

# NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

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



President: John McFaul  
403-289-9517  
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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)  
[Join or renew online.](#)

## 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: May 14 , 2020**

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



## Message from the President

Dear members,

May is perhaps the most exciting time of the year for naturalists, especially those who have particular interest in our avifauna. Day by day flocks of returning migrants will arrive to enrich our birding experiences. Birding has become even more popular for Calgarians, especially as a means to enjoy our natural spaces while giving us relieve from the isolating impacts of the pandemic. For this our field trip leaders are much appreciated.

To assist with promoting birding as a worthwhile pastime board member Kaya Konopnicki has been developing a birding 101 course that will help new birders to improve their bird identification skills and to entice them to join Nature Calgary. Through the efforts of our newsletter editor Matt Wallace, Nature Calgary has been awarded a grant from the Parks Foundation to provide funding for the production of birding maps for a selection of our natural areas. These digital maps will be made available to the general public and thus Nature Calgary will be able to reach a larger audience.

Finally, Nature Calgary has recently formed an advocacy sub-committee that will work to keep tabs on issues that could impact Calgary's natural heritage. This follows along the lines of the former Natural Areas Group that was such an important and influential part of Nature Calgary in years past. If you have issues that you think Nature Calgary should involve itself in, please contact me.

Well wishes,

John

## Speaker Series, Bird Study Group, and Public Events

Nature Calgary Speaker Series are currently being held using Zoom. Events will now be open to non-members at a cost of \$5.00 CDN. Please visit

### May 19: Nature Conservancy of Canada – Southern Alberta Conservation

Speaker: NCC

The NCC has undertaken many conservation projects that are working to secure Alberta's natural heritage. These include the Rocky Mountain Front Region with projects including the Waterton Front Project and the Waldron Ranch Project as well as the Prairie Grasslands Region including Milk River Ridge, Milk River Basin, Pakowki Lake and Cypress Uplands.

**Time:** Mar 19, 2021 07:15 PM MST

**Click to Join:** [Zoom Meeting Link](#) **Meeting ID:** 820 6174 7518 **Passcode:** 045155



### A Peruvian Adventure (Bird Study Group)

Speaker: Anne Belton

In October 2019 a group from Calgary went on a birding adventure in Peru. They explored the Andean plateaus, Amazonian basin, and Pacific islands off the coast of Peru. Tune in to hear about the group's thrilling adventures and their amazing wildlife sightings that included a Giant Otter, Andean Condors, and the Cock of the Rock!

**Time:** May 5, 2021 7:30PM MST

**Click to Join:** [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Image: Anne Belton, Cock of the Rock

### June 2: International Birds on International Avenue Speaker Event (Public Event)

What do you get when you combine a landfill, storm water ponds, a dog park, and a wetland? Join Nature Calgary and guest speakers discussing the unique urban environment of Elliston Park and why it is one of the best places to view epic birds right in the city. Together, we will discuss the important role wetlands play in our communities and how they can provide refuge for wildlife and people. [Registration Link \(Free Event\)](#)



Image: American Avocet by Matt Wallace

## City Nature Challenge 2021: April 30-May 3

**City Nature Challenge Calgary (CNC YYC)** is one of the largest citizen science events that happens annually in Calgary. The event is open to everyone and anyone interested in submitting photos and audio recordings to help map out Calgary's urban ecosystem.

CNC 2021 will have more than 400 cities competing from around the world to see which can make the most observations, find the most species, and engage the most people. 23 Canadian cities are participating including Edmonton, Camrose, Red Deer, and Lethbridge in Alberta.

### Participate:

April 30-May 3, you are encourage to explore your yards, neighborhoods, and favorite parks anywhere in Calgary, Airdrie, Chestermere, Okotoks, Cochrane, or Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. Take photos of flora and fauna and upload your observations to the iNaturalist app or iNaturalist.ca. The deadline to upload your amazing biodiversity finds is May 9. The global and Canadian results will be announce May 10!



### What to look for:

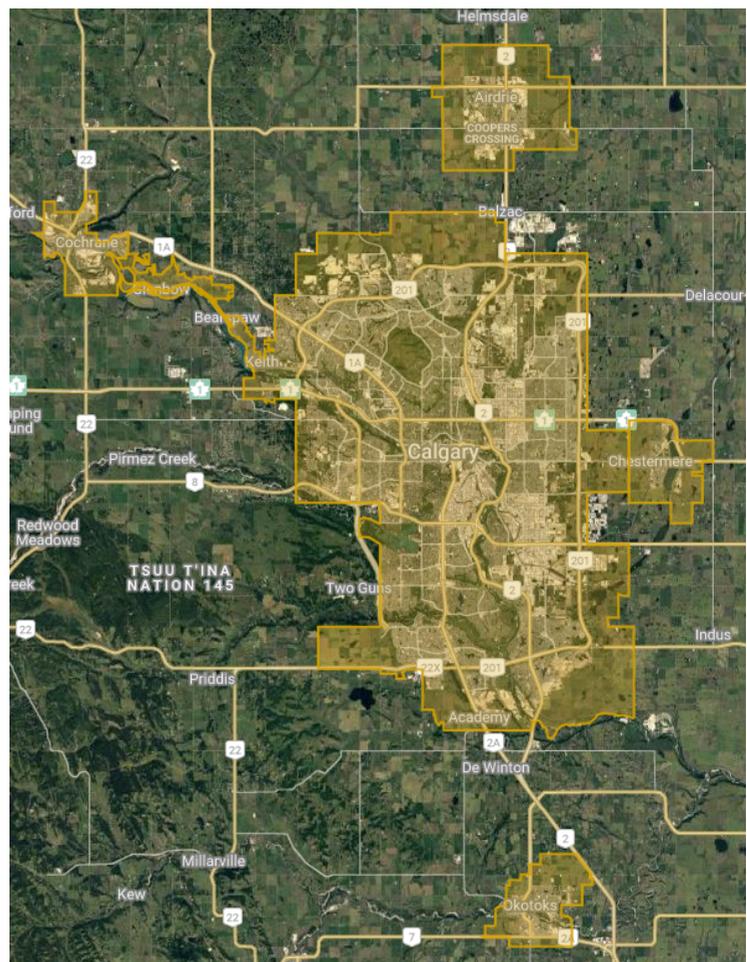
- Birds
- Mammals
- Insects
- Plants
- Fungi and Lichens
- Micro-organisms
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Fish and aquatic organisms

How many observations can you make?

**Nature Calgary challenges members to make 25 observations April 30 - May 3!**

### More Information:

[www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org)  
[www.citynatureyyc.ca](http://www.citynatureyyc.ca)



## Field Trips

Please [visit our website](#) for the most up-to-date field trips including impromptu trips!

Nature Calgary organizes volunteer led field trips. 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.

Trips are limited to a maximum of ten participants (members only) and pre-registration is required. Participants must wear appropriate face covering (masks).

Please contact the Field Trips Coordinator, Howard Heffler ([fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com](mailto:fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com) or 403-804-2489) with any questions or suggestions for future outings.

Day	Date	Time	Destination	Leader
Wednesday	05-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows	Kaya Konopnicki
Wednesday	05-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Lafarge Meadows	Kaya Konopnicki
Thursday	06-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Dale Hodges Park	Marje Wing, Joy Ely
Thursday	06-May	6:30:00 PM	Confluence Park (West Nose Creek)	John McFaul
Friday	07-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Mallard Point	Anne Belton
Saturday	08-May	9:30:00 AM	East of Calgary*	Terry Korolyk
Tuesday	11-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Airdrie Nose Creek park	Andrew Hart
Tuesday	11-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	Kaya Konopnicki
Wednesday	12-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird 68th Street Wetlands	Kaya Konopnicki
Thursday	13-May	9:15:00 AM	Bird Edworthy Park	Jean-Francois Amiot
Friday	14-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Votier's Flats	Anne Belton
Friday	14-May	9:00:00 AM	Nature Walk - Nose Hill	John McFaul
Tuesday	18-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Airdrie Chinook Regional Park	Andrew Hart
Tuesday	18-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Carburn Park	Nimali Seneviratne
Wednesday	19-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Weaselhead Natural Area	Kaya Konopnicki
Thursday	20-May	9:15:00 AM	Bird Confederation Park	Jean-Francois Amiot
Friday	21-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Lafarge Meadows	Anne Belton
Saturday	22-May	9:00:00 AM	Nature Walk - West Edworthy Park	John McFaul
Tuesday	25-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	Nimali Seneviratne
Wednesday	26-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird Dale Hodges Park	Kaya Konopnicki
Wednesday	26-May	6:30:00 PM	Bird Dale Hodges Park	Kaya Konopnicki
Thursday	27-May	9:00:00 AM	Nature Walk - Bowmont Park	John McFaul
Saturday	29-May	9:00:00 AM	Bird North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
Saturday	05-Jun	8:00:00 AM	East of Calgary*	Penny Smith
Tuesday	08-Jun	6:30:00 PM	Bird Lafarge Meadows	Nimali Seneviratne

\*= This is an all-day trip with up to five vehicles visiting various locations East of Calgary. Please visit the [Nature Calgary Field Trip Website](#) for more details about each trip.

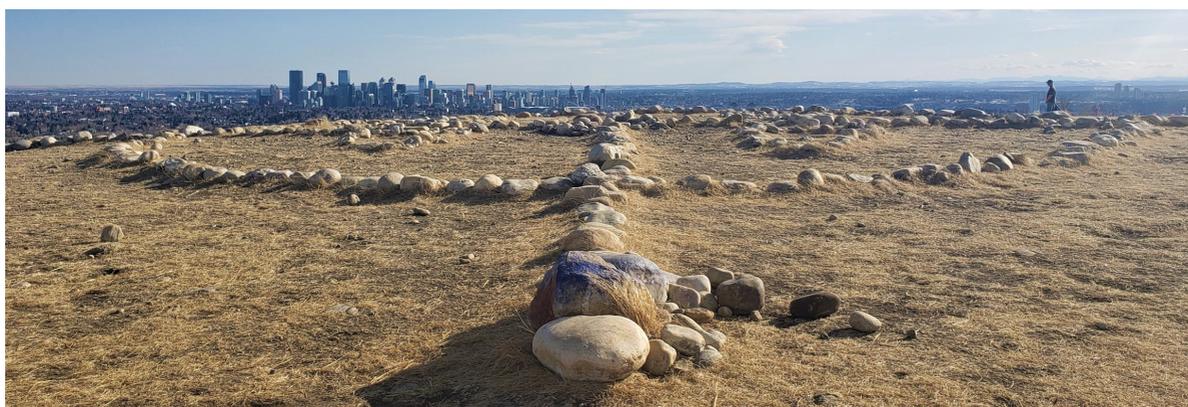
## Community News

### Acknowledging the Land Where Nature Calgary Learns, Explores and Shares

Nature Calgary's commitment to preserving the natural habitats of the Calgary area goes back nearly a century. The society has a history of which to be proud. However, these places where we walk and guide- Nose Hill, the Weaselhead, Confluence and Elliston Parks to name but a few - have names and stories dating back thousands of years. They are the products of Indigenous people the stewards of this land from time immemorial. Calgary is located on the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta and is home to the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina, the Iyarhe Nakoda and the Metis Nation. It is their voices that tell the stories of the land that surrounds us.

Many of us are aware of the horrific attempts to erase the culture of the Indigenous peoples of Canada and of the recent initiatives aimed at reconciling the relationship between Indigenous and non-indigenous people. The board of Nature Calgary has had many discussions over the past year as to role we can play in reconciliation. We have decided to walk a path of reconciliation. Our first step will be to create a land acknowledgement. A land acknowledgement is a formal statement presented at the beginning of public events and gatherings that recognizes and honours the Indigenous peoples of the area. In March, we reached out to the Blackfoot community and invited an elder, Saa'kokoto, to our board meeting to advise us how to begin in a good way. On May 2, Nature Calgary board members will gather with Saa'kokoto at the Siksikaitstapi Medicine Wheel on Nose hill to hear stories of the land and learn how to acknowledge it. We wish we could extend the invitation to all Nature Calgary members but Covid protocols limit the gathering to ten people.

To acknowledge the land is to recognize its significance to Indigenous peoples and to deepen our understanding of how their spirituality is tied to the land. It is a good way to begin a relationship with our neighbors the Blackfoot, the Tsuut'ina, the Iyarhe Nakoda and the Metis. "Together we learn, explore and share. Everyone is invited to join us."



#### Rare Bird Alert:

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

