



Nature News

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Ferruginous Hawk
©Andrew Hart

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: John McFaul 403-289-9517

February/March 2018

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Wed Jan 17: 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.

Wed Feb 21: Dr Lu Carbyn presents Wolves in Wolf Clothes. Our speaker has many years of experience working with wolves around the world. Dr. Carbyn will draw on some of these experiences and he will explore the many fascinating aspects of the biology, management and conservation of this species. This promises to be an interesting evening, as he will challenge some often widely held modern myths about several controversial topics.

Wed Mar 21: Trekking Across Alberta Near the 49th Parallel - From Saskatchewan to BC. In May and June 2017, Gus Yaki, a life-long naturalist in his 85th year, led a trek across southern Alberta. The trip's purpose was to observe that area's unique flora and fauna, to show fellow travellers the rich diversity of species that live in the area, and to raise much-needed funds for conservation organizations.

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.

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 Natural Calgary Board was elected at the AGM. Thank you to those who stepped forward:

President: John McFaul **Vice President:** Melanie Seneviratne **Treasurer:** Pat Ross
Secretary: Debra Beaton **Past President:** Andrew Hart **Directors:** Lacey Edwards, Janet Gill, Jean-Philippe Gravel, Sue Konopnicki, Sandra Mills, Allan Nielsen, Val Pritchard, Ian Ross, Penny Smith and Joan Walker.



John McFaul & Ed
@Linda Vaxvick

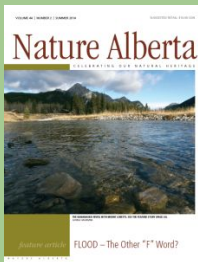
For latest sightings, check
Albertabird

<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



Ovenbird
©Daniel Arndt

Unelected roles for 2018: **Banquet:** Penny Smith **Webmaster:** Jeff Wiehler
Field Trips: Ian Ross **Membership:** Val Pritchard **Welcome Table:** Terry and Norma
Wilson **Botany:** Vacant **Advocacy:** Vacant

Congratulations to Ed Kissinger who received the President's award at the Annual General Meeting. Ed has been a Nature Calgary member for many years, and has generously served as Treasurer for the last 11.

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:

Thu Feb 22: Winter Nature Walk with Blessed Cardinal Newman School near McKenzie Meadows and Rotary Nature Park. Lead a group of 29 students as part of an environmental stewardship class to Fish Creek and introduce them to the world of birdwatching. The walk will last 1 - 1.5 hrs (weather dependent). If the weather is extremely cold, then we will do an indoor presentation of local birds. 1 or 2 people are needed to lead the group with Ian Ross. 9:30 - 11:30 am at 16201 McKenzie Lake Blvd SE. Contact Melanie, melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275 to volunteer.

Wed Mar 7: What's Up with Feathered Friends at Bow Habitat Station. Part of the What's Up Wednesdays series, this event is an opportunity to promote Nature Calgary and educate young children. Attendance averages between 60 - 120 people. We need:

- 1 or 2 people for a table in the discovery centre with a lunch break from noon to 1pm
- 2 to 4 people to lead 45 min walks at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30. Volunteers may choose morning or afternoon walks; the morning shift is 10:15 - 12:15 and the afternoon shift is 1:15 - 3:15 pm.

Event is from 10am - 3pm and volunteers are needed between 9:30am and 3:15pm (including set up & take down). Bow Habitat Station is at 1440-17A St SE. Contact Melanie, melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403-815-1275 to volunteer.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Wed Feb 7: Belize – Birding and Banding. Daniel Arndt and Stacey Carnochan will share stories of their travel and birding experience in sunny Belize. Both are wildlife biologists with consultants in Calgary and a passion for our feathered friends. The pair visited Belize to attend a bird banding course and have some incredible photos to share. The evening will also include some of the wonderful ground-roots biological inventory and research that the pair had the opportunity experience. Belize is an amazing country to explore!

Wed Mar 7: Prairie Birding. Alberta's Prairies hold a huge and rewarding diversity of bird species, many of which are hard to find elsewhere in the province. This presentation will review some of the resources available to plan your prairie birding trips and some favourite prairie birding spots. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of some of the birding identification challenges that await you in the grasslands. Presented by Andrew Hart and Michael Harrison, both long time Nature Calgary members.

**** Reminder: Due to a change in access, Bird Study Group is no longer held in Room 211 of the U of C Biosciences building. The Feb 7 and Mar 7 meetings will be held at Cardel Theatre (180 Quarry Park Blvd SE) at 7:30pm. 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 Jan 13, 9:30am: Snowy Owl Pre-Prowl. A precursor to Nature Calgary's popular Snowy Owl Prowl. We head east of Calgary to look for Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Great Horned Owls, Falcons and others. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4:00pm. 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.

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.

Sat Feb 10, 9:00am: Bird Bebo Grove in Fish Creek PP. Dress according to the weather, bring crampons/spikes as we may go off the main trail. Meet in the parking lot, end of 24th St SW. Leader Melanie Seneviratne, 403-815-1275.

Sat Feb 17, 8:00am: West of Nanton for Golden Eagles. Meet Glennfield parking lot in E Fish Creek P.P. Bring lunch. Will break for coffee in Nanton. Leader Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

Sat Feb 17, 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. Leader Janet Gill, 403-831-7828 or 403-230-5671.

Sun Feb 18, 9:30am: It's that time of year again! Nature Calgary's popular Snowy Owl Prowl has been running for over 20 years! We head east of Calgary once again to look for Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Great Horned Owls, Falcons and others. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4:00pm. Bring lunch. There will be a short break midday. 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.

Mon Feb 19, 9:30am: Family Day at the Cross Conservation Area (ASCCA). Meet at the parking lot, S end of 160th St, south of Hwy 22X. \$2 required for sign-in. Contact Grant Brydle, preferably by email: jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca or by phone: 403-720-4957.

Sat Feb 24, 9:00am: Bird Griffith Woods Park, 2.5 km W from Sarcee Tr on Hwy 8 (Glenmore Tr). At 69th St SW turn left into Discovery Ridge, continue past the traffic circle; at the bottom of the hill turn left on Discovery Ridge Link into the parking lot. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Thu Mar 1, 8:00 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.



Willow Ptarmigan
©Anne K. Elliott

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.

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.

Family \$25.00/yr.

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

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Deadline for the next Nature
News issue is Mar 8, 2018.



Pine Grosbeak
©Jeff Thompson

Sat Mar 3, 6:45am: Magpie Dispersal at Weaselhead Natural Area. Watch hundreds of Magpies leave their roosts at sunrise (7:17am) to disperse across the city. We will watch this phenomenon from the top of the hill then walk down into the Natural Area to see other birds & mammals. Meet in the parking lot on the W side of 37 St at 66 Av SW. To get there, take Crowchild Trail S into Lakeview turning right onto 66 Ave SW & drive west to 37 St into parking area. Leader Bernie Diebolt, 403 975-0665.

Sun Mar 11, 8:30am: Brown-Lowery Park and area. Meet at the first parking lot in the Glennfield area of east Fish Creek PP for carpooling. Glennfield is the SE corner of the Canyon Meadows Dr. - Macleod Tr. intersection, accessed via Bannister Rd. Bring lunch. Expected return late afternoon. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2489.

Sat Mar 17, 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.

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

Sat Mar 24, 8:30am: Birding West of Calgary. Meet at Assumption School, 34 Av NW (just N of TCH #1, at Sarcee Tr). Bring lunch. Expect to be back around 4:30. Leader Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Mar 25, 9:30am: East of Calgary and Calgary area for Spring-arriving waterfowl, Gulls, Raptors, and early Spring and late winter Songbirds. Trip will go until approximately 3:30 - 4:00pm. Bring lunch. Meet Glennfield parking lot in E Fish Creek P.P. (off of Bannister Road in the southeast corner of the Macleod Trail-Canyon Meadows Drive overpass) to arrange carpooling. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Nature Kids Events

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. 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

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

John McFaul - Hiking in the Highlands: Feb 17 John will be speaking at a free community dinner hosted by the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd. All are welcome to attend. Beer and wine will be available. 6:00 pm at 408-38 St SW.

Pelagic Trip: Sep 16 Registration has begun for Nature Alberta's first ever Pelagic Trip. There are 88 spots in total for participants to board the MV Frances Barklay in Ucluelet for a chance to see incredible seabirds such as Albatross, Storm-Petrels and maybe even puffins! Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Ucluelet, hotel accommodations, meals as well as any other incidentals. The cost of the trip aboard the vessel is \$280. [For tickets and additional details.](#)