



Saskatoon Nature Society Newsletter

December 2020

Vol. 42 No. 10

December Program

7:30 PM Thursday, December 10, 2020

Online presentation by Stephen Srayko

Fish predation on migratory water boatmen links wetland and river ecosystems

Every fall across the prairies, water boatmen, insects from wetlands, migrate en masse into large rivers to spend the winter. This can result in immense numbers of water boatmen concentrating along the banks of prairie rivers, and once there, they are preyed on heavily by a variety of fish species. In this way, the migration of these insects acts to link the food webs of both wetlands and rivers, underscoring the need to conserve both habitat types together.

Stephen is a PhD candidate in biology at the University of Saskatchewan, and his research interests include aquatic ecology and insect taxonomy. The inspiration for his thesis research began when he was fishing in the North Saskatchewan River several years ago and swarms of migrating water boatmen suddenly began to rain down on his head.

Ever since then he has been pursuing the questions of what this could mean for riverine food webs and the prairie wetlands from which these fascinating insects originate.



All members who have registered an email address will receive information by email 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 (see box on page 4). 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 winter field trips with strict limits to the number of participants in accordance with Saskatchewan's current 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. 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, December 5, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Gardiner Dam Birding**

Members Only. Advance Registration Required.

We will look for ducks, geese, gulls and eagles. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

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

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

Leader: Robert Johanson.

To register: Email robert.johanson@usask.ca or phone 306-653-2610.

More field trips on page 2

President's Message

Happy winter wonderland season! This month is full of traditions for many people. I love the crisp cold fresh air while trudging through snow on a sunny day to visit with friends and family, and maybe deliver a present and glad tidings. Just because it's winter (and Covid), doesn't mean you need to stay inside. There are still many traditions and activities you can participate in with this beautiful sparkling snow on the ground.

Let's talk Christmas Bird Counts! Have you registered yet? Bird counts are an excellent way to see just how many "regulars" such as Black-Capped Chickadees, Blue Jays, finches, House Sparrows, Magpies, and maybe Dark-Eyed Juncos are in your area. But with extra sets of eyes out, you can also see those not as commonly seen and specific to winter birds like Northern Shrikes, Snow Buntings, Gray Partridges, grouse, grosbeaks, and maybe a Redpoll or two. Remember, for the Saskatoon count you can opt to do it from the comfort of your home too, as more of a feeder watch. You can make this longstanding tradition a family event, bundle up, and head out together. To figure out just how far back this tradition goes, I looked through archived digital copies of the Blue Jay, where the first record I found of Saskatoon participating in the Christmas Bird Count was in 1952. Then looking at the records of the Audubon Society, the first information for Saskatoon of the Christmas Bird Count available in their archives is from 1955. But I've heard this tradition goes even farther back than these records.

This year our society continues to cover the following areas:

- Mon. Dec. 14: Gardiner Dam
- Sat. Dec. 19: Clark's Crossing (Warman, Osler, Martensville, NE Swale)
- Sun. Dec. 20: Qu'Appelle Dam (Elbow, Douglas Park)
- Sat. Dec. 26: Saskatoon
- Mon. Dec. 28: Borden / Radisson
- Tue. Dec. 29 CBC4Kids Saskatoon
- Sat. Jan. 2: Pike Lake (and Whitecap)

(Further details to register can be found under the Christmas Bird Count section, page 3.)

A big thank you goes out to the organizers/leaders (Stan Shadick, Greg Fenty, Guy Wapple, Janine McManus, Bob Godwin, Donna Bruce, Kyron Giroux) and John Patterson

for compiling data. A lot of work goes into organizing groups and people, following up on data and compiling it, and the submitting and posting of the results. Thank you for keeping this tradition alive!

A new possible tradition this year from Wild About Saskatoon is Nature City Experiences. Wild About Saskatoon has used our coveted *Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: In and Around Saskatoon* as an inspiration for year-round nature adventures. Each month a member of Wild About Saskatoon will visit a location that will be featured on their website (<https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org>) as a seasonal adventure or "Nature City Experience" to encourage people to get out and appreciate the nature that Saskatoon has to offer. Yours truly has co-authored the first adventure to Gabriel Dumont Park and I will be doing a snowy adventure as well.

So get out and enjoy the snowy wonderland on those sunny and not-so-sunny days and appreciate what we have here in and around Saskatoon, and the info and resources/people you have access to as a Saskatoon Nature Society member. On that note, be sure to renew your membership for 2021 too!

Sara Bryson

Sunday, January 10, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Sanatorium Site Bird Walk

Members Only. Advance Registration Required.

We will walk through the former Sanatorium site portion of Holiday Park to look for early arriving winter songbirds. This park is one of five naturalized parks in the city which is managed to promote a diversity of wild birds and mammals.

Leader: Stan Shadick

To register: email trips@saskatoonnature.org or phone 306-652-5975.

Meet at the south end of Avenue K, adjacent to Bowerman House. <https://goo.gl/maps/wniy6XzhVKA2>

Guide to Nature Viewing Sites: Page 126

LATER WINTER OUTINGS. Please check January newsletter.



Male Downy Woodpecker

Christmas Bird Counts

Here are the currently planned Christmas Bird Counts in the Saskatoon region. Birders should register in advance with the organizer using the information provided. Please provide address and phone number. Car pooling outside your bubble is not recommended.

Mon. Dec. 14: **Gardiner Dam** – Guy Wapple
gswap@sasktel.net or 306-249-3280.

Sat. Dec. 19: **Clark's Crossing** (Warman, Osler, Martensville, NE Swale) – Janine McManus
Janine.mcmanus@gmail.com or 306-321-7858 (cell) John Patterson will compile.

Sun. Dec. 20: **Qu'Appelle Dam** (Elbow, Douglas Park) – Bob Godwin
godmee@sasktel.net or 306-343-8590.

Sat. Dec. 26: **Saskatoon** – Stan Shadick
trips@saskatoonnature.org or 306-652-5975. If possible, please register via the link at <https://saskatoonnature.org/scheduled-trips/> John Patterson will compile.

Mon. Dec. 28: **Borden / Radisson** – Kyron Giroux
kyrongiroux@gmail.com or 306-281-6996 (cell).

Tue. Dec. 29: **CBC4Kids Saskatoon**: Greg Fenty
naturekids@saskatoonnature.org or 306-370-8839 (cell). Please check <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists> for updated information.

Sat. Jan. 2: **Pike Lake** (and Whitecap) – Donna Bruce
donna.bruce@sasktel.net or 306-956-3437. John Patterson will compile.

Golden Eagles Fall Program

Due to Covid-19 there will be no winter program. Hopefully the 2021 spring program will resume.

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.

COVID concerns: Our indoor programs are cancelled for the remainder of the year. Check out the Young Naturalists web page for information on our alternative outdoor activities <https://saskatoonnature.org/young-naturalists/>

CBC4Kids – Tuesday, December 29

Calling all Volunteers

Nature Saskatchewan obtains most of its funding from Sask. Culture. One of the factors influencing the success of Nature Saskatchewan's application is the support it and affiliated societies receive from volunteers as evidenced by the number of hours worked. We ask that each member of SNS tally the hours you have volunteered in 2020 and send your totals to Yvonne Cuttle at treasurer@saskatoonnature.org. Once compiled, they will be forwarded to Nature Saskatchewan early in 2021. Thanks to all for your good work on behalf of SNS during 2020, and for the additional time that, I hope, you will be willing to spend on this request. **Yvonne Cuttle**

Gift Ideas From LSWR

Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation provides a venue to help foster the public's concern about wildlife and the environment. So far this year, our facility has fed, medicated and cared for over 1750 injured birds and over 165 mammals brought to us by members of the public. This includes over 59 songbirds that we rescued from window strikes at the Saskatoon airport this fall.

To help us continue to cover food and medical costs, we offer the following gift ideas for the holiday season.

- 2021 LSWR calendar featuring images of some of our cutest birds and mammals.
- Adopt-An-Animal Certificates
- Birding Tour Gift Certificates

We also gratefully issue tax receipts for donations and offer a *Leave a Legacy* program. If you wish further information, please check out <https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/> or phone Jan Shadick at 306-281-0554.

Saskatoon Nature Society

Mailing address:

PO Box 27013 GROSVENOR PARK
SASKATOON SK S7H 5N9

Website:

<https://saskatoonnature.org>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SaskatoonNatureSociety



Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is Dec. 16. Please send any announcements or articles to Kathy Meeres. Please email: godmee@sasktel.net or call 306-343-8590. The editor 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) with your email address to switch. Thank you.

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Board of Directors


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Director	Robert Johanson	306-653-2610	
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Director	Stan Shadick	306-652-5975	trips@saskatoonnature.org
Director	Ryan Dudragne		
Director	Joshua Erikson.....		
Director	Al Scholz	306-221-0248	al@alscholz.com

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.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Gardiner Dam Birding
6	7	8	9	10 December Meeting	11	12
13	14 Gardiner Dam CBC	15	16	17	18	19 Clark's Crossing CBC
20 Qu'Appelle Dam CBC	21	22	23	24	25	26 Saskatoon CBC
27	28 Borden/ Radisson CBC	29 CBC4Kids Saskatoon	30	31		

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Pike Lake CBC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sanatorium Bird Walk	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 January Meeting	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

GE: Golden Eagles; YN: Young Naturalists; CBC: Christmas Bird Count

