



SUMMER 2018 VOLUME 76.2

BLUE JAY





In this issue's edition of The Nature Notebook, Jared Clarke discusses how he got interested in bumble bees and some of the things he has learned about them. He also talks about a few of the tools he has used to help identify bumble bee species.



For the second year in a row, Gardiner Dam won the crown for the most species observed during the annual Saskatchewan Christmas Bird Count (CBC). See the full results of the 76th CBC on page 6.



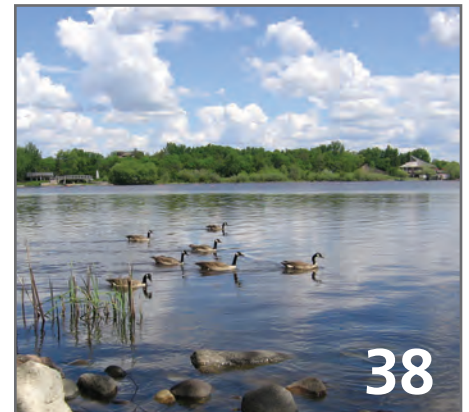
The Pine Siskin is among several irruptive North American species that may be abundant at one locality in one year and absent the next. Such an episode occurred when large numbers of Pine Siskins appeared suddenly in the dune ridge, Delta Marsh, Manitoba in 1985.



Eighty-three counts were conducted as part of the 45th annual Christmas Mammal Count. As usual, White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer were by far the most common mammals.



Nora Stewart's book, *Cultivating Our Roots – Growing Authentic Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses*, contains 155 pages of information about native plants and how to work with them. In Kerry Hecker's review of the book, she describes it as both a reference and a field guide that is useful for anyone growing native grasses to those involved in reclamation, conservation and xeriscaping.



In this issue's edition of Human Nature, Rob Warnock shares his thoughts on Wascana Centre in Regina, including its beauty, the diversity of wildlife, its ecological value and its accessibility to people.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Branimir Gjetvaj

President, Nature Saskatchewan

Under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Canada has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. In December 2016, the federal government together with the provinces and territories announced the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF). The PCF's overall goal is to reduce GHG emissions to meet or exceed Canada's 2030 targets. In January 2018, the federal government released a draft legislation that outlines a benchmark for implementing the pricing scheme for carbon emissions.

Current provincial and territorial

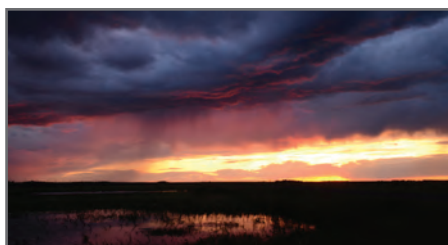


ON THE FRONT COVER

An Eveningstar (*Mentzelia decapetala*) begins to open as the sun sets behind it in Grasslands National Park.

"I'd been trying to get this shot for a few years and finally succeeded in August 2017. Once the last of the sun's light had faded and the stars came out, I happily hiked the 4km back to my campsite in complete darkness." – Joshua Erikson

Photo credit: Joshua Erikson



ON THE BACK COVER

A colourful late August sunset photographed just outside of Regina, Saskatchewan.

Photo credit: Annie McLeod

climate change plans include carbon pricing, phasing out coal power, increasing the use of renewable energy (water, wind and solar), clean fuel in transportation, and policies to increase energy efficiency for residential and industrial use. Provinces with the strongest climate change mitigation programs include Quebec and Ontario, which joined California in a cap-and-trade system, while B.C. and Alberta are implementing pricing on GHG emissions. Carbon pricing, or ensuring that there is a cost to using fossil fuels and polluting the atmosphere, often gets the most public attention.

Saskatchewan is the only Canadian jurisdiction that did not sign on to the PCF. Instead, the province released its own "Prairie Resilience: A-Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy" in December of 2017. The policy does not include a provision of putting a price on GHG emissions or a "carbon tax". Instead, the emphasis is on adaptation (reduction of vulnerability) to the effects of climate change such as extensive weather storms, large-scale wildfires or prolonged drought. The province did include provisions for investment in renewable energy, especially wind power, and GHG emission reduction. However, the mitigation (prevention of further climate change or reduction of its effects) is focused only on large industrial GHG emitters like electricity or oil and gas producers. There is no detailed reporting plan for small (less than 25,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year) or non-regulated emitters such as agriculture, which is a source of 24 per cent of provincial GHG emissions.

Saskatchewan's approach to climate change is resilience — the ability to cope with, adapt and recover from stress and change. The province is counting on resilience programs in several areas including natural systems, physical infrastructure, economic sustainability and community preparedness. Its policy documents place emphasis on safeguarding the



Dr. Branimir Gjetvaj

health of water systems and actions to preserve and restore wetlands, which play an important role in carbon sequestration and regulating the effects of floods and drought. The provincial government also plans to develop programs to restore natural landscape integrity, safeguard the provision of ecological goods and services, manage risk to biodiversity, and develop a path to establishing a coordinated, Canada-wide network of parks and protected areas.

These are laudable goals. However, the current environmental record leaves a lot to be desired. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) research estimates that Saskatchewan is losing over 10,000 acres of wetlands every year. Prairie wetlands sequester approximately 130 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents per year. DUC estimates show that agricultural wetland drainage in Saskatchewan releases annually close to the amount of carbon that the flagship Carbon Capture and Storage program at Boundary Dam has sequestered since 2014 (1.75 million tonnes of CO₂ at a cost of 1.5 billion dollars). The record on establishment of protected area is not exemplary either. The Representative Areas Network includes less than 10 per cent of land base, the worst record among Canadian jurisdictions with the exception of Maritime provinces. This is far below the Canada's Target 1 goal to protect 17 per cent of land base by 2030.

If the Saskatchewan government plans to use resilience of natural systems as one of the pillars for the climate change strategy, it has to seriously ramp up its efforts to implement conservation measures for our land and waters.



BLUE JAY

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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Editorial Information

Blue Jay welcomes all submissions, preferably by e-mail (although hand-written or typed manuscripts will be considered to accommodate those who do not have access to computer equipment), polished or in need of some editorial assistance. All items for publication should be sent to the editor electronically (in a Microsoft Word document) by e-mail or on CD. Hard copies and CDs can be mailed to the editor at the address above.

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Jared Clarke

I've always been a bird guy. I've loved birds for a long time. But after I met Dr. Cory Sheffield, an entomologist from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, I found myself becoming a bumble bee guy, too! Now I love bumble bees.

One of my favourite times to watch bumble bees is first thing in the spring once the snow melts and the bees all amass on one shrub in our yard. The first plant to bloom in a big way in our yard is some kind of flowering almond shrub and the bumble bees just love it. It's amazing to just stand close by and listen to the hum coming from the shrub as dozens of bumble bees forage for their first meal of the spring.

I have learned lots about the fascinating life of bumble bees from Dr. Sheffield. These first bumble bees at the flowering almond are all queens that have hibernated somewhere in my yard for the entire winter. Come spring, they journey out trying to locate a place to start a new colony. A queen forages for pollen and nectar and brings them back to her nest site where she builds a small wax cup. In the wax cup she lays her first eggs (she already mated last fall). In two weeks, the larvae grow and then pupate for another two weeks (similar to a caterpillar in a cocoon). Afterwards, these new bumble bees will emerge ready to collect more

THE NATURE NOTEBOOK: DIVERSIFYING MY INTERESTS

pollen and nectar, tend to more larvae, and defend the nest as the colony grows over the summer. At the end of the season, the queen will produce the next set of queens, which will breed with males. By this time, the spring queen will die, along with the rest of the colony, and the new queens will find a place to spend the oncoming winter. So be careful in the spring or fall, because if one of those queen bumble bees die, there goes the whole colony.

I've also learned how to identify bumble bees (sort of) — it's complicated. Bumble bees are not like butterflies, in which all individuals of a species have the same patterns and colours. One individual of the same species of bumble bee in Saskatchewan can look very different from another of the same species elsewhere. Plus, the queens, workers, and males can all look slightly different.

However, there is hope for those who might find this overwhelming. There's an app for your smartphone called Bumble Bee Watch (it's free and also available online) and it allows you to upload your bumble bee photos, helps you identify them and then sends it to trained entomologists (like Dr. Sheffield) who will verify your ID. As



A Nevada Bumble Bee on a Caragana bush in Wascana Park. Photo credit: Jared Clarke

a bonus, this data helps researchers better understand distribution and population trends in bumble bee species, which appear to be on the decline.

I bought a copy of *Bumble Bees of North America* by Williams, Thorp, Richardson and Colla. It is pretty technical but allows me to really dive into bumble bee identification. With it, and help from Dr. Sheffield and Bumble Bee Watch, I've identified Nevada, Hunt, Tri-colored, Sanderson, Confusing, Fuzzy-horned, Yellow-banded and Northern Amber Bumble Bees all over the province! I hope to find a Cuckoo Bumble Bee this summer — they are parasitic to other bumble bees. I told you bumble bees were interesting!

*Jared Clarke is a Grade 6/7 teacher and biologist who lives on a small farm near Edenwold, SK with his family. He hosts a nature radio program called *The Prairie Naturalist* on Thursdays at 6:00 pm on 91.3 FM CJTR in Regina. Follow him on Twitter @jaredclarke5 or on Facebook @ThePrairieNaturalist. 🐝*



A Northern Amber Bumble Bee foraging on a Purple Prairie Clover in Jared Clarke's pasture at his farm near Edenwold. Photo credit: Jared Clarke

76TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 2017

Alan R. Smith and Randi Edmonds
Box 154, Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0
alanrandi@sasktel.net

We would like to dedicate the 2017 Christmas Bird Count to the memories of William Anaka and Lloyd Wilson — pioneers in the study of birds in the Good Spirit Lake area.

The Counts

The number of counts declined by six counts over last year's 95. Total effort as measured by hours in the field and at feeders, or kilometres walked and driven was, however, about average for the last 20 years.

The Weather

Average minimum and maximum temperatures for the count period (with 2016-17 records in brackets) were -18 to -12 C (-17 to -11 C), wind speeds 9 to 18 km/h (8 to 18 km/h), and snow depths 6 to 14 cm (6 to 14 cm). As can be seen, weather conditions over the last two winters were nearly identical.

The Birds

The 127,798 birds counted was only slightly higher than 2016's 119,750, and about average for this century. The average number of species per count at 18.7 was also on par since 2000.

For the second year in a row, Gardiner Dam won the crown for the most species with 43; the runner up was Saskatoon with 42 species (plus two during the count period).

Population Trends

Waterfowl were up slightly from the previous year's lows. For example, Canada Geese rose from 17,219 to 22,801, Mallards 4,629 to 8,283.

Record high counts were set for Snow Goose and Greater Scaup.

Most raptors were recorded in their usual small numbers, but without the crops left in the fields as was the case in 2016-17, Northern Harriers dropped from 11 to none, and Short-eared Owls from 39 to 3. Snowy Owls were, however, much in evidence with 181 in 33 localities compared to 59 in 27 the previous winter. Regina tied the all-time record with 45 birds, while nearby Rouleau fell one short with 44.

The range expansion for two introduced species, Eurasian Collared-Dove and House Finch, seems to have stalled as the only new CBC localities for these species should be regarded as "infilling" rather than expansion. The new site for the collared-dove was Floral; those for the finch were Dundurn and Grenfell. Notable was a new high count of 196 collared-doves from Swift Current.

Bohemian Waxwing dropped from 12,590 in 33 localities to 7,469 in 28 localities this past winter. This is reflected in the wild food crop which was reported "fair" or better in most areas in 2016, while fair or often poor in 2017.

Numbers of Common Redpoll were way up — 14,301 birds on 78 counts compared to 1,731 on 61 in 2016. Numbers of most other finches were, however, down.

Rarities

Rarities of note include our seventh and eighth Red-bellied Woodpeckers. One was on the Estuary North count and the other during the count period at Saskatoon. Our fourth Hermit Thrush was seen at Swift Current. No new species were recorded for the CBC — the all-time total remains at 191 species.

Note: for purposes of Saskatchewan Counts, as published herein, the count period extends from December 14 to January 5; 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. Jeff Carlson, Monica Carlson, Shynese Carlson, Gerald Hiron, Susan Hiron, Audrey Hnetka, Perry Hnetka, *Elaine Hughes*, Dorothy Klettberg, Willie Klettberg, Annette Kozak, Cecil Reimer, Mary Reimer, Judy Revoy.
2. AVONLEA. Randi Edmonds, Don Robertson, *Alan Smith*, Blaine Sudom.
3. BALGONIE. Jared Clarke, Rowan Clarke, Teal Clarke, Ken Feltn, Tamara Harder, Sarah Ludlow, Kristen Martin, *Brett Quiring*, Jacqueline Roy, Wendy Woodard.
4. BIGGAR. Dale Booth, Mary-Jo Danychuk, Sheila Jezowski, Murray Newton, Mark Pickett, Nick Saunders, Lorrie Sielski, Lorne Sutherland, Phil Taylor, *Guy Wapple*, Rob Wapple.
5. BIRCH HILLS. Margaret Mareschal, *Maurice Mareschal*.
6. BORDEN-RADISSON. Greg Fenty, *Kyron Giroux*, Ron Jensen, Elise Meister, Fred Meister.
7. BROADVIEW. Doug Boivin, Mary Ann Pearson, Barb Weidl, *Don Weidl*.
8. CATER: Beverly Beland, *Orval Beland*.
9. CHATSWORTH S.D. Herb Cross, Jean Cross, Charles Dyck, Donna Dyck, Robert Mess, Wionna Mess, *George Murray*, Laurie Murray, Marcel Pelletier, Kerri Rooke, Stewart Rooke, Tony Tangedal.

10. CHRISTOPHER LAKE. *Jeannie Walker*.
11. CHURCHBRIDGE B. *Dennis Petracek*.
12. CLARK'S CROSSING. Christine Christensen, Louise Cook, Lorne Duczek, Andrew Elgin, Shelly Fisher, Bob Godwin, Dawn Hall, Marilyn Haskins, Jeff Jensen, Ron Jensen, Robert Johanson, Gwen Klypak, Heney Klypak, Brian McGill, Eileen McGill, Diane Murphy, *John Patterson*, Sylvia Raginski, Nick Saunders, Marten Stoffel, Geoff Urwin, Guy Wapple, Diane Wells, Michael Williams.
13. CORONACH. *Ryan Dudragne*.
14. CRAVEN. Hiroyuki Aoki, Dave Cameron, Joel Cherry, Blanche Cooper, Jim Cummings, Stephen Davis, Gail Fennell, Chris Harris, Louise Holloway, Phil Holloway, Kerri Irving, Jones Irving, Fran Kerbs, Laurie Koepke, Norbert Kossmann, Jackie Lane, Laurette Lane, Bob Luterbach, Barbara Mader, Kim Mann, Val Mann, Amelia McDonald, Jaret McDonald, Annie McLeod, Barry Mitschke, Ava Mund, Shasta Mund, Soren Mund, Curtis Pollock, *Brett Quiring*, Vera Raschke, Ed Rodger, Susan Rollins, Jacqueline Roy, Dan Sawatzky, Jeanette Taylor, Rob Taylor, Lorna Tyler, Mary Worel, Chris Whitall.
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22. DUVAL. Alan Martin, *Lloyd Saul*.
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Bohemian Waxwing. Photo credit: Nick Saunders

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74. SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS. Carman Dodge, *Don Weidl*.
75. SASKATOON. Joanne Adams, Omar Aschim, Eveline Boudreau, Anne Brander, Delores Burkhart, Jacquie Christenson, Louise Cook, Lorne Duczek, Joshua Erickson, Joan Feather, Lesley Fell, Greg Fenty, Jennifer Fenty, David Forbes, Kyron Giroux, Bob Godwin, Mike Gollop, Donna Goodridge, Jim Goodridge, Allison Hadland, Donna Haughen, Janet Hill, Terri Jackson, Jeff Jensen, Julie Jensen, Ron Jensen, Richard Kerbes, Troy Lange, Don Loran, Janet Loran, Audrey MacKenzie, Bill MacKenzie, Priscilla Mah, Val Martz, Kari McCrea, Sabryna McCrae, Bob McNaughton, Kathy Meeres, Coleen Meldrum, Scott Mitchell, Carol Monahan, Joe Monahan, Jonathan Moore-Wright, Verity Moore-Wright, Hilda Noton, John Patterson, Bill Robertson, Lisa Rohachuk, Marc Sabourin, Craig Salisbury, Lorraine Salisbury, Trish Santo, Scott Saretsky, Nick Saunders, Margie Scharf, Murray Scharf, Jan Shadick, *Stan Shadick*, Barb Sprigings, Marten Stoffel, Margo Taylor, Phil Taylor, Don Torrie, Guy Wapple, Sandra Wapple, Olive Watts, Trent Watts, George West, Michael Williams, Norman Zlotkin.
76. SAWYER LAKE. Maureen Blight, Kathleen Pitt, Michael Pitt, *David Weiman*.
77. SHAMROCK. *Hugh Henry*, Sylvia Knudsen, Iris McNeill, Darwin Menke, Joel Priebe, Myrna Priebe, Lori Wilson.
78. SHELL LAKE. *Ryan Dudragne*, LeeAnn Latremouille, Carole Martin, Kay Willson, Phil Willson.
79. SNOWDEN. Esther Chamberlin, Sonya Fidyk, Gus Fomrades, Diane Friesen, Don Friesen, Ed Hagel, *Irene Hagel*, Doreen Long, Tom McLean, Linda Patton, Jack Pickett, Valerie Rein, Bill Thompson, Muriel Thompson, Tim Thompson, Irene White.
80. SPINNEY HILL. *Ed Driver*.
81. SQUAW RAPIDS. Bert Dalziel, Joan Dalziel, *Ryan Dudragne*, Clara Weighill.
82. SWIFT CURRENT. Anita Anderson, Jacquie Bolton, Stacy Bolton, Norris Currie, Ryan Dudragne, Laurent Dudragne, Mary Ann Dudragne, Ryan Dudragne, *Arnie Ens*, Norma Hain, Hugh Henry, Verna Lynn Knipfel, Dot Letkeman, Maxine Lundman, Rita McLaughlin, Kevin Moore, Janet Payne, Harold Steppuhn, Irene Stinson, Sharlane Toole, Kae Waters.
83. THICKWOOD HILLS-SPIRITWOOD. Margie Fast, Giles Lalonde, Susan Lalonde, Carole Martin, Kay Willson, *Philip Willson*.
84. TURTLE LAKE. *David Forbes*, Fred Hegelton, Jackie Hegelton, Brent Keen, Cheryl Robbins.
85. TURTLEFORD. Angela Csiki, Hank DeGraaf, Miles Johnson, *Brent Keen*, Louise Lundberg, Ron Perkins, Richard Roney, Colin Rudolf, Marg Uhlig.
86. WEYBURN. Glen Fleming, Millie Fleming, Dale Huff, Sandy Huff, Charlotte Payak, Cole Payak, Don Payak, Joe Stefaniuk, Doyle Thomas, Tanis Thomas, *Val Thomas*, Kim Thorson, Myrt Thorson, John Whitell.
87. WHITE BEAR. Greg Nelson, Yvonne Nelson, Glen Pederson, *Dan Zazelenchuk*.
88. WHITEWOOD. Ken Aldous, Carole Armstrong, Cindy Ashfield, Joe Ashfield, Paul Ashfield, Kerri Bachtold, Joyce Kydd, Sarah Mambourg, *Boyd Metzler*, Harry Mitchell, Marilyn Mitchell, Donna Mohr, Margaret Niemenen, Paul Niemenen, Tony Saltasuk, Doug Shepherd.
89. WINGARD. *Rebecca Beam*.

TABLE 1. Weather and Snow Cover.

LOCALITY	DATE	MIN TEMP (C)	MAX TEMP (OC)	MIN WIND (KM/HR)	MAX WIND (KM/HR)	MIN SMOW (CM)	MAX SNOW (CM)	SKY A.M.	SKY P.M.
Archerwill	18 Dec 2017	-4	-2	16	20	10	10	clear	clear
Avonlea	3 Jan 2018	-7	0	0	0	0	10	overcast	partly cloudy
Balgonie	30 Dec 2017	-36	-28	3	10	3	10	clear	mostly clear
Biggar	14 Dec 2017	-2	-1	18	30	0	10	mostly clear	partly cloudy
Birch Hills	4 Jan 2018	-27	-18	6	11	14	14	light snow	overcast
Borden-Radisson	2 Jan 2018	-19	-6	4	16	0	3	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Broadview	21 Dec 2017	-23	-9	5	20	0	5	clear	partly cloudy
Cater	4 Jan 2018	-12	-9	0	0	6	20	overcast	overcast
Chatsworth S.D.	5 Jan 2018	-20	-16	10	25	3	20	cloudy	cloudy
Christopher Lake	18 Dec 2017	-3	-1	6	20	10	15	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Churchbridge B	31 Dec 2017								
Clark's Crossing	16 Dec 2017	-5	0	15	28	0	20	partly cloudy	cloudy
Coronach	17 Dec 2017	-6	1	16	35	0	2	mostly clear	cloudy
Craven	16 Dec 2017	-33	-22	9	17	2	15	mostly clear	mostly clear
Creighton	16 Dec 2017	-5	1	19	31	0	2	clear	clear
Crooked Lake	18 Dec 2017	-2	0	6	11	0	10	cloudy	partly cloudy
Crooked River	30 Dec 2017	-35	-30	6	19	25	30	clear	clear
Cypress Hills P.P.	29 Dec 2017	-28	-28	20	25	5	20	mod. Fog	partly cloudy
Denholm	25 Dec 2017	-28	-22	0	12	1	20	clear	clear
Dorintosh	26 Dec 2017		-23		15		25	overcast	overcast
Dundurn	4 Jan 2018	-11	-7	6	11	4	15	cloudy	cloudy
Duval	1 Jan 2018	-30	-21	5	10	3	40	clear	mostly clear
Eastend	4 Jan 2018	-9	-2	10	15	5	10	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Ebenezer B	5 Jan 2018	-9	-6	15	15	30	30	mostly clear	mostly clear
Endeavour	25 Dec 2017	-36	-22	0	0	20	40	mostly clear	overcast
Estevan	4 Jan 2018	-18	-10	7	20	0	10	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Estuary North	2 Jan 2018	-7	-7	5	5			clear	clear
Fenton	3 Jan 2018	-13	-10	20	20	10		overcast	overcast
Floral	28 Dec 2017	-31	-22	11	15	0	10	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Fort Qu'Appelle	16 Dec 2017	0	2	2	2	0	2	clear	clear
Gardiner Dam	18 Dec 2017	-7	-1	15	41	0	10	partly cloudy	mostly clear
Good Spirit Lake	21 Dec 2017	-22	-12	15	30	12	25	clear	overcast
Grasslands N.P.	17 Dec 2017	-7	-1	10	20	0	1	partly cloudy	light snow
Grayson	29 Dec 2017	-32	-28	5	20	0	10	mostly clear	mostly clear
Greenwater	3 Jan 2018	-17	-12	11	11	30	40	mod. snow	overcast
Grenfell	3 Jan 2018	-22	-14	2	5	2	4	clear	partly cloudy
Harris	21 Dec 2017	-13	-10	18	35	0	5	overcast	light snow
Hazlet	27 Dec 2017	-23	-20	2	20	0	5	cloudy	partly cloudy
Hudson Bay	5 Jan 2018	-32	-25	2	5	20	25	mostly clear	
Indian Head	29 Dec 2017	-28	-28	0	0	10	10	light snow	light snow
Kenaston	15 Dec 2017	0	3	0	10	0	1	mostly clear	overcast
Kenosee Lake	24 Dec 2017	-23	-19	20	30	4	20	clear	partly cloudy
Ketchen North	26 Dec 2017	-33	-26	0	10	25	30	clear	clear
Kindersley North	26 Dec 2017	-30	-29	2	5	0	2	clear	clear
Kinloch	2 Jan 2018	-14	-11	30	39	22	25	cloudy	partly cloudy

LOCALITY	DATE	MIN TEMP (C)	MAX TEMP (OC)	MIN WIND (KM/HR)	MAX WIND (KM/HR)	MIN SMOW (CM)	MAX SNOW (CM)	SKY A.M.	SKY P.M.
Kyle	29 Dec 2017	-31	-28	12	29	0	4	partly cloudy	clear
La Ronge	26 Dec 2017	-34	-30	4	6	30	30	clear	clear
Leader North	3 Jan 2018	-13	0	0	5	2	5	mostly clear	overcast
Leroy	2 Jan 2018	-11	-9	10	25	0	30	overcast	mostly clear
Love-Torch River	26 Dec 2017	-31	-5	10	15	5	17	clear	clear
Luseland	4 Jan 2018	-9	-3	0	10	2	13	mostly clear	mostly clear
Meadow Lake	26 Dec 2017	-30	-26	13	26			clear	clear
Melfort	30 Dec 2017	-33	-28	5	15	5	15	clear	clear
Moose Jaw	4 Jan 2018	-12	-8	8	14	0	4	cloudy	partly cloudy
Moose Mountain	4 Jan 2018	-17	-15	23	25	2	2	cloudy	light snow
Morse	27 Dec 2017	-20	-2	11	16	6	18	overcast	mostly clear
Nipawin	23 Dec 2017	-25	-23	0	9	11	11	clear	clear
Nisbet Forest NW	14 Dec 2017	-4	0	3	13	14	14	overcast	overcast
Nisbet Forest West	27 Dec 2017	-25	-20	5	10	5	15	clear	clear
Odessa	3 Jan 2018	-30	-24	6	29			light snow	light snow
Pike Lake	5 Jan 2018	-14	-9	0	32	0	20	clear	clear
Ponteix	26 Dec 2017	-32	-24	10	15	2	15	clear	clear
Prince Albert	17 Dec 2017	-6	-3	5	10	10	10	overcast	overcast
Qu'Appelle	28 Dec 2017	-32	-26	6	11	0	10	clear	clear
Qu'Appelle Dam	17 Dec 2017	-6	1	10	21	0	10	cloudy	partly cloudy
Regina	26 Dec 2017	-32	-25	9	18	3	10	clear	clear
Rokeby	19 Dec 2017	-10		2		5	10	mostly clear	mostly clear
Roscommon S.D.	3 Jan 2018	-24	-13	20	25	10	15	cloudy	overcast
Rouleau	18 Dec 2017	0	3	1	6	0	1	cloudy	mostly clear
Round Lake (P.A.)		-14	-12	0	13	6	8	overcast	
Round Lake (Q.V.)	16 Dec 2017	0	1	6	11	0	15	clear	mostly clear
Saltcoats	15 Dec 2017	-5	-5	12	20	14	14		mod. Snow
Sask. Landing P.P.	28 Dec 2017	-28	-18	6	19	2	5	clear	cloudy
Sask. River Forks	16 Dec 2017	-9	-2	5	10	5	10	partly cloudy	cloudy
Saskatoon	26 Dec 2017	-37	-25	9	15	0	20	clear	clear
Sawyer Lake	28 Dec 2017	-27	-22	4	7	30	40	clear	clear
Shamrock	14 Dec 2017	-4	-1	5	30	0	0	clear	clear
Shell Lake	14 Dec 2017	-2	-1	0	20	0	15	overcast	partly cloudy
Snowden	3 Jan 2018	-20	-19	30	39	5	23	cloudy	cloudy
Spinney Hill	16 Dec 2017	-7	-3	20	40	0	10	clear	partly cloudy
Squaw Rapids	5 Jan 2018	-18	-15	10	18	10	30	light snow	light snow
Swift Current	16 Dec 2017	-7	-1	20	30	0	1	mostly clear	mostly clear
Thickwood-Spiritwood	15 Dec 2017	0	3	10	25	0	10	overcast	light rain
Turtle Lake	17 Dec 2017	-7	-4	2	5	8	20	cloudy	clear
Turtleford	30 Dec 2017	-36	-29	0	7	1	30	mostly clear	mostly clear
Weyburn	4 Jan 2018	-19	-15	16	20	1	2	cloudy	cloudy
White Bear	21 Dec 2017	-12	-7	12	19	0	1	cloudy	overcast
Whitewood	27 Dec 2017	-31	-20	20	39	4	10	overcast	partly cloudy
Wingard	3 Jan 2018								
AVERAGES		-18	-12	9	18	6	14		

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	SHIELD, BOG, SWAMP	WILD FRUIT CROP	
Archerwill	14	3.2	1.5	0	0.0	8.0		25						50	25						p
Avonlea	4	0.2	0.3	74	3.5	4.0			5			5	5	40	5	40					p
Balgonie	10	8.0	0.5	206	12.0	4.0				30				40		30					f
Biggar	11	13.0	11.0	390	11.5	5.0				20				40	5	35					p
Birch Hills	2	1.0	1.3	114	2.5	4.0			5	15	5		5	55	5	5		5			g
Borden-Radisson	5	5.0	2.5	145	5.5	2.0						10		65	5	15		5			f
Broadview	4	1.0	1.0	135	5.5	2.0			20	25		5	10	25	5	10					p
Cater	2	0.0	0.0	243	7.0	1.6	5	10	5	15			5	50	5	5					f
Chatsworth S.D.	11	1.0	10.0	75	4.0	5.0				80		10	5		5						p
Christopher Lake	1	12.0	2.5	0	0.0	0.0		60		30						10					p
Churchbridge B	1					1.0										100					p
Clark's Crossing	24	13.5	14.3	507	26.0	3.5				28	4	4	4	22	10	22	1	5			p
Coronach	1	0.8	0.4	221	7.3	0.0						15	15	55	<1	10	5				e
Craven	40	19.3	21.9	318	21.9	8.0				30	15	5	5	20	10	15					f
Creighton	5	9.0	5.0	203	9.0	8.0	20	10								40			30		g
Crooked Lake	1	1.0	0.3	139	4.5	0.0			25	20				20		20	15				p
Crooked River	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0		40						40	20						g
Cypress Hills P.P.	3	4.0	5.0	18	4.0	0.0	40	40	8			10			2						g
Denholm	5	0.0	0.0	240	7.5	5.0				10	5		5	70	5	5					g
Dorintosh	4	20.0	8.0	20	0.5	0.0		60							40						p
Dundurn	4	8.0	2.0	160	5.8	0.0						25		55	10	10					p
Duval	2	2.0	1.5	117	4.5	0.5				15	15			40	10	20					f
Eastend	15	7.0	9.0	180	33.0	2.5		5		20	50		5	5		15	<1				g
Ebenezer B	1	0.0	0.0	48	5.5	2.0		10				30	35	15		5		5			p
Endeavour	1	0.0	0.0	35	2.0	4.0				60					20	20					p
Estevan	8	5.0	4.3	197	4.8	5.0								20	4	16	10	50			p
Estuary North	3	3.0	3.0	20	4.0	4.0			10			40		40	10						f
Fenton	1	0.0	0.0	80	3.2	0.0															p
Floral	2	4.0	2.5	170	6.0	1.0				20				60	5	15					p
Fort Qu'Appelle	20	0.0	0.0	200	20.0	0.0				25	20		10	20	5	20					p
Gardiner Dam	12	19.0	18.3	419	15.8	1.0				5				50	6	10	29				p
Good Spirit Lake	3	0.0	0.0	120	6.0	0.0				30			40		5	25					f
Grasslands N.P.	1	2.0	0.5	290	8.5	0.0						90			5		5				f
Grayson	4	1.0	0.5	110	5.5	6.0				35	20			20	15	5		5			p
Greenwater	3	4.0	2.0	93	5.0	8.0		54						40	2	4					p
Grenfell	3	0.0	0.0	130	6.0	2.5			15	15		5	15	25	10	15					p
Harris	4	8.0	6.8	172	6.3	0.0				2				50	6	42					p
Hazlet	1	1.1	0.6	276	7.2	0.0					<1	10	15	65	5	5					p
Hudson Bay	5	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	7.0		40	40						20						f
Indian Head	21	1.5	1.0	262	5.0	25.0	5			10				75	5	5					p
Kenaston	3	0.0	0.0	84	4.0	1.0								90	5	5					
Kenosee Lake	2	2.0	1.0	154	3.0	1.0			20	25	10		5			40					p
Ketchen North	1	1.0	1.0	50	2.5	6.0				30			20	20	20	10					
Kindersley North	2	0.0	0.0	87	4.5	0.0															
Kinloch	7	3.0	1.0	117	13.0	4.0		10	20	30				20	20						p

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	SHIELD, BOG, SWAMP	WILD FRUIT CROP
Kyle	4	5.0	2.0	325	12.0	0.0						15	5	30	20	15		15		p
La Ronge	10	5.0	8.0	75	5.5	16.5	20		10					10		50		10		p
Leader North	1	4.0	1.0	50	3.0	3.5						40	20	20	20					f
Leroy	3	3.0	1.5	148	5.0	0.5				35				35	10	20				g
Love-Torch River	26	1.0	0.5	348	14.5	15.0	20	10		50					10	10				p
Luseland	6	9.0	4.5	372	5.5	2.0				40	10	5	5	20	10	10				f
Meadow Lake	2	0.0	0.0	133	3.0	0.0		50						30		20				f
Melfort	9	0.5	0.5	210	12.0	6.0				5				45		50				p
Moose Jaw	4	14.1	5.7	331	11.2	0.0			5			5	10	35		35		10		f
Moose Mountain	7	0.0	0.0		5.0	0.5		60				2		29	3	6				f
Morse	10	4.0	1.3	496	22.5	0.0							3	90	7					g
Nipawin	17	2.0	1.0	163	10.0	16.0	15	5		15				20	10	30	5			p
Nisbet Forest NW	1	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	4.5		30						10	50			10		p
Nisbet Forest West	3	0.5	1.0	46	2.2	3.0	25	15	10	30				10	10					f
Odessa	3		3.0		12.0	3.0				20	20	10	20	10	20					p
Pike Lake	20	27.0	18.3	383	21.8	10.0														g
Ponteix	1	0.8	0.5	221	6.5	1.1				<1		10	20	60	5	5	<1	<1		p
Prince Albert	23	24.2	13.8	545	29.8	4.3														p
Qu'Appelle	9	3.0	1.8	191	9.5	22.0				60	5		5	20	5	5				p
Qu'Appelle Dam	10	11.0	8.5	578	19.3	0.0				31	20	1	2	5	9	18	9	5		p
Regina	49	60.1	29.3	583	26.2	14.1				5				25	5	65				f
Rokeby	13	0.0	0.0	140	7.5	15.0		2							95	3				
Roscommon S.D.	9	0.0	0.0	96	3.2	21.0				20				60	20					p
Rouleau	4	1.0	0.5	193	5.5	1.5					5			80	5	10				p
Round Lake (P.A.)	1	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	3.0		30		25			30			5		10		p
Round Lake (Q.V.)	3	0.0	0.5	167	5.0	0.0			20	30				20		20	10			p
Saltcoats	14	0.0	0.0	79	4.0	0.0				65					20	15				p
Sask. Landing P.P.	2	4.0	2.0	225	7.0	0.0				5		10		45	15			25		p
Sask. River Forks	2	1.0	0.5	89	5.3	0.5	15	20	15	15			5	15	5		10			p
Saskatoon	69	72.0	30.0	924	66.0	54.0	1	2		12	3	1	1	6	2	67	1	4		p
Sawyer Lake	4	16.0	6.0	132	10.0	4.0		20	20	30	25				5					f
Shamrock	6	2.5	2.5	340	12.0	0.5						5	5	70	15	5				
Shell Lake	5	5.3	2.85	238	7.5	0	5	<1	25	5	5	5	30	15	<1	5		5		f
Snowden	16	1.0	3.0	150	3.0	7.0		10						35	50	5				f
Spinney Hill	1	2.0	0.4	153	5.6	0.0														p
Squaw Rapids	4	1.1	1.5	179	8.2	1.5		70	20					5			5			p
Swift Current	20	37.9	20.0	337	19.0	11.5							20	5	70			5		f
Thickwood-Spiritwood	5	1.5	1.0	152	5.5	5.0	5	10		25			10	30	5	10		5		g
Turtle Lake	5	4.0	4.0	32	2.0	0.3	25	25		25				25						f
Turtleford	9	10.0	5.0	255	8.0	10.0				45				50		5				g
Weyburn	14	0.0	0.0	300	11.0	4.0			2		2	5	6	60	10	15				f
White Bear	4	3.0	1.5	446	12.5	0.0						5	5	70	10			10		
Whitewood	16		0.5	303	13.5	29.0				10				10	10	70				p
Wingard	1																			
Totals	724.0	520.0	324.1	16744.2	762.9	439.3														

TABLE 3. Species found on 6 or more counts; () = seen during count period (CP).

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 18 DEC 2017	AVONLEA 3 JAN 2018	BALGONIE 30 DEC 2017	BIGGAR 4 DEC 2017	BIRCH HILLS 4 JAN 2018	BORDEN-RADISSON 2 JAN 2018	BROADVIEW 21 DEC 2017	CATER 4 JAN 2018	CHATSWORTH S.D. 5 JAN 2018	CHRISTOPHER LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CHURCHBRIDGE B 17 DEC 2017	CLARK'S CROSSING 16 DEC 2017	CORONACH 17 DEC 2017	CRAVEN 16 DEC 2017	CREIGHTON 16 DEC 2017	CROOKED LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CROOKED RIVER 30 DEC 2017	CYPRESS HILLS PP. 29 DEC 2017	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2017	DORINTOSH 31 DEC 2017	DUNDURN 4 JAN 2018	DUVAL 1 JAN 2018	EASTEND 4 JAN 2018	EBENEZER B 5 JAN 2018	
Canada Goose												350	14855		1	602									
Mallard													5679			5								3	
Common Goldeneye												26	4												
Gray Partridge				4		15						84	14				(5)		(7)			21		6	
Ring-necked Pheasant													16											33	
Ruffed Grouse	2				2		2	4	5								3	1	(1)	3					
Sharp-tailed Grouse	(1)	15	24	7			19	3				40	13		3				(10)			17	4	83	
Rock Pigeon	(10)	177	158	68	76	25	5	16	30			282	78	66	53	66			89	13	10	73	13		
Eurasian Collared-Dove		45	10	13		1	2						25	6					4			1	35		
Mourning Dove			1	3								1	1												
Bald Eagle			1				(1)					2		2		2			(1)				(1)	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk												2													
Northern Goshawk												(1)		1					(1)					1	
Rough-legged Hawk							(1)						2	1		1									
Golden Eagle													2			1								1	
Great Horned Owl	1		1	6			(1)		(1)			3		1						1		1	1	(1)	
Snowy Owl		2	2	1			1					2	3	1			(1)	1	4			4			
Downy Woodpecker	4		10	4	8	7	3	6	6	(2)	2	15		21	1		3		6	2	10	5	11	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	5		5	6	3	4	1	4	7	1	2	10		11	3		2		2	2	3		4		
Black-backed Woodpecker								(1)																	
Northern Flicker												1	1									3		6	
Pileated Woodpecker	(1)					1				(1)					2				(1)						
Merlin	1			1			1					3	1												
Prairie Falcon							1																1		
Northern Shrike							2					2		1		2						1			
Gray Jay	1														8						2				
Blue Jay	26	1	2	3	1	3		10	5	7		17		40		2	4		(2)	8	1	1	3	2	
Black-billed Magpie	7	5	72	129	15	45	26	40	21		5	272	4	113	12	21	4	10	83	2	69	25	78	28	
Common Raven	13	2	26	62	6	41	19	83	25	3		171		61	160	25	1	1	21	4	35	13	22	19	
Horned Lark	(350)	20		1			(12)						2	2											
Black-capped Chickadee	41		96	84	31	64	23	40	59	44	25	166		175	23	48	11	34	10	20	43	24	56	11	
Boreal Chickadee								1		3					8										
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	(1)		6		1	1			(2)		11		5	3			5		2	1	1	7		
White-breasted Nuthatch	4		4	3	5	4	2	6	6	5	1	8		26		4	2			2	4		1		
Brown Creeper				1		1						1										1			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				6																					
American Robin				1								1										2			
Varied Thrush				1								1													
European Starling		25		36					25			303	16	120					7			3			
Bohemian Waxwing	(3)		(1)	25		24	21					34		(1)	76			15	7		432	18	(30)		
House Sparrow		100	240	463	68	240	75	34	104		1	1009	567	451	52	3		8	75		227	371	157	25	
Evening Grosbeak	26									(8)					21		2			5			5		
Pine Grosbeak	66			16	13	5	29	95	29	7	6	34		5	96	11	6	(8)	14	10	14				
House Finch		6	1	41			(1)					144		10								32		23	
Purple Finch									20										1						
Common Redpoll	52	65	291	159	72	62	742	224	176	12	25	121	94	285	71	24	6	(2)	142	17	320	11	175		
Hoary Redpoll	11			1	1		(1)					2			6		7		2			1			
White-winged Crossbill						9						5		10									(1)		
Pine Siskin		(1)										7											6		
American Goldfinch						(1)						2		(1)											
Snow Bunting	(50)		9	3	125	550		90	32			58							2			52		100	
White-throated Sparrow															1									1	
Dark-eyed Junco	3	2	2	2			3	2	1			1		2	1							1		3	
Red-winged Blackbird				1																					
Rusty Blackbird		1																				2			
Common Grackle		1																							
TOTAL BIRDS COUNT DAY	264	468	959	1242	426	1102	978	658	551	82	67	3193	21441	1420	619	821	51	75	470	92	1260	605	747	188	
TOTAL BIRDS ONLY IN CP	415	2	1	0	0	0	128	1	2	13	0	1	0	2	0	0	6	10	23	0	0	0	33	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT DAY	17	16	20	32	14	19	20	16	16	8	8	38	22	27	23	17	12	8	17	14	28	15	24	8	
TOTAL SPECIES ONLY IN CP	6	2	1	0	0	0	8	1	2	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	7	0	0	0	4	0	

	ENDEAVOUR 27 DEC 2017	ESTEVAN 4 JAN 2018	ESTUARY NORTH 2 JAN 2018	FENTON 3 JAN 2018	FLORAL 28 DEC 2017	FORT OUIAPPELLE 16 DEC 2017	GARDINER DAM 18 DEC 2017	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 21 DEC 2017	GRASSLANDS N.P. 17 DEC 2017	GRAYSON 29 DEC 2017	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2018	GRENFELL 3 JAN 2018	HARRIS 21 DEC 2017	HAZLET 27 DEC 2017	HUDSON BAY 5 JAN 2018	INDIAN HEAD 29 DEC 2017	KENASTON 15 DEC 2017	KENOSEE LAKE 24 DEC 2017	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2017	KINDERSLEY NORTH 26 DEC 2017	KINLOCH 2 JAN 2018	KYLE 29 DEC 2017	LA RANGE 26 DEC 2017	LEADER NORTH 3 JAN 2018	
Canada Goose		4135				4	1211																		
Mallard		717				10	1622									19									
Common Goldeneye		33				1	271									3									
Gray Partridge					22	(8)	18		(10)			11	8	40		13	9				67		90		
Ring-necked Pheasant		133	116						17																21
Ruffed Grouse	1					1					2					1	6			9		4		9	
Sharp-tailed Grouse		3	63			2	10	5	(10)	(26)			21	23		27	11	4					24		
Rock Pigeon	2	595		30	181	125	101					55	22	3		180	11			60			39	20	
Eurasian Collared-Dove		38	1			1	3	3		14			8	2		11							26		
Mourning Dove						(1)																			
Bald Eagle	(1)				1	2	65			2						1				1				1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	(1)																								
Northern Goshawk			1				1												1			(1)	(1)		
Rough-legged Hawk			1						2										1						
Golden Eagle		1	1				1		(1)																
Great Horned Owl			3			2	1	2	3	(1)		1	4	5	(1)	1	1				3		15	1	
Snowy Owl		1				1	3		(1)				7	5			1						5	1	
Downy Woodpecker	(1)	8	2	1	7	13	7	3		3	3	1	4		7	16		8	6		3		3	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	4	2		5	8	3	4		3	4	1	1		9	16		8	6		7		11		
Black-backed Woodpecker																									
Northern Flicker		2	1			1																			
Pileated Woodpecker	(1)							1							(1)			2							
Merlin									(1)																
Prairie Falcon			1				1																(1)		
Northern Shrike										(2)									(1)						
Gray Jay																4							2	7	
Blue Jay	3	2	16	3	4	15	4	12		1	22	1		2	40	15		27	14		30	1		2	
Black-billed Magpie	(1)	32	43	19	49	101	122	28	1	15	8	17	207	43	1	101	10	30	23	40	36	77	1	24	
Common Raven	10	9	3	11	26	97	38	12	3	6	11	13	65	3	65	111	8	8	48	2	52	7	195	1	
Horned Lark		16		1					5					380			(2)						10		
Black-capped Chickadee	29	30	18	11	71	259	24	58		44	32	6	9		48	139	(2)	60	16		39	6	45	4	
Boreal Chickadee											4				3									5	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4	1		4	1	4					2	2			22		2						3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	10			4	32	3	3			4	1			11	23		8	(1)		4			4	
Brown Creeper							2						1												
Golden-crowned Kinglet							5						1											3	
American Robin		1	2			(1)						(1)													
Varied Thrush																									
European Starling		7	60		3	8	29					10		12		14			8				1		
Bohemian Waxwing		2	60		181	27	9					1(5)												77	
House Sparrow		85	150	30	151	249	302	85	93	19		111	507	398	12	363	47	1	19	40	3	600		25	
Evening Grosbeak	10										53					114						8		13	
Pine Grosbeak	41	1	6	2	4	8	7			3	89		2		27		(3)	20	30		49			45	
House Finch		7			2	18	2			9		4											12		
Purple Finch		2											1												
Common Redpoll		367	83		111	542	108	3	326	264	46	353	82	1	40	162	15	328	97	(6)	42	45	119		
Hoary Redpoll	1	4					2						3						14					7	
White-winged Crossbill													2												
Pine Siskin						(1)										8									
American Goldfinch						(2)										2									
Snow Bunting	(200)	4		75	1		10	52	14	100			1016	1640	(45)	4	2000	5	19	6	29	500	3		
White-throated Sparrow						(1)			1																
Dark-eyed Junco	7	6	1		3	5			1		2	1	2			6			(1)		3			15	
Red-winged Blackbird						1			1								2								
Rusty Blackbird																									
Common Grackle		1											1												
TOTAL BIRDS COUNT DAY	108	6309	636	183	836	1541	4132	261	490	460	280	597	1970	2555	382	1289	2113	513	309	219	312	1458	565	102	
TOTAL BIRDS ONLY IN CP	204	23	0	0	0	14	0	0	24	29	0	16	0	0	47	0	7	0	3	6	2	5	51	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT DAY	13	38	24	10	23	25	43	11	14	11	13	18	23	13	14	27	10	16	13	8	16	16	18	11	
TOTAL SPECIES ONLY IN CP	5	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	3	0	2	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	1	2	5	2	0	

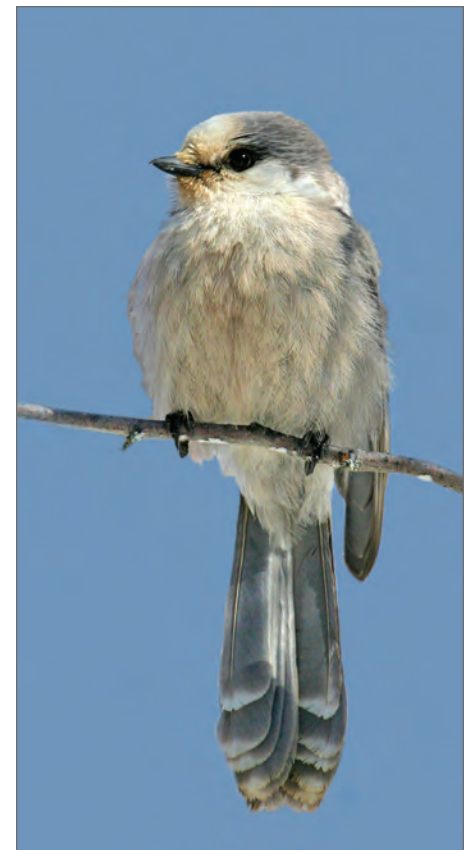
TABLE 3. Species found on 6 or more counts; () = seen during count period (CP).

SPECIES	LEROY 2 JAN 2018	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2017	LUSELAND 4 JAN 2018	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2017	MEFORT 30 DEC 2017	MOOSE JAW 4 JAN 2018	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P., 4 JAN 2018	MORSE 27 DEC 2017	NIPAWIN 23 DEC 2017	NISBET FOREST NW 14 DEC 2017	NISBET FOREST W 27 DEC 2017	ODESSA 3 JAN 2018	PIKE LAKE 5 JAN 2018	PONTEIX 26 DEC 2017	PRINCE ALBERT 17 DEC 2017	OU'APPELLE 28 DEC 2017	OU'APPELLE DAM 17 DEC 2017	REGINA 26 DEC 2017	ROKBY 19 DEC 2017	ROSCOMMON S.D. 3 JAN 2018	ROULEAU 18 DEC 2017	ROUND LAKE (P.A.) UNDATED	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 16 DEC 2017	SALTCOATS 15 DEC 2017
Canada Goose								51									625	186						
Mallard						5											187	15						
Common Goldeneye									3						(6)	155	(1)							
Gray Partridge	5		79		2			130				10		18		(8)		87	52	13				28
Ring-necked Pheasant						2		(1)						(1)										
Ruffed Grouse		5					2				(1)	4	4		3	2			4	4				5
Sharp-tailed Grouse	6							25			(1)	24	87	18	1	7	2	(1)	57					4
Rock Pigeon	41	97	33		119	334	3	73	163		10	8	137	12	335	126	294	736	251	17	91		12	
Eurasian Collared-Dove			12		7	65		47						104		2	7				(1)			14
Mourning Dove									2															
Bald Eagle		(1)		1								2					19		2			(1)	3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		(1)																2						
Northern Goshawk		1			1								1					1		1				
Rough-legged Hawk																		(1)						
Golden Eagle																	1							1
Great Horned Owl			5		(1)	3		25			(1)	4	3	6	(1)	2		5	1	(1)	3			
Snowy Owl			7		(1)	3		6				2	2	6		(1)		45	3		44			1
Downy Woodpecker	3	13	2		5	7	12	(2)	8	3	2		25	2	18	17	5	17	19	8	1	1	2	24
Hairy Woodpecker	1	11	(1)		4	2	3		6	2	1	6	11		18	18	3	3	16	12		1	3	21
Black-backed Woodpecker		4																						
Northern Flicker			1									4			(1)		1	(1)	2					
Pileated Woodpecker		(1)			(1)		1		(1)			2	(1)		3								2	1
Merlin						1							1		(1)			1	1					
Prairie Falcon																								
Northern Shrike		(1)									1		2	1	1			1	1				(1)	
Gray Jay		12													3									
Blue Jay		29	13	10	5	3	8	2	24	2	4	2	13		42		5	7	9	16			8	9
Black-billed Magpie	37	69	125	16	48	78	14	68	36	2	9	32	225	29	205	129	85	68	60	66	3	1	16	10
Common Raven	48	101	7	52	354	31	8	2	219		23	25	114		506	153	37	53	53	42	5	1	32	23
Horned Lark			6		42			595						674		19								1
Black-capped Chickadee	26	143	16	2	42	20	30		68	20	27	20	428		246	107	34	153	126	106		14	51	105
Boreal Chickadee		4													2							2		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		19	2		9	10	1	(1)	13				2		5	4	5	45	2					6
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	8			4	5	2		7	2	(1)		16		19	7	6	11	4	7			12	19
Brown Creeper					(1)			1										2						
Golden-crowned Kinglet								(3)							1		3	1						
American Robin		(1)	(1)			3						2			1		2	1						
Varied Thrush																	1	1						
European Starling	5	10	2		60	67		1	90			6	22	5	41	16	8	12						
Bohemian Waxwing	9	(1)			1262	55	(2)	115					12	75	4424		30		1					
House Sparrow	198	62	14		400	429	14	1081	32		10	40	327	449	548	251	360	2093	489	81	87		107	189
Evening Grosbeak		177						33			70				42								10	
Pine Grosbeak		190	2	28	3		14		104	12	29	2	94		298	3	21	1		58		6		15
House Finch			(1)			103		1					27	1	2	2	15	195						
Purple Finch															(1)	5						2		
Common Redpoll	72	426	340		57	6	550	203	148	10	381		294	6	817	663	26	15	401	820		10	50	167
Hoary Redpoll		3			2			2	5				12		(1)				5	2			1	
White-winged Crossbill									5													6		
Pine Siskin	5				9								4							2				7
American Goldfinch						2									(6)				(1)					
Snow Bunting	170	940	90	23	(9)	125		3531				10	700	350	20	256		151	60	425	18			203
White-throated Sparrow																10		1						
Dark-eyed Junco		5	(1)			14			5						1	1		27		1				10
Red-winged Blackbird						5									1									
Rusty Blackbird												4	3											
Common Grackle						2												1						
TOTAL BIRDS COUNT DAY	728	2332	756	132	2404	1424	662	5846	1093	53	567	209	2566	1761	7605	1810	1911	3971	1620	1687	254	47	303	862
TOTAL BIRDS ONLY IN CP	0	6	4	0	13	0	0	10	1	0	4	0	1	1	19	9	0	4	0	2	1	1	1	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT DAY	16	23	18	7	20	28	14	19	21	8	12	20	26	19	28	23	29	33	24	19	9	10	16	21
TOTAL SPECIES ONLY IN CP	0	6	4	0	5	0	0	6	1	0	4	0	1	1	9	2	0	4	0	2	1	1	1	0

SPECIES	SK LANDING P.P. 28 DEC 2017	SK RIVER FORKS 16 DEC 2017	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2017	SAWYER LAKE 28 DEC 2017	SHAMROCK 14 DEC 2017	SHELL LAKE 14 DEC 2017	SNOWDEN 3 JAN 2018	SPINNEY HILL 16 DEC 2017	SQUAW RAPIDS 5 JAN 2018	SWIFT CURRENT 16 DEC 2017	THICKWOOD HILLS- SPRITWOOD 15 DEC 2017	TURTLE LAKE 19 DEC 2017	TURTLEFORD 30 DEC 2017	WEYBURN 2 JAN 2018	WHITE BEAR 21 DEC 2017	WHITWOOD 27 DEC 2017	WINGARD 3 JAN 2018	TOTALS COUNT DAY	TOTALS ONLY IN COUNT PERIOD	# COUNTS COUNT DAY	# COUNTS ONLY IN COUNT PERIOD
Canada Goose			776						5									22801	0	12	0
Mallard	1		9							10		1						8283	0	14	0
Common Goldeneye		4	121						138									759	7	11	2
Gray Partridge	16		9		36		4			28			34	18	59			1050	38	33	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	4				17					6				1				366	2	11	2
Ruffed Grouse			1	2			3		3		(2)		1			5	12	115	4	32	3
Sharp-tailed Grouse	36		35		17		9		2				4	6	34	16		811	49	41	6
Rock Pigeon	17		1314	48	35	10		23	2	496	34		96	148	95	118		8050	10	65	1
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8		30		13									18		39		807	1	34	1
Mourning Dove																1		9	1	6	1
Bald Eagle			(1)	(1)		1			3		(1)	1				2		115	9	21	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2							1						1		8	2	5	2
Northern Goshawk	1			(1)				1										12	5	12	5
Rough-legged Hawk			1		1													10	2	8	2
Golden Eagle	2				1													12	1	10	1
Great Horned Owl	2		1		9					6			1		11	2		146	9	38	9
Snowy Owl	2				9					3			1	2	(1)			181	5	33	5
Downy Woodpecker	4	2	51		2	3	8	1	2	14	4	1	14	4		21	2	550	5	73	3
Hairy Woodpecker		1	21	1		5	5	1	1	2	3	1	10		1	15	2	379	1	68	1
Black-backed Woodpecker						1	1				(1)							6	2	3	2
Northern Flicker	1		12							7								43	2	14	2
Pileated Woodpecker		1	1	(1)		1			2			1	(1)					21	11	14	11
Merlin			5		2					1								19	2	12	2
Prairie Falcon																		4	1	4	1
Northern Shrike			2								(1)		(1)			1		18	7	13	6
Gray Jay				5			5		4			4						57	0	12	0
Blue Jay	1	5	96	7		12	35	9	18	5	14	1	8			28	4	804	2	70	1
Black-billed Magpie	75	23	368	19	30	24	30	22	17	178	16	7	73	38	151	61		4677	1	86	1
Common Raven	2	12	234	7	3	42	54	8	35	2	26	25	36	44	5	84		4125	0	84	0
Horned Lark	37				29					3					2			1845	472	19	3
Black-capped Chickadee	11	22	744	11	1	71	89	20	19	34	39	14	90	1		176	13	5215	2	79	1
Boreal Chickadee		3				7	4		1									47	0	13	0
Red-breasted Nuthatch			96			1	4	2		50	1		1	4		8		379	4	44	3
White-breasted Nuthatch			16			7	10	3	1	3	4	3	3	1		21	2	400	2	58	2
Brown Creeper	1		1							5								17	1	11	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet			5			3				3								31	3	10	1
American Robin			10															26	4	11	4
Varied Thrush			1															5	0	5	0
European Starling			33			6				4			(2)			22		1097	2	36	1
Bohemian Waxwing	19		397							42						20		7469	53	28	7
House Sparrow	400	5	2668	88	1273	2	63	10	25	1367	6		141	220	946	340	100	22475	0	78	0
Evening Grosbeak		16					91		1				43				9	749	8	20	1
Pine Grosbeak		48	59	7		68	157	5	6	6	15	19	64			21	8	2153	11	62	2
House Finch			454							121						3		1257	2	26	2
Purple Finch			2							2			30					65	1	9	1
Common Redpoll	280	186	251	16	45	19	355	22		(1)	56	12	284	34	105	894	6	14307	9	78	3
Hoary Redpoll			4										2					100	2	24	2
White-winged Crossbill		1	12			6					10							66	1	10	1
Pine Siskin			4				6			5								63	2	11	2
American Goldfinch																		6	11	3	5
Snow Bunting		99	3	290	41	5	145			28		25	81	350	(80)			14638	384	53	5
White-throated Sparrow			1															15	1	6	1
Dark-eyed Junco		1	3		10					20			7	4				184	2	38	2
Red-winged Blackbird																		11	0	6	0
Rusty Blackbird	1																	11	0	5	0
Common Grackle																		6	0	5	0
TOTAL BIRDS COUNT DAY	922	429	7858	501	1574	295	1078	127	291	2647	228	138	1024	1213	1409	1900	162	127798	1267		
TOTAL BIRDS ONLY IN CP	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	27	0	83	0	0	1267			
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT DAY	23	16	42	12	19	21	20	13	20	32	13	16	22	17	10	24	11	92			
TOTAL SPECIES ONLY IN CP	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	5			

TABLE 4. Species found in fewer than 6 counts.

SPECIES	LOCALITY AND NUMBER (*=SEEN DURING COUNT PERIOD)
Snow Goose	Estevan (21*)
Cackling Goose	Coronach (56), Estevan (37), Gardiner Dam (17)
Gadwall	Gardiner Dam (1), Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Northern Pintail	Gardiner Dam (1)
Green-winged Teal	Gardiner Dam (1), Saskatchewan Landing (1)
Redhead	Gardiner Dam (13)
Ring-necked Duck	Crooked Lake (1)
Greater Scaup	Estevan (1), Gardiner Dam (38)
Lesser Scaup	Crooked Lake (3), Estevan (3), Gardiner Dam (4)
Bufflehead	Estevan (3), Gardiner Dam (11)
Hooded Merganser	Estevan (2)
Common Merganser	Coronach (4), Gardiner Dam (57), Squaw Rapids (6)
Ruddy Duck	Estevan (1), Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Spruce Grouse	Creighton (1), Love-Torch River (3)
Willow Ptarmigan	Creighton (16), La Ronge (50*)
American Coot	Estevan (2)
Wilson's Snipe	Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Herring Gull	Gardiner Dam (2)
Glaucous Gull	Gardiner Dam (1)
Red-tailed Hawk	Coronach (1), Round Lake (Qu'Appelle Valley) (2)
Northern Hawk Owl	Endeavour (1*)
Great Gray Owl	Endeavour (1), Kinloch (1), La Ronge (1*), Prince Albert (1*)
Long-eared Owl	White Bear (1*)
Short-eared Owl	Kyle (1*), Moose Jaw (2), Ponteix (1), White Bear (1*)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Dundurn (1), Endeavour (1), Kyle (1*), Qu'Appelle Dam (1)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Estuary North (1), Saskatoon (1*)
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Creighton (1), Prince Albert (2), Saltcoats (1), Shell Lake (1)
Gyr Falcon	Clark's Crossing (1), Kyle (1*)
American Crow	Regina (1), Round Lake (1), Saskatoon (3), Turtle Lake (3)
Townsend's Solitaire	Swift Current (1)
Hermit Thrush	Swift Current (1)
Cedar Waxwing	Biggar (88), Turtle Lake (20), Turtleford (23*)
Red Crossbill	Broadview (2*), Melfort (11), Nipawin (7)
Lapland Longspur	Leroy (100), Ponteix (3), Qu'Appelle (10),
American Tree Sparrow	Craven (1), Eastend (19)
Chipping Sparrow	Prince Albert (1*)
Harris's Sparrow	Craven (1), Grasslands N.P. (1*), Morse (2)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Indian Head (2)
Western Meadowlark	Kinloch (1*)
Brown-headed Cowbird	Avonlea (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Rokeby (1), Whitewood (1), Wingard (1)



Gray Jay. Photo credit: Nick Saunders

TABLE 5. Birds not identified to species.

CATEGORY	LOCALITY AND NUMBER (*=SEEN DURING COUNT PERIOD)
Small Accipiter	Regina (2)
Accipiter sp.	Biggar (1) Churchbridge (1) Craven (1) Squaw rapids (1*)
Woodpecker sp.	Pike Lake (2)
Falcon sp.	Morse (1*)
Large Falcon sp.	Ponteix (1)
Crossbill sp.	Chatsworth (1*)
Blackbird sp.	Grenfell (1) Regina (1)

TABLE 6. New (in bold and italics) and tying high counts for individual species 2017.

LOCATION	2017 COUNT	SPECIES	PREVIOUS HIGH	LOCATION, YEAR
Estevan	21	<i>Snow Goose (count week)</i>	4	<i>Weyburn 1999, Regina 2015, 2016</i>
Gardiner Dam	38	Greater Scaup	23	Gardiner Dam 2016
Swift Current	196	Eurasian Collared-Dove	116	Swift Current 2009
Regina	45	<i>Snowy Owl</i>	45	<i>Regina 2011</i>
Estuary North, Saskatoon	1	<i>Red-bellied Woodpecker</i>	1	<i>Regina 2001, 2016; Yorkton 2007, Crooked River 2010, Grenfell 2013, Nipawin 2016</i>
Ft. Qu'Appelle	32	<i>White-breasted Nuthatch</i>	32	<i>Ft. Qu'Appelle 2013</i>
Swift Current	1	Hermit Thrush	1	MacDowall 1997, Estevan 2003, Regina 2006
Qu'Appelle	10	White-throated Sparrow	10	Armit 2005
Indian Head	2	<i>Yellow-headed Blackbird</i>	2	<i>Indian Head 2001</i>

NATURE SASKATCHEWAN FUNDERS LISTING 2017-18 FISCAL YEAR

CONSERVATION

DATA CENTRE

- Ministry of Environment
- Nature Serve
- SODCAP (South of the Divide Conservation Action Plan)

GENERAL

- SaskCulture

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

- SK Ministry of Environment (FWDF)
- Nature Canada
- Student Summer Works

NATUREHOOD

- Nature Canada

LAST MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY

- SaskEnergy
- SK Ministry of Environment FWDF
- Environment Canada (CWS)
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Murray & Edna Forbes Foundation (Sask. Community Foundation)
- Bird Studies Canada (Great Canadian Birdathon)
- Pat Barry Family Fund (Strategic Giving Foundation)
- Nature Canada (Wildlife Habitat Canada)
- Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation
- Student Summer Works
- EcoFriendly Sask

NATURE QUEST

- CIF
- SaskEnergy
- Community Hand in Hand

INNER NATURE

- Multi-Cultural Development Fund

BIRD SPECIES-AT-RISK

- Environment Canada (Habitat Stewardship Program)
- SK Ministry of Environment (Fish and Wildlife Development Fund)
- Mosaic
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- SaskTel
- ELSA Canada
- Student Summer Works
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Rosetown Wildlife Federation

RARE PLANT RESCUE

- Environment Canada (Habitat Stewardship Program)
- SK Ministry of Environment (Fish and Wildlife Development Fund)
- Mosaic
- ELSA Canada
- Canada Summer Jobs
- SaskTel

POETRY

Summer's Lassitude

The canopy of sky amasses
a towering cloud-summit, silent,
of grayish-blues and stunning purples--
a striking photocomposition
for every indolent observer.

Victor C. Friesen

P.O. Box 65
Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0
victorcfrisen@yahoo.com

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



Nature SASKATCHEWAN

*Without your voice, ours becomes a whisper.
Help us protect Saskatchewan's ecosystems and wildlife.*

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

Would you like to subscribe to all electronic communications? Yes
Would you like to receive our e-newsletter? Yes

1. I wish to enroll/renew my annual membership

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

	Print Version	Electronic Version
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Foreign/Outside Canada	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Institution/Business (CDN)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30

*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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Last Mountain Bird Observatory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Species at Risk Programs (OBO/SFS/POS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservation Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Plant Rescue Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Legacy Fund | |

Donate Online @ www.naturesask.ca/support

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: \$ _____

Fee Totals

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

Cheque (*payable to Nature Saskatchewan*) Visa MasterCard Cash

Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

JUNE 8-10, 2018 CORONACH, SK

Friday, June 8

Beverages and cookies provided

6:30 p.m. Registration
at Coronach Town Hall

7:30 p.m. Storytelling
with Kristin Catherwood —
Intangible Cultural Heritage
Development Officer with
Heritage Sask

8:30 p.m. Tour information
and logistics to be explained

Saturday, June 9

6:45 a.m. Breakfast
provided at Coronach Town Hall

7:45 a.m. Board bus
for 8:00 a.m. departure

8:00 a.m. Tour
Our tour will be taken on a coach
bus and accompanied by a guide
from Coronach Tourism with stops
around the Big Muddy Valley, which
include Castle Butte, Big Beaver
Nature Centre and General Store,
Effigies, and a lunch stop at the
Burgess Ranch with a presentation
on Outlaw history by Tammy Burgess
and an exploration of Big Muddy
Lake Important Bird and Biodiversity
Area.

5:30 p.m. Cocktails
at Coronach Town Hall

6:30 p.m. Banquet dinner

7:30 p.m. Presentation
given by 2017 Nature Saskatchewan
Conservation Award Winner
Dr. Jon Gerrard and Naomi Gerrard:
"Learning from 50 years with the
Bald Eagles of Saskatchewan's boreal
forest"

Sunday, June 10

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
provided at Coronach Town Hall

9:00 a.m. Annual General Meeting

*REGISTRATION (including cost)
ON BACK SIDE OF PAGE*

ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

*Please consider booking
early as Coronach has limited
accommodations*

In Coronach:

Country Boy Motel

143 Railway Avenue West (Highway
18 going through town). Visa and
Interac accepted.
(306) 267-3267

Poplar River Campground

5 km east of Coronach on
Highway 18. Cash or cheque only.
(306) 267-2005

Coronach Campground

Located at the end of Centre Street
in Coronach next to the Sportsplex
<http://coronachrec.wix.com/coronach>
(306) 267-2318 (Sportsplex)

Country Flavour Bed & Breakfast

Northwest of Coronach off of
Highway 18. Cash or cheque only.
(306) 267-4507 or (306) 267-7895

In Willowbunch:

Jolly Giant Motel

(306) 473-2345

SPRING MEET 2018

JUNE 8-10, 2018 CORONACH, SK

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Do you have any dietary needs or allergies (please circle)?

YES or NO

IF YES, what are they? _____

Spring Meet Fees (*Includes Saturday and Sunday
breakfasts as well as Saturday evening banquet meal).

Member Early Registration Fee

(prior to May 25) **\$120 x** _____ = \$ _____

Member Late Registration Fee

(after May 25): **\$135 x** _____ = \$ _____

Non-Member Early Registration Fee

(prior to May 25) : **\$135 x** _____ = \$ _____

Non-Member Late Registration Fee

(after May 25): **\$150 x** _____ = \$ _____

Additional Banquet Tickets

\$25/ticket x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Payment by Visa/Mastercard:

Card #: _____/_____/_____/_____

exp: _____/_____

Payment by Cheque:

Make cheque payable to Nature Saskatchewan

Mail, e-mail or call our office to register for the 2018
Spring Meet:

Nature Saskatchewan

206-1860 Lorne Street

Regina, SK S4P 2L7

info@nauresask.ca

1-800-667-4668 or (306) 780-9273

NOTES:

FALL MEET 2018 PREVIEW

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2018 SWIFT CURRENT, SK

Friday, September 14

6:30 p.m. Registration at Days Inn (905 North Service Road, Swift Current)

7:30 p.m. Larry Morgotch Photo Presentation/Viewing & tour logistics

Saturday, September 15

8:00 a.m. Tour will be to Clear Water Lake, northeast of Kyle for birding, then on to the Matador Pasture and the Sand Castles, southwest of Beechy near the north shore of Lake Diefenbaker.

5:30 p.m. Cocktails

6:30 p.m. Banquet

7:30 p.m. Presentation
Branimir Gjetvaj & Trevor Herriot:
"Islands of Grass"

BREAKFAST OPTIONS

Tim Hortons
North Service Road

Smitty's Restaurant
North Service Road

ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

Days Inn
905 North Service Road
Swift Current
1-800-329-7466
A block of 20 rooms has been reserved for Nature Saskatchewan until August 15, 2018

Caravel Motel
705 North Service Road
Swift Current
1-306-773-8385

Super 8
405 North Service Road
Swift Current
1-306-778-6088

Full details regarding the Fall Meet, and the registration form, will be in the Fall 2018 issue of Blue Jay and on the Nature Saskatchewan website as soon as information is available.

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, 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.

In the interests of space, we are including the Nomination Procedure only for the first award, since the 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.

Nomination Procedure

- Nominations can be made by Nature Saskatchewan members, directors, and staff. Local societies should consider nominating someone from their local group.
- 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 31, 2018.

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.

1. 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

2. 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.

3. 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 2018 Business Meeting, to be held on Saturday, September 15, is asked to send a written draft to the Nature Saskatchewan Office (info@naturesask.ca) no later than **Friday, August 10**. 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, August 31 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

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. Individual images must be in jpeg format with the longest dimension of no more than 1500 pixels. 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. ***Please be sure that your presentation runs on a standard PC.***

We'll have a computer and digital projector already set up.

Here's a chance to showcase some of your favourite images of nature without the pressure of competition.

POETRY

The Watchers

My love of birds
skipped a generation.
But now
young grandson
seems to share
my fascination.

Donna Firby Gamache
P.O. Box 453
MacGregor, MB
lucgam@mymts.net



Photo credit: Luc Gamache

STEWARDS OF SASKATCHEWAN STAFF UPDATE



Left to right: Kaytlyn Burrows, Rebecca Magnus, Melissa Ranalli, Ashley Vass, and Emily Putz

We are excited to announce that Melissa Ranalli is back in her role as Species at Risk Manager after nearly two years on maternity leave and joining her husband on sabbatical in Germany.

With Melissa's return, we have had some exciting changes in the office! Rebecca Magnus is now back to her permanent role as the Habitat Stewardship Coordinator for the Shrubs for Shrikes, Plovers on Shore, and Stewards of Saskatchewan banner programs, and Ashley Vass has moved from that position to coordinating the Rare Plant Rescue program. Kaytlyn Burrows remains in her position as the Operation Burrowing Owl Coordinator. Everyone working closely together on the Stewards of Saskatchewan suite of programs for a number of years has made this transition nearly seamless.

We are also excited that Emily Putz is staying with us in the Database Technician/Habitat Stewardship Assistant position. Emily has been and will continue to be an asset to the programs.

By now, the winter that seemed to never give up should finally be over and the Stewards of Saskatchewan crew will hopefully have muddied our

boots in the field. Stay tuned for our blog posts throughout the summer field work and we look forward to catching up with all of you in the near future.

Please find updated information for the Stewards of Saskatchewan staff below:

Melissa Ranalli: Species at Risk Manager; 306-780-9270; mranalli@naturesask.ca

Rebecca Magnus: Shrubs for Shrikes, Plovers on Shore, and Stewards of Saskatchewan Banner program; 306-780-9832; outreach@naturesask.ca

Kaytlyn Burrows: Operation Burrowing Owl; 306-780-9833; obo@naturesask.ca

Ashley Vass: Rare Plant Rescue; 306-780-9417; rpr@naturesask.ca

Emily Putz: Stewards of Saskatchewan Database Technician/Habitat Stewardship Assistant; 306-780-9834; eputz@naturesask.ca



NATURE SASKATCHEWAN WELCOMES BACK JORDAN RUSTAD AS LMBO/IBA SUMMER STAFF

Hello everyone, my name is Jordan Rustad. This summer I will be working with Nature Saskatchewan as the Important Bird Area (IBA)/Last Mountain Bird Observatory (LMBO) Summer Assistant. I am originally from a small farming community called Avonlea. Some of you may be familiar with local attractions like Dunnet Regional Park or the Avonlea Badlands. My passion for animals began on my family farm when I raised a variety of animals. I became interested in birds after a high school work placement at the Bird & Bat lab at the University of Regina. I had the opportunity to visit the MAPS banding station at Craven, and got

to extract birds from the mist nets. I heard about LMBO from Avonlea's librarian, Randi. She suggested that I go banding with her partner, Alan Smith, at LMBO. Since then, I have volunteered or worked at the bird observatory every summer. I completed my major in Biology at the University of Regina this December and will be graduating officially in June. My studies focused on ecology and environmental studies. When I'm not being a bird nerd, I enjoy reading fiction and history and knitting. I look forward to working with Nature Saskatchewan this summer, and hopefully adding a few new bird species to my checklist. 🐦



Photo Credit: Marla Anderson

POETRY

Verdant

The little pond holds spring in its hollow
Three Jumper yearlings rise and
In staccato leaps half flee
Only to circle back
When the dogs and I leave
To their shield of Buffalo Berries'
Lethal, thorny haven.

The pond itself covered with
Mallards, Redheads, Blue-Winged Teal
Northern Shovellers, Pintails
All taking flight and sailing back down
To the pond's still surface.

Six Sharp Tails drum up from the grass
Beyond the pond's berry, Willow, Badger Bush
covered banks
While raucous flights of gulls
With their Da Vinci wings
Soar and slice each whimsical gust
Of the mint scented East Wind.

George Grassick

P.O. Box 205
Lumsden, SK S0G 3C0
ggrassick@sasktel.net

INCURSION OF POST-BREEDING PINE SISKINS IN THE DUNE-RIDGE FOREST, DELTA MARSH, MANITOBA, 1985

Spencer G. Sealy

Department of Biological Sciences
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Spencer.Sealy@umanitoba.ca

The Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) is among several irruptive North American species that may be abundant at one locality in one year and absent the next.^{1,2} Such an episode occurred when large numbers of Pine Siskins appeared suddenly in the forested dune ridge, Delta Marsh³ (50°11'N, 98°19'W), Manitoba, in early July through mid-August 1985. I had not recorded this species while conducting research on songbird ecology in the ridge forest since 1973, nor in the years that followed through 1993.

I first observed a flock of ~30 Pine Siskins on July 1, 1985 feeding on seeds of the Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) that accumulated at the edge of a driveway and parking lot at the Delta Marsh Field Station. This provided an opportunity to determine whether the original flock members remained at the site or whether individuals arrived and departed over the ensuing days. Individuals were mist-netted and uniquely colour-marked so that they could be identified if captured again or subsequently observed on the study site.

Methods and Results

Two 12-m mist nests were erected end-to-end at the edge of the driveway on July 2, 1985. After being operated on most days, when weather permitted, by August 19, the last day of netting, 132 individuals had been

colour-marked – 25.7% in the year of hatching (HY) and 74.2% after the year of hatching (AHY). Each bird was fitted with an aluminum U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service band plus a unique combination of coloured celluloid bands. I aged each bird on the basis of plumage, as HY, with buffy or yellowish wash to the underparts and pointed rectrices (which occurs prior to the preformative molt), or as AHY, with dark streaks on gray undersides. Specimens deposited in the University of Manitoba Zoology Museum (UMZM) confirm the age designations: HY (UMZM 2541, ♂, July 5, 1985; UMZM 2542, ♀, July 3, 1985) and AHY (UMZM 1612, ♀, May 7, 1981; UMZM 1613, ♂, May 4, 1981). The age of these specimens



Pine Siskin. Photo credit: Christian Artuso

was subsequently confirmed based on Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds*.⁴

The number of Pine Siskins banded dropped off rapidly after mid-July, as revealed by the number of captures recorded at weekly intervals: July 2-7 ($n = 85$ individuals), July 8-13 (34),

and July 14-19 (13). Although nets were operated through August 19, and a few siskins were observed during this period, no additional individuals were banded. None of these birds was recaptured at the banding site through 1988, or by banders at stations at localities

beyond the ridge forest.

From July 3 through late August 1985, I opportunistically searched for flocks of Pine Siskins feeding on the ground or flying over the banding site. I recorded the size of each flock and whether at least some juveniles were still being fed by adults. With binoculars and spotting scope, I read band combinations of marked individuals within these flocks. I did not observe adults feeding young. Twenty different flocks contained marked individuals (Table 1), which ranged from 2 to 60 individuals and spanned the period July 3 to 20. None of the 11 additional flocks (1 to 16 individuals) scanned between July 7 and August 15 contained marked individuals. Twenty-one flocks of 2 to 40+ individuals were recorded in flight between July 7 and August 16, but marked birds could not be observed.

One siskin was recaptured three days following banding (Table 1). In addition, 23 colour-marked individuals (17.4%) were sighted in the study area (only the last observation of six individuals observed more than once were included in Table 1): four individuals later on the day of banding (not given in Table 1), two days (6) after banding, three days (7), four days (3), five days (1), and seven days (2).

Discussion

The sudden appearance of Pine Siskins at Delta Marsh in July 1985, but not previously or in subsequent summers, supports observations from other localities across North America and at various times of the year that this species is highly irruptive.^{2,5} The lack of recaptures and records of marked individuals suggest that individuals generally left the area within a day or two. Two individuals from among 22 banded on the first day were present for at

TABLE 1. Dates of banding and recaptures/sightings of individual Pine Siskins in the dune-ridge forest, Delta Marsh, July 1985.

BAND NUMBER ¹ (AGE)	DATE BANDED	DATE OF RECAPTURE	DATE OF SIGHTING (TIME OF DAY, FLOCK SIZE)
-48003 (HY)	2 July	—	3 July (10:03 hr, ?)
		—	4 July (60) ²
-48005 (HY)	2 July	—	9 July (08:30 hr, 6)
-48013 (AHY)	2 July	—	4 July (50)
-48018 (AHY)	2 July	—	4 July (60) ²
-48019 (HY)	2 July	—	9 July (08:30 hr, 6)
-48020 (AHY)	2 July	—	4 July (17:52 hr, 3)
		—	4 July (19:20 hr, 1)
-48021 (AHY)	2 July	—	4 July (60) ²
-48045 (AHY)	2 July	—	5 July (11:45 hr, 1)
-48029 (AHY)	3 July	—	4 July (60) ²
		—	6 July (07:15 hr, 25) ³
-48035 (AHY)	3 July	—	4 July (60) ²
	5 July	—	6 July (07:15 hr, 25) ^{3,4}
	5 July	—	6 July (07:15 hr, 25) ^{3,4}
-48029 (AHY)	3 July	—	6 July (08:20 hr, 31)
-48071 (AHY)	5 July	6 July	—
-48081 (AHY)	6 July	—	9 July (08:30 hr, 6)
-48087 (AHY)	8 July	—	13 July (10:01 hr, 3)
-46804 (AHY)	9 July	—	10 July (16:15 hr, 6)
		—	13 July (10:01 hr, 3)
-48089 (AHY)	9 July	—	9 July (08:30 hr, 6)
		—	11 July (09:15 hr)
		—	12 July (?, 10)
-48090 (AHY)	9 July	—	9 July (08:30 hr, 6)
-48091 (AHY)	9 July	—	10 July (?, 7)
		—	12 July (08:32 hr, 10)
-48093 (HY)	9 July	—	12 July (07:05 hr, 14)
-48097 (AHY)	9 July	—	13 July (10:01 hr, 3)
-48099 (AHY)	9 July	—	13 July (11:00 hr, 3)
-46801 (AHY)	10 July	—	10 July (15:16 hr, 4)
-46809 (HY)	10 July	—	10 July (15:16 hr, 4)
-46023 (HY)	18 July	—	20 July (?, 2)

¹ The prefix for the numbers of all aluminum bands was 1790-.

² Observed between 07:45 hr and again at 11:15 hr, with the last 5 individuals recorded in the same flock.

³ Observed in the same flock at the same time.

⁴ Individuals -48061 through -48069 were colour-marked with the same combination when coloured bands temporarily ran out. It was therefore impossible to distinguish individuals except, as in this case, when two were observed together.

least seven days, unless they had left the site and returned a few days later. Nevertheless, observations of uniquely marked individuals confirmed that most individuals likely stopped for short bouts of feeding, which is behaviour typical of post-breeding dispersal.

The occurrence of hatch-year birds among the individuals captured suggests reproduction was successful that year, but nesting probably was not local. Fledgling Pine Siskins are known to accompany adults on extended flights on which they are still fed by their putative parents.^{1,5-7} By the time of their arrival at Delta

Marsh, however, juveniles were apparently independent and not observed being fed by adults. Although recorded as occasional summer visitors to Delta Marsh in other years^{8,9}, nesting has not been confirmed and the numbers reported did not approach those recorded in 1985.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to many students and field assistants with whom I worked at Delta Marsh, who assisted with mist netting and recorded observations. Christian Artuso offered knowledgeable comments

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45TH SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2017

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Eighty-three Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this winter — five fewer than last year. Even so, the 3,448 mammals seen or heard was five more than the 3,443 recorded the previous winter. As per usual, White-tailed Deer (1,401 individuals) and Mule Deer (1,105 animals) were by far the most common mammals.

Tree Squirrels made most of the headlines this past winter. An American Red Squirrel during the count period at Rouleau was slightly south of its previously known range. Eastern Fox Squirrels continue their slow expansion with observations in the northeast at Leroy and the Roscommon School Division near Kelvington.

A new high count of 43 Eastern

Gray Squirrels at Swift Current bested the 37 at the same locality in 2014. One wonders what their fortunes will be if and when their larger cousins, the Fox Squirrel, reach our westernmost city. Both coexist in Craven and Regina, but the Gray occurs in smaller numbers than the Fox.

A River Otter at Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley was unusual this far south. Perhaps due to the snowless conditions in many areas of the south, Pronghorn were noted in good numbers with 420 animals on five counts.

With 12 species seen or heard, Odessa edged out Indian Head's 11 for the most species seen or heard on a count. For the 10th year, no new species were added this 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). Expected but not yet

reported is the Wild Boar. Let's hope for the sake of our wildlife that it never gets reported!

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of CMCs see the CBC 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 (December 14 to January 5) 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.



White-tailed Jackrabbit. Photo Credit: Nick Saunders

TABLE 1. 45th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2017.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 18 DEC 2017	AYONLEA 3 JAN 2018	BALGONIE 30 DEC 2017	BIGGAR 14 DEC 2017	BIRCH HILLS 4 JAN 2018	BORDEN -RADISSON 2 JAN 2018	BROADVIEW 21 DEC 2017	CATER 4 JAN 2018	CHATSWORTH S.D. 5 JAN 2018	CHRISTOPHER LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CHURCHBRIDGE B 26 DEC 2017	CLARK'S CROSSING 16 DEC 2017	CORONACH 17 DEC 2017	CRAVEN 16 DEC 2017	CREIGHTON 16 DEC 2017	CROOKED LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CROOKED RIVER 30 DEC 2017	CYPRESS HILLS PP. 29 DEC 2017	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2017	DORINTOSH 31 DEC 2017	DUNDURN 4 JAN 2018	DUVAL 1 JAN 2018	EASTEND 4 JAN 2018	
Short-tailed Shrew																								
Shrew species																	1							
Eastern Cottontail																								
Nuttall's Cottontail													1						t					1
Snowshoe Hare	t		t	t	t		t	t		t				2	t				t	t	t	t	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1	t	t			t					2										t		m
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel								c						5										
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1					3							14										4
American Red Squirrel	8			1		3	2	3	2	4	2	1		14	6	3	1	1		1			1	1
Northern Flying-Squirrel															2				1					
Squirrel Species			1																					
Northern Pocket Gopher																								
American Beaver							L		L							L					L		L	
Deer Mouse							t																	
Muskrat				L	L		L	L	L							1						L	L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																				1				
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species				t																				t
House Mouse												1												
Mouse species														1			1			t			t	
American Porcupine	c						d	m												d		2		
Coyote	2		2		2	1	1	2			t	2		3	1	3	c	t	c	t	t	t	t	3
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox	c		t				t		1		t	1				c		c		c	t	t	1	c
Raccoon	c																							
Fisher																								
Ermine																								
Long-tailed Weasel				c																				t
Least Weasel																								t
Weasel species	c				t						t												t	
American Mink	c																						t	c
American Badger																				d				
Striped Skunk	c																				s	s		
River Otter																								
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer		8	31	11		7	3	8				20	1	7		7			4	c	55	16	96	
White-tailed Deer	7		19	3	3	37	t	m	10	t	3	65	4	26		2	c	18	14	80	21	3	51	
Deer species														5										
Moose	c						1								t	t			t	c				
Elk																								c
Pronghorn																								
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	17	10	53	15	5	48	10	13	13	4	5	92	6	77	9	16	3	20	20	81	78	25	151	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	3	4	3	2	4	5	3	3	1	2	7	3	8	3	5	3	3	4	2	3	5	4	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	0	3	3	2	0	5	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	5	1	5	6	5	1	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	7	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	2	0	0	2	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	11	3	7	8	5	4	14	7	5	3	5	7	3	8	6	7	6	8	10	12	11	12	8	

SPECIES	EBENEZER B 5 JAN 2018	ENDEAVOUR 27 DEC 2017	ESTEVAN 4 JAN 2018	ESTUARY NORTH 2 JAN 2018	FENTON 3 JAN 2018	FLORAL 28 DEC 2017	FORT OU'APPELLE 16 DEC 2017	GARDINER DAM 18 DEC 2017	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 21 DEC 2017	GRASSLANDS N.P. 17 DEC 2017	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2018	GREENFELL 3 JAN 2018	HARRIS 21 DEC 2017	HAZLET 27 DEC 2017	INDIAN HEAD 29 DEC 2017	KENASTON 15 DEC 2017	KENOSEE LAKE 24 DEC 2017	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2017	KINDERSLEY NORTH, 26 DEC 2017	KINLOCH 2 JAN 2018	KYLE 29 DEC 2017	LA RONGE 26 DEC 2017	LEADER NORTH 3 JAN 2018	
Short-tailed Shrew																								
Shrew species		1					c																	
Eastern Cottontail			7														t							
Nuttall's Cottontail				10				2						1								4		
Snowshoe Hare						t			t			t			2			t			1			
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t	4		t		t					t	t	18		t	t		t			1	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel																								
Eastern Fox Squirrel			4				1					2			7									
American Red Squirrel		1	1		1		26		5		2	1			11		11	1		7			3	
Northern Flying-Squirrel											1													
Squirrel Species																								
Northern Pocket Gopher																								
American Beaver									L							L	L	L		L				
Deer Mouse																t								
Muskrat			L			L		1	L							L			L			L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																								
Meadow Vole		1						2					1											
Vole species			t			t					1			t			t				3			
House Mouse																								
Mouse species												t		t								t		2
American Porcupine	2			1					1	1		d	1		3	m				1		d		
Coyote	2	t	4	10	t	t	2	1	2	6		t	3	3	2	c	t	t	1	1	2		4	
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox				1		t								t		c	t	t						
Raccoon		1													3	t								
Fisher																								
Ermine		1																						
Long-tailed Weasel																t								
Least Weasel																								
Weasel species						t															t			
American Mink							1																	
American Badger																d						d		
Striped Skunk															1	d								
River Otter																								2
Canada Lynx																					t			
Mule Deer			22	72		2	c	33		31			31	14	19	2				t		52	10	
White-tailed Deer	8	9	7	55	t	41	12	78	11	88	6	12	49	2	10	2	6	8		7	57		15	
Deer species																								
Moose	3		1	14					3	c					3	c	t	2		3	t		2	
Elk																		t	1	25				
Pronghorn				15										212								141		
American Bison										30														
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	15	14	46	182	1	43	42	117	22	156	10	15	85	232	79	4	17	11	2	48	256	5	34	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	6	7	9	1	2	5	6	5	5	4	3	5	5	11	2	2	3	2	8	5	2	6	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	2	0	2	6	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	4	0	4	6	4	2	2	2	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	4	7	10	9	3	9	7	7	8	6	4	7	6	9	11	13	9	8	5	11	10	2	6	

SPECIES	LERROY 2 JAN 2018	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2017	LUSELAND 4 JAN 2018	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2017	MOOSE JAW 4 JAN 2018	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 4 JAN 2018	MORSE 27 DEC 2017	NIPAWIN 23 DEC 2017	NISBET FOREST WEST 27 DEC 2017	ODESSA 3 JAN 2018	PIKE LAKE 5 JAN 2018	PONTEIX 26 DEC 2017	PRINCE ALBERT 17 DEC 2017	QU'APPALLE 28 DEC 2017	QU'APPALLE DAM 17 DEC 2017	REGINA 26 DEC 2017	ROSCOMMON S.D. 3 JAN 2018	ROULEAU 18 DEC 2017	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 16 DEC 2017	SALT COATS 15 DEC 2017	SASK LANDING P.P. 28 DEC 2017	SASK RIVER FORKS 16 DEC 2017	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2017	
Short-tailed Shrew														c										
Shrew species																								
Eastern Cottontail																								
Nuttall's Cottontail							t								5						1			
Snowshoe Hare	t	t									t		t	1		5	t					t	2	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1				t			6	t	t				12	t				2		t	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel																	2							
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1				16	3				6				12	5	45	2			2				
American Red Squirrel		9				8		4	6		12		19				12	c	4	1		5	5	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																								
Squirrel Species																								
Northern Pocket Gopher														c										
American Beaver													L	L		d				L		L	L	
Deer Mouse							t									t							t	
Muskrat													L						L		L	L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														c										
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species											t					t	t							
House Mouse	2									4														
Mouse species	t	t									t										t			
American Porcupine	1	t	1				1			2				3		t	t				d		1	
Coyote	t	1	13	1	3		t			4	7	2	1	2	5	3	2		1		2	t	5	
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox	t	1	1				t		1	2	t	t	1			1	1		1	1		1	1	
Raccoon										4			t				t							
Fisher																								
Ermine													t	c		t							t	
Long-tailed Weasel	t						t			1				c		t								
Least Weasel			c				c																	
Weasel species		t									t													
American Mink					1									c			t							
American Badger							d			2							d				d			
Striped Skunk		t												s			t							
River Otter																			1					
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer		3	89		7		58			28	6	15	2	1	90	6	4					29		
White-tailed Deer	4	33	12	2	9	3	191	17	c	20	36	31	8	4	9	8	12		t	3	9	1	47	
Deer species																								
Moose		1	4							2			t	c	4		6			1	2	t		
Elk		t															6					t		
Pronghorn																					33			
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	8	48	121	3	36	14	250	21	7	81	61	48	31	23	118	82	45	0	7	8	78	7	61	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	6	7	2	5	3	3	2	2	12	4	3	5	6	6	8	8	0	4	5	7	3	6	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	5	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	2	4	0	0	5	7	0	1	0	1	6	1	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	2	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	12	8	2	5	3	11	2	3	12	9	5	11	15	6	14	17	1	7	5	12	11	7	

SPECIES	SAWYER LAKE 28 DEC 2017	SHAMROCK 14 DEC 2017	SHELL LAKE 14 DEC 2017	SNOWDEN 3 JAN 2018	SPINNEY HILL 16 DEC 2017	SQUAW RAPIDS 5 JAN 2018	SWIFT CURRENT 16 DEC 2017	THICKWOODHILLS- SPRITWOOD/15 DEC 2017	TURTLE LAKE 19 DEC 2017	TURTLEFORD 30 DEC 2017	WEYBURN 2 JAN 2018	WHITE BEAR 21 DEC 2017	WHITWOOD 27 DEC 2017	WINGARD 3 JAN 2018	# INDIVIDUALS SEEN/HEARD COUNT DAY	# COUNTS SEEN/HEARD	# COUNTS RECORDED AS TRACKS	# COUNTS RECORDED AS OTHER	# COUNTS COUNT PERIOD	# COUNTS, COUNT PERIOD & COUNT DAY	HIGH COUNT
Short-tailed Shrew															0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Shrew species	t									t					2	2	2	0	1	5	1
Eastern Cottontail													t		7	1	2	0	0	3	7
Nuttall's Cottontail											t				25	8	3	0	0	11	10
Snowshoe Hare	t		t			t				t			1		14	7	26	0	0	33	5
White-tailed Jack Rabbit											1	t			48	10	18	1	0	29	18
Richardson's Ground Squirrel										L					0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Eastern Grey Squirrel							43								50	3	0	0	1	4	43
Eastern Fox Squirrel			15								14		3		160	20	0	0	0	20	45
American Red Squirrel	1			9	11	2		2	5	4			7	1	250	48	0	0	1	49	26
Northern Flying-Squirrel															4	3	0	0	0	3	2
Squirrel Species															1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Pocket Gopher										d			d		0	0	0	2	1	3	0
American Beaver			L					L	L	L			L		0	0	0	21	0	21	0
Deer Mouse										1		1		4	6	3	5	0	0	8	4
Muskrat			L						1	L		L	L		3	3	0	21	0	24	1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole															1	1	0	0	1	2	1
Meadow Vole													t		4	3	1	0	0	4	2
Vole species	t					t				t					4	2	12	0	0	14	3
House Mouse															7	3	0	0	0	3	4
Mouse species			t	t											4	3	11	0	0	14	2
American Porcupine			t					1				t			22	15	5	7	1	28	3
Coyote	t	m	t			t		1		4	5	2	8		137	45	17	1	3	66	13
Gray Wolf	t														0	0	2	0	1	3	0
Red Fox	c		1		1					4			3		25	19	13	0	7	39	4
Raccoon															8	3	3	0	1	7	4
Fisher	t														0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ermine	t												1		2	2	5	0	1	8	1
Long-tailed Weasel															1	1	5	0	3	9	1
Least Weasel													t		0	0	3	0	2	5	0
Weasel species										t					0	0	8	0	1	9	0
American Mink	c						3								6	4	2	0	4	10	3
American Badger		d					d			d		d	d		2	1	0	11	0	12	2
Striped Skunk			m										m		1	1	2	6	1	10	1
River Otter	c														3	2	0	0	1	3	2
Canada Lynx			t												0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Mule Deer		47					40			35	51	32	c		1105	43	1	0	3	47	96
White-tailed Deer	3		3	3	1	7	11	6			25	1	33		1401	67	4	1	2	74	191
Deer species															5	1	0	0	0	1	5
Moose	t		t					c		2			4		58	18	9	0	6	33	14
Elk										c			t		32	3	4	0	2	9	25
Pronghorn												19			420	5	0	0	0	5	212
American Bison															30	1	0	0	0	1	30
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	4	47	19	12	13	9	97	10	6	50	96	55	60	5	3848						
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	1	3	2	3	2	4	4	2	6	5	5	8	2		30					
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	8	0	6	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	3	4	0			23				
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	2	5	0			10				
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0					20		
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	13	3	12	3	3	5	5	6	3	16	5	10	18	2						37	

CULTIVATING OUR ROOTS: GROWING AUTHENTIC PRAIRIE WILDFLOWERS AND GRASSES



Review by Kerry Hecker

It was with great delight that I heard the news — “Nora Stewart is writing a book”! As a biologist trying to accomplish the re-creation of native prairie grassland, I have consulted many times with Nora. Her expertise in finding, harvesting, cleaning, storing, and selling native prairie seeds has already been generously shared with many people on a one-to-one basis. Now,

: this expertise is written down in
 : comprehensive form for posterity,
 : the first example of such a book
 : that I know of. This book will be
 : most useful as a guide for people
 : who are growing native grass and
 : wildflower seeds for sale, and will
 : also be a great resource for those
 : involved in reclamation, remediation,
 : conservation, and xeriscaping.

What do you get?

: *Cultivating Our Roots* is a relatively

: large, ring-bound, soft-cover book,
 : containing 155 pages of information
 : about native plants and how to work
 : with them. This book is meant to
 : be used as a reference guide and a
 : field guide — and has been laid out
 : as such. The technical information
 : is presented in coherent, everyday
 : language. The book itself is salted
 : liberally with very specific illustrations
 : — all of which are beautiful
 : photos taken by the author and her
 : husband.

This book has three major sections: Concepts and Methods, Grass and Forb (Wildflower) Descriptions, and Additional Material.

Concepts and Methods

This 39-page section begins with an explanation of what native plants are — including a gentle introduction to terminology such as “forb”, “weed”, and “native prairie”. It progresses to evaluating methods for acquiring seeds, and a description of the various tests that are available to assess seed quality. Thankfully, there is a relatively extensive section on weeds and the issues they cause — which can easily spell failure for projects such as this. There is also mention of other pesky things like mammals, birds, insects, plant diseases, and (wait for it) the weather. Nora delves into the specifics of nursery propagation like site design, planning, and preparation, and then gets in to the meat of growing seedlings — whether indoors or out. Harvest is the next topic — timing, methods, and how to handle the seeds once they are off the plants and in your possession. Seed cleaning and proper storage are very important as they maintain your investment of time and money. The section is rounded off with a short discussion of business considerations.

One of the most interesting and useful aspects of this book is the continual reference to equipment — how to modify conventional farm equipment to work for native seeds, and what unconventional equipment works well (Dustbuster, anyone?).

Grass and Forb (Wildflower) Descriptions

This 94-page section describes 22 species of grass, and 65 species of forb. The description includes

defining characteristics of the plant and its flowering parts, appropriate timing for harvest, germination quirks, and tips for propagating it most effectively. Four photos accompany each species: flowering stage, seed stage, seedling, and scale photo of the seeds themselves. This is one of few books with seedling photos, and the only book I know of with photos of the seeds themselves — on graph paper for scale, no less! This is a great help to people working with seedlings and seeds.

Useful References

The last 16 pages of the book are included for serious plant growers. The best of the written references for this topic are listed, and all of these books and papers are pertinent to the Canadian Prairies. A quick summary of plant family characteristics is presented for ease of species identification. Delightfully, there are more scale-referenced seed photographs, and a guide to forbs by flower colour. As a nod to most of us who still work in imperial measurements, Nora has included a Metric-US conversion table. Appendix E lists the most local sources for equipment, information, and services — many are Saskatchewan businesses. The glossary is useful to help with necessary technical terms when working with plants. The book index contains both Latin and common names, making it relatively easy to find your chosen species when your mind simply won't supply one version.

The author and publisher also maintains a consistent message by including an Environmental Benefits Statement on the title page, stating the savings from using chlorine free paper and 10 per cent post-consumer waste. This is a nice touch for a book with an environmentally aware topic.

POETRY

HOME SKIES

Written in flowing ink across the
parchment of a grey-blue
Still winterish sky
The testament of the great flocks
Is the advent, the sureness
Of spring.

George Grassick
P.O. Box 205
Lumsden, SK S0G 3C0
ggrassick@sasktel.net

All in all, *Cultivating Our Roots* is a primer on native plants, a technical guide to their propagation, and a rich resource for contacts both in the business world and for more information. This book is the culmination of Nora's hard-won knowledge over fifteen years in this business. I wish that more people could summarize their work so usefully! The author has managed to maintain her unique voice in the text, which makes for some wry moments and entertaining observations.

Cultivating Our Roots: Growing Authentic Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses can be purchased through the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (www.npss.sk.ca) or directly from Nora, if you are lucky enough to know her. 🐦

HUMAN NATURE



Photo Credit: Wascana Centre

Rob Warnock

warnockr@myaccess.ca

In Regina we have a jewel called Wascana Centre, one of the largest urban parks in world at 930 ha or 2,300 acres, larger than Central Park in New York City. It is well used and does have a number of built attractions including the Legislative Building, Conexus Arts Centre, Saskatchewan Science Centre, Royal Saskatchewan Museum as well as the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic campuses.

As nice the built facilities are, what makes Wascana Centre special to me is the beauty of the outdoors, the amazing wildlife diversity and ecological value, and its accessibility to people.

Although the public areas of the park are not wild spaces, they are well maintained and attractive. One appreciates the effort to create and maintain the outdoor spaces. I did enjoy walking in the park seeing wildlife when I worked for the Ministries of Environment and Health in the 2000s. I found it relaxing and refreshing especially during busy workdays. Once again after 10 years, I can now easily enjoy Wascana Centre with the permanent move of my unit at the Ministry of Education to 2220

College Avenue in December 2017. The Park is just across the street from the Ministry of Education HQ.

In spite of development in and around the park, a wide variety of wildlife use Wascana Centre as home during the breeding season, year-round or as a migration stop-over, or as a habitat corridor. About 300 species of birds and 32 species of mammals have been recorded in the park as well as a variety of fish, amphibians, reptiles (including the largest recorded Western Painted Turtle!) and invertebrates.^{1,2,3} Because of the wildlife diversity in the park, Nature Regina frequently holds field trips there. During the Great Canadian Birdathon in May, Margaret Skeel and I regularly get over 50 bird species around Wascana Lake and around the Saskatchewan Science Centre. Some of the interesting finds/sightings in recent years include Broad-winged Hawk and Common Nighthawk.

The Wascana Centre Authority clearly views biodiversity and natural areas as important components of the park by employing an ecologist to manage natural areas, the Waterfowl Display Ponds and wildlife populations (specifically the Canada Geese). I applaud Park staff and their volunteers' efforts to restore prairie and dispose of invasive plant species in

the Habitat Conservation Area east of the Broad Street Bridge. It is great that the Wascana Centre Authority and its partners are educating youth and others through the Friends of Wascana Marsh's annual Nature Festival in May and the Wascana Centre's Junior Naturalist program. The Friends of Wascana Marsh also fundraises for interpretive facilities and programs in the park for everyone to enjoy.

Finally, the park is accessible to people by no entrance fees (except for special events), accessible by a variety of modes of transportation including public transit and is largely accessible to those with disabilities.

I hope that the beauty, wildlife diversity, ecological value and accessibility of Wascana Centre can be maintained or even improved in the face of increasing financial and development pressures.

1. Wascana's Bird Checklist accessed January 14, 2017 http://wascana.ca/pub/documents/parks/Wascana_Bird_Checklist_01.pdf

2. Wascana's Mammal Checklist accessed January 14, 2017 http://wascana.ca/pub/documents/parks/Mammals_of_Wascana.pdf


3. Warnock, Rob. 2015. Nature Saskatchewan proudly supports graduate student research on turtles in Saskatchewan. *Nature Views* 183 (Fall 2015):12. 



Photo credit: Julie L. Roy,
Environment and Climate Change Canada



Photo credit: Fran Kerbs

Mystery Photo

Summer 2018 (above left)

THE QUESTION IS: What is shown in this picture? Hint: Most of these organisms are microscopic; however, some form large colonies.

Please send your answers to Blue Jay editor Annie McLeod at bluejay@naturesask.ca or by letter mail: 3017 Hill Ave. Regina, SK S4S 0W2.

Those with correct answers will be entered into a draw for a prize from Nature Saskatchewan.

Mystery Photo

Spring 2018 (above right)

ANSWER:

The abdomen shown in the Spring 2018 mystery photo belongs to a Canadian Tiger Swallowtail. The Canadian Tiger Swallowtail is one of 14 species of swallowtails found in Canada. One of the best known butterflies on account of its size (wingspan 53-90 mm) and colour pattern (yellow with black 'tiger' stripes), it is on the wing in Saskatchewan from around mid-May until late July. It is a keen 'mud-puddler', gathering — often in large numbers — around small puddles to obtain nutrients such as salts and

amino acids. Early stage larvae are brown and white, resembling bird droppings, while older stages are dark green with two large spots on the swollen thorax. They feed on willow, cherry, poplar and ash. There is a single generation per year.

Thanks to Fran Kerbs for sharing this photo and to Cedric Gillott for providing the additional information about Canadian Tiger Swallowtails.

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.



Nature
SASKATCHEWAN

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Regina, SK S4P 2L7

