



Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

September 2019

Vol. 41 No. 7

September Meeting

Saskatchewan Farmland Moose Project

Dr. Ryan Brook

**Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and
Bioresources**

7:30 PM Thursday September 19

Room 1130 Health Sciences E-Wing, U. of S. Campus

Don't forget we're in the new location!

Ryan Brook grew up on a farm in southern Manitoba and was fascinated by both farming and wildlife. His interest continues as he now researches interactions between wildlife and agriculture; in this case he's studying farmland moose.

The Saskatchewan Farmland Moose Project (SFMP) addresses a variety of important concerns about moose living in Saskatchewan, specifically vehicle collisions and property damage. The SFMP is based out of the Wildlife Ecology and Community Engagement Lab at the University of Saskatchewan, under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Brook, and in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, as well as the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, to study moose habitat and movement.



Field Trips

Everyone is welcome to participate in most field trips unless restrictions are specified. 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 <https://.saskatoonnature.org> for last minute changes or cancellations and to download checklists. Remember to refresh your browser. 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 <https://saskatoonnature.org/special-publications/>

Saturday, August 31, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM Warbler Hike to Green Ash Forest

We expect to look for warblers and other fall migrant songbirds within a native Green Ash forest situated on the riverbank south of Wanuskewin. This forest is currently slated to be destroyed during construction of the proposed new Saskatoon Freeway (Perimeter Highway) bridge.

Wear good hiking shoes because we may encounter steep slopes. Bring a water bottle.

Check website for possible updates on our plans.

Meet at the SW corner of the parking lot for the Lawson Heights Mall.

Bus: Route 12 River Heights departs downtown terminal at 7:16 AM and arrives at Lawson Heights at 7:43 AM.

Walk to SW corner of parking lot.

Leader: Stan Shadick (cell: 306-281-2215)

More field trips on page 2

President's Message

One of the remarkable aspects of the Saskatoon Nature Society is that there is a vast wealth of knowledge within our membership. Among our members there are biologists, chemists, physicists, botanists, and ornithologists; not to mention the astounding amount of citizen science experience.

The objective of the Saskatoon Nature Society is to promote the appreciation of nature, and encourage a deeper knowledge of it through observation, education and sharing of experience. We are able to accomplish this objective as our educated and experienced membership contribute not only their own knowledge, but also information that has been passed down through the Society from member to member, as well as bringing in others from our community to expand what we know about various species, habitats, conservation, and related successes or concerns that arise.

The main way we get people out in nature to share and expand our knowledge is through our field trips and monthly speaker series. This Fall and Winter we again have much to look forward to. Field trips we can expect are multiple bioblitzes at the North East and Small Swales, warbler trips during Fall Migration, a geese and crane trip, the very popular whooping crane trip in October, owl banding, bird counts, and the owl adventures in the winter. The monthly program speaker series this year is expected to include presentations on moose on farmland, amphibians, landscapes, pond water microbes, and grassland management.

As always, I encourage you to stay engaged with what is going on in our community. Join us on field trips, outings, and at the monthly meetings; and when you are at these events, ask questions and utilize this wealth of knowledge that we are so lucky to have, and celebrate the amazing people who make it all possible.

I would also like to note with great sadness that we have lost a few members of our Society over the last months, but their passion for nature and contributions to the Society will live on and be celebrated through current and future members.

Sara Bryson

Field Trips continued

Saturday, September 7 Fall Bird Count

We need volunteers to help us survey the city and SE rural areas for migrant birds. Please phone Stan Shadick at 306-652-5975 or email trips@saskatoonnature.org and provide your contact information and times that you are available to count birds. John Patterson will compile the results, which will be posted on our website.

Wednesday, September 11, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Fall Picnic at Gabriel Dumont Park

Bring your own food. Afterwards, we will go on a short hike looking for birds.

Meet at Gabriel Dumont Park.

<https://goo.gl/maps/qEic3rtuTKycRpRs7>

Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 5:01 PM and arrives at Taylor Street and Herman Avenue about 5:14 PM. Walk north along Saskatchewan Crescent to the park.

Nature Viewing Sites: page 68.

September 13 – 15

Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet in Greenwater Provincial Park

Check www.naturesask.ca for details.

Saturday, September 21, 1:45 PM – 9:30 PM Goose and Crane trip to Outlook area.

Members-only event. We will look for cranes, geese and explore the riverbank and local history where indigenous travois trails exist. Dress for the weather and bring a picnic supper.

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

<https://goo.gl/maps/3j1KTNfasmC2>

Bus: Route 1 Exhibition departs downtown terminal at 1:01 PM and arrives on Lorne Avenue next to museum entrance about 1:25 PM.

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



Saturday, October 12, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Whooping Crane field trip

Members only field trip. We will drive in search of any reported Whoopers within 100 km of the city. Non-members may obtain a Saskatoon Nature Society membership good through 2020 from the trip leader for just \$20 (\$30 family).

Check October newsletter for full details.

LATER FALL OUTINGS. Please check <https://saskatoonnature.org/scheduled-trips/>

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 <https://saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/>

Upcoming Young Naturalists Programs:

- Sandhill Crane Field Trip
 - Saturday, September 28 at 9:30 a.m.
- Saw-whet Owl Field Trip
 - October TBA
- Birdhouse Workshop
 - Saturday, November 2 at 1:00 p.m.



Golden Eagles

The Golden Eagles, a sub-group of Saskatoon Nature Society, invites retirees and partners who are interested in the natural world - birds, plants and all - 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 noted, we meet on Thursdays, at Churchill Shopping Center, Taylor Street East and Clarence Avenue.**

Thursday, September 5, 8:30
Blackstrap birding
Picnic lunch in the area
Leader: Stan Shadick (306-652-5975)

September 13-15
Nature Sask Fall Meet at Greenwater Provincial Park
Information at www.naturesask.ca

Friday, September 13, 8:00
Tour Ruddy Duck Lodge (RDL), Tiger Hills Upland east of Wakaw
Picnic lunch at RDL. Some participants may go on to the Fall Meet; others will return to Saskatoon.
Leaders: Dale Parker (email dale.parker@sasktel.net) & Vicki Keeler (306-222-3475)
Meet at northwest corner of Circle Mall parking lot

Thursday, September 19, 9:00
Birding at Donna L. Birkmaier Park
Picnic lunch in the area
Leader: Hilda Noton 306-374-0674

Thursday, September 26, 8:30

Orval & Bev Beland acreage, Maymont-Denholm area
Picnic lunch on site

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

Thursday, October 3, 8:30

Vonda, Prud'homme, Bruno area: Ponds and Prairie

Lunch at Champetre County, St. Denis

Leaders: Yvonne Cuttle (306-374-5228), Michael Williams (306-242-5383), Monique Pulvermacher & Joan Feather (306-653-3160)

Thursday, October 10, 9:00

Whooping Cranes (Location: TBA)

Picnic lunch in the area

Leaders: Marten Stoffel (306-230-9291) & Michael Williams (306-242-5383)

Thursday, October 17, 9:00

Birding at Ashworth Holmes Park

Tour historic Christ Church Anglican, 515 28th St W

Picnic lunch on site

Leaders: Melanie Elliott (306-249-2631), (church tour leader TBA)

Thursday, October 24, 8:30

Watrous country geological history, and Manitou Springs Resort and Mineral Spa

Lunch at Manitou Springs Resort & Mineral Spa restaurant
Bring bathing suit if you wish to use the pool

Leaders: Bill & Audrey MacKenzie (306-373-2872), Joan Feather (306-653-3160)

Wednesday, October 30, 5:00

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

Cost: \$20, cash only; includes supper, dessert, beverage, tax and use of AV equipment. A tip is welcome. Share interesting sightings and photos (put photos on thumb drive). RSVP by October 25 to Sylvia Raginski (306-477-5942) or email ragso@sasktel.net



Help with Refreshments



Hilda Voth, who organizes the refreshments that we enjoy after each monthly meeting, would like some assistance starting immediately. Please contact Hilda Voth at hvoth@sasktel.net or Sara Bryson at president@saskatoonnature.org for more information. Thank you.

2019 Spring Bird Count

The spring bird count was held on May 25th. Fifty-three participants faced cool, windy and wet weather, but still found 170 species including Cackling Goose, a new species for the count. The total count of 32,615 birds was the highest in a decade.

Some normally common species were notable by their relative absence. The counts for American Coot and Franklin's Gull were just 15% and 3% respectively of their long-term average. On the other hand Tree Swallow, Downy Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker set all-time highs. Low water levels had exposed more mudflats and shorebird numbers were strong as a result.

Thanks go out to all who participated in the count and helped to continue the spring-time tradition that began in 1957, which provides a record of bird abundance during spring migration in the Saskatoon area.

The full count report has been posted to the website and can be found at <https://saskatoonnature.org/bird-count-may-2019/>



A Tribute to Mary Houston

Long-time Society member Mary Houston passed away in July 2019. A lifelong educator and avid naturalist, Mary touched the lives of countless people.

A University of Saskatchewan graduate, Mary began her professional life teaching at Yorkton Collegiate Institute. With her marriage to Stuart Houston in 1951 she embarked on a very busy life, raising four children and assuming a variety of volunteer responsibilities, as well as working with Stuart on an energetic array of bird-banding projects, research and publications.

Mary was a bird-bander for 63 years, personally banding pelicans, cormorants, and gulls, then later shifting to backyard species. She banded many songbirds, including 6,000 Dark-eyed Juncos, 3500 White-throated Sparrows and 3200 redpolls. In winter months, Mary banded a record 5,387 Bohemian Waxwings, more than the total of all other North American bird banders combined. She also provided Stuart's owl, hawk and vulture-banding crews with an always dependable and much appreciated supply of water, iced tea, sandwiches (notably peanut butter and raisin) and cookies.

Mary introduced many school classes and individual students to birding. She often invited school classes to her home, or led them on outings at Pike Lake. In 1968 Mary and Stuart became the first adult advisors for a brand-new Saskatoon Junior Natural History Society. Mary proceeded to organize a trail of nest boxes for bluebirds over 200 miles long – a project inspired by successes with similar projects in the Brandon and Indian Head areas designed to “bring back the bluebirds”. The junior naturalists built 270 nest boxes for their section of the trail, and assisted with the checking and banding that had to be done every 10 days or so between May and July. [It took 4 full days to do the whole route.] Mary led this activity every year until 2005 when she finally handed it off to a team (Greg Fenty, Melanie Elliott, Jan Shadick and Tim Haughian) to take her place. During her tenure, she banded over 8,000 bluebirds and over 18,000 Tree Swallows.

Long-time members will remember with fondness many post-Boxing-Day Bird Count socials that Mary hosted. She also devoted a phenomenal number of hours for over 30 years (with the exception of two years when she wasn't in

the province) to compiling all of the Christmas Bird Count data from across the province into one annual report.

In her lifetime, Mary served on the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of Girl Guides of Canada, and on the executive of the Canadian Nature Federation, the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, the Saskatoon Nature Society, the University Women's Club and the Anglican Church Women at her church. She has authored and co-authored many journal articles, one book, and several book chapters, and provided an unimaginable amount of critical review and proof-reading, including, most recently, for *Birds of Saskatchewan*.

The Saskatoon Council of Women, inducting Mary into the Saskatoon Women's Hall of Fame in 2011, called her “one of the city's most remarkable women”. She was one of the first four recipients of a Fellows Award from the Saskatchewan Natural History Society in 1987. [Stuart was another of the four.] Other awards Mary has received over the years include Meewasin's Conservation Award in 1996, the Douglas Pimlott Conservation Award from the Canadian Nature Federation in 1988, Nature Saskatchewan's Conservation Award in 2003, and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 2006. She was added to the U. of S. College of Education Alumni Wall of Honour in 2010, and was named an Alumna of Influence by the College of Arts and Science in 2013.

Mary is both mourned and celebrated by all who knew her, and most keenly by her husband Stuart, their four children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



photo: Greg Fenty

Saskatoon Nature Society

Mailing address:

Box 448, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

Website:

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety



Newsletter

The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 16. 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	
Facebook Editor		
Field Trips	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975	trips@saskatoonnature.org
Golden Eagles	Hilda Noton.....	306-374-0674	
Membership	Michael Williams.....	306-242-5383	
Newsletter			
Publisher	Kathy Meeres.....	306-343-8590	godmee@sasktel.net
Mailing	Bev Beland.....	306-445-3439	
Mailing List	Claire Bullaro.....	306-373-1787	
e-distribution	Claire Bullaro.....	306-373-1787	c.bear@sasktel.net
Program	Joe Stookey.....	306-229-7499	
Publications	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839	
Publicity	Ron Jensen.....	306-741-7537	
Webmaster	Trent Watts.....		web@saskatoonnature.org
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....	306-370-8839	naturekids@saskatoonnature.org

Board of Directors

President	Sara Bryson	306-261-6156	president@saskatoonnature.org
Past President	Valerie Martz.....	306-249-0468	
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Diane Wells	306-229-0328	
Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....	306-374-5228	treasurer@saskatoonnature.org
Director	Kathy Meeres.....	306-343-8590	
Director	Robert Johanson	306-653-2610	
Director	LeeAnn Latremouille		
Director	Stan Shadick.....	306-652-5975	trips@saskatoonnature.org
Director	Guy Wapple.....	306-249-3280	
Director	Janine McManus		

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	3	4	5 GE: Blackstrap Birding	6	7 Fall Bird Count
8	9	10	11 Fall Picnic Gabriel Dumont Pk	12	13 GE: Ruddy Duck Lodge Nature Sask Meet,	14 Greenwater Park..
15	16	17	18	19 GE: Donna Birkmaier Park	20	21 Geese and Cranes - Outlook
22	23	24	25	26 GE: Beland Acreage	27	28 YN: Sandhill Cranes
29	30					

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 GE: Ponds and Prairie	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 GE: Whooping Cranes	11	12 Whooping Crane Trip
13	14	15	16	17 GE: Ashworth Holmes Park	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 GE: Watrous Country	25	26
27	28	29	30 GE: Turkey Supper	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 (<https://saskatoonnature.org>), 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@saskatoonnature.org**

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	