

Nature Calgary is promoting a friendly “big year” birding challenge within Calgary city limits in 2020.

One useful tool for those taking part in the challenge is the online discussion forum "Albertabird". This is a place where birders can share sightings, locations, and photos, so it will be useful to participants in keeping informed during the year and giving them the best chance to see as many bird species within the city limits as possible.

This article is for newcomers to Albertabird.

### **What is Albertabird**

The Albertabird email list was started in early 2000. Initially hosted by Yahoo Groups, a switch to the more compatible platform, Groups IO, was completed in late 2019.

This list functions within the guidelines found in the American Birding Association Code of Ethics, which can be found at <http://listing.aba.org/ethics/>

The Albertabird Moderators are: Gerald Romanchuk, Malcolm McDonald, and Caroline Lambert.

Anyone can look at the site to see messages posted by members: <https://groups.io/g/Albertabird>.

### **Using Albertabird**

To post messages you must be a member. To join, you simply go to the site and follow the directions. You will be asked to submit your email address. You should get a response to your request for membership in a day or two.

You can open the “messages” page to see the latest posts. You can also go to “Subscription” and set the parameters in a way that suits you. You may elect to receive each message in an individual email or in other ways or to not receive emails. Once you are a member, you can post messages and photos for all to see.

Albertabird has been a powerful and useful tool for years, allowing birders to share stories and help others learn.

We encourage you to look frequently at Albertabird and to post stories about your adventures during the BirdYYC2020 challenge.



## **Calgary 2020 Big Year Birding Challenge**

### **A guide to Albertabird**



### **Albertabird Guidelines**

The complete guidelines for users of Albertabird can be found on the Albertabird website under “files”.

Any questions or suggestions contact:

- Howard Heffler: [hheffler\\*@\\*shaw.ca](mailto:hheffler@shaw.ca)
- Andrew Hart: [andrewhart\\*@\\*shaw.ca](mailto:andrewhart@shaw.ca)
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A few points to remember are:

- Do not to hit the "Reply" button when responding to a message unless you are intending to send your comments to all subscribers.
- All posts should contain your name and location by city.
- Be prepared to share directions to interesting birds, except for species at risk.
- Do not share directions on private property until you have permission from the landowner to do so.
- Do not post detailed information on a nest location, particularly for species at risk, to minimize disturbance to nesting birds.
- The list allows attachments such as photos or files. Files should be kept as concise as possible in the interest of saving storage space
- Photos can be attached to the message as a file or pasted into the message. (See the guidelines on the Albertabird website for more details and restrictions.)

Enjoy