



# Nature News

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[www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com)

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

December 2008 – January 2009  
[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)



Wed December 17  
AGM and  
Annual Christmas  
Quiz  
Members' slides

January 21  
Barrenland Beauty

## Nature Calgary Meeting

### Wed December 17: Annual General Meeting and Christmas Quiz

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 are vacant and interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jamie Noakes ph: 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 lighthearted end to the evening and the year. Members who would like to show a few slides of their 2008 nature experiences following the quiz are asked to register with John McFaul at 403-289-9517.

**Wed January 21: Barrenland Beauty - The natural wonders of Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut.** In July of 2008 Julia Millen spent a week at Bathurst Inlet Lodge [www.bathurstinletlodge.com](http://www.bathurstinletlodge.com). She will describe the exhilarating landscape, the enchanting carpets of arctic wildflowers and the local Inuit people and their cultural traditions. Julia is a long time member of Nature Calgary and has worked as a professional naturalist for many years. She is particularly interested in wildflowers and geomorphology.

*All general meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca).*



## Nature Calgary Issues and Updates

**The Fall Banquet** – was a great success. Dr. Robert Barclay's talk on urban bats provided a comprehensive background to these little known mammals. His research on the effects of various types of disturbance on bats, which includes investigating the causes and consequences of migratory-bat fatalities at wind energy facilities, and the impact of urbanization on prairie bats, led to many questions from the audience.

Several people helped to make this event a success, thanks to everyone who helped, but especially to **Donna Wieckowski, Andrew Stiles and Marie Tremblay**.

Thanks too for the generous door prizes from local businesses and several individuals.

**Books make excellent Christmas gifts!** Copies of *Calgary's Natural Parks: Yours to discover*, by Jim Foley, and *A Field Guide to Alberta Berries*, by Olga Droppo, illustrated by Hope Johnson LLD., will be on sale at the AGM in December.

For details of these and other volunteer opportunities call **Helen** at 403-245-9685, email [ncvolc@gmail.com](mailto:ncvolc@gmail.com) or see the volunteers' page at [www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com)

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Nature Calgary Board members** - contact Jamie 403-243-7232 for details.

Publicity Director - coordinate publicity for meetings and events.

Directors-at-Large - a flexible role that provides support to the Board.

### Non-board positions

- Membership Promotion
- Field Trip Leader - take others to a favourite natural area.
- Representative to sit on the **Friends of the Reader Rock Garden Society** [www.forrgs.com](http://www.forrgs.com). Contact Suzanne at 403-288-0658 if you are interested
- Welcome Table Volunteers are needed to host the tables at monthly general and/or bird study group meetings.

Contact Helen (see left) for more information.

City of Calgary  
CBC 2008  
Sunday December 14

Compilers are  
Phil Cram and Donna  
& Arthur Wieckowski

Everyone is invited to participate, whether beginner or seasoned pro. Contact Phil or Donna and Arthur for territory assignment as soon as possible.

For all Christmas Bird Counts  
Compilers request that you register early!



Did you know?  
Kananaskis Country  
is 30 years old  
(1978-2008)

Dec 3  
Alberta Birding  
Travels:  
In search of new birds  
to photograph  
  
Albertabird  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird)

Adopt-a-Plant Program  
Conservation of Alberta's  
rare native plants  
[www.ab.adoptaplant.ca](http://www.ab.adoptaplant.ca)

## Calgary Area Christmas Bird Counts 2008-2009

City of Calgary, Sun Dec 14.

Compilers are Phil Cram, 403-228-4142 [crampj@telusplanet](mailto:crampj@telusplanet) and Donna and Arthur Wieckowski, 403-276-7799 [iseult@shaw.ca](mailto:iseult@shaw.ca)

1. Following the count (5pm on) all participants, including feeder watchers, are warmly invited by Lenora and Dick Flynn to 71 Mapleburn Dr SE, 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 [jmmoore@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jmmoore@ucalgary.ca)

**Please register early!**

### New Year's Day Bird Count (half day)

Fish Creek Provincial Park, contact Jim Washbrook 403-969-1056

### Surrounding Areas Christmas Bird Count Schedule

Banff /Canmore	Dec 20, (Sat)	Mike McIvor	1-403-762-4160	<a href="mailto:mdmcivor@shaw.ca">mdmcivor@shaw.ca</a>
BowKan/ Exshaw	Jan 3, (Sat)	Cliff Hansen	1-403-673-2422	<a href="mailto:cm_hansen@shaw.ca">cm_hansen@shaw.ca</a>
Bow Summit /Banff Park	TBA	Mike McIvor	1-403-762-4160	<a href="mailto:mdmcivor@shaw.ca">mdmcivor@shaw.ca</a>
Cochrane	Dec 27, (Sat)	Frank Hennessey	1-403-932-4986	<a href="mailto:frankhennessey@gmail.com">frankhennessey@gmail.com</a>
Cochrane Reserve	Dec 28, (Sun)	Jamey Podlubny	403-288-0658	<a href="mailto:svisser@ucalgary.ca">svisser@ucalgary.ca</a>
High River	Dec 16, (Tue)	Greg Wagner	1-403-601-3893	<a href="mailto:elkman@telusplanet.net">elkman@telusplanet.net</a>
Horseshoe Canyon	Dec 21, (Sun)	Michael Harrison	403-236-4700	<a href="mailto:tringa@telus.net">tringa@telus.net</a>
Nanton	Dec 28, (Sun)	Laurie Messner or Gus Yaki	1-403-646-2345	<a href="mailto:lmessner@telusplanet.net">lmessner@telusplanet.net</a>
Pincher Creek	Dec 14, (Sun)	Sam Miller	403-243-2248 1-403-627-3275	<a href="mailto:gyaki@calcna.ab.ca">gyaki@calcna.ab.ca</a> <a href="mailto:sammiller@telus.net">sammiller@telus.net</a> (Sam will arrange free overnight accommodation for Calgary participants.)
Sheep River /Turner Valley	Dec 30, (Tue)	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	<a href="mailto:collistr@telus.net">collistr@telus.net</a>
Snake's Head /Sundre	Jan 3, (Sat)	Doug Collister	403-240-1635	<a href="mailto:collistr@telus.net">collistr@telus.net</a>

**\*\*Please assist the compilers by registering well in advance\*\***

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.

## Nature Calgary Study Groups

### Bird Study Group

Wed December 3, 7:30 pm: Alberta Birding Travels - in search of new birds to photograph, speaker Alan MacKeigan. View Alan's photographs at [www.almac.ca](http://www.almac.ca).

Wed January 7, 7:30 pm: Review of the 2008 Christmas Bird Counts in the Calgary region.

*Bird Study Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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).*

### 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) for further details.*



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

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

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 [http://www.naturecalgary.com/pdfs/Waiver\\_and Release\\_May-08\\_landscape.pdf](http://www.naturecalgary.com/pdfs/Waiver_and_Release_May-08_landscape.pdf).

Please submit a list of bird species seen on trips to [brooke@webfoundations.com](mailto:brooke@webfoundations.com)



**RED-TAILED HAWK**

Sketches: Beryl Hallworth

## Nature Calgary Field Trips

Check [www.naturecalgary.com](http://www.naturecalgary.com) field trips pages for new trips and updates.

**Trips that are highlighted require pre-registration.**

### ...November

**Sat Nov 22, 9 am: Birding Shannon Terrace**, W end of Fish Creek Prov. Park (FCPP). W on Anderson Rd which curves south to become 37 St SW. Turn left (East) at 130 Av SW. Go 1 block, turn right into park. Leader, Al Borgardt, 403-281-4306.

**Sun Nov 23, 9am: Birding Burnsmead Area**. Meet parking lot, FCPP, off Bow Bottom Tr SE, turn left just before entering Park. Leader, Jim Washbrook, 403-271-0932.

**Sat Nov 29, 8:30am: Get a head-start on Winter Bird Count, 1 Dec-29 Feb 2009**. Today visit Inglewood, possibly Carburn, Burnsmead, etc. Bring lunch. Meet Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, E end of 9 Av SE. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

**Sun Nov 30, 9am: Bird Beaverdam Flats Park**. N from Glenmore Tr on 18 St SE to 66 Av, then left. Meet in S parking lot (Lynnview Rd & Lynnview Way, just S of 62 Av SE). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

### ...December

**Mon 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 6, 9am: 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.

**Sun Dec 7: Advance scouting of your Calgary Christmas Bird Count (CBC) territory**. Search for rarities. Gather with friends - or join Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248: Call leader(s) to establish time and meeting place.

**Fri Dec 12, 7pm: See the overnight concentration of 5000+ Common Goldeneyes** S of Eric Harvie Bridge. Meet at Southland Park parking lot, off Southland Dr SE, just E of Deerfoot Tr. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

**Sat Dec 13: Call your friends to scout your Calgary CBC area today for Count-week birds**. Those species seen today, not tomorrow, are countable.

**Sat Dec 20, 9:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E. end on 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

**Sun Dec 21, 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, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

**Fri Dec 26, 9:30am: Nature Walk (birds, mammal tracks, plants), Weaselhead Natural Area**. Meet Parking lot, 37 St & 66 Av SW. Leader, Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248.

### ...January

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

**Fri Jan 2, 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

**Sat Jan 3, 9am: Birding Votier's Flats, FCPP**, S end of Elbow Dr SW. Leader, Grant Brydle, 403-720-4957.

**Sat Jan 10, 9am: Bird Carburn Park**. From Glenmore Tr SE, take 18 St S exit. At 2nd stoplight, turn right, follow sign to parking lot. Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

**Sun Jan 11, 9am: 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, Jim Washbrook, 403-969-1056.

**Sun Jan 18, 9am, Bird Bebo Grove, FCPP**. S end of 24 St SW. Leader, Eric Tull, 403-295-0830.

**Sat Jan 24, 9:30am: Birding Inglewood Bird Sanctuary**, E. end on 9 Av SE. Leader, Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

**Sun Jan 25, 9am: Bird the Bow River**. Meet Burnsmead Parking Lot, FCPP. S on Bow Bottom Tr, turn left just before entering FCPP. Leader, Tony Timmons, 403-256-0754.

**Sun 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, 243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.

## Of General Interest

For more nature activities in the Calgary area visit:

**Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS)**  
[www.cpawscalgary.org](http://www.cpawscalgary.org)

**Weaselhead & Glenmore Park Preservation Society**  
[weaselhead.org](http://weaselhead.org)

**Alberta Wilderness Association**  
[www.albertawilderness.ca](http://www.albertawilderness.ca)

**Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC)**  
[www.caoc.ab.ca](http://www.caoc.ab.ca)

**Friends of Fish Creek**  
[www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

**Cross Conservation Area**  
[www.crossconservation.org](http://www.crossconservation.org)

[naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca](mailto:naturecalgary@cfns.fanweb.ca)

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

**Nature Calgary Memberships**  
Individual \$20.00/yr  
Family \$25.00/yr  
Contact Donna,  
403-276-7799  
♻️ please recycle

### **Calgary Pathways and Bikeways Advisory Council (CPAC)—call for members.**

Users of the pathway system are asked to consider joining this citizens advisory group. To apply, submit your name, address and contact information along with a brief statement detailing why you would like to be a member of CPAC and what you use the pathways for. Send by email to [parks@calgary.ca](mailto:parks@calgary.ca) attention: Pathway Coordinator **or** by mail to: Pathway Coordinator, City of Calgary Parks, PO Box 2100 Stn, M, #77, Calgary AB T2P 2M5.

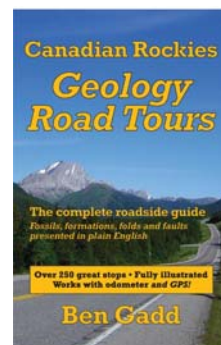
### **Calgary ring road open houses and updates**

**West Calgary ring road** - Stoney Trail Extension between Highway 8 and Highway 1 (Trans-Canada Highway) second open house, Thursday November 20, 4-8pm at First Lutheran Church 7102 14 Av SW.

For a map and details of each leg of the ring road go to [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca), click on City Transportation and then the Calgary Ring Road link on the right hand side.

**Chester Mjolsness World of Wildlife Exhibit** - Sundre's Pioneer Village Museum. The exhibit has been designed to provide visitors, young and old alike, with the knowledge and appreciation of preserving our wildlife resources. Winter hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. See <http://museum.sundre.com/home> for more information.

**Canadian Rockies – Geology Road Tours by Ben Gadd.** A roadside guide to fossils, formations, folds and faults presented in plain English. Includes road logs for major highways, 268 viewpoints, GPS waypoints for all locations, 576 pages and 582 illustrations. ISBN 978-0-9692631-2-8 \$28.50. Distributed by Alpine Book Peddlers, 403-678-2280 Canmore, AB.  
[www.bengadd.com/BenGaddBooks.htm](http://www.bengadd.com/BenGaddBooks.htm).



**Mount Royal College Students Ecotourism Art Show.** Hosted at the Calgary Area Outdoor Council, 1111 Memorial Drive NW November 22, 7:00pm - 10:00pm. This event includes an Ecotourism Photo Competition, Art Show & Sale, and a slideshow where the public will decide the winning photos.

**Alberta Wilderness Association – How beavers battled drought – and won!** Tuesday, November 25, 7pm at AWA Office, 455 – 12 St NW, Calgary. Speaker Dr. Glynnis Hood is an assistant professor in Environmental Science at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus. Her research focus includes wetland ecology, human-wildlife interactions, and resource management. \$5 per person; \$1 for children. Reservations: Phone (403) 283-2025 or book online at [www.AlbertaWilderness.ca](http://www.AlbertaWilderness.ca).

**Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS)** members' slide night and pot-luck dinner (meat provided) on January 8. RSVP to Patricia Domin (403-255-7896). Bring cutlery, plates, glasses, wine, and a dish to share. Dinner at 6:30 pm, Lakeview Community Association Hall, 6110 - 34 St SW, Calgary, [www.crag.ca](http://www.crag.ca).

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

<b>Campers Village (10% discount)</b> 7208 Macleod Tr SE 403-252-3338	<b>The Wild Bird Store (10% discount)</b> D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632
<b>Calgary Honda (special discounted rates)</b> Anderson & Macleod 403-253-6531, x 4021	

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society) publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to Brooke [brooke@webfoundations.com](mailto:brooke@webfoundations.com) ph: 403-295-0830 **and/or** Jan [jebrigden\\*@telus.net](mailto:jebrigden*@telus.net) (remove \*) ph: 403-275-1582.

**Deadline for the February/March issue is Friday January 16, 2009.**