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<http://naturecalgary.com>



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

Rare Bird Alert:
Report rare bird reports to
Bird Alert Compiler,
Terry Korolyk at
403-300-1067

Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

May 2018

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

From the President: Nature Calgary Survey Results

I would like to thank all those who responded to the survey as well as Val Pritchard, our membership coordinator, and Sandra Mills, our newsletter editor, for producing the survey and compiling the results.

Of the 419 surveys sent out there were 159 respondents. The results indicated that the club has a mature membership with only 15% of members below the age of 55. The majority have been members for more than 4 years with 43% being members for 10+ years.

The reasons for joining Nature Calgary were to learn about and experience nature with like-minded people with an emphasis on field trips and bird-watching. Many also indicated an interest in other natural history topics with 43 expressing an interest in botany study and 24 in geology. A number of other subjects received lower numbers of interest.

Members were asked about the accessibility of our general and bird study group meetings in regards to timing and location. Of the 30% of respondents who responded to this question 70% had a concern about the locations, including the cost of parking at the U of C for the bird study group.

While the majority of respondents believe that the club is doing things well, there were suggestions of improvement in the areas of member feedback, training for field trip leaders, restoring habitat, better social media utilization and more field trips, especially on weekdays.

The board is currently reviewing the meeting locations and working to broaden the subject of field trips, especially botany trips. We do have a person handling our social media accounts. Our current field trip leaders are much appreciated, but certainly could use more members to step forward to lead more trips. As always please contact me if you have any questions or concerns or ways that Nature Calgary can be improved.

John McFaul | President, Nature Calgary

president*@naturecalgary.com, 403-289- 9517

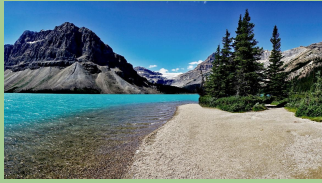
Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tue* Apr 17: Wings over Canada, by Ian Wilson and Jacinth Lavoie. Ian and Jacinthe 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.

Note: April's meeting will be held on a Tuesday.

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.



Bow Lake



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

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

Nature Calgary's Annual Bus Trip June 23 to Bow and Peyto Lakes. The lakes are home to many birds including common loons and warblers. John McFaul will lead a botany walk. The coach leaves Shouldice arena, located on Home Road and 16 Ave NW, at 7:30 am. Cost is \$45.00/member/\$65.00 non member. Online payments will be available soon. Cheques addressed to Nature Calgary can be mailed to: Nature Calgary, P.O. Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4. For further information please contact Penny Smith at 403-283-9260.

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 weekend, 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. [Details and pre-registration.](#)

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 May 2 Year of the Bird celebratory quiz. For the final meeting of the season come and pit your wits against your fellow birders. Use the quiz to help you tune up your birding skills as we enter the peak migration season. There will be questions to make you smile, and questions to make you think. Paper will be provided. Please bring a pen or pencil.

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



Harebell

Please contact Ian at 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.

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 Seniviratne (see above left).

Brooks/Lake Newell May Species 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 Merilyn: 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, katedonohue26*@gmail.com

Sat May 19, 10:00 - 12:00pm: Nature Kids Explorer Day Activity "Beautiful Bluebirds." Come and learn about these winged treasures and how we can help increase bluebird numbers around the Calgary area. Andrew Stiles, a bluebird expert, will be our host. Each family will build their very own bluebird nesting box. A donation to offset material costs would be greatly appreciated. Meet at 8840 33 Ave NW, Calgary. As space is limited, please register by contacting Joan Walker, herbiehilda@gmail.com, 403-271-4578 by May 11.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

***Car-pooling: The Audubon Society has designated 2018 as the "Year of the Bird". To celebrate this Nature Calgary has planned a series of birding field trips from mid-May to mid-June to explore Calgary and areas within the Calgary 80 km birding circle. These trips will be led by Bob Lefebvre, Andrew Hart, Howard Heffler, and Rose Painter. These are all full day trips, and include many locations with limited safe parking. Given these concerns, carpooling is absolutely required. Registration is required for each trip since up-to-date information may require a change in meeting place, or even trip date.**

Sat Apr 21, 10am to about 12pm: Nose Hill Earth Day Crocus Cruise trip. Meet at the 64th Ave 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 W end of Bowmont Park, N of Bow River, east of 85th Street NW bridge at off-leash dog park parking area. Carpool 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.

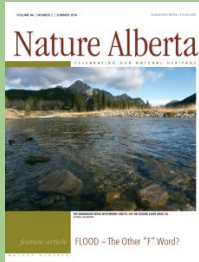
Sat Apr 28, 8:30am to 12pm: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. (No 37st access). Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

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.

Sun Apr 29, 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.

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.

Sat May 5, 9:30am to approx 4:00pm: South to the Priddis-Millarville areas for songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, and incredible scenery. Bring lunch. Meet at the first parking lot in the Glennfield area of east



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>

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Deadline for the next Nature News issue is May 3, 2018.

Fish Creek PP (off Bannister Rd, SE of the Macleod Tr-Canyon Meadows Dr overpass). Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Tue May 8, 9:30am to approx. 12pm: Meadowlark Meander at Confluence Park. Meet at the parking lot at Beddington Blvd and Beddington Trail NE. Leader John McFaul, 403 289-9517.

Sat May 12, 7:30am to 7pm: Bird Calgary Region 80 km Circle NE Quadrant. Meet in the NW end of Deerfoot City Shopping Centre (64th Ave and Deerfoot Trail NE) parking lot in Calgary to arrange carpooling*. Please email hheffler*@shaw.ca by Thursday May 10. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961. Registration required.

Sun May 13 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Botany Stroll in NW Calgary. Look for native grassland plants in one or two Natural Area Parks in NW Calgary. Meet near intersection of Tuscany Ravine Rd NW and Tuscany Ravine Heights NW. Alternate date Thu May 17 6:30pm. Leader Linda Vaxvick, 403-239-9434 or lvaxvick*@telus.net.

Sat 19 May, 8:30am to Approx 11:00 am: Birds and Geology of Edworthy Park. Meet at the W end of the Edworthy pedestrian bridge. From North: follow Shaganappi Trail to extreme south end and continue straight into parking lot, walk across the pedestrian bridge to meeting point. From South: Enter Park at west end of Spruce Drive SW and follow road downhill, park just before train tracks, walk across tracks and continue straight, follow the path to the W end of the Pedestrian Bridge. Leader Dave Russum, 403-284-4775.

Mon May 21. 5:30am to 7:00pm: 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 for carpooling*. Bring plenty of food and water! Leader Bob Lefebvre, 403-370-0556. Registration required.

Mon May 21, 8am to 12pm: Victoria Day, Bird the Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Meet at 8:00am in the parking lot at the S end of 160th Street, 1.6 km S of Hwy. 22X. \$2 is required for sign-in at the parking lot. Bring a backpack with water, snacks, binoculars, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, and rain gear depending on the weather forecast. Contact Grant Brydle to register in advance, preferably by email (jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca) or by phone (403-720-4957).

Thu May 24, 8:00am to 12pm: Bird Bowmont Park for late migrants. Meet at the W end of Bowmont Park, N of Bow River, east of 85th Street NW bridge at off-leash dog park parking area. Carpool 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 May 26, 8:30am to 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.

Fri Jun 1, 6:40am to 10:10am 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.

Sat Jun 02, 5:30am to 7:00 pm: Bird Calgary Region 80 km Circle Northwest Quadrant (Water Valley area). Bring food, water, sunscreen, insect repellent. Car-pooling* from the Crowfoot LRT station, we could arrange for some participants to meet in Cochrane if needed. Leader Andrew Hart 403- 279-5209. Space is limited, **registration required.**

General Interest

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

Pathways and River Cleanup - Weaselhead Edition: May 6 10:00am. Approximately 90 minute walk through the park picking up litter. To participate email president*@theweaselhead.com

Waterton Recovery Volunteers Needed: Salamander Byway Recovery Mon Apr 30 Cleansweep for Wildlife Mon May 7 [Additional information available here.](#)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is [asking for support](#) from anyone concerned about the environmental implications of a potential Olympic bid.