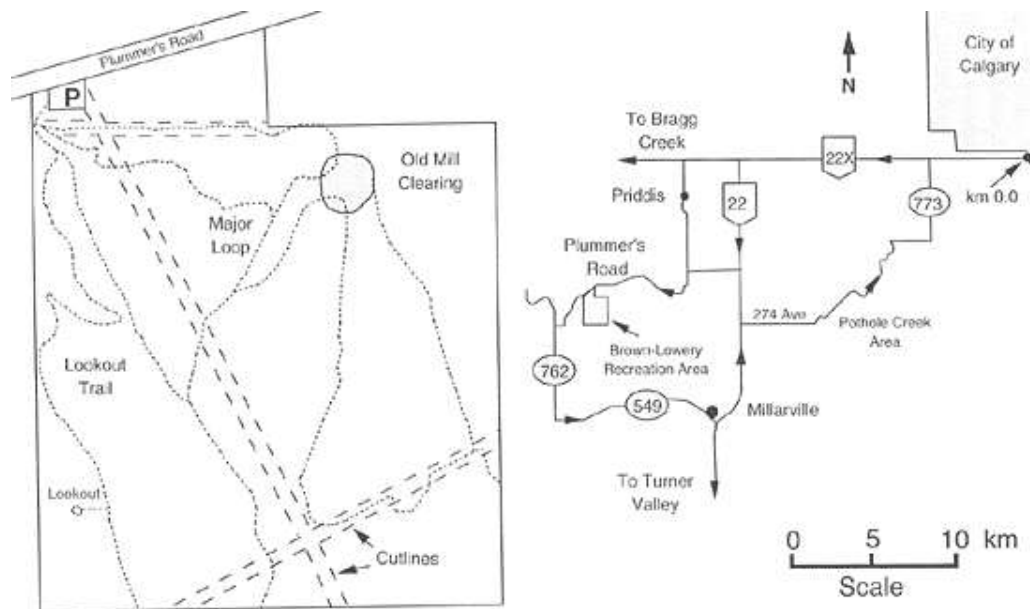


## Brown-Lowery Provincial Park and Area by Michael Harrison (1993)

Brown-Lowery Recreation Area is located in the foothills, less than 40 km southwest of Calgary. It consists of 278 ha of mature woodland.

White Spruce is the dominant species of tree, with pockets of aspen in places; small creeks and marshy areas occur between the slopes. Birds found within Brown-Lowery are typical of the coniferous forest; a calm morning in winter may offer the best conditions for finding some of the more sought after species. Although birds are not numerous at any time of year,

the scenery alone is worth the effort. At least half a day is needed to bird Brown-Lowery thoroughly.



**Brown-Lowery Recreation Area**

Directions are given as an 87 km driving loop which can be modified, depending

on weather conditions and the season. Forest birds can be notoriously difficult to find in windy weather - so check the weather forecast before setting out as this area is in the chinook belt, where strong winds can occur at any time of year. The route begins at the southern edge of the city where Macleod Trail (Hwy 2) intersects with Hwy 22X (the Marquis of Lorne Trail) (km 0.0). Head west on Hwy 22X for about 18 km, then watch for the Hwy 22 sign for Turner Valley and Black Diamond. Turn left (south) on Hwy 22 and continue for 6.5 km before turning right onto Plummer's Road (gravel-surfaced; may be muddy and rutted after prolonged rain). After 3.3 km, turn left at a T-intersection (240 St W) and follow this winding road for another 8 km, first south then towards the west.

Brown-Lowery Recreation Area is located on the left (south) side of the road - watch for small yellow signs on the fence reading "Provincial Recreation Area Boundary" and a parking lot among the conifers, entered via Texas

gates (36 km). In winter, park on the roadside rather than in the unplowed parking area.

The majority of birds found here can be seen throughout the park, not just in one particular area. The trail system consists of footpaths, cutlines and an old logging road. The terrain is hilly, but walking is not difficult. It is easy to get lost in here however, as directional signs are sparse - so be careful to know where you are.

In winter, this is one of the best places in the Calgary area to look for Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Both are scarce however, and more than one visit may be necessary to see either species. Your best bet is to bird areas where there are dead or dying spruce trees.

There are pit toilets adjacent to the parking area. Gas can be obtained in Turner Valley.

If time permits in spring and summer, you may wish to extend the route to cover some entirely different habitats. In this case, continue southwest from the parking lot to S.R. 762 (39 km). (This is also the connector road to Bragg Creek and the Elbow River valley.) Turn left and head south, then left again (44.7 km) onto SR 549 which joins Hwy 22 at Millarville. Watch for waterfowl in the creeks visible from the road, and for raptors perched in the trees. Turn left (north) onto Hwy 22 (55.5 km) and at the signpost for the Leighton Centre (62 km, about 8 km from Millarville), turn right onto a gravel road (274 Ave. W). (In winter, or if the road is wet, it may be wise to continue north on Hwy 22 to Calgary). This 19 km long winding section of the route, through scenic ranching country, becomes SR 773 and rejoins Hwy 22X close to the city. Good views of the potholes and marshes along Pothole Creek can be obtained.