

Citizen Science Summary

The following information was provided to the Saskatoon Nature Society by Brenda Dale, as follow-up to her presentation on December 11, 2014: "Citizen scientists play an important role in bird conservation".

Brenda Dale has worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service as wildlife biologist. One of her primary responsibilities is to promote bird conservation through the use of electronic data gathering programs. In her talk, she compared the available programs, with the emphasis on type of information collected and the skill level required to use them. She pointed to the vital importance of the data accumulated through the work of volunteers and encouraged SNS members to make their bird counting count for conservation.

Breeding Bird Atlas – coming to Saskatchewan soon!

Time commitment is 20 hours for each square but can be shared

All skill levels can contribute distribution data

There is no SK site yet but you can look at the MB site to get an idea what is expected of volunteers and to see what kind of results are achieved.

<http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/>

Christmas Bird Count

1 day per year

All skill levels can contribute distribution data

<http://birds.audubon.org/american-birds-annual-summary-christmas-bird-count>

Checklist / eBird

Time commitment and skill levels that can contribute distribution and abundance data vary

<http://ebird.org/content/canada>

Nest Records/ Project Nestwatch

Time commitment varies. Can contribute breeding distribution and productivity data for any birds you can identify

www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pnw/

Report found bands or observed markers

Anyone can assist with this and help provide distribution and longevity data

www.reportband.gov or CWS_BBO@ec.gc.ca

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

Requires 7 or more days per year and a high skill level at banding, aging and sexing birds but provides vital information on productivity and longevity needed to understand trends

<http://www.birdpop.org/maps.htm>

Migration Monitoring

Time commitment can vary. Banding skills or assistance with practical logistics can contribute to understanding migration ecology and to a lesser degree trends

more about it at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/cmmn/index.jsp?lang=EN&targetpg=index>

Last Mountain Bird Observatory – contact Al Smith: Alanrandi@sasktel.net

Chaplin and Reed Lakes Shorebird monitoring

From one to several days. Shorebird ID skills required to provide data to track trends and understand migration ecology of shorebirds

<http://chaplinnature.wix.com/chaplinshorebird>

chaplinshorebird@gmail.com

Breeding Bird Survey

Time commitment is 1 day for survey and 1 day for logistics, data entry and checking.

Skill level to provide abundance and trend data for many species is high.

See results at:

US Site: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/index.cfm>

Canadian Site: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/reom-mbs/default.asp?lang=En&n=0D74F35F-1>

Saskatchewan coordinator is Al Smith: Alanrandi@sasktel.net

Free online training to improve skills

in bird identification (Dendroica) or aging and sexing birds in the hand (Piranga) at

<http://www.natureinstruct.org>

You may use the program as a guest but if you get an account you can create and save custom lists.