



Nature News

Volume 33, Number 2
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)
President: Jim Donohue ph: 403-850-3003

October - November 2011
email: president@cfns.fanweb.ca



Pronghorn Antelope
Source Wikipedia

****Please note the changed venues for fall meetings.**



Image © Stephen Spring

**Nature Calgary Annual Banquet:
Purchase tickets
by Oct 25!**
See page 4

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!
Contact Jim 850-3003 to volunteer

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

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

Nature Calgary General meeting.

Wednesday September 21, 7:30 pm: The Wolverine Way: Fierce but Vulnerable. Douglas Chadwick will share discoveries about social relationships among wolverines. Their mastery of the Rockies, making spectacular climbs, and maintaining territories of unbelievable size, coupled with their close ties to cool habitats and a deep snowpack, make them sensitive to changing climate conditions. Douglas is an author and wildlife researcher based in Montana; his book, *The Wolverine Way*, will be available to purchase.
Venue - John Dutton Theatre, Central Library, 616 Macleod Trail SE (2nd floor)

Wednesday October 19, 7:30 pm: The last migration in the Northern Plains: Pronghorn Antelope. Cormack Gates, Professor of Conservation Biology, Faculty of Environmental Design, U of C <http://evds.ucalgary.ca/profiles/cormack-gates>. Pronghorn Antelope face issues during their annual migration such as loss of interconnected habitat, man-made obstacles, lack of food and harsh winters. Dr Gates will provide insight on their struggles and solutions.
Venue - University of Calgary, Engineering E241.

Wednesday November 16, 7:30 pm: speaker TBA.
Venue Fort Calgary

*All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, from November to May meetings will be 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

As part of the Bowmont Park Management Plan, the City has now hired a company to reclaim the Klippert Gravel Pit in Bowmont Park. Nature Calgary is a stakeholder in the plan and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

The start of the Weaselhead Plant Control project has been delayed but will begin either this fall or in the spring of 2012.

Volunteers wanted – can you help?

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet – help make this event a success by volunteering. Call Penny Smith, 403-283-9260

Welcome Table volunteers - assist with questions and membership matters at general meetings; bring and set up display.

Invasive Plants study project – Contact Sarah Nevill, 403-663-9951.

Board vacancies:

Publicity Director: coordinate our booth at events to promote Nature Calgary.

Botany Study Group chair: organize botany-related events and field trips.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

October 5, Birds of Prey - presented by Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation.

November 2, Digital Bird Photography - presented by Brian Elder.

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).*

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



All phone numbers are area code 403 unless otherwise stated.

**Inglewood Bird Sanctuary is located at the E end of 9 Ave SE.

Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms** to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or at General and Bird Study meeting welcome tables.

Download the waiver form <http://tinyurl.com/NCform>

More nature activities and resources in the Calgary area:

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

Weaselhead Society <http://talkaboutwildlife.ca>

Alberta Wilderness Association <http://albertawilderness.ca>

Friends of Fish Creek www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Cross Conservation Area www.crossconservation.org

Nature Calgary Field Trips

New Field Trip Leaders are welcome. Share your favourite nature spot, in and around Calgary. Others will help with identification, and you can partner with an experienced leader to get started! Contact Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209 or Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

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

...September

Tue Sep 20-Nov 15: Observe the Golden Eagle migration at Mount Lorette over an 8 week period. Go for a few hours, or often, to view or assist the main observers who will be there daily.

See http://www.eaglewatch.ca/eagle_fieldnotes/eagle_watch_observation_sites.html

Sat Sep 24, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary** E end of 9 Ave SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 283-9260.

Sat Sep 24, 1:30pm: Quarries and Buffalo Jumps of Edworthy Park. Meet Woodcliff Church, W end of Spruce Dr SW. Rain date-Oct 1. Leader, George Edworthy, 242-2731.

Sun Sep 25, 7am: Observe Eagle/Raptor Migration over Plateau Mtn. Often good mix and numbers at a viewable distance in a scenic setting. Twenty minute fairly steep walk to observation site, but you may take longer. Meet Anderson LRT, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr. Advance registration required (due to weather conditions). Leader, Peter Roxburgh, 403 271-7033.

Fri Sep 30, 8am: Fish Rescue, Western Headworks Canal, N end Max Bell Arena area, Deerfoot and 17th Av, Calgary. Since 1998, Trout Unlimited Canada and volunteers have rescued almost 700,000 fish! Rescued species include Rainbow, Brown and Bull Trout, and Mountain Whitefish, Northern Pike, Burbot, Lake Whitefish and Yellow Perch as well as many unique and interesting non-sport fish species. Volunteers of all ages are needed! This project provides an excellent "hands-on" activity for individuals, families, youth and community groups. For more information contact Lesley Peterson at 209-5184 or 1-800-909-6040; or LPeterson@tucanada.org; or <http://www.tucanada.org/index.htm>.

Sat Oct 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 leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Oct 1, 8am: Fish Rescue, Women's Coulee Diversion, a few minutes west of High River. See Fri Sep 30 above for more details.

Sun Oct 2, 7am: View Eagle/Raptor Migration over Plateau Mtn. See Sep 25.

Sat Oct 8, 8am: Fish Rescue, Carseland-Bow River Headworks Canal, S of Carseland. See Fri Sep 30 above for more details.

Sat Oct 8, 8am: Birding around Eagle Lake and area; meet at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary at the east end of 9 Avenue SE. Leader Rob Worona, 403-984-7655.

Sat Oct 8, 1:30pm: See captive Whooping Cranes at the Zoo Ranch. Limited to 25 participants, call 243-2248 to register. Meet Anderson LRT, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, beside Macleod Tr. Guide, Crane Keeper Dwight Knapik. Rain date, Sun Oct 9.

Sun Oct 9, 8am: Fish Rescue, Carseland-Bow River Headworks Canal #2, S of Carseland. See Fri Sep 30 above for more details.

Sun Oct 9, 7am: View Eagle/Raptor Migration over Plateau Mtn. See Sep 25.

Sat Oct 15 9:30am Mid Fall roundup Calgary and area for waterfowl, raptors, gulls, late shorebirds and songbirds, and early winter visitors. Meet parking area C, N Glenmore Park immediately W of the Rowing Club. Leader Terry Korolyk 245-1878.

Sat Oct 15, Canmore Festival of Eagles, for info, 403-678-1878 or <http://www.canmore.ca/About-Canmore/Community-Celebrations/October-Festival-of-Eagles.html>

Sun Oct 16, 9am: Bird Burnsmead to Hwy 22X. Meet Burnsmead parking lot, left off Bow Bottom Tr SE just before entering FCPP. Leader, Howard Heffler, 284-2461.

**Adopt-a-Plant Program
and Southern Alberta
Rare Plant Study Group**
www.adoptaplantalberta.com

**Alberta Native
Plant Council**
www.anpc.ab.ca

ANPC Invasive Plants
www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki



Image © Stephen Spring

Sun Oct 16, 9am: See the largest specimens of 30 species of trees, many unusual, in SW Calgary. Meet at Stanley Park, on 42 Av SW, 2 blocks W of Macleod Trail. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

Sat Oct 22, 9am: Bird Bowmont Park. Meet at Maranatha Church, 2111 52 ST NW (N end Home Rd). Leaders, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446; Janet Gill, 230-5671.

Sun Oct 23, 9am: Bird Lafarge Meadows, FCPP. Meet at Boat Launch at S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Tony Timmons, 256-0754.

Sat Oct 29, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.** Leader, Penny Smith, 283-9260.

Sun Oct 30, 9am: Bird Marshall Springs to Votier's Flats, FCPP. Meet Marshall Springs parking lot, S side of FCPP, just off Fish Creek Blvd. Leader, Grant Brydle, 720-4957.

Tue Nov 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 leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.



Waterfowl images © Timothy Tse

Of General Interest

Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors (also known as Calgary Area Bluebird Trail Monitors) Annual Meeting, **Saturday October 22, 2:00pm:** U of C Biosciences Bldg Room 211. We will have reports from monitors on how the year went for bluebirds and tree swallows in our nestboxes, as well as one or two special speakers. All are welcome who have an interest to learn about nestbox monitoring. For details contact Don Stiles 403-271-4689 or Bill Taylor 403-244-3044.

Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group (SARPSG) with the 2011 field season winding down, it's time to start thinking about Adopt-a-Plant Alberta's Rare Plant Study Groups, which start in October. They're a great way to get your "plant fix" through the autumn and winter months, learn something new, make some new friends and enjoy some veggie talk. Study Groups are held monthly Calgary (Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group). First Saturday of the Month: October 1; November 5; December 3; January 7; February 4; March 3; April 7; May 5 (tentative) noon to 4:00 PM University of Calgary Herbarium, Biological Sciences Building (basement). Space is limited! Please sign up by contacting Leslie lesliemonteleone*@hotmail.com or Heide enzian44*@shaw.ca. See <http://www.adoptaplantalberta.com/> for other events.

A new resource for Canadian Bird Photographers by David Lilly is now online at www.canadianbirdphotographer.ca.

Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park events: Speaker series at Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, 7-9 pm. Oct 27, **Reptiles of Alberta**, by Kris Kendall.

Autumn Birding Courses taught by Gus Yaki start Sep 5.

See <http://friendsoffishcreek.org> or phone 403-238-3841 to register for all events.

Weaselhead Wednesday Walks: Oct 5, 7-9pm. Learn about the plants and animals that make the Weaselhead Natural Environment Area Calgary's most bio-diverse Natural Area. Meet at the N parking lot on the W side of the 66 Av & 37 St intersection, at the picnic table on the W side of the lot (near the Weaselhead Sign). Contact Lisa Dahlseide, Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Soc., 200-7111.

Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park - <http://www.grpf.ca>.

Ralph Klein Park is now open to the public at 12350 84 St. SE. Hours October to March, 10-4 Tuesday - Saturday. Closed stat holidays. Man-made wetland, environmental education facility, orchard, picnic area.

Calgary Zoo

www.calgaryzoo.org

Nature Conservancy Alberta Region

Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253
www.natureconservancy.ca



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www.naturealberta.ca

Note:

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Nature Calgary Banquet 2011



The Profound Impact of Commitment and Compassion

"At the time, we didn't realize that we had done anything out of the ordinary, really it just seemed like the only thing to do" – Brash

"People like Mr. Brash make me proud to be Canadian. What a winning combination...courage and compassion."

Join us on Saturday November 5, 2011

Royal Canadian Legion
1910 Kensington Road NW

Time: 6 - 7 pm: Cash Bar
7 pm: Three course sit-down dinner
(choice of prime rib roast of beef, or vegetarian selection)
8 pm: Guest Speaker - **Andrew Brash**

Our Guest Speaker Andrew Brash, is a Calgary climber and teacher who has been following his passion for climbing and adventure for over twenty years. He's traveled and climbed in some of the most impressive mountain environments the world has to offer, including mountains in Tibet, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Alaska, Chile and Nepal. He is best known for his experiences on Mount Everest
<http://www.andrewbrash.com/>.

Limited Seats Available: \$40 Nature Calgary members, \$45 non-members. Reserve now by calling Penny Smith 403-283-9260 or email pjsmith*@*cbe.ab.ca (remove *s from the email address).

Send cheques (payable to Nature Calgary) to:
Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4 and **please** include your meal choice (beef/vegetarian) and contact information.

Deadline for reservations is October 25.

Added Features:

- Free parking, easy access
- Book Exchange – please bring no-longer-needed nature books to share with others, for free.



Nature Calgary Calgary Field Naturalists' Society www.naturecalgary.com

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Ph: John
403-284-4245

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

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

Nature Calgary Contact Information naturecalgary*@*cfns.fanweb.ca
Deadline for the December/January issue is Friday November 11, 2011.

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