



Nature News

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<http://naturecalgary.com>



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Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

February/March 2017

email: president@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tues Jan 17: The Nature of our Unseen Universe. Presented by Wesley Ernst, lab technician and lecture demonstrator from U of C Physics department will speak about the "universe of the small".

Tues Feb 21: From Ice to Salt and back again – and again! 600 Million years of Earth's climate. Presented by Dr. John Harper, a research geologist and retired Professor of Petroleum Geology and Sedimentology. Dr. Harper will explain historical trends and the Earth's pattern of oscillating between the two extremes of Glaciation and Evaporatization. He says that we presently live in an interglacial epoch of a series of Glaciation extremes but this is only a small percentage of the climate cycles experienced by the Earth. "Climate change is real, has continuously happened in the past, is happening now, and will continue so in the future. The scale of change and the timeframes involved are significantly greater than we experience for our short lifetimes. Knowing the facts we need to define the issues and determine how we can accommodate the changes which will inevitably happen." If you wish to come prepared to debate these issues, here are some useful websites:

<http://billmoyers.com/2014/05/16/eight-pseudo-scientific-climate-claims-debunked-by-real-scientists/>

<http://www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php>

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/GlobalWarming/page4.php>

To view Dr. Harper's presentation in advance, find it at:

https://www.friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Harper_Climate_2016-05-10_FOS.pdf

*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

The Nature Calgary Board was elected at the AGM. Thank you to those who stepped forward: **President:** John McFaul **Vice President:** Melanie Seneviratne **Treasurer:** Ed Kissinger **Secretary:** Sue Konopnicki **Directors:** Debra Beaton, Lacey Edwards, Janet Gill, JP Gravel, Sandra Mills, Allan Nielsen, Cassiano Porto, Val Pritchard, Ian Ross, Penny Smith, Wayne and Joan Walker.

Unelected roles for 2017: **Banquet:** Penny Smith **Bus Trip:** Vacant **Webmaster:** Sean Feagan **Field Trips:** Ian Ross **Membership:** Val Pritchard **Welcome Table:** John Laurence, Terry and Norma Wilson.



Kananaskis by Anne. K. Elliot

For latest sightings, check
Albertabird

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

BirdTrax

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

Rare Bird Alert:

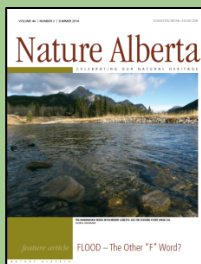
Report rare bird reports to

Bird Alert Compiler,

Terry Korolyk at

403-300-1067

(New number Sep 2016)



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



Snowy Owl by Val Scholefield

General meetings: To encourage increased membership of the society non-members of Nature Calgary will be asked to pay \$5.00 when they come to either our general meetings or our Bird Study Group meetings. First time guests will not be asked for payment. To minimize delays in admitting people to meetings it would help if members could bring their membership cards, although this is not a requirement.

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. [Expense forms](#) can be found on our website and submitted electronically to treasurer*@naturecalgary.com.

Impromptu walks: Just found a great site for a nature walk? Please contact our Field Trip Coordinator and let him know. 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.

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/>

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Wed Jan 11: Christmas Bird Count results presented by Phil Cram and others as part of the Calgary region CBC review evening. Thanks to everyone who participated in the 65th Calgary Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18, 2016. This year saw another great turnout, with 139 observers in the field and 107 feeder-watchers, despite the difficult weather conditions.

61 species were recorded, four below our 20-year average. Bohemian Waxwings dropped sharply this year, while finch numbers dropped 90% from last year's record level. There were no new species for the count this year however, a Golden Eagle and three Sharp-tailed Grouse returned after lengthy absences. Other uncommon birds were Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe and Ring-billed Gull.

Special thanks go to Jim Washbrook and Ann Kyle for hosting a successful wind-up party. Generous donations, as well as gifts of side dishes, enabled us to cover the dinner cost and a further \$300 to be shared between Bird Studies Canada and Nature Calgary. Bob Lefebvre and Arthur Wieckowski assisted with the compilation. Donna Wieckowski and her team captains organised the feeder-watch part of the count and collected and compiled their results very quickly. Dan Arndt, Terry Korolyk, John McFaul and Jim Washbrook efficiently helped to organise the teams in the field.

Wed Feb 8: The Ins and Outs of eBird presented by Mike Harrison. Mike is a lifelong birder and became an eBird reviewer for Southern Alberta in 2015. He will provide tips and hints on how users can submit their observations along with the various tools used to visualize data. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird is an online database providing real-time information about bird distribution and abundance. As of November 2016, over 330,000 unique users have submitted over 26 million checklists, more than 366 million observations, and data for over 10,300 species to the program.

Wed Mar 8: How to Manage an Important Bird Area – My Experiences at Frank Lake. Greg Wagner is a wildlife and assessment biologist who has worked extensively in Western Canada and the Arctic. He has been involved in multiple Important Bird Area projects and will give an overview of the history and conservation of Frank Lake and the Important Bird Area Program. He will describe the roles and responsibilities of an IBA caretaker as well as conservation issues and bird management at Frank Lake. In addition to his current role as Volunteer Caretaker for the Frank Lake IBA, Greg coordinates the High River Christmas Bird Count and also runs the Hays Breeding Bird Survey.

Bird Study Group- now meets 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.

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities: contact Ian Ross at volunteers*@naturecalgary.com for general inquiries.

The President's award was given to John McFaul and Linda Vaxvick. Sue Konopnicki presented Andrew Hart with an official thank you for his service as outgoing President.

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 Jan 14, 12 pm: Christmas Bird Count for Kids at IBS . Meet in the Pickering Room at the IBS Nature Centre for an introduction to winter birds before venturing onto the trails to count birds. To register your family email naturekids*@naturealberta.ca

Sat Jan 14, 9:30am: Snowy Owls in Calgary and Area. Other birds of interest include Gyrfalcons and Prairie Falcons as well as Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks. Meet in parking lot at the Boat Launch in east Fish Creek PP. Bring lunch. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 – 4:00pm, weather permitting.

Sat Jan 28, 8:00am: West of Nanton for Golden Eagles. Meet Glenfield parking lot in East Fish Creek PP. Coffee break in Nanton. Bring lunch. Leader Tony Timmons 403-256-0754.

Sat Jan 28, 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.

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, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

Sat Feb 4, 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. Trip will be cancelled when temperatures are -18C and lower.

Sat Feb 18, 9:30am: Annual Snowy Owl Prowl east of Calgary. Snow Buntings, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, Gray Partridge and others. Chances for both Prairie Falcon and the rare Gyrfalcon. This popular trip has drawn interested people from as far away as Australia who found us via the internet. Bring lunch. Will break approximately halfway through the trip at a convenient location for lunch. Meeting place is the west end of Deerfoot City Shopping Centre (64th Ave and Deerfoot Trail NE) parking lot in Calgary. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 – 4:00pm. Weather permitting.

Sat Feb 25, 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.

Wed Mar 1, 8:00am: 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 Mar 18, 8:30am: 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.

Sat Mar 18, 9:00am: Bird Frank Lake area east of High River for early arrivals. Meet at Carburn Park. From Glenmore Trail, go S at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right & follow signs to Park. Meet in parking lot. Bring lunch. Leader Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

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

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: * in contact email addresses. Remove when sending email.



Long-tailed Weasel by
Stephen Spring

NOTE: * in contact email
addresses. Remove when
sending email.

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

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Send copy to:
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**Mailing address: Nature
Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M
Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4**

**Deadline for the next Nature
News issue is Mar 9, 2017.**

General Interest

Southern Alberta Plant Study Group (Calgary): Feb 4, March 4, April 1 12 – 4pm, University of Calgary Herbarium, Biological Sciences Basement. Contact facilitator Leslie Monteleone at lesliemonteleone*@*hotmail.com for more information.

Arctic Institute Speaker Series: Jan. 18 *Owning the Ocean: Salmon, Science and American Empire in the Pacific World, 1890 to 1960* – presented by Dr. Ross Coen. 4pm at U of C, Science A, Room 106. Go to www.arctic.ucalgary.ca for more information.

January Fish Creek Speaker Series: Jan 26 *Growing Up In Alberta's Eastern Parks Forest* – presented by Alison Cole, Visitor Experience Coordinator, Alberta and Environment Parks, Parkland Area. 7pm at Shannon Terrace. Register via FFCPP website or 403-238-3841.

Alberta Innovates Summer Field Technologists: ABMI is looking for Summer Field Technologists for collecting field data as well as sorting and identifying collected specimens. For more information and to apply, visit <https://goo.gl/acZw59> Apply to Competition #INAB-001 by Jan 31st, 2017.

Alberta Wilderness Association Calgary Talk: Feb 2 *Mount St. Helens: A Story of Recovery*. Dr. Merrill narrates the story of survivors and invaders that began rebuilding the intricate food webs after the eruption, and lessons and surprises learned along the way. 7pm at AWA Cottage School. Tickets are \$5.00 and available [online](#).

February Fish Creek Speaker Series: Feb 23 *Beaches, Birds and the Boreal Forest* – Lesser Slave Lake PP, presented by Ceiridwen Robbins, Visitor Services Coordinator for the Slave Lake District of Alberta Parks. 7pm at Shannon Terrace. Register via FFCPP website or 403-238-3841.

Banff National Park Volunteer Program: Banff National Park is recruiting volunteers, both individuals and as groups. From April until late October, a variety of projects will be offered such as research and monitoring; hiking and reporting on trail conditions; assistant leaders on guided hikes; trail work with groups; event support; litter picks and weed pulls; and some backcountry and other leadership assignments. Please go to <http://www.pc.gc.ca/banff-volunteer> to find out more. Deadline is March 1, 2017.

Impacts and adaption to climate changes: A website with news, projects, workbooks and information about climate change and the effects it has on different focuses, such as crops, forests and agriculture. Visit <http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>.

Native Orchid Conservation Inc (NOCI) has just published the second edition of their book, *Orchids of Manitoba*. Their emphasis is on conservation and protection of Manitoba's native orchids. If you are interested in the book please contact Peggy at NOCIpresident*@*gmail.com or www.nativeorchid.org

Nature Saskatchewan has released its fifth book, *Conifers and Catkin-Bearing Trees and Shrubs of Saskatchewan*. The book is now available for purchase through [their website](#) and should be available in stores.

Birds & Beans Coffee If anyone is interested in a group order, contact Leslie Nichols at leslienicholls3*@*gmail.com This product is certified Organic and Bird Friendly® by Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. For more information visit <https://birdsandbeans.ca/>

Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation Presentation: Mar 26 *Wonderful Waterfowl* A presentation on waterfowl and guided tour of AIWC's facilities NW of Airdrie. Tickets are \$20 for non-members and are available [online](#).