



# Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>

**Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)**

**September 2011**

**President: Jim Donohue** ph: 403-850-3003 email: [president@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:president@cfns.fanweb.ca)



Wolverine

© Douglas Chadwick

## Nature Calgary General meeting.

Wed Sep 21, 7:30 pm: The Wolverine Way: Fierce but Vulnerable. Speaker Douglas Chadwick will share discoveries about surprising social relationships among wolverines, traditionally thought to be solitary outside the mating season. The remarkable way they master the Rockies, making spectacular climbs, and maintaining territories of nearly unbelievable size, coupled with their close ties to cool temperature habitats and a deep snowpack, make them sensitive to changing climate conditions. Douglas is an author and wildlife researcher based in Montana. His latest book, *The Wolverine Way*, will be available to purchase.

*All general meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:naturecalgary*@*cfns.fanweb.ca)*

## Nature Calgary Annual Banquet:

Purchase tickets  
by Oct 25!  
See page 4

## Issues, Events and Updates

**Message from Board of Directors:** We hope you've had an excellent summer of birding and enjoying Calgary's natural areas. We are all looking forward to another year of interesting General Meetings, Bird Study Group meetings, and the many field trips coordinated by Nature Calgary. The Board has a few **goals** that we will be actively pursuing in the coming year and beyond:

- **Grow our membership** by being more visible in our communities and providing more opportunities for people to become directly involved in our activities.
- **Establish an Advocacy Committee** to coordinate Nature Calgary's involvement in natural area protection concerns.
- **Identify projects in Calgary** that can benefit from Nature Calgary's expertise and resources.
- **Revise the Nature Calgary website.**

These goals all clearly require the ideas and direct participation of our current membership. Please discuss or e-mail your thoughts on these or other goals with any board member. We are VERY anxious to hear from you. Thanks. *Jim Donohue, Pres.*

## 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: Volunteer Manager:** recruit, support and thank our volunteers.

**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

**Wed., Sep 7: Birding in NW India** – presented by Ken Havard

*Bird Study Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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).*

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!  
Contact Jim 403-850-3003 to volunteer

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

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

## Nature Calgary Field Trips

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

**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](http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html)
- Note: Highlighted trips require pre-registration.

Phone numbers should be prefixed with area code 403 unless stated.

### ...August

**Tue Aug 16, 6:30pm: Bird Carburn Park.** S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, then right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet parking lot. Leader, Andrew Hart, 279-5209.

**Thu Aug 18, 7:30am: Early morning birding for autumn migrants at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary,** E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

**Sat Aug 20, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2496.

**Sat Aug 20, 8:30am: Bird Bearspaw area,** meet W end of Royal Oak Shopping Centre on Country Hills Blvd NW; opposite Sleep Country to carpool. Leaders, Andrew Hart, 279-5209 and Ruth Gentry 454-0589.

**Sat Aug 20, 8:30am: Flora, fauna, fungi, Brown-Lowery Prov. Park.** Meet Anderson LRT Stn, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr. Bring Lunch. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

**Sun Aug 21, 7:30am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*,** then on to **Weed Lake** nr Langdon. Bring lunch. Leader, Peter Roxburgh, 271-7033.

**Tue Aug 23, 6:30pm: Tue evening summer birding, Confluence Park.** Meet park entrance Beddington Tr & Beddington Blvd NE. If coming from S take exit #259 off Deerfoot Tr N. Leaders, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446 & Janet Gill, 230-5671.

**Thu Aug 25, 7:30am: Early morning birding for autumn migrants at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

**Sat Aug 27, 8am: Flora, Fauna & Geology (including some fossil collecting) of Canyon Ck, Moose Mtn, near Bragg Ck,** Kananaskis, meeting there at 9am. Hiking in a dry rocky streambed. Register with [gyaki\\*@\\*calcna.ab.ca](mailto:gyaki*@*calcna.ab.ca) for detailed information. Leader, Dan Quinsey, [pastpres\\*@\\*albertapaleo.org](mailto:pastpres*@*albertapaleo.org), phone evenings, 247-3022.

**Sat Aug 27, 8:30am: See and learn the identity of the many species of mushrooms at West Bragg Creek.** Meet S. side Canadian Tire, N of Richmond Rd SW, just E of Sarcee Tr for car-pooling. Bring Lunch. Leader, Karel Bergmann, 285-2380.

**Sun Aug 28, 8am: Bird east FCPP. Meet Mallard Point,** E end of Canyon Meadows Dr SE. Carpool, drive to Bankside, walk back to Mallard Point. Leaders Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446 & Janet Gill, 230-5671.

**Tue Aug 30: Final Tue evening summer birding, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Nimali Seneviratne, 265-8750.

**Wed Aug 31, 7:30am: Early morning birding for autumn migrants at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Carole Hachey, 454-4611

### ...September

**Thu Sep 1, 7:30am: 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

**Sat Sep 3, 8am: Bird Frank Lake, E of High River.** Meet Anderson LRT Stn, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr. Leaders, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446: & Janet Gill, 230-5671.

**Sat Sep 3, 9am: Bird Hull's Wood, Mallard Pt, Bankside, Burnsmead, FCPP.** Meet in 1st parking lot on E side of Bow Bottom Tr SE after entering Park. Leader Terry Korolyk, 254-1878.

**Sun Sep 4, 9am: Bird Hull's Wood, FCPP.** Leader, Tony Timmons, 256-0754.

**Wed Sep 7, 7:30am: Early morning birding for autumn migrants at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Carole Hachey, 454-4611

**Sat Sep 10, 8am: Bird Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.** For directions, see <http://www.grpf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Enjoying-your-Park-Visit.pdf> . Leader, Frank Hennessey, 932-4986.

\*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 the General and Bird Study meeting welcome tables. Latest version of the **waiver form** is available <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](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

Cross Conservation Area  
[www.crossconservation.org](http://www.crossconservation.org)

**Adopt-a-Plant Program  
and Southern Alberta  
Rare Plant Study Group**  
[www.adoptaplantalberta.com](http://www.adoptaplantalberta.com)

**Alberta Native  
Plant Council**  
[www.anpc.ab.ca](http://www.anpc.ab.ca)

**ANPC Invasive Plants**  
[www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki](http://www.anpc.ab.ca/wiki)

**Calgary Zoo**  
[www.calgaryzoo.org](http://www.calgaryzoo.org)

**Nature Conservancy  
Alberta Region**  
Toll Free: 1.877.262.1253  
[www.natureconservancy.ca](http://www.natureconservancy.ca)



Checkerspot sp.  
© Anne K. Elliott

**Sun Sep 11, 8am: Birds, Botany & Indian Pictographs, Zephyr Creek, Kananaskis Country.** Return trip, 9 km from Sentinel Parking Lot. Involves crossing the Highwood River at low water level. Wear footwear you don't mind getting wet and/or bring waterproof footwear to leave behind until return. The pictographs presumably were made by Kootenai Indians about 300 years ago. Meet Anderson LRT Stn, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr. Leaders, Moya Kavanagh, 284-9219; David Vernon, 243-2248; Arnold Westberg, 284-1856.

**Tue Sep 13, 7:30am: Early morning birding for autumn migrants at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, John McFaul, 289-9517.

**Sat Sep 17, 8:30am: Bird Bow Valley Prov. Park.** Expect to walk 10-12 km. Bring Lunch. Meet Assumption School, NW corner of 34 Av NW & Sarcee Tr. Leader, Andrew Hart, 279-5209.

**Sun Sep 18, 8:30am: Bird Beaverdam Flats.** 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. Leaders, Bernie Diebolt, 210-2446 & Janet Gill, 230-5671.

**Sep 20-Nov 15: Observe the Golden Eagle migration at Mount Lorette** over an 8 week period. You are invited for a few hours, or often, to view or assist the main observers at [http://www.eaglewatch.ca/eagle\\_fieldnotes/eagle\\_watch\\_observation\\_sites.html](http://www.eaglewatch.ca/eagle_fieldnotes/eagle_watch_observation_sites.html)

**Sat Sep 24, 9am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary\*.** Leader, Penny Smith, 283-9260.

**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 Stn, 109 Av SW, S of Pedestrian overpass, next to Macleod Tr. Advance registration required (due to weather conditions). Leader, Peter Roxburgh, 271-7033.

...October

**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.

**Sun Oct 2, 7am; Observe Eagle/Raptor Migration over Plateau Mtn.** See Sep 25 trip for details. Leader, Peter Roxburgh, 271-7033.

## Of General Interest

**Save the Last Dance for Tomorrow:** AWA presents a talk by researchers on **sage grouse**. Only 13 males remain in Alberta. Sep 7, 7pm at 455-12 St NW, \$25 donation.

**Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park events:** Speaker series at Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, 7-9 pm. Sep 22, **Gender Benders: Effects of Contaminants in the Bow River**, by Hamid Habibi. 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:** Sep 7 and 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., 403-200-7111.

**Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre** offers geology tours led by Ben Gadd, Aug 21, Sep 4, and a full day tour Aug 21. Cost for the regular tours is \$30/\$40 for members /non-members, age 13 and under free. See <http://cmags.org> or Call 403-678-2462.

**Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park is now open to the public** (day use only). Last chance this year for guided hikes or photography tours available Aug 15, 19, 20, 21. See <http://www.grpf.ca> or call 403-265-5488 to pre-register.

**Ralph Klein Park is now open to the public** at 12350 84 St. SE. Hours Apr to Sep, 10-4; Oct to Mar, 10-4 Tues-Sat. Closed stat holidays. Man-made wetland, environmental education facility, orchard, picnic area. See [www.calgary.ca/rkp](http://www.calgary.ca/rkp).

**Old editions of *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, *The Auk*, and *The Blue Jay* journals** from the 1950s are being offered to members by Malcolm Bell, [bellmalex\\*@yahoo.ca](mailto:bellmalex*@yahoo.ca)

**Red-necked Grebe life history in photos** has been captured by members Ian Neilson and Nancy Murdoch - view at [http://www.canadiannaturephotographer.com/Ian\\_Neilson\\_Nancy\\_Murdoch.html](http://www.canadiannaturephotographer.com/Ian_Neilson_Nancy_Murdoch.html) .



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Naturalists and more.**

[www.naturealberta.ca](http://www.naturealberta.ca)

### Note:

Take out the \*s that have been added to personal email addresses. This reduces spam.



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.naturecalgary.com)

### Memberships

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

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

**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](mailto:lvaxvick*@*telus.net) and Jan [jebrigden\\*@\\*telus.net](mailto:jebrigden*@*telus.net) (remove \*) ph: 403-275-1582.

**Nature Calgary Contact Information** [naturecalgary\\*@\\*cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary*@*cfns.fanweb.ca)  
**Deadline for the October/November issue is Friday Sep 9, 2011.**