

NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

www.naturecalgary.com



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VOLUNTEER

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for general inquiries.

LEAD A FIELD TRIP

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

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

MANAGE MEMBERSHIP

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

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

[Join or renew online.](#)

GET IN TOUCH

Nature News is published 8 times per year. Send suggestions to:
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Next deadline: Mar 13, 2020

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Speaker Series



© Mike Drew

Wed Feb 19: On the Road-Exploring the natural wonders and landscapes of Southern Alberta with Photojournalist Mike Drew. Mike has been touring the backroads of central and southern Alberta since 1991, taking photographs and writing stories for the Calgary Sun that have been enjoyed and shared by hundreds of thousands of readers. Whether driving on lonesome highways, hiking along coulees, tramping through sagebrush or fly-fishing in bright streams, Drew patiently documents this enormous landscape and becomes one with its unique and varied environments. The resulting stories and images are always infused with Mike's characteristic sense of joy, wonder and excitement.

Notice of Special Meeting:

A proposal to amend Nature Calgary's bylaws was distributed to membership in November, to be voted on at the AGM in December. Only 26 members were in attendance (quorum is 30) and as such we were unable to: elect Officers & Directors for the upcoming year, and; vote on the resolution to amend the bylaws. The Board will formally call the Special Meeting at the first of the speaker series meetings where a quorum of thirty (30) members is reached.

Wed Mar 18: Exploring Newfoundland with Ian Wilson & Jacinthe Lavoie.

The presentation starts with kayaking among icebergs, moves on to watching sea life and wildlife through the summer, and closes with helping young puffins find their way to sea. From the magic of coastal scenery, to the beauty of wildflowers, and the thrill of walking among caribou, we share our memorable summer. Throughout the presentation Ian and Jacinthe will also talk about the natural history of this special place.



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)

Bird Study Group

Wed Feb 5: War between the subspecies? The continued northern march of the southern subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows in Alberta with Dr. Scott Lovell. Over the past four years, Dr. Lovell has examined song, plumage, and genetics of two subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows along the front range of the Rockies. Preliminary data suggests that the song of the southern subspecies has been moving northward at a very rapid rate over the past ~35 years, and the contact zone between the southern and northern subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows has moved north as well. Plumage transitions have moved north too, but at a much more gradual pace, unlike song which is a very rapid and narrow transition. Dr. Lovell will present background research into White-crowned Sparrows overall.

Wed Mar 4: The Search for 300. Throughout 2019, Gavin McKinnon traveled throughout Alberta looking for birds. His goal was to see 300 species within the province in one calendar year. Throughout the year he visited some very remote and birdy locations. Come to hear all the details about the birds and the places he saw during his "Big Year".

Bird Study Group meetings are held at 7:30pm the first Wednesday of the month at Cardel Theatre (180 Quarry Park Boulevard SE).

Free for members, \$5 for non-members.

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

Call for Volunteers

Urgent request: 1 - 2 people needed to coordinate May Species Count. Participants go out in an 80km radius of Calgary, as well as specific locations within the city to count the different species of birds. The weekend will be either May 23&24 or May 30&31. If you would like more details on the role and commitment, please contact Melanie: melaniesene*@gmail.com.

Issues, Events and Updates

Nature Calgary is saddened by the passing of Sue Konopnicki. Sue was a dedicated volunteer and an active member of the Calgary bird-watching community. She spent most Saturdays with her birding group at parks around Calgary and was a board member with Nature Calgary where she managed the educational grants for schools to allow teachers to get students outside to learn and care for nature. Sue was actively involved with citizen science and volunteered her time to take part in the annual Christmas and May Bird Counts, helped band birds at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, as well as the Night Jar Survey. Sue also had a bluebird route and monitored nest-boxes. She would often take others out so that they could share in the joy of seeing baby birds. One of her greatest joys was her young grandsons. She enjoyed helping out at her grandsons' school with field trips, classroom work and fun lunches. We extend our condolences to her family.



Rare Bird Alert:

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



Field Trips

Participants are responsible for bringing their own food, water, sunscreen, bug spray and any other equipment or supplies that 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 25, 10:00am to approx. 12pm: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW or from 37 St. Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Sun Jan 26, 8:30am to noon: Bird Votier's Flats in Fish Creek PP. Take Elbow Drive to the very southern end and follow it to the parking lot. Dress according to the weather. Crampons/icers are recommended. Leader; Howard Heffler, 403-804-2489 (cell).

Sat 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 or gyaki@calcna.ab.ca to ensure vehicle space for return. Registration required.

Thu Feb 6, 8:30am to noon: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Please register with leader Andrew Hart (andrewhart*@shaw.ca or 403-980-1538). Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Feb 8, 8:30am to noon (or later) Destination(s) to be determined. Look for winter birds within the City limits. Please register with leader Howard Heffler (hheffler*@shaw.ca or 403-804-2489). Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Feb 15, 9:00am: Bird Griffith Woods Park. Please register with leader Melanie Seneviratne (melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403- 815-1275) Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Feb 22, 9:30am: Snowy Owl Prowl. Full day driving east of Calgary. Register with leader Terry Korolyk at 403-254-1878, or, piidpiper@hotmail.ca. Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Feb 29, 9:00am: Bird Votier's Flats in Fish Creek PP. Please register with leader Melanie Seneviratne (melaniesene*@gmail.com or 403- 815-1275) Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Feb 29, 9:00am to approx. 12pm: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW or from 37 St. Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

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Sat Mar 7, 06:30am - 09:00am, Magpie Dispersal at Weaselhead Natural Area. Leader Bernie Diebolt, 403 210-2446. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Mar 7, 9:30 to 11:30am: Votier's Flats in Fish Creek PP. Take Elbow Drive to the very southern end and follow it to the parking lot. Dress according to the weather. Crampons/icers are recommended. Leader Anne Belton, 403-201-1570 or 587-233-7339.

Sun Mar 8 Daylight Savings Time Starts.

Sat Mar 14, 9:30 to 11:30am: Bird Bebo Grove FCPP. Meet in the parking lot, end of 24th St SW. Dress according to the weather. Crampons/icers are recommended. Leader: Anne Belton, 403-201-1570 or 587-233-7339.

Sun Mar 15, 8:30am to noon (or later) Destination(s) to be determined. Look for winter birds within the City limits. Please register with leader Howard Heffler (hheffler*@*shaw.ca or 403-804-2489). Registration required. [See Nature Calgary website for details.](#)

Sat Mar 21, 9:00am to 11:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary to look for early Spring migrants. 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 Ave & drive about 1km to park entrance. Leader, Janet Gill, 403 230-5671.

 = registration required

For full details of all field trips listed, visit [Naturecalgary.com/field-trips/](https://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/)

City Nature Challenge 2020

City Nature Challenge Calgary is back April 24-27 2020! Join the challenge to see how Calgary's urban biodiversity stacks up to cities around the world. This year Calgary and surrounding municipalities (Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere, and Okotoks) will be under a total bioblitz and compete with cities such as Berlin, Cape Town, San Francisco, Halifax and 250+ international cities. Practice making and exploring observations posted to iNaturalist leading up to CNC YYC! Our goal this year is to achieve 10 000 observations. Check out the Facebook page (@CityNatureYYC) as news and events become available. You can also follow along on Instagram: @citizenblitz.



Calgary Birding Challenge 2020

The "big year" challenge is underway! Visit naturecalgary.com for all the details. Free and open to all.



General Interest

This year's Darwin Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Aneil Agrawal, Distinguished Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Toronto. Dr. Agrawal will speak on "Evolution With Two Sexes" at 4 pm on Fri., Feb. 7 in Craigie Hall C (University of Calgary), Room 119. There is no pre-registration required and the event is open to all.

Fossils! Dinosaurs! The Palaeontological Society 24th Annual Symposium is March 21, 2020 at the Jenkins Theatre, Mount Royal University. Enjoy fascinating palaeontology talks, fossil displays and posters from 9 am to 4:30 pm. All are welcome! Free admission!