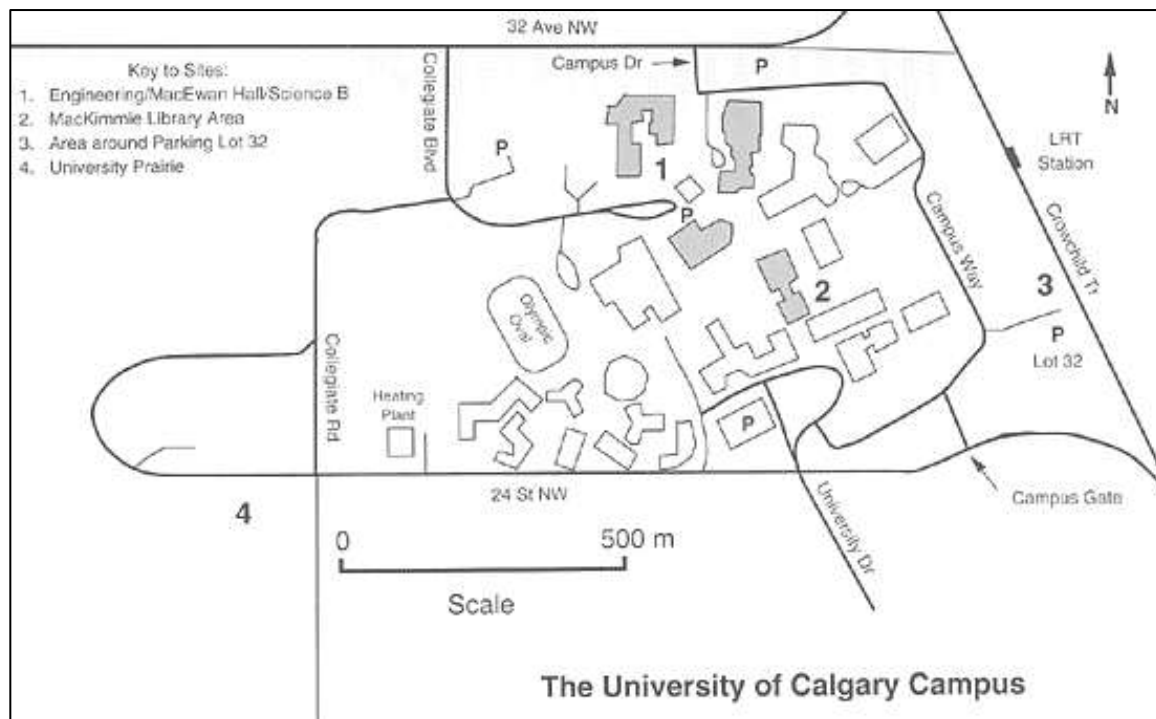


## University of Calgary – by Richard Thomas – revised Sep/2012

Located in northwest Calgary, Fortunately for birders the outlook is more encouraging. Use of public transit to reach the U. of C. is recommended. (For Transit Information, either call 262-1000 or visit [Calgary Transit's website](#)). If driving from downtown Calgary take Crowchild Trail (north) and University Drive. Parking on campus can be frustrating, especially just before 1 pm and 7 pm. A detailed map of the campus is available on the [U. of C.'s website](#).



The most productive season in terms of species diversity and abundance is fall when, during favourable migration conditions, almost anything can show up - with the passage of warblers, sparrows and other passerines being especially noteworthy. The next most productive is spring migration, followed by summer and finally, winter. Glance up occasionally, as both eagle species, accipiters, various buteos and Osprey have been observed overflying the campus. [Peregrine Falcons have successfully nested](#) on the Education tower in recent years.

The most consistently productive birding spots on campus are described as a walking tour. To bird all these sites thoroughly takes half a day although the 4 km long route can be completed in as little as 1.5 hours.

**Engineering/MacEwan Hall/Science B:** This area is located south of the northeast (Campus Drive) entrance to campus from 32 Ave. NW. The large stands of conifers along the east side of Engineering Blocks A and B and around the Globe Cairn on the west side of these blocks are one of the better sites in Calgary for crossbills in the fall and winter when the cone crop is good.

From Engineering continue south to the area between MacEwan Hall and Science B. At times this locality can be a real hot spot for birds. The mixed stand of trees 40 m southwest of the main Science B entrance always merits careful attention. During fall, check the bushes around Science A and B for migrating sparrows. Continue south past the Swann Mall hillock (with its large metal "Prairie Chicken" sculpture) along the east side of the Library.

**McKimmie Library Area:** During fall migration the trees and shrubs bordering the east side of the Library, and between it and the Administration building, can be excellent for both warblers and sparrows. In late afternoon/early evening the small pond 50 m northeast of the Library entrance sometimes attracts good numbers of bathing birds.

Continue past the Education tower towards the southeast corner of the campus located between Crowchild Trail and 24 Ave. NW. Watch and listen for falcons perched on several of the taller campus buildings. In recent years, favoured sites have included Earth Sciences, Biosciences, Social Science, the Education and Library towers, and the TV antenna atop Kananaskis Hall. Bare in mind these falcons often choose a ledge some way below the top of the building.

**Area around Parking Lot 32:** This area of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs lies east of the southeast entrance to the U. of C. (Campus Gate). It comes into its own during fall migration when almost any regular Calgary migrant passerine can show up here including most of the warbler and sparrow species.

From Campus Gate proceed west along 24 Ave. NW for about 300 m to the main (south) campus entrance on University Drive. Continue west along 24 Ave. past the Heating Plant.