



# Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

January 2019

Vol. 41 No. 1

## January Meeting

### Ecology and Conservation of Whooping Cranes

**Mark Bidwell**

Wildlife Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service

7:30 PM Thursday, January 17

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

Mark joined the Canadian Wildlife Service in 2011 after conducting research on endangered cranes in South Africa and on boreal-breeding ducks and other waterbirds in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. He has been fascinated by birds and other wildlife since he was a child, and considers himself fortunate to spend his life studying birds and contributing to wildlife conservation. Currently, Mark specializes in endangered species and he is responsible for whooping crane research and conservation. In his talk he will discuss the current status of whooping cranes and what we know about their behaviour and movements during the breeding season and on their migration through Saskatchewan. Finally he will talk about what can be done to conserve cranes and their habitats.



## 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon" available from:

[www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/books/nature\\_viewing\\_sites.html](http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/books/nature_viewing_sites.html).

**Sunday, January 13, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

### Chorney acreage bird feeders

We plan to visit this acreage south of the city which had the highest concentration of birds found during Saskatoon's Boxing Day bird count.

**Meet** on the west side of the parking lot west of the Sports on Tap bar north of Western Development Museum. <https://goo.gl/maps/MyshGfcWzey>

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

**Leader:** Marten Stoffel (306-230-9291)

**More field trips on page 2**

SNS Monthly Meetings to be Relocated

**Starting in January, 2019** our monthly meetings will be held in the following lecture theatre:

**Room 1130, Health Sciences E-wing**, at the U. of S. Campus. See details on page 5 of this newsletter.

## President's Message

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the holiday season. January is ushered in by the arrival of the *Birds of Saskatchewan* book. If you pre-ordered a copy with delivery through SNS we will be in touch with you as soon as we have all the necessary information and have finalized plans for the distribution of the books.

This holiday season marked Audubon's 119th Christmas Bird Count Period which ends on January 5, 2019. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to this year's counts. More information about the counts is found on our website and at the Audubon website <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>. Results for all the Christmas counts in the province are published annually in the *Blue Jay*.

Some might not know that SNS also organizes its own Saskatoon area counts in both the spring and the fall. You might wonder what happens to this additional information. Summaries of the data going back to least 1995 have been digitized. Reports will eventually be submitted to the Provincial Archives for safekeeping, and to ensure the results are accessible for the long-term. There is local interest in this information too. For example, the City of Saskatoon has an Environmental Dashboard on-line that "provides information relating to key categories of the environment - Land, Air, Water and Waste". Our local bird count data is used for one of the performance indicators about the health of the land.

The City's environmental administration prepared a series of reports about building guidelines and strategies to mitigate bird strikes. These reports were presented in early December to a meeting of the City's Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services. We contributed some written comments to the Committee about the reports.

Thanks to Jan Shadick at Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation (LSWR), and Rick Huziak of the Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee who continue to provide information to the City about bird strikes and information about best practices for mitigating these risks. Data about

local bird collisions, including locations, bird species and outcomes, were entered by LSWR in an international database at [birdmapper.org](http://birdmapper.org). We plan to include information about bird collision reports from 2018 in Saskatoon in an upcoming SNS newsletter. Information for Saskatoon residents about how to make a yard more bird-friendly will be included in the City's Healthy Yards program.

**\*\*\*Remember our meetings move to Room 1130 in the new E-wing of Health Sciences on the University Campus, beginning in January\*\*\*.** Information about the new location is provided on page 6 and will be posted on our website. The room is easily accessible from the new Health Sciences parkade or from parking lot 1 across from Place Riel or by City bus. Feel free to contact me at 306-249-0468 or [president@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca](mailto:president@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca) if you have any questions about the new meeting location.

Valerie Martz

### *Birds of Saskatchewan*

The pre-ordered copies of *Birds of Saskatchewan* will be available in January. Those who have purchased copies will be notified via email or phone by someone from the Society as soon as the distribution of the books has been organized.

### Field Trips cont'd

**Sunday Jan. 20, 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM**

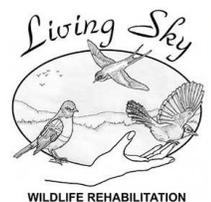
#### **Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility Visit**

A chance to see the recently constructed aviaries and squirrel cage and learn how this charity looked after over 900 injured and orphaned birds and wild animals during this past year with a goal of releasing them back to the wild.

**Meet** at 100 Rayner Avenue in Sutherland, 1 block west of Central Avenue at 115th St.

**Bus:** Route 26 Forest Grove departs University terminal at 2:08 pm and arrives at 115<sup>th</sup> St and Rayner Avenue (just past the RR crossing) about 2:15 pm. Walk 2 houses north on Rayner Avenue to the white 2-storey house.

**Leader:** Jan Shadick (306-281-0554)



**Sunday, January 27, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

### **Snowy Owl Census**

We plan to drive a 60 km census route to count Snowy Owls from Mildred to Elrose. Most years, there is a high concentration of Snowys along this route. Total distance travelled will be about 300 km. Car pools will be arranged. Bring lunch or buy lunch in Elrose. In case weather prediction is poor, phone leader the previous evening to check if trip will be affected.

**Meet** at Esso gas station parking lot at highway 7 and 11<sup>th</sup> St W

**Leader:** Marten Stoffel (306-230-9291)



**February 9 and 10**

### **Winter Owling Expedition**

We plan to explore some backroads near Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan to search for Great Gray, Barred or Hawk Owls. To apply to participate in this members-only field trip, send an email to [trips@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca](mailto:trips@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca) prior to Monday, January 28. Space is limited. You will be sent more details including requirements needed to participate in this trip.

**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)

**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**

Winter Program January-March 2019

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, January 10, 10:30 am.**

**Cosmopolitan Industries**

**1302 Alberta Avenue.**

**Please meet at the site.**

Lunch at Sask Polytechnic Cafeteria, 1130 Idylwyld Drive.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by Jan. 7.

Leaders: Hilda Voth (306-242-0198, [hvoth@sasktel.net](mailto:hvoth@sasktel.net))

or Mary Toews (306-653-1534).



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/)

### Upcoming Young Naturalists Programs:

Saturday, January 19  
Tracks and Scats  
Saturday, February 2  
Chickadee Pishing  
Saturday, March 16  
Owl Pellet Dissection  
Saturday, April 13  
Birdhouse Workshop

## Announcements

### Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Displays

The Saskatoon Nature Society will have our display booth at two upcoming events and we need your help to staff our display and tell people about our wonderful Society.

1) Gone Wild for Wildlife: Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the German Cultural Centre (Lorne Avenue and Cartwright Road). For more information visit [www.wrsos.org](http://www.wrsos.org)

2) Heritage Festival of Saskatoon: Sunday, February 3, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Western Development Museum (2610 Lorne Avenue). For more information visit [heritagefestivalofsaskatoon.com](http://heritagefestivalofsaskatoon.com)

If you are able to volunteer a few hours to help staff our display, please e-mail [greg.fenty@gmail.com](mailto:greg.fenty@gmail.com) (or call 306-370-8839).

### 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](mailto:asio.otus@sasktel.net)

### 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](mailto: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**



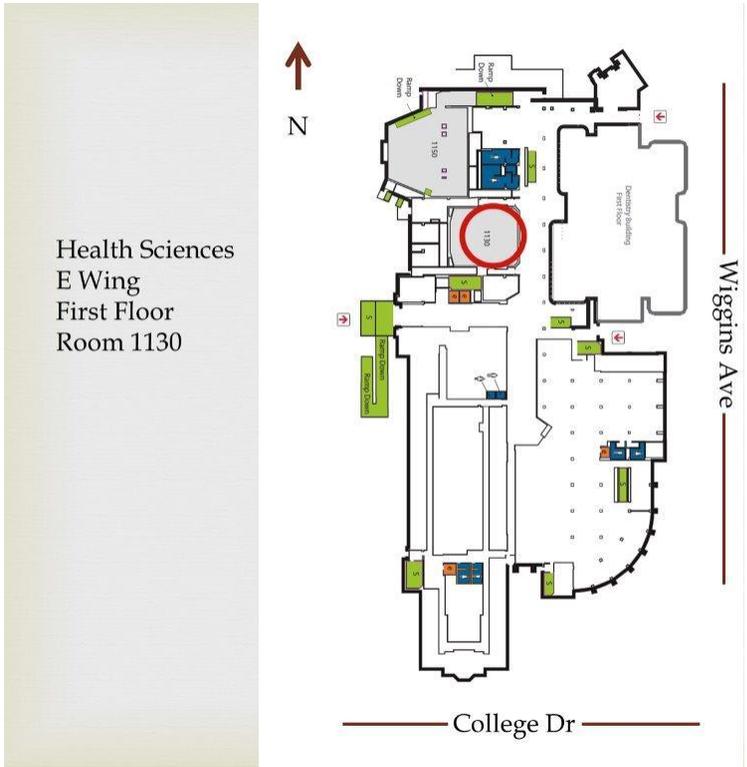
Downy Woodpecker *Jasmeet Singh*

SNS Monthly Meetings to be Relocated

Starting in January, 2019 our monthly meetings will be held in the following lecture theatre:

**Room 1130, Health Sciences E-wing**, at the U. of S. Campus.

See the maps below for how to access the building and room (red circle). The two closest Campus parking areas are: Lot 1 (across from Place Riel) and the Health Sciences Parkade: (Located beneath Health Sciences Building - Clinic Place Access off Hospital Drive). More information about parking on campus is also available at <https://www.usask.ca/parking/public/pay-lots.php>



## Saskatoon Nature Society

### Mailing address:

Box 448, RPO University  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

### Website:

[www.SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca](http://www.SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca)

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety)



## Newsletter

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 18. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. email: [godmee@sasktel.net](mailto:godmee@sasktel.net) phone: 306-343-8590. 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:greg.fenty@gmail.com">greg.fenty@gmail.com</a>
Facebook Editor	Sara Bryson		<a href="mailto:demeter187@hotmail.com">demeter187@hotmail.com</a>
Field Trips	Stan Shadick	306-652-5975	<a href="mailto:stan.shadick@usask.ca">stan.shadick@usask.ca</a>
Golden Eagles	Hilda Noton	306-374-0674	<a href="mailto:nottshill@sasktel.net">nottshill@sasktel.net</a>
Membership	Michael Williams	306-242-5383	
Newsletter			
Publisher	Kathy Meeres	306-343-8590	<a href="mailto:godmee@sasktel.net">godmee@sasktel.net</a>
Mailing	Bev Beland	306-445-3439	
Mailing List	Claire Bullaro	306-373-1787	<a href="mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net">c.bear@sasktel.net</a>
e-distribution	Claire Bullaro	306-373-1787	<a href="mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net">c.bear@sasktel.net</a>
Program	Peter Flood	306-652-0486	<a href="mailto:peter.flood@usask.ca">peter.flood@usask.ca</a>
Publications	Greg Fenty	306-370-8839	<a href="mailto:greg.fenty@gmail.com">greg.fenty@gmail.com</a>
Publicity	Ron Jensen	306-665-8248	<a href="mailto:rjes@shaw.ca">rjes@shaw.ca</a>
Webmaster	Branimir Gjetvaj	306-220-5703	<a href="mailto:branimir@shaw.ca">branimir@shaw.ca</a>
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty	306-370-8839	<a href="mailto:saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com">saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com</a>

## Board of Directors

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

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

## JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Pike Lake BC
6	7	8	9	10 GE: Cosmo Industries	11	12
13 Chorney Acreage	14	15	16	17 January Meeting	18	19 YN: Tracks and Scats
20 Living Sky Rehab Visit	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Snowy Owl Census	28	29	30	31		

## FEBRUARY

					1	2 YN: Chickadee Pishing
3	4	5	6	7 GE: Rayner Dairy Facility	8	9 Owling Expedition (9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> )
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		

**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	