



Volume 32, Number 4
<http://naturecalgary.com>

February 16:
Ruth Gentry

March 16:
Julie Walker



*Birding Competition,
Photo Contest Entry*



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Photo Contest Entry*



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Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

February – March 2011

President: Jim Donohue ph: 403-850-3003 email: president@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wednesday, February 16, 7:30 pm: Impressions from Sabah, Borneo; a novice naturalist's itinerary. Speaker Ruth Gentry will share her experiences of travelling across this Malaysian province.

Wednesday March 16, 7:30 pm: Discover the Edible and Medicinal plants of Kananaskis Country with Julie Walker of Full Circle Adventures. The early explorers, ranchers and First nation's people used these plants and you can find out how to add them to your dinner table! The introduced "weeds" of our gardens were often edible or medicinal plant brought to Canada by the European homesteaders. Perhaps weeding will become a harvest and feeding instead! We will focus briefly on identification and the "best uses" for each plant. Stay afterwards for questions and to sample a native plant tea! Bring your own go mug to reduce dishes! Read more at www.full-circle-adventures.com.

*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*

Issues, Events and Updates

Nature Calgary's board will be holding a **strategy/planning session in mid-March**. Our goal is to identify areas of interest where members can get more actively involved, and that will draw new members into our society. We are looking for 5 - 8 non-board members to join us on this one-day session to create a strategic plan for our future. Please contact president Jim Donohue (403-850-3003) or any other board member for more information.

At the AGM on December 15 the following slate of officers was elected. Thank you all!

President	Jim Donohue
Vice President	Andrew Hart
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Ed Kissinger
Program Director	John McFaul
Communications Director	Jan Brigden
Representation Director	Jamie Noakes
FAN Rep/Director	Scott Jubinville
Directors at Large	Doug Collister, Ruth Gentry, Carole Hachey, Sarah Nevill, Linda Vaxvick

Recognition was given to **Suzanne Visser** for her outstanding contributions to Nature Calgary over many years and in many capacities. Her leadership of the Botany Study Group and participation in several natural areas groups in the city was particularly mentioned. **Linda Stewart** was thanked for her skillful planning of the very successful Nature Calgary banquets for the past two years.

The President's Award was given to **Andrew Hart**.

Thanks is also due to **Ian Halladay** who conducted the **Annual Christmas Quiz**. All the participants appreciated his challenging questions and accompanying wit!

Membership update – did you know that Nature Calgary has more than 450 members, and over 55% receive their newsletter, meeting announcements and notices of field trip changes via email? To receive your newsletter via email contact John Laurence laurencj*@*telus.net.

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!
Phone Jim 403-850-3003 to help or for details

Volunteer opportunities
<http://naturecalgary.com>



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Winter meetings are held monthly by the **Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group**
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

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



Lead a field trip!
Share your knowledge of a favourite location!
Ph: Gus 403-243-2248



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Volunteers wanted – can you help?

- **Field trip leaders** – show the way to your favourite natural area and help us to find new nature spots in and around Calgary. Others will help with identification!
- **Welcome table volunteers** - assist with questions at general meetings.
- **Board vacancies:**
Secretary, Volunteer Manager, Publicity Director

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group:

Wed Feb 2, 7:30 pm: Thirty Years on the Elkton Blue Bird Trail, presented by Ray Woods.

Wed March 2, 7:30 pm: Calgary 2010 Bird Competition results, presented by Howard Heffler

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 403-279-5209 or [andrewhart@shaw.ca](mailto:andrewhart*@shaw.ca) (remove *s).*

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition:

Birds Calgary 2010 is now over and the leaders are compiling the results. The Results will be presented at the March 2nd Bird Study Group meeting (see above). The competition blog at <http://birdscalgary.wordpress.com/> will remain as a resource but will be closed to comment soon.

Many excellent entries have been received for the Photography Competition section of the Birding Competition and the judges have a difficult job ahead of them. All the entries are online at <http://www.naturecalgary.com/bird-competition-photos/>
For those with fast internet connections there's a higher quality download at <http://www.naturecalgary.com/bird-competition-photos/bird-photos.pdf> (3.35 Mb).

The contest winners will be announced in the April issue of Nature News.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

- Many meeting places are mapped on <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/locations.html>
- New trips, updates, guidelines - see http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html
- Note: Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

...January

Sun Jan 23, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats. S parking lot at Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE. N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Jan 29, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-0260.

Sun Jan 30, 9:15am: See the varied exotic bird life at the Calgary Zoo; from the strange Hamerkop that builds the largest nest in the world (~5 ft diam.) to the exquisitely beautiful Superb Starling. Regular zoo admission (\$22.20) and parking (\$5) applies. Enter through the North gate (West is gate closed), or travel by C-train. Meet at Zoo ticket kiosk in tunnel from C-train Station. Bird list available upon registering. Leaders, Susan Wooding/Gus Yaki. **A limited number of ½ price coupons are available by calling 403-243-2248 (does not apply to parking fee).**

Sun Jan 30, 1:45pm: Looking forward to spring? See tropical flora in the Enmax Conservatory at the Calgary Zoo. Regular admission applies (**see previous trip for cost and possible discount**). Enter through the North gate (West is gate closed). Meet at the Enmax Conservatory (map available at gate). Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

...February

Tue Feb 1, 8:15am: Monthly Elbow River Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call 403-243-2248 or email gyaki*@calcna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return.

Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms** to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or at the General and Bird Study meeting welcome tables. Latest version of the **waiver form** is available <http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

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

Keen birders check **Albertabird** for latest sightings.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

FOR MORE NATURE
ACTIVITIES IN THE
CALGARY AREA VISIT:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
<http://cpawscalgary.org>

Weaselhead 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>

Adopt-a-Plant Program and Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

Sat Feb 5, 9am: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end Home Rd NW). Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920.

Sun Feb 6, 8:15am; 19th 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.

Sun Feb 13, 8:30am: Bird Sibbald, Exshaw, Harvie Heights for mountain birds. Bring lunch. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW, NW corner of Sarcee Tr and #1. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Feb. 13, 9am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Feb 19, 9:30am: Snowy Owl Prowl (full day). Parking lot W end of Deerfoot Mall, E of Deerfoot Tr at 64 AV N. Travel east of the city for Snowy Owls and other birds. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Feb 20, 8:30am: Bird S Glenmore Park & Weaselhead. Meet in parking lot, W end 90 Av SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Mon Feb 21, 10am: (Family Day). Bird Reader Rock Garden and environs, looking for White-winged Crossbills, Brown Creepers, etc. Parking lot, S off 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Feb 26, 8:30am: Bird the Bow River looking for early migrants especially the first gulls. Meet in 1st parking lot at the FCPP Rancho HQ, off Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Phil Cram, 403-228-4142.

Sat Feb 26, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Feb 27, 10am: Animal tracks, birds, trees and shrubs, S. Glenmore Park. Parking lot W end of 90 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

...March

Tue Mar 1, 8am: Monthly Elbow River Survey. Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call 403-243-2248 or email gyaki*@*calcna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Mar 5, 1:30pm: Woody plants of Reader Rock Garden. Parking lot S off 25 Av SE, just E of Macleod Tr, S of Stampede Grounds. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 12, 9am: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Mar 13. Daylight Saving Time begins.

Sun Mar 13, 9:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403- 286-5920.

Fri Mar 18, 8:30pm: Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 19, 9am: Paleo 2011, 15th Annual Palaeontological Symposium. A FREE day of educational events and activities. Learn more about our birds' ancestors. Lower Level Hall, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW.

Sun Mar 20, 8am: Bird Marshall Springs area, FCPP. Meet parking lot, E. of Sanderson Ridge condos, N of Fish Creek Blvd SW, on S. side of FCPP. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Fri Mar 25, 8:30pm: Northern Flying Squirrels and other nocturnal life. Bring flashlight. Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Mar 26, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Mar 27, 9am: Peak of Golden Eagle Migration, Mt. Lorette, Kananaskis Country. Bring lunch, warm clothing. Meet Assumption School, 34 Av NW (NW corner, Sarcee Tr, N. of Hwy 1). Call Leader, Andrew Hart, to register, 403-279-5209.

Fri Apr 1, 8:30am: Monthly Elbow River Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back (3.5 hours). Call 403-243-2248 or email gyaki*@*calcna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return.



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www.naturealberta.ca

... Alberta Natural
History information,
Conservation News &
Issues, Magazine,
Young Naturalists, and
more.



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Note: email addresses
have extra asterisks to
deter spammers.

NATURE CALGARY CONTACT INFORMATION

naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary, PO Box
981, Station M,
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
Memberships
Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Ph: John 403-284-4245

Of General Interest

Calgary Parks - About the City's Natural Area Management Plan. The plan was completed in 1994 and establishes an overall policy direction for the protection, management, public use and enjoyment, acquisition and stewardship of Calgary's natural heritage. From www.calgary.ca search on **natural areas** for details of the policies and other documentation.

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary has fall and winter birding programs for adults and family nature adventures. See <http://www.calgary.ca/recreation/recguide/> for details, or pick up a free copy of the guide at IBS, or call 3-1-1.

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre – "Taking it Outside" is a series of educational workshops designed for adults. February 12, 9 am - 12 noon, **Observing Nature ... Again!** Presenter – Patsy Drummond. Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, 13931 Woodpath Road SW (Access off 130 Av and 37 St SW). \$15 per person, includes coffee, tea and muffins. Register at 403-297-7927 or email roland.kirzinger*@*gov.ab.ca also see www.fish-creek.org.

University of Calgary Outdoor Centre announces a new monthly newsletter. Subscribe to it at www.calgaryoutdoorcentre.ca. The University of Calgary Outdoor Centre features regular free slide-shows and presentations throughout the winter months. Presenters are among Canada's most expert guides, activity leaders and safety experts in Canada. The presentations are free and everyone is welcome! Some examples are: **Canoeing the Coppermine**, Monday, January 24, 7 to 9pm. **The New Nahanni: New Park, New Adventures!** Monday, March 21, 7-9pm. Presentations take place at University of Calgary Campus-Kinesiology Building (KNB) 132. For more information call 403-220-5058 or see www.calgaryoutdoorcentre.ca/slideshow.

May 2010 Bird Counts data is now available online – go to <http://naturealberta.ca/news/may-2010-bird-counts-now-available>

The Celebrate Urban Birds project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology invites you to submit photos, artwork, video, and other types of entries showcasing flying birds for its **"Flights of Fancy"** contest. See www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/ for more information.

Message from Alberta Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)

I recently joined Nature Calgary and attended the January Bird Group meeting. During the meeting, the group that were doing the counts in Calgary noted a coot on Princes Island Park, and made a comment that it probably didn't survive as it seemed injured. As with many people living in the City, it appeared they did not know who they could call to help this bird.

I'm a volunteer rescue driver for the Alberta Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) which is located out Symons Valley Road towards Madden. They rescue and rehabilitate injured wildlife, native to Alberta. It is amazing how many birds and animals they rescue and are able to release back into nature.

Their website is www.aiwc.ca and their phone number is 403-946-2361. Please mention this group so your birders have the number in case they come across injured animals. It is a worthwhile endeavour.

Victoria Fretz

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below (with valid 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

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

Deadline for the April 2011 issue is Friday March 11.