

# NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

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



President: John McFaul  
403-289-9517  
email: [president\\*@\\*naturecalgary.com](mailto:president*@*naturecalgary.com)

## 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.](#)

## MANAGE MEMBERSHIP

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

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

[Join or renew online.](#)

## GET IN TOUCH

Nature News is published 8 times per year. Send suggestions to:  
[newsletter\\*@\\*naturecalgary.com](mailto:newsletter*@*naturecalgary.com).  
Next deadline: June 19, 2020

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

Find us on   
[facebook.com/naturecalgary](https://facebook.com/naturecalgary)

 [@NatureYYC](https://twitter.com/NatureYYC) on Twitter

## From the President

Dear Nature Calgary members,

I hope that you are well and have been able to stay in touch with the natural world as best as possible. Despite the struggle that spring has had in trying to vanquish old man winter, there are signs that once again this eternal struggle will end with spring claiming victory. Henry David Thoreau wrote on March 30th, 1856 that “Spring advances in spite of snow and ice, and cold even.”

Traditionally this is the time of year that our field trip schedule is filled with numerous trips offered by our volunteer leaders that we all look forward to and are so thankful for as well as our bird study and speaker series meetings. However, we must continue to follow the social distancing protocol. How long this will last is anyone’s guess. We shall await direction from the public health officials as to when we can return to normal social interactions.

Meanwhile I do hope that you will be able to, as individuals, enjoy some nature moments by exploring your yard, walking about your neighbourhood or visiting a local park. While all the time keeping safe.

John McFaul, President

## Volunteer Opportunities

**May 30th and 31st are the dates of this year’s May Species Count for Birds** as well as flowers. For those interested in helping out with the Calgary and area bird count there are still a few routes available. Contact John McFaul at [president\\*@\\*naturecalgary.com](mailto:president*@*naturecalgary.com)

If you wish to participate it is expected that you follow the [social distancing requirements as described by Alberta health](#). Carpooling is strongly discouraged.

## City Nature Challenge 2020: Calgary Region

Thank you to everyone that participated in City Nature Challenge 2020 Calgary Metropolitan Region! We had a great showing for only our second year involved in the annual global event. With an expanded area to explore, more eyes on the ground, in the air, and in the water, and the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 crisis, we are so grateful to the Calgary, Airdrie, Cochrane, Okotoks, and Chestermere naturalist communities for coming together and celebrating urban biodiversity.

CNC YYC 2020 had some truly outstanding finds and together we exceeded all of the 2019 results. The total number of observations (April 24-27) was 5481 (compared to the 4458 in 2019), made by 242 observers (144 iNat contributors last year). At this time 55% of the observations submitted have reached Research Grade\*. With so many observations coming in, each urban area drastically increased their iNaturalist observation count. Calgary alone has now surpassed 30,000 iNaturalist observations! [View the project to see all the stats from this year's event including the top observers.](#)

*\*Research Grade observations are the highest level of data quality and enter into the scientific database that is free to use for research purposes. Captive/ Cultivate cannot reach Research Grade but remain on iNaturalist as biodiversity information.*

## General Interest

**The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan is hosting monthly webinars** about species at risk or prairie conservation. These webinars are free and can be viewed from anywhere. They are also recorded and uploaded to the group's YouTube channel for viewing at a later date. The next webinar is Monday, June 22 at 12 pm. Join Dr. Ryan Brook, for Wildlife Research During a Global Quarantine: Tracking the Rapid Spread of Invasive Wild Pigs in Canada For more information or to register, visit [www.pcap-sk.org/home](http://www.pcap-sk.org/home)

**Nature Calgary is on Instagram! Follow us @NatureCalgary.**

Please submit your pictures to:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/xDqAScd cYJgvtGTC4iD>

FileName:

- YourName\_Animal/Plant\_DAYMONTHYEAR
- eg: JaneBirder\_HerringGull\_220320

Format:

- .jpg
- Resolution: 72dpi
- Size:
  - 1.19:1 (1080x608px)
  - 1:1 (1080x1080px)
  - 4:5 (1080x1350px)

Already edited (we will not do any editing)

**The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society Stewardship Message: Please Do Not Feed the Birds** Feeding birds, or any other wild animal in a Provincial Park, can contribute to habituation, meaning that they lose their fear of people. When wild animals lose this fear and come to associate people with food, this puts everyone at risk. Animals can lose their natural drive to search for food, expecting it to come to them as hand outs, and this can impact their very survival. Bird seed left on the ground can also attract many other creatures who enjoy it, such as mice, deer and yes, even bears. It can attract animals to areas more frequented by people, increasing the likelihood of an undesired animal-human interaction, or leading them nearer to pathways and roads where they can be injured. Feeding birds has increasingly become a problem in the park and is illegal.

**Capture Nature Photography Contest**, sponsored by Friends of Fish Creek, runs from May 1 - July 31. From beginning photographers to amateur professionals and youth, everyone is invited to submit their best park images for consideration. You can register at any point during the contest. For more details, visit [friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature/](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature/)



### Rare Bird Alert:

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

