



# Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

September 2020

Vol. 42 No. 7

## September Program Members' Images Thursday, September 17, 2020

Our programs this fall will look quite different from what we're used to! We will be moving on-line for now; you can join us from the comfort of your home! We will be using the Zoom meeting platform. The season will begin on September 17, 2020 with a presentation of members' images, a program that we had to cancel last March. The meeting will also include announcements from our president, as usual. You are invited to send your images (maximum 10) to Sara Bryson via email at demeter187@hotmail.com. You may send them in jpg format or as a PowerPoint presentation (10 slides in length). Given the nature of the platform, we will not be able to have every participant speak, so please include any notes or brief description(s) of your photos in the email, and the moderator will include the information either verbally or in the combined PowerPoint presentation in text on the slides. The deadline for submission is Friday, September 11, 2020.

All members who have registered an email address will receive information on how to join the Zoom meeting. For those who do not have the technology to use Zoom, we hope that you will be able to join someone in your close social group. If you have not registered an email address but would like to do so, please do as soon as possible. If you do not use email or if you have any questions, please contact Sara Bryson at 306-261-6156 (if you text please include your name).



## Field Trips

**Members Only Events.** We are planning some fall field trips with strict limits to the number of participants in accordance with Saskatchewan Phase 3 COVID-19 regulations. Participants must follow social distancing at all times and wear masks when requested by the leader. Do not car-pool except with members of the same household or close associates (within your bubble). There will be limited sharing of scopes or other equipment. All events are open only to paid-up members of the Saskatoon Nature Society. Members who wish to participate in a particular field trip must contact the listed leader by phone or email as quickly as possible. The leader will notify those members who are accepted to join their field trip and send them additional information about the meeting location and other trip details.

### Saturday, September 12 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](mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org) and provide your contact information and times that you are available to count birds. John Patterson will compile the bird count results, which will be posted on our website. The May Bird Count results are posted now.

### September 19 – 20 Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet at Last Mountain Lake Bird Observatory

See item on page 5 and check [www.naturesask.ca/get-involved/fall-meet](http://www.naturesask.ca/get-involved/fall-meet) for details.



More field trips on page 3

## President's Message

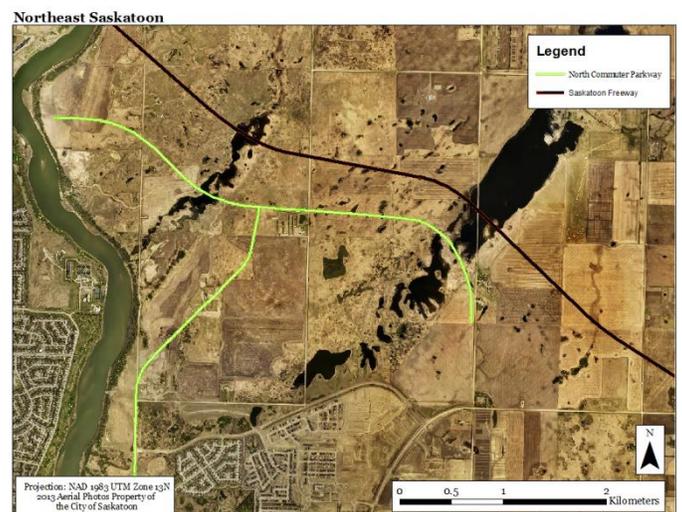
There has been a lot going on this summer including changes due to COVID-19, the Saskatoon Freeway project, and a promising new collaboration.

The pandemic continues to affect our regular activities as we move towards our Fall programming. Since the University of Saskatchewan remains closed to the public and with ongoing public health concerns, we will no longer be having live in-person general meetings but will move online to virtual presentations. These meetings will still include announcements from myself. If anyone has an announcement or notice, please contact me at least 2 days before the scheduled general meeting, which is always the third Thursday of the month. For security purposes and ease of distribution, we will be sending the Zoom information for our general meetings to current members (who have registered an email) only. Please remind previous members to renew their membership and encourage new interested members to join us on this year's learning experiences. We also continue to have field trips available to members only and by contacting the respective leaders.

The Saskatoon Freeway project has entered into the Phase 2 Functional Planning Study, with focus groups and design workshops. A few of our members, including myself and Stan Shadick, participated in the focus groups in July and the design workshop in late August. Notes from the focus groups taken by their project team can be found at <https://saskatoonfreeway.org/phase-2>. We are also now a member of the Environment & Heritage Technical Working Group with Highways, representing an environmental/nature-centered view. This group discusses and attempts to inform decisions regarding the Freeway.

This phase, Phase 2, is the one which passes through both the Small Swale and the Northeast Swale. It is very important to increase public awareness of these areas, recognizing the value of the native grassland ecosystem (including wetlands/sloughs) and to advocate for the habitat, specifically in relation to increased research/data on the area; including Species at Risk surveys and a formal Environmental Impact Assessment. The "Habitat Evaluation of the Saskatoon Freeway Project Through the Northeast and Small Swale Complexes – 2020 Report" can be found at <https://saskatoonfreeway.org/reports> (note on page 6 that Valerie Martz is our current Past President

and the list of members involved is not inclusive). To voice your opinion on the impact it may impose on this sensitive area, you can send a letter of concern to your MLA, your city councillor, the Mayor, Minister of Highways & Infrastructure, the Minister of Environment, the Municipality of Corman Park, and/or the Premier of Saskatchewan. Information to do so and a template letter can be found on the Endangered Grasslands Alliance page at [endangeredgrasslandsalliance.ca/call-to-action](http://endangeredgrasslandsalliance.ca/call-to-action) under the "Send a letter of concern" heading. Additional information and maps of the project can be found on the Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure website at [saskatoonfreeway.org](http://saskatoonfreeway.org).



from: <https://endangeredgrasslandsalliance.ca/northeast-swale/>

On a very happy note, I am excited to announce that the SNS Board has recently been working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada on an agreement regarding development/conservation of a property near Asquith, Saskatchewan. Portions of the land are perfect examples of prairie habitat and others seem promising for management to return it to its native roots. This joint venture should directly align with our purpose to conserve and educate people about nature, not to mention provide a great place to enjoy escape to our local prairie roots! We are very thankful that this opportunity is made possible through the thoughtful and generous bequest left to us by Patricia Anne Thomas. As we move along in this process, I will keep the membership updated.

An extra note to please spread the word about SNS membership: The membership fees generally cover the cost of mailing out the newsletter and the printing and mailing out of membership cards. Don't forget, perks of an SNS membership include a 10% discount on bird related products at Wild Birds Unlimited, a 10% discount on bird seed, houses, and books at Early's, and a discount on photo finishing at Don's photo. Another great benefit of being a member is access to the knowledge of other members. We have amazing members with a vast array of nature knowledge to share! To renew a membership or have a new member sign up, please visit [saskatoonnature.org/membership](http://saskatoonnature.org/membership) or complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

Sara Bryson



Western Red Lily

Sara Bryson

**Field Trips continued**

**Monday, September 21, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
**Sandhill Crane viewing at Chief Whitecap Park**

An evening outing to view the cranes as they fly to the river to roost for the night near the city.

**Leader:** Diane Wells

To register: Text or phone: 306-229-0328 or email [dmwells@shaw.ca](mailto:dmwells@shaw.ca)

**Guide to Nature Viewing Sites:** Page 40.

**Saturday, September 26, 1:45 PM – 9:30 PM**  
**Goose and Crane trip to Outlook area**

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.

**Leader:** Marten Stoffel

To register: Text or phone: 306-230-9291

**Saturday, October 10, 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 your lunch and dress for the weather.

**Leader:** Robert Johanson.

To register: Email [robert.johanson@usask.ca](mailto:robert.johanson@usask.ca) or phone 306-653-2610.

**Monday October 12, 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.

**Leader:** Robert Johanson.

To register: Email [robert.johanson@usask.ca](mailto:robert.johanson@usask.ca) or phone 306-653-2610.

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

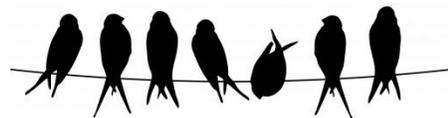
**Saturday, October 24, 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON**  
**Waterfowl viewing at a nearby lake**

We will drive to a lake near the city to view flocks of waterfowl.

**Leader:** John Patterson.

To register: phone 306-371-9354 or email [jrpatterson@shaw.ca](mailto:jrpatterson@shaw.ca)

**LATER FALL OUTINGS.** Please check October newsletter.



**Membership Renewals are down substantially**

The Covid situation seems to have affected our membership renewal rate. We are thankful to be in a good financial state, such that we can weather this challenge. To help us out, please do renew your membership, and encourage others to do so as well. Remember that memberships paid for on or after September 1<sup>st</sup> cover membership for 2021!

## Golden Eagles Fall Program

Membership in the Golden Eagles is open to retirees and partners interested in birds and the natural world. Participants should be members of the Saskatoon Nature Society and consider membership in Nature Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise arranged, we meet on Thursdays at the Churchill Shopping Centre at Taylor St. and Clarence Ave. Please note the departure times vary with the season and the destination. Bring lunch, drinks, chairs and sanitizer. If plans include dining in a restaurant, please contact the leaders to confirm numbers. Due to phase 4 of Covid-19 regulations, social distancing and hand washing or sanitizing must be followed. Wear masks indoors and if requested by the leader. No carpooling except for family or close social 'bubbles'. No sharing of scopes and other equipment. The outings are subject to change and updates will be sent to the Golden Eagles mailing list when necessary.

### **Sept. 03 9:00 Gabriel Dumont Park**

Please meet at the GDP parking lot

Leader: Margaret Woloshyn (306) 373 2801

### **Sept. 10 9:00 Cranberry Flats/Beaver Creek**

Leader: TBA

### **Sept. 17 9:00 Ferry Tour of the South Saskatchewan River**

Leader: Bill and Audrey MacKenzie  
(306) 373 2872

### **Sept. 24 9:00 Petrofka orchard and trails**

Leader: Louise & Dave Cook (306) 955 4764

### **Oct. 01 9:00 Radisson Lake**

Leader: Bill & Audrey MacKenzie  
(306) 373 2872

### **Oct. 08 9:00 Whooping Cranes.**

This trip is limited to members only to a maximum of 25. Please phone Bill or Audrey MacKenzie to sign up (306) 373 2872

Leader: Marten Stoffel (306) 230 9291

### **Oct. 15 9:00 Blackstrap & area**

Leader: John Patterson & Valerie Martz  
(306) 249 0468

### **Oct. 22 9:00 Pike Lake & area**

Leader: TBA

### **Oct. 29 5:00 Fall Dinner? Information to follow**

This program was prepared by Bill & Audrey MacKenzie  
306 373 2872 and Margaret Woloshyn 306 373 2801

## 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 in advance, so register early. To register or for more information e-mail: [naturekids@saskatoonnature.org](mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org).

**COVID concerns: There will be some modification to our outdoor programs to ensure physical distancing. Our indoor programs are all currently tentative.**

Sandhill Crane Field Trip - Saturday, September 19

Saw-whet Owl Field Trip - October 2 (Tentative)

Bird Feeder Workshop - Saturday, November 14  
(Tentative)

Paper Making Workshop - Sunday, December 6  
(Tentative).

Please check <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists/> for more information and current status of the programs.



*Sandhill Crane*

*May Haga*

## B.I.R.D.S. Update

The BIRDS (Birds in Real Danger, Saskatoon) initiative, a partnership between SNS, Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation, Wild Birds Unlimited and the SK Light Pollution Abatement Committee, has been around for several years. In 2020, LSWR received a grant from the City of Saskatoon to hire a Volunteer Coordinator to oversee Spring and Fall Window Strike Walkers.

Raea Gooding has been a long-time supporter and volunteer with LSWR, and she has been amazing at organizing volunteers to walk identified Zones in Downtown Saskatoon, on the University of Saskatchewan's campus, and in Innovation Place. We have had a good number of walkers (14 so far) checking for birds, (dead and alive), and taking photos of feather piles that are suspected to be predated window strikes.

We are looking for more volunteers to participate in September. Fall brings the young birds migrating down from the Boreal forest region, and we then see a huge uptick in the number of window strikes. You get to enjoy the lovely fall weather while taking a stroll, looking for birds, and saving wildlife! If you are interested, or curious for more information, contact us at [LSWR@sasktel.net](mailto:LSWR@sasktel.net)

Thank You to SNS for all your support on this initiative!!

# Nature SASKATCHEWAN

## Fall Meet 2020: Celebrating 30 Years of the Last Mountain Bird Observatory

<https://www.naturesask.ca/get-involved/fall-meet>

Due to ongoing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nature Saskatchewan has had to adjust its plans for the Fall Meet.

On Saturday, **September 19** and Sunday, **September 20**, we invite you to join us at the Last Mountain Bird Observatory (LMBO) station for guided and self-guided tours. Transportation to and from the station, as well as lunch and refreshments, will be your own responsibility. There is no registration fee for this meet.

For the safety of both our guests and the birds, there will be no admittance into the banding station. However, tours along the mist nets and presentations on the processing of the birds will be provided.

A birding tour along the lake, and a trip to the National Wildlife Area at the north end of the lake, will also be available.

To help manage group numbers so as to ensure the best possible experience, and maintain everyone's safety, please call 1-800-667-4668 or email the office at [info@naturesask.ca](mailto:info@naturesask.ca) to register for the tours. The tours will run on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

On Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom webinar, Al Smith, bander-in-charge since the inception of the station, will give a presentation on the history of the station and the information collected over the past 30 years. To attend the virtual presentation, please inform the office of your interest. You will then receive unique Zoom log-in information to join.

**Please note: these plans are subject to change based on the current restrictions in place due to the pandemic.**



*Pileated Woodpecker* Bob Godwin

### Moving?

Don't forget to update your address with SNS! We need to know where to send your newsletter.

To update your membership info please contact Claire Bullaro at [c.bear@sasktel.net](mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net) or 306-373-1787

**Saskatoon Nature Society**

**Mailing address:**

PO Box 27013 GROSVENOR PARK  
SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9

**Website:**

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety)



**Newsletter**

The deadline for the next newsletter is Sept. 17. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: [godmee@sasktel.net](mailto: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 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](mailto: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	Sara Bryson .....306-261-6156 (text please)
Field Trips	Stan Shadick.....306-652-5975..... <a href="mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org">trips@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Golden Eagles	Hilda Noton.....306-374-0674
Membership	Michael Williams.....306-242-5383
Newsletter	
Publisher	Kathy Meeres.....306-343-8590..... <a href="mailto:godmee@sasktel.net">godmee@sasktel.net</a>
Mailing	Bev Beland.....306-445-3439
Mailing List	Claire Bullaro.....306-373-1787
e-distribution	Claire Bullaro.....306-373-1787..... <a href="mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net">c.bear@sasktel.net</a>
Program	Joe Stookey .....306-229-7499
Publications	Donna Bruce.....306-956-3437..... <a href="mailto:donna.bruce@sasktel.net">donna.bruce@sasktel.net</a>
Publicity	Ron Jensen .....306-741-7537
Webmaster	Trent Watts ..... <a href="mailto:web@saskatoonnature.org">web@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Young Naturalists	Greg Fenty.....306-370-8839..... <a href="mailto:naturekids@saskatoonnature.org">naturekids@saskatoonnature.org</a>

**Board of Directors**

President	Sara Bryson .....306-261-6156..... <a href="mailto:president@saskatoonnature.org">president@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Past President	Valerie Martz.....306-249-0468
Vice President	Blair McCann.....
Secretary	Diane Wells .....306-229-0328
Treasurer	Yvonne Cuttle.....306-374-5228..... <a href="mailto:treasurer@saskatoonnature.org">treasurer@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Director	Kathy Meeres .....306-343-8590
Director	Robert Johanson .....306-653-2610
Director	LeeAnn Latremouille.....
Director	Stan Shadick.....306-652-5975..... <a href="mailto:trips@saskatoonnature.org">trips@saskatoonnature.org</a>
Director	Ryan Dudragne.....
Director	Joshua Erikson.....
Director	Al Scholz.....

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 GE: Gabriel Dumont Park	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 GE: Cranberry Flats/ Beaver Ck	11 Photo slide submission deadline	12 Fall Bird Count
13	14	15	16	17 September Meeting GE: Ferry Tour S.Sask R	18	19 NS Meet 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> YN: Sandhill Cranes
20	21 Sandhill Cranes Chief Whitecap Pk	22	23	24 GE: Petrofka Orchard and Trails	25	26 Outlook Geese and Cranes
27	28	29	30			

## OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GE: Radisson Lake	2 YN: Saw- whet Owls	3
4	5	6	7	8 GE: Whooping Cranes	9	10 Whooping Cranes
11	12 Woodlawn Cemetery Birds	13	14	15 October Meeting GE: Blackstrap and area	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 GE: Pike Lake and area	23	24 Waterfowl trip
25	26	27	28	29 GE: Fall Dinner	30	31

GE: Golden Eagles; YN: Young Naturalists

**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](mailto: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](http://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	