

THE ECOLOGICAL BISON



Johane Janelle

Thursday, April 26, 2018
Kerry Wood Nature Centre
General Meeting/Refreshments 7:30 PM
Speaker 8:00 PM

Bison once occupied most of North America and they had complex interactions with almost every other bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile that shared their ecosystem. With stunning photographs of bison across their historical range, this presentation highlights some of these fascinating relationships and explores the keystone role that bison continue to play in maintaining healthy landscapes wherever they are found.



Johane Janelle

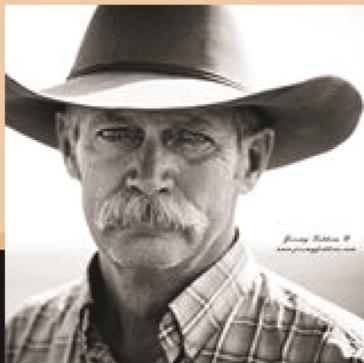


Johane Janelle



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Wes Olson has had a life-long association with wild places and wildlife. Wes worked for several years as a Wildlife Technician for the Yukon Government and then, after a stint at the Banff School of Fine Arts in 1981, began a career with Parks Canada as a National Park Warden, with a focus on bison management in Banff, Waterton Lakes, Elk Island, Prince Albert and Grasslands National Parks, where he retired in 2012. This long history with bison and the spectacular natural areas they occupy has given Wes an international reputation for his knowledge about both plains and wood bison. Wes has combined his extensive scientific knowledge about bison with his wife Johane's photography to create compelling stories about this charismatic animal.



Wes Olson

Admission free and open to the public



Johane Janelle

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Red Deer River Naturalists



www.rdrn.ca

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOROTHY!



Dorothy Dickson, one of Canada's most celebrated and respected naturalists—and long-time member of RDRN—turned 90 in March! Dorothy has worked tirelessly as a champion for parks and other protected areas. She has been recognized with several local, provincial and national awards. Happy Birthday, Dorothy, and thank you for all you have done to make this world a better place!

Dorothy has been an active member with the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (now Nature Alberta) for many decades. At the February RDRN meeting, she was delighted to reconnect with Nature Alberta's Past President, Dr. Lu Carbyn, and President, Linda Howitt-Taylor. Our thanks to both Lu and Linda for visiting RDRN, one of NA's member clubs.



Red Deer & District Garden Club
Presents
SPECIAL EVENT SPEAKER
Dr. Ken Fry
Entomologist with Olds College

Bugs 101:
The Good, the Not-So-Good, and the What-the-Heck-Are-You-Doing-Here?



Thursday, April 12, 2018
Margaret Parsons Theatre
Red Deer College, 100 College Boulevard

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



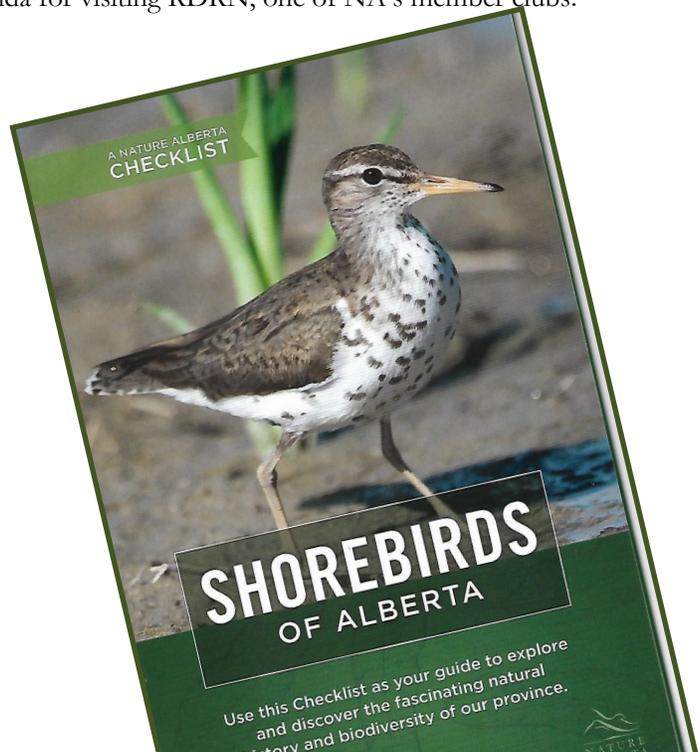
\$15 Early Bird Tickets available until March 15
\$20 after March 15

Parking after 5:00pm is complimentary in public parking lots. Enter Red Deer College through the Main Entrance (north doors).

Tickets available at:

- Red Deer Museum & Art Gallery, 4525 - 47a Ave.
- Red Deer Garden Club meetings.

Find us on  **facebook**



SHOREBIRD BOOK: Nature Alberta has just released a new publication: *Shorebirds of Alberta*. It is being distributed free of charge as a tool to engage introductory birders, help support Nature Alberta's member clubs and to support youth programming. Copies will be available through RDRN and at Ellis Bird Farm.

NOTABLE SIGHTINGS



Clockwise from Top Left: Shirley Otway of Calgary noted two strange-looking geese at Elliston Park in Calgary in early March. Gus Yaki identified these birds as hybrids and responded with this information: *On page 14 in the Second edition Sibley's SIBLEY BIRDS, there is a painting of a Swan Goose X Canada Goose hybrid, which is similar to your photo, except your bird had a yellow bill. There is a second painting of a Graylag Goose X Canada Goose that does have a yellow bill, but the face pattern is somewhat different. Anyway, these birds are likely the result of captive breeding on a farm somewhere, but the offspring have found their way into Calgary.*

On February 27th, a **Fisher** showed up in a yard in Birchcliff, Sylvan Lake. It dined on peanuts for a few minutes and then carried on its way.

Dr. Sandy and Dorothy Murray have had a **Townsend's Solitaire** in their Woodland Hills (Red Deer) yard for most of the winter. It sat at the bird bath from time to time, but spent most of its time perched high in a spruce tree or sitting in a Saskatoon bush giving its flute-like call. Late last fall, it spent a couple of days banging at its reflection in a window.

A **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** showed up at Myrna Pearman's feeder on Great Backyard Bird Count Day (February 17) for a few minutes.

Myrna Pearman: *In late February, I noticed a leucistic **Black-capped Chickadee** at a suet feeder in my yard. It had white tail feathers, whiter-than-usual wing feathers, and what looked like bare skin above its eyes. One day in early March, I found the same individual dangling by its wing in the bush by our deck. I quickly extricated it and, as it flew away, noticed that it was missing all its tail feathers. It fed hungrily on both seeds and suet for the remainder of the afternoon, but I've not seen it again.*



BIRD FOCUS AND SUMMER OUTINGS

April 7: Kin Canyon - Meet at the Rotary Park parking lot.

April 14: McKenzie Trails - Meet in the main parking lot.

April 21: Gaetz Lake - Meet in the Nature Centre.

April 28: River Bend - Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the hill as you enter River Bend.

End of April –we will be car pooling out to the Alliance/Halkirk/Consort area to see the Sandhill Cranes dance. This could be a spur of the moment outing as it depends on when the cranes arrive. Call Judy if you are interested in coming and you will be notified if and when the field trip happens.

May 5: Lockerby Natural Area - We will car pool to the site as there is limited parking available. Meet at 10 a.m. at Kerry Wood Nature Centre. Call Keith if you plan to attend.

May 12: Open - Nothing scheduled yet.

May 19: Maskepetoon - Meet in the parking lot and exercise area on the west side of Kerry Wood Dr (Near Overand Pl).

May 26 and 27: May Species Count. Count all species (birds, flowers, mammals, insects). Call Judy to register (registration required) or for more information.

June 2: Hazlett Lake - Hwy 11A west. Two hundred meters before the exit to QE11, on the right side of the road, is an entrance to the property (I will be standing there).

June 9: O'Brien Wetland - Meet in the parking lot for Safety City.

June 16: Ellis Bird Farm - Details in May newsletter.

June 23 and 24: Visit to Bjorge's property. Come out for a day or the weekend. Camping is available for minimal fees. See Turkey Vultures and other prairie species. Meet 10:00 AM at the Ferry Point Campground, near Meeting Creek. There will be a potluck supper on Saturday and crepes Sunday morning.

June 30: Springbrook Natural Area - Take the main road into Springbrook (Red Deer airport). Meet in small parking lot just before the road curves to the right.

Judy: 403-358-1098 • Keith 403-347-6883

INSECT FOCUS: DON WALES

Wednesday April 18 • KWNC

10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

Looking at the *Orthopteroid* complex
(grasshoppers, mantids etc.)



GAETZ LAKES SANCTUARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

By Judy Boyd

There were two Gaetz Lakes Sanctuary Committee Meetings in 2017. At these meetings the following were discussed:

- Strategies for dealing with invasive weeds (goats are being suggested; two other methods of control were not approved by the committee)
- Fencing at the Parkland School that restricts wild-life movement
- Paving of the Dr. George trail was done this year and Border Paving needed a turn around place for their vehicles. The committee approved a site that wouldn't impact the sanctuary very much.
- Discussions on the blow down of trees from the two massive windstorms. A walk in the sanctuary also occurred.

The Red Deer River Naturalists, the first natural history organization to be established in Alberta, was incorporated as a society in 1906. The objectives of the society are to foster an increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of natural history, and to support conservation measures dealing with our environment, wildlife and natural resources.

Annual membership is \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families.

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of most months at the Kerry Wood Nature Centre, 6300-45 Ave., Red Deer, AB. Non-members are welcome. Members are encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. The deadline is the last Friday of the month.

rdrn.nature@gmail.com www.rdrn.ca
http://wearenaturalwise.blogspot.com

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Photos, unless noted otherwise, by Myrna Pearman