



Great Horned Owl
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Annual Fall Banquet:
Saturday, Nov 5:
please see p.4

Nature News

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

October/November 2016

email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tues Oct 18: Ticks in Alberta. Janet Sperling from the University of Alberta will talk about the types of ticks commonly encountered in Alberta, where you might expect to find them, and the types of bacteria associated with these ticks. Albertans often have run-ins with ticks, so it's important to know what to do if you end up as a meal for a tick.

Janet is a PhD candidate at the Department of Biological Sciences, U of A, and board member of the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation. Her research at the U of A focuses on detection of the bacteria associated with ticks.

Tues Nov 15: The Wildlife of Great Explorers, presented by Chris Fisher. Many species of plants, mammals and birds in Alberta honour some of the earliest European explorers to this region. Chris Fisher has travelled in the footsteps of Franklin, Richardson, Banks, Ross, Menzies and many others. Their stories are forever married to the species now named after them. Chris will blend the interests of natural history with the adventures of those who made history. Chris Fisher is a naturalist and author of the best-selling 'Birds of Alberta'.

Speaker meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May, at 7:30pm, at Cardel Theatre (180 Quarry Park Blvd SE), and are open to all.

To suggest a speaker contact John McFaul at 403-289-9517 or info@naturecalgary.com.

The Theatre is made available to non-profit organizations at very low cost by Cardel Foundations. Please show your appreciation by bringing donations of non-perishable food for the Calgary Food Bank.

Directions: On Deerfoot Tr, take the EAST Glenmore Tr exit. After you cross the Bow River, take the next exit (18 St. SE) and head south. At the 5th intersection, turn left onto Quarry Park Blvd SE, and then left again into the parking lot for CARDEL. Cardel Theatre map at <http://cardeltheatre.com>

Issues, Events and Updates

School Grants: If you know of a school in Calgary who could use financial assistance for a field trip that takes the students into the natural environment, please direct it to the [Nature Calgary Grants page](http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/), <http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/>.

More School grants: [BirdSleuth](http://www.birdsleuth.com) (part of Cornell Lab of Ornithology) offers small grants to schools that are engaged in a citizen science project, in order to purchase Celestron binoculars for their students. [Apply by Nov 30](http://www.birdsleuth.com).

Field Trip Leaders' expenses and other changes: When Nature Calgary trip leaders submit the waiver form following an outing, they may also submit an expense form for automobile mileage and receive a tax receipt. The current reimbursement rate is 50 cents per kilometer. Expense forms can be [downloaded from the Nature Calgary website](http://www.naturecalgary.com) and submitted electronically to treasurer@naturecalgary.com. Waiver forms can be submitted electronically (scanned copy) along with the expense form, handed to any board member on a field trip or at a BSG or general meeting, or mailed to the PO Box (see p.4).

We are also starting a program of **impromptu walks**. A leader can select a walk with much shorter notice, six days, which is enough time to allow an email to be sent to our members. We will be continuing our practice of requesting submission of trips before the publication of the newsletter and website, but reduce the need to plan months in advance.

Note that a trip leader is a **facilitator of trips**. This involves selecting a venue, and notifying the



Pika, ©Anne K. Elliott

For latest sightings, check
Albertabird

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

BirdTrax

<https://sites.google.com/site/birdtrax/birdtrax>

Rare Bird Alert:

Report rare bird reports to
Bird Alert Compiler,
Terry Korolyk at
403-300-1067
(New number Sep 2016)

Nature Calgary is run
entirely by volunteers!

Opportunities:

[Get Involved page](#)

Thanks:

[Volunteer Recognition
page](#)



Field Trip Coordinator of the details of the trip. On the day of the trip, you ensure completion and submission of the Nature Calgary waiver form and coordinate the trip's activities. You don't have to have in-depth knowledge, as participants share their expertise.

Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors Annual Meeting Sat Oct 29, 2:00pm, Rm 211 at Bioscience Bldg at U of C. An opportunity to meet other nestbox monitors and learn how the year went, and to find out what monitors do. There may be trails that need new monitors in 2017.

The following presentations are planned:

- A paper by Dr Dorothy Hill and her students at Mt Royal University using data from nestboxes on the Cross property plus Andrew Holder's adjacent trail. Andrew's trail has been mapped as an overlay onto historical, current and proposed land use maps, showing the encroachment of urban development over time.
- Dr Hill and her students have a smartphone/tablet application that maps nestbox locations and records nestbox data.

For information, call Don Stiles, 403-271-4689, or Bill Taylor, 403-244-3044.

City of Calgary River Access: Several access points for canoes and boats on the Bow and Elbow Rivers were ruined by the 2013 flood and replacements are being considered. John McFaul and Andrew Hart have maps showing some preliminary access points which they will bring to the October meetings, or make available to interested members who contact them.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Nov 2: Gulls of Calgary, with Photos of Rare and Unusual Gulls, presented by Terry Korolyk.

Northern gulls should be passing through Calgary in November, so this is your chance to hone your gull identification skills. Terry is one of Calgary's best known birders. He has led several Nature Calgary field trips including the popular annual "Snowy Owl Prowl" which has drawn visitors from as far away as Australia.

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, in Room 211, Biosciences Bldg, U of C. Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or birdstudy@naturecalgary.com.

Birds & Beers: starting again at the Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Rd SW, 6:00-9:00pm. **Dates are Oct 28, Nov 18.** All are welcome including accompanied minors. [More information.](#)

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities: contact volunteers*@naturecalgary.com for general inquiries; and Melanie Seneviratne (melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275) for the following:

- Nature Calgary will once again have a presence at the **F CPP Fall Star Night on October 8** at Shannon Terrace. In past years our volunteers have had an enjoyable experience, not only interacting with the public, but attending presentations and using the telescopes. Nature Calgary has some new items added to our displays, and this will be their first exposure.
- **Website Coordinator:** A replacement for this role will be needed by **Dec 2016**. The main tools used are WordPress and MailChimp, but we dabble in Dropbox, HTML, Flickr, Google Maps, PayPal, Facebook, and HTML, and work with a contractor/web-host. This role could provide experience for an IT person between jobs or recently retired.
- **Annual Banquet:** The annual banquet will be **Nov 5** at Lakeview Community Hall. If you are attending the banquet and can spare an hour before the event or a half hour following, please contact Melanie (above) or Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Please contact Ian at fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com if you can suggest or lead a trip. You don't have to be an expert, just know of a good place to bird or botanize, and be willing to coordinate.

Sat Oct 8, 9:30am: Cold weather birding! Meet at Parking Lot C in North Glenmore Park. Chances for Loons, Scoters, Swans, White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's Geese; Rough-legged Hawks, late fall shorebirds, gulls from the north, migrating songbirds. Trip will go until approximately 4:00pm. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Field trips are free and open to all. Highlighted trips require pre-registration. Want to suggest or lead a trip? Contact Ian at fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com.
New trips and updates:
<http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>. **Check often!**

Note: Remove the *s in email addresses. They are used to discourage spam.

Leaders of Field Trips:

1) The new waiver form has a column for eBird users. Please **download the new waiver form** for all future trips, and share the list of birds seen after you input your list on **eBird**.

2) 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.

3) See **NEW** mileage policy on p. 1 and on the **Leaders** page.



Golden Eagle © RMERF

Mon Oct 10, Thanksgiving, 8:30am: Birding at the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Go 1.6 km. west of the City limit on Hwy 22X, then turn left onto 160 St for another 1.6 km. Meet at the parking lot. \$2 at sign-in is required. Register in advance, contacting Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or [@*shaw.ca](mailto:jamesbrydle*). Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera, and rain gear.

Sat Oct 22, 8:00am: Bird East of Calgary. Meet Carburn Park car park. Drive south from Glenmore Trail at 18th Street SE, to second stop-light, then turn right and follow signs to Carburn Park. Bring lunch. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Oct 23, 8:30am: Birding West of Calgary. Bring lunch. Expect to be back around 4:30. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW (just N of TCH #1, at Sarcee Tr). Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sat Oct 29, 9:00am: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Tue Nov 1, 9:15am: 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 Nov 5, 9:30am: Birding South of Calgary. Meet at large first parking lot at Glennfield in east Fish Creek PP. Weather permitting. Bird Pine Coulee Reservoir and Clear Lake in the Stavely area for late Fall migrants; winter birds, Raptors, waterfowl, Gulls. Trip will go until approximately 4 P.M. Bring lunch. Pit toilets at both locations. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Nov 12, 8:15am: Bow River birding, (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 Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Nov 26, 9:00am: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Thu Dec 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 leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

General Interest

Bend in the Bow Drop-in Information session: Thu Oct 13, 4-8pm, Alexandra Centre, 922-9 Av SE. City Parks will unveil their Grand Vision for Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Pearce Estate Park. Presentations at 5:15pm, 6:15pm, 7:15pm.

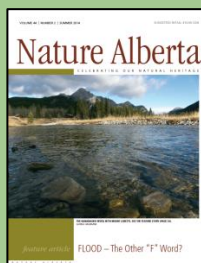
AWA talk, Tues Oct 18 7pm. Bison Restoration in Banff National Park, by Karsten Heuer. At 455-12 St NW. [Register](#).

Alberta Native Plant Council, Southern Alberta Plant Study Group: meets on first Saturday of the month, Oct to Apr, noon to 4 pm at U of C Herbarium, Biological Sciences Bldg basement.

Fish Creek Speaker Series at Shannon Terrace, all 7pm. **Oct 27,** Exploring the Nature Grassland Elements of FCPP, by Ian MacDonald. **Nov 3,** The Place for Parks and Nature at End of Life, by Sonya Jakubec, RN, and Don Carruthers Den Hoed. **Nov 24:** White Goat and Siffleur Wilderness Areas, by Graham Thursfield. Register via [FFCPP website](#) or 403-238-3841.

Eagle Migration Count Assistant Observers: the annual fall migration count of Golden Eagles and other raptors will take place at Mt Lorette in Kananaskis, **Sep 20-Nov 15, 2016.** Aid experienced observers from the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation who are at the site sunrise to sunset daily. Binoculars and telescope equipment will be available. All dedicated and amateur bird watchers are invited to come watch or act as spotters or "skysweepers". Check www.eaglewatch.ca for the updated daily Golden Eagle and overall raptor counts, and the Mt Lorette location. Enjoy a family-friendly and educational outing!

Nature Calgary members receive a 10% discount (with membership card) at **The Wild Bird Store** D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632
Fairplay Stores 2604 Kensington Road Northwest 403-283-2117



Nature Calgary members can subscribe to *Nature Alberta* (quarterly magazine) for a reduced rate.

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.

Family \$25.00/yr.

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or membership@naturecalgary.com

Join or renew online

<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to: newsletter@naturecalgary.com or phone 403-239-9434.

Mailing address: Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M
 Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4

Deadline for the next Nature News issue is
 Nov 5, 2016

Please contact Cliff Hansen via the [RMERF website's Contact page](#) if you are interested in going to the observing site.

Friends of Fish Creek Prov Park Winter Birding Course: starts Jan 9.



Nature Calgary Fall Banquet 2016

Join us on Saturday, November 5

Lakeview Community Hall
 6110 – 34 Street SW

Time: 6 - 7 pm: Cash Bar

7 pm: Three course buffet dinner (*choice of prime rib roast or vegetarian selection*)

8 pm: Guest Speaker



Our Guest Speaker, John Acorn, the "Nature Nut" is a well-known Albertan who has shared his love for entomology and natural history with the world. Acorn is an internationally known scientist, author and broadcaster whose career has been marked with creativity and a passion for science. As a best-selling author he has had a huge impact on amateur entomology, and his field guides have earned him numerous awards. As research associate at the Royal Tyrrell Museum and the E.H. Strickland Entomology Museum, Acorn continually goes beyond his professional commitments and generously gives his time to promote the field. He has received many awards for his promotion of science and nature. John will talk to us about **Some Favourite Alberta Birding Spots**.

Price: \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members.

Ticket sales close on Nov 1.

Online payment available on [NC's Banquet page](#), or

Pay in person at the Oct 18 Nature Calgary meeting, or

Send cheques (payable to Nature Calgary) to:

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4. **Please write "Banquet"** on the envelope and include your contact information and meal selection – beef/vegetarian.

Free parking -- Door prizes -- Art Sale

Free book exchange: please bring unwanted nature books to share.

To donate prizes, please call Penny Smith, 403-283-9260 or oban2010mull*.*hotmail.com.

If you are attending the banquet and can spare an hour before the event or a half hour following to help, please contact Melanie at melaniesene*.*gmail.com or Penny Smith, 403-283-9260 or oban2010mull*.*hotmail.com.