



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>



Striped Coralroot Orchid
(*Corallorrhiza striata*)
© Anne K. Elliott

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



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Cameron Lake,
Waterton Nat. Park
©Andrew Hart

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

July-August 2014

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Thanks to all who contributed to the Calgary Food Bank at our meetings! The next Speaker Series meetings will start September 16, 2014.

*Speaker meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May, at 7:30pm, at the **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 and placing them in the box.

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

Sun June 22: Nature Calgary Spring Bus Trip. All-day trip to Dinosaur Provincial Park. This trip is fully booked. To get on the wait list, phone Lynne at 403-272-1457.

Fri – Sun July 11-13: Nature Calgary's Annual Waterton Weekend. Stay at the Canyon Church Camp during flower season in Waterton National Park, one of the most delightful times of the year in Alberta. Participants organize outings among themselves, depending on their interests and abilities. The cost is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members, for two nights' rustic accommodation and meals. **Book by July 4.** You may book online, or book by contacting Andrew Hart, president*@naturecalgary.com, and sending a cheque to confirm to Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4 (write "Waterton Trip" on the envelope).

Education Grant: Schools in Calgary in need of financial support for nature-related field trips are encouraged to look at our grant page to find out how they can apply for funding for the 2014-2015 school year. Applications close September 30, 2014. See <http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/>

Weaselhead Invasive Plant Project: Interested in participating in a project to determine the best way of removing cotoneaster - a widespread non-native plant that is invading many of Calgary's natural areas? This is the third year of the project (partially funded by Nature Calgary). Volunteers will be collecting data from sample locations in the Weaselhead and will be hiking off-trail to find these locations using a GPS and photos. Experience not required - just resilience to thorns and mosquitos! Contact Sarah invasiveplants*@theweaselhead.com.

Annual Nature Calgary Banquet, Nov 8: Save the date! Organizer Penny Smith (403 249-5997) has booked the Lakeview Community Hall for this popular event, which will feature speaker Bob Saunders. Ticket prices will be \$45 for members, \$55 non-members. Tickets may be purchased by cheque or online starting in early September.

Biodiversity Oral History research: The U of C and City of Calgary want to collect observations from citizens on changes in our natural environment (wildlife, parks, rivers and wetlands) over time. Sessions on July 15 & 17 are planned. If you can contribute, please contact Linda Stewart (403) 244-0505 or stewart3*@telusplanet.net for more information.

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!

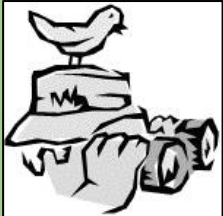
For current opportunities see www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/



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

**Birders: check Albertabird
for latest sightings.**
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

Lead a field trip!
Share your knowledge
of a favourite location!
Call Ian 403-246-4213
or Andrew 403-279-5209



Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata)
©Jeff Thompson

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Help lead birding and nature walks for children aged 5-12 on Wednesday July 2 at Fish Creek Provincial Park. The Shawnessy YMCA Day Camp is planning an outing there from 10am to 3pm, and has asked Nature Calgary to provide about six volunteer naturalists to assist the Y's counsellors in introducing birding and nature to the children. More information on our website or from Ian Ross (below).

More **Field Trip leaders** are needed, particularly for Tuesday evening walks in the summer. Leaders need not be expert birders, as there are many well-informed birders who will come. Leaders suggest a location, keep the group together, keep track of species seen, and get our waiver signed by participants.

Contact Ian Ross at volunteers*@naturecalgary.com, or 403 246-4213 to volunteer.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

In place of meetings in the summer months, check out our evening field trips. Our first fall meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. See you then.

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings.
Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or birdstudy*@naturecalgary.com.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

- **New trips and updates:** <http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>
- **Maps of many destinations at** <http://naturecalgary.com/birding/birding-locations/>
- **Highlighted** trips require pre-registration.
- **Field trips are free and open to all.**

Sun Jun 22, 9:30am: Ghost River Watershed Alliance Annual Hike, Benchlands, followed by a BBQ (BBQ costs \$10.00). From Calgary, take Hwy 1A west; go 14 km past Cochrane to Hwy 40, then follow it for 14 km. Meet on Further Dr, just past the Fire Hall in Benchlands. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Mon Jun 23, 6:00pm: Jim Posey Memorial Botany Trip to Many Springs, Bow Valley PP. Several species of orchids and many other wildflowers will be in bloom. To car-pool, meet at parking lot north of Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St N, at 6 pm, or meet at Many Springs Parking lot at 7 pm. Leader, Janet Astle, 403-284-9471.

Tue Jun 24, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk, Bowmont Park. Meet in parking lot north of Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW. Leader, Sue Konopnicki, 403-283-0139.

Fri Jun 27, 9:30am: Bird/botanize Lesueur Creek & Ridge in the Waiparous area. From the boundary of the Forest Reserve, the trail climbs about 250 - 300 m., with some steep up and down sections. The vistas are very rewarding. Lunch at a high point with a 270 degree view. There should be lots of wildflowers. Duration 5 - 6 hours, depending on our pace. To get there from Calgary, take Hwy 1A west; go 14 km past Cochrane to Hwy 40, then follow it for 14 km. Meet on Further Dr, just past the Fire Hall in Benchlands. Leaders, Heinz Unger, 403-615-7364; Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Jun 28, 9:00am: 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.

Tue 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.

Fri Jul 4, 7:30am: Cross Conservation Area Hike. Go 1.6 km west of the City limit (85th St. SW) on Hwy 22X, then left/south onto 160th St. for 1.6 km. Covering the Chevron Aspen and

Field trip leaders 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.
Latest version of the **waiver form** is available
<http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/leaders/>



Mountain Bluebird pair
©Phil Smith



www.naturealberta.ca

Alberta Natural History information, conservation News & Issues, Magazine, Young Naturalists, and more.



Black-Crowned Night Heron
©Phil Smith

Fescue Trails, approx. 7 km of moderately strenuous hiking (5 hills). Sign-in at the parking lot requires a \$2 deposit per person. Bring water, snacks, camera & rain gear. Register in advance as all hikes must be pre-booked with crossconservation.org. Contact Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca.

Mon Jul 7, 6:30pm: Tour of Don Stiles' Bluebird Trail in foothills, just SW of Calgary. Meet Anderson LRT station, next to Macleod Tr, S of pedestrian overpass. See young bluebirds in nest, and other nesting species. Leader, Don Stiles, 403-271-4689.

Tue Jul 8, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk at Lafarge Meadows, FCPP. Meet at boat launch parking lot, S. end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Nimali Seneviratne, 403-265-8750.

Tue Jul 15, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk, Carburn Park. Meet in the parking lot. From Deerfoot Tr take Glenmore Tr east to 18 St south. Turn right onto Riverbend Dr (second light), then left onto Riverview Dr (watch for park sign at intersection). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Jul 19, 9:00am: 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.

Tues Jul 29, 6:30 pm: Evening Bird Walk, Rotary Nature Park, FCPP. Access is via Stoney Trail (22X). Follow signs for McKenzie Meadows Golf Course / Rotary Park and at the bottom of the hill follow the road to the left under 22X. Meet in the parking lot. Leader Melanie Seneviratne 403-815-1275, or melanie.seneviratne*@telus.com.

Fri Aug 1, 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 2, 7:30am: Bird 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.

Mon Aug 4, 7:30am: Cross Conservation Area Hike. Go 1.6 km west of the City limit (85th St. SW) on Hwy 22X, then left/south onto 160th St. for 1.6 km. Covering the Chevron Aspen and Fescue Trails, approx. 7 km of moderately strenuous hiking (5 hills). Sign-in at the parking lot requires a \$2 deposit per person. Bring water, snacks, camera & rain gear. Register in advance as all hikes must be pre-booked with crossconservation.org. Contact Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca.

Tue Aug 19, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk, Confluence Park. Black-crowned Night Heron, Vesper Sparrow & Meadowlark are seen here. This park is kitty-corner to Deerfoot Mall. Entrance to parking lot is at intersection of Beddington Trail & Beddington Blvd. NE. From Deerfoot Trail take Beddington Trail exit & turn right at the first light. Leaders: Bernie Diebolt, 403 210-2446; Janet Gill, 403 230-5671.

Tue Aug 26, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk, Mallard Point. Meet in the parking lot at the East end of Canyon Meadows Dr. Leader Melanie Seneviratne, 403-815-1275 or melanie.seneviratne*@telus.com.

Sat Aug 30, 9:00am: 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 Sep 1 (Labour Day), 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

Nature Conservancy of Canada Volunteer Events Calendar has events from Waterton to Devon during the summer. See unique landscapes and help clean up these special properties. See http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/action.retrievestaticpage.do?ea_static_page_id=2634.

Glenbow Ranch Prov. Park Photography Courses, Golf Cart Tours, and other events: Registration required. <http://www.grpf.ca/events> or 403-851-9053.

Postage costs increased in 2014. Please call John at 403-284-4245 or membership*@naturecalgary.com to change to an e-newsletter.

Contact us at
Nature Calgary
PO Box 981, Station M,
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
Email:
info*@naturecalgary.com



Zoo Osprey webcam

HELs Sighting: High Elevation Localized Species. The Bow Valley Naturalists started a project in 2010 for tracking the sightings of four species in the upper elevations of the Rocky Mountains. See <http://www.bowvalleynaturalists.org/page21/page21.html> to find out how to report sightings of Hoary Marmot, Pika, Mountain Goat, White-tailed Ptarmigan.

Friends of Fish Creek Events: Speaker Series at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre from 7 - 8pm. **June 19: Fish Creek Prov. Park: Its History and Changes**, by Wayne Meikle. **Creekfest, a free family event on July 19**, features speakers, entertainment and guided walks to celebrate water. Other events including minibus tours at <http://www.albertaparks.ca/fish-creek/activities-events/events.aspx>.

Kananaskis Country Parks Day: July 20, 10am-3pm at Bow Valley Prov. Park, Willow Rock Campground. Free lunch, family activities, and educational programmes. See http://www.albertaparks.ca/media/4839512/parks_day.jpg.

Alberta Wilderness Association scheduled hikes: Registration and fee required. See <http://albertawilderness.ca/events/>. **"Fish, Forests, and Flood Resiliency"** features a panel of speakers on Jun 26, a bus tour on Jun 27 of proposed flood mitigation sites upstream of Calgary, and guided hike in the Ghost-Waiparous on Jun 28.

Canada Geese may nest several kilometers from where they will raise their brood, walking there over several days after the young have hatched, and even choosing urban spaces. Often assistance is required to relocate these families when they are ready to head towards water. Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) can assist when this is needed. If you come across a situation where we can help please call the **CWRS hotline at 403-239-2488**.

Parks Canada Guided Burgess Shale Hikes: are scheduled several times per week in Yoho and Kootenay National Parks, to three classic fossil sites. All are strenuous all-day hikes. Fees range from \$27.50 (youth) to \$55.00 (adults). Reservations can be made online at <https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/> or by calling 1-877-737-3783. For more information about the Burgess Shale and Parks Canada's guided hikes (including meeting locations, hike dates and what to bring) please visit <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/yoho/natcul/burgess/visit/randonnees-hikes.aspx>.

Calgary Zoo Ospreys have just hatched 3 chicks! See Enmax webcam at <https://www.enmax.com/community/keeping-up-with-the-ospreys>

More recent photos from our members:



Evening Grosbeak ©Stephen Spring



Rose-breasted Grosbeak ©Stephen Spring



Ruddy Duck ©Anne K. Elliott

<p>Memberships Individual \$20.00/yr. Family \$25.00/yr.</p> <p>Contact John 403-284-4245 or membership*@naturecalgary.com Join or renew online http://www.naturecalgary.com</p>	<p>Nature Calgary members receive a 10% discount (with membership card) at</p> <p>The Wild Bird Store D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632 Fairplay Stores 2604 Kensington Road Northwest 403-283-2117</p> <p>Nature Calgary publishes Nature News 8 times per year. Send copy to: newsletter*@naturecalgary.com or phone 403-239-9434. Deadline for the next Nature News issue is Saturday August 16, 2014.</p>
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