



Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

November 2017

Vol. 39 No. 9

November Meeting

**A Balancing Act: Water Management
and Species at Risk.**

Michael Pollock

7:30 PM Thursday, November 16
Room 106, Biology Bldg., U. of S. campus

Michael Pollock grew up in northern Saskatchewan and did his PhD at U of S working on predation behaviour in fish. He is now the Senior In-stream Flow Ecologist with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency. He will discuss the responses of birds and other vertebrates to changing water levels and relate these to a difficult task: balancing the needs of wildlife, including endangered species, with the needs of farmers and municipalities at risk of flooding. The goal of the Water Security Agency is to find such a balance, one that will meet the legal and biological requirements of wildlife protection and yet leave water managers with some flexibility.



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.saskatoonnature-society.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.saskatoon-naturesociety.sk.ca/books/nature_viewing_sites.html.

Sunday, November 12, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Mendel Riverbank and Weir bird walk

We will walk along the riverbank to the weir looking for late autumn songbirds and waterfowl.

Meet at the dock for the Prairie Lily boat on the south side of the Mendel Conservatory.

Leader: Robert Johanson (306-653-2610)

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 100



more field trips on page 2

President's Corner

On a Golden Eagles field trip in early October, we were treated to sightings of seven Whooping Cranes, including a family of three that we were able to observe at fairly close range from a grid road. I was surprised to learn that for several in our group it was their first time seeing Whooping Cranes so there was lots of excitement all round. Michael Williams told us, according to the Canadian Wildlife Service, that there were a record number of chicks that fledged in Wood Buffalo National Park this year. Although the increasing number is a conservation success story there is still concern about the effect of Hurricane Harvey on food sources (crustaceans) in the Whooping Crane's wintering grounds in Texas and the long term effects of climate change. The regular Whooping Crane field trip this year had 30 attendees ranging from B.C. to Ontario. We need to pause and reflect on how fortunate we are to be on their migratory flyway and to be witness to their recovery. Let's hope it is sustained.

Special thanks to Stuart Houston for his generous donation of books to our Society. The sale at the October meeting raised \$165 and there are still more books on nature topics to choose from, so we will have another sale in advance of the November meeting.

We are still looking for one or more people to coordinate the Saskatoon Christmas Bird Count. We need a coordinator to organize the teams in advance of the count and also a compiler to collect and summarize the results. If you are interested in one or both of these roles, which Michael Williams has taken on for many years, please contact either Michael at 306-242-5383 or Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 or stan.shadick@usask.ca.

Valerie Martz

Field Trips (continued)

Sunday, November 26, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Pre-Grey Cup birding at President Murray Park

We will look for kinglets, creepers and crossbills in the spruce trees.

Meet at the corner of Wiggins Ave. and Colony St.

Bus: Route 4 Willowgrove Square departs downtown terminal at 1:31 PM and arrives at College and Munroe stop about 1:35. Walk 4 blocks south to the park and then walk to SE corner.

Leaders: Jan and Stan Shadick (306-652-5975).

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 116

Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Gardiner Dam Birding

We will look for ducks, geese, gulls and eagles. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

Meet by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot, 2610 Lorne Ave.

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

Leader: Robert Johanson (306-653-2610).



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 (or call 306-975-3395). Visit the Young Naturalists' website for detailed information about the upcoming programs. www.saskatoon-zoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/

Upcoming Young Naturalists Programs:

Saturday, December 2	Paper Making Workshop
Thursday, December 28	Christmas Bird Count for Kids
Saturday, January 13	Snowshoeing
Saturday, January 20	Tracks and Scats
Saturday, February 3	Chickadee Pishing
Saturday, March 17	Owl Pellet Dissection
Saturday, April 14	Birdhouse Workshop
Saturday, May 5	Pike Lake Field Trip
May 2018 TBA	Great Horned Owl Field Trip
May 30 - July 7	Bluebird Trail

"Kids in Nature" Grant Program

The Saskatoon Nature Society is now taking applications for the Kids in Nature Grant. This grant was established to strengthen existing programs and encourage new initiatives that connect youth in the Saskatoon area with nature. The Saskatoon Nature Society has set aside approximately \$2000.00 for this year's Kids in Nature grant.

Application deadline is December 31, 2017. Information and application available on the Saskatoon Nature Society website at <http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/kids-in-nature.html>

Golden Eagles

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. If a trip involves a guided tour of a facility, participants may be asked to make a donation to the facility.

Contact trip leader if you have any questions.

Thursday, November 9, 10:00 AM Tour the historic Bessborough Hotel.

Meet in the hotel lobby.

Note: Lunch is at the ParkTown Hotel.

Buffet lunch is \$17, or you can order off the menu.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by Monday, November 6.

Thursday, December 7, 10:00 AM Gabriel Dumont Museum 917 22nd St. West.

Meet at the Museum.

Lunch at Granada House,

904 22nd St. West.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by Monday, December 4.

Thursday, January 11, 10:00 AM Parr Auto Body, 336 Packham Ave. (Sutherland).

We will see what goes on when they repair our cars.

Meet at the site.

Lunch at Thomas the Cook, 900 Central Ave. (Sutherland), Corner of Central Ave & 109th St.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by Monday, January 8.

Leaders: Hilda Noton 306-374-0674
nottshill@sasktel.net
Marge Ketilson 306-373-1028
mketilson@sasktel.net

Announcements and Reports

Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas bird counts have been a holiday tradition for over 100 years. Set aside some time this holiday season to count our wintering birds. We welcome everyone to take part. These counts are especially good for beginners since the hours are shorter and bird diversity less than in the spring. There are three local counts.

Saturday, December 16: Clark's Crossing

Monday, December 26: Saskatoon

Monday, December 30: Pike Lake

No Fees! Audubon and BSC no longer charge participants a fee. Other regional counts are planned. Look for a detailed announcement in the December *Newsletter* or call Michael Williams (306-242-5383).

Book Sale

*From the collection of
Dr. Stuart Houston*

**Prior to our regular
meeting**

7:00- 7:30 pm on

November 16

in front of Rm 106

Biology



Project FeederWatch

Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



**Project FeederWatch
November 11 to April 6**

Birds bring beauty, song, and joy, but they act as an early warning system for environmental change. Monitoring of birds is critical for determining conservation action. Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders.

FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

There is a \$35 annual participation fee (which includes your Bird Studies Canada membership including the BirdWatch Canada magazine and monthly eNews). Project FeederWatch participants receive a full-colour bird poster and calendar, a FeederWatch Handbook and Instruction Book, access to the data entry portion of the FeederWatch website, and the chance to contribute to a continent-wide bird research project.

Project FeederWatch is a joint program of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For more information visit www.birdstudiescanada.org



Islands of Grass book launch

Please join Trevor Herriot and Branimir Gjetvaj for the launch of their new book of photographs and essays, Islands of Grass! Branimir and Trevor will talk about, and show images from the book project. There will be a short reading from the book, with book sales and signing to follow. The evening will include a performance by classical guitarist Ed Rodger and a reading by acclaimed author Dave Carpenter. Admission is free, all are welcome to attend.

The Saskatoon launch will be at the Alice Turner Branch Library, 110 Nelson Rd. on Wednesday November 15 at 7 p.m.



Nick Saunders 2018 Saskatchewan Birds Calendar is now ready to order.

The Calendars measure 11x17 and are made of high quality card stock. Each image is suitable for framing.

The cost is still \$20.00 for those that can pick up locally. Please email nikovich@gmail.com for more details.

If you wish to have the calendars mailed to you before Christmas, you can order them online directly from here- www.saskbirder.com

For special circumstances, there are a limited amount of calendars Nick will personally mail out. Shipping will be an extra 5 dollars per calendar.



SNS on Facebook

Our Facebook page needs material. Members are encouraged to upload photos or other media directly through the SNS page, or alternatively to submit files and any descriptive information to saskatoonnaturesociety@gmail.com Members with active Facebook accounts can access and promote our page by liking us and sharing our page with others on Facebook.



Receive SNS newsletter by e-mail

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. You will get information more quickly and get pictures in color.

Please keep your email address up-to-date

If you are receiving the Newsletter via email and you change your ISP or your email address, remember to send the updated address to:

Claire Bullaro at c.bear@sasktel.net

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 December Newsletter is November 25. Please send any announcements or articles to Gordon Edwards (306-380-2442). The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

email: saskgord58@gmail.com

Chairs and Coordinators

Brochure	Mary Jean Roy.....	306-665-0987	
Coffee	Hilda Voth.....	306-242-0198	
Display	Greg Fenty.....	306-343-6943	greg.fenty@gmail.com
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Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....	306-975-3395	saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President	Valerie Martz.....	306-249-0468	vmartz@shaw.ca
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Vice President	Valerie Martz.....	306-249-0468	vmartz@shaw.ca
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Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....	306-374-5228	cuttyg@shaw.ca
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Director	Joshua Erikson.....		airrocksun@gmail.com
Director	Robert Johanson.....	306-653-2610	robert.johanson@usask.ca
Director	Greg Fenty.....	306-343-6943	greg.fenty@gmail.com
Director	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975	stan.shadick@usask.ca
Director	Guy Wapple.....	306-249-3280	gswap@sasktel.net

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November			1	2	3	4
5 Islands of Grass Book Launch	6	7	8	9 GE: Bessborough Hotel	10	11
12 Mendel Riverbank and Weir	13	14	15	16 November Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 President Murray Park Birding	27	28	29	30		

December						1	2 Gardiner Dam Birding YN: Paper Making
3	4	5	6	7 GE: Gabriel Dumont Museum	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14 December Meeting	15	16 Clark's Crossing Xmas Bird Count	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24/31	25	26 Saskatoon Xmas Bird Count	27	28 YN: Xmas Bird Count	29	30 Pike Lake Xmas Bird Count	

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

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

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	