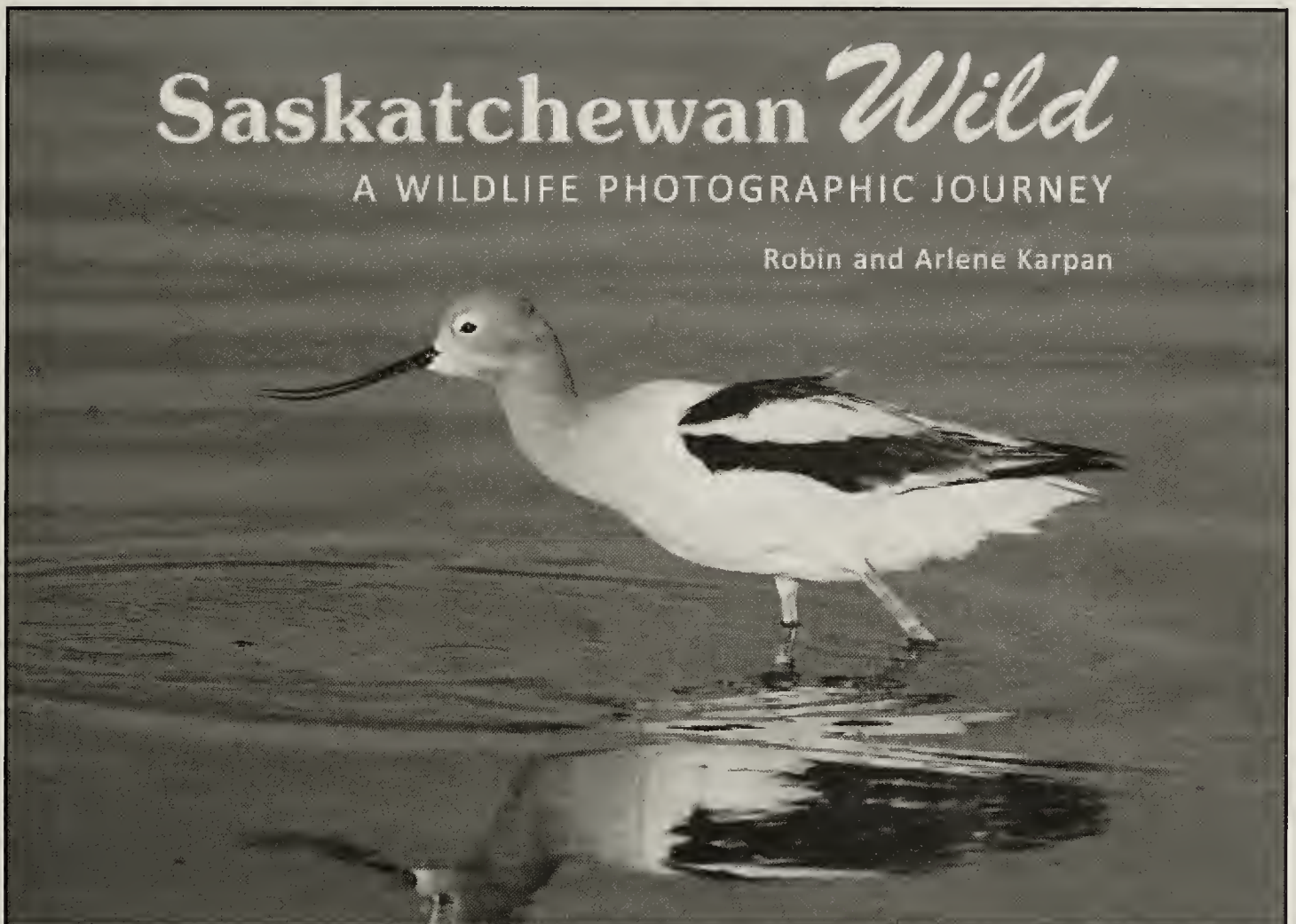


# SASKATCHEWAN WILD: A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Robin and Arlene Karpan. 2010. Parkland Publishing. Saskatoon, SK. \$34.95 CDN. Hardcover. ISBN: 978-09809419-1-3. 128 pages. 183 colour photos. 27.8 cm by 21.5 cm.



*Saskatchewan Wild* is a coffee-table book of Saskatchewan wildlife photographs by award-winning Saskatoon authors and photographers Robin and Arlene Karpan. It is not a field guide. The authors bill the book as 'a personal photographic journey, a taste of the many wildlife adventures possible in Saskatchewan'. They hope this book can play a role in fostering appreciation for nature and ultimately better protection for wild places and wildlife in Saskatchewan.

The book is divided into five sections of varying lengths: birds, mammals,

butterflies, wildflowers, and fall colours. About 60% of the book focuses on avifauna of the province, with an emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds. Other types of birds in the book include commonly seen songbirds, common diurnal birds of prey, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, and grouse and pheasants. I was pleased to see several endangered species such as the piping plover, burrowing owl, and greater sage grouse and a discussion of their plight included in this book.

The mammal section is relatively small, with a focus on some commonly seen

species such as white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, moose, elk, black bear, wolf, coyote, red fox, badger, Richardson's ground squirrel, and black-tailed prairie dog. Some notable mammals that were missing from the book included cougar, beaver, mink, swift fox, and red and gray squirrels. Only two pages were devoted to butterflies and none to other insects, invertebrates, amphibians, or reptiles. The wildflower section was larger and represented a good sampling of upland wildflowers. However, only two pages were devoted to wetland plants. The final section focused on fall colours found across the province.

The book is attractively laid out. The photos are clear and sharp, and most of them are spectacular. The photos are accompanied by well researched and well written short commentaries reviewed by local experts. The book concludes with useful contact information and online links to 14 agencies and organizations that focus on Saskatchewan wildlife, as well as a plug for the Karpans' other books about Saskatchewan.

It must have been a significant challenge for the authors to select species and photos for a book limited to only 128 pages. The authors could have easily created a coffee-table book for each group: birds, mammals, butterflies, wildflowers, and fall colours.

This book definitely renewed my appetite for Saskatchewan wildlife, and it succeeds as a wildlife photographic journey that fosters greater appreciation of nature. I recommend this book to anyone interested in Saskatchewan wildlife.

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

**EDITORS' NOTE:** For more information about this book and to see sample pages, visit the publisher's website at: <<http://www.parklandpublishing.com/wild/sample.pdf>>



*Black-necked stilt (Himantopus mexicanus).*

*Randy McCulloch*