

NATURE NETWORK

Volume 14, Number 3

June 2008

Newsletter Sponsors

Edmonton Nature Club

Membership: Hil Reine 430-7134
Box 1111, Edmonton AB T5J 2M1
E-mail: enclmembers@fanweb.ca



Bird Study Group

Gerald Romanchuk 991-6521 geraldjr@telusplanet.net

Plant Study Group

Patsy Cotterill 481-1525
nutmeg@planet.eon.net



Bug and Spider Group

Alana Broomfield 489-7412
broomfieldA@macewan.ca



Nature Network

Compiler: Krista Kagume 987-5850
kkagume@telus.net

Editor/Production: Lisa Priestley 918-4804
lisa@beaverhillbirds.com

Next submission deadline: July 31, 2008

**Club members and the public are
welcome to attend all events.**

June 14 - Century Day at Elk Island National Park

We'll try to find 100 (or more!) species of bird in one day at the park. Special birds like Trumpeter Swan, American Bittern, & Broad-winged Hawk will all help towards reaching our goal. To have a chance, we'll have to start early, so get lots of sleep the night before!

- Leader: Gerald Romanchuk
- Meet: 7:00 a.m. at Elk Island information centre, or late sleepers can meet us at noon at the Astotin Recreation Area near the main parking lot.
- Duration: All day trip, but can leave early.
- Bring: Money to enter the park, good footwear, food and snacks, and liquids.
- Difficulty: Nice trails, plenty of signage and washrooms. Be prepared for a lot of walking.
- Contact: Gerald Romanchuk 991-6521

June 21 – Red Deer Area: Slack Slough, Gaetz Lake

Slack Slough has a wide variety of ducks, geese, grebes, shorebirds and habitat for resident warblers and swallows. We will be leaving early to maximize time at the sites.

- Leader: TBA
- Meet: 7:00 a.m. at Gateway Information Centre on the south edge of the city on Highway 2 south. Car pool.
- Duration: All Day
- Bring: Car pool money, lunch, and liquids.
- Contact: Brian Stephens 439 2841

July 5 –Clifford E. Lee for Kids

Butterflies, snails and birds' nests are some of the things we may see as we walk around this beautiful Sanctuary, just west of Edmonton. If you are 12 years-old or under younger, bring your parents, your binoculars and your bug nets for a wetland adventure.



- Leader: Krista Kagume
- Meet: Park gates, 11 a.m. Call for directions.
- Duration: 1 hour
- Bring: Sunscreen, snack, and liquids. Nets if you have them.
- Contact: Krista at 987-5850 or kkagume@telus.net

July 6 – Annual Dry Island Butterfly Count

Join Dr. Charley Bird on an annual butterfly count held at Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park. This park is named because of the unusual land formation, a flat topped mesa called a dry island which rises 200 meters above the Red Deer River.

- Leader: Dr. Charley Bird
- Meet: Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park, upper parking lot by 10 a.m.
- Duration: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Bring: Butterfly net, binoculars, bug spray, and bag lunch.
- Contact: Claudia Cameron or John Beggs 403-747-2221 or e-mail: clipskic@rttinc.com

July 12 – Pigeon Lake Provincial Park

The park is on the west side of the lake about an hour SW of Edmonton. We will be looking for summer residents. This is a new location for us so we will be exploring. If time permits we will also explore some of the wetlands in the area. The early start is to give us more “prime time” at the park.

- Leader: TBA
- Meet: 7:00 a.m. at Gateway Information Centre on the south edge of the city on Highway 2 south. Car-pooling
- Duration: All Day
- Bring: Car pool money, lunch, and liquids.
- Contact: Brian Stephens 439 2841

July 23-27th – Exploring the Castle River Area

Located south of the Crowsnest and north of Waterton, this is a very diverse unique nature area with unusual natural features. We will concentrate on the mountain meadows and creeks, searching for various butterfly species known to frequent the area. Plant study will be considered if we have any experts! Participants must be fit and ready for some tough hikes. We will also visit the West Castle Ecological site which will provide some excellent birding opportunities.

First two nights of camping will be paid by trip sponsors, EnCana and TransCanada Pipelines. Motels are well situated in Pincher Creek, a 25 minute drive from our HQ, the Beaver Mines Lake campsite.

- Call Bob Parsons at 780-488-1344 for all the information and to register.

June 28 – July 1st – South Saskatchewan River Area

Join the *Red Deer River Naturalists* for this trip to the beautiful semi-arid region along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. We will visit ‘The Forks’ and take several trips into and across Saskatchewan’s Great Sand Hills region. There will be opportunities for birdwatchers and botanists, as well as a chance to visit a historic church, aboriginal sites, and some beautiful orchards and gardens. Come catch a glimpse of the ‘true prairie’. We will be camping on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River at the Sandy Point Campground (\$5/night). Accommodations are also available in Empress, AB, Burstall, Estuary, or Leader, SK.

- Contact Phil French at 780-749-2899 for more info or to register for the trip.
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The Edmonton Nature Club



is seeking nominations for all board positions, in particular President and Vice President for next fall. Contact Coral Grove 473-2540 or Marg Reine 430-7134 or any one of the executive members.

Alberta Amphibian Monitoring Program



The Alberta Amphibian Monitoring Program was initiated in 1992. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of the conservation issues facing amphibians as well as to provide a better understanding of the distribution and general status of amphibians in Alberta, Canada. The program is led by the Alberta Conservation Association, in partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Volunteers are encouraged to submit location information on amphibian observations as well as incidental reptile observations. You are provided an information manual and a CD of the amphibian calls, and are sent a biennial newsletter “Croaks and Trills”. If you are interested in participating in the program please contact Kris Kendell kris.kendell@ab-consrvation.com or phone: (780) 410-1978 or toll free 1-877-777-FROG. <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fishwildlife/wildlifeinberta/amphibiansalberta/>

Photo of the thousands of gulls at Gull Lake.



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