

# NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

[www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com)



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## VOLUNTEER

[Volunteer\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:Volunteer*@naturecalgary.com)  
for general inquiries.

## LEAD A FIELD TRIP

To suggest a location or lead a trip  
email  
[fieldtrips\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com)

[Check the website frequently for  
new trips and updates.](#)

## MEMBERSHIPS

Individual: \$40/year  
Family: \$50/year

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or  
[membership\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:membership*@naturecalgary.com)  
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## SUBMISSIONS

Share your experiences, art,  
stories, suggestions, news, and  
events with Nature Calgary! Nature  
News is published 8 times per year  
and submissions are accepted by  
all members.

Send to:  
[newsletter\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:newsletter*@naturecalgary.com).  
**Next deadline: September 29, 2020**

Mailing address:  
Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4



## Message from the President

Dear members,

I hope that your summer has gone well with many rewarding nature experiences including the many field trips that our core group of field trip leaders provided over the last couple of months. A notable event was the Butterfly/Moth event that Nature Calgary and the Weaselhead Preservation Society sponsored and ably arranged by our newsletter editor Matt Wallace. The number of moths that came to the lighted sheets was amazing.

Congrats also go out to our special events committee for organizing a public event at Elliston Park where Nature Calgary was able to meet the public with displays and guided bird and nature outings. This is part of a strategy to engage with a broader audience with the hope of expanding our membership.

September is the month when our Bird Study group and Speaker Series start up. We were hoping to have our September and October meetings in person with the meetings between Novembers to February held virtually. However due to the rising COVID numbers as a result of the Delta variant, our meetings will be held virtually for the time being. I hope that we will be able to reconvene in person meetings in the early spring next year.

We are hoping to hold our Annual General Meeting at our November 17th meeting. I encourage anyone with an interest in helping NC to consider joining our board. Please contact me if you would like more information about the board of Nature Calgary.

Well wishes,

John

## Speaker Series Presentation September 8

### Looking for the Wild

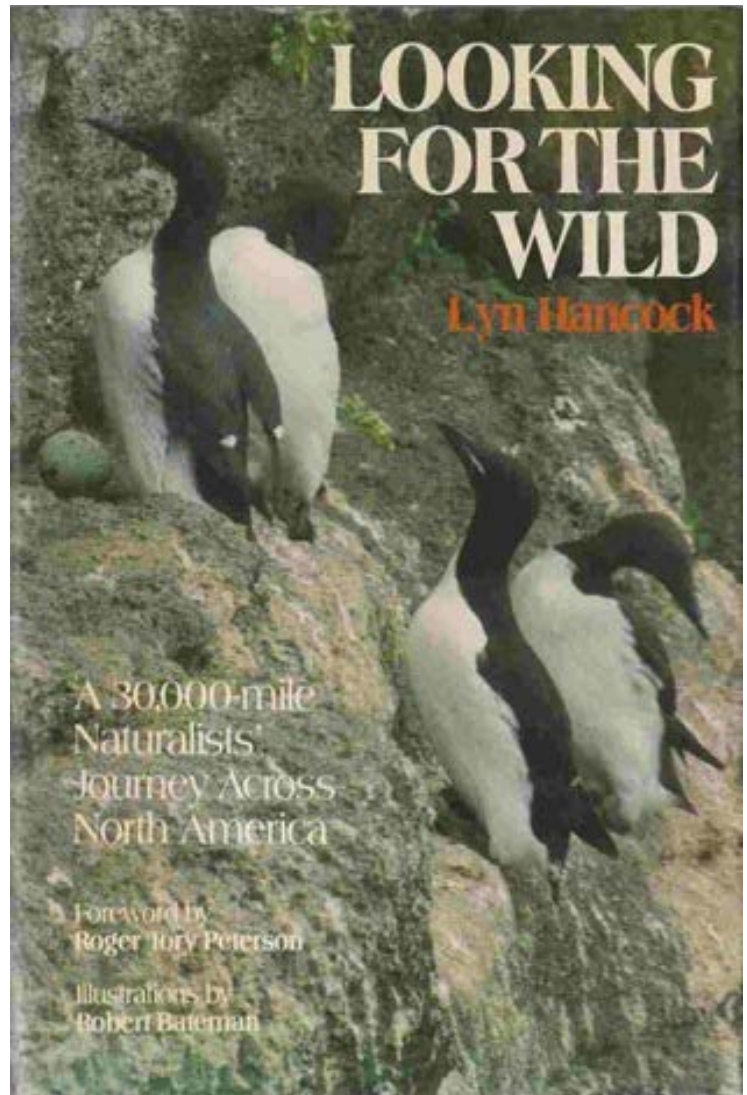
**Speaker:** Lyn Hancock

**September 8, 2021 7:30pm**

To honour Gus Yaki, one of the world's most influential naturalists and a long time member of Nature Calgary, Lyn Hancock, will be presenting at the September 8, 2021 Bird Study Group meeting on Zoom.

Lyn will show photos and read excerpts from her book *LOOKING FOR THE WILD*, a 30,000-mile naturalists' journey in 1983 across North America with Gus and other birders from around the world, including Robert Bateman.

They follow the route of world famous birder and painter, Roger Tory Peterson, as he showed James Fisher, his English friend and fellow naturalist, around North America 30 years earlier.



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Lyn's special interest was the exciting climax of the trip on the remote Pribilof Islands in Alaska where she had close encounters with fur seals, murres and puffins, species she had raised as orphans in British Columbia in the 1960s and led to her interest in wildlife.

Lyn is the author of 20 books about her experiences with wildlife including *THERE'S A SEAL IN MY SLEEPING BAG*, *LOVE AFFAIR WITH A COUGAR*, *TABASCO THE SAUCY RACCOON* and *THE RING: MEMORIES OF A METIS GRANDMOTHER*, the pioneer love story of Sam Livingston and Jane Howse, the first settlers in Calgary.

## Bird Study Group

### Calgary Migratory Species Response Team . . . Where Rescue Meets Research

Speaker Kathleen Johnson

October 6, 2021 7:30 PM via Zoom (To be sent out in October)

Founded in fall of 2019, Calgary joined the efforts of organizations across North America working to reduce the risks faced by migratory species. Each migration period CMSRT works in a coordinated effort to survey birds and bats in Calgary's downtown core. They rescue those found alive and learn from those found deceased.

Co-founder Kathleen Johnson will be speaking about how the team collects data, what is done with that data and what happens to any birds or bats that are found alive. As well, Ms. Johnson will address the role of residential buildings in bird strikes and how to mitigate those events in our own homes. CMSRT has participated in Nature Canada's project to certify cities as Bird Friendly; a designation that was awarded to Calgary in May 2021.

## Upcoming Public Event

### Your Park: International Stewardship 68th Street Wetlands Clean-up

September 18

Nature Calgary is organizing a park clean-up of the 68th Street Wetlands! We will be removing garbage and invasive weeds from 10AM-2PM. Garbage bags, litter claws, snacks, and refreshments will be available for all participants.

Let's all help to keep this epic birding location clean during fall migration. Please invite your friends and register by emailing [communications@naturecalgary.com](mailto:communications@naturecalgary.com)!

This event is the third and final of our three part International Avenue park series showcasing Elliston Park and the 68th Street Wetlands.



## Field Trips

**Nature Calgary COVID restrictions on Nature Calgary field trips are being partially relaxed!** The following restrictions remain in place:

- Trips will be limited to a maximum of ten participants (members only).
- Pre-registration is required.
- Wearing face covering (masks) is now optional.

Participants are responsible for bringing their own food, water, sunscreen, bug spray and any other items that they may require for the duration of the trip.

**For the most up-to-date list of field-trips including impromptus and future trips, please visit our website: <https://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>**

Day	Date	Time	Destination	Leader
Friday	10-Sep	9:00 AM	Frank Lake	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	11-Sep	9:00 AM	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	Janet Gill
Tuesday	14-Sep	9:00 AM	Carburn Park	Kaya Konopnicki
Friday	17-Sep	9:00 AM	Brown Lowrey PP	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	18-Sep	8:30 AM	68th Street Wetlands	Andrew Hart
Tuesday	21-Sep	9:00 AM	68th Street Wetlands	Kaya Konopnicki
Friday	24-Sep	9:00 AM	Confederation Park	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	25-Sep	9:00 AM	North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
Sunday	26-Sep	9:00 AM	Carburn Park	Nimali Seneviratne
Tuesday	27-Sep	9:00 AM	Frank Lake	Kaya Konopnicki

### Where do YOU Want to Explore?

Have any idea of a park to explore in Calgary? Maybe you have an interest in learning about citizen science, photography, ecology, or geology? Send any field trip requests or suggestions to the Nature Calgary Field Trips Coordinator, Howard Heffler ([fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com](mailto:fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com) or 403-804-2489) for future outings.



**Rare Bird Alert:**  
 report rare bird sightings to Bird Alert Compiler, Terry Korolyk at 403-300-1067  
 For latest sightings check: [Albertabird](#) or [BirdTrax](#)



## Community News

### Election Season

With both the Federal Election (September 20) and Municipal Election (October 18) just around the corner, it is an important opportunity to reflect on your relationship with the environment and the type of leadership you expect. Are conservation initiatives and climate change goals on your candidate's mind?

Ward boundaries have been updated for the 2021 General Election. Find out information about your ward and who is running for the offices of mayor, councillor, public and separate school board trustee in the upcoming Calgary 2021 General Election by visiting: <https://www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-voters/candidates.html>

There are a few upcoming opportunities to learn about candidates perspectives on the environment for various ridings and wards in the city:

#### **100 Debates on the Environment – Calgary Confederation** *(Federal Election)*

Join the Alberta Wilderness Association on Wednesday, September 8 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM for a virtual Debate on the Environment with candidates from the riding of [Calgary Confederation](#).

Registration is free – please RSVP for your ticket to obtain the Zoom link. This debate is part of the [100 Debates on the Environment](#) initiative, a national non-partisan movement coordinated by GreenPAC.

#### **WGPPS Ward 11 Candidate Questions** *(Municipal Election)*

Weaselhead Glenmore Park Preservation Society( WGPPS) will send questions to all Ward 11 Candidates September 21 about their relationship with park stewardships and their future vision of the park. The WGPPS, (board members and contractors) WILL NOT comment on any responses received, rather they aim to inform Ward 11 residents and encourage them to make their own decisions about candidates. Responses received from Ward 11 candidates will be posted online at [theweaselhead.com](http://theweaselhead.com) the first week of October.

#### **Nature Calgary Mayoral Question** *(Municipal Election)*

A series of questions will be sent out to mayoral candidates on September 21 once all nominations have been submitted. Any responses will received by candidates will not be commented on by Nature Calgary board members but be shared in their entirety (without edits) with members via the website to learn about their ideas, perceptions, and objectives of urban nature and conservation in Calgary.

## Community News

### Christmas Bird Count 2021:

The 2021 Calgary Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Sunday December 19. At the 2020 Nature Calgary CBC presentation made at the Bird Study Group, Phil Cram announced his departure as the Calgary compiler of the event after an astounding 20 years. Phil had Matt Wallace at his side shadowing during the 2020 compilation to learn about the process and coordination of the event. Phil is pleased to announce Matt Wallace as the new Calgary compiler for the 2021 count. Matt will soon be reaching out to everyone involved in the Calgary CBC to lay out plans for this year's event and gather feedback from route coordinators and team captains. A Google form will be created in October for all new and interested participants to sign-up. Please see Phil's note below on his experience as a compiler:

*"I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be compiler of the Calgary CBC for the past 19 years. It is a privilege to play a role in this long-running citizen science project, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Many birders have taken part in the field and as feeder-watchers over the years, and I am especially grateful to all those who have acted as Team Leaders and Route Coordinators, and Feeder-Watch Coordinators and Team Captains. Many thanks also to all who have helped with the compilation, and hosted the post-count dinner. I am looking forward to continuing to count birds at Christmas, both in Calgary and the other counts in our region. I hope you are too.*

*-Phil Cram "*

### Calgary Public Library Free Video Service

If you are a [Calgary Public Library \(CPL\)](#) cardholder, there are excellent and free resources for naturalists of all ages to access online materials including books and magazines, ebooks, audiobooks, videos, lectures/ presentations, and even databases. Of particular interest to avid birders may be the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Birds of the World database. Another great resource available to cardholders is the Kanopy streaming service that offers 10 free videos per month of indie films, TV series, classic cinema, documentaries, and educational tutorials. Below are a few top-picks for film and nature content available on Kanopy:

- The National Parks - America's Best Idea by Ken Burns (6 Episodes)
- The National Geographic Guide to Birding in North America (24 Episodes)
- Kestrel's Eye - Life from a Bird's Perspective (Film from Mikael Kristersson)
- A Geology of North America Wonders of the National Parks (36 Episodes)

## Community News

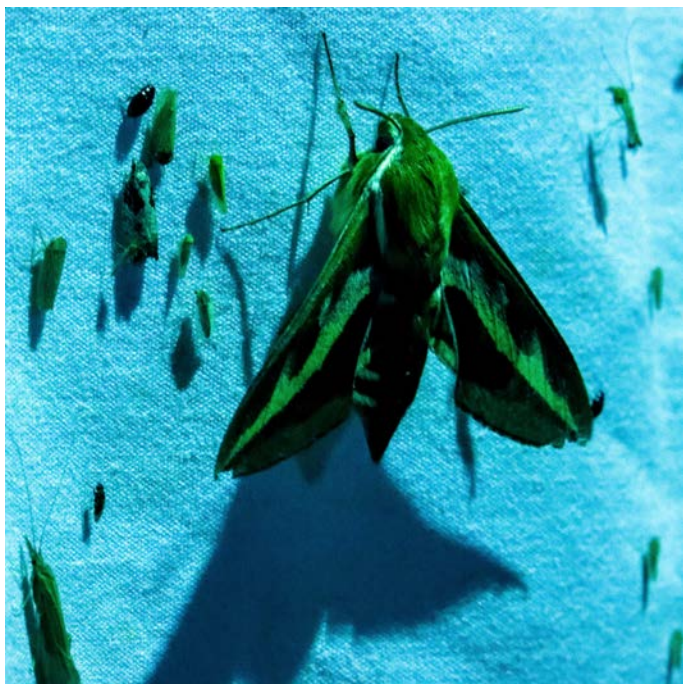
### Butterfly Count and Moth-lighting in the Weaselhead

Nature Calgary and the Weaselhead Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS) were pleased to support two events on July 25, 2021 as part of the global citizen science event National Moth Week. 32 people including children, students, parents, and community members participated.



#### The First ever Weaselhead Butterfly Count

Dave Lawrie (President of the Alberta Lepidopterists' Guild) and participants gathered in the grassland area of Weaselhead Park to conduct an informal inventory of butterflies. This was the first time a butterfly "count" had been conducted in the Park. Dave brought his incredible enthusiasm and instructed people on how to catch, collect, and identify species. Participants had the chance to check out Mourning Cloak and Polyphemus Moth larvae that Dave had collected during a count weeks earlier. In the Weaselhead, Common Wood-Nymphs were the most abundant butterfly species caught by participants followed by Clouded Sulphurs and Fritillaries. Kids that attended proved to be most successful butterfly catchers of the group!



#### Mothing Event

This was Alberta's only public National Moth Week event and also took place in Weaselhead Park. This event was also led by Dave Lawrie who brought three sets up moth sheets and lights to attract insects to. Dave demonstrated to participants how moth surveys are conducted and can easily set-up to attract an incredible diversity of moths and other insects. In total, 16 participants joined in on the fun observing and photographing the nocturnal wildlife across three stations in various habitats of the park. It was a warm and smoky evening and the bugs sure were out! More than 50 species were seen with one of the highlights being a Galium Sphinx Moth (See photo).