



SUMMER 2020 VOLUME 78.2

BLUE JAY





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Peter Taylor and William H. Christie review occurrences of the Gray Hairstreak butterfly, *Strymon melinus*, in Manitoba. Ten records are compiled, including details of a 2018 sighting near Pinawa and a 2007 specimen from Jessica Lake.



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The results of the 78th annual Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Count are in and, for the third time in the past four years, Gardiner Dam won the crown for most species observed at 45.



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See page 27 for the results of the 47th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count. Unusual sightings this year include the 13-lined Ground-Squirrel and Fisher.



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Dale and Paule Hjertaas detail the first Saskatchewan record of Western Green Hairstreak and the fifth record of Ancilla Dotted Blue, which they observed and photographed on 19 June 2019.



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Brian Irving provides a history of Nature Saskatchewan's Van Brien Land Nature Sanctuary, which is located about 11 km southwest of Kelvington. Irving is the steward of this sanctuary.



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In this issue's edition of Human Nature, Randi Bodas of Regina discusses what it means to appreciate nature in Saskatchewan or to be considered outdoorsy — challenging what may first come to many people's minds.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ed Rodger
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As I write this, in early April, we are well into the huge changes in daily life that have come with the pandemic. At this point there may be a glimmer of hope for improvement, or maybe we're just getting used to a new normal. Like other organizations, Nature Saskatchewan has made some difficult decisions, disrupting long-held plans. We've just cancelled the Spring Meet that was planned for Avonlea / Moose Jaw in June. We will still have the Annual General Meeting that occurs

with Spring Meet, but as an online event (tentatively the evening of Monday June 22 — more details will be available well before the event).

One of the regular things that occurs at the Spring Meet is the announcement of Fall Meet plans. Our hope is to centre it around Last Mountain Bird Observatory, in honour of its 30th anniversary, starting September 18. Let's all hope that it can go ahead. Again, watch for more details to come.

I had originally planned to write this column about citizen science, i.e. the opportunities for members of the general public to contribute to scientific research and measurement.

Citizen science is long-established — for example, the Christmas Bird Counts that go back over 100 years. It has now expanded to the point in which the general public provides field observations that range from wildlife tracking to air quality, to study of the northern lights. The ongoing interest among non-scientists to contribute has been greatly buttressed by data entry and access capabilities of new technology, and scientists and research organizations are willing to take advantage of public participation to expand their data-gathering reach. Like most things, citizen science is affected by the pandemic. One of the province's largest current projects, the Breeding Bird Atlas, has had to suspend volunteer surveys and fieldwork until further notice, but still encourages participants to make observations from their place of residence.

Nature Saskatchewan has long been a citizen science organization, through initiatives such as species-at-risk reporting, the Important

with Spring Meet, but as an online event (tentatively the evening of Monday June 22 — more details will be available well before the event).



Ed Rodger

Bird Areas program or the Last Mountain Bird Observatory. Though our programs will also be affected if pandemic restrictions continue, there may still be ways to participate; for example, by making species-at-risk observations in your area. Or maybe it's just a good time to become familiar with our programs for when things get more back to normal, or to check out other programs in the many subject areas and locations where they're now available.

I recently heard a presentation about a tracking app called Pronghorn Xing (i.e. 'crossing'). The presenter made the important point that even if no pronghorns are seen in an area where they're expected, that's still useful knowledge — a count of 'zero' can be just as useful in application of the data as a sighting of multiple animals. If you'd like to participate in citizen science, you can definitely make a useful contribution, and the opportunities have never been better. 🦋



ON THE FRONT COVER
A Lincoln's Sparrow photographed in Saskatoon during fall migration. Photo credit: Nick Saunders.



ON THE BACK COVER
A Black-necked Stilt in southwest Saskatchewan. Photo credit: Annie McLeod.

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Blue Jay, founded in 1942 by Isabel M. Priestly, is a journal of natural history and conservation for Saskatchewan and adjacent regions. It is published quarterly by Nature Saskatchewan.

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GRAY HAIRSTREAK: STATUS UPDATE FOR A RARE BUTTERFLY IN MANITOBA

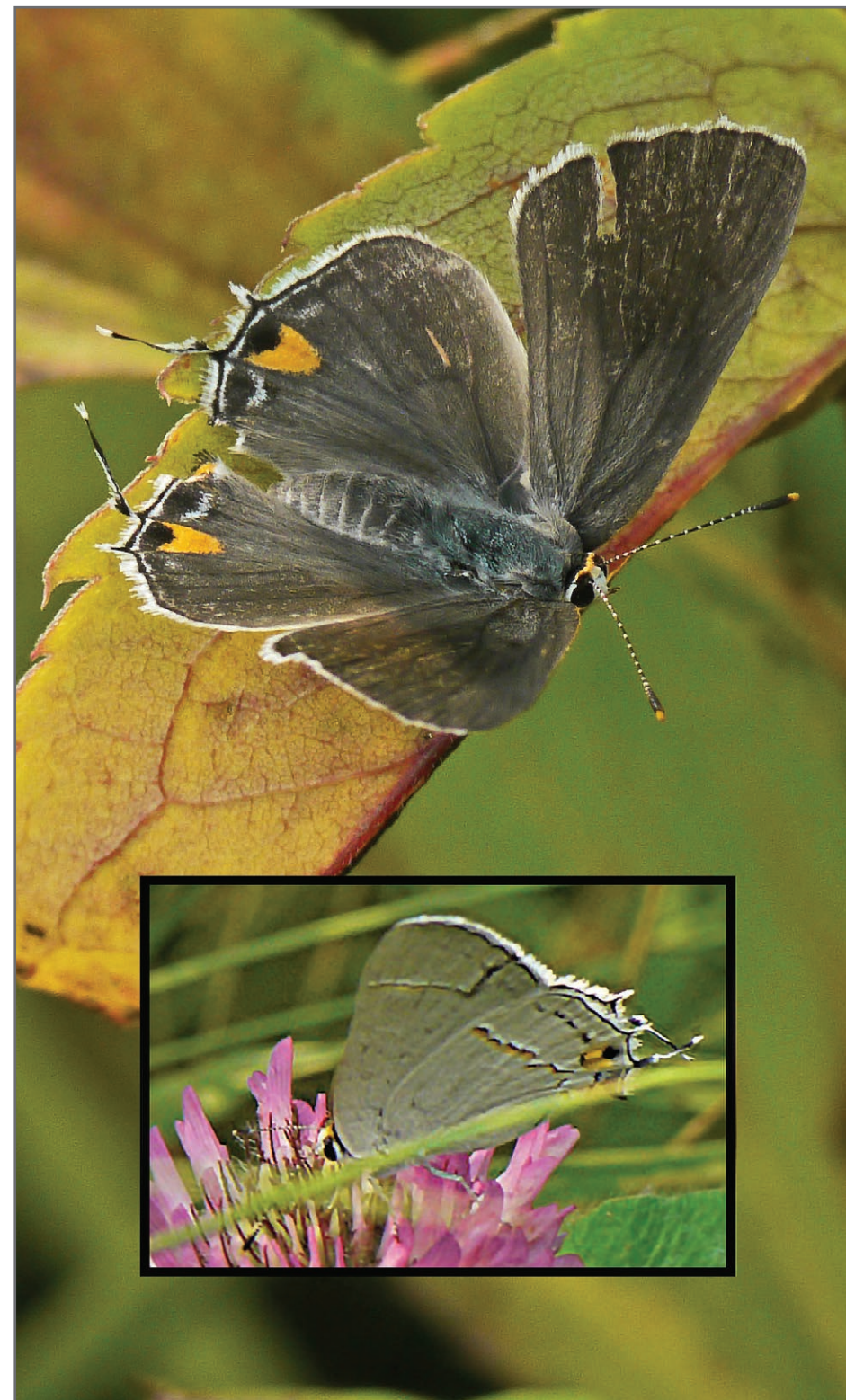


FIGURE 1. Gray Hairstreak butterfly near Pinawa, Manitoba on 24 August 2018 (main photo, dorsal view; inset, ventral view). Photo credit: Peter Taylor.

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On 24 August 2018, while observing insects along a trail about 5 km NW of Pinawa, Manitoba, PT saw an unfamiliar lycaenid butterfly in a small clearing in mixed-wood forest at 50.173°N, 95.933°W. It was alternately visiting red and Alsike clover flowers (*Trifolium pratense* and *T. hybridum*) and basking on herbaceous vegetation. Initially thought to be an Eastern Tailed Blue (*Cupido comyntas*), its hind-wing "tails" and adjacent orange spot were too prominent, and the grey dorsal coloration lacked blue (Figure 1). The butterfly was identified as a female Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*; the male has an orange-tipped abdomen). Ventral views were difficult to obtain but showed the diagnostic tri-coloured (orange-black-white) postmedian line on the hind-wing (Figure 1 inset; see also Figure 2). The spread-winged resting posture is common for Gray Hairstreak, unlike other Manitoba hairstreaks (*Satyrrium* spp.) and elfins (*Callophrys* spp.), which typically perch with wings folded over the back permitting only ventral views.^{1,2}

More than a decade earlier, on 11 September 2007, WHC collected a female Gray Hairstreak at Jessica Lake, within his long-running study area centred on Red Rock Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park, about 35 km SE of the Pinawa-area sighting.



FIGURE 2. Gray Hairstreak butterfly collected at Jessica Lake, Manitoba on 7 September 2011 (left, dorsal view; right, ventral view). Photo credit: William H. Christie.

This butterfly, shown in Figure 2, was recently donated with other specimens to the J.B. Wallis / R.E. Roughley Museum of Entomology at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. The two individual Gray Hairstreaks described above comprise the authors' only records of this species during 40 years of observations in the Pinawa area (PT) and 50+ seasons of collecting in the Red Rock Lake area (WHC).

The Gray Hairstreak occurs continent-wide from northern South America to southern Canada, but it is rare in Manitoba with just four records mentioned as of 1989 in *The Butterflies of Manitoba*.³ These include a male and female collected by Paul Klassen at Brereton Lake, just 12 km south of Jessica Lake, on 13 August 1987.

Through correspondence, literature review, and online searching, we found four additional records from between 2004 and 2018. All Manitoba records known to us are compiled in Table 1. These represent only a marginal range extension, but they expand the known flight period in Manitoba from 5-13 August to 29 July - 7 September.³ For Saskatchewan (up to 1973), Hooper evidently had few records, including just one in July, which he interpreted as two flight periods: (May 20-28) (July 21-).⁴ A

recent checklist for the Saskatoon area gives extreme flight dates of 19 May and 19 September.⁵ As of 1995, the flight period in Alberta was 9 May - 16 August.⁶ Canada-wide (from British Columbia to Nova Scotia) the flight period extends from April to September, with two overlapping broods.⁷

It may be that the species is also double-brooded in Manitoba, but the Gray Hairstreak is one of many butterfly species that exhibit seasonal, not necessarily annual, northward range expansion without a documented return migration.^{8,9} In Ontario, "local resident" and "breeding migrant" populations (both uncommon) are recognized in the eastern Canadian Shield and SW Ontario, respectively.² Apparent migrants have also been found (described in 1991 as "recently discovered") in a small portion of NW Ontario adjacent to extreme SE Manitoba.^{2,7,10}

Based on their scarcity and late summer dates, southern Manitoba records appear to represent the outer fringe of Gray Hairstreak northward movements, with only the second annual brood represented to date, unlike in other Canadian provinces, including Saskatchewan and Alberta. Nevertheless, the collection of

both male and female specimens at Brereton Lake in 1987 suggests that breeding might occur at some locations in some years.

The Gray Hairstreak's most common larval food plant in Nova Scotia and Ontario (a resident population) is Sweetfern (Myricaceae: *Comptonia peregrina*), whose range extends westward to northern Minnesota and NW Ontario, but which has yet to be confirmed in Manitoba.^{2,11-15} Elsewhere, the Gray Hairstreak uses numerous larval food plants belonging to several families, and has been a pest in some crops including beans, cotton, and hops in the United States.^{2,3,6,7}

In conclusion, the Gray Hairstreak continues to be a Manitoba rarity, as described by Klassen et al. 1989,³ and is likely a late-summer immigrant with scattered occurrence across the south. As such, no conservation measures are plausible unless a regular association with Sweetfern is eventually found in the province. Sweetfern thrives on dry, sterile, sandy to rocky soils, often in association with jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), and especially in areas altered by fire, logging, or other human activities.^{14,15} Such habitat is quite common in SE Manitoba, but other factors such as climate may exclude Sweetfern from the province.

TABLE 1: Manitoba records of Gray Hairstreak

DATE	LOCATION	COORDINATES (°N, °W)	OBSERVER, NATURE OF RECORD, AND REFERENCE
1914 (exact date unknown)	Aweme	49.71, 99.60	Specimen, E. Criddle, 1914, Wallis / Roughley Museum, University of Manitoba; also cited by Klassen et al. ³ NOTE: A second specimen in the Wallis / Roughley Museum lacks details, <i>vide</i> Terry Galloway.
Unknown	Winnipeg	49.9, 97.1	Specimen, details unknown; cited as Winnipeg by Klassen et al. ³
5 August 1983	Carberry	49.87, 99.36	Paul Klassen, female specimen, Manitoba Museum No. 17942; also cited by Klassen et al. ³
13 August 1987	Brereton Lake	49.90, 95.52	Paul Klassen, male and female specimens, Manitoba Museum No. 17940 & 17941; also cited by Klassen et al. ³
29 July 2004	Spruce Woods Provincial Park	49.663, 99.287	Gary G. Anweiler, specimen, EH Strickland Entomological Museum, University of Alberta, UASM58202, GBIF database. ⁸
31 August 2007	Culross	49.71, 97.91	Richard Makowski, specimen, cited by Allard. ¹
7 September 2011	Jessica Lake	50.008, 95.518	William H. Christie, female specimen (now in Wallis / Roughley Museum); this article.
10 August 2016	N of Glenboro	49.62, 99.25 (approximate)	Carla Church, photo, iNaturalist No. 5042406; GBIF database.
16 August 2018	Wolseley (Winnipeg)	49.879, 97.178	Jason Gibbs, photo, iNaturalist No. 15511186; GBIF database.
24 August 2018	NW of Pinawa	50.173, 95.933	Peter Taylor, photo; this article

⁸ *Strymon melinus* Hübner, 1818 in GBIF Secretariat (2019). GBIF Backbone Taxonomy. Checklist dataset <https://doi.org/10.15468/39omei> accessed via GBIF.org on 14 December 2019.

Acknowledgements

We thank David Delf, Deanna Dodgson, Terry Galloway, Jason Gibbs, Larry de March, Randall Mooi, Richard Staniforth, and Richard Westwood for helpful correspondence, and John Acorn for his careful review.

All websites cited below were accessed for verification on 4 February 2020.

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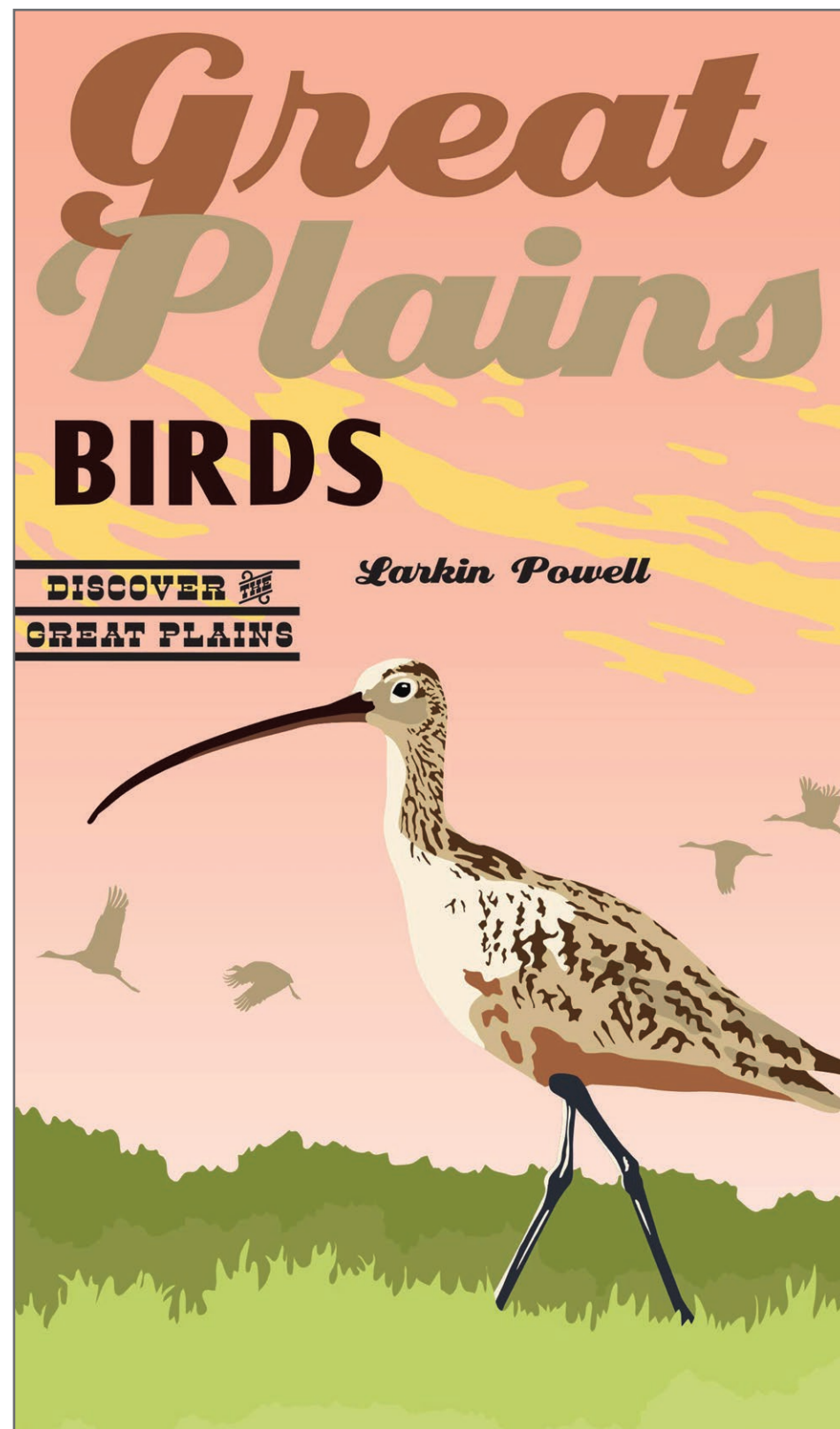
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GREAT PLAINS BIRDS

Larkin Powell. 2019. University of Nebraska Press. 205 pp. \$16.95 US.



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Larkin Powell's enthusiasm for the Great Plains was sparked during a childhood visit to Nebraska, during which he saw thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes taking flight from the Platte River.

This enthusiasm is evident throughout Powell's tidy, 205-page *Great Plains Birds*. The book is an instalment in the Discover the Great Plains series, which highlights everything from the politics, to the literature, to the indigenous peoples of the vast, mostly flat stretches of land between the Mississippi and the Rockies. Powell's focus is on the birds of the Great Plains, and they are discussed squarely within the evolutionary, geologic and historical context of the region.

Great Plains Birds is not a field guide, so don't expect species-by-species accounts of the region's relatively few, mostly brown, endemic birds. Rather it is a personal book for Powell who, in a simple and conversational writing style, intersperses personal anecdotes and recommendations for cherry pie with discussions of geology and speciation.

There is of course a brief introduction to some of the common birds of the Great Plains, and the author goes into depth about a few unique behaviours, such as the broken-wing display of the Piping Plover. He also provides a list of endemic and semi-endemic birds — those who fit into the grassland and wetland habitats of the Great Plains region like keys into a lock.

However, what I found most fascinating were the profound effects

changes in geography and climate had on the evolution of birds. Once a vast inland sea and subsequently marked by a series of glacial periods, the region has undergone significant changes through the millennia. The author lists several species that "replace" each other on either side of, and have a narrow hybrid zone within, the Great Plains — Lazuli and Indigo Buntings, Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles, and Spotted and Eastern Towhee, for example. I had assumed that speciation between these sister species was a recent phenomenon, maybe even during the last ice age, but these splits happened much earlier. I was astonished to learn that the Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, nearly identical in plumage, speciated 2.6 million — *million!* — years ago.

Meadowlarks sang for a couple million years before another change occurred on the Great Plains — humans arrived. Powell demonstrates the importance of birds to the first peoples of the region by reproducing several traditional stories such as the poignant origin of the Sioux prairie chicken dance and the tale of how the curlew got its long, curved bill.

More dramatically, the arrival of white settlers and market hunters on the Great Plains devastated bird populations, wiping the single most numerous species — the Passenger Pigeon — off the face of the Earth and leaving many others vulnerable to the habitat loss, pesticides and climate change that were to come. Powell also describes the puzzling decisions made by settlers to introduce Eurasian species such as House Sparrows and European Starlings, further altering the avifauna of the Great Plains.

The unmitigated slaughter of the 19th century led to the development of the modern conservation movement, and Powell describes in detail the actions taken at state, federal and local levels to protect bird species and bird habitats. Federal Duck Stamps and the well-known story of the decline

and comeback of the Bald Eagle upon banning DDT are rightly held up as examples of conservation success.

Sadly, we continue to lose the remaining fragmented bits of native grass that provide habitat for endemic prairie species such as Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit. Powell admits that changing land use and agricultural practice remains a threat, but he maintains a sympathetic tone toward the farmers, land-owners and governments who hold in their hands the power to destroy or save these most endangered habitats. Hopefully, he says, we will move toward solutions that benefit humans and wildlife alike. We'll see.

The final chapter is dedicated to the experience of finding and seeing birds, which brings me to my one qualm about this book — Powell's description of "intense birders" as people who, in his words, "make you wonder how a human being can drift so far from the mainstream."



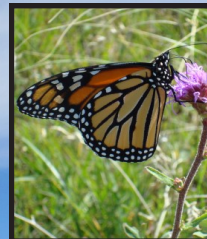
"You can learn a lot by talking to these intense birders," he advises, "but do not expect this to be a long friendship." Ouch! Birders can of course be a quirky or even eccentric bunch, but this is true of most groups

that take a hobby or interest to an extreme. Community, and yes, long-term friendship are some of the most rewarding aspects of becoming a serious birder. Presenting birders as out-of-touch aliens is a misstep in an otherwise gentle guide for budding birdwatchers.

The book concludes with a guide to dozens of birding hotspots throughout the Great Plains states and the Canadian Prairies. Each entry includes a blurb about why the location is worthwhile, a description of habitats and a list of birds that can be found. This would be valuable to the beginner — and may even complement a more seasoned birder's ebird.org searches. If I have one nit to pick with this chapter, it is that Grasslands National Park is omitted from the short list of Saskatchewan locations.

In *Great Plains Birds*, Powell has provided a worthwhile reminder that the so-called "flyover country" in the middle of our vast continent has been shaped by millions of years of changes and is not "empty" in any sense of the word. I hope that this small book inspires at least a few readers to go look and see for themselves. 🐦

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BEYOND YOUR BACKYARD: THE LIVES OF LOKI AND EDGAR



Edgar the crow. All photos courtesy of Tammy Klaassen.

Kimberly J. Epp

I recently had the privilege of meeting Tammy Klaassen at a fundraiser for the Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation Society in Saskatoon.

Tammy lives in Rosthern and houses two non-releasable crows, Loki and Edgar. While speaking to her during a recent telephone interview, she told me how these crows changed her life for the better.

Loki is a two-year-old crow that has free range within Tammy's house, and has his own bed right beside hers. He even tries to sleep with her and her partner. Loki is now flighted and joins Tammy's family on activities such as kayaking, strolls, and to the lake. You wouldn't dare tell him he isn't part of the family!

Edgar, on the other hand, stays in his cage at night. While he would rather be closer to Tammy, it would be impossible for her to get any sleep if he was nearby, as he makes quite a bit of noise!

You may be wondering how



Tammy Klaassen and Loki.

these two crows ended up living in a home in Rosthern. Two years ago, Loki was brought into Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation as a three-week-old fledgling. He was infected with West Nile virus and had a broken leg. He was in such bad shape that the rehabbers were wondering if he would have to be euthanized.

Tammy saw a spark in Loki's eyes, however, and believed that he had the will to live. With full support from Jan Shadick, Living Sky founder and rehabber, Tammy decided that if Loki made it through his rehabilitation, he would be a good educational ambassador. Loki stayed with Tammy in Rosthern and she provided around-the-clock care for the bird as he got stronger with each day.

Edgar was brought to Living Sky in the summer of 2019. As a fledgling, Edgar's beak had been mangled by a lawnmower and he was found extremely dehydrated during a heat wave. After receiving some care at Living Sky, and once it was known that he would survive, Edgar joined Loki at Tammy's house where she now has a small "murder". Good news regarding his beak, too — with constant trimming it will straighten,



Drawing is one of Loki's many talents.



Tammy's youngest son, Adam, and Edgar.

as beaks are constantly growing.

Thanks to Tammy and Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation, both of these crows received second chances. Loki was never expected to live, let alone live another two years and be flighted. Edgar enjoys doing whatever Tammy is doing and follows her around during the day. Although Edgar is very intelligent, he can be destructive. There's always that one child!

Loki and Edgar mimic sounds, too. Loki mimics the sound of a pop can being opened, the meow of a cat, and even quacks like a duck. He also says "hello mom", "Loki" and "help". Tammy's kids play games like catch and hide-and-seek with Loki, and will hold Edgar as he is not quite as playful. However, if Loki has something Edgar wants, there is

always something to trade.

"They don't just live here. They are life," says Tammy. "When you look into the eyes of a crow, it is like they are looking back at you, and so you see yourself as they see you."

A number of school tours and educational events lie ahead for these crows, once the threat of COVID-19 is over. In any case, if you ever doubted the intelligence of crows, look no further than Edgar and Loki. They will be available for booking in the future.

Epp is an environmental educator and writer and is also the Field trip/Workshop Coordinator and Past President for the Moose Jaw Nature Society. She can be reached at kepp@shaw.ca or through the Moose Jaw Nature Society Facebook page.

POETRY

A Pack of Clouds

Horizon to horizon, summer skies

are packed with slowly moving, small white clouds.

Wind-shepherded they are, with puffy tops

and sled-like, shadowed, level bottoms. Yet

a light and airy overall façade

prevails, in almost lackadaisical

display: "See, here we are, a-sailing forth,

a wee bit overcrowded so it seems,

but that's just an appearance--curving skies

about a rounded earth."

So hail to all,

to vagabond small clouds, a-trav'ling on.

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- SaskTel
- Enbridge
- Government of Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program
- Earth Rangers
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference – Young Professional Stewardship Grant
- Prairie Sentinel Bottleworks
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Canada Saskatchewan Job Grant
- Mitacs, Government of Canada

Nature SASKATCHEWAN **SPRING MEET 2020**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have regretfully made the decision to cancel the 2020 Spring Meet.

We are planning to hold the Annual General Meeting virtually on Monday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. Details on how you can participate, and documents for the meeting, will be sent to members via e-mail.

If you have not provided Nature Saskatchewan with an e-mail address and wish to participate, contact us at info@naturesask.ca or call our office at 1-800-667-4668.

**Details will also be posted on the Nature Saskatchewan website.
Please watch for updates.**



Bohemian Waxwings enjoy some berries in Indian Head, SK on February 17, 2020. Photo credit: Dan Loran.

78TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2019

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The Counts

Only 74 counts were received for the 2019-20 count, a most concerning decline over last year's 86 and the fewest since 1984. There are a number of possible reasons for this. Human demographics may play a role as aging rural populations and increasing urbanization mean that fewer 'ma and pa' counts are conducted in the hinterland. On the other hand, more and more people are involved in a fewer number of counts conducted in or near larger urban centers.

Another factor is technological, as I have the suspicion that I may have inadvertently deleted a small number of emailed counts. If you sent me a count that does not appear in this report, please send me a copy (hopefully you still have one) and I will ensure that your results will be included in our long-term database.

The bottom line is that while the total number of counts was down by 14 per cent, the number of observers was only down by four per cent; this supports the contention that urbanization is at least partially responsible for the decline in the overall number of counts conducted.

The Weather

Average minimum and maximum temperatures for the count period (with 2018-19 records in brackets) were -11 to -6 C (-10 to -5 C), wind speeds 8 to 16 km/h (8 to 19 km/h), and snow depths 5 to 12 cm (6 to

14 cm). As can be seen, there was little difference in these conditions from last year. One difference, however, was the prevalence of fog. Fog was reported on seven counts this year as opposed to three last year.

This may have hampered observers especially in the early morning hours.

The Birds

The 126,813 birds counted was higher than last winter's 108,164 and slightly higher than the century average of 125,000. This is partly due to a record high count of 33,735 Canada Geese on the Estevan count.

The 98 species recorded on count day was about average for the century, while the average number of species per count at 19.1 was the highest since 2012 with its record high of 19.4.

For the third time in the past four years, Gardiner Dam won the crown for the most species at 45. The runner-up was Saskatoon with 40 species.

Population Trends

Waterfowl were generally found in normal numbers, except for new provincial highs for Canada Geese and Common Goldeneye (Table 6).

Most raptors were generally at or below normal numbers this winter. Exceptions were the Northern Goshawk and Gyrfalcon, which staged minor incursions into the southern portion of the province. Twenty-eight goshawks were recorded on 20 counts compared to 16 on 14 counts last winter. Respective numbers for gyrs were

nine birds on nine counts compared to only three on three counts in 2018-19.

After decades of growth, the range expansion for the introduced Eurasian Collared-Dove and House Finch has come nearly to a halt. The only new CBC localities were Love-Torch River for the dove and Estuary North for the finch.

Numbers of the subarctic-nesting Common Redpoll were down again with only 557 birds on 27 counts compared to 3,412 birds on 55 counts in 2018-19 and 14,307 on 78 counts in 2017-18.

Numbers of most other finches were either down or near normal in numbers. There were, however, a couple exceptions. In a rare reversal of the norm, the Red Crossbill was more common and widespread than the White-winged Crossbill with 92 birds on seven counts versus seven white-wings on two counts. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were also more in evidence with 29 birds at six localities; this species is usually found in only one or two localities a year.

Rarities

The Pacific Loon was a new species for the CBC bringing the all-time total to 192 species. A few other rarities of note were a seventh Double-crested Cormorant at Gardiner Dam and a 10th record of Northern Cardinal at Prince Albert.

Note: for purposes of Saskatchewan Counts as published herein, the count period extends from 14 December to 5 January; Audubon counts include only those species recorded three days prior to

and after the count day.

Count Areas and Participants (names of compilers are in italics)

1. ARCHERWILL. Sharron Carlson, Gerald Hiron, Susan Hiron, Audrey Hnetka, Perry Hnetka, *Elaine Hughes*, Dorothy Klettberg, Willie Klettberg, Annette Kozak.

2. AVONLEA. Randi Edmonds, *Alan Smith*, Blaine Sudom, Graham Thomson.

3. BALGONIE. Jared Clarke, Jeff Gamble, Ken Feltn, Keith Hay, Fran Kerbs, Maureen Lee, Kristen Martin, *Brett Quiring*, Dan Sawatzky, Mary Worel, Doreen Yurkoski.

4. BIGGAR. Dale Booth, Mary-Jo Danychuk, Ryan Dudragne, Sheila Jezowski, Murray Newton, Mark Pickett, Monika Slowski, *Guy Wapple*, Marguerite Wapple, Rob Wapple.

5. BIRCH HILLS. Margaret Mareschal, *Maurice Mareschal*.

6. BORDEN-RADISSON. Jade Allard, Greg Fenty, *Kyron Giroux*, Ron Jensen, Nick Saunders, Stan Shadick, Joe Stookey, Guy Wapple.

7. BROADVIEW. Barb Weidl, *Don Weidl*.

8. CANDLE LAKE. Marie Braaten, Gwen Klebeck, Bea Kolbialko, John Lundgren, *Vicki St. Germaine*, Warren St. Germaine.

9. CATER: Beverly Beland, *Orval Beland*.

10. CHATSWORTH. Herb Cross, Jean Cross, Charles Dyck, Donna Dyck, Robert Mess, Wyonna Mess, *George Murray*, Laurie Murray, Kerri Rooke, Stewart Rooke, Carol Tangedal, Tony

Tangedal.

11. CHURCHBRIDGE A. *Elin Johnson*, *Ron Johnson*.

12. CHURCHBRIDGE B. *Dennis Petracek*.

13. CLARK'S CROSSING. Dale Booth, Dave Cook, Louise Cook, Jess Cosentino, Ana Diaz, Lorne Duczek, Shelly Fisher, Daniel Giesbrecht, Glen Giesbrecht, Bob Godwin, Dawn Hall, Marilyn Haskins, Ron Jensen, Robert Johanson, Carson Kearns, Gwen Klypak, Heney Klypak, LeeAnn Latremouille, Brian McGill, Janine McManus, Joe Monahan, Lynn Oliphant, *John Patterson*, Al Scholz, Jan Shadick, Stan Shadick, Rhonda Shewfelt, Marten Stoffel, Stookey, Guy Wapple, Diane Wells, Michael Williams.

14. CRAVEN. Hiroyuki Aoki, Brian Armstrong, Stephane Canevet, Joel Cherry, Blanche Cooper, Jim Cummings, Stephen Davis, Elaine Ehman, *Chris Harris*, Trevor Herriot, Louise Holloway, Phil Holloway, Bonnie Huculak, Laurie Koepke, Lauretta Lane, Bob Luterbach, Barbara Mader, Amelia McDonald, Jaret McDonald, Annie McLeod, Barry Mitschke, Dave Phillips, Rhonda Phillips, Curtis Pollock, Brett Quiring, Susan Rollins, Dan Sawatzky, Nick Selinger, Jeanette Taylor, Robb Taylor, Rand Teed.

15. CROOKED LAKE. *Boyd Metzler*.

16. CROOKED RIVER. Karl Mehler, *Margaret Mehler*, Morley Mehler.

17. CYPRESS HILLS PROVINCIAL PARK (Centre Block). Caitlin Arnal, Dwight Dobson, Nancy Dobson, David Larson, Margaret Larson, *Melody Nagel-Hisey*, Alison Nagy, Royce Pettyjohn, Darcy Perrin, Jerry Perrin, Annette Schwazer, Brenda Sunde, Melvin Sunde, Aaron Sulz, Jill Sulz.

18. DENHOLM. Beverly Beland, Gerard Beland, Linda Beland, *Orval Beland*.

19. DORINTOSH. Vicky Pryor, *Joe Twidale*, Lorraine Twidale, Tim Wahl.

20. DUVAL. Greg Cutchey, *Lloyd Saul*.

21 E. B. CAMPBELL DAM. Bert Dalziel, Joan Dalziel, Sara Dalziel, Richard Douslin, *Ryan Dudragne*, Stan Shadick, Bill Weighill, Clara Weighill.

22. EASTEND. Loraine Armstrong, Roxie Binkley, Duane Bristow, Kevin Bristow, Cynthia Fehr, *Robert Gebhardt*, June Higgins, Joan Hodgson, Harvey Johnson, Heidi Topham, Jack Wilkinson.

23. EBENEZER. Ronan Koziy, *Kenn Wood*, Sarah Wood

24. ESTEVAN. Barry Dies, Marilyn Dies, Gary Leslie, Craig Palmer, Larry Preddy, Reid Walton, Rose Walton, *Guy Wapple*, Sandra Wapple.

25. ESTUARY NORTH. Cathy Cocks, *Dean Francis*, Fran Francis.

26. FENTON. *Carman Dodge*.

27. FLORAL. *Guy Wapple*.

28. FORT QU'APPELLE. Jean Ashcroft, Peter Ashcroft, Shirley Hart Carol Horsman, Don Horsman, Stewart Klyne, Jack Lowe, Marg Lowe, Alan Mlazgar, Denise Mlazgar, *Keith Stephens*, Kim Stephens, Ted Stevenson, Colette Stushnoff, Richard Stushnoff, Dave Sutherland.

29. GARDINER DAM. Ryan Dudragne, Greg Fenty, Maxine Forsberg, Ron Jensen, Nick Saunders, Stan Shadick, Marten Stoffel, Joe Stookey, *Guy Wapple*.

30. GOOD SPIRIT LAKE. *Joyce Anaka Dorothy Riesz, Ray Riesz.*
31. GRAYSON. Jack Carrigan, Carina Helm, *Charles Helm*, Daniel Helm, Linda Helm, Jeanette Zimmer, Karl Zimmer.
32. GRENFELL. Ethel Reiger, Barb Weidl, *Don Weidl.*
33. HARRIS. Ryan Dudragne, Ron Jensen, Bruce Trapp, *Guy Wapple*, Rob Wapple.
34. HAZLET. *Ryan Dudragne.*
35. INDIAN HEAD. Ron Chambers, Mike Duran, *Irvine Escott*, David Gehl, Roberta Gehl, Ed Haid, Edith Haid, Jim Jinks, Linda Jinks, Linda Kort, Dan Loran, Bruce Neil, Dora Nichols, Laurie Norman, Laura Poppy, Brian Scott, Glenn Scott, Lorne Scott, Fred Skinner, C. Skinner, Joan Taylor, Donna Thompson, Rebeca Ward, Elaine Williamson.
36. KENASTON. Doug Beckie, *P. Lawrence Beckie*, Tyler Beckie.
37. KENOSEE LAKE. Boyd Metzler, *John Pollock.*
38. KITCHEN NORTH. *Dallas Fairburn.*
39. KINLOCH. *Don Forbes*, Carter Haroldson, Robert Haroldson, Ashley Messner, Doreen Wickstrom.
40. KYLE. Janine McManus, Yvonne Nelson, Marten Stoffel, *Dan Zazelenchuk.*
41. LA RONGE. Doug Bagwell, Linda Mikolayenko, Sid Robinson, *John Schisler*, Jan Shewchuk.
42. LOVE - TORCH RIVER. *Bert Dalziel*, Joan Dalziel, Sara Dalziel, Scott Edwards, Andrea Fisher, Harold Fisher, Taren Fisher, Adrik Kurbis, Coulter Kurbis, Duane Kurbis, Renee Kurbis, Eileen L'Heureux, Audrey Schrader, Eric Schrader, Leonard Turtle.
43. LUSELAND. Maxine Butler, Kelly Cotter, Estelle Finley, Graeme Finley, *Kim Finley*, Liam Finley, Valerie Finley.
44. MELFORT. Bert Dalziel, Joan Dalziel, Gordon Dodds, Susan Dodds, Emily Eskowich, *Kim Eskowich*, Wendy Eskowich, Darlene Thompson.
45. MOOSE JAW. *Chris Harris*, Bob Luterbach, *Jeff Mander*, Brett Quiring, Ed Rodger, Dan Sawatzky.
46. MOOSE MOUNTAIN. Bill Fletcher, Dorothy Fletcher, Doyle Thomas, *Val Thomas.*
47. MORSE. Elizabeth Enns, Jon Enns, Noel Enns, Stella Enns, Mike Francis, Randy McCulloch, Joel Priebe, Ken Priebe, *Myrna Priebe*, Lori Wilson.
48. NICOLLE FLATS. Gale Fennell, *Dale Hjertaas*, Fran Kerbs, Jeff Mander, Mary Worel.
49. NIPAWIN. Nancy Budd, Dave Christiansen, Joyce Christiansen, Bert Dalziel, Joan Dalziel, Betty Dolman, *Rick Douslin*, Patti Gaertner, Carolyn Grimm, Jennette LeCuyer, Jeri McCleary, Peter McCleary, Fred Olfert, Doug Phillips, Shirley Phillips, Leonard Turtle.
50. NISBET FOREST, WEST. *Kim Clark*, Shamara Clark, Suzanne Clark.
51. ODESSA. *Arden Curts*, Denise Curts, Denny Curts.
52. OUTLOOK. *Graham Thomson.*
53. PIKE LAKE. Hadi Asgari, Nick Belliveau, Sara Brison, Donna Bruce, Dave Cook, Louise Cook, Lorne Duczek, Ryan Dudragne, Mary Jane Eley, Joan Feather, Alex Fisher, Bob Godwin, Janet Hill, Bob Howe, Irene Howe, Shirley Humphries, Greg Hutchings, Erin Lang, LeeAnn Latremouille, Greg Lawrence, Marilyn Leuty, Rod Luety, Audrey MacKenzie, Bill MacKenzie, Janine McManus, Kathy Meeres, Merhnaz Mikhchian, Joe Monahan, *John Patterson*, Marc Sabourin, Monica Salles, Nick Saunders, Nicola Schaefer, Joe Stookey, Louisa Stuglin, Stephan Stuglin, Moriah Tanguay, Guy Wapple, Adrian Werner, Dwight Young, Nancy Young.
54. PONTEIX. *Ryan Dudragne.*
55. PRINCE ALBERT. Doug Braaten, Marie Braaten, Ffion Cassidy, Kim Clark, Shamara Clark, Bert Dalziel, Joan Dalziel, *Carman Dodge*, Harold Fisher, Shelley Fisher, Ham Greenwood, Dale Jefferson, Gwen Klebek, Bea Kobialko, Les Love, John Lundgren, Catherine Miller, Lorna Mumm, Shannon Poppy, Christine Rye, John Rye, Vicki St. Germaine, Warren St. Germaine, Don Weidl, Lusi Wells.
56. QU'APPELLE. Jean Ashcroft, Peter Ashcroft, Cory Bennett, Christine Blair, *Colette Stushnoff*, Richard Stushnoff, Frank Veresh.
57. QU'APPELLE VALLEY DAM. Ryan Dudragne, Robert Johanson, LeeAnn Latremouille, Jan Shadick, Stan Shadick, Carl Siemens, Hollyce Siemens, Marten Stoffel, Guy Wapple, *Michael Williams.*
58. REGINA. Ingrid Alesich, Brian Armstrong, Lionel Bonneville, Stephane Canevet, Janet Canwood, Joel Cherry, Lolamae Crawley, Ron Crawley, Derek Donald, Jim Elliott, Jaquie Fauth, Phyl Fauth, Mary Field, Terry Ford, Shirley Friel, Tammi Gillies, Avery Gillies, Brendan Graham, Chris Harris, Keith Hay, Norm Henderson, Trevor Herriot, Dale Hjertaas, Bruce Holmes, Kara Karst, Jim Karst, Fran Kerbs, Andre Kroeger, Nikky Kroeger, Assol Kubeisinova, Maureen Lee, Bob Luterbach, Lauren Mang, Kim Mann, Val Mann, Annie McLeod, Wayne Pepper, *Brett Quiring*, Chris Ratch, Ed Rodger, Keith Roney, Dan Sawatzky, Nick Selinger, Margaret Skeel, Brian Sterenberg, Frank Switzer, Mary Switzer, Hanna Walczykowski.
59. ROSCOMMON S.D. Bernice Althouse, Jim Althouse, Kate Althouse, Ruby Finnie, Brian Irving, Sophie Jankowski, Joan Lillibo, *Dianne Sloan*, Graham Sloan, Marguerite Sloan.
60. ROULEAU. Stuart Anderson, Allen McGratten, Noreen McGratten, *Patricia Sterzuk.*
61. ROUND LAKE (Qu'Appelle Valley). *Boyd Metzler*, Gary Tinnish, Mary Ward, Pat Ward.
62. SALTCOATS. *Arden Bradford*, Donna Bradford, Olga Brygider, Walter Brigadier, Len Cameron, Muriel Cameron, Dave Herron, Gloria Herron, Gerri Knudsen, Ron Knudsen, Fern McKay, Les Pearson, Shirley Pearson, G. Rathgaber, Monique Smith, Ken Trowell, Merdell Trowell, Val Trowell, Earl Upshall, Verda Upshall, Joan Wilson, Rob Wilson.
63. SASKATCHEWAN LANDING PROVINCIAL PARK. Ryan Dudragne, Janine McManus, Glen Pederson, Marten Stoffel, *Dan Zazelenchuk.*
64. SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS. Carman Dodge, *Don Weidl.*
65. SASKATOON. Joanne Adams, Eveline Boudreau, Delores Burkhart, Yvonne Cuttle, Glenn Dougan, Lorne Duczek, Ryan Dudragne, Joan Feather, Leslie Fell, Greg Fenty, Jennifer Fenty, David Forbes, Martin Gerard, Bob Godwin, Mike Gollop, Donna Goodridge, Jim Goodridge, Jeff Harder, Jacob Henderson, Lorie Henderson, Janet Hill, Terri Jackson, Richard Kerbes, Gordon Koshinsky, Margaret Koshinsky, Erin Lang, Don Loran, Janet Loran, Priscilla Mah, Valerie Martz, Janine McManus, Bob McNaughton, Kathy Meeres, Scott Mitchell, *John Patterson*, Ava Paul, Gerald Paul, Jim Paul, Lisa Rohachuk, Marc Sabourin, Craig Salisbury, Lorriene Salisbury, Scott Saretsky, Nick Saunders, Jan Shadick, Stan Shadick, Aaron Shingoose, Garry Shurry, Todd Shurry, Kathlin Simpkins, Janice Solem, Jennifer Solem, Barb Sprigings, John Steel, Marten Stoffel, Margo Taylor, Phil Taylor, Jack Waisanen, Guy Wapple, Cathy Watts, Hamish Watts, Olive Watts, Trent Watts, Diane Wells, Jim Wells, George West, Helen Wilkins, Bev Will, Michael Williams, Margaret Woloshyn, Dan Zazelenchuk, Norman Zlotkin.
66. SHAMROCK. *Hugh Henry*, Iris McNeill, Darwin Menke, Joel Priebe, Ken Priebe, Myrna Priebe, Clinton Rud, Lori Wilson.
67. SHELL LAKE. *Ryan Dudragne*, Carole Martin, Blair Miller, Sharon Miller, Nick Saunders, Kay Willson, Phil Willson.
68. SNOWDEN. Sonja Fidyk, Ed Hagel, *Irene Hagel*, Doreen Long, Linda Patton, George Pickett, Jack Pickett, Karen Priestley, Valerie Rien.
69. SWIFT CURRENT. Jacquie Bolton, Stacy Bolton, Norris Currie, Gordon Dowie, Laurent Dudragne, Mary Ann Dudragne, *Arnie Ens*, Lorne Fast, Dave Green, Esther Green, Katie Hagman, Norma Hain, Hugh Henry, Leonard Howes, Lois Howes, Michelle Hubbard, Vera Lynn Knipful, Nicole Kuyek, Connie Lendrum, Dot Letkeman, Robert Moroz, Janet Payne, Arden Pierce, June Roy, Harold Steppuhn, Sue Steppuhn, Irene Stinson, Kae Watters.
70. TURTLEFORD. Hank deGraaf, Marlene deGraaf, Richard Hughes, Miles Johnson, *Brent Keen*, Harry Lake, Louise Lundberg, Ron Perkins, Lisa Richards, Richard Roney, Mark Seabrook, Dorothy Textor, Margaret Uhlig, Marilyn Whelan.
71. WEYBURN. Glen Fleming, Millie Fleming, Dale Huff, Sandy Huff, Murray Keefe, Charlotte Payak, Don Payak, Janice Phillips, Garnet Schultz, Lina Schultz, Joe Stephaniuk, Doyle Thomas, Tanis Thomas, *Val Thomas*, Kim Thorson, Myrt Thorson, John Whitell.
72. WHITE BEAR. Martin Gerrard, Yvonne Nelson, Deb Peterson, Marten Stoffel, *Dan Zazelenchuk.*
73. WHITEWOOD. Ken Aldous, Cindy Ashfield, Joe Ashfield, Paul Ashfield, Kerri Bachtold, Joyce Kydd, Sarah Mambourg, *Boyd Metzler*, Margaret Niemenen, Paul Niemenen, Brenda Pollock, John Pollock, Tony Saltasuk, Carole Sawatsky, Doug Shepherd, Dawn Vennard, Diane Veresh, Pat Ward.
74. WINGARD. *Rebecca Beam.*

TABLE 1. Weather and Snow Cover.

LOCALITY	DATE	MIN TEMP (°C)	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN WIND (KM/HR)	MAX WIND (KM/HR)	MIN SMOW (CM)	MAX SNOW (CM)	SKY A.M.	SKY P.M.
Archerwill	27 Dec 2019	-13	-18	12	18	8	8	clear	clear
Avonlea	27 Dec 2019	-2	-2	0	30	0	10	clear	clear
Balgonie	4 Jan 2020	-6	3	15	28	0	5	cloudy	partly cloudy
Biggar	18 Dec 2019	-5	1	14	16	0	10	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Birch Hills	31 Dec 2019	-15	-13	4	11	4	10	heavy fog	heavy fog
Borden-Radisson	21 Dec 2019	-10	-7	0	15			cloudy	partly cloudy
Broadview	15 Dec 2019	-12	-10	10	15	4	6	overcast	light snow
Candle Lake	4 Jan 2020	-9	-5	15	35	10	15	overcast	overcast
Cater	3 Jan 2020	-10	-7	0	10	10	18	overcast	overcast
Chatsworth S.D.	4 Jan 2020	-10	-6	25	35	10	25	cloudy	cloudy
Churchbridge A									overcast
Churchbridge B	27 Dec 2019	-12	-8	20	29	15	20		partly cloudy
Clark's Crossing	14 Dec 2019	-27	-18	5	11	3	10	mostly clear	mostly clear
Craven	14 Dec 2019	-26	-19	11	20	0	5	partly cloudy	cloudy
Crooked Lake	18 Dec 2019	-10	-1	10	20	6	15	mostly clear	mostly clear
Crooked River	30 Dec 2019	-13	-12	2		15	15	clear	mostly clear
Cypress Hills P.P.	28 Dec 2019	-10	2	2	2	8	20	clear	clear
Denholm	25 Dec 2019	-5	-2	0	8	5	10	overcast	overcast
Dorintosh	29 Dec 2019	-11	-5	2	2.5	10	12	cloudy	partly cloudy
Duval	18 Dec 2019	-12	-5	0	10	0	32	partly cloudy	cloudy
E.B.Campbell Dam	30 Dec 2019	-11	-6	5	10	10	40	light snow	overcast
Eastend	4 Jan 2020	0	1	20	50	0	10	overcast	overcast
Ebenezer B	26 Dec 2019	-10	-5	2	5	12	12	mostly clear	mostly clear
Estevan	2 Jan 2020	-2	-1	8	16	0	10	overcast	overcast
Estuary North	5 Jan 2020	-3	3	0	8	2	4	clear	clear
Fenton	25 Dec 2019	-6	-5	6	10	10	10	mod. Snow	mod. snow
Floral	29 Dec 2019	-18	-10	8	14	5	10	partly cloudy	overcast
Fort Qu'Appelle	17 Dec 2019	-16	-12	2	2	5	10	overcast	overcast
Gardiner Dam	16 Dec 2019	-7	-5	16	18	0	10	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Good Spirit Lake	3 Jan 2020	-8	-3	15	15	10	20	cloudy	cloudy
Grayson	29 Dec 2019	-16	-13	0	10	0	15	heavy fog	mostly clear
Grenfell	4 Jan 2020	-7	0	18	20	4	6	cloudy	partly cloudy
Harris	19 Dec 2019	-10	-4	25	35	0	5	overcast	partly cloudy
Hazlet	24 Dec 2019	-6	-2	13	22	0	3	overcast	cloudy
Indian Head	27 Dec 2019	-9	-4	10	15	0	12	clear	partly cloudy
Kenaston	17 Dec 2019	0	8		10		3		
Kenosee Lake	24 Dec 2019	-6	-5	0	10	5	20	mod. Fog	light fog

LOCALITY	DATE	MIN TEMP (°C)	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN WIND (KM/HR)	MAX WIND (KM/HR)	MIN SMOW (CM)	MAX SNOW (CM)	SKY A.M.	SKY P.M.
Ketchen North	26 Dec 2019	-12	-8	10	20	10	12	clear	clear
Kinloch	29 Dec 2019	-19	-11	2	5	18	20	clear	clear
Kyle	21 Dec 2019	-4	5	2	10	0	5	overcast	overcast
La Ronge	26 Dec 2019	-13	-8	5	20	15	20	clear	clear
Love-Torch River	26 Dec 2019	-25	-12	0	5			overcast	overcast
Luseland	26 Dec 2019	-14	-8	0	5	2	4	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Melfort	28 Dec 2019	-15	-7	10	20			partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Moose Jaw	21 Dec 2019	-7	7	0	21	0	4	overcast	mostly clear
Moose Mountain	5 Jan 2020	-9	-4	10	26	10	15	clear	clear
Morse	23 Dec 2019	-5	-1	19	29	10	25	overcast	cloudy
Nicolle Flats	18 Dec 2019	-4	1	5	25	0	6	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Nipawin	28 Dec 2019	-12	-15	0	2	10	14	clear	clear
Nisbet Forest West	28 Dec 2019	-12	-7	4	10	5	12	heavy fog	heavy fog
Odessa	24 Dec 2019	-6	-4	5	11	6	12	light fog	light fog
Outlook	29 Dec 2019	-13	-7	2	10	0	5	clear	clear
Pike Lake	4 Jan 2020	-7	2	12	22	3	10	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Ponteix	23 Dec 2019	-5	-2	10	35	0	15	light fog	partly cloudy
Prince Albert	22 Dec 2019	-8	-6	5	5	10	10	overcast	overcast
Qu'Appelle	15 Dec 2019	-16	-11	8	21	5	20	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Qu'Appelle Dam	16 Dec 2019	-11	-6	0	15	0	10	cloudy	partly cloudy
Regina	28 Dec 2019	-17	-4	4	4	2	10	mostly clear	clear
Roscommon S.D.	1 Jan 2020	-17	-14	11	29	0	0	light snow	mostly clear
Rouleau	13 Dec 2019	-5	2	20	29	1	2	partly cloudy	cloudy
Round Lake (Q.V.)	16 Dec 2019	-6	-4	30	39	10	25	partly cloudy	cloudy
Saltcoats	21 Dec 2019	-12	-3	2	5	8	8	heavy fog	heavy fog
Sask. Landing P.P.	20 Dec 2019	2	5	5	20	0	5	partly cloudy	clear
Sask. River Forks	21 Dec 2019	-12	-10	0	5	3	5	heavy fog	cloudy
Saskatoon	26 Dec 2019	-16	-10	16	23	4	15	clear	clear
Shamrock	30 Dec 2019	-12	-8	12	12	10	16	clear	clear
Shell Lake	14 Dec 2019	-33	-17	5	10	2	8	clear	clear
Snowden	4 Jan 2020	-3	-7	2	5	2	13	cloudy	cloudy
Swift Current	14 Dec 2019	-17	-11	10	15	15	30	cloudy	cloudy
Turtleford	22 Dec 2019	-8	-5	2	6	3	10	cloudy	cloudy
Weyburn	28 Dec 2019	-15	-8	8	10	10	15	clear	mostly clear
White Bear	3 Jan 2020	-13	-7	5	0	0	10	clear	clear
Whitewood	29 Dec 2019	-14	-9	0	10	10	20	clear	clear
Wingard	2 Jan 2020								

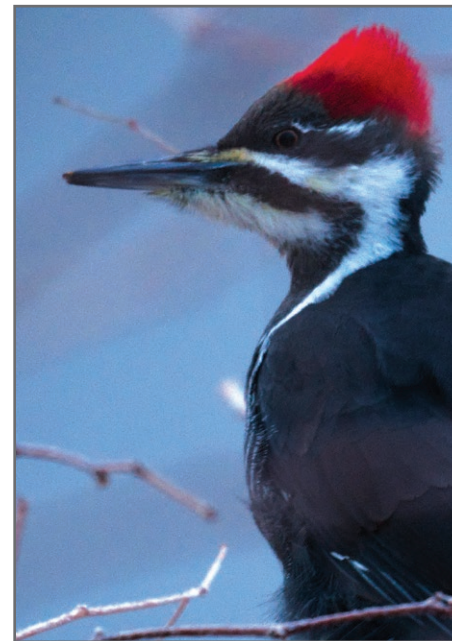
TABLE 2. Effort and Habitat Coverage (%). Wild Fruit: p=poor, f=fair, g=good, e=excellent.

LOCALITY	PARTICIPANTS	KM ON FOOT	HOURS ON FOOT	KM BY VEHICLE	HOURS BY VEHICLE	HOURS AT FEEDERS	EVERGREEN FOREST	MIXEDWOOD FOREST	DECIDUOUS FOREST	ASPEN GROVE/FARMLAND	ASPEN GROVE/PRAIRIE	NATIVE PRAIRIE	TAME PASTURE	FARMLAND	FARMSTEADS	URBAN	OPEN WATER	RIPARIAN	BOG, SWAMP, CLEAR-CUT	WILD FRUIT CROP	
Archerwill	9	3.5	0.5	0	0.0	7.5		25						50	25						p
Avonlea	4	0.0	0.0	130	7.0	1.0						15	10	25	10	35		5			
Balgonie	11	17.0	7.0	293	9.5	0.0				20				45	10	25					f
Biggar	10	11.0	7.5	400	9.8	7.0				23				36	6	35					p
Birch Hills	2	0.5	0.5	51	5.5	1.0			5	30	5		5	40	5			10			g
Borden-Radisson	8	15.0	8.0	255	5.3	0.0															
Broadview	2	1.5	1.0	136	5.5	2.0			20	25		5	10	25	5	10					p
Candle Lake	6	1.0	0.5	156	12.0	0.3	40	30							25				5		p
Cater	2	0.0	0.0	212	6.5	2.0	5	10	5	15			5	50	5	5					
Chatsworth S.D.	12	4.0	7.0	108	8.0	4.0				80		10	5		5						g
Churchbridge A	2																				
Churchbridge B	1																				
Clark's Crossing	31	23.8	11.8	654	34.2	18.5				20	5	5	5	20	10	25		10			p
Craven	34	43.1	11.8	717	24.5	8.5				25	15	5	5	20	10	20					f
Crooked Lake	1	1.0	0.5	143	4.0	0.0				10				40	10	20	20				g
Crooked River	3	0.5	0.5	25	1.0	5.0		40						40	20						f
Cypress Hills P.P.	16	8.0	5.0	20	1.0	0.0	40	40	8			10			2						g
Denholm	4	0.0	0.0	199	7.8	0.8				10	5		5	70	5	5					p
Dorintosh	4	24.8	10.0	36	2.0	1.0		60							40						f
Duval	2	2.0	1.0	126	5.8	0.3				15	10			40	10	25					e
E.B.Campbell Dam	8	7.0	4.5	164	8.8	3.0	10	45	15	5							20	5			f
Eastend	12																				p
Ebenezer B	3	3.0	0.5	5	2.5	2.0					35		35		5			25			e
Estevan	9	8.0	3.5	252	9.5	5.0								38	8	13	18	23			p
Estuary North	3	2.0	4.0	52	10.0	2.0			30			40		20	10						f
Fenton	1	0.0	0.0	88	3.3	0.0															
Floral	1	5.0	2.8	191	6.0	0.0				26				48	12	14					p
Fort Qu'Appelle	16	0.0	0.0	274	16.0	0.0				25	20		10	20	5	20					p
Gardiner Dam	9	20.0	13.5	450	13.8	0.0				6				46	11	4	28	5			p
Good Spirit Lake	3	0.0	0.0	117	6.0	0.0				20			20	30	5	25					f
Grayson	7	4.0	2.0	160	7.0	5.0				60				5	10	10	5	10			f
Grenfell	3	0.0	0.0	129	7.0	2.0				5	20	15	5	15	25		15				p
Harris	5	8.0	6.3	183	6.5	0.0				14				33	25	28					f
Hazlet	1	1.8	0.5	257	6.1	0.0						10	15	65	5	5					f
Indian Head	24	10.5	3.0	667	6.0	30.0	5			10				75	5	5					p
Kenaston	3	0.0	0.0	123	2.0	2.0								90	5	5					
Kenosee Lake	2	0.1	2.0	154	3.5	0.0			20	10	10	5	5			50					f

LOCALITY	PARTICIPANTS	KM ON FOOT	HOURS ON FOOT	KM BY VEHICLE	HOURS BY VEHICLE	HOURS AT FEEDERS	EVERGREEN FOREST	MIXEDWOOD FOREST	DECIDUOUS FOREST	ASPEN GROVE/FARMLAND	ASPEN GROVE/PRAIRIE	NATIVE PRAIRIE	TAME PASTURE	FARMLAND	FARMSTEADS	URBAN	OPEN WATER	RIPARIAN	BOG, SWAMP, CLEAR-CUT	WILD FRUIT CROP	
Ketchen North	1	1.5	1.0	60	3.0	5.5				30			20	20	20	10					
Kinloch	5	2.0	1.0	86	7.0	10.0	5	30	20	30					15						g
Kyle	4	10.0	4.5	142	19.5	0.0					15			50	25			10			g
La Ronge	5	3.0	3.0	48	3.0	4.0		10								80		10			g
Love-Torch River	16	6.0	3.5	405	14.5	13.0	10	15	5	50					10	10					p
Luseland	7	7.0	2.5	311	7.5	2.0				50		5	5	25	5	10					f
Melfort	8	0.0	0.0	94	5.0	6.8				5				45		50					f
Moose Jaw	6	23.1	11.7	298	11.1	0.0		10					5	40	5	30		10			f
Moose Mountain	4	0.0	0.0	180	5.5	2.0		54				2		31	3	10					g
Morse	10	5.5	1.5	466	23.3	3.0							3	90	7						f
Nicolle Flats	5	8.5	3.2	283	11.8	0.5			25			17	5	40	1	9	1	2			f
Nipawin	16	1.0	0.5	226	7.0	7.0	15	5		15				25	10	30					f
Nisbet Forest West	3	1.0	0.5	100	4.5	0.0	10	10	20	30				30							f
Odessa	3	0.0	0.0	60	4.0	8.0				25		25	25	10	15						f
Outlook	1	0.0	0.0	30	4.0	0.0				70	10				7	10	1	2			
Pike Lake	32	30.1	26.3	389	14.6	8.5			5	5	5		5	40	20	15		5			p
Ponteix	1	3.7	0.8	276	7.0	0.0						5	20	55	5	15					p
Prince Albert	26	34.0	18.0	474	27.6	1.5															g
Qu'Appelle	7	1.5	0.8	321	11.5	5.0		2		30	5		8	10	10	25	5	5			f
Qu'Appelle Dam	10	3.5	2.8	527	23.0	4.0				30	10			20	10	15	5	10			f
Regina	49	95.5	35.9	645	19.9	0.0				10				25	5	60					f
Roscommon S.D.	10	2.0	1.0	88	2.5	24.0				20				60	20						e
Rouleau	4	0.5	0.5	369	7.5	1.0				5				80	5	10					p
Round Lake (Q.V.)	4	0.0	0.0	92	5.0	8.0							10	40	10	25	15				g
Saltcoats	23	0.0	0.0	60	8.0	22.5					2	10	5	80			3				
Sask. Landing P.P.	5	15.0	6.5	190	25.0	0.0				5			10		45	10		30			f
Sask. River Forks	2	2.0	1.0	83	5.0	0.0	15	20	20	15			5	20	5						p
Saskatoon	77	107.3	46.4	848	47.1	48.9				10				5	5	75		5			f
Shamrock	8	3.5	2.5	390	16.5	1.0							5	60	25	10					
Shell Lake	8	7.3	3	265	8.4	0.5	5	<1	25	5	5	5	30	15	<1	5		5			p
Snowden	9				4.5	2.0									90	10					e
Swift Current	28	32.5	14.8	368	22.8	10.3								20	5	70		5			g
Turtleford	14	12.0	4.0	380	8.0	13.0				45				50		5					g
Weyburn	17	0.0	0.0	320	12.0	4.0			2		2	5	8	58	10	15					g
White Bear	5	15.0	6.0	310	21.5	0.0					5	5	5	60	25			5			f
Whitewood	18	-14.0	-9.0	271	13.5	21.0				10				15	5	70					g
Wingard	1																				

TABLE 4. Species found in fewer than 5 counts.

SPECIES	LOCALITY AND NUMBER (*=SEEN DURING COUNT PERIOD)
Cackling Goose	Estevan (43), Gardiner Dam (6), Regina (1)
Wood Duck	Regina (1)
Gadwall	Crooked Lake (1)
Northern Pintail	Ft. Qu'Appelle (1*), Grayson (1)
Canvasback	Gardiner Dam (4)
Greater Scaup	Gardiner Dam (20)
Lesser Scaup	Gardiner Dam (16)
Bufflehead	Estevan (4), Gardiner Dam (4)
Hooded Merganser	Estevan (4), Gardiner Dam (1)
Common Merganser	Crooked Lake (2)
Red-breasted Merganser	Gardiner Dam (1), Round Lake (1)
Ruddy Duck	Estevan (1)
Spruce Grouse	E. B. Campbell Dam (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Round Lake (1)
Mourning Dove	Avonlea (1), Duval (1), Odessa (2), Weyburn (1)
American Coot	Estevan (11)
Glaucous Gull	Gardiner Dam (1)
Pacific Loon	Gardiner Dam (1)
Double-crested Cormorant	Gardiner Dam (1)
Northern Harrier	Craven (1)
Cooper's Hawk	Estevan (1)
Red-tailed Hawk	Kyle (1*), Odessa (1)
Rough-legged Hawk	Balgonie (1), Craven (1), Estuary (1), Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Northern Hawk Owl	Candle Lake (1), E. B. Campbell Dam (1)
Great Gray Owl	Shell Lake (1)
Long-eared Owl	Kyle (2), White Bear(1)
Short-eared Owl	Estevan (1*), Saskatchewan Landing (3*), White Bear(1)
American Kestrel	Odessa (1)
American Crow	Moose Jaw (1), Pike Lake (2), Saskatoon (4)
Townsend's Solitaire	Moose Jaw (2), Qu'Appelle (1*), Saskatoon (1), Swift Current (2)
Varied Thrush	Fort Qu'Appelle (1), Indian Head (1), Odessa (2)
Hoary Redpoll	E. B. Campbell Dam (2), La Ronge (1)
White-winged Crossbill	E. B. Campbell Dam (1), Saskatoon (6)
Lapland Longspur	Round Lake (5), Weyburn (77)
American Tree Sparrow	Craven (1), Eastend (1), Kyle (3)
Fox Sparrow	Grayson (1), Love-Torch River (1), Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
White-crowned Sparrow	Archerwill (1)
Harris's Sparrow	Whitewood (1)
Song Sparrow	Archerwill (1), Cypress Hill P.P. (1)
Western Meadowlark	Estevan (1*)
Red-winged Blackbird	Morse (3), Regina (1), Saltcoats (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Common Grackle	Avonlea (1), Balgonie (1), Swift Current (1)
Northern Cardinal	Prince Albert (1)



A female Pileated Woodpecker that was observed on the Regina CBC on December 28, 2019. Photo credit: Brian Sterenberg.

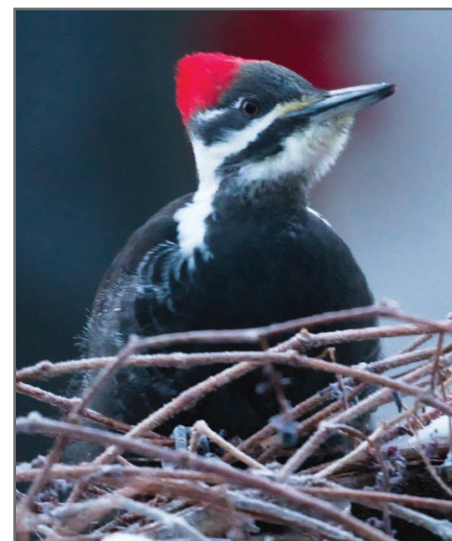


TABLE 5. Birds not identified to species.

CATEGORY	LOCALITY AND NUMBER (*=SEEN DURING COUNT PERIOD)
Owl sp.	Regina (1)

TABLE 6. New (in bold and italics) and tying high counts for individual species 2019.

LOCATION	2019 COUNT	SPECIES	PREVIOUS HIGH	LOCATION, YEAR
<i>E.B. Campbell Dam</i>	1076	<i>Common Goldeneye</i>	1050	<i>Saskatoon 2016</i>
<i>Estevan</i>	33775	<i>Canada Goose</i>	30700	<i>Coronach (19 December 2001)</i>
<i>Gardiner Dam</i>	1	<i>Pacific Loon</i>	NEW	
Gardiner Dam	1	Double-crested Cormorant	1	7 previous counts north to Grand Centre-Pierceland and Squaw Rapids

47TH SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2019

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There were only 72 Christmas Mammal Counts to report from this past winter, which is down from the 83 reported from each of the two previous winters. As a result, the 3,191 mammals seen or heard was down from the 3,434 recorded the last winter. As is usual, White-tailed Deer (1,012 individuals) and Mule Deer (894 animals) were by far the most commonly encountered mammals.

During harsher winters much of the province's Pronghorn population moves south of the border. This past winter, however, Pronghorn were the third most common mammal with 392 animals on seven counts.

Eastern Fox Squirrels continue their expansion along the South Saskatchewan River reaching Outlook; next stop Saskatoon?

Unusual sightings include those of the 13-lined Ground-Squirrel and Fisher. Normally in hibernation, the ground-squirrel was seen in the Pipestone Creek valley during the count period of the Broadview Count. Usually a boreal forest mammal, the Fisher was seen at Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

With 13 species seen or heard, Odessa and Indian Head tied for the most species on a count. No new species were added this past winter so the all-time provincial total remains at 51 species seen or heard (plus three species found dead and two others recorded only on the basis of tracks).

Although certainly neither a bird or mammal, two Leopard Frogs in a spring on the Cypress Hills Provincial Park count are noteworthy. Incredibly

they have been reported on several previous counts in the Park.

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of Christmas Mammal Counts, see the Christmas Bird Count summary in this issue.

Explanation of entries in Table 1.

The number of mammals actually seen or heard on count day is treated separately from those recorded by other means, or those recorded during count period (14 December to 5 January) but not on count day. Numbers of individuals seen or heard are given in Table 1 and are tallied in the first line of totals at the bottom of the table. The number of species they represent is given in the second line.

For species only detected by tracks or by other means, or that are seen

or heard only in the count period but not on count day, no numbers of individuals is given in Table 1. Species detected only by tracks are indicated by 't' in the table; those detected only by other means: dead animals 'm', more clearly identifiable chewing or digging 'd', dens or lodges 'L' (including Muskrat push-ups) and by smell 's.' Species detected by any means during the count period, but not on count day are indicated by 'c' in the table. These additional species are tallied in lines 3, 4 and 5 at the bottom of the table. If a mammal is reported as member of a species group (i.e. mouse species, deer species), it is counted as a species only if no other species in this group has been definitely recorded. The columns at the end of the table give totals for each species.



Coyote. Photo credit: Randy McCulloch.

FIRST SASKATCHEWAN RECORD OF WESTERN GREEN HAIRSTREAK AND FIFTH RECORD OF ANCILLA DOTTED BLUE

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Finding a rare butterfly is, by definition, rare. Finding two rare species on the same plant is, therefore, very special.

On 19 June 2019, we hiked the 70 Mile Butte Trail in the West Block of Grasslands National Park. We started the trail at 06:28 h and were almost back to the trail head at 09:12 h when we noticed two butterflies on the same Yellow Umbrellaplant (*Eriogonum flavum*). As the butterflies were unfamiliar, we took photos for later identification.

The bright yellowish green underwing with no visible white lines and only a small bump on the hindwing instead of a tail, show the first butterfly to be either a female Western Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys affinis*) or a Sheridan's Hairstreak (*Callophrys sheridanii*). Note that some authors^{1,2} treat *C. affinis* as part of the Bramble Hairstreak (*C. dumetorum*), while others treat *C. dumetorum* as a separate species found west of the Rockies.

The Western Green and Sheridan's Hairstreaks are western species with their Canadian ranges reported as southern British Columbia and extreme southwestern Alberta for the Sheridan's Hairstreak and the southern interior of British Columbia for the Western Green Hairstreak.³ iNaturalist shows the closest vetted American record for *C. sheridanii* near Babb in northwestern Montana about 435 km from 70 Mile Butte Trail, with the next closest records at Yellowstone National Park in NW Wyoming about 520 km from 70 Mile Butte. The closest American records of *C. affinis* in



Western Green Hairstreak (underwing). Photo credit: Paule Hjertaas.

iNaturalist are also in the northwestern part of Yellowstone National Park, about 520 km from 70 Mile Butte. Range maps in *Butterflies through Binoculars* show both species' ranges extending into southwest Montana, with a dot indicating a small disjunct population of Sheridan's Hairstreak in southwestern North Dakota.² Either species would be significantly outside its known range, though the location in North Dakota would make Sheridan's hairstreak seem somewhat more likely to be found in Saskatchewan.

Several characteristics are useful in identification. The colour of the underside is described as bright yellowish green in *C. affinis* as opposed to bright or dark green in *C. sheridanii*.^{3,4} Sheridan's Hairstreak has a more prominent post median white line across the underside, while this is largely lacking in the Western Green Hairstreak.^{3,5,6} However the post median white line may be reduced or

lacking in *C. sheridanii*.⁵ Nonetheless, at Yellowstone National Park, one of the closest locations where both species regularly occur, the presence of the white median line on forewing and hindwing is considered a distinguishing feature of Sheridan's Hairstreak¹ and the absence of this line or its being broken into faint marks distinguishes *C. affinis*. The fringe on the hind wing of *C. sheridanii* is often dark at the end of the cubital veins (two veins on the lower part of the wing) while *C. affinis* has pale fringes.⁴ Based on the yellow green colour, the fact the white line across the hind wings is almost totally lacking and the pale fringe with very little black marking on the fringe or the veins, we concluded this was a Western Green Hairstreak (*C. affinis*).

This is the first record of this species for Saskatchewan. The record and photos have been filed on eButterfly as EB-383145 and the eButterfly vetters endorsed the



Ancilla Dotted Blue (underwing). Photo credit: Paule Hjertaas.

identification. Because of the rarity of the observation and challenging identification we also posted photos on iNaturalist (27393787) and BugGuide (1680047) where they were also vetted.

The Western Green Hairstreak has only been reported in Canada from the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, where it is found in sagebrush and meadow habitats.³ The main larval food plant is *Eriogonum heracleoides*.³ A 1994 review of the status of butterflies in British Columbia suggested the species was vulnerable due to its restricted range and pressures from grazing, logging and urbanization.⁷ The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre categorizes it as S3 (Special concern or vulnerable) and G5 (Globally secure).

The grey underside with two rows of dark spots near the margin of the wings and orange spots between those rows of dark spots on the hindwing identify the second butterfly as an Ancilla Dotted Blue (female), *Euphilotes ancilla*, also called Rocky Mountain Dotted Blue³ and Spotted

Blue.⁸ The orange spots are separate in this species while they form a continuous band in the most similar species, the Square Spotted Blue, *Euphilotes battoides*.³ The upper side is brown with a row of connected orange spots on the hindwing.

The butterfly appeared to be laying eggs in the Yellow Umbrellaplant flowers. You can see the abdomen curved down into the flower on the photo. Various species of *Eriogonum* are reported as the preferred foodplant for the caterpillars.³ This record has also been filed with and vetted by eButterfly, record EB-37801.

The first Saskatchewan specimen of Ancilla Dotted Blue was taken at Val Marie on 25 June 1968 with a second at Rosefield on 26 June 1968.⁸ These specimens are in the collection of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. There are two other Saskatchewan records, one taken 1 July 1966 by J. Bernard Gollop and Mike Gollop at Matador and one taken by Mel Fitch at Eastend on 31 May of a year between 1995 and 1999. These two specimens are in the Gollop collection (pers comm Mike

Gollop). That makes our observation the fifth record for Saskatchewan.

Ronald Hooper collected the first Alberta record on 18 June 1963 in the Alberta Cypress Hills.³ The Ancilla Dotted Blue has also been reported in short grass and shrubby areas in coulee badlands in the Milk River-Lost River Area of Southeastern Alberta.⁹ The species is widely distributed in the Western United States.³

We gratefully acknowledge Mike Gollop's assistance in providing the previous records of the Ancilla Dotted Blue and the many valuable suggestions from an anonymous reviewer.

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HISTORY OF NATURE SASKATCHEWAN'S VAN BRIENEN LAND NATURE SANCTUARY

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William and Henrietta Harrison came from Formby (Liverpool) England and were married at Baldur, Manitoba on April 30, 1906. William had been a farm labourer there for the past year. Both he and Henrietta had grown up in urban areas and had little experience with farm life, never mind living in the wilderness, but were well educated. William had started training as a Methodist minister and Hettie was a Sunday school teacher.

In June of 1906, William and his brother went to the Wadena, Saskatchewan area to look for a homestead. The railway line ended at Sheho, so they caught a ride with another settler — who had a team and wagon — the rest of the way. On June 14, William walked to Paswegin to file his homestead

claim. It seems the government kept moving the Land Titles ahead of the end of the rail so it would be accessible to the land seekers. William chose a quarter section on to which a shallow lake extended. This lake (identified as Lake No 1 on a Township Plan dated 12th of August 1902) later became known locally as Meadow Bank Lake. A Meadowbank Post Office operated for a number of years in a farm house at the east end of the lake. The Harrison home was a mile and a half to the west. William saw the lake as an asset as it would supply water for livestock and lush grass grew nearby.

The two men went back to Manitoba for the summer and returned to their homesteads in the fall. William proceeded to build a small two-room cabin in which to spend the winter with his bride. As a result of frequent prairie fires during previous decades, the land did not have many tall, straight trees for building. On the advice of his

neighbours, William built the cabin with small, rail-sized poles — to stand vertically for walls — and a pole and sod roof. William's brother, Howard, built his home a mile away using short but sturdy logs. He was innovative and fashioned a six-sided building to create more floor space. The stove pipe went up the centre.

The Harrisons could not afford to buy furniture, so Will built his own bedsteads, chairs, tables, etc. out of poplar trees. He even built some to sell. Thus, the young couple began married life in their cabin in the winter of 1906-07. History has shown this to be one of the most severe winters on the prairies.

The summer of 1907 was spent making improvements and working for more established farms. On January 12, 1908, their first child, Eva, was born in the two-room cabin by the lake. A nearby neighbour had midwifery skills and was prepared for the birth. However, some problems occurred and she told William to

go for the doctor in Wadena, some 16 miles away. William borrowed a horse to make the trip and, upon arrival, found that the doctor had been drinking. However, the lengthy January trip by horse and sleigh sobered the doctor up and he successfully delivered Eva (who would eventually become this writer's mother).

In the summer of 1908, in dire need of cash, Will went back to Manitoba to seek employment, leaving Henrietta alone on the homestead with the baby. There were neighbour women not far away but still Henrietta did not see her husband for five months. They were both good letter writers, however, and mail service was remarkably decent. Letters were exchanged on a near-weekly basis.

The Harrison cabin was within a stone's throw of a shallow water body with lots of boggy ground and tall grass nearby, which was a recipe for mosquitoes. It was decided that they could not remain on this spot for another summer and they began plans for a better building site, on higher ground, where bugs would be less prevalent.

The winter of 1908-09 was spent hauling wood for fuel and gathering logs for the new home. Good logs were not available close by and had to be hauled 15 to 20 miles. William's summer wages were enough to buy a team of oxen to do the job, but it took a lot of trips, three logs at a time. The second home was completed over a period of a few years. Four more children were born into the family and they lived in the log house for close to 60 years. Sylvia Harrison was the fourth child born on the homestead. She was born in 1919.

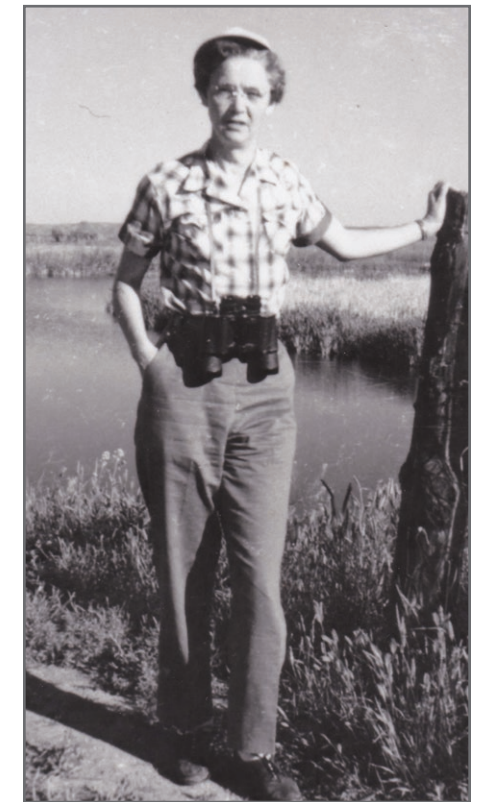
The family survived, as most pioneering families did, by raising all kinds of livestock, growing a huge garden and picking wild fruit.

The parents were always busy with daily survival chores. In summer, the children largely entertained themselves by exploring the world around them. For the most part, that world was wilderness and everyone learned to appreciate nature.

The girls learned to milk cows and separate cream at an early age and the regular cream cheque was vital in securing cash to purchase necessities. Every afternoon, one or two of the girls would have to go out to the pasture to bring in the milk cows. Sometimes walking and sometimes on horseback, listening for the bell on the lead cow. It was the perfect time to observe the native flowering plants and try to put names to them. Mrs. Harrison was familiar with many of them, having grown up with an "English country garden". This would be the beginning of Sylvia's interest in botany, which would be a passion of hers for the rest of her life.

Sylvia was a meticulous student, attending a one-room country school and later completing high school in Wadena. After attending Business College, she had various jobs before landing a position as a secretary at Regina General Hospital. There she met Connie Pratt who introduced her to the Saskatchewan and the Regina Natural History Societies. They travelled around the province attending spring meets and other excursions. Sylvia also served on the SNHS board and on the committee that hosted the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) conference in the 1960s. Mentors to Sylvia were the likes of George Ledingham, Stuart and Mary Houston, Margret Belcher, Jim Jowsey, Manley Callin, Lloyd T. Carmichael, Robert Nero, and the list goes on.

As she travelled around, Sylvia became aware of the need to preserve habitat as more and more land was being cultivated. Of



Sylvia Harrison in the early 1960s. Photo credit: Connie Pratt (deceased).

course, she noticed the same trend on her family farm as well. Prior to her father's death in 1963, she approached him asking if she could have the 40-acre parcel of land on the south side of Meadow Bank Lake with the intent of seeing it preserved for the long term. Her dad was happy to oblige.

In 1967, Sylvia married Anton van Brien at the log home where she grew up. She had met Van (Anton) while attending a woodworking class he was teaching in Regina. He subsequently taught high school shop at Rosetown for many years and then they retired to Fosston, Saskatchewan. Although he was not an outdoorsman, Van fully supported Sylvia's passion for nature. During retirement they made frequent visits to her childhood home, always fascinated by the flora and fauna.

Sylvia van Brien died in June of 1992 and the land title for her 40-acre property was transferred to Nature Saskatchewan on March 1, 1993. 🐦



A view of Meadow Bank Lake and van Brien property from the north shore. Photo credit: Sylvia (Harrison) van Brien (deceased).

LATE LAYING BY A BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, IN AN AMERICAN GOLDFINCH NEST

Spencer G. Sealy

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Infrequent parasitism on the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) has usually been explained by the potential host's late-nesting schedule.^{1,2} At parasitized goldfinch nests, cowbird chicks generally do not survive the nestling period due to incompatibility of the diet of the host (regurgitated seeds) and parasite (insects).^{3,4} The breeding seasons of these species overlap only to a small extent, such that by the time the last cowbird eggs are laid, goldfinches have only begun to initiate clutches. The relationship between the two species in this rather short period of overlap has been studied most extensively in southern Ontario.^{2,4} Of 802 goldfinch nests, 47 (5.7%) were parasitized, but only 13 eggs hatched, and no cowbirds fledged. The author stated, "...although the cowbird gained little advantage from the association, its parasitism largely offset the advantages of early nesting by the adult goldfinches. The goldfinch has not developed any apparent defense against cowbird parasitism, but those individuals that nested in man-made habitats were largely free of its influence."² In this note, I report cowbird parasitism on an American Goldfinch nest near Battleford, Saskatchewan. The late date of laying is confirmed by comparison with cowbird laying dates recorded at Delta Marsh, Manitoba.

Listed as a cowbird host in

Saskatchewan^{5,6}, the low frequency of parasitism on American Goldfinch is typical of most other localities where nests of this species have been studied.^{1,2,7} Of 33 goldfinch nests reported from Saskatchewan to the Prairie Nest Records Scheme (PNRS), three (9.1%) were parasitized by cowbirds whose eggs were first recorded on 19 July 1967 at Yellow Creek (PNRS card #25114); on 27 June 1969 at Lady Lake (PNRS #25123); and on 18 June 1974 at Hagen (PNRS #25128). As these nests were not inspected daily, exact laying dates of goldfinches or cowbirds were not determined. Fates of the single cowbird eggs in these nests were: (1) buried under a new nest lining (Hagen); (2) disappeared at least nine days into incubation (Lady Lake); and goldfinch and cowbird nestlings disappeared eight days after hatching, apparently depredated (Yellow Creek).

To this total, from field notes made at the time of the original observations, I report cowbird parasitism on a goldfinch nest located near Prongua, Saskatchewan (52°74' N, 108°55' W), about 17 km south of Battleford. On 10 July 1980, a nest about 2 m high in a Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) contained four goldfinch eggs plus one cowbird egg. Two days later, the nest contained a fifth and final goldfinch egg, assuming the cowbird did not remove a goldfinch egg around the time of parasitism^{2,9}, as six-egg goldfinch clutches have been recorded in Saskatchewan.^{8,10} The cowbird's egg probably was laid on 6 or 7 July 1980, as goldfinch nests are normally parasitized the morning before or on the day the

first goldfinch egg was laid.⁴

The span of laying dates over the cowbird's breeding season has not been determined in Saskatchewan, but at Delta Marsh, Manitoba, most cowbirds cease laying by the time their primary hosts (Yellow Warbler [*Setophaga petechia*], Red-winged Blackbird [*Agelaius phoeniceus*], and Song Sparrow [*Melospiza melodia*]) have ceased laying, in late June or during the first few days of July.¹¹⁻¹³ This was confirmed by superimposing cowbird laying dates on clutch-initiation dates of the Yellow Warbler, based initially on data collected from 1974 to 1976.¹¹ The last warbler clutch was initiated on 2 July 1974 (last cowbird egg laid 2 July), on 7 July 1975 (9 July, in 3-egg clutch), and on 6 July 1976 (23 June 1976). Data collected on Yellow Warblers between 1994 and 1998 revealed last cowbird eggs were laid on 28 or 29 June in four of the years, but on 9 July in 1994.¹²

Exceptionally late cowbird laying dates were recorded at Delta Marsh, at nests of two species: Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) on 12 July 1980 and Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) on 13 July 1996. Even later, a cowbird fledgling being fed by a Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) on 20 August 1992¹³ probably hatched no earlier than 15 July. These observations revealed some adult female cowbirds remained through the middle of July after most other adults and juveniles have left the area^{14,15}, apparently having migrated. None of the ~1,100 cowbirds banded at Delta Marsh¹⁶ was encountered during southward migration or on the wintering

ground, but an adult male banded at Muscow, Saskatchewan, on 13 June 1929, and found dead in New Mexico about two weeks later, provides anecdotal support for early departure and long-distance southward migration from Saskatchewan.⁶

Female cowbirds at the northern edge of their range that remain at the breeding sites well into July have fewer opportunities for parasitism as most individuals of the primary host species have ceased laying^{11,12}, leaving available nests of mostly poor hosts. Factors that influence decisions of cowbirds leading up to termination of laying and southward migration are important avenues for further study.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Glenn C. Sutter, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, for providing data for American Goldfinch nests contained in the files of the PNRS. A big thank you to the individuals who took time to submit nest cards to the PNRS, thus contributing to an important source of information. Paul Goossen's and Bonnie Woolfenden's inspections of nests provided data on the seasonal pattern of cowbird parasitism on the primary host species at Delta Marsh, in the 1970s and 1990s, respectively. Gloria Biermann Pohajdak and Glen McMaster discovered the parasitized nests of Least Flycatcher and Cedar Waxwing, respectively. I thank an anonymous reviewer for constructive comments on the manuscript.

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POETRY

Cloudy With Sunny Breaks

Four or five Ravens
blacken before a flock
of Snow Geese streaming
home from the south.

Reflecting the sunlight
they are silver and blue
in their barking flight
upon brooding grey skies.

George Grassick

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AFFORESTATION: ECOLOGY IN THE WEST SWALE

Julia Adamson
Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation
Areas Inc.
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Saskatoon, SK S7M 4B2

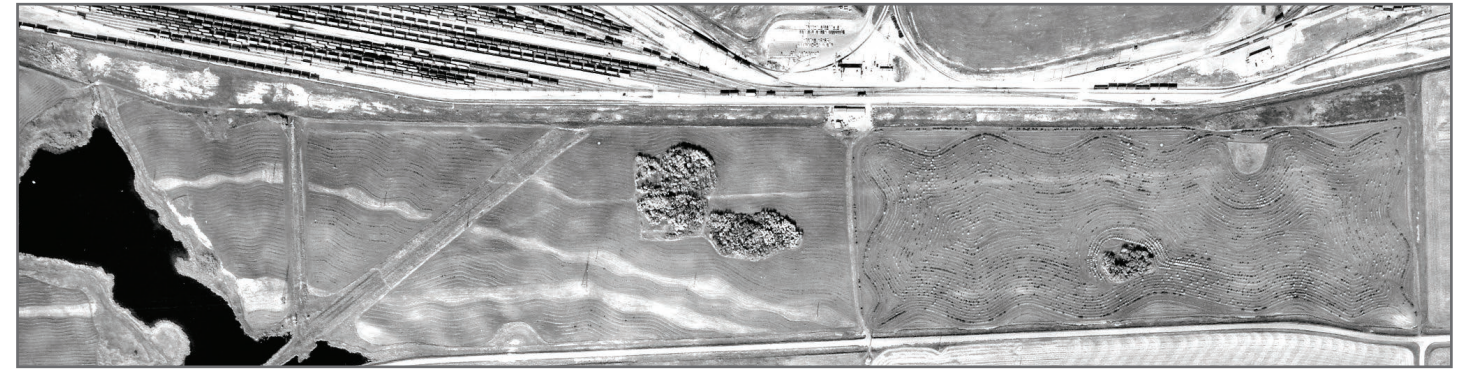
An ancient Pleistocene era river was created from a roaring, rushing surge of water as the shoreline of the glacial meltwater lake collapsed. This glacial spillway, the Yorath Island Spillway, is now referred to as the West Swale. The remains of this river can still be seen on satellite maps as a unique ecosystem connecting the North and South Saskatchewan River valleys. Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (326

acres) and George Genereux Urban Regional Park (147.9 acres) are two afforestation areas in the West Swale.

The Saskatoon Nature Society has included Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area in its book *A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and Around Saskatoon*¹. The mixed deciduous and evergreen forest areas provide a rare treat for visitors and naturalists as they are situated in the "moist mixed grassland" ecoregion associated with the grasslands and prairie regions of North America. Typically, mixed forests only appear hundreds of miles away as the province of Saskatchewan transitions to the aspen parkland and then to

the boreal ecoregion.

The Saskatoon afforestation areas feature 17 acres of wetlands amid the naturalized and native woodlands and provide important habitat for a number of species. The Horned Grebe and Barred Tiger Salamander are listed as a species of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada — an Independent Advisory Panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The Red-necked Phalarope, Baird's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow are special concern; Bobolink and Bank Swallow are listed as threatened nationally under the federal Species at Risk



Afforestation showing spiral weaving pattern around native aspen bluffs to achieve a natural planted effect at the east side of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. Courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archives #1103-11-007-001 Chappell Yards and south (1975).

Act SARA Schedule 1. Protecting critical habitat is thus a key concern. Colonial nesting birds include Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron and American White Pelican. A more detailed bird listing is registered on eBird.

According to Chet Neufeld, Executive Director of the Native Plant Society, referencing the provincial rare species database, "there have been occurrences of endangered

Whooping Cranes observed near the area in 2017 and an occurrence of Small Yellow Lady's-slipper (date unknown)" (email December 25, 2019). A Saskatoon Nature Society Field Trip on June 14, 2017 confirmed the Lady's-slipper sighting on the east side of the afforestation area.

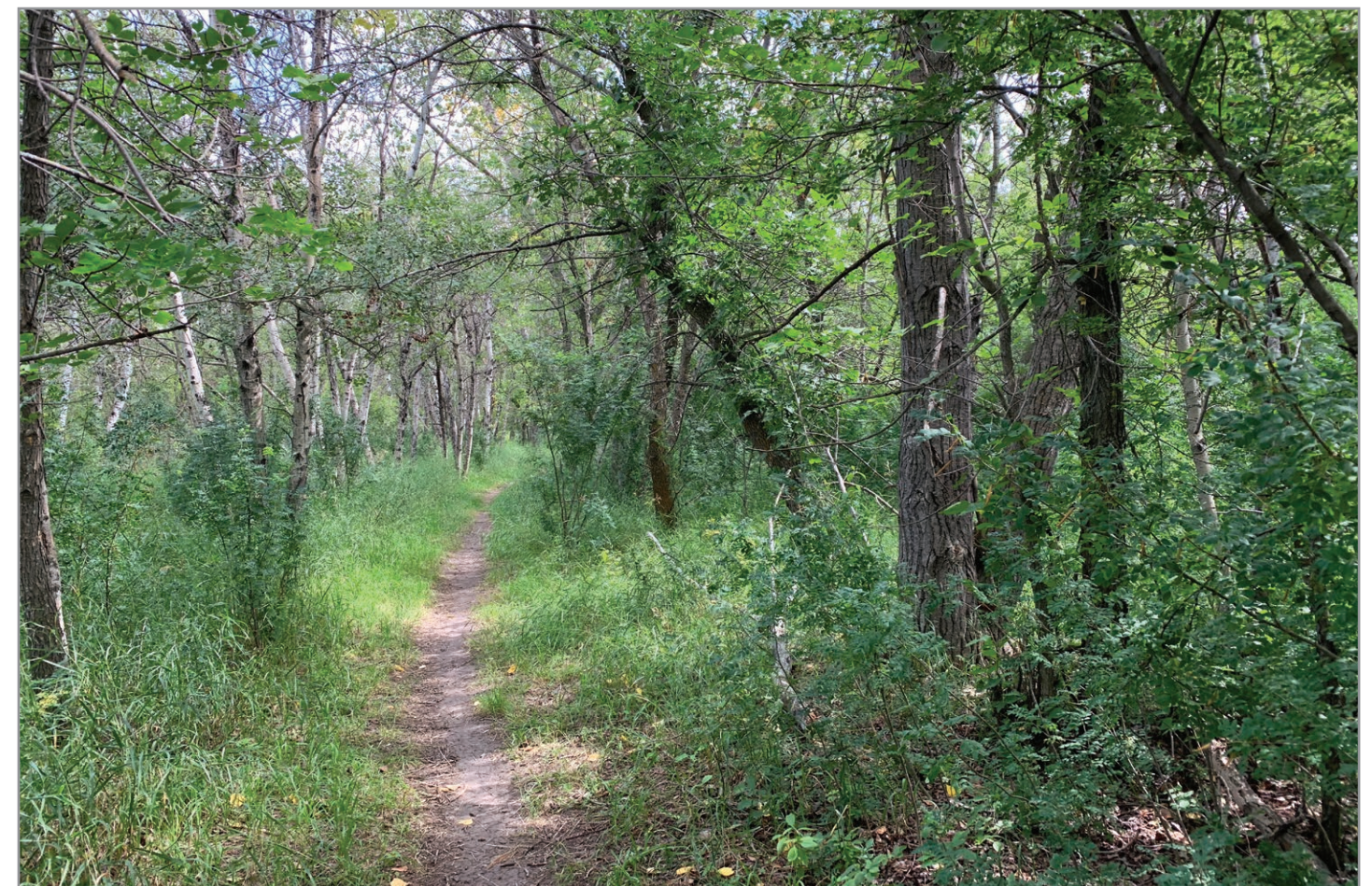
The afforestation areas have been popular with the Saskatoon Nature Society for monitoring the bat

population, as well as for banding nocturnal and diurnal raptors. A common bird sighting area is on Township Road 362A as the wetland waterfowl habitat has been dissected by the road. To the north of this road are the wetlands of the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area, and to the south is Chappell Marsh Conservation Area.

This area is also unique for scientific study, as it was purchased



The Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area contains West Swale permanent wetlands of Chappell Marsh. May 2016. Photo credit: Julia Adamson.



Native Aspen bluffs, snowberry, honeysuckle, buffaloberry, Saskatoon and rose bushes are at home amidst the afforested plantings. August 2019. Photo credit: Julia Adamson.

in 1960 by the city and afforested in 1972. Indeed, there is a project currently taking place in George Genereux Urban Regional Park by the upper level Agriculture and Bioresources landscape and vegetation management class at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

The afforestation areas have been isolated for half a century as a semi-wilderness habitat. These urban regional parks, which began as tree nurseries during the 'Green Survival Program' of the 1970s, are slowly reverting back to an aspen forest ecosystem with native forbes and grasses from the moist mixed grasslands.

A recent biography by Paul Hanley has been written entitled *Man of the Trees. Richard St. Barbe Baker, the First Global Conservationist*. The foreword is by HRH The Prince

of Wales and the introduction is by Jane Goodall. In it, Hanley states that "Baker was primarily a catalyst, a wedge, a collaborator. He accomplished what he did mainly by inspiring others. His modus operandi was often reflected in their work."²

In 1969, in recognition of his conservation efforts, Baker was made the first Honorary Life Member of the World Wildlife Fund."³ He also received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the U of S, and was presented with the Order of the British Empire.

Changes surround the afforestation areas as there are plans to assimilate them directly into the urban design. The Blairmore Sector Plan, an area of planned city growth, will accommodate eight future neighbourhoods with between 50,000 to 70,000

residents who will live next door to the afforestation areas, and which will join the existing immediate neighbours of Montgomery Place and Cedar Villa Estates.⁴ To support this population influx, there will be a new employment sector to the other side of the afforestation area urban regional parks.

Both afforestation areas are located within the city limits alongside the boundary between the city and Rural Municipality of Corman Park 344. The planners for the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) partnering municipalities have long-range goals for a rural commercial/industrial area around George Genereux Urban Regional Park. That said, the P4G region seeks to "protect the region's natural beauty, ecology and heritage" as the "region's

population could reach 500,000 in the next 20 years and could grow to 1,000,000 people in the next 60 years."⁵ The P4G intends at this time to "not interfere with key natural areas" and has allocated conservation and drainage zones as a green network study area, which will provide connectivity between the afforestation areas, the West Swale and the South Saskatchewan River.⁵

A submission has been put forth to declare George Genereux Urban Regional Park, Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area and the West Swale as municipal heritage sites. There is an abundance of natural, aesthetic, environmental, cultural, historical, geological and geographical heritage importance in these places and the submission is currently under review by City of Saskatoon administration.

To assist in the City of Saskatoon's strategic goal of environmental leadership, the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc. has formed as a non-profit registered charity to enhance the safety of these urban regional parks and to protect these parcels of land that were 'preserved in perpetuity' by city council in 1972. The goals and purpose of the Friends aims to protect the environment for the biodiversity at the afforestation areas, and seeks to engage community citizens with information about the cultural, aesthetic, geological, geographical, historical (Old Bone Trail), and natural (flora and fauna) heritage aspects of the areas.

For further information, please visit <https://stbarbebaker.wordpress.com/> or email us at FriendsAfforestation@gmail.com.

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Richard St. Barbe Baker Park September 2019. Photo credit: Julia Adamson.



George Genereux Urban Regional Park. Winter 2018. Photo credit: Julia Adamson.

NATURE SASKATCHEWAN AWARDS:

Each year at the Fall Meet, Nature Saskatchewan recognizes outstanding service and contributions that Society members, and/or affiliate and partner organizations have made towards Nature Saskatchewan's objectives and goals.

Clear criteria have been established in terms of purpose, eligibility, and nomination procedure. This year, we are seeking nominations for three classes of awards – **Volunteer Recognition Award, Fellows Award, and Conservation Award.**

The Volunteer Recognition Award and Conservation Award can be conferred on the same individual or organization more than once.

The Cliff Shaw Award will also be presented at the Fall Meet. The recipient is chosen by the *Blue Jay* editor.

Local societies throughout Saskatchewan play an important role in furthering conservation and appreciation of nature at the local level. There are always those who step up to the plate to organize meetings and outings, go the extra mile to help others connect with nature, or work silently and tirelessly behind the scenes. It's time those contributions were recognized. We encourage anyone from a local society to consider nominating someone from your local group who is a Nature Saskatchewan member and who deserves recognition for any of these awards. Note that nominees for the Volunteer Recognition Award and Fellows Award must hold a current membership with Nature Saskatchewan.

Nomination Procedure

The nomination procedure is the same for all three awards. The criteria and names of past recipients can be found on the website at www.naturesask.ca/what-we-do/awards. The office can also send you a copy by mail, if you prefer.

- Nominations can be made by Nature Saskatchewan members, directors, and staff. Local societies should consider nominating someone from their local group.
- Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominations are to be made in writing and submitted by the published deadline.
- Nominations are to include the following information: the nominee's name, address, and phone number; the nominator's name and contact information; details of the nominee's efforts.
- The Awards Committee will independently rate the nominations, and confirm that the nominee holds a current membership with Nature Saskatchewan.
- Chairperson of the Awards Committee will bring the recommendations to the Board.
- If ratified, the President or his/her delegate shall confer the respective Awards to the recipients at the Fall Meet.

The deadline to submit nominations for awards is August 21, 2020.

All Nature Saskatchewan Awards consist of the following:

- The announcement of the recipient's name at the Fall Meet.
- The presentation of a certificate recognizing the contribution.
- An announcement in *Blue Jay* recognizing the distinction.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

This award was created in 1996 to acknowledge an individual Nature Saskatchewan member who has devoted significant time and energy to promoting the objectives of the Society, including contributions made at the local society level. Priority for this award will be given to a Nature Saskatchewan member whose volunteer work has helped to enhance the public awareness of the Society (this may include contributions to a Society conservation project or program). It may be appropriate in some years to have this award shared by more than one person, if they have worked together on the same project, or on closely related projects.

Eligibility

Nature Saskatchewan members who have provided valuable time and effort in contributing to the Society are eligible. Local societies are encouraged to nominate someone from their local group who is a Nature Saskatchewan member, recognizing that Nature Saskatchewan values their contributions to the overall goals of the Society. The nominee must be a current member of Nature Saskatchewan. This award can be conferred on the same person more than once.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FELLOWS AWARD

A motion was passed at the 1987 Annual General Meeting creating a new class of honorary membership entitled "Fellows of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society". This award recognizes an extensive and continuing contribution of time over many years to the Society and its objectives. Up to five recipients may be chosen annually. Once selected, Fellows hold that title as long as they remain members of the Society. It is the highest honour the Society can bestow upon a member.

Eligibility

Eligible individuals are members of Nature Saskatchewan who have provided an outstanding time and work contribution to the Society over many years. These contributions have been significant, and may have come in the form of leadership, communication, authorship, social media outreach, research, and other areas. The contributions have been cumulative or ongoing, and represent long-standing service or commitment to Nature Saskatchewan and its objectives.

CONSERVATION AWARD

In addition to advocacy and other forms of conservation action, it is important that Nature Saskatchewan recognize, as it has done since 1953, those both within and beyond the organization who have done "meritorious work in the interest of conservation in Saskatchewan."

Nature Saskatchewan's Conservation Award will be presented to an individual or organization whose total contribution to conservation is outstanding, whether in relation to a particular project or in a number of roles over a period of years.

Eligibility

Individuals, affiliate and/or partner organizations, not-for-profit associations, institutions, community groups, businesses, government and non-government organizations that have contributed significantly to conservation in Saskatchewan.

This award can be conferred on the same individual or organization more than once.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions considered during the Business Meeting at each year's Fall Meet are important expressions of member concerns on environmental issues. The Nature Saskatchewan Board of Directors is responsible for acting on all resolutions that are passed by the members. This includes sending resolutions directly to the responsible government ministry and pursuing further action and/or meetings with government and others, as deemed appropriate.

Anyone wishing to submit a resolution for consideration at the 2020 Business Meeting, to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 is asked to send a written draft to the Nature Saskatchewan Office (info@naturesask.ca) no later than Friday, August 7. This provides an opportunity to receive feedback from members of the resolutions committee that can help to improve your resolution. It also helps us prepare for the meeting. Please note that resolutions not submitted to the Nature Saskatchewan office by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 4 will be considered only with the agreement of a two-thirds majority of those attending the business meeting.

Resolution Guidelines:

1. Resolutions must be in keeping with the society's mandate, bylaws and goals.
2. All resolutions must be submitted in writing.
3. A resolution is, essentially, an exercise in communication. Simple, clear language and focus on one topic or issue is most effective.
4. Supporting information presented in "Whereas" statements must be accurate and factual.
5. Resolutions should be no longer than one page, and preferably less.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

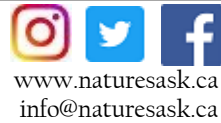
Larry Morgotch Images of Nature Event at the Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet

Any member may show up to 10 images that illustrate natural history interests and activities, and may speak briefly about them (no longer than two minutes, please). Images labelled with your name should be left with the projectionist before the start of the program. Digital images may be individual files, assembled as a PowerPoint or similar type of presentation, or an executable file if you are using a slideshow editing program. Please be sure your presentation runs on a standard PC. Name your images so that they display in the correct order. Digital images should be stored in a folder indicating your name and saved on a USB flash drive. We'll have a computer and digital projector already set up.

#206 - 1860 Lorne St
Regina, SK S4P 2L7-306-780-9273

Nature SASKATCHEWAN

Help us protect Saskatchewan's ecosystems and wildlife.



Name(s) : _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Would you like to subscribe to all electronic communications? Yes

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*The e-newsletter is sent out via email monthly. There is an option to unsubscribe included in each newsletter and is available anytime.

1. I wish to enroll/renew my annual membership

* All memberships run on a calendar of January 1st - December 31st

	<u>Print Version</u>	<u>Electronic Version</u>
Individual	\$40	\$25
Family	\$45	\$30
Student	\$35	\$25
Senior 65+	\$35	\$25
Foreign/Outside Canada	\$60	\$30
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*I would like to purchase a **Life Membership** (You will receive a tax receipt for \$725) \$750
 Print OR Electronic

2. I wish to make a one time tax-deductible donation in support of:

- General Programs Last Mountain Bird Observatory
- Scholarship Fund Stewards of Saskatchewan Programs (OBO/SFS/POS/RPR)
- Nature Sanctuaries Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Program

3. I wish to become a monthly donor by joining the Nature Savings Plan:

(Income tax receipts are issued annually — please provide credit card information or void cheque)

Amount: \$ _____ / month

Fee Totals

Nature Saskatchewan Annual Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Cheque (payable to Nature Saskatchewan) Visa MasterCard Cash

Card# _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry: ____ / ____ CVC#: _____
Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Become a member or donate online @ www.naturesask.ca/support



Editor's note: Satin, for whom this poem was written, was George's wife Patricia (Patti) who passed away on March 14, 2020 after a lengthy battle with cancer. George wrote Late March in Patti's memory, and as a tribute to the way in which she viewed and approached life — always believing in the power of hope. Patti cared deeply for Canada's unspoiled, wild places and loved her and George's place near Last Mountain Lake. She was proud to have arranged an easement with Nature Conservancy of Canada to forever protect their native prairie pasture for the deer, the grass and all the wild things it nurtures and harbours.

POETRY

Late March (For Satin)

A raw day out here
The northwest wind
Across the pasture
At best...,
Uninviting
On the summit
Of Hunters' Hill,
Downright misery.
Yet from there the dogs
And I
See a muley doe,
Heavy with her coming fawn
Twin fawns maybe,
Step from her
Buffalo berry close.
She turns her fine head,
Calmly, vigilantly
Assures herself
Of our wont.
Then, even with her
Heavy burden
She elegantly, daintily
Picks her way across
A half-frozen burn
To join her mob.

Spring. Green. Hope.
Certainly, inexorably
Comes this way.

George Grassick
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ggrassick@sasktel.net

HUMAN NATURE

Randi Bodas
Regina, SK

What does it mean to be outdoorsy or to appreciate nature in Saskatchewan?

There is this unwritten message, sometimes, that you need to hike, camp, or canoe in order to really be a nature lover or be considered outdoorsy. All great activities I am sure; however, loving nature and the outdoors can be as simple as coffee on your deck, lunch on a patio, tending to your petunias or a leisurely walk around your neighbourhood. I have found that if you are not a camper in Saskatchewan, you tend to be judged just a little.

I am not an outdoor activity-loving person, but that doesn't mean that I don't appreciate the smell after rain, the beauty of hoarfrost in the morning and the warmth of the sun on my skin. There are many ways to appreciate nature and the outdoors without camping, cross-country skiing, or hiking. For example, gardening and caring for plants indoors and outdoors is a year-round activity that brings life and living things into your daily routine. There is also ice cream on the beach while building sandcastles with my son or tobogganing on a mild winter day.

Some of the simplest things bring me joy — watching the sun set, listening to the birds chirping, and even seeing wildlife (city squirrels count, too). One of my favourite things that I look forward to every single spring is watching the ducklings following their momma in the water. This love and appreciation is something I am passing on to my son. My husband and I teach him

to be gentle to ladybugs and other insects on the ground. We teach him to care for plants indoors and out. We teach him about what is appropriate to feed the ducks and geese at the city parks. There is nothing like watching a child explore the world around them, playing in the puddles with a stick and throwing rocks into the lake. We do this by spending intentional time outside, wandering around and going on "adventures" as my son likes to call them.

I am writing this in the hope that I can shine a light on the stereotypes of what it means to love nature or be outdoorsy. For me, it is important for people to connect with what makes them happy. Be what you want to be and be who you are meant to be without allowing external judgment to seep in. It is important for people to relax and enjoy the outdoors in the way that works best for them, being respectful of their surroundings and being kind to all critters, plants, and insects, and passing on an appreciation of the simple calm that comes from being outside. Now, more than ever, we can appreciate a neighbourhood walk and the smell in your home when you open the window for the first time after a long winter.

All in all, my hope is that being outdoors brings a sense of calm and joy to everyone in the same way it does for me and that we take life at a slower pace and stop and literally smell the flowers. Life can get busy, but slowing down to enjoy the Saskatchewan breeze and beautiful skies is something that I believe is critical in this fast-paced life. 🐦



MYSTERY PHOTO



Photo credit: Annie McLeod.

Spring 2020 (above)

ANSWER:

A keen observer may recognize this stocky, heavy-billed songbird as a tanager, but it can be tougher to distinguish between females of different tanager species. One place to look for identification clues is the wings. Where a Western Tanager would have wing bars, and a Scarlet Tanager would have wings darker than the rest of its body, this bird has the same yellowish colour all over, meaning it is a Summer Tanager.

Have you taken a picture that may make for a good mystery photo? Send it to the editor for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue.

Summer 2020 (left)

QUESTION:

What do these three ground dwelling predaceous insects have in common? Secondly, how does each bug capture its prey?

Please send your answers to the Blue Jay editor, Annie McLeod, by email at bluejay@naturesask.ca or by letter mail (address on page 4). Those with correct answers will be entered into a draw for a prize from Nature Saskatchewan.

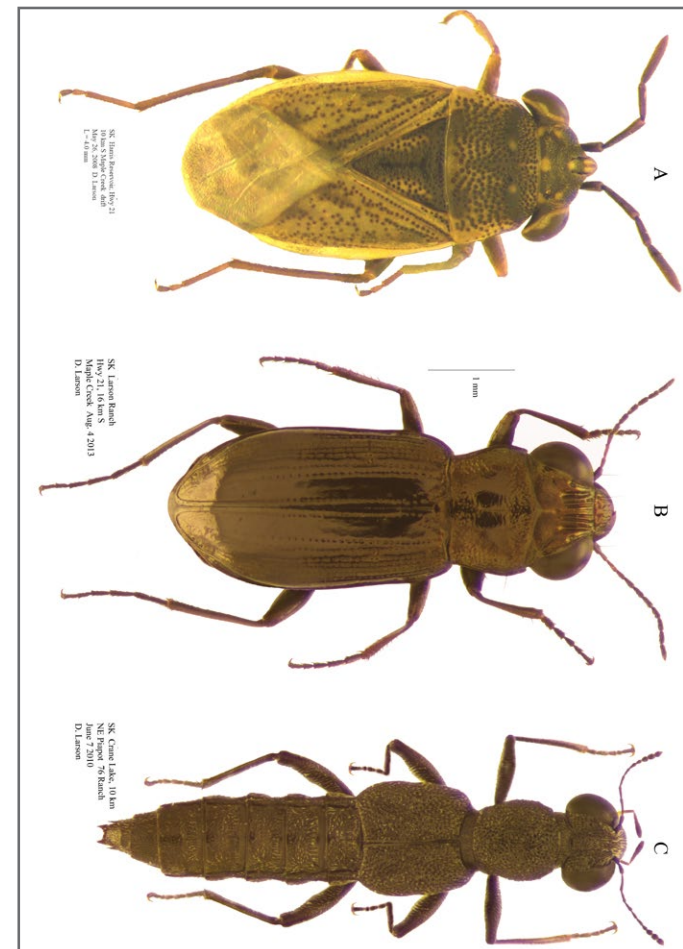


Photo credit: David Larson.



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