



NEWS RELEASE

CELEBRATE **ALBERTA'S NATURAL BEAUTY** **DURING NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK**

April 6th - 12th, 2008

Celebrate Alberta's natural beauty during National Wildlife Week. Importance of pollination to plant life highlighted April 6 to 12 Edmonton... National Wildlife Week, April 6 to 12, reminds Albertans of the natural beauty and incredible biodiversity of plants and animals in this province.

The theme of this year's National Wildlife Week is "Pollinators – from flowers to food to our future." With 90 per cent of the world's seed-producing plant species relying on pollinators, the week helps to build awareness of how pollinators sustain ecosystems and their important role in growing food. While it's too early to view many of Alberta's flowering plants, some pollinators, such as over-wintering butterflies, can be spotted on warm days in April.

April is a good time for birdwatchers in Alberta. Spring migration is in full swing, and many of Alberta's migratory birds - such as song birds, geese and eagles - are starting to return to their summer habitats.

Alberta's exceptional biodiversity includes 574 species of vertebrates - 10 species of amphibians; 93 mammals; 61 fish; 411 birds and eight species of reptiles. In addition, many thousands of species of insects, other invertebrates and plants also fill our provincial landscape.

Alberta's public land covers over 60 per cent of the province. For most Albertans, it's only a short drive and a walk to reach one of the province's many natural areas. For more information on all wildlife in Alberta, visit <http://www.srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/wildlifeinalberta/watchablewildlife>.

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