

NATURE NEWS

From Nature Calgary

www.naturecalgary.com



President: John McFaul
403-289-9517
president@naturecalgary.com

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.](#)

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Contact Val 403-288-7441 or
membership@naturecalgary.com
[Join or renew online.](#)

SUBMISSIONS

Share your experiences, art, stories, suggestions, news, and events with Nature Calgary! Nature News is published 8 times per year and submissions are accepted by all members.

Send to:
newsletter@naturecalgary.com.
Next deadline: **November 26, 2021**

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



Message from the President

Dear members,

November is a time when Calgary's natural neighbours are making their final preparations for the winter months ahead. The Trembling Aspens and Balsam Poplars will have formed their overwintering buds and have lost their leafy coats. The last of the fall migrants will pass through on their way to their wintering grounds. The Morning Cloak Butterflies and lady bugs will have retired to their overwintering hideaways.

It can also be a time of renewal as our new city council settles in with a welcome indication that environmental concerns will be a priority. Nature Calgary would like to congratulate the new mayor and council on their successful campaigns. Hopefully this will bode well for Calgary's biodiversity and natural areas.

This season also offers a chance at the renewal for the Nature Calgary board. The current members of the board have worked very well in managing the club's affairs for which I am very grateful. The board can always be renewed and benefit from new people with diverse backgrounds and experience willing to step up to become members. In this regards, members are reminded of our AGM which will take place on November 17th. At that time we will be approving the board membership to lead us into 2022.

Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a board member. We are looking for people to fill one year or two year terms. The board is especially interested in people with expertise in publicity as we strive to become a larger more diverse club.

Well wishes,

John

Annual General Meeting 2021

Topic: Nature Calgary's AGM Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 17, 2021 07:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

The Nature Calgary Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 17 via Zoom (See link below) and provide an opportunity to review the many accomplishments that Nature Calgary has achieved over the last year. Other topics will include the annual review of the financial status of the club and vote in the new board for 2022.

If you have an interest in joining the board or becoming more involved with Nature Calgary, This is your chance! Contact John McFaul at president@naturecalgary.com with questions or any information you would like from the board to learn more about opportunities.

After the AGM is adjourned there will be an opportunity for members to present a small number of their favourite nature pictures that they took in 2021. The total number of images will be capped. Contact John McFaul at president@naturecalgary.com regarding showing images at the AGM.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99095149163?pwd=VzBWeDhyR3I1MEVHSzJRQzFtcERJUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 9514 9163

Passcode: 304228



Bird Study Group

Black Swifts Take Flight in Banff National Park

December 1, 2021 7:30 PM via Zoom

Speaker: Jennifer Reimer, Project Lead for the Black Swift Monitoring Program in Banff National Park since 2015, has followed birds across the globe for many years, from studying pair duets of the Eastern Whipbird in Australia to conducting seabird inventories off Haida Gwaii and Vancouver Island. After completing her graduate studies on the importance of developing Canada's first marine protected areas for seabirds, she was soon drawn back to the Rockies and has been working in wildlife management for Parks Canada ever since.

Presentation: Black Swifts (*Cypseloides niger borealis*) are the largest swifts in North America and the only subspecies to occur in Canada. This high flying aerial insectivore is the ultimate habitat specialist seeking commanding views of plunging waterfalls to nest beside. The species was listed as Endangered in Canada in 2019 due to steep declines in the Canadian population. In Banff National Park, Black Swifts have been observed nesting in the park and on the eastern edge of their range since 1919! Researchers are implementing an array of tools to better understand these cryptic creatures who spend most of their lives on the wing! Come find out how Black Swifts are doing in Johnston Canyon and how creativity is key to studying them.



Black Swifts by Jennifer Reimer/©Parks Canada

Field Trips

COVID restrictions on Nature Calgary field trips:

- Trips will be limited to a maximum of ten participants
- Pre-registration is required
- Wearing face covering (masks) is optional

There are now a limited number of walks open to the general public now at a cost of \$10 (highlighted with an * below). This is a great time to introduce a friend to birding. Binoculars are available for all registered participants.

Nature Calgary recommends that all participants on NC field trips, including the leader, be fully vaccinated. While we will not be asking for confirmation, we are asking for voluntary compliance. We request that anyone with COVID symptoms, or any other issue that puts other participants at risk, not attend.

NC organizes volunteer led field trips throughout the year. New and impromptu field trips may be added to the website anytime. Check frequently. For up-to-date list of field-trips, visit our website: <https://naturecalgary.com/events/calendar/>

NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends 2:00 AM Sunday November 7

Day	Date	Time	Destination	Leader
Saturday	06/11/21	9:00 AM	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary	Janet Gill
Tuesday	09/11/21	9:00 – 11:30 AM	Wolf-Willow to LaFarge Meadows*	Kaya Konopnicki
Sunday	07/11/21	9:00 AM	Dale Hodges Park	Dave Russum
Wednesday	10/11/21	9:00 AM	Bebo Grove FCPP	Howard Heffler
Friday	12/11/21	9:00 – 11:30 AM	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary*	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	13/11/21	10:00 AM	Pearce Estate Park	John McFaul
Tuesday	16/11/21	9:00 – 11:30 AM	Bebo Grove*	Kaya Konopnicki
Friday	19/11/21	9:00 AM -Noon	Carburn Park*	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	20/11/21	9:00 AM	Brown-Lowery Provincial Park	John McFaul
Tuesday	23/11/21	9:00 – 11:30 AM	Weaselhead*	Kaya Konopnicki
Friday	26/11/21	9:00 AM	Bebo Grove FCPP	Anne Belton
Friday	26/11/21	9:00 AM – Noon	West Bragg Creek*	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	27/11/21	9:00 AM	North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
Tuesday	30/11/21	9:00 – 11:30 AM	Griffith Woods Park*	Kaya Konopnicki
Saturday	18/12/21	9:00 AM	North Glenmore Park	Penny Smith
Sunday	19/12/21	All Day	Christmas Bird Count City-Wide	N/A

Where do YOU Want to Explore?

Have any idea of a park to explore in Calgary? Maybe you have an interest in learning about citizen science, photography, ecology, or geology?

Send any field trip requests or suggestions to the Nature Calgary Field Trips Coordinator, Howard Heffler (fieldtrips@naturecalgary.com or 403-804-2489) for future outings.



Rare Bird Alert:

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



Nature Calgary Committee News

Ethical Birding

Nature Calgary is starting a sub-committee to look at ways to raise awareness of ethical birding in Calgary and surrounding areas. This committee has been started as a result of several of Nature Calgary members mentioning their concerns, particularly around owl sightings, that have led to large numbers of people following and actively harassing birds. If you would like to join our committee please send an email to communications@naturecalgary.com.

Please report any harassment of wildlife to 311

As a reminder Nature Calgary abides by the Code of Birding ethics (<https://www.birdscanada.org/discover-birds/code-of-birding-ethics/>)

1. Respect and promote birds and their environment
2. Respect and promote the birding community and its individual members
3. Respect and promote the law and the rights of others.

Communications and Events Committee: Volunteers Wanted

We're looking for some new members for our Communications and Events committee

Do you like to write, take pictures, make videos, love to craft, or have mad skills in data visualization? We want you!

Nature Calgary is looking for members to help us build out our content across our various platforms (website, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube). We want to create memorable, useful, and relevant content for our members. E-mail communications@naturecalgary.com to get involved.



Community News

Christmas Bird Count 2021:

The 2021 Calgary Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Sunday December 19. Early stages of planning are underway. If you have participated in previous counts, Matt Wallace will be reaching out to people in October to see if you are interested in participating. If you have *never* participated before but would like more information on how you can be involved, Please send an email to Matt at CityNatureYYC@gmail.com.

If this is your first time participating in the Calgary CBC, please complete the following [form](#). Feel free to share the form with others who may be interested in joining.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftbhRkWYa4H6nkv9SDjJe70P9d02HseY9N-LLWJcw_8HEE4w/viewform?usp=pp_url

Check out the summary results from CBC YYC 2020 as you gear up for 2021!

Maps: Feeder Watcher locations (Top). CBC YYC areas surveyed (Bottom).

CBC YYC 2020 Summary

Total CBC Participants (Field and Feeders) 287

Total Walking Hours: 250.7

Total Driving Hours: 79.2

Total Bike/ Feeder Watchers Hours: 42.5

Total Distance (km by Foot): 477.25

Total Distance (km by Car): 1,029

Total Distance (km by Bike): 14.50

Avg. Distance Travelled (km by Foot): 13.25

Avg. Distance Travelled (km by Car): 36.75

Average Walking Speed (km/ hr): 2.3

Average Driving Speed (km/hr): 16.6

Total Distance Travelled (km): 1,521

Total Hours Surveying: 372.5

Total Field Surveyors: 130

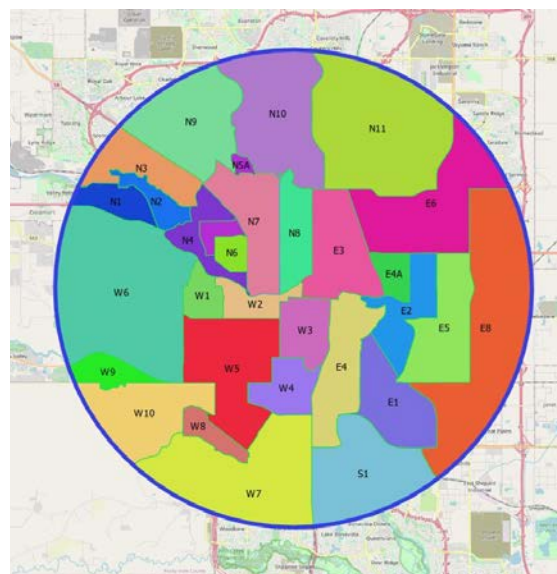
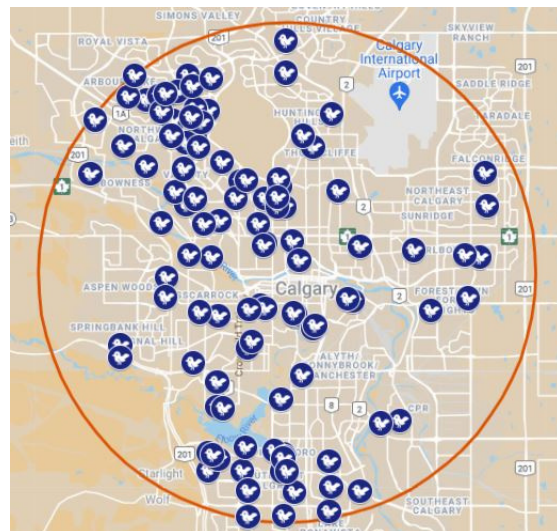
Total Feeder Watchers: 157

Total Field Survey Time (Hours): 330

Total Survey Time Incl. Feeders (hours): 372.5

Species Counted: 69

Total Individual Birds Counted: 52,571



Community News

Official Bird of Calgary Nominations

As you know, Calgary was recently certified as a Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada. As part of the certification, Calgary is asked to designate an official bird to represent the city. In this regards the Bird Friendly Calgary Team (BFCT) would like to create a short list of bird species that would vie for that position.

BFCT is reaching out to members of Treaty 7 First Nations and local environmental groups such as yours to nominate bird species to be included in a short list that will subsequently be presented to Calgarians to vote on. We are asking you people to respond individually by sending one list of the names of up to three candidates to birdfriendlycalgary@gmail.com. The five species which receive the most nominations will make up the short list which will then be presented to Calgarians to vote on. The vote will take place in the spring of 2022. Bird species which receive the most votes will then be presented to city council for their official approval.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, December 6th .

Dark Skies in the Weaselhead

The Weaselhead Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS) Annual General Meeting will take place November 8, at 7:00 PM which includes a free presentation on dark skies.

In January 2021, WGPPS formed a "Nocturnal Preserve Team" to begin work on protecting dark skies in the Weaselhead and surrounding communities by studying and identifying sources of light pollution. The goal of this project is to focus on education of the public and reducing light pollution where possible. Eventually, WGPPS will be apply for an official nocturnal preserve designation which is awarded by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

To celebrate the work of the Nocturnal Preserve Team, WGPPS has invited special guest Jennifer Howse from [Alberta's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory](#) to discuss indigenous ways of knowing and traditional scientific knowledge articulated through land and sky connections. The presentation will inform you on how clear dark skies provide us with a view of celestial objects which also offers us an understanding of our place in the universe.

Registration for the presentation is required. Anyone who is a member of WGPPS is asked to stay afterwards to attend the AGM.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-agm-tickets-186031494207>

Nature Alberta News

Nature Kids Volunteers Wanted!

Nature Alberta is searching for enthusiastic volunteers to establish and lead a Nature Kids Chapter in Calgary. The Nature Kids program connects young families to nature and inspires the next generation of naturalists.

The responsibilities of a Nature Kids Chapter Leader includes connecting with families, running events and programs, and promoting other Nature Alberta events within the Chapter.

For this position, you must have access to reliable transportation and a computer with internet connectivity. A valid Vulnerable Sector Check and/or First Aid Certificate are an asset. The approximate time commitment is 15 hours a month. For more information, visit

<https://naturealberta.ca/volunteer/> or email Abigail Stosky at naturekids@naturealberta.ca



Photo By R. Schneider

Nature Alberta Fundraiser

Shop for that nature lover on your list, while supporting Nature Alberta's E-Auction! All winning bids from this auction will be **matched 6 times** and placed in our endowment fund to support Nature Alberta's important work, long into the future. Bird feeders, unique handmade items and artwork, guided adventures, kids' nature kits and a whole lot more. Start shopping today:

<https://www.32auctions.com/naturealberta>

