

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

The Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) bird is a member of the crow family and is native to Alberta, British Columbia and Western United States. Clark's nutcracker plays an important role in conservation for the "species at risk" Whitebark pine and Limber pine; these trees are almost entirely dependent on Clark's Nutcracker for seed dispersal. The Clark's nutcracker is the only species that is able to crack open the pine cones from these at risk species. This bird species will collect up 35,000 seeds in a year, carry them in a pouch in their throat up to 10 km, and hide them by digging shallow holes with their beaks and burying 4-5 seeds. They have an incredible memory but cannot come back for every seed and the left behind seeds can result in new trees.

The mutualistic relationship between Clark's Nutcrackers and pine trees is a remarkable example of how nature's intricate connections benefit both species. These resourceful birds play a crucial role in seed dispersal, ensuring the survival and growth of pine forests. If interested in discussing further, please contact Erika at ag3@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-we-do/resource-centre/featured-species/birds/clark-s-nutcracker.html>

2) <https://kananaskis.org/clarks-nutcracker/>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://acfufa.com/how-to-apply/>

Rural Communities Grant

The UFA Agricultural Community Foundation's Rural Communities Grant supports projects that align with specific funding categories, enrich rural life for community members within 200 km of a UFA location, represent capital projects completed within two years, are accessible for community use, demonstrate a need, have a positive impact, and avoid duplicating existing services.

Contact Erika at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com with any questions.



WEED TO WATCH

Black Henbane

Hieracium aurantiacum

ID characteristics: Stems are Upright, tough, and almost woody. Plants grow up to 1 meter and may be branched or unbranched. Leaves are alternate, large, with a heavy, foul scent. Leaf edges are shallowly lobed, and veins are conspicuous. Flowers are pale yellow with deep purple veins and throats, borne on spikes. The calyx forms a 2.5 cm urn-shaped fruit with a thickened lid that pops off at maturity, releasing numerous tiny black-brown seeds.



Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/black-henbane/>

2024 Fall Stewardship Showcase

SEPTEMBER 5TH & 6TH
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
 (Tours Departing from Twin Butte Community Hall)

Join us for an educational, two-day showcase of stakeholder projects supported through our programs. Learn from experts, ask questions, & hear feedback from participating landowners.

Projects showcased include:

- Electric Fencing
- Off-site Watering
- Rotational Grazing
- Habitat Enhancement
- Grain Storage Solutions
- Wildlife Management






LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

Day 1 (8-5:00 pm) \$20.00
 Banquet (5-7:30 pm) \$10.00
 Day 2 (8-5:00 pm) \$20.00

Scan the QR code here to register, or visit rb.gy/fm2445

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If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag3@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Oldman Watershed Council

<https://oldmanwatershed.ca/>

The Oldman Watershed Council (OWC) is a community-based, not-for-profit organization in Southern Alberta, Canada. As one of the 11 Watershed Advisory and Planning Councils in Alberta, it is mandated by the provincial government to provide an independent voice for watershed management and health under the Province's Water For Life strategy. The OWC collaborates with everyone to find practical solutions to environmental challenges that impact us all. Their work involves managing water and land in a sustainable way, emphasizing long-term thinking and collective effort.

