



Saskatoon Nature Society

Newsletter

November 2018

Vol. 40 No. 9

November Meeting

The Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas: Putting Saskatchewan's Birds on the Map

Kiel Drake

7:30 PM Thursday, November 15
Room 106, Biology Bldg., U. of S. campus

Kiel Drake is the Saskatchewan Director for Bird Studies Canada. Kiel enjoys being outside, especially in remote places, and this has led him to career in wildlife conservation. At work he is generally capturing or counting birds in an effort to understand their distribution and abundance. At other times he might be playing guitar, gardening, paddling his kayak, hunting, fishing, or being a dad to two daughters. He will provide an update on the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas, a five-year, volunteer-driven project which provides a contemporary assessment of the status and distribution of breeding birds in the province. Kiel will discuss the progress made in the first two seasons and highlight the challenges that lie ahead. Breeding Bird Atlases are milestones in ornithology and provide a unique opportunity for inspired naturalists to contribute directly to Saskatchewan's rich ornithological legacy.



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. For last minute changes or cancellations and to download checklists, visit www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca or www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety/ 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.

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Sanatorium Site Bird Walk

We will walk through the former Sanatorium site portion of Holiday Park to look for early arriving winter songbirds. This park is one of five naturalized parks in the city which is managed to promote a diversity of wild birds and mammals.

Meet at the south end of Avenue K, adjacent to Bowerman House.

<https://goo.gl/maps/wniy6XzhVkA2>

Bus: Route 9 Riversdale departs downtown terminal at 8:31 AM and arrives at Avenue K and Schuyler about 8:45 AM. Walk south one block along Ave. K.

Leader: Kyron Giroux (306-281-6996)

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 126

More field trips on page 2

President's Message

During a recent driving trip to Ontario we spent several days in Ottawa, taking the opportunity to visit one of our favorite museums there, the Museum of Nature which has been recently renovated. There was an interesting exhibit about the effect of climate change on Northern Canada that included the Indigenous peoples' perspective. The ornithology section has been revamped extensively. No longer are stuffed birds shown in display cases by family, but the displays are more interactive and group birds by various characteristics to illustrate size, shape, song etc. I recommend a visit if you have the opportunity to visit Ottawa or visit the museum's website for a virtual tour of some of the featured exhibits. See <https://nature.ca/en/home>

While we were away the new North Commuter Parkway, Chief Mistawasis Bridge and the Central Avenue extension opened. The Swale Watchers have been very active in raising awareness about the issues related to construction of these new roads, and movement of traffic and animals through the conservation area. They have organized a meeting on October 30 to update the public about the current issues. We expect that SNS will play a role in some aspect of the citizen-science monitoring proposed.

Also on the civic front, we continue to provide input to the City's Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS). It's an approach "in which natural areas and other green and open spaces are considered important infrastructure". The GIS baseline inventory report was released in May, 2018 and is available at the City's website. The next phase involves getting input about the development of Saskatoon's Natural Area Standards and Urban Forestry Management Plan from stakeholders like SNS.

Meewasin is proposing future trail upgrades. In addition, upgrades are proposed to the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan site, and for the area between the Children's Discovery Museum and the Shakespeare site. SNS has been invited to presentations to learn about these proposed changes. It is important that we provide input into various development projects.

Thanks to those who braved the cold weather to help with the clean-up of invasive Caragana and European Buckthorn at the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands. The

removal helped to uncover a bison rubbing stone. We hope we can organize similar events next season.

For your information renovations continue around the Biology building. The North door facing Science Crescent is still blocked off, and renovations to the wing in which the lounge is located are starting soon. It means making a change to where we have our refreshments.

Thanks to those who have switched to receiving their newsletters electronically. It saves on postage and volunteer time, plus you will get the newsletter in colour and sooner than via mail. If you wish to switch to an electronic newsletter please contact Claire Bullaro at c.bear@sasktel.net.

Valerie Martz



Field Trips cont'd

Sunday, November 11, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Pike Lake birding

We will look for winter visitors to the park. Wear warm clothing. The chickadees will gratefully accept donations of sunflower seeds.

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 12:31 PM and arrives on Lorne Avenue next to museum about 12:50 PM.

Leader: Hilda Noton (306-374-0674)

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 108

Sunday, November 25, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Pre-Grey Cup birding at President Murray Park

We will walk through this park looking for kinglets, creepers and crossbills in the spruce trees.

Meet just west of the corner of Wiggins Ave. and Colony St. <https://goo.gl/maps/2xoi9u1YnhM2>

Bus: Route 61 Blairmore/University 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.

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

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 116

**Saturday, December 1, 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 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: Robert Johanson (306-653-2610).

Book Sale



**Prior to the November 15th
Meeting**

7:00- 7:30 pm

in front of Rm 106 Biology

Thanks to several of our members who have donated books on nature-related topics.

Golden Eagles

Winter Program November -December 2018

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, November 8, 9:30 am.

Western Development Museum and WW1 Exhibit

Please meet at the site

Leaders: Dave Cook (306-955-4764) and Chris Christensen (306-374-0944)

Admission \$10. (No charge for WDM members.)

Lunch in the WDM cafeteria.

Friday, December 7, 10:00 am. (note day change to Friday)

Wine Kitz, 116 Ave. B north

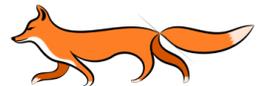
Please meet at the site

Leader: Ron Jensen (1-306-741-7537)

Lunch at Great Buffet of China, 302-22nd Street West

If you plan to do lunch please contact

Hilda Voth (306-242-0198) by Tuesday, Dec. 4.



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, November 3, 2018

Bird Feeder Workshop

Saturday, December 1

Paper Making Workshop

Thursday, December 27

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, January 19

Tracks and Scats

Saturday, February 2

Chickadee Pishing

Young Naturalists celebrates 50 years

From the September 1969 edition of *The Blue Jay*: David V. Houston, president of the Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society reported that the Saskatoon Junior Natural Society was formed in November 1968. Originally there were seven members, aged 10 to 14. One of their first projects was the building of bluebird houses. Construction began in January 1969. By April they had built 207 houses and installed them from Saskatoon to Simpson. By 1970 the Junior Naturalists had grown to over 20 members and they extended their Bluebird Trail to Raymore to link up with Lorne Scott's trail.

"Kids in Nature" Grant Program

In November and December the Saskatoon Nature Society will take 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, 2018. Information and application available in November on the Saskatoon Nature Society website at <http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/kids-in-nature.html>

Project FeederWatch Nov 10 to Apr 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 helps 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

Seeking a Volunteer

We are seeking a SNS member who would be willing to take over as website editor. Familiarity with the WordPress platform is highly desirable. Please contact Valerie Martz at: president@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca or Branimir Gjetvaj at branimir.g@whatasite.com for more information.

Thank you to Branimir for his many years as our website editor. He has now asked that we find someone to replace him in this role.

New Children's Book

Sally Meadows, a member of the SNS, has a new children's picture book out called *The Underdog Duckling* for ages 5-9. Although the main plot is fictional, the backdrop to the story is based on her real-life observations at a storm pond in Saskatoon. She worked with the illustrator to ensure that the illustrations reflected city pond life as accurately as possible. Some of the questions at the back of the book encourage readers to investigate water birds and wildlife in their own neighbourhoods. For more information visit her facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SallyMeadowsMusic>

LOUISE COOK "A Painted Diary" 1985 - 2018

October 20 - November 29 at The Gallery/Art Placement Inc. 238, 3rd Avenue South, Saskatoon

SNS member Louise Cook, whose painting represents her unique vision of the ever-changing prairies and boreal forests of the province, is featured in an exhibition at Art Placement. This is a thirty three year overview of the changing works from this landscape artist.

Nature Society Clothing

Toques, ball hats, sweat shirts, and bunny hugs featuring an embroidered American Avocet logo of the Saskatoon Nature Society are in the works. But before we proceed we need to know if there is sufficient interest in Saskatoon Nature Society clothing. Toques are \$23.00, sweatshirts are \$31.00 and bunny hugs are \$42.00 (sorry no price on the ball caps at this time). If you would be interested in sporting some Nature Society clothing please let Greg Fenty know (greg.fenty@gmail.com) by the end of November. If enough interest is generated we will proceed with a clothing order.

Saskatoon Connection on Bird ID App

One of the popular Bird ID apps for smartphones is Merlin produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. If you check this app's first listed song for Virginia Rail, you will find that it was recorded in Saskatchewan in June 2017 by Saskatoon Nature Society member John Patterson. Way to go – John!

Announcements

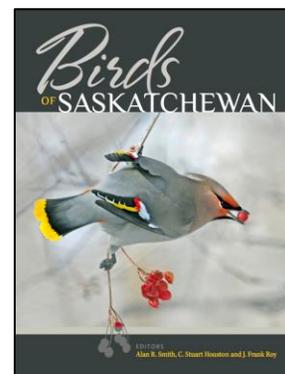
Please consider switching from a paper to electronic copy of the SNS newsletter. You can create a folder in your email system to save your back issues of the newsletters. You will help us save on paper, stamps, and volunteer time and you will get information more quickly and get pictures in colour.

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

Birds of Saskatchewan Pre-order

NEW FROM NATURE SASKATCHEWAN: 437 species of birds are documented in this 800 page, full-colour compendium, a result of over ten years of work and several lifetimes of observation, research, and writing. This work celebrates Saskatchewan's rich natural heritage, and acknowledges the efforts made to study and sustain each bird's presence in the province. It is a record of change - of the birds who have come, those who remain, and those whose habitats are affected by changes in the environment. *Birds of Saskatchewan* is indebted to the long-time editors of the project. Lead author/co-editor Alan R. Smith is the scientist, the keeper of data, and provincial documenter. Here he joins his mentors C. Stuart Houston, bird bander, history lover, and prolific author, and Houston's long-time friend, collaborator, and editor J. Frank Roy, whose passion for birds, words, and images has helped to make this a publication that we hope readers will appreciate.

Receive a discount on the purchase of *Birds of Saskatchewan* before it's published. Pay only \$64.95 from October 15 until December 15. Purchase price of book will go up to \$79.95 after December 15. Visit the Nature Sask website (<http://www.naturesask.ca>) for an order form. To pre-order, mail the form with payment to Nature Saskatchewan: 206-1860 Lorne St. Regina, SK S4P 2L7; or call the Nature Saskatchewan office at 1-800-667-4668 (toll free) or 1-306-780-9273. If you indicate that you will pick up your copy at a local society meeting you will save the \$20 shipping fee.



Saskatoon Nature Society

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Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

Website:

www.SaskatoonNatureSociety.sk.ca

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety



Newsletter

The deadline for the December Newsletter is November 17. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. email: godmee@sasktel.net phone: 306-343-8590. The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

Chairs and Coordinators

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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

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Sanatorium Site Bird Walk YN: Bird Feeder Workshop
4	5	6	7	8 GE: WDM & WW1 Exhibit	9	10 Project Feeder Watch begins
11 Pike Lake Birding	12	13	14	15 Nov. meeting "Bird Atlas"	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 President Murray Park Birding	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER

						1 Gardiner Dam Birding. YN: Paper Making
2	3	4	5	6	7 GE: Wine Kitz	8
9	10	11	12	13 December Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 YN: Christmas Bird Count for Kids	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	