



the **Saskatchewan**
Birding Trail Experience





Saskatchewan has a wealth of birdwatching opportunities ranging from the fall migration of waterfowl to the spring rush of songbirds and shorebirds. It is our hope that this Birding Trail Guide will help you find and enjoy the many birding locations in our province.

Some of our Birding Trail sites offer you a chance to see endangered species such as Piping Plovers, Sage Grouse, Burrowing Owls, and even the Whooping Crane as it stops over in Saskatchewan during its spring and fall migrations.

Saskatchewan is comprised of four distinct eco-zones, from rolling prairie to dense forest. Micro-environments are as varied as the bird-life, ranging from active sand dunes and badlands to marshes and swamps. Over 350 bird species can be found in the province.

Southwestern Saskatchewan represents the core of the range of grassland birds like Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit. The mixed wood boreal forest in northern Saskatchewan supports some of the highest bird species diversity in North America, including Connecticut Warbler and Boreal Chickadee. More than 15 species of shorebirds nest in the province while others stop over briefly en-route to their breeding grounds in Arctic Canada.

Chaplin Lake and the Quill Lakes are the two anchor bird watching sites in our province. These sites are conveniently located on Saskatchewan's two major highways, the Trans-Canada #1 and Yellowhead #16. Both are excellent birding areas!

Oh! don't forget, birdwatching in Saskatchewan is a year round activity. While migration provides a tremendous opportunity to see vast numbers of birds, winter birding offers you an incomparable opportunity to view many species of owls and woodpeckers and other Arctic residents such as Gyrfalcons, Snowy Owls and massive flocks of Snow Buntings.

Happy Birding in Saskatchewan !

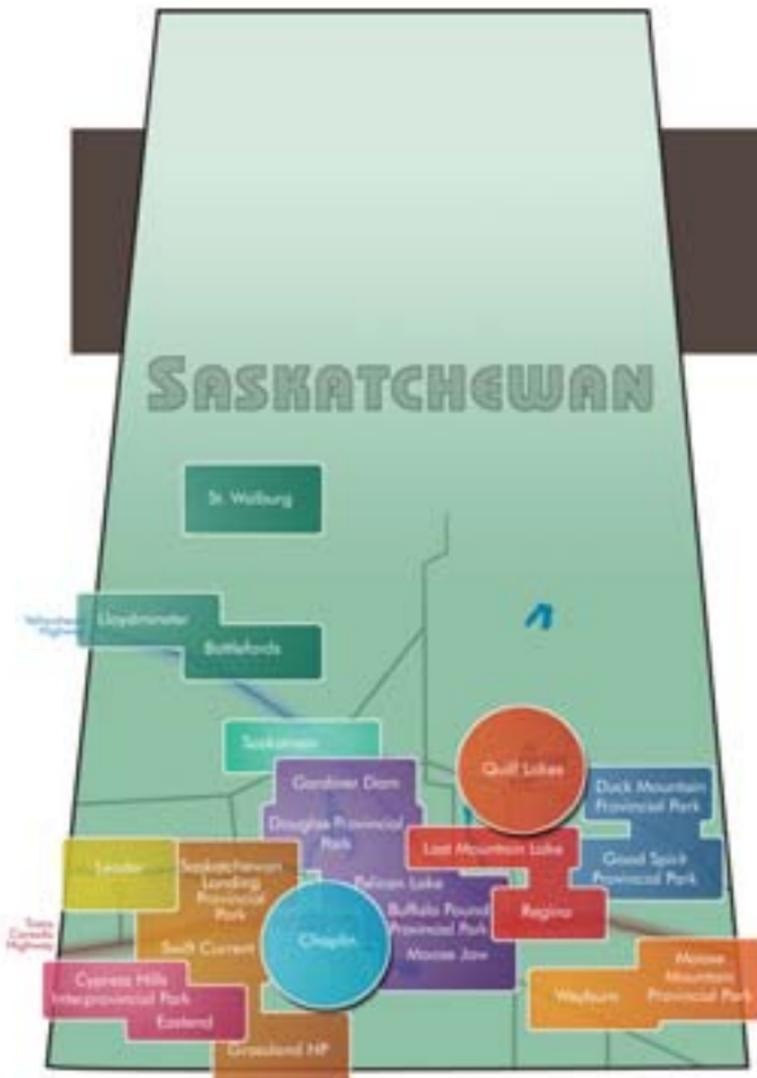
For information on birdwatching in Saskatchewan please contact:

Ken Kessler
Box 249
Pangman, SK
S0C 2C0

To contact Tourism Saskatchewan:
1-877-2ESCAPE

email: saskbirding@yahoo.ca

SASKATCHEWAN



- Ruffed Grouse
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Osprey
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Northern Goshawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Gyrfalcon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Prairie Falcon
- Gray Partridge
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- Ruffed Grouse
- Greater Sage-Grouse
- Spruce Grouse
- Willow Ptarmigan
- Rock Ptarmigan
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Greater Prairie-Chicken
- Wild Turkey
- Yellow Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane
- Whooping Crane
- Black-bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Snowy Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Piping Plover
- Killdeer
- Black-necked Stilt
- American Avocet
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Redshank
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willet
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Upland Sandpiper
- Whimbrel

- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Yellow-billed Loon
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Western Grebe
- Clark's Grebe
- American White Pelican
- Double-crested Cormorant
- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- White-faced Ibis
- Turkey Vulture
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Ross' Goose
- Canada Goose
- Brant
- Trumpeter Swan
- Tundra Swan
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- American Black Duck
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Cinnamon Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Garganey
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck



Saskatchewan



Birding



List

- Long-billed Curlew
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Ruff
- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Common Snipe
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Red Phalarope
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Franklin's Gull
- Little Gull
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull
- Thayer's Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Sabine's Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Caspian Tern
- Common Tern
- Arctic Tern
- Forster's Tern
- Least Tern
- Black Tern
- Black Guillemot
- Rock Dove
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Passenger Pigeon
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Barn Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl
- Northern Hawk Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Barred Owl
- Great Gray Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Boreal Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Common Nighthawk
- Common Poorwill
- Whip-poor-will
- Chimney Swift
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Lewis' Woodpecker
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Williamson's Sapsucker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Three-toed Woodpecker
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Dusky Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Northern Shrike
- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Gray Jay
- Steller's Jay
- Blue Jay
- Clark's Nutcracker
- Black-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Horned Lark
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Violet-green Swallow
- N. Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Mountain Chickadee
- Boreal Chickadee
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- Rock Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren
- American Dipper
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird
- Mountain Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Veery
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Wood Thrush
- American Robin
- Varied Thrush
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Sage Thrasher
- Brown Thrasher
- European Starling
- American Pipit
- Sprague's Pipit
- Bohemian Waxwing
- Cedar Waxwing
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Yellow Warbler
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Cape May Warbler
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Connecticut Warbler
- Mourning Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Hooded Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Summer Tanager
- Scarlet Tanager
- Western Tanager
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Spotted Towhee
- Eastern Towhee
- American Tree Sparrow
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Chipping Sparrow
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Brewer's Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Black-throated Sparrow
- Lark Bunting
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Baird's Sparrow
- Le Conte's Sparrow
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- Harris' Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- McCown's Longspur
- Lapland Longspur
- Smith's Longspur
- Chestnut-collared Longspur
- Snow Bunting
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Lazuli Bunting
- Indigo Bunting
- Dickcissel
- Bobolink
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Rusty Blackbird
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole
- Bullock's Oriole
- Brambling
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
- Pine Grosbeak
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Red Crossbill
- White-winged Crossbill
- Common Redpoll
- Hoary Redpoll
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Evening Grosbeak
- House Sparrow

LEGEND	Regular Breeding
	Regular Non-Breeding
	Extinct/Extirpated
	Stragglers

Duck Mountain Provincial Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Boreal Forest reaches its southern most limit in Saskatchewan at Duck Mountain, one of a series of uplands marking the boundary between the Manitoba Lowlands and Saskatchewan Plains. Duck Mountain is reached via Highways #5 and #57 east from Kamsack or north on Manitoba Highway #83 north from Roblin.



BIRDING INFORMATION:

Duck Mountain Provincial Park offers most of the bird species to be found in boreal forests much further north. In the summer, warblers, including the Nashville, Magnolia, and Blackburnian Warblers are

The birds listed above may be seen on any of a number of good nature trails in the core area. These include the Woodland, Pelly Point and Boreal Forest Trail. The Boreal Forest, which starts at the campground is a 1 km walk through ferns, birch stands, spruce and poplar. It also includes a boardwalk and is wheel chair accessible. This trail has attracted such species as the Barred Owl and Winter Wren.



Magnolia Warblers

particularly plentiful, while the occasional Canada Warbler may be found on wooded slopes. Other notable woodland birds include the summer resident Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Veery and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and year-round residents, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch.

One of the more sought after birds by Saskatchewan birders is the Golden-winged Warbler. It has been recorded several times on south facing slopes near the ski hill. The area may be reached by taking the first right after the Core area. Keep your eyes peeled for Turkey Vultures in

the sky and Broad-winged Hawks on trees or power lines as you drive the roads.

A check of Madge Lake will produce a variety of waterbirds: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Spotted Sandpiper and Common Tern are particularly common. The scarce White-winged Scoter may be seen at Green Lake on the western edge of the Park.

Duck Mountain Provincial Park



WHAT ELSE TO DO:

As a Provincial Park, the area offers a full range of outdoor recreational facilities including a ski hill, cross country skiing, hiking, cycling and snowmobile trails, an 18 hole grass green golf course, mini golf, boat rental, fishing, swimming, and equestrian rides.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information is available within the Park itself.

For information on nature trails and accommodations contact Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

Box 39

Kamsack, SK

S0A 1S0

Phone:(306)542-5500

Fax:(306)542-5512

Email: duckmountain@serm.gov.sk.ca

Good Spirit Provincial Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Strategically located near the Yellowhead Highway #16, Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park is located not far from the city of Yorkton. Located within the heart of Canada's "duck factory", this region is dotted with a myriad of small ponds or "potholes", each contributing to the production of the millions of ducks each year.



The park can be accessed from Highways #16 and #47 and #229 from the south (Springside). Also from highways #9 and #229 from the east and highways #5 and #47 from north (Buchanan).

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Located just northwest of Yorkton, this spot has everything a traveler could want. The lake hosts a good variety of waterbirds including a variety of grebes, herons, blackbirds, marsh-loving wrens and sparrows. Access to the north end of Good Spirit Lake and the marsh is through a private resort (North Shore Beach). The owners are always accommodating. Horseshoe Lake Heritage Marsh is located along #229 highway S.E. of the park. It can be viewed off the highway. There are no vehicle trails through the marsh--access is on foot only. Remember that this is private property with cattle grazing so keep gates closed at all times.

There are two beaches along the east side of the lake and camping facilities are available at both North Shore and Canora Beach. Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park at the southwest side has camping and day use facilities. There is a park interpreter on staff during the peak season of late June to mid August. Woodland birds abound in the campground areas and include Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Eastern Towhee. There is a dense plantation of white spruce in the picnic area that houses a good variety of

warblers. Grassland birds may be found in Good Spirit Community pasture along the western edge of the Park.

A 1 km hiking trail to the sand dune area takes you to a unique landscape with stabilized dunes up to 10 meters high covered with creeping juniper and bearberry with a variety of shrubs--white birch, chokecherry, saskatoon, pincherry and cranberry. Bird life is abundant in the dunes, as it is throughout the park. During years of lower water levels there is a wide expanse of sandy beach that is ideal for walking and observing birdlife that might be along the shoreline.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Nearby Canora is a hub of tourist activities. With a Ukrainian cultural base this community features great food and some excellent historic sites, all linked together through convenient walking trails. Before you leave the area be sure to visit the unique toy museum and the breathtaking churches.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information is available with the Park so feel free to stop. For more information about Good Spirit Provincial Park call the park supervisor at (306)792-4750. During the off season call Bill and Joyce Anaka at (306)792-4780.

Douglas Provincial Park



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Douglas Provincial Park is located on the east end of Lake Diefenbaker. This man made lake is well known for its tremendous fishing but is just being discovered as a birdwatcher's dream.

The park is situated in a large area of sand dunes. The dunes combine with the locally high water table to create vegetation that is very different from the surrounding area. Much of the park is covered by woody vegetation that varies from shrubbery to mature stands of Trembling Aspen or lush Balsam Poplar. The park with its full range of facilities may be accessed along Highway #19 from Elbow in the north, and Central Butte on Highway #42 from the south.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

The woodlands of the park attract a variety of birds. Year-round residents include Sharp-tailed Grouse, Great Horned Owl and Hairy Woodpecker. These are joined in the summer by Cooper's Hawks, Veeries, Gray Catbirds, Warbling Vireos, American Redstarts and Spotted Towhees. In the spring and fall, the area is visited by migrant thrushes, warblers and sparrows. The beaches of the park are a good place to see shorebirds. If you encounter the nationally endangered Piping Plover, do not disturb these birds or their nests.

Along the southern end of the park is the Qu'Appelle Dam, whose spillway and canal are now the source of the Qu'Appelle River. During the winter good numbers of waterfowl may be seen in the relatively warm waters that

flow from the bottom of the reservoir into the spillway and canal below the dam. Although most of the birds are Mallards, any number of other species have attempted to overwinter. One might encounter a Bald Eagle or Gyrfalcon, which are attracted by the wintering waterfowl.



Bald Eagle

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Check out the park's Dunes Nature Centre, take part in an interpretive program/hike, or walk/bike the TransCanada Trail. Visit the Elbow Museum and Historical Society, tourist information is on site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

An Information Centre is located within the Park. For camping information

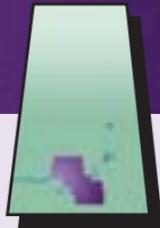
contact Douglas Provincial Park.

Phone:(306)854-6266

www.saskparks.net

For greater detail on birding in the area see Frank Roy's Birds of the Elbow (1996).

Gardiner Dam and Danielson Provincial Park



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Gardiner Dam was one of two dams constructed in the 1960's on the South Saskatchewan River to create Lake Diefenbaker. The resultant reservoir became the largest permanent water body in southern Saskatchewan. The dam was built for a number of purposes including power generation, irrigation, flood control and recreation.

Gardiner Dam is crossed by Highway 44 west from Highway 11 at Davidson. Highway 44 can also be reached from Highway 45 south from near Outlook or north from Birsay. From Saskatoon it may be reached from Highway 219.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Your tour begins at the dam. Waterbirds can be observed in the outflow below the

Piping Plover and other shorebirds nest along the shorelines. If you encounter the endangered Piping Plover do not disturb them or their nests.



Common Mergansers

dam throughout the year. In the fall the area is a magnet for diving ducks, and the rarer loons and gulls. During the winter good numbers of a variety of waterbirds may be seen including the Common Merganser, Mallard, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon and the occasional Common Loon or Glaucous Gull. In the spring and summer

For those interested in seeing some songbirds, visit Coldwell Park, an inviting oasis tucked along the river northwest of the dam. To reach the park take Highway 44 west from the dam for 4km then north on the gravel road for another 4km.

An old stand of Manitoba Maple, Green Ash and Balsam Poplar attracts a variety of summer resident birds

including the Veery, Orange-crowned Warbler, American Redstart and Spotted Towhee. The rarer Black-and-white Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat have also put in appearances. Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Hairy Woodpecker and Black-capped Chickadee are some of the permanent residents.

Gardiner Dam and Danielson Provincial Park



WHAT ELSE TO DO:

The Visitor Centre (open daily from Victoria day weekend to Labour day weekend, nine to five) features interpretive displays on the dam. Hike or bike along the TransCanada Trail which winds through the eastern side of the park. Camping is also available there.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Located right on the dam, a Visitor Information/Interpretive Centre will answer all your questions about the area.

Phone: (306) 857-5500

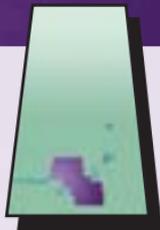
www.saskparks.net

Birding in the area is described in greater detail in Frank Roy's *Birds of the Elbow* (1996). For camping information contact Danielson Provincial Park.

Pelican Lake

GENERAL INFORMATION:

As you travel along the TransCanada #1 Highway between Chaplin and Moose Jaw, be sure to stop in at Pelican Lake and Besant Campground. Besant campground is well signed on the highway and you will find Pelican Lake directly north of the campground.



BIRDING INFORMATION:

As its name indicates, this lake is a haven for a large number of nesting pelicans. Sharing space with the pelicans are also large numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Common Terns, Western and possibly Clark's Grebes.

In addition, Pelican lake is a waterfowl mecca. Tens of thousands of geese can be seen during migration in addition to the tremendous diversity of ducks, including Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail, Canvasback and Mallards.

There are two access points that allow for great viewing of the lake. Ducks Unlimited Canada has begun the development of a viewing area that can be accessed by following the Viewing Area signs north of the TransCanada #1 Highway. However, these roads are not all weather roads and caution should be taken in inclement weather.

The lake can also be accessed by following the road on the east side of the lake north a short distance until it ends. This will get you right onto the lake and allow for a great overview of the area.



American White Pelicans

Do not overlook Besant campground located on the south side of the highway. In addition to its excellent camping, this area is alive with birdlife. Day passes are available and this area is well worth the stop. Many forest species are common visitors including Great Horned Owls, Northern Flickers, Gray Catbirds, Bank Swallows and Yellow-breasted Chat. This site is an oasis for migrating birds as well. Several species, including Cape May,

Pelican Lake

Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Magnolia and Canada Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers can be spotted here.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

If your time is flexible be sure your vacation coincides with Besant Campground's Fiddler's Jamboree the 3rd weekend in July or the Gospel Jamboree the 4th weekend in July.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Visitor Centre in Besant Campground can provide you with any information you may need.

For more information please contact:

Bill Cambell

P.O. Box 24

Caron, SK

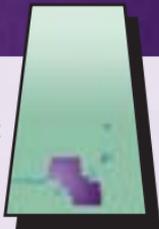
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Phone:(306)756-2700

Off Season:(306) 756-2774



Moose Jaw



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Moose Jaw is located on the TransCanada #1 highway and is fast becoming the most exciting tourism destination in Saskatchewan. It has the excitement of a big city with the atmosphere of a small town. It can cater to anyone's tastes, whether they want to rough it in one of the campgrounds or get pampered in the mineral spa.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Your first stop in the city has to be the Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre. You will be given the opportunity to observe some of their captive birds and learn about the Centre's efforts to preserve this important and endangered grassland species. The centre also includes a scaled up model of an owl's burrow giving visitors the opportunity to experience what it is like to live like a burrowing owl.

Another great stop within the city is Wakamow Valley. This beautifully treed park is nestled along the Moose Jaw River and is home to a variety of plants and animals. Visitors can walk or drive through the area and enjoy the many bird species that call this area home. Many forest species abound including Belted Kingfisher, Baltimore Oriole, Western and Eastern Kingbirds.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Moose Jaw is a charming prairie city which retains much of the architectural beauty of the early 20th Century. The Tunnels of Moose Jaw, the Casino and Temple Gardens Mineral Spa are also important tourist attractions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Moose Jaw has a new Visitor Centre located on the TransCanada #1 highway on the east side of town.

Toll Free: 1-866-693-8097

Fax: 1-306-694-1882

Email:

tourism.moosejaw@sk.sympatico.ca

Website: www.citymoosejaw.com

Buffalo Pound Provincial Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Buffalo Pound Provincial Park may be reached from the TransCanada #1 highway via Highway #301, or from Highway #2 via Highway #202. A map of the Park and the location of its trails may be obtained at the Park Gate. The feature birdwatching location within the Park is Nicolle Flats.



Nicolle Flats was named after Charles Nicolle, who homesteaded near the Flats in 1881. The Flats refer to the area between the walls of the Qu'Appelle Valley, and from the dam forming Buffalo Pound Lake in the west and Moose Jaw Creek in the east.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

The best place to find birds in the park is the walking trail. This trail will take you along a boardwalk right through the center of a deep marsh where you can be totally surrounded by the sights and sounds of a prairie marsh. The trail then skirts the southern edge of the marsh where Willow Flycatchers are frequent, and then crosses a few ravines, a good place for Veeries.

The trail will also take you into habitats where you can expect to see nesting Eastern and Say's Phoebes, Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, Belted Kingfishers, Sedge Wrens, Le Conte's Sparrows and Bobolinks.

As one proceeds west, species characteristic of cattail marshes appear: Sora, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren and Yellow-headed Blackbird. As you loop back towards the trail head check the spillway for feeding American White Pelicans and the lake for Western Grebes.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

There are many activities in the park that visitors can enjoy. This includes boating and fishing on Buffalo Pound Lake, fishing in the Trout Pond, swimming at the beaches or heated outdoor swimming pool, mini golf, camping, trying the mountain biking trails and viewing the captive Plains Bison herd.



Nicolle Flats

Buffalo Pound Provincial Park

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Park has an Information Centre and welcomes your inquiries.

For general information and campgrounds contact Buffalo Pound Provincial Park.

Administration Office - (306) 694-3658

Campground Office - (306) 694-3229
(summer only)

Website - www.saskparks.net

E-mail - BuffaloPound@serm.gov.sk.ca

For more information on birding consult a Birdfinding Guide to the Regina Area by Adam, Riffel, Luterbach and Kreba (1985).



Saskatoon

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Often described as one of the most beautiful cities in the country, Saskatoon's location along the South Saskatchewan River makes it an oasis for migrating and nesting birds. The contrast between a thriving metropolis and the splendor of parks make Saskatoon a great stop for any visitor.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Saskatoon's major geographic feature is the South Saskatchewan River, and it is along its banks that you will find most of the city's best birding. Hotspots along the east bank include Diefenbaker Park, Sutherland Beach and especially Cosmopolitan Park (located between the Broadway and 25th Street Bridges) which includes one of the few natural stretches of riverbank in the city. The park is a good place to observe woodland birds especially migrant thrushes, warblers and sparrows. On the west side check out the old Sanitorium Grounds, Bessborough Park and the area north of the Mendel Art Gallery.

On the river itself the best places are near the Queen Elizabeth Power Plant (best visited on the west side) and the Weir (both sides). These areas never freeze so they are the best places to see first migrants of the spring and last migrants of the fall, as well as any wintering birds.

A site some distance from the river worth visiting is President Murray Park (located

between Wiggins and McKinnon Avenues, and Aird and Colony Streets). Its 500 mature White Spruce attract a good selection of birds. Merlins, Blue Jays and Red-breasted Nuthatches are year-round



Blue Jay

residents. During the late spring and early fall, the park is particularly attractive to Olive-sided Flycatchers and spruce-loving migrants such as the Cape May, Black-throated Green and Bay-breasted Warblers. During the winter look for boreal forest birds such as Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and both Crossbills.



WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Among the city's many attractions are the Western Development Museum, Mendel Art Gallery and Forestry Farm Park and Zoo. Also, just outside the city and definitely worth the stop is Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Visitor information can be found in a couple of locations, including downtown Saskatoon and as you come in from the north.

For visitor information contact Tourism Saskatoon at (306)242-1206
www.tourismsaskatoon.com

For more information on birding and viewing other wildlife in the area refer to A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon edited by Jonker and Gollop (1998)

For more information please contact Saskatoon Nature Society at (306)665-1915

St. Walburg District

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Located in northwestern Saskatchewan on Highway #26 just below the northern provincial forest, this area is rich in wetlands, rolling hills, eskers, sloughs, lakes and rivers. This ecologically diverse region supports an equally diverse population of flora and fauna. Over 250 bird species have been catalogued in this region.



BIRDING INFORMATION:

The St. Walburg District offers a variety of birding experiences. Known as the hummingbird capital of Saskatchewan, it is also a great spot to see warblers such as the Yellow, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped. In addition to these, waterbirds, owls and various species of woodpeckers abound. Sightings also include Whooping Cranes, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern and both Blackburnian and Connecticut Warblers. Locally available brochures contain maps and information on exceptional sites to visit and are available year round in the birding lounge at the Farmhouse Inn, at the campsite next door or at St. Walburg Town Hall.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Step back in time with a visit to the renowned Imhoff Gallery and Museum, the Historical Museum, the Rifle Pits National Historic Site or Steele Narrows. Spend a day at the lake and do some birding at Bright Sand Regional Park or Turtle Lake Nature Reserve. Relax with a walk on the TransCanada Trail or a round of golf on grass greens. Visit a workshop or studio of one of the many artists or crafters in the area.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information can be obtained within the town. Feel free to ask local merchants for information while in the area.

www.stwalburg.com

Or Town of St. Walburg, Main Street, St. Walburg, SK S0M 2T0
(306) 248-3232

The Battlefords



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Located on the Yellowhead Highway #16, the Battlefords are a great jumping point to the northwest part of the Province. Rolling hills, lakes and river valleys offer fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities with birdwatching being a great attraction year round.

Birds are not the only year round attraction. There are many plants and animals to be found where forest meets agriculture. Saskatchewan's largest mammals abound including moose, elk, white-tailed deer and black bear.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

The Battlefords area has viewing opportunities suitable for all visitors. Within the city are many walking trails and a beautiful urban park complete with interpretive center, nesting islands and remote viewing camera. This is a great spot to see waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors. Interesting visitors have included Great Egret, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers and Herring Gulls.

For those looking for a more secluded viewing experience, this area has many lakes, marshes and forests which abound with birdlife. For example, a stop at Jackfish Lake just north of the city allows for some great viewing of a 1,300-acre Ducks Unlimited Canada marsh. Black Terns, Red-necked and Pied-billed Grebes, geese and ducks are common inhabitants of the marsh.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

The Battlefords has excellent camping at several parks in the area. In addition,



Black-crowned Night-Heron

there are great opportunities for golfing and fishing. Be sure to visit the local museums.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

An Information Centre can be found within the city of North Battleford.

For information on this area please feel free to contact Battlefords Tourism at (306)445-2000

website: www.city.north-battleford.sk.ca

Lloydminster



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Lloydminster is Canada's only border city. Located on the Saskatchewan/Alberta border along the Yellowhead #16 Highway, Lloydminster offers a diversity of activities for the traveler to the area.

Fortunately for the birdwatcher, the bird species in the area are just as diverse. This makes Lloydminster a natural stop for people traveling throughout the province.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Ducks Unlimited Canada has a strong presence in the area with several projects within easy driving distance of Lloydminster. DUC's driving tours are the best way to experience the birdwatching opportunities in the Lloydminster area. These scenic drives will take you to several of their projects where you will likely see birds such as Great Blue



Pied-billed Grebe

with sightings of Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks.



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Herons, Pied-billed Grebes, Common Yellowthroats, as well as several species of gulls and ducks. Raptors also abound,

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Lloydminster and area lends itself to pleasant selfguided tours. They have museum, historic, artistic, and scenic tours as identified in the "Lloydminster Vacation Guide", yours for the asking at 1-800-825-6180. Other area outdoor activities include fishing, camping and water recreation at the many nearby lakes.

Lloydminster is proud of its pioneering heritage, which you can experience at the



Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre which houses the Imhoff Gallery, a collection of over 250 pieces of religious and historically themed art; The OTS Heavy Oil Science Centre, an interactive adventure in geology, drilling and refining; and the Fuchs Wildlife Exhibit believed to be North America's largest display of one person's taxidermy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information is available at the Tourism Centre located within the city of Lloydminster.

Toll free: 1-800-825-6180

www.lloydminsterinfo.com

Quill Lakes International Bird Area

Wadena, Wynyard, Foam Lake

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Halfway between Saskatoon and Yorkton, just north of the Yellowhead #16 Highway is one of the most internationally recognized sites of importance to birds, the Quill Lakes. Hosting over 300 species and over one million birds annually, it is no wonder the lakes have received numerous distinctions as a



Wadena Wildlife Wetlands

Lake and Wynyard) for information before venturing out. Here you can pick up all the information you'll need to plan your adventure while at the same time learn more about the Quill Lakes natural and cultural heritage.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Consisting of three large lakes (Big Quill Lake, Mud Lake and Little Quill Lake), the lakes are also recognized as Canada's largest salt-water lake, and one of the most productive waterfowl areas in North America. Spring and fall migration is spectacular as over 200,000 shorebirds, 400,000 ducks, 130,000 Snow Geese, 80,000 Canada

of exceptional interest. The Quill Lakes were first recognized as a wetland of global importance in 1971 when they were designated a "Ramsar" site. Since then they have been recognized as a Saskatchewan Heritage Marsh, an Internationally important Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site, and was Saskatchewan's first Important Bird Area.

Because of its large size and limited access, visitors to the Quill Lakes are advised to stop first at one of the areas three visitor centres (located in Wadena, Foam

Geese and 40,000 Sandhill Cranes stop here. Globally significant numbers of Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope and Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers can be seen. Some of the more rare birds include Hudsonian Godwit, and Virginia Rail. Resident wildlife include White-tailed deer, Mule Deer, Red Fox, Badger, Coyote, Muskrat, and Beaver. The lakes are also home to breeding colonies of American White Pelicans,

Quill Lakes International Bird Area

Wadena, Wynyard, Foam Lake

Western Grebes, Eared Grebes and endangered species such as the Piping Plover, and migrating Whooping Cranes and Peregrine Falcons. The Quill Lakes contains the largest breeding population of the endangered Piping Plover in North America and one quarter of all the Piping Plovers in prairie Canada. Grasslands around the lakes support a rich variety of native plants and wildflowers.

Visitor can gain a special appreciation for the lakes by visiting the Quill Lakes Interpretive Centre in Wynyard. There you'll find interactive displays, wildlife dioramas, and a movie theatre. You'll discover how the Canadian Air Force used the lakes during World War II, how wildlife organizations are working to conserve the lake's valuable resources, and why they are so important to the endangered Piping Plover. The centre operates from spring until fall.

The best place to access the Quill Lakes and view wildlife is at the Wadena Wildlife Wetlands / Quill Lakes Interpretive Area along Highway #35. There you'll find over 5 miles of trails,

along with marsh boardwalks, a canoe launch and observation towers. Picnic and washroom facilities and informational signage are located at the main observation tower near the entrance. Trails include the "Plover's



Snow Geese

"Path" which travels along the shore of Little Quill Lake, "Blackbird Alley" which travels through the marsh, and "Wildflower Way" which highlights native prairie plants. The area is open, free of charge to the public, and operates spring until fall.

For those looking to explore a large 4,000 acre prairie wetland there's also

Quill Lakes International Bird Area

Wadena, Wynyard, Foam Lake

the Foam Lake Heritage Marsh. There you'll find hiking trails, lookout towers, picnic area, and informational signage. Ducks Unlimited Canada manages the marsh and surrounding uplands for wildlife, so viewing opportunities are excellent. Visitors will gain special insights into how wetlands are managed. A waterfowl feeding station and two lure crops are operated each fall feeding thousands of ducks, geese, and cranes, thus preventing crop damage to surrounding farmlands. The area is open, free of charge to the public, and operates spring until fall.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Other area attractions include various museums, Main Street Wadena Murals, teahouses, craft shops, and bakeries. Area events include town and country fairs, rodeos, farmers markets, fall

supers, heritage days, and a variety of festivals. There are also numerous restaurants, hotels and campgrounds to suit everyone's needs.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Stop by any one of the three visitor centres for more information or contact us at:

Wynyard: Box 963, Wynyard SK S0A 4T0, (306)554-2123, www.town.wynyard.sk.ca

Wadena: Box 730, Wadena SK S0A 4J0 (306)338-2145, www.wadena.ca

Foam Lake: Box 57, Foam Lake SK S0A 1A0, (306)272-3359, www3.sk.sympatico.ca/foamlake



American Avocets

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park takes its name from Saskatchewan Landing, an important crossing of the South Saskatchewan River in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Today a bridge crosses what is now the western extremity of Lake Diefenbaker.



One of three provincial parks formed after the creation of Lake Diefenbaker, this park may be reached along Highway #4 south from Rosetown, or north from Swift Current. The park offers a complete range of camping, recreational and interpretive facilities.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

One of the best birding areas is the Coulee Trail. The trail, located on Smith Creek and on the south side of the river west of the bridge, takes you through an area of beaver dams and heavy riparian shrubbery. Some of the species to look for are the Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and Spotted Towhee.

While camping in the northeast corner of the park, keep your eyes peeled for summer-resident Northern Flickers (including the odd Red-shafted), Baltimore Orioles and Lark Sparrows. The latter are particularly abundant in the planted trees of the campground as well as the coulees. On summer nights the booming of Common Nighthawks resound through the area.

Check the waters and shores of the lake for summering Common Loon, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher, and migrant diving ducks, mergansers, Clark's Grebes and the occasional Osprey.

Most of the park is steep rugged hills, razorback ridges and wooded coulees of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. You might see the majestic Golden Eagle or Prairie Falcon. Check the uncultivated tablelands on the north and southern fringes of the park for grassland birds



Belted Kingfisher

such as the Sharp-tailed Grouse, Long-billed Curlew, Lark Bunting, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow.

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park



WHAT ELSE TO DO:

On your way to and from Smith Coulee check out Goodwin House, a former stage station and North West Mounted Police post along the historic Battleford Trail. The Visitor Centre is on the main floor. There are two new interpretive trails in the park.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A Visitor's Centre is located right on highway #4, just south of the South Saskatchewan River. Staff there can answer any questions you may have. For more information contact Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park. Phone:(306)375-5525 www.saskparks.net

Swift Current

General Information:

Swift Current is located on the TransCanada #1 highway in southwest Saskatchewan. It is a commercial and professional service centre with a population of about 15,000. This dynamic community has numerous cultural, sporting, shopping and visitor amenities.



Birding Information:

Swift Current has a number of varied habitats to attract birds. Its mature trees, shrubs and gardens are an oasis for many songbirds during spring and fall migration. Milder winters and numerous bird feeders attract and sustain several species and make for good winter birding.

The Swift Current Creek, with adjacent cattails, shrubs and trees, provides nesting sites for numerous birds including Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Brown Thrashers and Gray Catbirds. Merlins and American Kestrels

nest in mature trees in residential areas often over-winter. Swainson's Hawks patrol the outskirts of the city.

A good way to view birds in Swift Current is to walk the Chinook Pathway. It meanders next to the Creek from near the TransCanada highway at its north end to the south side of the city. There are

convenient rest and viewing stops along the way.

There are several areas on the outskirts of Swift Current that have mixed native prairie and introduced grass species.



Western Meadowlark

This transition zone provides nesting and feeding habitat for Western Meadowlarks, Horned Larks and various sparrow species.

Visitors may also stop at the Semi-arid Prairie Agriculture Research Centre adjacent to Highway #4, on the southeast edge of Swift Current. It has a variety of mature coniferous trees and many flowering shrubs. It is also a great

place for winterbirding, attracting Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

What Else to Do:

The Swift Current Museum has natural and human history exhibits. The natural history exhibits include plant and animal

Swift Current

species of southwest Saskatchewan, including sixty varieties of birds. Included are many endangered species and it is one of the few places to see a preserved Passenger Pigeon. It is open year-round.



The Art Gallery of Swift Current and Swift Current Library area great places to relax and get acquainted with cultural events in the city.

Additional Information:

Swift Current Tourism Centre at junction of TransCanada #1 highway and highway #4.

Phone(306)773-5686

Swift Current Museum at
105 Chaplin Street E

Phone(306)778-2775

City of Swift Current:

www.city.swift-current.sk.ca

Grasslands National Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Grasslands National Park (GNP) consists of two units, the West Block and East Block. The West Block includes the Frenchman River Valley. The Park's Interpretive Centre is located in Val Marie at the junction of the Highway and Centre Street. The East Block, centred on the Killdeer Badlands, may be reached via Highway #2 west of the village of Killdeer.

Aside from the birdlife described below there are a number of other unusual animals in the area. These include the Eastern Short-horned Lizard, Yellow-bellied Racer, Prairie Rattlesnake, Swift Fox and Canada's only colonies of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

For those who are seeking some of the rarer prairie birds, Grasslands National Park is the place to go. Access to the East Block is limited, and as its birdlife is



Greater Sage-Grouse

similar to that of the West Block, we describe birding only in the latter area. The suggested birding tour follows the Ecotour (available at the Park Office).

The heavy Buffaloberry along the river is an excellent place to listen for Yellow-breasted Chat, Loggerhead Shrike and other shrub birds. Further along the

Ecotour you pass through the prairie dog towns. Check the "dogs" carefully as one of them might be a Burrowing Owl. This is also a great part of the province to find Mountain Plover. Inspect the skies for Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks and other raptors, and the sagebrush and greasewood flats for rarities such as the Brewer's Sparrow and Greater Sage Grouse. Follow the Ecotour to return to Val Marie.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

In Val Marie visit "Prairie Wind and Silver Sage" (a gift shop and art gallery), and Perrault's Museum and Guided Tour.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information on self-guided tours and the area in general can be obtained from the Visitor's Centre within the town of Val Marie.

For more information on Grasslands National Park, contact: Grasslands National Park at 306-298- 2257.



Weyburn

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Originally believed to have been named for a "wee burn", Weyburn is a small prairie city on the upper reaches of the Souris River. The city lies on the upper Souris River on Highway 39 115km southeast of Regina and 86km northwest of Estevan. It also lies on the east-west Redcoat Trail (Highway 13).



BIRDING INFORMATION:

The Souris Valley Regional Care Centre is the best place for an early morning bird walk. The Center is located in the northwest part of the city, just north of Highway 13. The area is good at any time of year, but is especially productive in the spring and fall for raptors and songbirds.

Another excellent birding spot is Nickle Lake, a reservoir located just south of the city on the Souris River. As it is one of the few waterbodies in the region, Nickle Lake is a good place for waterbirds. For example the Common Loon and Piping Plover have nested here, while all three species of scoter have been observed during the fall migration.

An exploration of the grasslands areas surrounding the lake should yield Ferruginous Hawk, Baird's Sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Although increasingly rare in the province, the pastures in the surrounding area remain good spots to see Burrowing Owls.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Those with a historical bent should visit Weyburn's Soo Line Historical Museum and the Weyburn Historical Village.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

An Information Centre can be found within the city right on Highway # 39. For camping information contact River Park or Nickle Lake Regional Park. For more information on Weyburn contact Tourism Weyburn at (306) 848-3224. A Guide to the flora and fauna of the Tatagwa-Souris Valley by Ray Belanger includes birding hotspots, a checklist and contacts for the area. It is available from the Weyburn City Hall.



Ferruginous Hawk

Moose Mountain Provincial Park

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Moose Mountain Provincial Park is located within the Moose Mountain Upland which rises some 150 metres above the surrounding plains. Most of the upland is covered in a forest of Trembling Aspen, Balsam Poplar and White Birch. As the park's name suggests, Moose frequent the area along with Elk and the abundant White-tailed Deer. Numerous small lakes and ponds make the area a haven for aquatic wildlife; amphibians are particularly abundant.



The park lies along Highway 9 and may be reached from Carlyle to the south and from Whitewood on the Trans-Canada Highway to the north. The park is centred on Kenossee Lake, a resort with the full range of amenities.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

One of the specialties of the Moose Mountain is the Yellow-throated Vireo. The best place to look for them is on mature stands on well-drained slopes throughout

the park. Another sought-after bird is the Eastern Wood-Pewee. The species is most frequently recorded at Little Kenossee Lake which may be accessed from the Lake View Interpretive Trail north of the Fish Creek Campground.



Great Blue Heron

The Beaver Lake Trail is one of the better birding trails in the park. Mourning Warblers are especially common, while Broad-winged Hawks nest in the woods around Beaver Lake. Other species to look for include the Great Crested Flycatcher and White-breasted Nuthatch.

A drive down the Centre Road or any of the side roads can be rewarding. Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks can often be seen soaring across the road. An inspection of the numerous wetlands should turn up Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Duck and Green-winged Teal.

Moose Mountain Provincial Park

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

The park offers a full range of outdoor activities including golf, horseback riding, water sports and cross-country skiing. A must for historians is Cannington Manor Historic Park. Access can be reached from Highway 9km south of the Provincial Park.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is a complete Visitor's Information Centre located within the park. For general and campground information contact Moose Mountain Provincial Park at (306)577-2600.

Email: jadams@serm.gov.sk.ca.

An excellent, though dated, description of the avifauna is in the *Birds of Moose Mountain* by Nero and Lein (1971).



Leader

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The town of Leader lies just south of the South Saskatchewan River and just east of the Alberta border. The area has the most extensive riparian woodlands in southern Saskatchewan. Leader may be reached via Highway #21 which runs between Kindersley and Maple Creek, or on Highway #32 west from Swift Current.



The area has a wide diversity of wildlife. Large numbers of Mule and White-tailed Deer inhabit the area. If you are lucky you may spot one of the many species of snakes that inhabit the area including the Prairie Rattlesnake which uses the river breaks west of the Leader Bridge for denning.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Your first stop in Leader should be the tourism booth where you can pick up their first class birding brochure, which will guide you through some of the most striking territory in Saskatchewan.

An example of one of the stops is the Estuary Ferry. If you park in the turnoff opposite the ferry operator's trailer, you can explore a young cottonwood forest, a good spot for Willow Flycatcher, Warbling

and Red-eyed Vireos, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, Spotted Towhee and Lark Sparrow. This is also a good place to view owls such as the Great Horned and Northern Saw-Whet near dusk. While crossing the ferry watch for Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Kestrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Keep special watch for the Violet-green Swallow, which reach their northeastern limits in this area. Bald Eagles are often seen along the river. After crossing the river you can park on the other side where Western Wood-Pewee are often heard calling from the towering cottonwoods. This is one of the areas in the province where you have a reasonable chance of seeing a Red-headed Woodpecker.

Another spectacular area that cannot be missed is the Great Sandhills. These active dunes are worth the trip themselves but an added bonus are the large tracts of native prairie. Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, Loggerhead Shrike and Long-billed Curlews are common residents of this area.



Long-billed Curlew

Leader

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

There are a number of tourist attractions in the area, including the Smith Barn and Checkerboard Hill. A resident artist can also be found in the area and tours of his gallery are available. Within the Town of Leader are several "larger than life" unique wildlife sculptures, including a Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owls and Ord's Kangaroo Rats.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A Tourist Information booth is located within the town of Leader right along Highway # 21.

Contact the Town of Leader
at 1-800-424-8335

Website: www.town.leader.sk.ca.





GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Town of Eastend is located in the southwest corner of Saskatchewan, in the east end of the Cypress Hills, along Highway #13 (the Red Coat Trail). The area is famous for its fossils of dinosaurs, particularly a "Tyrannosaurus rex", plus a variety of prehistoric mammals.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Great birding can be found right in town at the local campground along the Frenchman River: the shrubbery is a dependable place for Yellow-breasted chats. The reservoir nearby is a great place to observe water birds. Pheasants, Sage Grouse and Golden Eagles reside here, while Ferruginous Hawks and Violet-green Swallows nest in the area.

Jones Peak has one of the most incredible vistas in the province. Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Rock Wren and White-crowned

Sparrow are just a few of the species you might see. A natural driving loop down the Frenchman River Valley west to Ravenscrag will allow observations of a variety of bird species. Pine Cree Regional Park boasts a variety of boreal species.

A Birding Checklist of this area, including Cypress Lake is available.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

The T-Rex discovery Center has displays featuring the recently-discovered Tyrannosaurus Rex. It is the first of its kind to be found in Saskatchewan. The center is open-year round, and also includes other plants and animals from the Cretaceous period. Tours are available.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Follow the T. rex signs within the town of Eastend to the T-rex Discovery Centre for more information on the area.

Contact:

T.rex Discovery Centre

Box 646, Eastend, SK

Phone:306-295-4009; Fax:306-295-4702

e-mail: ecta@sk.sympatico.ca

Website: www.dinocountry.com



Bronothere

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park is comprised of two areas covering most of the West and Center Blocks of the hills. The Center Block is reached via Highway 21 (south from Maple Creek or north from Consul), while the West Block is accessed from Maple Creek via Highway #271. Most of the park's facilities are located in the Center Block and include the park headquarters, hotel, campgrounds and main services.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

The Cypress Hills is noted for birds that nest nowhere else in the province. It is also a major migration route in spring and fall. Specialties include Red-naped Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher and MacGillivray's Warbler. Although perhaps nesting elsewhere, Cypress Hills is also the stronghold of the Common Poorwill. Most of the species of the nearby Rocky Mountains have been recorded in the hills on at least a few occasions.

Several nature trails in the Center Block provide good birding, especially in the spring and summer. A drive through the western portion of the park is worthwhile for Mountain Bluebirds and raptors.

The West Block has a birdlife similar to the Center Block. There are, however, a few species easier to find in the West Block. For example, you could see Lazuli



Common Poorwill with transmitter on its back

Bunting and Violet-green Swallow at Fort Walsh, and Turkey Vulture and Townsend's Solitaire at the Conglomerate Cliffs. In past years Trumpeter Swans nested in the area.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

A visit to Fort Walsh National Historic Park is an obvious choice. The site includes recreations of an early North West Mounted Police post and Farwell's Trading Post.

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For camping information contact Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park(phone: (306)662-5411). A map of the core area is available at the park gate, and bird checklists and interpretive programs may be obtained at the Nature Centre.

FM station: 103.5 along TransCanada by Maple Creek: 103.7 in Centre Block
website: www.cypresshills.com



Yellow Warbler



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Regina boasts what has been touted as the largest urban park in North America. Wascana Park, with extensive lawns, 350,000 planted trees and Wascana Lake is a birdwatchers paradise. Regina, Saskatchewan's capital city, is also the proud home of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the University of Regina.

BIRDING INFORMATION:

Because the surrounding plains are nearly devoid of trees and in many years bereft of standing water, the Wascana Park and surrounding urban area acts as a trap for migrating waterfowl and songbirds. Partly because of this richness and partly because of the large number of birders, Regina has the longest bird list of any area in the province.

During the spring and fall migrations, the city and especially the Park, can literally be dripping with migrant flycatchers, vireos, warblers and thrushes. Almost any species is possible. The trees just north of the Legislature are so dependable during migration that the area is known among local birders as "Warbler Alley". In the spring and late fall the lake attracts a wide variety of waterbirds including loons, scoters and gulls.

Although the summer and winter are referred to as the 'off season', there is still plenty of birdlife. For example, the east end of Wascana Lake is a good spot to see nesting waterbirds, while the city's numerous planted conifers host a variety of winter birds including the erratic crossbills and the odd Three-toed Woodpecker.

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Regina has many outstanding attractions. The Royal Saskatchewan Museum features an Earth Sciences, First Nations

and Life Sciences galleries. The Life Sciences Gallery features exhibits of all the major ecological regions in the province as well as dioramas featuring the tundra of the Mackenzie Delta and the Rainforest of Costa Rica. Other local attractions include Government House, the Royal Mounted Police Centennial Museum, the Saskatchewan Science Centre and Kramer Imax Theatre, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, and Casino Regina.



Wood Duck

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Tourist Information booth is located on the east side of Regina right on the TransCanada #1 highway. For more information please contact Tourism Regina at 1-800-661-5099 or visit www.tourismregina.com For more information on birding in the area consult the Birds of Regina, Belcher (1980) and a Birdfinding Guide to the Regina Area by Adam, Riffel, Luterbach and Kreba (1985).

Last Mountain Lake

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Last Mountain Lake is a lake of two names, those living at the south end know it as Long Lake, those at the north end call it Last Mountain Lake. The lake itself reflects a duality, the southern half of the lake is deep with a narrow beach confined by a narrow valley, at Rowan's Ravine the lake and beach widen as the topography slopes more gradually away toward its marshy northern end.



Two main areas are included, the Regina Beach on the west side of the lake and the Valeport Marshes on the south end. Both areas can be reached from the picturesque town of Lumsden which lies on Highway #11 26km north of Regina. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area includes the oldest bird sanctuary in North America. The Wildlife Area includes some 15,602 hectares of lake, marsh and uplands (mostly native grasslands).

BIRDING INFORMATION:

The Regina Beach-Little Arm area is best visited in the fall, while the Valeport area is good from spring through the fall. Check the waters for Loons including the rare Red-throated, Pacific and Yellow-billed, sea ducks including the Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, all three Scoters and both Goldeneyes, gulls and even the odd alcid! Valeport Marsh has numerous

species of waterbirds but the area is most famous for its nesting Western and Clark's Grebes. It is one of only a few areas where the Clark's Grebe has been found nesting in the province.

Towards the north end of the lake you will also encounter a large diversity of birds. The specialty of the summer is the rare Orchard Oriole. Other, more common, nesting birds include the Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, and Baltimore Oriole. Check offshore for White-winged Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and Western and Clark's Grebes. In the early fall, a dozen species of warblers can often be seen in a day, including the Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Yellow and the odds are better than even that you will see a Canada Warbler.

In the fall watch for Whooping Cranes feeding in the fields along the sides of the road. If you are here in the late fall, take in the view from the observation tower where you can observe huge flocks of Snow Geese and other waterfowl. The best time to arrive is mid-day as most birds are out feeding in distant fields in the mornings and evenings.



Sandhill Cranes

Last Mountain Lake

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Just to the north on Highway #20 is Last Mountain House Provincial Historic Park, the site of a reconstructed 19th century Hudson's Bay Company trading post. While in the Last Mountain Regional Park drop into Saskatchewan's only bird observatory. Last Mountain Bird Observatory was established in 1989 to monitor and study the songbird migration in the area. It is open in May, August and September. You can visit fine museums in Nokomis and Simpson or take in the mineral spa at nearby Manitou Lake.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Detailed information on birdwatching around the lake can be obtained at the Information Centre located on the north end of the lake.

Alan R. Smith Environment Canada 115
Perimeter Road Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4
Phone: (306)975-4091
e-mail:alan.smith@ec.gc.ca

For more information on birding in the area consult a Birdfinding Guide to the Regina Area by Adam, Riffel, Luterbach and Kreba (1985).



Chaplin Lake

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Chaplin is located at a timely stop along the TransCanada #1 Highway between Moose Jaw and Swift Current. Be sure to tune into their local radio station at 103.1FM which discusses interesting facts about the area and its shorebirds. The Chaplin Nature Centre has undergone an expansion and now includes a large area filled with world class displays. Guided tours of the lake and its wildlife are available from the Nature Centre upon request. In addition, horse drawn tours are available for larger groups if they are pre-booked. The Centre is open from Victoria Day in May to Labour Day in September.



BIRDING INFORMATION:

On 29 May 1997, Chaplin Lake (along with nearby Old Wives, Frederick and Reed lakes) gained world-wide recognition as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site. The area has gained this distinction because it harbours substantial proportions of the world populations of several shorebirds: the Piping Plover, American Avocet, Sanderling and Baird's Sandpiper.

Late May counts of Sanderlings have consistently exceed 50,000 birds, Baird's Sandpiper numbers have approached 30,000, while counts of all shorebirds have exceeded 100,000! The Snowy Plover has occasionally nested, but you will have to be lucky to see one of these shorebirds.

One of the best areas to bird is along Highway #58 south from Chaplin. The road passes through the lake, over an island and returns to the lake. Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew,

Upland Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Lark Bunting should be looked for on the island. The proximity



of the lake to the road affords the opportunity to view a wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns.

To really get the full experience of the lake, a guided tour is a must. This tour takes the visitor along dykes that cut right through the lake, allowing for tremendous viewing opportunities. The birds along this tour are unconcerned with human traffic and give visitors the

Chaplin Lake

unique opportunity for close-up experiences with nature's greatest migrants.

The grasslands bordering the lake are good places to see Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit. Most of the prairie-nesting shorebirds can be seen on the shallow basins such as those found on the south side of the dyke. Within the town of Chaplin itself many species of birds are attracted to gardens and feeders, including the Northern

from the lake. The resulting basins vary in depth and offer a complete range of habitats from wet meadow, sedge and cattail marshes to open water.



American Bittern, Cinnamon Teal, rails, Common Snipe, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-headed Blackbird frequent the shallower marshes. Eared Grebe, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern and Black-crowned Night- Heron nest in the more extensive reed beds. Western Grebe and diving ducks can be seen on the open waters of the deeper basins. Gull and cormorant colonies occupy the islands. Potential rarities include the Black-necked Stilt, which is now a common nester to this specific area, and White-faced Ibis.

While you are in the area, be sure to stop at Shamrock Regional Park. This park is nestled along the Wood River and acts

like an island in a sea of prairie. Many forest species can be viewed including Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes, and Northern Flickers.

Just west on the Trans-Canada, Reed Lake is well worth a visit. At Morse turn south and bird along the causeway across the lake. In the spring, the lake



Tundra Swan on Reed Lake

Mockingbird.

Southeast of Chaplin is the Chaplin Heritage Marsh. Information on how to access the marsh can be obtained from the Nature Centre. The freshwater marshes of the south end of the lake offer a stark contrast to the mudflats of the north end. Four basins covering an area of 1,323 hectares were dyked

Chaplin Lake

is a good place to observe large numbers of migrant shorebirds including Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Sanderling. In recent years a small island just to the west of the southern end of the causeway has hosted one of the few Caspian Tern colonies in Saskatchewan. Nesting associates have included the Double-crested Cormorant, Common Tern and Ring-



Piping Plover

Billed, California and Herring gulls. Eared, Western and the occasional Clark's Grebe nest in the reed beds of the lake.

Also, superb viewing is available from the viewing tower 2.4km west of Morse just south of the highway. Waterfowl abound and several nesting islands are visible, especially with good optics. A walking trail through the town of Morse is an excellent way to spend an evening and a reliable way to see Loggerhead Shrike, Purple Martin Nighthawks and American Kestrels. For more information on the birding

opportunities in and around Morse please stop in at the Morse



Museum(phone:(306)629-3230).

WHAT ELSE TO DO:

Be sure to allocate extra time for the many activities available to visitors during your stay. Bison tours are available as well as golfing, camping, nature walks and some great local museums at Morse and Herbert.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information is readily available at the Chaplin Nature Centre, located right on the TransCanada #1 highway. While in the Morse area follow the museum signs into town to find their museum/visitor's centre.

Contact Clem Millar(Chaplin Tourism) Box 30, Chaplin, SK S0H 0V0. Phone (306)395-2223.

Website: www.chaplintourism.com.



In Search of **Whooping** Cranes

Apart from their wintering grounds in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, the best place to see Whooping Cranes is on migration. In Canada, the only accessible portion of the main migration route between Aransas and the species' breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park on the Alberta/Northwest Territory border is Saskatchewan. In the spring the species moves through the province rather rapidly (from late April to mid-May) and it is unusual for them to stop for more than a day or two. The fall migration is much more leisurely from late September through October, when birds or family groups are frequently seen for a week or more in many areas.

Although the species may be seen anywhere in a diagonal area from Meadow Lake and Whitewood in the north and Kindersley and Assiniboia in the south, the species

is most frequently seen in the central portion of this flyway. The most reliable spots are around Saskatoon, the Quill Lakes and Last Mountain Lake. Unfortunately, these areas are not 100 percent reliable. In order to narrow your search to those areas having birds in a given year, contact Brian Johns of the Canadian Wildlife Service at (306)975-4109 or the Whooping Crane Hotline at (306)975-5595.

Once you have information directing you to specific locations, it is important to know the habits of the Whooping Cranes as well as other field-feeding waterbirds. Birds will feed in croplands twice a day in the morning and in the evening and that is where your directions will lead you. During the day and night the birds roost on a nearby waterbody (thus the association with wetlands).



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