



# Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

September 2018

Vol. 40 No. 7

## September Meeting

### Tyzzar's Disease: Of Muskrats, Mice and Men

**Dr. Gary Wobeser**

7:30 PM Thursday, September 20  
Room 106, Biology Bldg., U. of S. campus

Gary Wobeser grew up on a farm west of Regina. He did a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management then studied the long-tailed weasels living in a marsh in Ontario for his M.Sc. After consulting a wildlife veterinarian about the weasels' parasites he decided to train as a veterinarian. Gary has spent his professional career at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine working on diseases of wild mammals, birds and fish. One of the most fascinating of these is Tyzzar's disease, not only because of the ecology involved but also because of the remarkable scientists who contributed to our understanding of it. Gary will tell us about both the biology and the history of events occurring largely unseen around us.



## 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](http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca) or  
[www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety/)

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, 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 binoculars and suitable clothing for the weather.

**Meet** at parking lot behind Alice Turner Library at Attridge Drive and Nelson Road.  
<https://goo.gl/maps/nYWgiMobN2N2> We will

carpool from this location to reduce entrance fees.  
**Bus:** Route 44 (Willowgrove) departs downtown terminal at 8:16 am, University terminal at 8:23 am and arrives at Attridge and Nelson Road at 8:37 am.

**Leader:** TBA

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 130.

**More field trips on page 2**

## President's Message

This summer will be remembered for record heat and smoke from forest fires, but also for road building in the City of Saskatoon. One of the projects to be completed this fall is the North Commuter Parkway and Chief Mistawasis Bridge. The Swale Watchers, many of whom are members of SNS, have voiced concerns, most recently at City council's transportation committee about traffic on the parkway as it crosses through the NE Swale and the effect on wildlife. Discussions are underway to study and monitor wildlife crossing the new parkway and swale. At the end of July, I had the opportunity to tour the area and see the road work, including culverts that have been installed to allow small mammals and amphibians to safely cross the road. We expect that SNS members may be asked to take on a citizen science role in this monitoring.

There were many citizen science projects organized this summer. Our friends at EcoFriendly Sask have just published a short article, *The Rise of Citizen Scientists*, in the August 18 newsletter available at <http://www.ecofriendlysask.ca/2018/08/the-rise-of-citizen-scientists.html> Check out their website, <http://www.ecofriendlysask.ca> for information about local environmental news and events, including SNS events.

Bioblitz's were held from July 15-21 in several of the provincial parks. According to SaskParks, citizen scientists made 2555 observations in provincial parks across Saskatchewan, and over 625 species have been identified so far. SaskParks was impressed with the results so are making plans for new and improved BioBlitz events in 2019. It is a great way too to engage visitors to the parks. Another project many of you have been contributing to is Bird Studies Canada's Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas. We will hear about the first two years of this five year project at one of our monthly meetings.

I expect that by our September meeting, the construction of the new Collaborative Sciences

Research Building, adjacent to the Biology Building, will be complete, at least for those wanting to access our meeting location (Room 106 Biology) from the north side of the Campus. The sidewalk between the Agriculture and Physics Buildings has been open for some time, and there is a new entrance off Science Crescent that will serve both Biology and the new building. Landscaping was in progress when I drove by in mid- August. Please contact me if you have any questions about how to access our meeting location.

Valerie Martz

### Field Trips cont'd

#### **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 and be assigned to a group, phone Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 by September 6 or send your time availability and contact phone number in an email to [trips@saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca](mailto: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 including visit to Matador Grassland.

See [www.naturesask.ca](http://www.naturesask.ca) for details.

#### **Saturday, September 22, 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM Goose and Crane trip and picnic south of Outlook**

We will explore Broderick Reservoir in the afternoon and then visit an isolated riverbank coulee south of Outlook to watch for any geese or cranes that fly in while we consume our picnic supper. Bring your own food and a lawn chair.

**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/m79Q7DMEXxD2>

**Bus:** Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 12:31 pm and arrives on Lorne Avenue near meeting spot about 12:50 pm.

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

**Saturday, September 29, 9:00 AM – Noon.  
Gabriel Dumont Park Bird Walk**

We will walk the MVA trail towards Diefenbaker park. Bring your binoculars and suitable clothing for the weather.

**Meet:** at the Gabriel Dumont parking lot off Saskatchewan Crescent.

<https://goo.gl/maps/qEnnCiVv7Yo>

**Bus:** Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 8:31 am and arrives at Taylor and Herman Avenue about 8:45 am. Walk north to park along Saskatchewan Crescent.

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

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Pages 56 & 68.

**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. Non-members may obtain a Saskatoon Nature Society membership good through 2019 from the trip leader for just \$20 (\$30 family).

**Meet** in Centre Mall parking lot south of Burger King between Acadia and Moss on south side of 8<sup>th</sup> 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) 8<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Monday October 8, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
Woodlawn Cemetery Bird Walk**

Work up an appetite for Thanksgiving dinner by strolling through Woodlawn Cemetery and visiting the weir. We'll look for late fall migrants and early-returning winter residents.

**Meet** at the Cemetery's gate, just off 33rd St, on Memorial Ave, west of Warman Road.

<https://goo.gl/maps/kfKqtfF8yUN2>

**Bus:** Route 14 North Industrial departs downtown terminal at 9:01 AM and arrives at 33rd St and 1st Ave about 9:10 AM. Walk east 2 short blocks to Memorial Avenue.

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

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 154

**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 carragana 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.

<https://goo.gl/maps/CxNX35unii12>

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

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 134

**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.

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 at Churchill Shopping Center, Taylor St. & Clarence Ave.**

**Thursday, September 6, 8:00 a.m.**

**Rosthern Museum**

Please meet at the south-west corner of Lawson Mall.

Lunch at Station Arts Center in Rosthern.

Leader at Rosthern: Dianne Murphy (1-306-212-0005).

Leader from Saskatoon: Hilda Noton (306-374-0674). If you plan to do lunch, please contact Hilda by Monday Sept. 3.

**Thursday, September 13, 9:00 a.m.**

**MVA trail walk** from Diefenbaker parking lot to Cartwright St. Please meet at Diefenbaker park, near the railway bridge. Lunch at Western Development Museum cafeteria.

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

If you plan to do lunch, please contact Dave or Louise by Monday, Sept. 10.

**September 14-16**

**NatureSask fall meet at Swift Current**

**Thursday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.**

**Railway Museum on the Pike Lake highway**

Leader: Guy Wapple (306-249-3280).

Admission: \$5.00 cash.

**Thursday, September 27, 9:00 a.m.**

**Cranberry Flats trails**

Leader: Hilda Noton (306-374-0674).

Lunch at Dakota Dunes golf club.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact Hilda by Monday, Sept. 24.

**Thursday, October 4, 9:00 a.m.**

**Whooping Cranes**

Location TBA

Leader: Michael Williams (306-242-5383)



**Thursday, October 11, 9:00 a.m.**

**Fall migration, details to follow.**

Leaders: Audrey & Bill MacKenzie (306-373-2872).

**Thursday, October 18, 9:00 a.m.**

**Goose migration south of Delisle**

Leader: Bob Girvan (306-493-2686).

**Thursday, October 25, 5:00 p.m.**

**Turkey Supper at Queen's House, 601 Taylor St. West.**

Cost \$20 (cash please) includes dessert, beverage, tax and use of AV equipment. **A tip is welcome.** Share interesting sightings and photos. Please put photos on a thumb drive.

RSVP to Bill or Audrey MacKenzie (306-373-2872) by Monday, Oct. 22.

More information to follow.

## Birds of a Feather Art Show



The Station Arts Centre Cooperative in Rosthern will be having an exhibit of Saskatchewan Valley artists, including works by some members of the Saskatoon Nature Society. The works will be on display from September 4- 29, 2018. The Centre is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am - 4 pm.

For more information see <http://www.stationarts.com/gallery.html> or phone 306-232-5332.

## 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.

## 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:

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

## Saskatoon Spring Bird Count – Long-term Trends (update)

John Patterson

In the last newsletter there was a table showing those species for which the average count in the 10-year period 2009-18 had at least tripled compared to the period 1987-96 and also a table showing those species for which the average count had declined by at least two-thirds of the count in the earlier period. I inadvertently left out four species from each table. Here are the additional species.

Declining Species			
Species	Avg Count (1987-96)	Avg Count (2009-18)	Recent count as % of earlier count
Mountain Bluebird	112	21	19%
Chestnut-collared Longspur	7	0	0%
Lark Bunting	2	0	0%
Swamp Sparrow	2	0.4	20%

Increasing Species			
Species	Avg Count (1987-96)	Avg Count (2009-18)	Recent count as % of earlier count
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0	6	--
Black-necked Stilt	0	6	--
Blue Jay	6	20	330%
House Finch	0	137	--

## 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 October Newsletter is September 17. 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.



## 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>
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Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty ..... <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 ..... <a href="mailto:godmee@sasktel.net">godmee@sasktel.net</a>
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Director	Greg Fenty ..... <a href="mailto:greg.fenty@gmail.com">greg.fenty@gmail.com</a>
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Director	Guy Wapple.....306-249-3280..... <a href="mailto:gswap@sasktel.net">gswap@sasktel.net</a>
Director	Joe Stookey ..... <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

## SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Warblers Forestry Farm	3	4	5	6 GE: Rosthern Museum	7	8 Fall Bird Count
9	10	11	12	13 GE: MVA Trail Walk	14 NS Fall Meet Swift Current	15 NS Fall Meet Swift Current
16 NS Fall Meet Swift Current	17	18	19	20 Sep. meeting GE:Railway Museum	21	22 Geese and Cranes Outlook YN: Sandhill Cranes
23	24	25	26	27 GE: Cranberry Flats	28	29 Gabriel Dumont Park Bird Walk
30						

## OCTOBER

	1	2	3	4 GE: Whooping Cranes	5	6 Whooping Cranes
7	8 Woodlawn Cemetery Bird Walk	9	10	11 GE: Fall Migration	12	13 Invasive Shrub Removal S'toon Natural Grassland
14	15	16	17 YN: Saw-whet Owls Date tentative	18 Oct. meeting GE:Goose Migration	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 GE: Turkey Supper	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	