



Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

March 2019

Vol. 41 No. 3

March Meeting

Annual General Meeting and Members' Images Night 7:30 PM Thursday March 21

Room 1130 Health Sciences E-Wing, U. of S. Campus
Don't forget we're in the new location!

The evening will begin with a business meeting including the election of the 2019/20 Board of Directors and a presentation of the 2018 financial statement.

Following the business portion, the meeting will be the annual Members' Images Night, one of the highlights of the year. Any member may show up to 10 images that illustrate natural history interests and activities, and may speak briefly about them (no longer than 2 minutes please).

Digital images should be left with the projectionist before the start of the meeting. Images may be individual files, assembled as a PowerPoint or similar type of presentation, or an executable file if you are using a slideshow editing program. Please be sure your presentation runs on a standard PC. Individual images must be in jpeg format with the longest dimension of no more than 1500 pixels. Name your images so that they display in the correct order. Images should be stored in a folder indicating your name and saved on a USB flash drive.



Jaswant Singh

Field Trips

Everyone is welcome to participate in any field trip unless restrictions are specified. 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 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, March 3, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Montgomery Place birding

We will walk through this neighbourhood with mature trees looking for winter songbirds.

Meet at the intersection of Crerar Drive and Caen Street in Montgomery Place.

Bus: Check Route 9 schedule.

Leaders: Robert Johanson (306-653-2610) and Stan Shadick (306-652-5975)

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Gardiner Dam field trip

We will drive to Gardiner Dam (roundtrip distance about 250 km) to look for waterfowl as well as to look for eagles and other birds of prey. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

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 near museum about 8:50 AM.

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

More field trips on page 2

President's Message

This is my last message as President as my term ends with the upcoming annual general meeting and members' image night. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last two years and in particular thank the Board members for their advice and support. In addition to the usual duties running an organization, there were several local issues that required me to hit the ground running. One of the things I quickly learned about the Society as I became more involved is the number of dedicated Society members, their knowledge of various nature-related matters and their passion for conservation. It is the reason why the Society is a strong voice for nature in the Saskatoon area. I have learned a lot over the last two years and met many interesting people in the community.

Like most of you, I am looking forward to the end of the colder temperatures and welcome the longer days, but over the winter we have enjoyed participating in the FeederWatch program. This winter we have had a Dark-eyed Junco and pairs of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers have been hanging out with our resident House Sparrows and Black-capped Chickadees. I have often wondered how these birds survive the extreme temperatures. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "Small birds like chickadees and kinglets can drop their body temperatures by up to 15 degrees F at night with an adaptation called "regulated hypothermia." This technique enables them to save nearly a quarter of the energy they use each hour". See Cornell's website called "Bird Sleuth", designed as an educational resource for grades K to 12, <http://www.birdsleuth.org>

For those of us who are avid gardeners, the annual Gardenscape show held March 29-31 at Prairieland Park also marks the end of winter. It is a great opportunity to inform the public about our organization so please consider volunteering for a few hours at our display. Besides helping support the Society, you will save yourself the cost of admission to the event. Once again, Jan Shadick with Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation will be giving a talk on the afternoon of March 30 about "Birds in Real Danger Saskatoon". See her article in this newsletter for an update about of this local initiative that we are supporting.

I hope to see you at the AGM.

Valerie Martz

Field Trips cont'd

Saturday, March 16, 7:15 – 10:00 PM

Saw-whet Owling near Pike Lake

We will listen for owls calling after dark. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear, and bring a flashlight and a hot drink.

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

Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 6:31 PM and arrives at meeting place about 6:50 PM. Return bus leaves hourly.

Leader: Michael Williams (306-242-5383)

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Sharp-tailed Grouse Dance Trip

Late March / Early April

Members Only field trip. If interested, register in advance before March 21 via the grouse-dance.eventbrite.ca website. Space is limited. Phone Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 with any questions.

Saturday, March 30, 9:15 AM – 2:00 PM

Bluebird Trip

We will drive some roads where bluebirds frequently visit. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear. Bring a lunch if you wish to stay past noon.

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 at museum stop on Lorne Ave about 8:51 AM. Return bus leaves hourly.

Leader: John Patterson (306-249-0468).

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30PM–8:00PM

Gull Identification

A chance to learn gull identification. There should be at least four species present and maybe a rarity. We will carpool and drive to a variety of gull hangouts along the river in the city. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear.

Meet in the riverside parking lot south of the Mendel Art Gallery.

Leaders: Kyron Giroux (306-281-6996) and Robert Johanson (306-653-2610).

Sat – Sun, April 6 - 7

Prince Albert National Park birding weekend

Members only trip. We will drive to the boreal forest looking for any late winter or early spring songbirds. On Saturday night, we will listen for any northern owls. Bring a lunch. Members who have renewed their 2019 SNS membership may register for the trip before March 16 by emailing the leader at asio.otus@sasktel.net. Accommodation and other trip planning details will be sent to registered participants. Space is limited. Participants may leave early if they wish.
Leader: Marten Stoffel (asio.otus@sasktel.net)

**Wednesday, April 10, 6:45 PM–8:00 PM
Crocus Evening Hike to Cranberry Flats**

We will hike the prairie looking for crocus blooms. Check the website or with the leader in case this trip is postponed due to a late flowering season. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear.
Meet by the grain elevator at the Western Development Museum parking lot on Lorne Ave.
Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 6:01 PM and arrives at museum stop on Lorne Ave about 6:21 PM. Return bus leaves hourly.
Leader: Sara Bryson (306-261-6156). |
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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 on Thursdays at Churchill Shopping Center, Taylor St. & Clarence Ave.

**Thursday March 7, 10:00 am.
Ukraine Travelogue---Adele Wagner
Wildwood Mennonite Church,
1502 Acadia Drive.**

Please meet at the site.

Lunch (tentative) Coachman Restaurant, Market Mall, Preston Avenue and Louise Street.

If you plan to do lunch, please contact leaders by March 4. Leaders: Hilda Voth (306-242-0198, hvoth@sasktel.net) or Mary Toews (306-653-1534).

Thursday, April 4

No trip, due to questionable road conditions.

**Thursday, April 11, 9:00 AM
Crocuses at Beaver Creek and possible bluebirds in the area.**

Picnic lunch at Beaver Creek.

Leader: Lorne Sperling (306-978-4316).

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, March 16 Owl Pellet Dissection
Saturday, April 6 Birdhouse Workshop NEW DATE
Sunday, April 21 Crocus Hike
Saturday, May 4 Pike Lake Field Trip
May 2019 Great Horned Owl Field Trip

Saskatoon Nature Society 2019 Workshops

Bird ID Workshop for Novice Birders

Monday, March 18, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

This free workshop will focus on the basics of bird identification. It is aimed at novice birders. Bring your field guides and download the free Merlin app onto your smartphone.

Everyone is welcome.

Register in advance at <https://bird-id-novice.eventbrite.ca> as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Meet in Room 1130, Health Sciences E wing (same room used for 2019 Saskatoon Nature Society meetings.)

Bus: Many routes go to the nearby University Bus Terminal

Leader: LeeAnn Latremouille (306-880-9027).

Bird ID Workshop Series for Intermediate Birders

Fridays: March 22 – April 12, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

This free series of workshops will focus on using your bird book and birding app to learn to identify common breeding birds found in the Saskatoon Area. Bring your field guides and download the free Merlin app on your smartphone. This series is organized jointly by the Saskatoon Nature Society and the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas staff.

Friday, March 22: Waterbirds, gulls and terns

Friday, March 29: Grouse, Raptors, Shorebirds, Woodpeckers

Friday, April 5: Doves, Flycatchers, Swallows, Warblers and related songbirds

Friday, April 12 Wrens, Thrushes, Sparrows, Blackbirds and related songbirds

Register: in advance at <https://bird-id-intermediate.eventbrite.ca> as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Meet in Room 159, Thorvaldson Building, U of S campus for first 3 dates. Final TBA.

Bus: Many routes go to the nearby University Bus Terminal

Leaders: LeeAnn Latremouille (306-880-9027), Janine McManus, John Patterson and Stan Shadick (306-652-5975).

Birding by Ear Workshops

Fridays, April 26 and May 3

This indoor workshop series will focus on techniques for learning common bird songs found in the Saskatoon area. It will be particularly useful for volunteers planning to do point counts for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Bring

your field guides and download the free Merlin app on your smartphone. More information in the April newsletter or the saskatoonnature.org website.

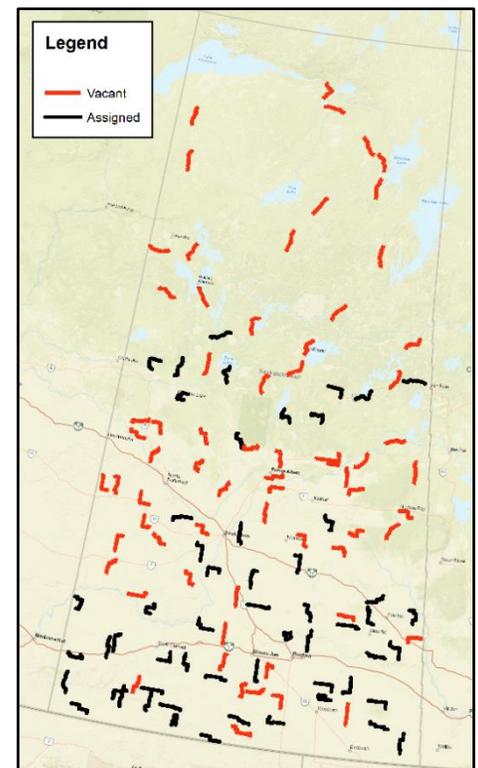
Room TBA

Leaders: Lee Ann and Janine McManus, John Patterson and Stan Shadick

The Breeding Bird Survey needs YOU!

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a volunteer-based program coordinated by the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) in the United States and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in Canada. Started in 1966, the BBS is widely recognized as the best source of long-term population trends for almost 550 bird species in North America. BBS results are used in a wide variety of research and conservation work, such as species at risk assessments and bird conservation planning at both regional and national scales. Indeed, BBS results have been instrumental in revealing declines in neotropical migrants, grassland birds, and aerial insectivores.

If you can **hear**, **see**, and **identify** the birds in your area by **song** and **sight**, then we need you to start counting... for the birds! If you don't yet know all the birds in your area but are eager to learn, then a BBS mentor may be for you. To find out if you have what it takes to be a BBS volunteer, or to



Map: Vacant and assigned BBS routes in Saskatchewan

join our BBS mentoring program, please contact Al Smith (alanrandi@saskatel.net) or Barry Robinson (barry.robinson@canada.ca), Saskatchewan's regional Breeding Bird Survey Coordinators, or the National Breeding Bird Survey office (ec.ron-bbs.ec@canada.ca, 613-998-0492).

Birds In Real Danger, Saskatoon (B.I.R.D.S.)

BIRDS grew out of a communal desire to protect our feathered friends, and became a partnership between the Saskatoon Nature Society, Wild Birds Unlimited, Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee, and Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation.

We are all passionate about birds and recognize the threats to birds from flying into glass structures. Over 699 million birds are killed by glass in North America each year according to the FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) Canada.

BIRDS has been actively advocating for bird safety since its inception last year. We have a 6 foot banner that attracts attention at community events and encourages conversation and awareness of the problem and possible solutions. It is on display at Beaver Creek when not otherwise in use.

Jan Shadick gave a well-attended presentation about bird collisions at Gardenscape last year. She will give another presentation this year. All partners have attended City meetings and advocated for implementation of bird-friendly building guidelines.

Progress has been positive! The City of Saskatoon, the University, and MVA have taken steps to implement some of the ideas and suggestions from the Director of FLAP (Michael Mesure).

1. The University has added "Dots" to windows on new overhead walkways to reduce bird collisions.
2. MVA has placed "dots" on their windows at Beaver Creek, and has plans to place them on their downtown office building. They have also included a more rigorous assessment of buildings for bird-friendly design during their review process.
3. The City of Saskatoon has begun to develop Bird-Friendly Building Guidelines in accordance with recommendations from FLAP. After consulting with LSWR, FLAP and other partners, they are publishing a Healthy Yards pamphlet with tips for homeowners to help protect birds from collisions with glass. It will be ready for visitors to Gardenscape and will later be distributed as an electric bill insert throughout the city.

Never in our wildest dreams did we believe that we could make such a significant difference in community attitudes within such a short time span.

Jan Shadick

Announcements

Earth Hour Saturday, March 30 at 8:30 p.m.

WWF-Canada calls on people across the country to join others around the world to send a strong global message and show your commitment to the planet. You can switch on your social power by simply switching off your lights. You can learn more and sign up at <https://www.earthhour.org>

The 13th annual Earth Hour takes place at 8:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 30. Six continents, over 170 countries, and 24 time zones will be united as a global community, making our voices heard through individual action. Turn off as much power as you can and focus on your commitment to climate action for the rest of this year.

Saskatoon Seedy Saturday

Saturday March 9, 2019 10:00 to 3:00
Station 20 West – 1120 20th Street W

Break your winter dormancy and usher in spring! Join CHEP Good Food Inc. for our 21st Annual Seedy Saturday Seed Exchange and Eco-fair featuring:

- seed swap
- over 25 vendors of natural and local goods
- live music
- children's activities
- gardening workshops

...and much more!

Admission \$2, Children free. Cash only event.

Volunteers Needed

The Saskatoon Nature Society will be at GardenScape (Mar 29-31) and the Living Green Expo (Apr 26-28) with our display booth and Wetland Metaphor interactive environmental education display. We are looking for volunteers to help staff our display and let everyone know about our wonderful Society. Shifts are available on all three days. E-mail greg.fenty@gmail.com to volunteer or sign up at our monthly meeting.

Limited Edition Nature Society Toques

Don't be left out in the cold! Nature Society toques are here. These royal-blue knit toques feature the Nature Society avocet logo and are guaranteed to make you look stylish while birding this winter. Toques are \$25.00 (cash or cheque), but supply is limited. Toques will be available for sale at the March monthly meeting on March 21.

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 April Newsletter is March 23. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: godmee@sasktel.net or call 306-343-8590. The publisher would appreciate if articles are complete and submitted electronically.

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.

Chairs and Coordinators

Brochure	Mary Jean Roy.....	306-665-0987	
Coffee	Hilda Voth.....	306-242-0198	
Display	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839.....	greg.fenty@gmail.com
Facebook Editor	Sara Bryson.....		demeter187@hotmail.com
Field Trips	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975.....	stan.shadick@usask.ca
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Publicity	Ron Jensen.....	306-665-8248.....	rjes@shaw.ca
Webmaster	Branimir Gjetvaj.....	306-220-5703.....	branimir@shaw.ca
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839.....	saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President	Valerie Martz.....	306-249-0468.....	vmartz@shaw.ca
Past President	Marten Stoffel.....	306-230-9291.....	asio.otus@sasktel.net
Vice President	Sara Bryson.....		demeter187@hotmail.com
Secretary	Kathy Meeres.....	306-343-8590.....	godmee@sasktel.net
Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....	306-374-5228.....	cuttyg@shaw.ca
Director	Alice Hiller.....		hiller841@hotmail.com
Director	Robert Johanson.....	306-653-2610.....	robert.johanson@usask.ca
Director	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839.....	greg.fenty@gmail.com
Director	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975.....	stan.shadick@usask.ca
Director	Guy Wapple.....	306-249-3280.....	gswap@sasktel.net
Director	Joe Stookey.....	306-229-7499.....	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

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Montgomery Place Birding	4	5	6	7 GE: Ukraine Travelogue	8	9 Gardiner Dam Field Trip
10	11	12	13	14	15 Bird ID Workshop Series	16 Saw-whet Owl Trip YN: Owl Pellet Dissection
17	18 Bird ID Workshop	19	20	21 March Meeting	22 Bird ID Workshop Series	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Bird ID Workshop Series	30 Bluebird Trip
31						



APRIL

	1	2	3 Gull Identification	4	5 Bird ID Workshop Series	6 YN: Birdhouse workshop Prince Albert Weekend
7	8	9	10 Crocus Evening Hike	11 GE: Crocus Trip– Beaver Creek	12 Bird ID Workshop Series	13
14	15	16	17	18 GE: Bluebirds- Pike Lake April Meeting	19	20
21 YN: Crocus Hike	22	23	24	25 GE: Brightwater Marsh	26 Birding by Ear Workshop	27
28	29	30				



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	