

Beauty Everywhere: Celebrating Nature in Our Own Backyards

▶ **November 25, 2021**
7:30pm - 9:00pm
RDRN Zoom Virtual Series
Join the meeting here:
Meeting ID: 840 0885 1070
Passcode: 582841

Alberta is a magnificent province, with dramatic landscapes and an amazing diversity of wildlife. From the western mountains to the eastern parklands, and from the northern boreal forest to the southern grasslands, there is beauty to be found! Just as importantly, however, is the beauty and awe that awaits us in our own backyards and gardens. Join Myrna as she shares and celebrates her love of Alberta nature through photography and stories.



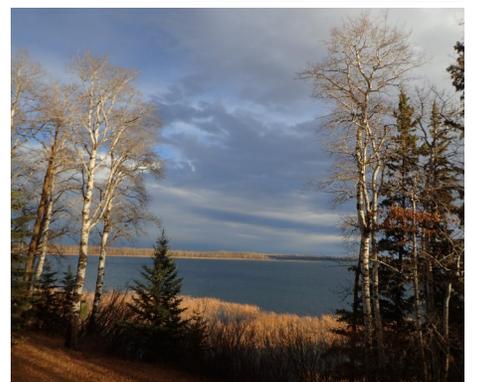
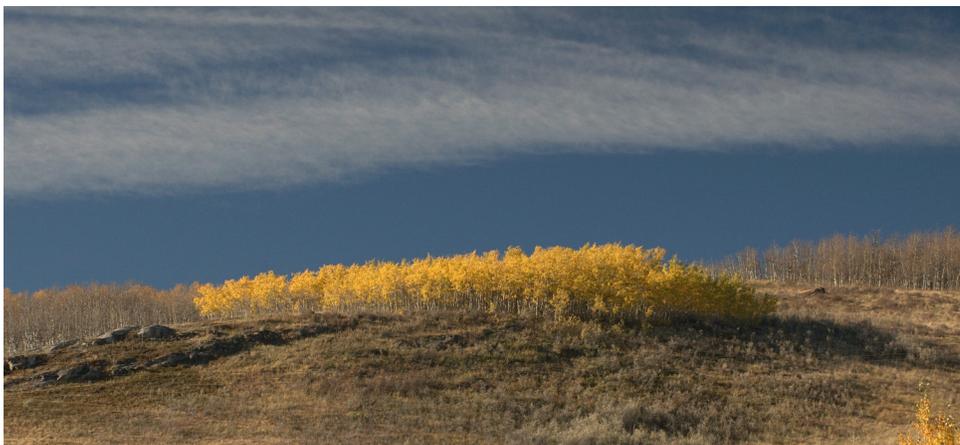
Myrna Pearman is an enthusiastic nature photographer, writer and backroads rambler, recently retired after 33 years as the Biologist at Ellis Bird Farm. She has authored and co-authored several books, is a columnist for *The Red Deer Advocate*, *Nature Alberta* and *The Gardener*, and was recently recognized as a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. She is currently the Resident

Naturalist at Chin Ridge Seeds, maintains a blog on her website (www.myrnapearman.com) and regularly shares nature photos and commentary through social media.



All Photos by
Myrna Pearman

PHOTOS OF FALL: Thanks to the following RDRN members for submitting these fall images. From top left: Shaye Hill—White-crowned Sparrows Rick Tallas—Elk, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Flicker; Judy Boyd—Rose-breasted Grosbeak (immature), Northern Shrike, Merlin, White-breasted Nuthatch; Myrna Pearman—Aspen Poplar clone, Honeymoon Bay (Sylvan Lake) in the fall morning light.





**CHIT CHAT MEETING
WILL OPEN AT 7 PM**

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400984165?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400984165?pwd=VXNnRVAXcjRJSmNVQzIHZhhRFRnUT09)
[j/89400984165?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400984165?pwd=VXNnRVAXcjRJSmNVQzIHZhhRFRnUT09)
[pwd=VXNnRVAXcjRJSmNVQz](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400984165?pwd=VXNnRVAXcjRJSmNVQzIHZhhRFRnUT09)
[IHZhhRFRnUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400984165?pwd=VXNnRVAXcjRJSmNVQzIHZhhRFRnUT09)
Meeting ID: 894 0098 4165

RARITY: A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron recently wowed birders from all over Alberta. It spent a few days in late October at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary. *Photo by Kathryn Kopcink.*



Alberta rare bird summaries can be accessed on eBird at <https://ebird.org/alert/summary?sid=SN35752>



PUMPKINS FOR WILDLIFE: Deer love to eat pumpkin insides, so please share them after Halloween—place the opened pumpkins out for them to dine on. You can also save the seeds for your backyard birds. Fruit-eating birds such as crows and jays may eat them raw and won't mind small pieces of pumpkin flesh still attached. Otherwise, dry in the sun or oven (20-30 min on 200-300 C) and blend/break the seeds an offer in a tray feeder or in a suet mixture. *Photo from Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre*

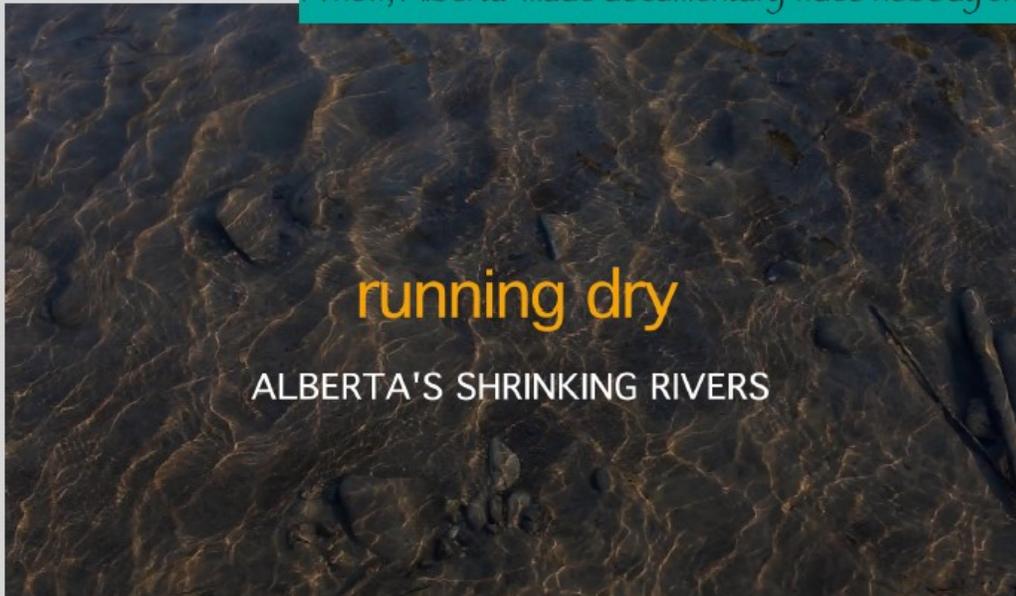
THANK YOU NICKOLAS BAILEY: We are grateful to Nickolas Bailey of Altalaw LLP for offering his services pro bono to assist with the drafting of our endowment fund agreement with the Red Deer and District Community Foundation. We asked Nickolas to share some information about himself with us:



Nickolas was born and raised in Red Deer and attended the University of Calgary and Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops British Columbia. He began his professional career in government and gained a broad range of experience in the departments of Finance and Enterprise, Health, and First Nations Metis and Inuit Education. Nickolas currently practices as an Associate Lawyer with Altalaw LLP in downtown Red Deer. His practice areas include Civil Litigation, Administrative Law, Wills and Estates, and Real Estate.

A long-time resident of Red Deer, Nickolas grew up enjoying the wild landscapes in and around central Alberta. As an avid hunter and fisherman, he recognizes the essential role of conservation and the ethical use of Alberta's natural resources. When the opportunity to help RDRN plan the investment of its Endowment Fund he was excited for the chance to give back to his community and its natural resources. Nickolas looks forward to supporting the RDRN Endowment fund and working with RDRN in the future.

A new, Alberta-made documentary video nobody should miss!



Alberta doesn't run on oil.
It runs on water.
Our families, farms, businesses, communities and ecosystems all rely on water from rivers that rise on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains.
But that water is running low.
Because the land needs help.

View it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kjz8VGQiXGg>

Share it

Brought to Albertans who care by the Livingstone Landowners Group (www.livingstonelandowners.net)

NATURE ALBERTA NOTES: The Nature Alberta AGM will be held on **Saturday, November 27, 2021** at 1:00 PM. Contact Nature Alberta (info@naturealberta.ca) for details. Thanks also to Nature Alberta for recording the monthly RDRN Zoom presentations. A link to the available presentations can be accessed from the RDRN website.

By Peggy Birse, RDRN Managing Director

- 2021 has been a year with exciting new beginnings for RDRN – watch for details in our December newsletter!
- Join the RDRN AGM on **Thursday, January 27, 2022** (with Zoom options) to hear about our year in review – our 115th year! At the AGM, Board members will be elected for 1-year terms and Standing Committees will be named, also for 1-year terms. Zoom technology makes sitting on our board available to anyone in Central Alberta without the need to travel.
- Membership renewal information for 2022 is being sent out.
- Our first casino in several years is scheduled for **Monday, January 31** and **February 1, 2022**. Thanks to the volunteers who have already offered to work – we still need to fill a few positions.



BOARD NEWS: Tony Blake tendered his resignation as President of the RDRN effective November 1. Vice-President, Rick Tallas, has stepped in as Interim President until the AGM. We will have a full tribute to Tony in the December newsletter, but wanted to acknowledge his tremendous contribution to RDRN over the years. Tony plans to stay involved, assisting with education, conservation and programming.

Myrna Pearman has also resigned from the board to take on a small, short-term contract with RDRN to continue work on Nature Central and to relaunch the Habitat Steward program. More details about these projects will be included in the December newsletter.



DID YOU KNOW? BY SUSAN VAN DER HOEK

A group of jays is called a band, party or scold. Jays are medium-sized, colorful and noisy passerine birds that belong to the crow family, *Corvidae*. There are three species of jays in Alberta: The Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), formerly known as Gray Jay/Grey Jay, is also known as Camp Robber and Whiskey Jack. The Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) is also known as the Long-crested Jay, Mountain Jay and Pine Jay. The Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is common at our winter bird feeders and loves peanuts.



We are looking for new board members. If you are interested in joining us, please email rdrn.nature@gmail.com or call (403) 347-8200

Social Media Stats: 562 Facebook, 271 Twitter, 256 Instagram

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 PM on the fourth Thursday of most months by Zoom. Non-members are welcome.

Members are encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. The deadline is the last Friday of the month.

Box 785 Red Deer, AB T4N 5H2 Phone/Fax: 403.347.8200

rdrn.nature@gmail.com
www.rdrn.ca
wearenaturalwise.blogspot.com
 Facebook
 Twitter #RDriverNats
 Instagram @RDriverNats

Our thanks to ABACUS Datagraphics for generously donating the printing of this newsletter and Nova Chemicals for covering postage costs.



Cover Poster by Doug Pedersen

Photos, unless otherwise noted, by Myrna Pearman