

Loggerhead Shrike Impalements: What to Look Forward to Seeing!

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It has been a few years since we have offered readers impalement pictures...and since it is a nice refresher for those that remember, and a nice introduction to those that have not been so lucky to see them before...here is what to be on the lookout for this spring and summer!



Impaled
Grasshopper
(J. Banning)



Impaled frog
(M. Yaskowich)



Impaled Bee
(L & J Duncan)



Impaled Meadow
Vole
(L. Tomy)



Impaled Garter Snake
(M. Yaskowich)

Loggerhead Shrikes impale (hook onto something) their prey to assist them in eating, as shrike feet are not strong enough to grasp their prey while eating. Male shrikes will return in the spring first and display impalements to attract a mate by showing off their good hunting skills. During the warm May to June breeding season, the diet of shrikes consists mainly of larger insects including grasshoppers and beetles. However, in cold weather or when insects are less available, shrikes will take mice, voles, small snakes, lizards, frogs or occasionally small birds.

For more information or to report sightings of these fantastic displays, please call toll free at 1-800-667-4668, (306)780-9832, or email pictures (if possible) to outreach@naturesask.ca.