

NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

www.naturecalgary.com



President: John McFaul
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VOLUNTEER

Volunteer*@naturecalgary.com
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:
newsletter*@naturecalgary.com.
Next deadline: Jan 17, 2020

Mailing address:
Nature Calgary, Box 981 Stn. M
Calgary, AB T2P 2K4

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Message from the President

Dear members,

What a year it has been! I am sure all of us will be happy to see old man 2020 leave the stage and are looking with hope to 2021, especially with news of an effective vaccine(s) on the horizon. Despite the difficulties 2020 presented to us Nature Calgary was able to carry on with providing opportunities to enjoy our natural world. Thanks goes to all our field trip leaders who led numerous trips throughout the year and were ably coordinated by Howard Heffler. Thanks to Anne Belton for her efforts to maintain the Bird Study Group presentations which are such an important part of Nature Calgary. I especially would like to thank all the board members who worked so hard to maintain the efficient operation of the club as well as our webmaster Jeff Wiehler. Finally I wish to extend my thanks to all of you for supporting the club through your membership. With your support and the hard work of our volunteers I am confident that Nature Calgary will thrive in 2021.

John McFaul
President Nature Calgary

Covid-19 Protocols

As of November 13, these are the Nature Calgary protocols for field trips:

A) In and Outside City Single Destination Trips

A single destination trip is one where participants meet at a designated location and proceed on foot.

1. **Maximum of 10 Participants plus leader.**
2. **Participants must be members of Nature Calgary.**
3. **Pre-registration is required.**
4. **Participants must sign a waiver form either on site or bring one already signed. Bring your own pen to sign the waiver form.**
5. **Masks or face shields must be worn when outside the vehicle.**
6. **Carpooling should only be done with occupants of the same household or bubble.**
7. **Refrain from sharing scopes, binoculars, field guides etc outside of your bubble.**

B) Outside City Multiple Destination Trips

A multiple destination trip is one where participants drive between locations. For example birding multiple locations during the trip.

1. **Maximum of 5 vehicles plus the leader's vehicle.**
2. **Plus all protocols listed in A (see previous page)**

Speaker Series

Nature Calgary's monthly meetings are held at 7:30pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Due to COVID-19, meetings will be held via Zoom.

Wed Dec 16: Alberta's Aquatic Invasive Species:

Join Nicole Kimmel, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist with Environment and Parks, as she describes how Alberta is monitoring and controlling for the variety of non-native aquatic species that would like to call Alberta home.

Time: 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 812 8279 5449

Passcode: 600795

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81282795449?pwd=cU1yTnpqdzNwVnVNL1MvczVwTVo4QT09>

Wed Jan 20: The Western Ghats: Since retiring in 2016 Andrew Hart has made several visits to India. This presentation will center on the Western Ghats, a mountain range that runs parallel to the west coast of India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight hot-spots of biological diversity in the world. It contains a large proportion of the country's flora and fauna, many of which are endemic. The area is predominantly rural and the presentation will describe a number of interactions with local people as well some of the natural history highlights including Nagarhole National Park.

Time: 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 829 9284 9963

Passcode: 870077

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82992849963?pwd=YnN5a29raGtrekFwL29uS1A4cFgydz09>

Bird Study Group

Bird Study Group is held at 7:30pm the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Due to COVID-19, meetings will be held via Zoom.. Links and meeting codes will be emailed to members closer to the event date.

**To ensure you get the email you must subscribe to the Bird Study Group. To do this, log in to Nature Calgary, go to My Membership, then email settings and then click the Bird Study Group Updates box.*

Wed Dec 2: High Latitude Birding with Miles

Tindal: Many birders like to travel and enjoy the spectacular birdlife in other parts of the world. The birds that breed in the high latitudes of the northern and southern hemispheres can be some of the most spectacular and fascinating of all. This talk and slideshow will share some beautiful images of some of the most interesting birdlife of Greenland, the arctic islands of Nunavut, the north slope of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands in the northern hemisphere, and the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsular in the Southern Hemisphere. Many of these places are challenging to access, and so some travel tips for birders will be included for each location.

Time: Meeting opens at 7:00pm; presentation to begin at 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 817 0987 5604

Passcode: 645042

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81709875604?pwd=dkxYVThoMEtsMHhlcTVsOUFjWUwrUT09>

Wed Jan 13* (2nd Wednesday):

Christmas Bird Count. Phil Cram and others will present the results of the Calgary and area Christmas Bird Counts.

Time: Meeting opens at 7:00pm; presentation to begin at 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 870 4935 6496

Passcode: 924608

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87049356496?pwd=elRHeGhldThwaWZVTDVXVFhmcVhZUT09>

City of Calgary Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 20, 2020

- Please count mammals as well as birds.
- New participants wanting to join Feederwatch, please contact Bob Lefebvre at wbird7*[*gmail.com](mailto:wbird7@gmail.com)
- New participants should contact a Route Coordinator (North: John McFaul, 403-289-9517; East: Terry Korolyk, 403-254-1878; West: Jim Washbrook, 403-282-8849; South: Dan Arndt, 403-836-7405).

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT	EMAIL
Dec 15, 2020	High River	Greg Wagner	peyto601* *gmail.com
Dec 19, 2020	Banff/Canmore	Heather Dempsey	bvn* *bowvalleynaturalists.org
Dec 20, 2020	Calgary	Phil Cram	crampj* *telusplanet.net
Dec 20, 2020	Chestermere	Don Cassidy	cassidy* *telus.net
Dec 27, 2020	Sheep River	Doug Collister	collistr* *gmail.com
Dec 29, 2020	Cochrane Wildlife Reserve	Suzanne Visser	svisser@ucalgary.ca
Jan 1, 2021	Fish Creek Provincial Park	Jim Washbrook	jwashbrook1* *gmail.com
Jan 2, 2020	Cochrane	Kirsten Pearson	kirstenepearson* *gmail.com
Jan 2, 2020	Exshaw	Cliff Hansen	cm_hansen@shaw.ca
Jan 3, 2021	Priddis	Gavin McKinnon	gmckinnonbird* *gmail.com
Jan 4, 2021	The Snake's Head (Sundre)	Doug Collister	collistr* *gmail.com

For more Christmas Bird Count locations, visit birdscanada.org

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.

Nature Calgary has formalized Field Trip protocols. For clarity, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter. Trips be limited to a maximum of ten participants and pre-registration is required. Participants must wear appropriate face covering (masks or face shields).

Fri Nov 27, 9:00am: Bird Lafarge Meadows FCPP. Meet at boat launch parking lot, S end of Bow Bottom Tr SE. Please register with leader: Anne Belton at ibelton@telus.net or 587-233-7339.

Sat Nov 28, 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. Please register with leader Penny Smith, 403-249-5997.

Fri Dec 4, 9:00am, Bird Bebo Grove FCPP. Meet in the parking lot, south end of 24th St SW. Dress according to the weather. Consider bringing crampons/spikes. Please register with leader: Anne Belton at ibelton@telus.net or 587-233-7339.

Fri Dec 11 9:00am, Bird Carburn Park. Carburn Park is reached by turning south from Glenmore Trail onto 18 St SE, right onto Rivervalley Dr SE and then left onto Riverview Dr SE (2nd left, ignoring cul du sac). Please register with leader: Anne Belton at ibelton*.*telus.net or 587-233-7339.

Sat Dec 19, 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. Please register with leader Penny Smith, 403 249-5997.

Sun Dec 20: Calgary Christmas Bird Count. See page 3 for details.

Fri Jan 1: Christmas Bird Count in Fish Creek Park. See page 3 for details.

Sun Jan 10, 9:00am: Bird Votier's Flats in Fish Creek PP. Take Elbow Drive to the very southern end and follow it to the parking lot. Consider bringing crampons/spikes. Please register with leader: Howard Heffler at hheffler@shaw.ca (403-804-2489).

Sat Jan 16; 9:30am. Annual Snowy Owl Pre-Prowl. This outing will explore east of Calgary in quest of Snowy Owls, one of our special winter visitors. Other birds that might be seen include: Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, and redpolls. Trip will run until about 4:00 P.M. Bring lunch. Mid-trip break probably in Strathmore or Langdon. Carpooling should only be done with occupants of the same household or bubble. Please register with leader Terry Korolyk at 403-254-1878, or piidpiper@hotmail.ca. Meeting place is the west end of the Deerfoot City Parking Lot off Deerfoot Trail and 64 Ave. N.E.

General Interest

Weaselhead AGM and Christmas Bird Count Presentation (Online). Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS) is proud to present Canada's top CBC experts Yousif Attia (Birds Canada CBC Coordinator) and Phil Cram (Calgary CBC Coordinator) to discuss the history and importance of the CBC and how you can become involved in this amazing winter citizen science event in the field... and in your backyard! Wednesday, Dec 9 from 6:50 to 8:30 pm. Register here

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/weaselhead-agm-christmas-bird-count-presentation-tickets-127335101717>

Urban Beavers – Building Pathways to Coexistence in Fish Creek Provincial Park (online presentation). During summer/fall of 2020, researchers at the Miistakis Institute piloted a new tree protection technique as part of their Putting Beavers to Work for Watershed Resiliency and Restoration program. This innovative and humane solution for managing beaver activity involved applying a textural repellent to discourage these animals from chewing and felling trees. The pilot took place in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Thursday, January 21 from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/urban-beavers-building-pathways-to-coexistence-in-fish-creek-tickets-127087745869>



Rare Bird Alert:

report rare bird sightings to Bird Alert Compiler, Terry Korolyk at 403-300-1067

For latest sightings check: [Albertabird](#) or [BirdTrax](#)

