Grief: Nature Walking through Grief and Loss

Hiking the Canadian Rockies: Apr 28 6:00pm. John McFaul will speak at Church of the Good Shepard (408-38 St SW) at a free community dinner. Contact Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Young Ornithologists' Workshop at Long Point Observatory. Applications due **Apr 30**.

Banff BioBlitz, Sat May 5 (weather date May 12) 8:45am-4:00pm. Banff NP invites the public to join in an intensive survey of living things led by scientists or trained leaders, focusing on amphibians in 20-25 sites near Banff. App iNaturalist will be used to compile findings. Buses provided from HQ at Cave & Basin where kids' activities and snacks will be offered. Training for volunteer leaders Apr 21. [Details and pre-registration](#). Nature Calgary members are well suited to help lead the small survey groups: see [Volunteer info sheet](#) for details and other volunteer opportunities from photography to bus guides. Phone: Tina Barzo 403-763-7036.

BIRD WATCHING CAMP

Tuesday, July 3 to Friday, July 6
Daily 8:30AM - 3:30PM
Ages 8-14



Learn to identify birds by shape, size, colour, and sound!
Enjoy two field trips in Fish Creek Provincial Park every day!
All trips are lead by experienced Birding Guides

COST: \$100 or \$50 for members of
Nature Calgary or Friends of Fish Creek

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 9, 2018



REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
WWW.FRIENDSOFFISHCREEK.ORG




Pelagic Trip: Sep 16 Registration is open for Nature Alberta's Pelagic Trip. There are 88 spots for participants on the MV Frances Barkley in Ucluelet for a chance to see incredible seabirds such as Albatross, Storm-Petrels and maybe even puffins! Boat trip cost is \$280. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Ucluelet, accommodations, meals, etc. [Click for tickets and additional details](#).