

The Importance of Prairie Landowners

Rural landowners play a key role in conserving our prairie habitat and maintaining healthy grasslands. Their good stewardship arises because of close ties to the land from which they derive their livelihood. We recognize that the health of the prairie ecosystem depends on the good stewardship shown by landowners across Saskatchewan.

If you are a Saskatchewan landowner with Loggerhead Shrikes, you play an important role in their survival. Every nesting site is important to the shrike's population and to our enjoyment — keeping this beneficial and unique bird a part of our prairie heritage is important.

We Work Together to Help You!

Education - Increase your knowledge of prairie conservation options through educational materials including Nature Saskatchewan's Agriculture & Biodiversity fact sheets for both farming and ranching.

Conservation Easements - Leave a conservation legacy through a legal agreement to conserve the land you love for future generations!

Give a HOOT about wildlife!

If you spot a Loggerhead Shrike, call our Toll-Free Line:



1-800-667-4668 (HOOT)

By reporting a sighting, you are helping to monitor the shrike population.

If you have nesting Loggerhead Shrikes, become a Shrubs for Shrikes steward!

Thank You to our Supporters!

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- ELSA Wild Animal Appeal of Canada
- SaskTel
- Nature Saskatchewan member donations

And A Special Thank You To SFS Landowners and Volunteers

To learn more about **Shrubs for Shrikes** contact:

Nature Saskatchewan

206-1860 Lorne St.

Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2L7

Toll Free 1-800-667-4668

Or (306) 780-9273 Fax: 306-780-9263

Email: info@naturesask.ca;

Website: www.naturesask.ca



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Shrubs for Shrikes



**Habitat Conservation
Through Stewardship**

**To Report a Sighting
Call the Hoot Line:
1-800-667-HOOT (4668)**

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Shrubs for Shrikes



Sketch by Paul Gheraghty. Courtesy Sask. Environment

Habitat Conservation Through Stewardship

Nature Saskatchewan's Shrubs for Shrikes (SFS), launched in 2003, is a voluntary stewardship program that promotes the threatened Loggerhead Shrike as an ambassador for conserving prairie habitat for shrikes and other prairie species. SFS works with southern Saskatchewan landowners to voluntarily conserve prairie habitat including shrubs, active and abandoned homesteads, shelterbelts, and pastures from destruction and cultivation.

SFS is one program within the Stewards of Saskatchewan (SOS) suite of habitat stewardship programs delivered by Nature Saskatchewan. SFS along with Operation Burrowing Owl (OBO), Plovers on Shore (POS), and Rare Plant Rescue (RPR), work with rural landowners to raise awareness and conserve habitat for specific species, while our SOS banner program covers all other species at risk in Saskatchewan.

What does Shrubs for Shrikes do?

- Conserves prairie habitat for Loggerhead Shrikes and other wildlife through voluntary landowner stewardship.
- Increases awareness and education of Loggerhead Shrikes and other prairie species.
- Encourages and monitors the shrike population in Saskatchewan through SFS participants.
- Promotes beneficial management practices that improves habitat for prairie species while keeping current operations in mind.

Participate in Shrubs for Shrikes!

Private and public land managers participate in Shrubs for Shrikes, conserving prairie habitat, all while using their land as they always have.



Benefits to participants include:

- **Recognition** through a personalized gate sign.
- Annual newsletter and a tool-kit of **educational information** and conservation options.
- Non-binding **'handshake' agreement**.
- Personal **invitation** to our Conservation Awareness Day events (local, free, meal provided; day to share knowledge and experiences of biodiversity, wildlife, and management practices).
- Helping to maintain a **healthy ecosystem** with a diversity of species for future generations.



**For more information or to participate in Shrubs for Shrikes please call
1-800-667-HOOT**

Loggerhead Shrike 'Bites':

- Loggerhead Shrikes are classified as a songbird, yet they hunt like a hawk.
- Having songbird feet, shrikes do not have the strong talons used by hawks to secure their prey when eating. Instead, they impale prey on barbed wire or thorns.
- The 2015 Recovery Strategy for the Loggerhead Shrike Prairie subspecies in Canada reports, between 1993 and 2013, Saskatchewan's Loggerhead Shrike numbers declined 71%. In 2013, it was estimated approximately 70 individuals in Manitoba, 39,600 individuals in Saskatchewan, and 15,000 individuals in Alberta.
- Loggerhead Shrikes were found only in coulees prior to settlement in Saskatchewan.
- Loggerhead Shrikes will readily attack and carry prey up to 129% of their body mass and it is possible for them to carry heavier prey...but they can only lift it ~0.5 m off the ground and in short bursts of flight.
- Loggerhead Shrikes nest in native trees and thorny shrubs such as hawthorn and buffaloberry for protection from predators.
- At 2 weeks of age, young have grown from weighing 3 grams (at hatch) to 45 grams—almost as much as their parents.
- Shrikes provide natural pest control! At a nest with 8 nestlings, an adult brought a grasshopper to the nest every four minutes in an hour of timed observations.



Did You Know?

Loggerhead Shrikes love to eat rodents, frogs and grasshoppers!

They often impale them on barbed wire or thorns to assist in eating their prey or to store for later.