

NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

www.naturecalgary.com



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VOLUNTEER

Volunteer*@naturecalgary.com
for general inquiries.

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To suggest a location or lead a trip
email fieldtrips*@naturecalgary.com

[Check the website frequently for new trips and updates.](#)

MANAGE MEMBERSHIP

Individual: \$40/year
Family: \$50/year

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or
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GET IN TOUCH

Nature News is published 8 times per year. Send suggestions to:
newsletter*@naturecalgary.com.
Next deadline: Jan 11, 2019

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From the President

Nature Calgary Membership Fee Increase:

I would like to inform NC members that at the AGM on December 19th the resolution to increase the fees of the society as well as institute a special fee for students of accredited post-secondary institutions was approved by a 3 to 1 margin. The new fee structure came into effect on January 1st, 2019. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting and contributed to the fulsome discussion of the matter.

John McFaul
President Nature Calgary

FEE CATEGORY	1 YEAR	2 YEAR
Individual	\$40	\$70
Family	\$50	\$90
Student	\$15	\$20

Speaker Series

Wed Feb 20: Insects - Conservation, Perceptions, and Early Education presented by Elizabeth Boileau. Why do we prefer some insects over others? Why are we scared of insects that are harmless? How does our negative attitude towards these animals impact conservation efforts? What influences beliefs in our early years of life? Elizabeth argues that we need to think critically about the messaging children receive about insects in order to promote positive perceptions of insects if we are to protect these vulnerable creatures.

Elizabeth is a doctoral student at Lakehead University in the Educational Studies program. Her research is focused on early childhood environmental education, which includes child-nature relationships and outdoor preschool programs such as Forest Schools. She is currently working on her Forest School Canada Practitioner training course and is a Board member of the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication.



Wed Mar 20: Antarctica: History, Science and Overwintering at Scott Base presented by Melinda Bell. What would you say to traveling to one of the most remote job sites in the world to preserve artefacts from some of the most iconic historic sites on the planet? If you were Melinda Bell, you'd say yes – twice! As a member of the Antarctic Heritage Trust Winter Conservator Crew (2009 and 2010), the task required living and working at a science base on an island at “the end of the earth,” in the pursuit of heritage conservation. This presentation will provide an overview of that adventure.

With a keen childhood interest in “Little House on the Prairie” and “Indiana Jones”, it was inevitable that Melinda pursued an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (Lakehead University), followed by a Diploma in Collections Conservation and Management (Sir Sandford Fleming College). She has worked at Fort William Historical Park, studied rock art in Lake of the Woods, dug for bison bones in SW Manitoba, volunteered at the Canadian Canoe Museum, interned at Colonial Williamsburg, and travelled to the other side of the world to take part in heritage preservation projects.



Working on the Observation Hill Cross, McMurdo Sound in the background

Nature Calgary's monthly meetings are held at **7:30pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month** at **Cité des Rocheuses, 4800 Richard Rd SW**. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. [View map | www.citedesrocheuses.com](http://www.citedesrocheuses.com)

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary is looking for a Marketing Coordinator. Nature Calgary is a community of Calgarians that promotes the preservation of natural habitats, provides educational opportunities, and supports the collection of natural history observations.

What you will be doing? We are seeking a volunteer to join our board to develop our marketing strategy, coordinate a marketing committee, and analyse the impact of the marketing efforts.

Who are you? You are passionate about nature and have a desire to help Nature Calgary grow its membership, impact, and reach in the Calgary community. You are obsessed with data and analytics to help drive strategy and create strong and effective marketing campaigns. You bring strong communication skills that will develop Nature Calgary's unique voice and message in the Calgary and Alberta community. You love building communities and want to bring your skills to bear to create a strong, vibrant, and engaged community of people who want to promote, protect, and share their love of nature in Calgary. You are a self-starter, have strong attention to detail, great interpersonal communication skills, and love to manage projects. You won't be alone in your task. We have a dedicated board of directors, passionate volunteers, and strong community of members. We want you to help bring all our communication channels together and help build a bigger more engaged community of Nature Calgary members in Calgary.

Time Commitment

10-15 hours per month

Apply today!

If this opportunity is right for you please contact John McFaul at president@naturecalgary.com with your qualifications.



Rare Bird Alert:

report rare bird sightings to Bird Alert Compiler, Terry Korolyk at 403-300-1067
For latest sightings check: [Albertabird](#) or [BirdTrax](#)



Bird Study Group

Wed Feb 6: An Alberta Big Year, presented by Howard Heffler.

Howard Heffler is a chemical engineer who spent most of his career in Calgary as an environmental manager in the petroleum industry. He and his wife, Lyn, have always participated in outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, and paddling. Over the past twenty years, birding has grown to become a primary interest. During 2018, Howard, with the support of Lyn and friends, focused all of his birding efforts in Alberta.

This presentation will first describe the planning, organization and results of his "big year". The objective was not to set any record, but to develop a better appreciation of Alberta's birds and ecoregions. The second half will be an entertaining series of anecdotes and adventures to reach the year-end total of 304 species.

Wed March 6 : Birding in Sri Lanka, presented by John

Bargman and Ena Spalding. John Bargman and Ena Spalding visited Sri Lanka in March 2018 for two weeks, including 10 days birding in various habitats in central and southern regions of the country with a local bird guide.

This presentation features their photographs and information on Sri Lanka's birds and bird habitats, and how they saw 33 of the 34 endemic species. John and Ena have been watching birds for most of their lives and are also keen photographers.



Western Tanager (top)
© Howard Heffler
Indian Pitta (bottom)
© John Bargman and Ena Spalding

Bird Study Group meetings are held at 7:30pm the first Wednesday of the month at Cardel Theatre (180 Quarry Park Boulevard SE), with the exception of January 2019, where the group will meet the 2nd Wednesday. Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

[View map | www.cardeltheatre.com](http://www.cardeltheatre.com)

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Bird Count. 31 routes were counted and a total of 61,000 birds recorded. Some of the species recorded include:

SPECIES	#	SPECIES	#	SPECIES	#
Bohemian Waxwing	15, 910	Gyr Falcon	3	Canada Goose	17, 592
Hooded Merganser	6	Northern Shrike	3	Common Redpoll	91
Barrow's Goldeneye	10	Ruddy Duck	1	Belted Kingfisher	2
Bald Eagle	39	Wood Duck	1	Downy Woodpecker	212

Field Trips

Participants are responsible for bringing their own food, water, sunscreen, bug spray and any other equipment or supplies the duration and location of the trip may require. Field Trips involving car pools will require registration to ensure that a reasonable number of people are able to attend with a limited number of cars for safety and enhanced birding experiences.

Sat Jan 26, 9:00am to noon: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. (No 37st access). Leader Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

Fri Feb 1, 8:15am: 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 2, 9:00am to 11:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located at 2425 9 Av SE. Meet in parking lot. From Deerfoot Trail, take Blackfoot Trail westbound exit to 19 St SE, then turn left onto 9 Av. Leader, Janet Gill, 403 230-5671.

Sat Feb 23, 9:30am to late afternoon: Snowy Owl Prowl. Once again we set out in quest for the legendary Snowy Owl on Nature Calgary's annual Snowy Owl Prowl. Chances also for Gyr and Prairie Falcons; Rough-legged Hawks and others. Trip will go until approximately 4:00pm. Mid-trip break. Bring lunch. Carpooling. Registration is mandatory and will be limited to 20 people, 5 vehicles. Please register ASAP as this trip fills up quickly. Preference will be given to people that did not participate in the January Snowy Owl Prowl. Please register with Melanie - melaniesene*@gmail.com who will advise if you will be able to drive (and take 3 other people). Leader, Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sat Feb 23, 9:00am to Noon: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. or 37st access. Leader Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

Fri Mar 1, 8:00am: 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 Mar 2, 6:45am to 10am: Magpie Dispersal, North Glenmore Park, Weaselhead Natural area. We'll walk over to the edge to watch hundreds of Magpies leave their overnight roosting area as the sun rises at 7:18am. Following this we'll walk down into the Weaselhead to look for other winter birds. Meet in the Weaselhead parking lot, 37 St SW and 66 Av. As we will be standing around 30+ minutes watching the birds fly out, so please dress warmly. Leader, Bernie Diebolt, 403-210-2446.

Sun Mar 10, Daylight Savings Time Starts.

Sat Mar 16, 8:30am to 11:30am: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. (No 37st access). Leader Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

☐ = registration required

Be sure to visit NatureCalgary.com for updates and additional trips

General Interest

Feb 1: World Wetlands Day Symposium at Mount Royal University. A FREE full day event. MRU is leading an initiative to create a hub for wetland sustainability in Alberta. Hear from and engage with experts in wetland science, policy development, and practice. [Register online here](#) by January 23. 8:30am - 4pm, Ross Glen Hall, Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning, Mount Royal University.

Mar 23: Paleo 2019. Dinosaurs! Fossils! Enjoy palaeontology talks, fossil displays and posters. This FREE event allows adults and children from the public to learn about palaeontological research. 9am to 4:30 pm at the Jenkins Theatre, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary. For details, go to <http://www.albertapaleo.org/speakerprogram.pdf> or e-mail Mona Marsovsky (giftshop@albertapaleo.org) or phone 403-547-0182.

Alberta's public engagement survey on the Bighorn Country proposal has been extended until February 15. This proposal "provides a balance of recreational opportunities, while protecting ecological integrity of the landscape, its biodiversity and source of our drinking water." .

The survey takes between 15 and 20 minutes to complete.