



Nature News

Volume 31, Number 3
<http://naturecalgary.com>

Newsletter of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society
 President Cliff Rhodes ph: 403-239-6444

December 2009-January 2010
naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca

Wed Nov 18: Birds of the Galapagos

Wed Dec 16: AGM, Quiz, Members' Photos

Wed Jan 20: Mt. Edziza and the Spectrum Range



Long-Tailed Weasel, FCPP, ©Anne K. Elliot

Nature Calgary General Meetings

Wed Nov 18, 7:30 pm: Birds of the Galapagos. Video presentation from Nature Calgary's Eric Tull and Brooke Clibbon, featuring waved albatrosses, marine iguanas, the birth of a sea lion, and the dance of the blue-footed booby.

Wed Dec 16, 7:30 pm: Annual General Meeting, Christmas Quiz, and Members' Photo night. The main purpose of the AGM is to elect a new slate of officers. Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers and we need the help of a few good people to keep the workload manageable. Several board positions, including that of President, are vacant and interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jamie Noakes at 403-243-7232 for details. CFNS bylaws require a quorum of 30 members so please attend and help keep the society's business in good order. Following the AGM the Annual Christmas Quiz will be a light-hearted end to the evening and the year. We'd love to see your best nature **photos** of 2009! Contact John McFaul re photos at 403-289-9517 or naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca.

Wed Jan 20, 2010, 7:30 pm: Colour, Caribou and Countless Steps: Mount Edziza and the Spectrums, by Kathryn Manry and Mark Zimmerman. From their 2-week traverse of the Spectrum Range in the northwest corner of BC, Kathryn and Mark bring us photos of volcanic features, wildlife encounters, grand vistas, and abundant wildflowers. For samples, check the Nature Calgary website.

*All general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except June, July & August) at 7:30pm, in **The Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary**, and are open to the public. To suggest a speaker or topic please call John McFaul 403-289-9517 or email naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca.*

For details of volunteer opportunities, see the volunteers' page at <http://naturecalgary.com>

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Calgary is operated entirely by volunteers who generously give their skills and time. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet others with similar interests in a fun and rewarding experience. Would you like to participate?

Nature Calgary Board members needed – President, Publicity Director, Directors-at-Large, and Manager of Volunteers - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Non-board positions - Membership Promotion, Field Trip Leader and Welcome Table Volunteers - contact Nature Calgary for more information.

Nature Calgary thanks the following donors of Door Prizes for the 2009 Banquet:

Calgary Zoo
 Fort Calgary
 Calgary Fiddlers
 Lone Pine Publishing
 Maureen Somers
 Gwen Simpson
 Laura Taylor

Nature Calgary Issues, Events and Updates

A big thank-you to Linda and John Stewart, the organizers of the highly successful Nature Calgary **banquet** on November 7, 2009. They and their team of helpers (Bonnie Rothwell, Donna Wieckowski, Jan Brigden, John McFaul, Marie Tremblay, Jamie Noakes, Ed Kissinger) did an excellent job, and it was wonderful to see so many members enjoying the evening. Our speaker, Dr Stephen Herrero, was interesting as always, as he reviewed his decades of bear research and answered questions.

Birds Calgary 2010 Early-Bird Prize Winner:

The lucky winner of the Early Bird prize draw for the Birds Calgary 2010 competition is Bernie Diebolt. Bernie's name was chosen in a random draw from among everyone who had registered by October 31. He received a beautiful coffee-table book, Canadian Birds by Bruce Obee. The book was donated by Jan Roseneder. (See photo on next page)

Albertabird
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alberta_bird

BirdsCalgary2010
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdsCalgary2010>

Adopt-a-Plant Program
Conservation of Alberta's rare native plants
<http://ab.adoptaplant.ca>

Gus Yaki (right) presents the 2010 Early Bird Prize to Bernie Diebolt at the Bird Study Group meeting, November 4, 2009.



Wed Dec 2
Birding in the Congo

Wed Jan 6, 2010
Review of Bird Count



Long-eared Owl, ©Anne K. Elliot

Nature Calgary Study Groups

Bird Study Group

Wed, Dec 2, 2009: Birding in the Congo - speaker Sandy Ayer
Wed, Jan 6, 2010: Review of the 2009 Christmas Bird Counts

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings. Contact Eric Tull 403-295-0830, [tull@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tull*@ucalgary.ca) (remove *'s).*

2010 Calgary Big Year Birding Competition! Join us in 2010 in our Calgary-wide birding competition! It's free and open to all. There will be prizes, fun events, field trips and get-togethers throughout the year. Sign up now to be kept up-to-date with news about the competition and to be informed of events in which you can participate. For more information and to register see <http://birdcomp.fanweb.ca/2010/> and watch the web and Nature News for updates.



Botany Study Group

Botany Study Group meets during the summer months. Contact Suzanne Visser 403-288-0658 or [svisser@ucalgary.ca](mailto:svisser*@ucalgary.ca) (remove *'s) for further details.*

Of General Interest

Books make excellent Christmas gifts! Copies of *Calgary's Natural Parks: Yours to discover*, by Jim Foley will be on sale at the general meetings.

LIFE – another excellent nature series from BBC-TV Sundays and Thursdays 6 pm starting Nov 15 on Discovery Channel.

Western Canada wildflower website – shows common, scientific, and family names and good photos: <http://www.clunet.edu/cr>

Calgary Rock and Alpine Society meetings: Jan 25, 2010 7:30 pm "Spring Alpines of the Aragonian Pyrenees" by Todd Boland. Lakeview Comm. Hall. See <http://www.CRAGS.ca>

The Bird Watching Answer Book by Laura Ericksen. New book from the science editor of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Real Q&A from birders.

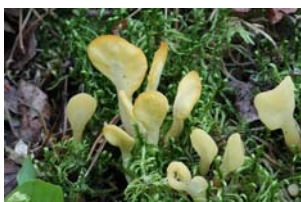
Photo Contests 2009-2010 – sponsored by the Natural Areas Adopt-A-Park program For more information see <http://www.calgary.ca> and search on "photo contest", or contact Linda Vaxvick at 403-239-9434.

Weaselhead NEP: deadline Jan 10, 2010

Twelve Mile Coulee NEP: deadline Feb 12, 2010

Bowmont Park – next contest deadline late 2010

Griffith Woods Park – power pole replacement planned for Nov 2009-Jan 2010; access may be changed. See <http://www.altalink.ca/griffithwoods>



Fungi at West Bragg Creek, ©Stephen Spring

City of Calgary Eco Footprint website:
www.calgary.ca/footprint

Tips on reducing your ecological footprint.

Also search for Community Footprint Program grants.

**CFNS & Inglewood
24hr Rare Bird Alert
403-221-4519
Updated Mon & Thu**



Northern Hawk Owl
© Val Scholefield

**** Cochrane CBC
cancelled**

Calgary Area Christmas Bird Counts 2009-2010

City of Calgary, Sun Dec 20, 2009

Compiler is Phil Cram, 403-228-4142 crampj*@*telusplanet.net assisted by Donna Wieckowski, 403-276-7799 astolat*@*shaw.ca (remove *)

1. Following the count (5pm on) all participants, including feeder watchers, are warmly invited by Lenora and Dick Flynn to 71 Mapleburn Dr SE, 403-271-1269, to compile results – and supper \$4.
2. Please count mammals in addition to birds.
3. New participants wanting to join the feeder watch, contact Jean Moore 403-282-4162.

Please register early!

New Year's Day Bird Count (half day) Fish Creek Provincial Park, contact Jim Washbrook 403-282-8849 or 403-613-9216, email jim*@*staticsound.com.

Except for Fish Creek Count (half-day), counts are all day but you may leave early. Everyone, from beginner to seasoned pro, is invited to participate. Compilers request that participants register as soon as possible to facilitate planning and to avoid anyone going out if a count is postponed due to inclement weather, etc.

Surrounding Areas Christmas Bird Count Schedule (Remove * on emails)

High River	Tue Dec 15	Greg Wagner	1-403-601-3893	greg.wagner*@*athene.ca
Banff/Canmore	Sat Dec 19	Mike Mclvor	1-403-762-4160	mdmclvor*@*shaw.ca
Bow Summit/ Banff Park	TBA	Mike Mclvor	1-403-762-4160	mdmclvor*@*shaw.ca
Horseshoe Canyon	Sat Dec 19	Michael Harrison	403-236-4700	tringa*@*telus.net
Pincher Creek	Sun Dec 20	Sam Miller	1-403-627-3275	sammiller*@*telus.net
		(Sam will arrange free overnight accommodation for Calgary participants)		
Cochrane	Sun Dec 27	Frank Hennessey	1-403-932-4986	frankhennessey*@*gmail.com
Nanton	Sun Dec 27	Mike Truch	1-403-829-6986	mike_truch*@*shaw.ca
Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Tue Dec 29	Jamey Podlubny	403-288-0658	svisser*@*ucalgary.ca
Sheep River/ Turner Valley	Sat Jan 2, 2010	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	collistr*@*telus.net
BowKan/Exshaw	Sat Jan 2, 2010	Cliff Hansen	1-403-673-2422	cm_hansen*@*shaw.ca
Snake's Head/Sundre	Mon Jan 4	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	collistr*@*telus.net

Nature Calgary Field Trips

Check http://www.naturecalgary.com/field_trips.html for new trips and updates.

Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.

Unless the description of the field trip includes "Bring a lunch", the majority of trips will be 2 to 3 hours in length. Of course, trips may be extended if the leader and at least some of the participants are willing to continue. Similarly, if the weather is miserable, the trip may be cut short.

...November 2009

Sun Nov 22, 9 am: Bird Votier's Flats, FCPP, south end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sun Nov 29, 8:30am: Bird Sibbald/Exshaw/Harvie Heights. Meet Assumption School, 34th Av NW (NW corner of Sarcee Tr at Hwy #1). Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Nov 29, 9 am: Birding Beaverdam Flats Park. N from Glenmore Tr on 18 St SE to 66 Av, then left. Meet S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

...December 2009 (also see Christmas Bird Count page)

Tue Dec 1, 8:30am: 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 leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return

Sat Dec 5, 9 am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.



All Nature Calgary
field trips are free
and open to all.

Lead a field trip!

To share your
knowledge of a
favourite location
call Gus at
403-243-2248

Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms**.

Mail to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4,

or hand in at the General and Bird Study Group meeting welcome tables.

Latest version of the **waiver form** is available on the Nature Calgary web <http://tinyurl.com/NCform>.

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

<http://cpawscalgary.org>

Weaselhead & Glenmore Park

Preservation Society

<http://talkaboutwildlife.ca>

Alberta Wilderness Association

<http://albertawilderness.ca>

Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)

<http://www.caoc.ab.ca>

Friends of Fish Creek

<http://friendsoffishcreek.org>

Cross Conservation Area

<http://crossconservation.org>

Calgary Zoo

<http://www.calgaryzoo.org>

Calling All Photographers !!

The Nature Calgary web needs photographs!

If you are willing to allow your photographs to be used on the web, please contact Jan Brigden at email address on page 4 or ph. 403-275-1582.

Sun Dec 6, 9:30am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Dec 12, 9:30am: Bird Carburn Park. From Glenmore Tr SE, take 18 St S exit. At 2nd stoplight, turn right, follow sign to parking lot. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Dec 13. Scout your groups' Calgary CBC territory - or meet at 8:30am, 420 Brunswick Av SW (46 Av & 4 St SW), to scout Rideau/Roxboro CBC. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Dec 26, 9:30am: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet in parking lot, W side of 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sun Dec 27, 9 am: Bird Glennfield area, FCPP, E of Macleod Tr, just S of Fish Creek. From NORTH, go S on Macleod Tr, turn right onto Bannister Rd, going under Macleod Tr, then 1st left into FCPP. Meet in 1st parking lot. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

...January 2010

Fri Jan 1, 10 am: Birding Bowmont Park. Meet Maranatha Church, 2111 52 St NW (N end of Home Rd). Leader, Horst Grothman, 403-286-3048.

Fri Jan 1, 1 pm: Search for rare and unusual birds just sighted on FCPP count. Meet at Tim Horton's, on Bow Bottom Tr SE, just S of Canyon Meadows Dr. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Jan 3, 8:30am: Elbow River Birding Survey. Meet Stanley Park, 42 Av SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir, ride back. (3.5hrs). **Call leaders, A.Pelzer/G.Yaki, 403-243-2248 to ensure vehicle space for return.**

Sun Jan 3, 9 am: Bird Hull's Woods, FCPP, off Bow Bottom Trail SE. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

Sat Jan 9, 9am: Bird Sikome Lake area, FCPP. Meet at Sikome Lake Parking Lot, at S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

Sun Jan 10, 9:30am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park. Meet Beaverdam Flats Park S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, S of 62 Av SE). N from Glenmore Tr at 18 St SE, then left. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

Sat Jan 16, 9 am: Bird Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Sat Jan 16, 9:30am: Mid-winter prairie birding round up, weather permitting, at various locations east of Calgary. Meet at boat launch parking lot, Hull's Wood FCPP, S end of Bow Bottom Trail SE. Leader Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878.

Sun Jan 24, 9:30am: Bird Weaselhead Natural Area. Meet parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sat Jan 30, 9 am: Bird the Bow River in FCPP. Meet at Bankside Parking Lot, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turning left just before entering the park. Leader, Wayne Hewitt, 403-256-7609.

...February 2010

Mon 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 leaders, Aileen Pelzer/Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.**

Nature Calgary members receive discounts at businesses shown below (with membership card)

Campers Village (10% discount)

7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338

The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)

D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Calgary Honda (special discounted rates)

Anderson & Macleod 403-253-6531, x 4021

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Linda lvaxvick*@telus.net ph 403-239-9434 and Jan jebrigden*@telus.net (remove *) ph: 403-275-1582.

Deadline for the February/March issue is Friday, January 15, 2010.