



Nature News

Volume 31, Number 4
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
President: (position vacant)
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

February-March 2010

Wed Feb 17: Mount Robson to Bragg Creek

Wed Mar 17: Pre-Contact Plants of southern Alberta and their uses by early Albertans

Nature Calgary General Meeting

Wed Feb 17, 7:30 pm: Mount Robson to Bragg Creek: a six week stroll from the Monarch to the Foothills. Climber, professional guide and mountain interpreter Glenn Reisenhofer presents a grand hike in the Rockies.

Wed Mar 17, 7:30 pm: Pre-contact plant communities of southern Alberta and their uses by early Albertans, with Dr. Brian Kooyman of the U of C Department of Archaeology.

*All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, in **The Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary**, and are open to the public. To suggest a speaker or topic please call John McFaul 403-289-9517 or email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca.*



Pileated Woodpecker
© Anne K. Elliott

Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates

At the Nature Calgary Annual General Meeting on December 16, 2010, the following **Board members** were elected: Vice-President, Jamie Noakes; Secretary, Andrew Hart; Treasurer, Ed Kissinger; Program Director, John McFaul; Mgr Communications, Jan Brigden; Bird Study Chair, Andrew Hart; Botany Study Chair, Suzanne Visser; Directors-at-Large, Sarah Crook, Linda Vaxvick, Carol Hachey, Doug Collister; FAN Rep, Scott Jubinville. There were no nominations for President.

There will be a **Waterton trip** this year, tentatively booked at the camp for July 16-18, 2010. The cost will be partly subsidized by Nature Calgary. For more information please contact Andrew Hart. 403-279-5209.

2010 Western Canada Bird Banding Conference: Mar 26-27, U of Alberta, cost \$20. Presentations from Western Canadian Bird Observatories and a variety of bird marking and related topics. Field trip in Edmonton area. For more information see www.beaverhillbirds.com or contact Geoff Holroyd 780-951-8689 or email geoffrey.holroyd*@*ec.gc.ca (remove *'s).

For details of these and other volunteer opportunities, email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

or see the volunteers' page at <http://naturecalgary.com>

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary is operated entirely by volunteers who generously give their skills and time. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet others with similar interests in a fun and rewarding experience. Would you like to participate?

Nature Calgary Board members needed:

- **President:** the President's job is to coordinate and organize Board meetings, introduce the general meetings, and coordinate Nature Calgary's contact with external entities. The President is supported by the great team of volunteers and Board members currently in place. This position might take about 10-15 hours per month.
- **Publicity Director:** coordinates Nature Calgary's booth at events such as the Garden Show, and promotes Nature Calgary to Calgarians.
- **Directors-at-Large:** attend board meetings and offer expertise to individual projects.
- **Manager of Volunteers:** organizes volunteers and a thank-you event in May.

Contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Non-board positions - Membership Promotion, Field Trip Leaders and Welcome Table Volunteers are always welcome - contact Jamie for more information.



Hoary Redpoll?
© Anne K. Elliott



Albertabird

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

Adopt-a-Plant Program

Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants

<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>



All Nature Calgary field trips are free and open to all.

Lead a field trip!

To share your knowledge of a favourite location call Gus at 403-243-2248

CFNS & Inglewood
24hr Rare Bird Alert
403-221-4519
Updated Mon & Thu

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed, Feb 3: Alberta's Piping Plovers: their Conservation and Management, with Dave Prescott.

Wed, Mar 3: Monitoring Breeding Songbirds (MAPS) with Cyndi Smith

Wed Apr 7: Vireos, with Scott Lovell

Wed May 5: Montana Birding with John Carlson (Note: this meeting will be held at Fort Calgary).

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings. Contact, Andrew Hart at 403-279-5209 or [harta@*telusplanet.net](mailto:harta*@*telusplanet.net) (remove *'s).*

2009 Calgary area Christmas Bird Count data has been posted to Nature Calgary's website on the Bird Study Group pages. Almost 200 people took part in this year's count, with 105 feeder-watchers and 91 birders in the field, ranging in age from five to 82.

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition! Join us in 2010 in our Calgary-wide birding competition! It's free and open to all. There will be prizes, fun events, field trips and get-togethers throughout the year. Sign up now to be kept up-to-date with news about the competition and to be informed of events in which you can participate. For more information and to register see <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/> and watch the web and Nature News for updates. Also check the BirdsCalgary2010 updates at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdsCalgary2010>

Botany Study Group

Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. Contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658 or [svisser@*ucalgary.ca](mailto:svisser*@*ucalgary.ca) (remove*'s) for further details.*

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Check http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html for new trips and updates.

Note: Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

...January

Sun Jan 24, 9:30am: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Jan 24, 10am: Visit the tropics. Meet in the new ENMAX Conservatory, Calgary Zoo. Regular admission applies. Obtain map at entrance. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Fri Jan 29, 7pm: See the overnight concentration of up to 5000 Common Goldeneyes S of Eric Harvie Bridge. Meet at Southland Park parking lot, off Southland Dr SE, just E of Deerfoot Tr. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Jan 30, 9am: Bird the Bow River in FCPP. Meet at Bankside Parking Lot, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left just before entering the park. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun Jan 31, 7:30am: Several hundred Black-billed Magpies roost in the Weaselhead Area each night. Watch their dawn dispersal and then see other winter birds. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37 St SW. Leader, Bernie Diebolt, 403-210-2446.

...February

Mon Feb 1, 8:15am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Feb 6, 9am: Bird Mallard Point area of FCPP, accessed from the E end of Canyon Meadows Dr SE. Leader, Chris Lefebvre, 403-239-9847.

Sat Feb 6, 9:30am: Bird Reader Rock Garden and environs, looking for White-winged Crossbills, Wood Ducks, etc. Meet in parking lot, S off 25 Av SE, just E of

Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms**.

Mail to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or hand in at the General and Bird Study Group meeting welcome tables.

Latest version of the **waiver form** is available on the Nature Calgary web <http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

Calling All Photographers !!

The Nature Calgary web needs photographs!

If you are willing to allow your photographs to be used on the web, please contact Jan Brigden at email address on page 4 or ph. 403-275-1582.



Wood Lily © Linda Vaxvick

Nature Calgary is part of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, which publishes the magazine **Nature Alberta**.

See <http://www.fanweb.ca/>

Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Ken Havard, 403-242-0664.

Sun Feb 7, 8:15am: 18th Annual Duck Waddle, (4-5 hours). Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Carpool to Carburn Park; walk back. See varied waterfowl on Bow River. Bring lunch, hot drink. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Feb 13, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Feb 14, 9am: Bird Marshall Springs, FCPP. Access is from the S side of the Park, off Fish Creek Blvd, formerly 146 Av SW. From N side of the park, take Anderson Rd W to 37 St SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Mon Feb 15, Family Day, 8:30am: Bird Bowness Park, 48 Av, W of 85 St NW. Meet first parking lot. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sat Feb 20, 9:30 am: Snowy Owl Prowl. The annual February trek east of Calgary to find snowy owls and other birds. Meet at west end of Deerfoot Mall parking lot (Deerfoot Trail & 64th Ave. NE at Deerfoot Trail end). Leader: Terry Korolyk 403-254-1878.

Sat Feb 20, 2pm: Animal tracks, birds, trees and shrubs, S. Glenmore Park. Meet parking W end of 90 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Feb 21, 9am: Bird Edworthy Park. Meet S side of Boothman Pedestrian Bridge accessed from Shaganappi Tr & Bowness Rd if N of river, or from W end of Spruce Dr if S of river. Leaders, Russ/Sue Costello, 403-271-6858.

Mon Feb 22, 10am: Family Day of Birding. Meet Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Feb 27, 9am: Bird Sikome Lake area of FCPP, accessed from the S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun Feb 28, 8:30am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Chris Lefebvre, 403-239-9847.

...March (note that on Sun Mar 14 Daylight Saving Time begins)

Mon Mar 1, 8am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Mar 6, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Mar 7, 8:30am: Birding Bow River, Burnsmead to Hwy 22X. Meet parking lot FCPP HQ, off Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sun Mar 14, 1:30pm: Woody plants of Reader Rock Garden. Meet parking lot S off 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248. **** Note Daylight Saving Time begins Mar 14 ****

Fri Mar 19, 8:30pm: Watch for Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Meet Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Mar 21, 9:30am: Peak of Golden Eagle Migration, Mt. Lorette, Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, warm clothing. Meet Assumption School, 34th Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr, at Hwy 1). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Fri Mar 26, 9pm: Listen for Northern Saw-whet Owls, Sandy Beach Park. For the past two years, these owls have been heard calling here. Meet at parking lot at W end of Riverdale Av SW, W off Elbow Dr. Bring flashlight. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 27, 9am: Bird Glennfield area, FCPP, E of Macleod Tr, just S of Fish Creek. From N, go S on Macleod Tr, turn right onto Bannister Rd, go under Macleod Tr, then 1st left into FCPP. Meet at N end of 1st parking lot. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

...April

Thu Apr 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Of General Interest

New book: "A New Era for Wolves and People: Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes, and Policy" edited by Marco Musiani, Luigi Boitani, and Paul Paquet. University of Calgary Press.

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

<http://cpawscalgary.org>

Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society

<http://talkaboutwildlife.ca>

Alberta Wilderness Association

<http://albertawilderness.ca>

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)

<http://www.caoc.ab.ca>

Friends of Fish Creek

<http://friendsoffishcreek.org>

Cross Conservation Area

<http://crossconservation.org>

Calgary Zoo

<http://www.calgaryzoo.org>

New software: "BirdsEye" app for the iPhone® and iPod touch®. Bird id, sounds, maps, birdfinding, eBird observations, habitat and behaviour info from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Photo Contests 2009-2010 - The Natural Areas Adopt-A-Park program is looking for photos taken in Calgary's Natural Environment Parks taken by amateur photographers.

For more information see <http://www.calgary.ca> and search on "photo contest", or contact Linda Vaxvick at 403-239-9434.

- Twelve Mile Coulee NEP: **deadline Feb 12, 2010**
- Bowmont NEP: deadline October 8, 2010

Arctic tern website: www.arctictern.info shows results of recent geolocator study mapping the amazing Pole-to-Pole migration of the Arctic tern.

Emerald Awards 2010: Nominations are being accepted for the 2010 Emerald Awards for environmental excellence in nine categories. To submit a nomination or search the list of past recipients please visit www.emerald.foundation.ca.

For more information, please contact the Alberta Emerald Foundation at 780-413-9629 or info@emerald.foundation.ca.

Calgary Rock and Alpine Society meetings: Monday Jan 25 7:30 pm Lakeview Community. Hall. "Spring Alpines of the Aragonian Pyrenees" with Todd Boland of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. See www.craggs.ca

"Land Stewardship, Ethics, and Faith": a talk by Preston Manning, co-sponsored by CPAWS. Thurs Feb 4, 7:30 pm, Midlands Building, St. Mary's University Campus, Calgary. Free.

Paleo 2010, Sat Mar 13, 9am-5pm: The Alberta Palaeontological Society invites you to attend the 14th annual free symposium on ancient life. Presentations will be in the Jenkins Theatre, lower level of Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW.

AWA Tuesday Talks Series: Feb 2, Great Divide Trail; Feb 9, Mushrooms (by Suzanne Visser); Mar 9, Rattlesnakes; Mar 23, Bluebirds (by Don Stiles). Talks take place at AWA Office, 455 - 12 St. NW at 7 pm; cost \$5. See www.albertawilderness.ca/events or call 403-283-2025 to pre-register.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology **deadline Feb 15, 2010, for contest "Celebrate Urban Birds"**. "We invite you to show us how birds are surviving in your neighborhood this winter. It can be a photo, artwork, video, even a story or a poem describing how birds are finding the food, water, and shelter they need." See <http://birds.cornell.edu/celebration>.

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

Nature Calgary Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Contact Donna,
403-276-7799



Please recycle

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below (with membership card)

Campers Village (10% discount)

7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338

The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)

D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Calgary Honda (special discounted rates)

Anderson & Macleod 403-253-6531, x 4021

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Linda lvaxvick*@*telus.net and Jan jebridgen*@*telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the April issue is Friday March 10, 2010.