

Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

July-August 2018

Vol. 40 No. 6

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 or Facebook page 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, July 1, 9:15 AM - 2:00 PM

Wild Orchids field trip

We will drive to the Nisbet forest (north of Duck Lake) and look for lady-slippers and other wild orchids. Bring lunch, mosquito repellent and rubber boots.

Meet at south-west corner of the Lawson Heights' Mall parking lot

Bus: Route 30 Lawson Heights departs downtown terminal at 8:46 AM and arrives at Lawson terminal at 9:05 AM. Walk to SW corner of parking lot.

Leader: Bob Godwin (306-343-8590).



Saturday, July 7, 8:45 AM - ?

North American Butterfly Count

Download checklist from SNS website. If raining, count will be postponed to July 8.

Meet at the NW corner of the parking lot for the Centre at Circle and 8th Mall.

Bus: Route 50 Lakeview departs U of S campus at 8:23 AM and arrives on 8th St adjacent to mall about 8:35 AM. Route 8/84 departs downtown terminal at 8:16 AM and arrives on 8th at mall about 8:30 AM. Contact leader for details.

Leader: Juhachi Asai (306-373-1969).

Wednesday, July 11, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre and Garden Patch Bioblitz

We will help this group search their property for insects and plants.

Meet at 3rd Ave North at Duchess St.

Bus: Route 12 Airport departs downtown terminal at 5:46 PM and arrives at Princess St at 5:52 PM. Walk 2 blocks north to Duchess St.

Leader: Sara Bryson (306-261-6156).

Saturday, July 14 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Botany trip to Beaver Creek Conservation Area

We will drive to Beaver Creek and then go for a walk looking for native wildflowers. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen and a hat.

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

Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 9:31 AM and arrives on Lorne Avenue next to WDM entrance at about 9:50 AM. Walk to the old grain elevator.

Leader: Sara Bryson (306-261-6156).

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 20.

More field trips on page 3

President's Message

We just returned from Nature Saskatchewan's Spring Meet which was held in Coronach. We toured the Big Muddy Valley and were introduced to the natural and cultural history of the area. The stories told by our guides helped create a sense of place that no photographs could capture. We were fortunate too that the weather cooperated. We dodged some major rainstorms earlier in the week, but as a result the hills and valleys were verdant. One of the unexpected sightings was finding a burrowing owl in a field just a few kilometers from the US-Canada border. Mark your calendars as Nature Saskatchewan's Fall Meet will be held September 14 to 16 in Swift Current. More information will be provided in the *Blue Jay* and at Nature Saskatchewan's website.

The weekend also provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from other societies and discuss common issues. Most everyone would like to increase their membership and many have trouble identifying speakers. Some of the presenters at our speaker series, including some of our members may be asked to visit other societies. Nature Saskatchewan provides grants to local societies to help defray the costs of inviting speakers.

Through one of these grants from Nature Saskatchewan, we provided support to the Nature City Festival for the keynote speaker, Harvey Locke. In addition to the keynote address, a workshop was held that included participants from the City of Saskatoon, Wanuskewin, the University of Saskatchewan and other organizations, including SNS, to discuss local initiatives. According to Locke, Canada is way behind other countries in meeting the global target for ecosystem protection set under the Convention of Biological Diversity. At the end of 2015, 10.6% of Canada's land area and 0.90% of its

marine territory were recognized as protected which is well short of the global targets of 17 per cent of the land and 10 per cent of the oceans. For more information see Pathway to Canada Target 1 at <http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/home/>

Some of you will have noticed that our website was offline for several days due a problem with our webhost's server. It has been resolved, but there are some things on the website that need updating or re-posting including our list of links and resources. The Board has discussed updating the website, but this will take time and some money. While the website was down we relied more on Facebook to provide information about events, especially during the Nature City Festival. There were several events during the Festival. Field trips to NE Swale such as the firefly walk continue to draw large crowds. We met many new faces at our pop-up naturalist event at the Lakewood Park too. Thanks to Sara Bryson for keeping the field trip information current.

Thank you to Gord Edwards for being our Newsletter Editor for over the past year and half. Due to work commitments, Gord has resigned from the Board and as newsletter editor. Kathy Meeres has volunteered to be our new newsletter editor. Please let Kathy know if you would like to write an article for an upcoming newsletter (godmee@sasktel.net).

I hope everyone has a great summer.

Valerie Martz



Sunday, July 22, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Dragonfly Field Trip

We will drive to a location to look for dragonflies. Nets will be provided to help you catch some to examine before releasing them. Wear appropriate clothing.

Meet in Centre Mall parking lot south of Burger King BETWEEN Acadia and Moss on south side of 8th St. We will try to arrange car pools sharing gas cost. <https://goo.gl/maps/rrb68Pa8zxN2>

Bus: Route 81 Centre Mall departs university terminal at 12:38 PM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 12:53 PM. Route 8 (81) 8th St departs downtown terminal at 12:46 PM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 1:05 PM. Walk to meeting location on north side of mall.

Leader: Lorne Duczek (306-249-0305).



Saturday, July 28, 9:00 am – 12 noon.

Shorebird Driving Trip

We will drive to areas where we suspect sandpipers and plovers are concentrating during their fall migration. Some birders may wish to continue birding in the afternoon.

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 next to WDM entrance at about 8:50 AM. Walk to the old grain elevator.

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

Saturday, August 11, 8:15 AM – ??

Douglas Park Sand Dunes Hike

We will drive south for 2 hours to Douglas Provincial Park and then take an 8 km walk through mixed grasslands and sand dunes. We will look for tiger beetles plus other insects, wildflowers and birds. Bring comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, a hat, snacks and plenty of water. Following the walk, birders may optionally drive to a slough east of Elbow to search for ibis.

Meet in Centre Mall parking lot south of Burger King BETWEEN Acadia and Moss on south side of 8th St. We will try to arrange car pools sharing gas cost. <https://goo.gl/maps/rrb68Pa8zxN2>

Bus: Route 81 Centre Mall departs university terminal at 7:38 AM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 7:53 AM. Route 8 (81) 8th St departs downtown terminal at 7:46 AM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 8:05 AM. Walk to meeting location on north side of mall. **Leader:** Sara Bryson (306-261-6156).

Saturday, August 18, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Sheep at NE Swale

Meewasin will have sheep at the swale to graze unwanted invasive species to enhance grassland bird habitat. We will hike the property to look for birds and watch the sheep in action.

Meet at the swale on Lowe Road. Drive north on Central Ave, turn right on Fedoruk Drive (or Agra Road), turn left onto Lowe Road; NE Swale is next to the slough on the east side of road before reaching the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation building.

No Bus service

Leader: Renny Grilz (306-262-4970).

Saturday, August 25, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Factoria Warbler Walk

We will walk the wooded areas of the riverbank in search of migrant warblers and other songbirds. Bring good footwear for walking on slopes and appropriate clothing.

Meet at the east end of Adilman Drive.

Bus: Route 35 Silverwood Heights departs downtown terminal at 8:16 AM and arrives at Adilman Drive and

Silverwood Road at 8:45 AM. Walk 3 blocks east to meeting location.

Leader: Stan Shadick (306-652-5975).

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 64.

Sunday, September 2, 8:45 AM – 10:30 am

Warbler Walk at Forestry Farm

We will walk the wooded areas of this park looking for migrant songbirds. Bring suitable clothing.

Meet at parking lot behind Alice Turner Library at Attridge Drive and Nelson Road. We will carpool from this location to reduce entrance fees.

No Bus Service.

Leader: TBA

Saturday, September 8, all day

Fall Bird Count

Participants are needed to help us survey the bird populations in the city and surrounding natural regions during the peak of spring migration. Novices are welcome and will be assigned to an experienced group leader. Duration of count varies for different groups. To register, phone Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 by September 6 or state your time availability and contact phone number in an email to trips@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca.

Organizers: Stan Shadick (306-652-5975) Bob Godwin, Marten Stoffel **Compiler:** John Patterson



September 14-16

Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet in Swift Current with a trip to Matador Grassland.

See www.naturesask.ca for details.

Saturday, October 6, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Whooping Crane field trip

We will drive in search of any reported Whoopers within 100 km of the city. Bring a lunch, drinking water and warm clothing.

Meet in Centre Mall parking lot south of Burger King BETWEEN Acadia and Moss on south side of 8th St. We will try to arrange car pools sharing gas cost. <https://goo.gl/maps/rrb68Pa8zxN2>

Bus: Route 81 Centre Mall departs university terminal at 7:38 AM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 7:53 AM. Route 8 (84) 8th St departs downtown terminal at 7:16 AM and arrives at Centre Mall terminal at 7:35 AM. Walk to meeting location on north side of mall.

Leader: Michael Williams (306-242-5383).

Saturday, October 13, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Invasive Shrub removal from Saskatoon Natural Grasslands.

The Saskatoon Nature Society is a steward of the Saskatoon Natural Grassland. To help meet our obligations, we plan to help remove invasive European Buckthorn and caragana from this grassland preserve. All equipment will be provided. Wear old clothes with long sleeves. We will hike the property at the end of our trip.

Meet at the park on Konihowski Road. Turn right off Central Avenue on Somers Road and drive 2 blocks.

Leader: Renny Grilz (306-262-4970).

Golden Eagles

July-August 2018

The Golden Eagles, a sub-group of Saskatoon Nature Society, invites retirees and partners who are interested in birds and the natural world to join our field trips. Participants should be members of the Saskatoon Nature Society and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan, our provincial affiliate.

Bring lunch, drinks and chairs, unless otherwise noted. Members with CB or FRS radios should bring them on out-of-town trips.

Carpooling for out-of-town trips is usually arranged at the meeting place. Participants are expected to share gasoline costs and should make arrangements with the driver to do so. Unless indicated, there is no other charge. However, if a trip involves a guided tour of a facility, participants may be asked to make a donation to the facility. Participants can depart early, if they wish. Phone trip leader if you have any questions. Dress for the weather.

Unless otherwise arranged, we meet on Thursdays at Churchill Shopping Center, Taylor St. & Clarence Ave.

Thursday, July 5. No trip

Thursday, July 12, 8:00 am.

Honeywood, at Parkside

Lillies and perennials.

Leaders: Bill & Audrey MacKenzie, (306-373-2878)

Thursday, July 19, 8:00 am.

Gabriel Dumont Park

Leader: Joan Weber (306-668-8270)

Thursday, July 26, 8:00 am.

Petrofka Orchard & Trails

Leaders: Louise & Dave Cook (306-955-4764)

Thursday, August 2. No trip

Thursday, August 9, 8:00 am.

Shorebirds and early migration

John Patterson (306-249-0468)

Thursday, August 16, 8:00 am.

North Saskatchewan River Property at Maymont

Leaders: Bob Armstrong (306-343-1269) Audrey & Bill MacKenzie (306-373-2872)

Thursday, August 23, 8:00 am.

Redberry Lake

Leader: Lorne Sperling (306-978-4316)

Thursday, August 30, 8:00 am.

Stuglin's, at Pike Lake

Leader: Hilda Noton (306-374-0674)

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:

Butterfly Field Trip

Thursday, July 19, 2018

Sandhill Crane Field Trip

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Saw-whet Owl Field Trip

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

(Actual date to be determined by the owls)

Bird Feeder Workshop

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Announcements

Please consider switching from a paper copy of the SNS newsletter to an electronic copy. 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 color.

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

Bioblitz



Join SNS and the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre at the **SFBLC Garden Patch** (3rd Ave N and Duchess St) on Wednesday, July 11 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM to help conduct a **mini-Bioblitz**

For more information please contact Sara Bryson at 306-261-6156 or Adrian Werner, Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre's Urban Agriculture Program Manager at adrian.w@saskatoonfoodbank.org

Saskatoon Spring Bird Count – Long-term Trends

John Patterson

The weather this year had a negative impact on the 2018 count, conducted on May 26. Afternoon showers, thunderstorms and even hail cut short the count in some sectors, leaving productive areas unvisited. There were also three city sectors without teams this year. Despite this the number of species observed was only one shy of the long-term average of 177 and the total count of 29082 birds was 92% of the long-term average. The full report will be posted to the website.

The variability of the counts for individual species from year to year, which are subject to the effects of weather, variation in the effort expended and the vagaries of bird populations sampled over just a single day, can appear random and may hide long-

term underlying trends in species abundance. Recognizing that our bird counts are not rigorously scientific, it is still interesting and informative to compare recent results for the Spring Bird Count in the Saskatoon Birding Area (SBA) to counts of earlier years.

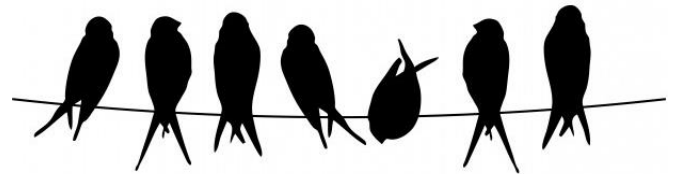
To reduce the effects of year-to-year variability and highlight long-term trends, I compared the average counts for two ten-year periods, separated by 22 years - 1987-96 and 2009-18. The 22 species whose average count declined to one-third or less from the previous level are shown in the first part of the table below. Not all changes are for the worse. For fifteen species in the SBA the average count at least tripled between the two periods and these are shown in the second part of the table.

Declining Species			
Species	Avg Count (1987-96)	Avg Count (2009-18)	Recent count as % of earlier count
Tundra Swan	24	0.9	3.7%
White-winged Scoter	2	0.7	30%
Sharp-tailed Grouse	30	6	20%
Western Grebe	119	27	23%
Yellow Rail	3	0	0%
Black-bellied Plover	508	66	13%
Piping Plover	3	0.8	31%
Long-billed Curlew	10	3	25%
Red Knot	6	0	0%
Stilt Sandpiper	3035	664	22%
Baird's Sandpiper	111	33	29%
White-Rumped Sandpiper	239	28	12%
Pectoral Sandpiper	74	22	30%
Bonaparte's Gull	16	2	15%
California Gull	76	22	29%
Herring Gull	12	2	13%
Common Loon	6	2	25%
Burrowing Owl	5	0	0%
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	0.6	23%
Western Wood-Pee wee	4	0.4	9%
Loggerhead Shrike	36	11	31%
Blue-Headed Vireo	7*	0.6	8%
Horned Lark	183	48	26%
Sprague's Pipit	55	16	28%
Lapland Longspur	1188	290	24%
Baird's Sparrow	18	1	6%

Increasing Species			
Species	Avg Count (1987-96)	Avg Count (2009-18)	Recent count as % of earlier count
Snow Goose	5	24	480%
Ross's Goose	4	15*	370%
Red-Necked Grebe	14	44	310%
Turkey Vulture	0.6	12	2100%
Osprey	0.3	3	1000%
Common Raven	2	112	6300%
Purple Martin	65	256	390%
Black-Capped Chickadee	38	125	330%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	30	970%
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	3	13	400%
Purple Finch	0.3	7	2000%
Red Crossbill	0	4	--
White-Winged Crossbill	0.3	10	2900%
Snow Bunting	0.1	40*	36000%
Common Grackle	86	293	340%

*High average count was largely due to sighting of a large flock in a single year

The data reveal species in decline and also species whose numbers are growing. The reasons for this are many – population decline/growth, shifting migration dates and patterns, expanding or contracting ranges and loss of habitat in the SBA are among them. Thanks to the many organizers and participants over the years, the Saskatoon Spring Bird Count database lets us attach numbers to local trends we recognize anecdotally and reflect results from more rigorous national and international studies; a good reason to keep participating, in addition to the enjoyment of a day out birding.



Kathy Meeres

Saskatoon Nature Society

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www.SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety

Newsletter

The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 17. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres 306-343-8590. The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

email: godmee@sasktel.net

Chairs and Coordinators

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Director	Guy Wapple	306-249-3280	gswap@sasktel.net
Director	Joe Stookey	306-934-0648	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

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Wild orchids Field Trip	2	3	4	5	6	7 North American Butterfly Count
8	9	10	11 Garden Patch Bioblitz	12 GE: Honeywood at Parkside	13	14 Beaver Creek Botany
15	16	17	18	19 GE: Gabriel Dumont Park YN: Butterflies	20	21
22 Dragonfly Field Trip	23	24	25	26 GE: Petrofka Orchard and Trails	27	28 Shorebird Driving Trip
29	30	31				

AUGUST

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 GE: Shorebirds and early migration	10	11 Douglas Park Sand Dunes Hike
12	13	14	15	16 GE: N. Sk. River Property at Maymont	17	18 Sheep at NE Swale
19	20	21	22	23 GE: Redberry Lake	24	25 Factoria Warbler Walk
26	27	28	29	30 GE: Stuglin's at Pike Lake	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	