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# NATURE SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

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The Nature Saskatchewan awards and their recipients for 2008 are listed below.

## *Cliff Shaw Award*

The Cliff Shaw award recipient for 2008 is **Frank Roy** for his CD review in September 2007 as well as other excellent reviews in past issues of *Blue Jay*: March 2007, March 2005 and December 2000. Frank Roy's reviews are informed, measured in their criticism, interesting and always a pleasure to read.

## *Conservation Award*

Nature Saskatchewan's Conservation Award is presented each

year to an individual or organization whose contribution to conservation is outstanding. The award may be presented for a specific project or conservation work over a period of years. Conservation Awards this year went to the **Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre** for over 10 years of conservation education, and **Lorne Scott** for his unparalleled efforts towards conservation (Figure 1). He has diligently pursued conservation for the past 50 years. This is a long term commitment which was honored in



*Figure 1. Lorne Scott and Janet Ng (on behalf of Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre) receiving conservation awards from Society President Bill MacKenzie.*

*Jacquie Bolton*

*Figure 2. Lorne Scott accepting the 1969 SNHS Conservation Award from Society President W. A. Brownlee.*

*Gary Seib*



1969 when he also received the award (Figure 2).

#### *Fellows Award*

Since 1987, the Society has designated members who have made a long and important contribution as "Fellows of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society." The Society recognizes two people with this award this year: **Margaret Skeel** for contributions to Nature Saskatchewan on Natural Heritage Programs and **Rob Warnock** for many years of Nature Views editing.

#### *Larry Morgotch Memorial Photographic Award*

Initiated by the Yorkton Natural History Society in memory of former member Larry Morgotch, this award is presented to the member showing the best photographs on Friday night at the Meet. This year's winner was **Don Matheson** (Figure 3) for his photographs of individual ducks taking off and landing.

#### *Long-term Service Award*

This award is presented to an individual who has made an ongoing contribution to the society through his or her volunteerism and energy. Two Long Term Service Awards were granted this year: one to **Mary and Stuart Houston** for their many, valuable contributions to Nature Saskatchewan and the other to **Brian Jeffrey** for many years helping in the office and at Nature Saskatchewan Meets.

#### *Volunteer of the Year Award*

This award acknowledges individuals who have devoted significant time and energy to promoting the objectives of the Society. This year's recipients are publications editors since all three are retiring: **Kim Dohms**, Nature Views editor; and **Anna and Ted Leighton** for 9 years editing Blue Jay.

#### *Natural History Scholarships*

The two recipients of scholarships in 2008 were **Nadia Mori** and **Kimberly Will**. Nadia Mori's research focuses on the role of grazing and fire in conserving biodiversity in Fescue Prairie. She is working towards a M.Sc degree in Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. Kimberly Will's research involves the control of leafy spurge infestation by cattle trained to graze on this invasive plant. She is working towards a M. Sc. degree in Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan.



*Don Matheson receiving the Larry Morgotch Memorial Photographic Award from Bill MacKenzie.*

*Jacquie Bolton*

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# MYSTERY PHOTO

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## DECEMBER 2008 MYSTERY PHOTO

What prairie dwelling animal is this and for what feature visible in this photograph is it named? (Photograph by Wayne Lynch)



## ANSWER TO THE SEPTEMBER 2008 MYSTERY PHOTO

What is on top of what in the photograph of incredible animal camouflage shown in colour on the back cover of the September issue? As described by Bob Godwin who took the photograph: "It is an almost fully grown Common Nighthawk on a dried cow-pie. Its feathers so perfectly match the cow-pie that I can't help but think that the young nighthawks evolved to hide on bison patties. The bird was actually longer than the diameter of the cow-pie. To stay concealed on the cow-pie the young bird was along the edge of the patty with its tail bent to the side such that the tail remained over the patty rather than sticking off the edge.

"In the photo, the tail of the nighthawk is buff coloured and is covering the upper left part of the patty. The body, which is grey like the cow-pie itself, stretches across the bottom portion of patty. The wing feathers can be

discerned pointing to the left at the left side of the bird just below the base of the tail. If you can pick this out, it is then possible to see how the tail is bent to the side."

This photograph was taken 6 August 2004 in the Lomond PFRA Pasture.

The editors would like to thank Bob for submitting the photograph and the answers (as well as seeing the bird in the first place!)

