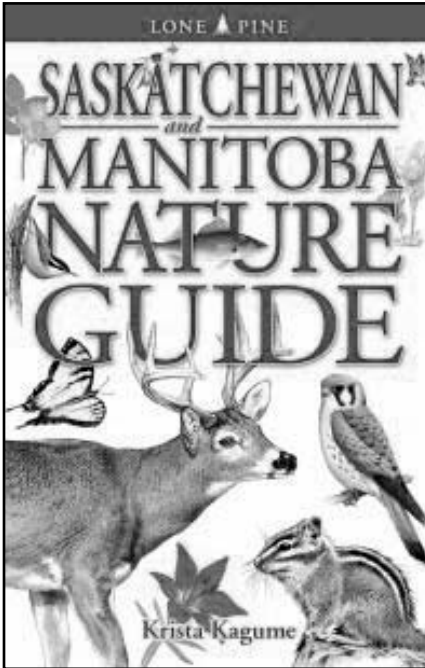

NATURE LIBRARY

SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA NATURE GUIDE

Krista Kagume. 2010. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB. \$21.95 CDN. Soft cover. ISBN: 978-1-55105-601-2. 224 pp. 14.0 cm by 21.6 cm.



The Lone Pine Saskatchewan and Manitoba Nature Guide contains species accounts for nearly 400 species that are commonly encountered in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The author does a good job in covering mammals (68 species), birds (94 species), amphibians and reptiles (19 species), fish (24 species), trees and shrubs (54 species), and forbs, ferns and grasses (102 species). The weakest section of the guide is the section on invertebrates. Including species accounts of only 32 invertebrate species does not do justice to the

amazing diversity of invertebrates found in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A larger section on invertebrates would have greatly strengthened this guide.

This volume uses the same attractive and successful species account layout used in all other recent Lone Pine Publishing wildlife guides such as Saskatchewan Birds and Birds of Canada.^{1,2} Each species account includes an accurate and attractive colour painting, physical dimensions, a short paragraph describing its natural history, the habitats, and its range in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I found the information to be accurate, informative, and well written.

A particular strength of book is the Introduction, which includes provincial ecoregion maps and brief informative summaries of the ecoregions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. For each province, there is also a map and a list of top wildlife viewing sites (41 in Saskatchewan and 50 in Manitoba), many of which are provincial and national parks, interpretive centres, and key wetlands. These sites were selected for their biodiversity and relative accessibility, although one overlooked site was Regina's Wascana Marsh. The author also briefly profiles 23 accessible wildlife-viewing sites in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These summaries will be of interest to folks who are new to these two provinces. A book on all of the key wildlife viewing sites of Saskatchewan and Manitoba

would make a useful companion to this guide.

Species in this guide can be quickly located using the Table of Contents, the detailed index in the back, the colour-coded 19-page introductory reference guide in the front of the book, a colour-coded quick reference guide on the back cover and individual chapter reference guides. I found an odd single error in the reference guide section for the trees and tall shrubs chapter, wherein some species are grouped as roses. Other reference guide sections appear to be error free.

The guide has a handy and useful glossary of ecological, botanical, and wildlife terms in the back of the book. The glossary also contains effective diagrams of external anatomies of a

bird, a fish, a flower, and an insect. After the glossary, there is a helpful one-page references/further reading section of 14 books and websites about wildlife and plants of western Canada. I detected an incomplete title for Saskatchewan Birds in one of the references.

I highly recommend this excellent introductory guide to anyone who is new to the vertebrates and plants of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

1. Hoar TL, De Smet K, Campbell RW, Kennedy G (2010) Birds of Canada. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB.

2. Smith A (2001) Saskatchewan Birds. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, AB.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, E-mail: <warnockr@accesscomm.ca>



THE COLLECTOR

My name is John and I steal wild bird's eggs.
I am no beast. I watch and wait. Each clutch
I take's stone cold, fresh made. That way the hens
should lay a second batch so nothing's spent.
Craft's in locating nests. The taking bit's
the buzz I miss and find impossible
to do without. Can't share the spoils, shards blown
bone dry. Hard evidence, like photographs,
must be concealed, of course, from prying eyes.
So these are hollow victories, hard earned.
What's left with each abortion carried out's
a barren shadow of a flawless gem:
leaves me a brittle shell soon as it's done,
dead glass craving constant replenishment.

- *Peter Branson*