



Volume 33, Number 4
<http://naturecalgary.com>

**Feb 15:
Birds, Botany and
Beer in Bohemia.**

**March 21:
Expedition Cruise
of the Antarctic
Peninsula**

Nature Calgary is run
entirely by volunteers!
Contact Andrew 403-
279-5209 to volunteer or
for more details

Volunteers' opportunities
<http://naturecalgary.com>



Satellite image of the
Province of Alberta.

Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

February - March 2012

Acting President: Andrew Hart ph: 403-279-5209 email: president@cfns.fanweb.ca

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wednesday, February 15: *Birds, Botany & Beer in Bohemia* with Karel Bergmann. Karel was born in Eastern Bohemia, part of the Czech Republic and will describe the nature, and historical architecture of the region and perhaps the beer!

Wednesday, March 21: *Penguins and other wildlife of the Falklands, South Georgia, the South Shetlands and the Antarctic Peninsula.* Join Val Scholefield on an expedition cruise as she fulfills a life-long dream to see her favourite birds as well as icebergs and awe-inspiring scenery.

*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

Our AGM was held in December. Many thanks to retiring board members, Ruth Gentry and Carole Hachey for all the work they have done. We welcome Lynne Colborne to the board for 2012. The president's position is vacant and in the interim Andrew Hart will be acting president.

E-newsletters save money and volunteer time. If you have Internet access and email, please choose this option and receive the colour version of the newsletter. Contact John Laurence (284-4245 or laurencj*^{*}telus.net) to change your preference.

Volunteers needed – can you help?

Board vacancies 2012:

- President:** chair Board meetings; handle public enquiries; advocacy
- Publicity Director:** coordinate our booth at events to promote Nature Calgary.
- Botany Study Group chair:** organize botany-related events and field trips.
- Field trip leaders** - lead a group to a favourite nature area
- Welcome table volunteers** - assist with questions and membership matters at general meetings, help set up table and banners.

Obituary

Ray Huene

November 24, 1934 - January 4, 2012

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ray Huene. He was a most valued volunteer and friend to the society. Ray organized many annual banquets and bus trips for Nature Calgary. Each banquet or bus trip was eagerly anticipated by the membership and due to Ray's excellent planning skills were highly successful. He brought us a wide variety of entertaining speakers over the years and chose varied destinations for the bus trips that were of interest to a large number of our members. He was a fine man, well-liked by all who knew him.



Doug Waylett

June 1, 1939 - January 7, 2012

Doug was involved with the Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group and was well known by many Nature Calgary members.



Snowy Owl
© Stephen Spring

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

Lead a field trip!

Share your
knowledge of a
favourite location!
call Gus 243-2248
or Andrew 279-5209

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>.

All phone numbers are
area code 403 unless
otherwise stated.

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

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

Birders should check
Albertabird
for latest sightings.

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

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

February 1: Understanding the Bird-Brained: The Psychology of Bird Watching. Speaker, Chip Scialfa.

March 7: High Science: The Natural History of Alpine Ptarmigan.
Speaker, Kathy Martin

*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.*

Nature Calgary Field Trips

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

Sun Jan 22, 9am: Birding W of Calgary, likely Sibbald Tr, Exshaw, Harvie Heights, subject to road conditions. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr at Hwy 1). Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Jan 22, 9am. Birding Carburn Park. S from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE to second stoplight, then right & follow signs to Carburn Park. Meet in parking lot. Leaders: Janet Gill, 403 230-5671; Bernie Diebolt, 403 210-2446.

Sat Jan 28, 9am: *Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Jan 29, 9am: Bird Bowness Park, 48 Av, W of 85 St NW. Meet first parking lot. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Wed 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sun Feb 5, 8:15am: 20th 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, 256-0754.

Sat Feb 11, 9am: *Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sun Feb 12, 1:30pm: Nature walk, mammal tracking, etc., in S Glenmore Park. Meet parking lot, extreme W end of 90 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

Sat Feb 18, 9am: Bird Bebo Grove, FCPP, S end of 24 St SW. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sat Feb 18, 9:30am: Search for Snowy Owls and other birds, E of Calgary. Meet at the W end of Deerfoot Mall, Deerfoot Tr & 64 Av NW. Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Feb 19, 9:30am: Search for winter birds at Bowness Park, 48 Av, W of 85 St NW. Meet first parking lot. Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920.

Mon Feb 20, 8:30am: Family Day. Bird Griffith Woods Park. Go 2.5km W from Sarcee Tr SW on Hwy 8, then left at 69 St SW into Discovery Ridge, past the traffic circle. At the bottom of the hill, turn left on Discovery Link into parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sat Feb 25, 7:15am. Several hundred Black-billed Magpies roost in the Weaselhead area each night. Watch their dawn dispersal, then see other local winter birds. Meet parking lot, 66 Av & 37St SW. Leaders: Bernie Diebolt, 403 210-2446; Janet Gill, 403 230-5671.

Sun Feb 26, 9am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Thu 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.



Other nature organizations in the Calgary area

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>

Southern Alberta Rare Plant Study Group
winter meetings

<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

New

Alberta Bryophyte and Lichen Group

<http://www.ablig.com>

Sun Mar 4, 1:30pm: Nature Walk in Carburn Park, S from Glenmore Tr E onto 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, then right and follow signs. Leader, Gus Yaki, 243-2248.

Sun Mar 11, 2am, Daylight Saving Time begins.

Sun Mar 11, 9am: Bird Frank Lake area for early arrivals, E of High River. Meet at Anderson LRT Station, next to Macleod Tr, S of pedestrian overpass. Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Mar 11, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet S parking lot (Lynnwood Rd & Lynnwood Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Kingsley Blades, 403-291-4278.

Sat Mar 17, 9am: *Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sat Mar 24, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet S parking lot (Lynnwood Rd & Lynnwood Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leaders: Bernie Diebolt, 403-210-2446; Janet Gill, 403-230-5671.

Sun Mar 25, 9 am: 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, 279-5209.

Sun Mar 25, 10am: Bird Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd). Leaders, Paula/Jack Sisko, 403-286-7103.

Sat Mar 31, 9am: Look for early spring arrivals at *Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Leader, Jan Roseneder, 403-286-5920.

Sun 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.



Great Grey Owl, © J. Thompson



Bohemian Waxwing, © A. Elliott



Red-breasted Nuthatch, © P. Smith



Flicker, © A. Elliott



www.naturealberta.ca

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

Note:

Remove the *s that have been added to personal email addresses. This reduces spam.

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca



Rothney Astrophysical Observatory
© E. Kusmirski

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr
Family \$25.00/yr
Contact John
403-284-4245 or
laurencj*[*telus.net](mailto:laurencj*@telus.net)

Of General Interest

Spray Lakes Open House, January 26 from 3pm to 7pm at the Bragg Creek Center, 23 White Ave, Bragg Creek. This will be an opportunity to view the proposed logging plan. Maps will be on display to show where the cutblocks are located. Spray Lake Sawmills staff will be on site to answer questions and gather feedback. For more information call Jordan Dyck at 403-851-3339.

Sat March 17, 9am-4pm, Alberta Paleontological Society's Paleo 2012, at the Jenkins Theatre, Lower Level, Mount Royal University, 4285 Mount Royal Gate, Calgary. This is free, and open to the public. See <http://www.albertapaleo.org/> click on the meetings/events link and scroll down the page for more details.

Alberta Envirothon, (through Calgary Science Network) is seeking mentors for high school students doing projects in spring of 2012. If interested please contact [ed.kusmirski*\[*calgarysciencenetwork.ca\]\(mailto:ed.kusmirski*@calgarysciencenetwork.ca\)](mailto:ed.kusmirski*@calgarysciencenetwork.ca).

The Awesome Science Road Show is on Saturday March 10 at Fish Creek Public Library, 11161 Bonaventure Drive SE - T2J 6S1. Drop in between 11 am and 3 pm at this FREE, fun, family event. Scientists and engineers will lead interactive sessions on a variety of topics. There will be four sessions from 11 am – 1 pm and another set of four from 1 – 3 pm. Sat Mar 10, 11-3 drop in. See <http://www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca/events.htm> for details nearer the date.

Get an astounding view of the universe at the **Rothney Astrophysical Observatory**. Located just south of the city it has research-level telescopes. There are free visits for the public on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon – 4 pm. The observatory also holds open houses and special night sky watch events with paid admission, starting at around \$10 per person or \$20 per car. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/visiting> for details.

Christmas Bird Count data is available on the Audubon Society website at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>. Data for the 2011 count can be accessed and also for previous years. Select the province and location you are interested in to see a table of the results. There is a great deal of historical information too.

Alberta Bryophyte and Lichen Group welcomes anyone with an interest in bryophytes and/or lichens who would like to get together with like-minded people, for excursions and workshops. See <http://www.ablig.com/>.

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

Deadline for the April 2012 issue is Friday March 16, 2012.