

experience in eastern North America and other locations strengthens the book. These birding tools are truly applicable to any region where birds exist.

In addition to the handy table of contents and index, there are the text box lists of recommended sources of reputable additional information for each major topic so the reader can easily do further research on each topic discussed in the book. These resource lists are a key strength of this book. Instead of burying these text box lists in each chapter, it

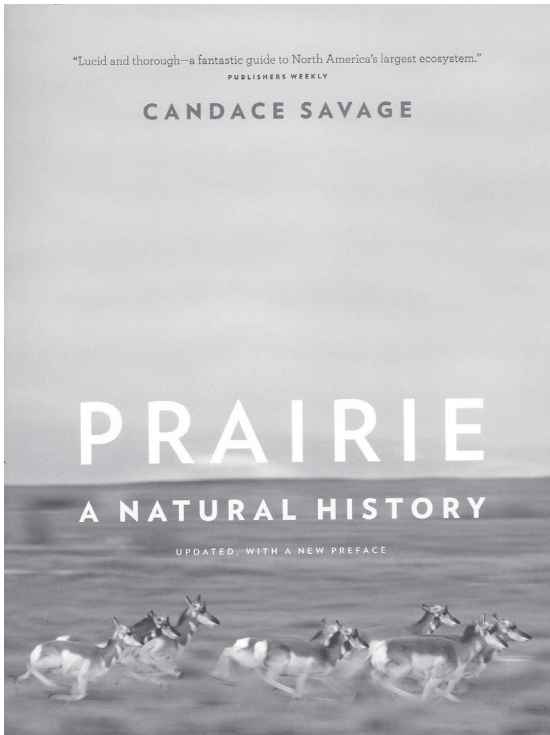
would have been better to place them in a separate chapter for them so the reader can find them more easily. He does warn that not all online resources are reputable or created equal and the birder must exercise caution and judgement while using online resources.

Although this book assumes the reader has some birding knowledge and experience, I recommend this excellent book to anyone looking to significantly improve their birding skills by expanding their birding 'toolbox'.

PRAIRIE: A NATURAL HISTORY. NEW EDITION

CANDACE SAVAGE. 2011. Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation, Vancouver BC. 320 pages. 19 cm by 22.5 cm. ISBN: 978-1-55365-588-6. Softcover. \$34.95 CDN.

Reviewed by ROB WARNOCK, E-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca



In the December 2004 issue of *Blue Jay*, I reviewed the first edition of Candace Savage's *Prairie: A Natural History*.¹ How does the 'new edition' compare to the spectacular first edition?

Aside from a new a book cover, page format, preface, some new information and modest changes in references, the two editions are surprisingly similar. The text in first eight chapters (Where is Here?, Digging into the Past, The Geography of Grass, Secrets of the Soil, Home on the Range, Water of Life, Prairie Woodlands and The Nature of Farming) are nearly identical in text between the two editions. The last chapter, The Long Range Forecast, had the most revisions adding new information about recent agricultural and land use trends, and species risk and conservation.

I would have liked it if the author had taken the opportunity to add a glossary and expand certain topics as natural forest islands, First Nations and their traditional knowledge of the Great Plains, prominent expeditions and naturalists and impacts of human demographic changes on the Great Plains in the new edition. These additions would have strengthened

the new edition and help distinguish it from the first edition.

I found the layout of the first edition to be crisper and more logical than the new edition. The hardcover first edition will also last longer compared to the soft cover new edition.

The text in both editions is superb and the same excellent illustrations and photos are used in both editions. What I wrote in 2004 about the first edition generally applies to the new edition: "Seldom so writing craftsmanship and respect for scientific fact come together to make such a readable book. *Prairie* is a pleasure to read cover to cover, a chapter at a time or in small pieces by sampling the text boxes and illustrations. This book is truly a gift to all interested in the natural history of the prairies".¹ If you do not have a copy of the first edition, I do recommend the more affordable new edition of *Prairie: Natural History* for your natural history library.

1. Warnock R (2004) Book Review: *Prairie: A Natural History* by Candace Savage. Greystone Books, Vancouver, BC. *Blue Jay* 62: 223-224.

THE GREAT SASKATCHEWAN BUCKET LIST

ROBIN AND ARLENE KARPAN. 2012. Parkland Publishing. Saskatoon, SK. \$19.95 CDN. Soft Cover. ISBN: 9-780980-941937. 176 pages. 173 colour photos. 15.2 cm by 22.9 cm.

Reviewed by ROB WARNOCK, E-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

The Great Saskatchewan Bucket List is the latest book by well-known award-winning Saskatchewan nature and travel writers and photographers Robin and Arlene Karpan. This book is about the natural wonders of Saskatchewan and the Karpans have selected 50 of them for this fascinating bucket list for their 'wow factor' and public access. It must have been a challenge to limit the selection to only 50 as Saskatchewan has many

places of natural beauty. Selected natural wonders range from the Conglomerate Cliffs in the Cypress Hills to the Athabasca Sand Dunes in the far north. The authors did a good job in achieving balanced geographical representation and a mix of difficulty ratings. However, a vast majority of the selected natural wonders are accessible to people of average abilities and the authors only selected only two natural wonders in the far north with