



# Nature News

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

**December 2017/January 2018**

**President: John McFaul 403-289-9517**

**email: [president\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:president*@naturecalgary.com)**

## Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

**Wed Dec 20: Annual General Meeting, Christmas Quiz, Members' photos, and Refreshments!** Please attend to help keep your society's affairs in order and to elect a new Board of Directors. After the AGM Pat Bulman will host the annual Christmas quiz followed by the showing of members nature photos. After the meeting we will have snacks in the foyer of Cardel Theatre. If you have a few photos you would like to show to fellow members at the AGM please contact John McFaul at [info\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:info*@naturecalgary.com) or call 403-289-9517.

**Wed Jan 17, 2018: Dale Leckie presents: Rocks, Ridges, and Rivers: Geological Wonders of Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks.** Dale Leckie has a Ph.D. in Geology from McMaster University, a M.Sc. in Geography from McMaster University and B.Sc. in Geography from University of Alberta. Dale is a professional geologist who has worked as a scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada and as chief geologist in a large Canadian energy company.

*Speaker meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 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](mailto: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

**Thanks to all who attended Nature Calgary's Annual Fall Banquet!** The annual banquet held on November 4 was a huge success with guest speaker Chic Scott as he showed us wonderful slides on Bow Lake, Lake Louise, Banff, Canmore, Exshaw, and Morley. Over 70 people enjoyed the presentation by this climbing legend and naturalist. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped to put this banquet together including: Bernie Diebolt, Darren Batke, John McFaul, Jorge G, Val Pritchard, Shirley Fraser, Diane Stinson and Outi MacEachern. Thanks to all those who donated door prizes.

**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.



Chickadee  
©Tim Hopwood

## Volunteer News and Opportunities

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



Northern Pygmy Owl  
©Tim Hopwood

**Wed Dec 20: Nature Calgary Board of Directors** Our elections take place at the AGM in December. Positions that will be vacant are: **Publicity Director and Volunteer Director**. However, if you would also like to stand for any other position – please do. Our board meets approximately 8 times per year and our events are run entirely by volunteers. As well, we are looking for a member who could take the lead for Botany field trips. If you are interested in joining the board, please email [president\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:president*@naturecalgary.com).

## Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

**Wed Dec 6: Birds for All Seasons – A pictorial review of birding year-round in Calgary and Southern Alberta.** Tim Hopwood is a hobbyist nature photographer with a passion for birds. Born and raised in Australia, he and his young family have called Calgary home for the past ten years. An accountant by day, Tim looks forward to the weekends, and especially family camping trips in the summer, when he gets to hit the outdoors, spend time with his family and indulge in his hobby. Tim's award-winning images have been featured in Canadian Geographic, Birdwatching Magazine, Nature Canada and locally on the CBC and in the Calgary Herald. He is also a monthly contributor to the Bird Canada website and regularly shares his photography on his facebook page.

**Wed Jan 10\*: Christmas Bird Count.** Phil Cram and others will present the results of the Calgary and area Christmas Bird Counts.

**Bird Study Group: now meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month (except January 2018 which will be the 2nd Wednesday), 7:30 pm, in Room 211, Biosciences Bldg, U of C. Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or [birdstudy\\*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:birdstudy*@naturecalgary.com).**

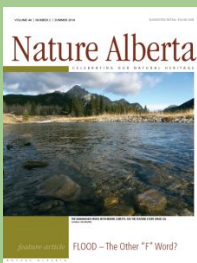
For latest sightings, check  
**Albertabird**

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

**BirdTrax**

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

**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

### City of Calgary Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 17, 2017

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 Prairiesky cohousing complex at 403-31 Ave NE, to compile results and have supper. Park on the north side on 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Barb Coote at [barbcoote\\*@gmail.com](mailto:barbcoote*@gmail.com).
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.
5. We encourage voluntary donations to cover the cost 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 and join that count:

Dates	Place	Contact	Email
Sat Dec 16	Banff/ Canmore	Heather Dempsey	<a href="mailto:hjdempsey*@*shaw.ca">hjdempsey*@*shaw.ca</a>
Sun Dec 17	Calgary	Phil Cram	<a href="mailto:crampj*@*telusplanet.net">crampj*@*telusplanet.net</a>
Tues Dec 19	High River	Greg Wagner	<a href="mailto:greg.wagner*@*athene.ca">greg.wagner*@*athene.ca</a>
Sat Dec 23	Horseshoe Canyon	Michael Harrison	<a href="mailto:tringa*@*telus.net">tringa*@*telus.net</a>
Wed Dec 27	Sheep River (Turner Valley)	Doug Collister	<a href="mailto:collistr*@*gmail.com">collistr*@*gmail.com</a>
Fri Dec 29	Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Jamey Podlubny	<a href="mailto:svisser*@*ucalgary.ca">svisser*@*ucalgary.ca</a>
Mon Jan 1 /18	Fish Creek	Jim Washbrook	<a href="mailto:jwashbrook*@*prairiesky.ab.ca">jwashbrook*@*prairiesky.ab.ca</a>
Wed Jan 3/18	The Snake's Head (Sundre)	Doug Collister	<a href="mailto:collistr*@*gmail.com">collistr*@*gmail.com</a>
Sat Jan 6 /18	BowKan / Exshaw Birders	Cliff Hansen	<a href="mailto:cm_hansen*@*shaw.ca">cm_hansen*@*shaw.ca</a>

*\*Note: The Cochrane and Nanton counts will not be held this season.*

## Nature Calgary Field Trips

Please contact Ian at [fieldtrips\\*@\\*naturecalgary.com](mailto: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.

**Fri Dec 1, 8:30 am: 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 2, 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.

**Sat Dec 9, 8:15am: Scouting Xmas Bird Count territory in Elboya - Stanley Park, Rideau, Roxboro.** Meet at 420 Brunswick Av SW. Return for hot lunch around noon. Advance registration required. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, [gyaki@calcna.ab.ca](mailto:gyaki@calcna.ab.ca).

**Sun Dec 17: Christmas Bird Count.** If you wish to participate in the Calgary Christmas Bird Count, please refer to the Christmas Bird Count information on page 2 or visit: <https://www.naturecalgary.com/birding/>

**Sat Dec 30, 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.

**Mon Jan 1: Christmas Bird Count in Fish Creek Park.** If you would like to participate in the Jan 1st Christmas Bird Count in Fish Creek Park, please contact Jim Washbrook at 403-282-8849 or [jwashbrook\\*@\\*prairiesky.ab.ca](mailto:jwashbrook*@*prairiesky.ab.ca). He will tell you where to meet and the time.

**Tue Jan 2, 8:30 am: 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 Jan 13, 9:30am: Snowy Owl Pre-Prowl.** A precursor to Nature Calgary's popular Snowy Owl Prowl run in February. We will travel east of Calgary in search of Snowy Owls. Chances for Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Snow Buntings, Redpolls, and others. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 P.M.-4:00 P.M. Bring lunch. Will be a short break approximately halfway through the trip. Meeting place is the west end of Deerfoot City Shopping Centre (64th Ave and Deerfoot Trail NE) parking lot in Calgary to arrange carpooling. 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](mailto:fieldtrips*@*naturecalgary.com)

**New trips and updates:** <http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>. **Check often!**

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](mailto:membership@naturecalgary.com)

Join or renew online

<http://naturecalgary.com>

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Deadline for the next Nature  
News issue is Jan 4, 2018.



*To all our  
members and  
volunteers:  
thanks for a  
wonderful 2017  
and here's to a  
happy & healthy  
2018!*

**Sat Jan 20, 9:00am: Carburn Winter Birds.** Meet in parking lot. From Glenmore Tr., go S at 18 St SE to 2nd stoplight, turn right and follow signs to the Park. Finish by noon. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

**Sat Jan 27, 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 Feb 1, 8:15 am: 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.

## Nature Kids Events

*With the support of Nature Alberta, we are pleased to announce that Nature Kids has arrived in Calgary. The Nature Kids program is for youth (ages 4-12) and families who like to learn about nature and have fun at the same time. We provide educational materials and organize field experiences that promote being outdoors, observing nature, scientific investigation, environmental stewardship and healthy living. As a member of Nature Kids, you have access to Explorer Day events with local chapter leaders, quarterly editions of NatureWild e-Magazine, and the Nature Heroes program. To connect with the Nature Kids team email us at [nkcalgary@naturealberta.ca](mailto:nkcalgary@naturealberta.ca)*

**Sun Nov 19, 1pm: National Child Day at Ralph Klein Park.** National Child Day events will be hosted by the City of Calgary. Join Katie Donohue at our booth to learn more about Nature Kids and Nature Calgary. Event runs until 3pm.

**Sat Dec 9, Inglewood Bird Sanctuary: Christmas Bird Count for Kids** Join Nature Kids for a day of fun and bird watching! This is a free event for families to participate in collecting bird data for the Inglewood area while exploring the nature in their own backyard. This event is brought to you by Nature Alberta's Nature Kids and Nature Canada and is part of the NatureHood program. Meet in the Pickering room for a short presentation. Event runs from 12pm - 3pm. For more details visit <http://naturealberta.ca/about-us/events/>

**Sat Jan 27, 1pm: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.** Nature Kids Explorer Activity, A Winter Walk. Please dress appropriately as we will be outside for the entire time. For further information call Joan Walker, 403-271-4578. Event runs until 3pm.

## General Interest

**Discount for Nature Calgary members at Golden Acres** Show your current membership card and receive a 15% discount at Golden Acre Home and Garden Centre, 620 Goddard Ave NE, Calgary.

**The Wild Bird Store has recently moved** to 5901 3 St SE. For those of you living in the north of Calgary, this store has a mobile Bird Seed Truck that visits the Crowfoot Arena (E parking lot) every Wednesday, from 2 to 6 pm. It carries a wide variety of seed, some feeders and anything else you may wish to order ahead of time. Go to [www.wildbirdstore.ca](http://www.wildbirdstore.ca) for details.

**Friends of Fish Creek Speaker Series: Nov 23** "Alberta Snakes - Why Everyone Should Love Snakes." Presented by Sandi Robertson, Wildlife Biologist, Alberta Environment and Parks. Come learn about this province's fascinating snakes, where in the province these snakes live, which ones are at risk and why everyone should love snakes. \$5 for non-members. 7:00 pm at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Center. For more information visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series)