

PRAIRIE SPECIES OF PLANTS FOUND ON THE AMAZING HILL AT STURGIS

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As you travel along Highway # 9 at the north edge of Sturgis you can see a hill to the east which overlooks the town and the Assiniboine River valley. A person can't help noticing the hill because high on its open south facing slope are large letters made of cement spelling out the name "STURGIS." A flagpole stands beside the name. The sport's ground is right at the bottom of the hill. The whole setting attracts one's interest to this lovely Saskatchewan town.

Sturgis is on the fringe of the parkland and mixed forest zones. The hill top is covered with the ordinary short Aspen woods of the parklands. The Aspen understory shrubs are mostly Saskatoon, Chokecherry, and Beaked Hazelnut. The dry south facing slope is mostly grassland, with very little shrubbery.

Les Baker of Carragana and I visited the hill on 6 June, and 23 July 1986. We were very surprised at the many species of prairie plants that we found on the hillside. Some of these are rare in eastern Saskatchewan north of the Qu'Appelle Valley.

The following is a list of species that we collected. (Also included are a few sight records). Duplicates of these herbarium specimens will be sent to the W.P. Fraser Herbarium, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This is by no means a complete inventory of all the species that occur on this hill.

GRAMINEAE - grass family.

- Little Bluestem - *Andropogon scoparius* Michx.
- Blue Grama - *Bouteloua gracilis* (HBK.) Lag.

- Nodding Brome - *Bromus porteri* (Coul.) Nash
- Sand Grass - *Calamovilfa longifolia* (Hook.) Scribn.
- Timber Oat Grass - *Danthonia intermedia* Vasey
- June Grass - *Koeleria gracilis* Pers.
- Prairie Muhly - *Muhlenbergia cuspidata* (Torr.) Rydb.
- Spear Grass - *Stipa comata* Trin. & Rupr.
- Richardson's Needle Grass - *Stipa richardsonii* Link
- Western Porcupine Grass - *Stipa spartea* Trin. var. *curtiseta*
- Green Needle Grass - *Stipa viridula* Trin.

LILIACEAE - lily family

- Pink-flowered Onion - *Allium stellatum* Fraser
- Prairie Onion - *Allium textile* Nels. & Macbr.

RANUNCULACEAE - crowfoot family

- Long-fruited Anemone - *Anemone cylindrica* A. Gray

CRUCIFERAE - mustard family

- Small Flowered Prairie Rocket - *Erysimum inconspicuum* (S. Wats.) Macm.

ROSACEAE - rose family

- Prairie Cinquefoil - *Potentilla pensylvanica* L.
- Low Prairie Rose - *Rosa arkansana* Porter

LEGUMINOSAE - pea family

- Ground-plum - *Astragalus crassicaarpus* Nutt.
- Slender Milk-vetch - *Astragalus flexuosus* Dougl.
- Purple Prairie Clover - *Petalostemon purpureum* (Vent.) Rydb.
- Silverleaf Psoralea - *Psoralea argophylla* Pursh
- Indian Breadroot - *Psoralea esculenta* Pursh

EUPHORBIACEAE - spurge family
Thyme-leaved Spurge - *Euphorbia serpyllifolia* Pers.

COMPOSITAE - composite family
Linear-leaved Wormwood - *Artemisia dracunculus* L.

Many-flowered Aster - *Aster ericoides* L.

Upland White Aster - *Aster ptarmicoides* (Nees.) T & G.

Hairy Golden Aster - *Chrysopsis villosa* (Pursh) Nutt.

Rough Fleabane - *Erigeron asper* Nutt.

Beautiful Sunflower - *Helianthus laetiflorus* Pers. var. *subrhomboides* Rydb.

Meadow Blazingstar - *Liatris ligulistylis* (A.Nels.) K.Schum.

Dotted Blazingstar - *Liatris punctata* Hook.

Low Goldenrod - *Solidago missouriensis* Nutt.

Showy Goldenrod - *Solidago nemoralis* Ait.

Mountain Goldenrod - *Solidago spathulata* DC.

Since the hill at Sturgis is on the edge of the parklands, I would not expect that any of the prairie species found here are introductions.

The hill at Sturgis is a special one. I hope that the town and area will realize this and protect the natural plant growth found on the south facing slope of this amazing hill. We sparingly collected a few herbarium specimens so that it could be officially recorded that this area is of great importance botanically, and should be protected.

A trail along the top edge of the prairie and aspen makes the flagpole, and the word "STURGIS" easily accessible. All travel on the hill should be limited to this trail. The all-terrain vehicles should not be allowed on the open slope, as many of these plant species could disappear.

Sturgis — you have a great hill there. I hope that it remains that way.

CHECKLIST OF CANADIAN BIRDS

The Canadian Society of Ornithologists has arranged for the publication of a Checklist of Canadian Birds/Liste de reference des oiseaux du Canada. This list, prepared by Dr. R.D. James of the Royal Ontario Museum gives the scientific, French and English common names and breeding status of all 579 species of bird recorded in Canada up to the end of 1984. It corresponds to the birds described by Earl Godfrey in his second edition of *The Birds of Canada*,

The list is bound in pocket-size form and would be a useful addition to any naturalists field gear.

Copies of the checklist can be obtained by sending two (\$2.00) dollars to:

Ornithology Checklist
c/o Dr. W. Bruce McGillivray
Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845 - 102 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CORRECTION

Due to an error in the alignment of numbers of the Christmas Bird Count tables (Blue Jay 45(1): 11-17; March 1987) the numbers for Mallard fall under the wrong count names. The counts for Mallard should be as follows:

Abernethy-Katepwa Lake	13
Crooked Lake	104
Fort Qu'Appelle	63
Gardiner Dam	1098
Qu'Appelle Dam	3
Regina	19
Saskatoon	4
Squaw Rapids	6