



Nature News

Volume 39, Number 2
<http://naturecalgary.com>



Follow us on Twitter
@NatureYyc



Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/naturecalgary

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

October/November 2017

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Wed Oct 18: Northern India - Mughals, mammals and modern life. Join presenter Andrew Hart as he investigates the history, natural history and modern life of the Golden Triangle and Varanasi regions of Northern India. 2017 marks the 70th anniversary of Indian independence.

Tue Nov 14: Kiwi and Aussie Birds & More. Join Cassie Williams for an adventure that spanned the North and South Islands of New Zealand, New South Wales and Tasmania in Australia and a pelagic trip off the South Island of New Zealand. Cassie completed her undergraduate studies in zoology and botany at the Australian National University and completed her BScH, MSc and PhD in zoology/ecology at the University of Manitoba where she specialized in spiders.

Speaker meetings are held on the 3rd 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

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/>. Money is now available for trips in the 2017-18 school year.

Nature Calgary at the Rock 'N' Fossil Road Show at Fish Creek Public Library on Oct 14. Hosted by the Geological Survey of Canada's Calgary chapter, participants can learn about local and regional geology by examining a collection of rocks, minerals and fossils (including many museum quality pieces). Bring your own samples and have them identified by an expert. 11am - 3pm at the Fish Creek Public Library, 11161 Bonaventure Dr SE.

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.



Taj Mahal
©Andrew Hart

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:

Sat Oct 14: Fish Creek PP Fall Star Night. Nature Calgary has been invited to participate in Star Night at Fish Creek PP. Participants have the opportunity to utilize telescopes and view other displays and presentations. It is a great way to promote Nature Calgary! If you can assist at the Spring Star Night, please contact Melanie Seneviratne at melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Wed Oct 4: Rare and Notable Birds of Alberta – 2016 and 2017. A team of experienced birders, biologists and ornithologists recently formed a committee to gather rare and notable bird records seen in Alberta. These records contribute to the Prairie Province Region of the American Birding Association's North American Birds. North American Birds or NAB is a quarterly publication whose mission is "to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of North America's birdlife, including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions, population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns or seasonal occurrence."

Join James Fox and Michael Sveen, NAB Alberta Compilers, and learn what rare, notable and exciting birds were reported in 2016 and 2017.

Wed Nov 1: Fur and Feathers 500 – India, presented by Phil Cram and Brian Elder. India is unlike any other birding destination – in addition to an abundance of unique and colourful species, its blend of cultures, delicious food, historical sites and wonderful scenery combine for an unforgettable travel experience. Phil and Brian will share stories and photos of their trip last year to India with Ray Wershler and John Thompson. In three weeks, visiting Goa and north-central India, they recorded over 500 bird and mammal species (a total that took them a year to amass in Canada during their Fur and Feathers 500 quest in 2012). In addition to many bird and mammal photos, Phil and Brian will also provide some insight into birding and traveling in this land of 1.3 billion people (and almost 200 million cattle!).

Bird Study Group: now meets the 1st 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.

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 14, 9:15am: Bird east of Calgary for Fall waterfowl, Songbirds, Hawks, shorebirds, Gulls, and others. Meet at Parking Lot C at North Glenmore Park to arrange carpools. This trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4pm. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Oct 22, 8:30am: Bird Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Meet at the parking lot located at the south end of 160th St, 1.6 km. south of Hwy 22X. \$2 required for sign-in. Bring a backpack with water, snacks, binoculars and camera. Dress for cooler weather! Register 5 - 7 days in advance by email or phone: contact Grant Brydle at jamesbrydle@shaw.ca or 403-720-4957.



Larch (*Larix lyallii*) trees
©Anne K. Elliott

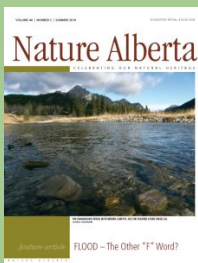
For latest sightings, check
Albertabird

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

BirdTrax

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

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



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.

Sat Oct 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.

Sun Oct 29, 9:15am: Trip for Gulls from the North such as Thayer's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Mew Gull, Iceland Gull and others such as Lesser Black-backed Gull. Others to be seen are Fall waterfowl, hawks, songbirds, and others. Meet at Parking Lot C at North Glenmore Park to arrange carpooling. This trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4pm. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Wed Nov 1, 9:15 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.

Sun Nov 12, 9:15am: Trip to Pine Coulee Reservoir and Clear Lake in the Stavely area for late fall waterfowl, Hawks, Gulls, and, others. Conditions permitting. Pine Coulee is a large body of water that can stay open into December if the weather is not too severe. Meet at the first Parking Lot in the Glennfield area of Fish Creek PP on Bannister Road, in the SE corner of the Canyon Meadows Dr – Macleod Tr overpass to arrange carpools. Bring lunch. Pit toilets at destinations. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4pm. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Nov 18, 9:00am: Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Meet in the parking lot. The Sanctuary is located at 2425 – 9 Av SE. From Deerfoot Tr, take Blackfoot Tr westbound to exit to 19 St SE, turn left onto 9 Av SE and drive 1 km east. Turn right into the parking area. New birders and families welcome. Leader Janet Gill, 403-831-7828 or 403-230-5671.

Sun Nov 26, 9:00am: Bebo Grove in Fish Creek PP. 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.

Fri 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

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.

Alberta Wilderness Association Calgary Talk: Oct 24 Rocky Mountain Eagle Foundation - the First 25 Years, presented by Peter Sherrington. Learn about what the RMEF has learned about the Golden Eagle over the past two decades. \$5 admission. Doors at 6:30 pm at AWA Cottage School, 455 12 St NW. More information available [here](#).

Birds & Beers: Oct 26 An informal social gathering for birders. Food and drinks available, children welcome if accompanied by an adult. 6pm at Royal Canadian Legion, Calgary Centennial Branch #285, 9202 Horton Rd SW.

Rocky Mountain Eagle Watch Foundation's 2017 Fall Migration Count runs until Nov 15. For more information on how to participate, visit <http://eaglewatch.ca/get-involved/how-to-join-the-count/>

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.



Red-necked Grebe
©Beverley Kissinger

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

Nature News 8 times per year.

Send copy to:

newsletter*@naturecalgary.com.

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

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

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

YYCcares' petition to build a better bridge and stop the filling in of 4 wetlands in Weaselhead needs signatures! Lend your voice to this important cause. For more information and to sign the petition visit, <http://www.yyccares.ca/petition>

What to do if you see a dead bird? From time to time, you may stumble across a dead bird. There are a number of institutions that benefit from such specimens. Upon discovering one put it into a plastic bag, adding a note with your name, address, phone number, etc., date and where found, and possible identity. Then put it into your freezer, until you can get in touch with one of the following: 1) Scott Lovell, St Mary's University - office phone: 403-254-3764 2) Warren Fitch, University of Calgary Biology Dept: 403-220-6549 or 403-220-5269 3) Ross Lein, retired University of Calgary Biology Professor occasionally makes transfers to the Royal Alberta Museum. Call Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248 to arrange pickup or dropoff.

Nature Calgary Fall Banquet 2017: Saturday, November 4 Lakeview Community Hall (6110 - 34 St SW)

Time: 6 - 7 pm: Social hour

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

8 pm: Guest speaker **Chic Scott** presents
**"The Bow Valley, Our Home -
Celebrating the communities of Lake
Louise, Banff, Canmore, Exshaw and
Morley."**



Our guest speaker, Chic Scott, will take us on a tour down the Bow Valley celebrating the skiing, climbing, hiking, and marvelous history of these communities. Chic Scott is a household name in international and Canadian mountaineering circles. One of Canada's most celebrated mountain literature authors and adventurers, he is the author of several award-winning mountaineering history books including "Pushing the Limits, the story of Canadian Mountaineering" which has won multiple awards. Chic Scott has been a devoted mountaineer for more than fifty years, has climbed and skied all over the world, organized clubs and foundations and worked as a mountain guide.

Price: \$50 for members/ \$60 for non-members **Payment must be received by us no later than Nov 1. No payments at the door.**

Payment methods: [Online](#) after Sep 2, in person at Nature Calgary General meetings 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, include contact information and meal selection (beef or vegetarian).

Free parking & nature book exchange

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, 403-249-5997.