



Nature News

Volume 36, Number 1
<http://naturecalgary.com>



Mt Assiniboine Lodge
©John McFaul

Note: Remove the *s in email addresses. They are used to discourage spam



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Skipper and Police-Car Moth
© Anne K. Elliott

Nature Calgary (Calgary Field Naturalists' Society)

President: Andrew Hart 403-279-5209

September 2014

email: president*@naturecalgary.com

Nature Calgary's Speaker Series

Tue Sep 16, 7:30 pm: Backcountry Lodges of the Canadian Rockies, presented by John McFaul.

Tue Oct 21, 7:30 pm: Bats – Biology, Diversity, and Conservation, presented by Cory Olson, grassland ecologist for Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

*Speaker meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May, at 7:30pm, at the **Cardel Theatre** (180 Quarry Park Blvd SE), and are open to all. To suggest a speaker contact John McFaul at 403-289-9517 or info*@naturecalgary.com.*

The Theatre is made available to non-profit organizations at very low cost by Cardel Foundations. Please show your appreciation by bringing donations of non-perishable food for the Calgary Food Bank and placing them in the box.

Directions: On Deerfoot Tr, take the EAST Glenmore Tr exit. After you cross the Bow River, take the next exit (18 St. SE) and head south. At the 5th intersection, turn left onto Quarry Park Blvd SE, and then left again into the parking lot for CARDEL. Cardel Theatre map at <http://cardeltheatre.com>

Issues, Events and Updates

Education Grant: Schools in Calgary in need of financial support for nature-related field trips are encouraged to look at our grant page to find out how they can apply for funding for the 2014-2015 school year. **Applications close September 30, 2014.** See <http://www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/grants/>

Weaselhead Invasive Plant Project: Interested in participating in a project to determine the best way of removing cotoneaster - a widespread non-native plant that is invading many of Calgary's natural areas? This is the third year of the project (partially funded by Nature Calgary). In Sep and Oct, volunteers will collect data from sample locations in the Weaselhead and will be hiking off-trail (sometimes through thick bush) to find these locations. Experience not required. Contact Sarah invasiveplants*@theweaselhead.com.

Annual Nature Calgary Banquet, Nov 8: Organizer Penny Smith (403 249-5997) has booked the Lakeview Community Hall for this popular event, which will feature speaker Bob Saunders. Ticket prices are \$45 for members, \$55 non-members. Tickets may be purchased by cheque, or online. See page 4.

Paskapoo Slopes Development Proposal: A new proposal for developing the lower Paskapoo Slopes area east of Canada Olympic Park, is being reviewed by the City planning department. The proposal, from current owner Trinity Development Group, would turn much of the upper slopes into a park, and the lower portion would be developed for mixed residential and commercial uses. See the [City of Calgary's website page](http://www.cityofcalgary.ca/engage/Pages/Trinity-Paskapoo.aspx) for the proposal, including opportunities for online comment and attending upcoming workshops, at <http://www.cityofcalgary.ca/engage/Pages/Trinity-Paskapoo.aspx> . Other links:

[Facebook page set up by concerned citizens: www.facebook.com/savepaskapooslopes/](http://www.facebook.com/savepaskapooslopes/)

[Paskapoo Slopes Preservation Society: www.paskapoo.com](http://www.paskapoo.com)

[Trinity Hills website: www.trinityhills.ca](http://www.trinityhills.ca)

For more information, or to view some printed maps of the proposal, please contact Linda at lvaxvick*@telus.net or 403-239-9434.

Nature Calgary is run entirely by volunteers!
For current opportunities see www.naturecalgary.com/get-involved/



Yellow-Headed Blackbird
©Carole Hachey

Rare Bird Alert:
Report rare bird reports to
Bird Alert Compiler,
Terry Korolyk at
403-254-1878

**Birders: check Albertabird
for latest sightings.**
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Albertabird>

Lead a field trip!
Share your knowledge
of a favourite location!
Call Ian 403-246-4213
or Andrew 403-279-5209

Obituary: We are saddened to learn of the passing of **Prof. Paul Anderson**, a former CFNS member, on June 23, 2014. His obituary may be found at <http://cochrancountryfuneral.com/anderson-paul-knight/> or from [newsletter*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:newsletter@naturecalgary.com).

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Nature Calgary Annual Banquet: Volunteers are needed to assist with table setup at the Nature Calgary annual banquet on November 8th. If you are attending the banquet, and can be there at 5:15pm, your assistance will be appreciated. Please email [volunteers*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:volunteers@naturecalgary.com) to confirm.

"The **Shawnessy YMCA Day Camp** requested that Nature Calgary assist them with a planned day at Fish Creek Provincial Park. They were in need of guides to lead nature walks for 85 children between the ages of 5 and 8 years of age. Thanks to the participation of nine volunteers we were able to respond to their request and had a very successful day. July 4th was a hot, cloudless, and seemingly birdless day. However there was plenty for the children to get excited about, including deer and fawn, ground squirrels, and the big hit of the day, Tent Caterpillars. Thanks go to Shirley Tajenar, Dorothy and Stephen Spring, Gus Yaki, Rose Painter, Allison Scovil, Don Stiles, and Linda Sanders for assisting and making this a very successful day for the children." ...*Ian Ross*

Field Trip Leaders: a big thank you is extended to our volunteer leaders, as they are key to our members' learning experiences in nature!

More **Field Trip Leaders** are needed for Nature Calgary trips. Leaders need not be expert birders, as there are many well-informed birders who will come. Leaders suggest a location, keep the group together, keep track of species seen, and get our waiver signed by participants.

Contact Ian Ross at [volunteers*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:volunteers@naturecalgary.com), or 403 246-4213 to volunteer.

Nature Calgary Bird Study Group

Wed Sep 3, 7:30 pm: Birds of Australia, presented by Jan Roseneder. Jan, a long-time Nature Calgary member, has travelled often to Australia and will introduce us to its bird life.

Wed Oct 1, 7:30 pm: The Role of Citizen Science in Bird Conservation, presented by Brenda Dale, Canadian Wildlife Service. Brenda's research interest is grassland birds, and she also works to promote and support volunteer monitoring programs.

Bird Study Group meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm, Room 211, BioSciences Building, U of C, except June through August when field trips replace the meetings.
Contact, Andrew Hart 403-279-5209 or [birdstudy*@naturecalgary.com](mailto:birdstudy@naturecalgary.com).

Nature Calgary Field Trips

- **New trips and updates:** <http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/>
- **Maps of many destinations at** <http://naturecalgary.com/birding/birding-locations/>
- **Highlighted** trips require pre-registration.
- **Field trips are free and open to all.**

Tue Aug 26, 6:30pm: Evening Bird Walk, Mallard Point. Meet in the parking lot at the East end of Canyon Meadows Dr. Leader Melanie Seneviratne, 403-815-1275 or [melanie.seneviratne*@telus.com](mailto:melanie.seneviratne@telus.com).

Sat Aug 30, 9:00am: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader, Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Mon Sep 1 (Labour Day), 7:30am: 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 leader Gus Yaki, 403-243-2248, to ensure vehicle space for return.



Field trip leaders please turn in signed **waiver forms** to Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M Calgary, AB, T2P 2K4, or at General and Bird Study meeting welcome tables. Latest version of the **waiver form** is available <http://naturecalgary.com/field-trips/leaders/>



www.naturealberta.ca

Alberta Natural History information, conservation News & Issues, Magazine, Young Naturalists, and more.

Postage costs increased in 2014. Please call John at 403-284-4245 or membership*@naturecalgary.com to change to an e-newsletter.

Contact us at Nature Calgary
PO Box 981, Station M,
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
Email:
info*@naturecalgary.com

Sun Sep 7, 7:30am: Birding East of Calgary. Meet at Carburn Park car park. Drive south from Glenmore Trail at 18th Street SE, to second stop light, then turn right and follow signs to Carburn Park. Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Sep 7, 9:00am: Bird Lafarge Meadows, Fish Creek Park SE. Meet in the parking lot at the Boat Launch, FCPP at the south end of Bow Bottom Trail, SE. New Birders are welcome! Leaders, Wayne & Joan Walker, 403 271-4578.

Sat Sep 27, 8:30am: Birding East of Calgary. Meet at Carburn Park car park (see Sep 7 trip for directions). Bring lunch. Leader, Howard Heffler, 403-284-2961.

Sun Sep 28, 9:00am: Bird North Glenmore Park. Meet in parking lot C just W of Rowing Club, accessed from S end of Crowchild Tr SW. Leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Wed Oct 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 Oct 4, 8:00am: Carburn Park Birding. Meet Carburn Park car park (see Sep 7 trip for directions). Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Mon Oct 13, (Thanksgiving) 8:30am: Cross Conservation Area. Go 1.6 km west of the City limit (85th St. SW) on Hwy 22X, then left/south onto 160th St. for 1.6 km. Covering the Chevron Aspen and Fescue Trails, approx. 7 km of moderately strenuous hiking (5 hills). Sign-in at the parking lot requires a \$2 deposit per person. Bring water, snacks, camera & rain gear. Interested participants should contact me in advance by email or phone. I will register the tour on the CCA Area Register in advance as all hikes must be pre-booked with crossconservation.org. Contact Grant Brydle at 403-720-4957 or jamesbrydle*@shaw.ca.

Sat Oct 18, 8:00am: Frank Lake. Meet Carburn Park car park (see Sep 7 trip for directions). Bring lunch. Leader, Andrew Hart, 403-279-5209.

Sun Oct 19, 9:00am Bird Lafarge Meadows, Fish Creek Park SE. Meet in the parking lot at the Boat Launch, FCP at the south end of Bow Bottom Trail, SE. New Birders are welcome! Leaders, Wayne & Joan Walker, 403 271-4578.

General Interest

Glenbow Ranch Prov. Park Photography Courses, Golf Cart Tours, and other events: Registration required. <http://www.grpf.ca/events> or 403-851-9053.

HELS Sighting: High Elevation Localized Species. The Bow Valley Naturalists started a project in 2010 for tracking the sightings of four species in the upper elevations of the Rocky Mountains. See <http://www.bowvalleynaturalists.org/page21/page21.html> to find out how to report sightings of Hoary Marmot, Pika, Mountain Goat, White-tailed Ptarmigan.

Friends of Fish Creek Autumn Birding Course starts Sep 1. Fees: FFCPP Members: \$60.00, Non-Members: \$100.00 (Youth 16 years of age or younger with registered adult: \$5.00). Registration and course times: call 403-238-3841 or visit <http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/birding-course>.

Friends of Fish Creek Events: Speaker Series at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre from 7 - 8pm. **Aug 26:** Hunger Games – Local Plant Lore. **Sep 9:** Human Relationships with the Natural World. **Oct 23:** Bighorns in Sheep River Provincial Park. Other events including geology minibus tours, trail care, etc at <http://friendsoffishcreek.org>

Alberta Native Plant Council plans a field trip Sep 26-27 to Pinhorn Grazing Lease and Cypress Hills: see <http://www.anpc.ab.ca>.

OutdoorFestYYC includes a photo contest: enter by **Sep 11.** Organized by the Calgary Area Outdoor Council. More information at <http://www.outdoorfestyyc.ca/>

Searching for BIG/OLD Trees: Brad Jones, Forest Health Officer, South Saskatchewan Region is aiding Dave Sauchyn, University of Regina, in his quest to identify big or old trees. Dave uses



Spotted Sandpiper
©Carole Hachey

tree-ring analysis to re-create climate scenarios and a fair bit of his work occurs in, and applies to Alberta. *If you know of big and/or old trees and can provide a lat/long then Dave would love to take a core sample. He will cut cookies from downed dead trees.*

Dave is seeking data to contribute to a better understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of climatic variability in the western Canadian interior in support of planning and policy for the adaptation of energy and renewable resource industries to climate change. Information on his research is available at http://www.parc.ca/research_professors_sauchyn.htm. If you know of ancient or large trees that might be valuable to this data set, please contact Brad Jones at Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources, Tel (403) 355-4854; Cell (403) 875-4762.

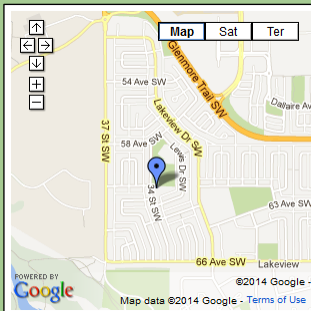


Nature Calgary Banquet 2014

Join us on Saturday November 8

Lakeview Community Hall
6110 – 34 Street SW

Time: 6 - 7 pm: Cash Bar
7 pm: Three course buffet dinner
*(choice of prime rib roast or
vegetarian selection)*
8 pm: Guest Speaker – **Bob Saunders**



Lakeview Community Hall –
click map for larger view

Our Guest Speaker, Bob Saunders, is a climber, skier, and kayaker who has undertaken numerous multiday, multi-week, and multi-month expeditions throughout Canada, including a six week ski traverse from the tip of Labrador to Nain, a two month crossing of Northern British Columbia, a six month traverse (skiing, kayaking, and hiking) of Baffin Island, a six week kayak expedition from Fort Conger to Pim Island (Ellesmere Island). His latest series of northern expeditions, “Agguanittug”, from Calgary to Repulse Bay over 6 summers, was sponsored by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Reserve now – deadline for payment is Nov 3.

Price: \$45 Nature Calgary members, \$55 non-members.

Online payment available on www.naturecalgary.com/events/banquet/, or

Pay in person at the Sep 16 or Oct 21 Nature Calgary meetings, or

Send cheques (payable to Nature Calgary) to:

Nature Calgary, PO Box 981, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4 and **please write** “Banquet” on the envelope and include your contact information and meal selection – beef/vegetarian.

More! Free parking. Door prizes. Free book exchange – please bring unwanted nature books to share. **To volunteer with setup, or to donate prizes**, please call Penny Smith, 403-283-9260.

Memberships

Individual \$20.00/yr.
Family \$25.00/yr.

Contact John 403-284-4245 or
membership*@naturecalgary.com

Join or renew online

<http://www.naturecalgary.com>

Nature Calgary members receive a 10% discount (with membership card) at

The Wild Bird Store D3-8330 Macleod Tr S 403-640-2632

Fairplay Stores 2604 Kensington Road Northwest 403-283-2117

Nature Calgary publishes **Nature News** 8 times per year. Send copy to:
newsletter*@naturecalgary.com or phone 403-239-9434.

Deadline for the next Nature News issue is Friday Oct 3, 2014.