

## ATLAS OF SASKATCHEWAN

KA-IU FUNG, Editor. 1999. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. 350 pp. Hard cover \$125.00. ISBN 0-88880-387-7.

Unbelievable! The new Atlas of Saskatchewan contains more information on this province than any other book ever published. Edited by Ka-  
iu Fung, it has in its 340 large pages (34 x 24 cm; 100 more than its 1969 predecessor) over 800 multicoloured maps, 75 texts, many graphs and diagrams in sections titled archaeology, history, physical environment (including geology, soils, vegetation and climate), wildlife, natural resources, population, economy and urban. This note deals briefly with the 30-page wildlife section. Each animal group has a page of text and references for further reading in addition to maps.

Robert Wapple did the four pages on mammals - 81 maps with one species per map. Amphibians and reptiles were done by Andy Didiuk in two pages - 19 single-species maps. Birds were divided into two parts. The first deals with distribution within Saskatchewan, whether for breeding, migration or visiting in winter. In four pages, Alan Smith compiled 112 maps for 294 regularly-occurring species plus an additional 12 maps for two extirpated species and 13 at risk. The second section - new for this edition - shows where birds banded here have spent their first fall and winter. Bernie Gollop compiled a two-page map of the new world showing the province, state and country destinations of 43 species with only a few records each. It is followed by eight single-species maps for birds with more than 200 recoveries each;

these give the percentage of banding reports in each political unit.

Superimposed on this map is the route taken by a Swainson's Hawk fitted with a radio by Stuart Houston and tracked by satellite from the time it left Kindersley on August 26, 1996 until it returned on April 29, 1997. Its location on 24 selected dates to Argentina and back are also shown. During those eight months it travelled at least 21,000 km.

Another new section is on butterflies by Ron Hooper and Gollop. Thirty-three maps show the provincial distribution of 157 butterflies in three pages. Twelve of our more common species are illustrated in colour. As with birds, there is also an index which for butterflies includes flight periods and scientific names.

Under natural history one will find maps and text on Ecoregions (also photos) by G. A. Padbury and D. F. Acton; Endangered Spaces by Peter Jonker and Protected Wildlife Areas by Gollop. However, some protected areas, e.g. national and provincial parks are mapped under Outdoor Recreation in the Economy section where one will also find information on rivers, forests, minerals, natural gas, crop pests and soils.

The text compresses a lot of information on wildlife into small spaces. For instance, eight of Saskatchewan's mammals are bats and once upon a

time, the present Saskatoon area regularly hosted bison, Gray Wolves, Wolverines, River Otters, Elk, Grizzly and Black bears....Northern Leopard Frogs declined dramatically in the mid-1970s but have started to increase in the 1990s...A garter snake may travel 25 km from its wintering den to feed...Saskatchewan's 94,000 lakes (and its rivers) host 58 species of fish...Lake Sturgeon take 20 years to mature.

Saskatchewan's Mixedwood Forest (a band of vegetation crossing the province between Prince Albert and La Ronge) has more breeding species of birds than any other area north of the tropics...Most Blue-winged Teal raised in Saskatchewan go to Central and South America, with a few heading for Quebec and Maine...Our Mallards visit four provinces, 40 states and Mexico on their

first migration...The Painted Ladies (thistle butterflies) found in Saskatchewan occur here only because they make a one-way migration every year from their primary breeding area in Mexico...The caterpillars of our 18 species of small blue butterflies are tended by ants which receive sugary solutions from them and, in return, ward off predators and parasites.

One's first reaction is that the Atlas is expensive - \$125. However, a careful, even a casual, look through it will convince anyone that it is a major bargain. Luckily, it is being distributed to every school in the province.

Reviewed by Bernie Gollop, 7 November 1999.

(This review is reproduced from the Saskatoon Sun)



*Garter Snake*

*Wayne Lynch*