

Eagle Point Nature News

Adventure Awaits....

www.epbrparkscouncil.org



Spring, 2023



Spring 2023 Edition

Kathy Schwengler, Education & Outreach Coordinator,
Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council

Spring - It's Nature's way of saying, "Heh! Let's party!"

Robin Williams

What does spring mean to you?

Is it the sound of geese honking overhead as they return from the south or the robins poking around on the still spongy grass, hoping for a worm? Maybe it's a pair of new rubber boots, splashing through potholes of mucky water?

Spring is those things, plus getting outdoors, for barbecues and laughs on the front porch with your neighbours, a time to explore new or old trails after the snow has melted away, a time to sow seeds and plant flowers. Bring it on!

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5 SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! *New and Revisited Ideas!*

1. CHECK OUT THE TRAILS IN EAGLE POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

Spring means longer daylight hours and warmer weather! Enjoy Alberta's spectacular sunsets & spring evenings by taking the family out for an afternoon hike in Eagle Point Provincial Park. Remember to dress properly and make sure you've got rubber boots! Spring isn't spring without some puddles to play in! **You can download trail maps from our website.**

2. **PAINT A ROCK, LEAVE A ROCK** - Paint a rock, leave a rock is about using creativity to inspire, encourage and spread peace, love and positivity along our journeys. If you paint a rock, take a walk and leave it for someone to find. If you find a rock, take a picture to share the love and then hide it for someone else. The rocks you paint could have inspiring messages of hope or just be nice enough to make someone smile. Remember to ask when placing rocks on private property or public areas.

3. START YOUR OWN NATURE JOURNAL

Spring is the perfect time to begin a Nature Journal! Journalling is a great way to form a deeper, more personal connection to our natural world and can help relieve anxiety and stress while developing our senses. You can use a lined or plain notebook or **download our free My Nature Journal.** Print off the booklet or just the pages that inspire you.

4. GO BIRDING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY!

There is no better time than spring to take up the hobby of birding! Migrating birds return from their southern and coastal habitats from early March to mid May and we wake to a dawn chorus of robins, sparrows, warblers, black-birds and more! Get a Bird Identification book or app, borrow or buy a pair of binoculars, head out to your nearest trail or wetlands, park or backyard. We encourage new birders to participate in **Global Big Day on May 13/2023** with our Eagle Point team!

5. **GET A MEMBERSHIP TO ONE OF EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARTNER CLUBS.** Many clubs operate within the parks' boundaries and they are always happy to welcome new members - Drayton Valley Paddling Club, Brazeau Bowbenders, Evergreen Shooting Club, West Central Riverboat Association and the Brazeau ATV Club to Pembina Nordic Club offer a wide variety of opportunities for you to reach your recreational goals this year.

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Upcoming Events in our Parks



**CELEBRATE
EARTH DAY**
with
Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council
& the Town of Drayton Valley

**Join us on a
Trail Clean-Up
Walk!**

Bring gloves and
we'll supply the
garbage bags.

**April 22
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Eagle Point Staff will offer Guided Walks
on the Rotary-Pembina South Trail at
10:30am and at Noon

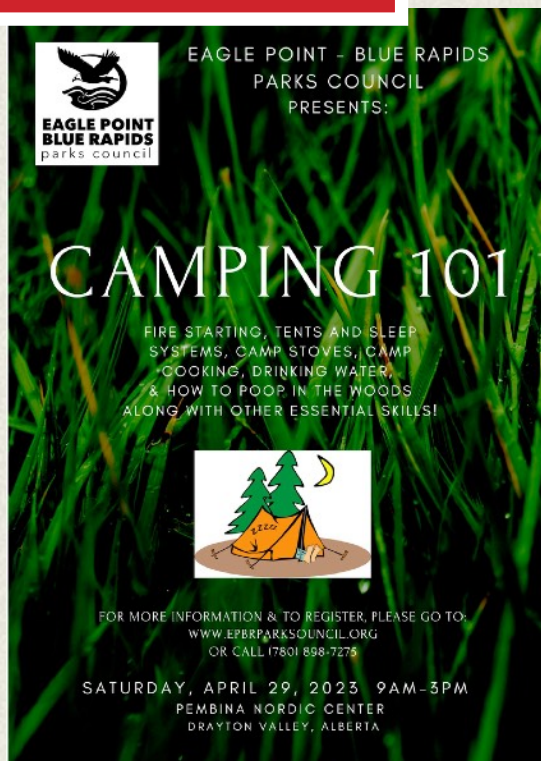
Pick up a conifer tree seedling, donated by
Weyerhaeuser Drayton Valley!

Choose your Trail:

Rotary-Pembina Nordic Community Trails South,
Eagle Point Provincial Park

OR

Lions West Valley Park, Drayton Valley, AB



EAGLE POINT - BLUE RAPIDS
PARKS COUNCIL
PRESENTS:

CAMPING 101

FIRE STARTING, TENTS AND SLEEP
SYSTEMS, CAMP STOVES, CAMP
COOKING, DRINKING WATER,
& HOW TO POOP IN THE WOODS
ALONG WITH OTHER ESSENTIAL SKILLS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO:
WWW.EPBRPARKSCOUNCIL.ORG
OR CALL (780) 698-7275

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 9AM-3PM
PEMBINA NORDIC CENTER
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA



**GLOBAL
BIG DAY**
with the
Eagle Point Team
May 13, 2023

COUNT BIRDS AT YOUR HOME, IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR
JOIN US ON THE TOUR (SELF DRIVE), (WITHIN 60 KM RADIUS OF DRAYTON VALLEY, AB)

**Join us on our 6th Annual
Global Big Day Bird Count!**

Join the celebration! Our team counts local
birds & submits the data each year, along
with thousands of birders across the globe.

This data helps scientists understand bird
populations, bird migration & birds at risk
across our planet!

Count the bird species (and numbers) from
your backyard, your neighbourhood or join
us on the bird tour!

For more information:

- ✦ Email: outreach@epbrparks council.org
- ✦ Call: 780-698-7275 or
- ✦ Visit the webpage at:
[www.epbrparks council.org/event/
global-big-day-2023/](http://www.epbrparks council.org/event/global-big-day-2023/)

**Global Big Day Bird
Tour Schedule:**

7:30 am
Hilltop Trailhead to
Willey West Campground

9:30 am
Blue Rapids Prov. Rec. Area

11:30 am
Buck Creek area

1:00 pm
Alder Flats/Buck Lake Fish &
Game Group Campground to
Buck Lake Provincial Rec. Area.



EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL
presents

PARKS DAY 2023
Art & Music
in the Park

JULY 15, 2023
NOON TO 4:00 PM

PEMBINA NORDIC CENTRE
EAGLE POINT PROVINCIAL PARK,
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

- + BUSKERS
- + ARTISANS MARKET
- + FOOD TRUCKS
- + OLD FASHIONED GAMES
FOR KIDS
- + MORE!

REGISTER AS A BUSKER OR ARTISAN!
WWW.EPBRPARKSCOUNCIL.ORG/EVENT/PARKS-DAY-2023/

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Summer Day Camp Registration is now open for our 2 sessions. Register early to avoid disappointment. Visit our website, [complete the registration form](#), then [visit our shop](#) to pay online.



EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS
PARKS COUNCIL *presents*



EAGLE POINT
GUARDIANS OF THE PARK
SUMMER DAY CAMPS 2023

**PEMBINA NORDIC CENTRE
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA**

JULY 18 TO 20, 2023: 7 TO 9 YEAR OLDS
JULY 25 TO 27, 2023: 10 TO 12 YEAR OLDS

FUN, NATURE FOCUSED ACTIVITIES!

FIRE LIGHTING, ARCHERY (10-12), HIKING, EXPLORING, FORAGING, OUTDOOR GAMES, TEAM CHALLENGES,
BOARD GAMES, NATURE JOURNALS, CRAFTS, OUTDOOR COOKING & MORE!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT
WWW.EPBRPARKSCOUNCIL.ORG/EVENT/GUARDIANS-2023/
CALL E.P.B.R. PARKS COUNCIL AT 780-898-7275 FOR DETAILS.



**EAGLE POINT
BLUE RAPIDS**
parks council

Spring, 2023

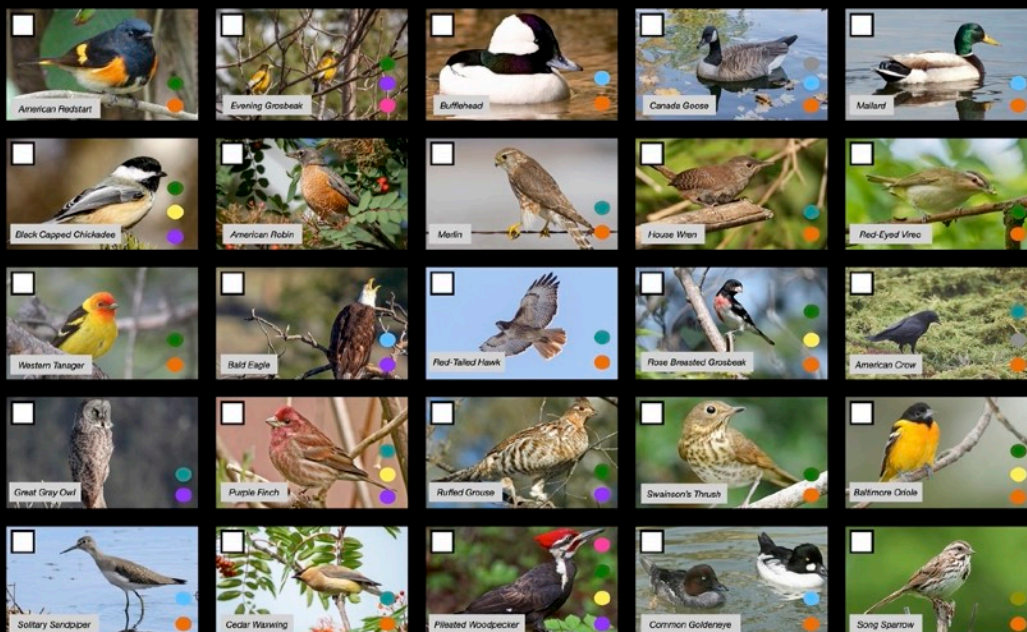
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Download 50 Birds Full Size Brochure on our website

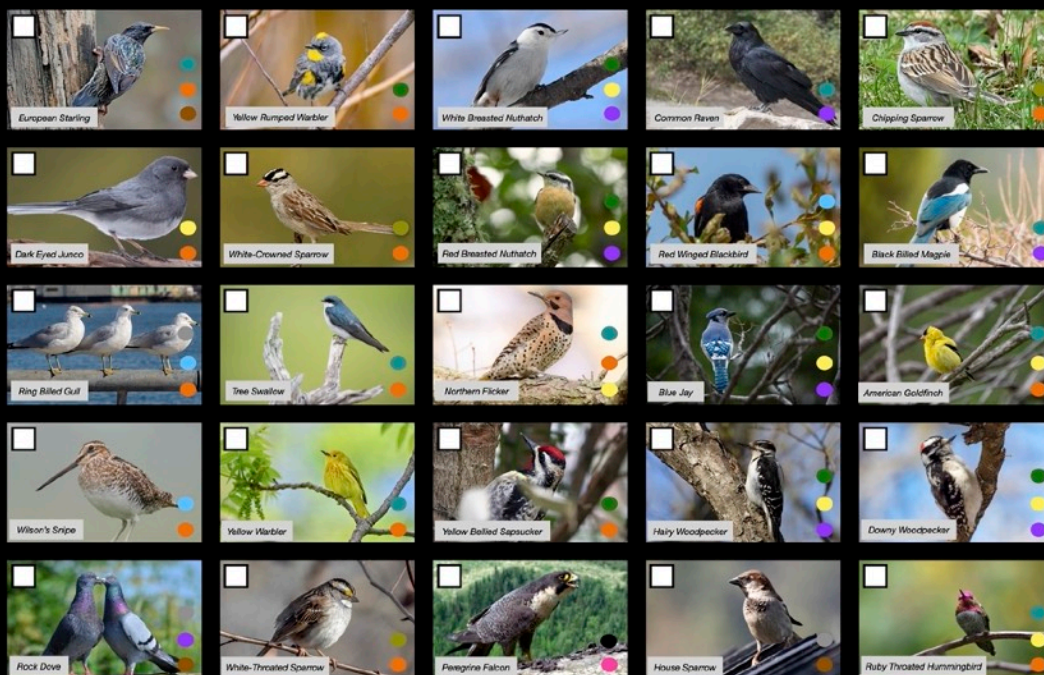
50 Birds of Eagle Point & Blue Rapids



Great Locations to Discover Birds in & around Eagle Point Provincial Park & Blue Rapids Prov. Recreation Area.

- Pembina Nordic Centre, 7010 Tap 494, Rocky Rapids, AB (American Redstart, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Ruffed Grouse and a variety of warblers)
- Willey West Campground, Eagle Point Provincial Park (Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Canada Goose, Ring-Billed Gull, Song Sparrow, White-Crowned & White-Throated Sparrows)
- Hilltop and Hillside Trails, Eagle Point Provincial Park (Western Tanager, Pileated & Hairy Woodpeckers, Black Capped Chickadee, Red Eyed Vireos, Swainson's Thrush)
- Rotary-Pembina Nordic Community Trails South (next to the Riverview Cemetery, Drayton Valley) (Black-capped chickadees, Red Eyed Vireo, Western Tanagers, Bald Eagle, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker)
- Wetlands, Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area (Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, Bullhead, Mallard, Solitary Sandpiper, Blue Jay, Yellow Bellied Sapsucker)
- Brazeau Dam, Brazeau County (variety of waterfowl, Common, Northern Flicker)
- Buck Lake Provincial Recreation Area (variety of waterfowl, variety of sparrow and warbler species, Bald Eagles, Tree Swallow, Cedar Waxwing)
- Hamlet of Buck Creek, AB (Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, more)
- Lions West Valley Park, Drayton Valley (Yellow Warbler, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Magpie, Pileated Woodpecker, American Crow, etc.)
- Ivan-To Park, Drayton Valley (Cedar Waxwing, Red-Winged Blackbird, Mallard, Solitary Sandpiper, Common Goldeneye, Magpie, Canada Goose, etc.)
- Backroads west of Drayton Valley (Yellow Bellied Sapsucker, Great Gray Owl)
- River Valley (Baltimore Orioles, Western Tanager, Swainson's Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Merlin)
- Town of Drayton Valley (Rock Dove, Merlin, House Sparrow, House Wren, Ring-Billed Gull, American Robin)

50 Birds of Eagle Point & Blue Rapids



LEGEND

- Year Round Resident
- Migratory Bird
- Common near/on Water
- Forest Dweller
- Bird Feeder Visitor
- Threatened or Species of Special Concern
- Introduced/Non-Native Species
- Prefers shrubby habitat
- Found in mixed woods with open grass areas
- Common in urban locations
- Nests and hunts from high cliffs

The ranges noted in the legend are a guideline for where to look for these species in their natural habitat. Some species may be found in a variety of habitats!

For a full list of bird species found in Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area, you can visit our website at www.epbrparkscouncil.org/explorer/plants-animals-geology/



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Which eggs belong to which birds?

These
eggs are
over 8 cm
long



These
eggs are
about
2.2 cm
long



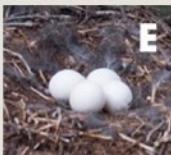
These
eggs are
about 5
cm long



These
eggs are
about 3
cm long



These
eggs
are
about
5.3 cm
long

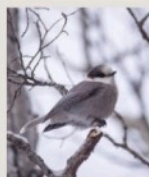


These
eggs
are
around
3.6 cm
long



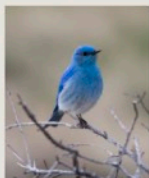
**GREAT GREY
OWL**

lays 2 to 5 eggs
in March - May



CANADA JAY

lays 3 to 5 eggs
in late February
or early March!



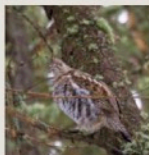
**MOUNTAIN
BLUEBIRD**

lays 4 to 8 eggs
in April - May



CANADA GOOSE

lays 2 to 9 eggs
in March or April



RUFFED GROUSE

lays 7 to 12 eggs
May to June
hatch



COMMON RAVEN

lays 3 to 7 eggs
in March or April



What kind of scat is this?

- a. Skunk
- b. Canada Goose
- c. Yellow Warbler
- d. Snowshoe Hare

b. Canada Goose

Heading out to our two Parks this
spring? Show us what you love
about our Parks with your
photographs by tagging us at
[#iloveEPBRParks](https://www.instagram.com/iloveEPBRParks)





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Questions or Suggestions?

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council

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[EPBR Parks on Instagram](#)

[Parks Council on Youtube](#)

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Enjoy these informative Links!

- ❖ **[LEAVE NO TRACE](#)** Outdoor recreation comes with responsibility. Explore without harm.
- ❖ **[Geocaching.com](#)** Discover Geocaching! A worldwide, year round scavenger hunt and it's free!
- ❖ **[Nestwatch](#)** Where Birds Come to Life! Awesome website for the family.
- ❖ **[Canadian Geographic for Kids](#)** features a wealth of Animal Facts!
- ❖ **[Explore the Wondrous world of Alberta's lichens](#)** with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
- ❖ **[Explore the Frogs & Toads of Alberta](#)** through photos, videos and audio.



Weyerhaeuser

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council thanks our supporters for their continued support of our programs! Our featured supporter of our Spring 2023 edition is Weyerhaeuser Drayton Valley.