



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)
President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

December 2016/January 2017
email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series



Chris Fisher @FisherSpeaks



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Snow Geese, ©Rob English

Tues Nov 15: The Wildlife of Great Explorers, presented by Chris Fisher, naturalist and author of the best-selling book 'Birds of Alberta'. 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.

Tues Dec 20: AGM and Annual Christmas Nature Quiz. Following the AGM, Dan Arndt, the winner of last year's Nature Quiz, will try to stump those in attendance with his quiz.

Member Nature Presentations: Members are welcome to show a few photos of their 2016 nature experiences. Call John at 403-289-9517 or email him at info@naturecalgary.com to let him know you have some photos to show. Refreshments to follow.

Tues Jan 17, 2017: Particle Zoo. Presented by Wesley Ernst, a lab technician and lecture demonstrator from U of C Physics department will speak about the 'universe of the small'.

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

General meetings: Starting January 2017 those who are not members of Nature Calgary will be asked to donate \$5.00 when they come to our general meetings.

Field Trip Leaders' travel expenses: Nature Calgary trip leaders must 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 found on our website 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).

Impromptu walks: Just found a great site for a nature walk? Please contact our Field Trip Coordinator and let him know. It will then be posted on our website. Members are urged to be a facilitator of a trip. Note that a trip leader is a **facilitator of trips**. This involves selecting a site, and notifying the Field Trip Coordinator of the details of the trip. Remember to have participants complete the Nature Calgary waiver form. You don't have to have in-depth knowledge, as participants share their expertise.

School Grants: Schools taking students out into nature and away from their school grounds can apply for a grant at <https://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/>



60th Anniversary

Ian Halliday, Don Stiles, and Andrew Hart cutting the cake at the banquet

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet: The banquet held on November 5th was a resounding success. John Acorn was at his best. Glenmore Reservoir and Weaslehead made his Top 10 places to bird in Alberta. Many won door prizes.

Guest Speaker John Acorn before speaking



Andrew H, Ian H, Don S, Sue K and John MWe would like to thank all those who helped with the setup and takedown. Special thanks go to Penny Smith, and her volunteers – Janet G, Bernie D, Ed M, Kathy C, Jorge P, Darren B, John M, Shirley F and Dale L.



River Access Strategy: Since many boat launch sites were damaged/destroyed during the 2013 flood, the City of Calgary is now addressing the problem. Nature Calgary and some of its members have posted comments about access for boaters in Carburn Park as it has over 200 species of birds that could be disturbed by this extra traffic. If you would like to comment please do so on this site <http://engage.calgary.ca/riveraccess/environment-discussion>

Bend in the Bow: Nature Calgary is still working on protecting the natural grassland areas in the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. As well we are still challenging the display areas for the Sawmill and Chinese Market garden. We hope to have time to put forward a rebuttal when the plan is presented to City Council sub-committee Community and Protective Services in the new year.

Aurora Business Park: A business area is planned for the lands adjacent to Confluence Park. Nature Calgary is trying to protect the native prairie where Meadowlarks have their nesting area.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Dec 7: Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors (CANM), a.k.a. Calgary area bluebird trails. Don Stiles has been involved with CANM since 1980. He will tell us what has been found regarding bluebirds and tree swallows, the most prevalent inhabitants of the nestboxes. He will talk about annual life cycles, clutch sizes, migration, predators, what were the best years, and give some interesting anecdotes.

Jan 11, 2017: Christmas Bird Count results presented by Phil Cram and others. The meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Bird Study Group- *NOTE CHANGE* will now meet the 2nd 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.

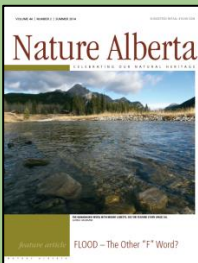
City of Calgary Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 18, 2016

1. Following the count (from 5 pm on) all participants including Feederwatchers, are warmly invited by Jim Washbrook and Ann Kyle (403-613-9216) to the Prairie Sky Cohousing complex at 403-31 Ave NE, to compile results and have supper. Park on the north side on 31st Ave NE, go up stairs to the centre court yard, and turn right to the common house. They would be pleased to hear from anyone who can contribute any side dishes, salads, or desserts.
2. Please count mammals as well as birds.
3. New participants wanting to join **Feederwatch**, please contact Donna Wieckowski at astolat*@shaw.ca.
4. New participants should contact a Route Coordinator (North: John McFaul, 403-289-9517; East: Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878; West: Jim Washbrook, 403-282-8849; South: Dan Arndt, 403-836-7405)
5. Instead of a fixed charge for supper, we encourage voluntary donations to cover the cost

For latest sightings, check **Albertabird**
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

BirdTrax
<https://sites.google.com/site/birdtraxebirdyyc/>

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



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



House Wren - Carburn Park
©Sue Konopnicki

NOTE - * in the email addresses
Remove when sending an email

Nature Calgary is run
entirely by volunteers!

Opportunities:
[Get Involved page](#)

Thanks:
[Volunteer Recognition
page](#)



Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch
Lower Kananaskis Lake
©Trevor Churchill

of the dinner, as well as contributing to Nature Calgary and Bird Studies Canada. (Bird Studies Canada no longer collects a \$5 fee for the count). To donate: before the count, please send a cheque to Nature Calgary, P.O. Box 981, Station M, Calgary AB T2P 2K4. Mark the cheque "Donation for Christmas Bird Count". Donations over \$20 will receive an official CRA tax receipt. You may also donate online; please include in "Special Instructions for Seller" that it is for the Christmas Bird Count. You may also bring your donation to the supper.

Regional Christmas Bird Counts – you can contact any of the organizers to join that count

Dates	Place	Contact	Email
Sat Dec 17	Banff/ Canmore	Heather Dempsey	hjdempsey*@*shaw.ca
Sun Dec 18	Calgary	Phil Cram	crampj*@*telusplanet.net
Tues Dec 20	High River	Greg Wagner	greg.wagner*@*athene.ca
Friday Dec 23	Horseshoe Canyon	Michael Harrison	tringa*@*telus.net
Tues Dec 27	Cochrane	Frank Hennessey	frankhennessey*@*gmail.com
Tues Dec 27	Sheep River (Turner Valley)	Doug Collister	collistr*@*gmail.com
Thurs Dec 29	Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Jamey Podlubny	svisser*@*ucalgary.ca
Fri Dec 30	Nanton	Mike Truch	mike_truch*@*shaw.ca
Sun Jan 1 /17	Fish Creek	Jim Washbrook	jwashbrook*@*prairiesky.ab.ca
TBA	Dinosaur Provincial Park	Yousif Attia	ysattia@gmail.com
Wed Jan 4 /17	The Snake's Head (Sundre)	Doug Collister	collistr*@*gmail.com
Sun Jan 7 /17	BowKan / Exshaw Birders	Cliff Hansen	cm_hansen*@*shaw.ca

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:

Website Coordinator: Nature Calgary needs a Webmaster by the end of **Dec 2016**. This position is critical for our members – please think of volunteering if you have experience using WordPress and MailChimp. We also use Dropbox, HTML, Flickr, Google Maps, PayPal, and Facebook. We work with a contractor/web-host. This role could provide experience for an IT person between jobs or recently retired. If you know of someone who could help, please have them contact president@naturecalgary.com or find more information at <https://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/>

Board Members: Our elections take place at the AGM on Dec 20, 2016. Please consider putting your name forward for a position on our board. **Positions that will be vacant are: Vice President, Publicity Director (organizes annual bus trip), Webmaster and Director-at-large.** However, if you would also like to stand for any other position – please do. Nature Calgary Board meets about 5 times a year. All events, activities and meetings put on by Nature Calgary are organized by volunteers and we need fresh eyes and ears to keep us moving forward – think about becoming a member of board.

Volunteer for a School: Colonel J. Fred Scott School is looking for assistance with their outdoor nature education program. They are seeking volunteers with a basic knowledge of the plants in their school natural area and the various fauna that might inhabit it. They hope to spread the program over two to three days of a two-week period in January, for grades K to 6. The intent is to familiarize both students, and teachers, with the plants and related fauna of the school natural area. If you would like to assist with this program for this school, please contact Ian Ross at volunteers@naturecalgary.com or 403-246-4213.

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.



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!**

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

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@](mailto:newsletter@naturecalgary.com)

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

Jan 5, 2017

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.

Fri Nov 18, 9:15am: Bird Mallard Point in Fish Creek PP. Meet in the parking lot at the east end of Canyon Meadows Drive. Leader Rose Painter, 403-852-6130.

Sat Nov 19, 9:00am: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located at 2425 - 9 Ave. SE. From Deerfoot Tr, take the Blackfoot Tr westbound exit to 19 St. SE, turn left onto 9 Ave. SE., and drive approx. 1 km east, turn right into parking area. Meet in the parking lot. Leader Janet Gill, 403-831-7828. Beginners are welcome.

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.

Sun Nov 27, 9:00am: Bebo Grove in Fish Creek Prov. Park. Take Glenmore Tr SW to 14 St SW. Go S on 14 St to Anderson Rd. Turn right (West) and go to 24 St SW. Turn left (South) and follow it to its end in the parking lot. Leader Howard Heffler 403-284-2961.

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.

Sat Dec 3, 9:00am: Bird Shannon Terrace, FCPP. W on Anderson Rd which curves south to become 37 St SW. Turn left (East) at 130 AV. Go 1 block, turn right into park. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Fri Dec 9, 6:00 - 9:00pm: Birds & Beers (Note change of date from Nov18) Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Rd SW. All are welcome, including accompanied minors. As many know, George Best and his wife Jayne will be packing their suitcases and "bins" so that they can make the move to Oxford, England in January 2017. A passionate and exceptional birder, leader and mentor, George will most assuredly be missed. Please come and help us share some of your favourite memories and stories with them. We look forward to seeing everyone for this special celebration.

Sat Dec 10, 9:30am: Pre-Calgary Xmas Bird Count. Trip to be run in Calgary and the surrounding area checking for winter birds and late fall migrants. Meet at the first large parking lot in the Glennfield area of east Fish Creek PP off Bannister Road in the southeast corner of the Canyon Meadows Drive-Macleod Trail overpass. Leader, Terry Korolyk; ph. 403-254-1878. Trip will go until approximately 4:00pm.

Sat Dec 31, 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.

Dates for January – check the website [EVENTS](#)

General Interest

Alberta Wilderness Association: Nov 29 is Calgary Talk: Public lands – Enforcing the Law. Meetings are held at Hillhurst Cottage School – 455 12 St NW

Bow Valley Naturalists: Bison Restoration in Banff National Park – Environment Assessment – input accepted until Nov 30.

Fish Creek Speaker Series: Nov 24 White Goat and Siffleur Wilderness Areas, by Graham Thursfield. 7pm at Shannon Terrace. Register via FFCPP website or 403-238-3841.

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

Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation: Nov 22 Maps, Apps, And Citizen Science: how geospatial applications can strengthen and support volunteer conservation efforts. The presentation focuses on the customization of a geospatial (GPS/GIS) mobile application for use in new and existing citizen science projects.