

Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

February 2019

Vol. 41 No. 2

February Meeting

On the Loose with a Long Lens in Sri Lanka and Saskatchewan

Kosala Rajapaksha

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of
Saskatchewan

7:30 PM Thursday, February 21

Room 1130, Health Sciences E-wing, U. of S. campus

Remember new location; see website for map

<https://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/program.html>

Kosala came to Canada from Sri Lanka 15 years ago and since 2007 he has worked for the Canadian animal genetic resource programme of Agriculture Canada where he is involved in conservation of farm animals. He much enjoys photographing the rich wildlife populations he sees around him. In his presentation he will show the diversity of wildlife of Sri Lanka and Canada. Sri Lanka, despite its small size (one tenth of Saskatchewan), is well known around the world as a hotspot of biodiversity. There are more than 4000 species of flowering plants, over 100 freshwater fish, over 50 amphibians, 174 reptiles, 435 birds, 140 mammals and countless invertebrates. Alas, we cannot mention all of them.



Field Trips

Everyone is welcome to participate in any field trip. Bring your friends. Carpooling for out-of-town trips is arranged at the meeting place; there is no charge other than to share gasoline costs. Phone the trip leader if you have any questions. Participants are free to depart early if they wish. Members with FRS radios should bring them on out of town trips. Check our website at www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca for last minute changes or cancellations and to download checklists. Bus Information: 306-975-3100.

Many of our trip destinations are described in the 3rd edition of "A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon" available from:

www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/books/nature_viewing_sites.html.

Sunday, February 24, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Forestry Farm park birding

We will walk through the park looking for winter songbirds.

Meet at the south end of Zoo parking lot.

Leader: Andrew Elgin (text: 306-250-2243)

Sunday, March 3, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Montgomery Place birding

We will walk through this neighbourhood with mature trees looking for winter songbirds.

Meet at the intersection of Crerar Drive and Caen Street in Montgomery Place.

Bus: Check Route 9 schedule.

Leader: Robert Johanson (306-653-2610)

More field trips on page 2



President's Message

By now, many of you will have received your copy of "Birds of Saskatchewan". I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy this expansive book with its beautiful pictures. Congratulations to Nature Saskatchewan, the editors: Alan Smith, Stuart Houston and Frank Roy, along with all the authors, photographers, reviewers and other volunteers who produced this amazing body of work. Thank you to Donna Bruce for coordinating the distribution of pre-ordered books. The Society was tasked with distributing over 250 books to about 150 people in the Saskatoon area. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped distribute the books in short order.

In November, I attended a book launch for "Man of the Trees: Richard St Barbe Baker, The First Global Conservationist" by Saskatoon author, Paul Hanley. Many of you may have first heard of Baker in the Society's "Nature Viewing Sites" book. See pages 122-125 (chapter 28) for information about the afforestation area named after Baker, who came to Canada from England 1909 and was a student at the University of Saskatchewan. He went back to England to study forestry, becoming a conservator of forests in Africa. In 1922, he started the first environmental non-governmental organization, The Men of the Trees, which in 1992 became the International Tree Foundation (ITF). The last tree that Baker planted was in 1982, near the John Diefenbaker Centre. Baker is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery which seems fitting as the Cemetery is designated a National Historic site with its memorial avenue of elm trees.

The city of Saskatoon annexed a portion of the afforestation area in 1963, but today it is within the city limits. The area has been in the news over the last couple of years as local residents have worked tirelessly to clean up the site, which had become a dumping ground for garbage and other waste. With the publication of Hanley's book, there is renewed interest within the community, and plans are being discussed to install appropriate signage and barriers to restrict access by motorized vehicles to reduce its appeal as a dump site. We have offered an annual field trip to this unique site for the last couple of years.

Our March Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. At the AGM we will elect a new Board and members will have the opportunity to share their pictures of nature. We

love to see those photos so start getting them organized. Also, please consider volunteering for the Board. Contact Marten Stoffel at 306-230-9291 or asio.otus@sasktel.net for more information. Thank you to all of you who contribute your volunteer time to the Society. Please send an estimate of your volunteer hours to our treasurer, Yvonne Cuttle, at cuttyg@shaw.ca or 306-374-5228. This information is submitted to Nature Saskatchewan and is used to support grant applications.

Thank you too to those who have switched to receiving the newsletters via e-mail as postal rates increased recently. Please contact Claire Bullaro at c.bear@sasktel.net to switch over to receipt of the newsletter via e-mail.

Valerie Martz

Field Trips cont'd

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Gardiner Dam field trip

We will drive to Gardiner Dam (roundtrip distance about 250 km) to look for waterfowl near the weir as well as to look for eagles and other birds of prey. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

Meet by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot on Lorne Ave.

Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 8:31 AM and arrives on Lorne Avenue near museum about 8:50 AM.

Leader: Andrew Elgin (text: 306-250-2243)

Golden Eagles

The Golden Eagles is a sub-group of Saskatoon Nature Society. Most of us are 'seniors' but we invite anyone interested in birds and the many aspects of our natural, cultural and historic heritage to join our field trips. Participants should be members of the Saskatoon Nature Society and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan, our provincial affiliate.

Contact trip leader if you have any questions.

Thursday February 7, 10:00 am.

Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility

101 East Road, U of S Campus.

Please meet at the site.

Lunch at Cora Restaurant, Preston Crossing.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by Feb.4.
Leaders: Hilda Voth (306-242-0198, hvoth@sasktel.net)
or Mary Toews (306-653-1534).

Thursday March 7, 10:00 am.
Ukraine Travelogue---Adele Wagner
Wildwood Mennonite Church,
1502 Acadia Drive.

Please meet at the site.

Lunch (tentative) Coachman Restaurant, Market Mall,
Preston Avenue and Louise Street.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by March 4.
Leaders: Hilda Voth (306-242-0198, hvoth@sasktel.net)
or Mary Toews (306-653-1534).

Young Naturalists

The Young Naturalists is all about nature activities for kids and their families. Each program offers interesting activities geared for children aged 5 to 11 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Enrolment is limited on most programs and often programs fill up over a month in advance, so register early. To register or for more information e-mail:

saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com.

Visit the Young Naturalists' website for detailed information about the upcoming programs or to check out our monthly NatureKids newsletter at www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/

Upcoming Young Naturalists Programs:

Saturday, February 2 - Chickadee Pishing
Saturday, March 16 - Owl Pellet Dissection
Saturday, April 13 - Birdhouse Workshop
Saturday, May 4 -Pike Lake Field Trip



White-breasted Nuthatch Bob Godwin

Announcements

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

The board of directors of the Saskatoon Nature Society is elected at the March Annual General Meeting. If you would like to serve on the board, please contact the past-president Marten Stoffel at 306-230-9291 or asio.otus@sasktel.net

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Displays

The Saskatoon Nature Society will have our display booth at Gardenscape, March 29-31 and we will be looking for your help to staff our display and tell people about our wonderful Society. If you are able to volunteer a few hours to help staff our display, please e-mail greg.fenty@gmail.com (or call 306-370-8839).

The Great Backyard Bird Count February 15 to 18

Your help is needed every year to make the GBBC successful. For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish. Want to get involved and help scientists get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations? Visit gbbc.birdcount.org to enter count data or for more information.

Calling all Volunteers

Nature Saskatchewan obtains most of its funding from Sask. Culture. One of the factors influencing the success of Nature Saskatchewan's application is the support it and affiliated societies receive from volunteers as evidenced by the number of hours worked. We ask that each member of SNS tally the hours you have volunteered in 2018 and send your totals to Yvonne Cuttle at cuttyg@shaw.ca or pass a note with your totals to me or one of the Board members. Once compiled, they will be forwarded to Nature Saskatchewan early in 2019. Thanks to all for your good work on behalf of SNS during 2018, and for the additional time that, I hope, you will be willing to spend on this request. **Yvonne Cuttle**

Nature Society Toques

Nature Society toques will be available for sale at the February 21 general meeting. Toques are \$25.00 each. (Cash or cheque only).

Saskatoon Nature Society

Mailing address:

Box 448, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

Website:

www.SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety



Newsletter

The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 18. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. This month please use email only: godmee@sasktel.net. The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy of the SNS newsletter. You can create a folder in your email system to save your back issues of the newsletters. You will help us save on paper, stamps, and volunteer time and you will get information more quickly and get pictures in colour.

Please contact Claire Bullaro (c.bear@sasktel.net) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

Chairs and Coordinators


Brochure	Mary Jean Roy.....306-665-0987
Coffee	Hilda Voth.....306-242-0198
Display	Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839..... greg.fenty@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Branimir Gjetvaj.....306-220-5703..... branimir@shaw.ca
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839..... saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President	Valerie Martz.....306-249-0468..... vmartz@shaw.ca
Past President	Marten Stoffel.....306-230-9291..... asio.otus@sasktel.net
Vice President	Sara Bryson demeter187@hotmail.com
Secretary	Kathy Meeres.....306-343-8590..... godmee@sasktel.net
Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....306-374-5228..... cuttyg@shaw.ca
Director	Alice Hiller hiller841@hotmail.com
Director	Robert Johanson306-653-2610..... robert.johanson@usask.ca
Director	Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839..... greg.fenty@gmail.com
Director	Stan Shadick.....306-652-5975..... stan.shadick@usask.ca
Director	Guy Wapple.....306-249-3280..... gswap@sasktel.net
Director	Joe Stookey306-229-7499..... joseph.stookey@usask.ca

The board of directors meets about once a month, usually in the week before the monthly meeting. If you wish to bring an item to the attention of the board, please contact the president

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 YN: Chickadee Pishing
3	4	5	6	7 GE: Rayner Dairy Facility	8	9 Owling Expedition (9 th -10 th)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 February Meeting	22	23
24 Forestry Farm Park Birding	25	26	27	28		

MARCH

					1	2
3 Montgomery Place Birding	4	5	6	7 GE: Ukraine Travelogue	8	9 Gardiner Dam Field Trip
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 YN: Owl Pellet Dissection
17	18	19	20	21 March Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Membership Renewals: All SNS memberships expire on December 31; failure to renew by then may interrupt delivery of your *Newsletter*. Check the upper right corner of your mailing label to see the year your membership expires. New memberships paid after July 1 will continue through the following year. Donations qualify for a tax receipt. Mail in your completed form or bring it to the next meeting.

Membership in the Saskatoon Nature Society

The Saskatoon Nature Society publishes ten newsletters per year informing members of field trips and other activities. Except in the summer, monthly meetings present speakers on a wide range of nature related topics.

Please check: Renewal New Member Change of address

Membership Category: Individual \$20/yr Family \$30/yr Junior (<19yrs) \$5/yr

Date: _____

Name(s) (please print neatly): _____

(Names/Ages of Children): _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

email: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to receive the SNS Newsletter electronically via email at the above address. You will help the Society save on postage and printing costs.

Membership fee \$ _____ /yr x _____ year(s) (one to five) = \$ _____

Donation (designate a fund if desired)

Kids in Nature Conservation and Education Nature Capital General Fund

One-time donation: \$ _____

Monthly donation:..... \$ _____ /month

For a monthly donation, either (a) attach a cheque marked "VOID" and we will send you a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) form to be completed and returned to start the process, or (b) download the PAD form from our website (SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca), complete the form and attach a cheque marked "VOID" and mail to the address below.

Option: Membership in Nature Saskatchewan (see below) \$ _____

TOTAL (please make your cheque payable to Saskatoon Nature Society)..... \$ _____

Mail to: Treasurer, Saskatoon Nature Society, Box 448, RPO University, Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8 or
payment may be made by e-transfer to Treasurer: treasurer@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca

Membership in Nature Saskatchewan

The Saskatoon Nature Society is affiliated with the provincial society, Nature Saskatchewan, but membership is separate and the fee schedule is different. Renewing your provincial membership through SNS earns us a \$2 commission. Nature Saskatchewan is a strong advocate for conservation and education in the province. Benefits of membership include the quarterly journal *Blue Jay*, and spring and fall meets at various locations in the province. More information is available on their web site: www.naturesask.ca. **Note: multi-year Nature Saskatchewan memberships are no longer available.**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Print</u>	
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	
Senior (>64yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	