



# NATURE MANITOBA NEWS

Volume 6  
Issue 1  
Jan. / Feb. 2014

*A newsletter for people passionate about nature*

## A First for Manitoba – Calliope Hummingbird

by Gerald Machnee

In November, 2013, birding experts confirmed the sighting of a Calliope Hummingbird at a feeder in Selkirk, Manitoba – the first record for our province! This is the smallest bird in North America north of the Tropic of Capricorn. This species breeds in southern British Columbia, the Rockies, and western United States. It does occasionally wander into the eastern U.S., with reports this year of vagrants in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

I was sent a picture on Oct. 17. My first reaction was that it could be a Rufous Hummingbird, but the picture was not clear so I got approval from the homeowner, June Minish, to come on Oct. 25. I was able to get three photos in flight before it flew away. My first thoughts were that it could be an Anna's Hummingbird, as this species will overwinter on the west coast. I did not get a photo of it perching so the wings extending past the tail did not enter my mind. I did send the photos to several individuals.

While I was in Ottawa on the Nov. 9-10 weekend, Christian Artuso was shown the photo (I had previously emailed him the photo but unfortunately he never received it). He noted the short tail, small size and buffy flanks and undertail and indicated that it could be a Calliope Hummingbird. More photos were taken and the identification was confirmed as a hatch-year male Calliope Hummingbird. Other experts agreed. Over 20 people got to see the bird on the Nov. 9-10 weekend; however, due to the cold weather approaching, the bird was captured and taken to a wildlife rehab shelter, after having been lured through an open window into feeding in June's sunroom.

Gerald Machnee



This event reinforces the utility of that wild-west slogan for amateurs like me, "shoot first and ask questions later". A picture will get a thousand looks compared to one visual encounter. Another item I noted in Christian's remarks (see website below) is a crescent in front of the eye which my books did not specify. One of my photos captured the mark. Over a century ago, a shotgun verified a species. Now we use two reliable experts and a reliable camera.

The bird is currently doing well in rehab and plans are being made for its eventual release in an appropriate location.

More photos of the bird and details about its identification can be seen at: <http://artusobirds.blogspot.ca/2013/11/possible-calliope-hummingbird-in.html>

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Canada Post Publications Mail Sales  
Product Agreement No. 0040069231.

Issued 6 times a year as the official  
publication of Nature Manitoba.  
Subscriptions are a benefit of membership.  
See backpage for membership details.  
Opinions are those of the writers and not  
necessarily the organization as a whole.

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Advertising rates are available online or by  
contacting the editor. Rates are reduced  
if the ad appears at least two times.  
Classifieds are also available for \$5.

Submission deadline is the first day of the  
month prior to the newsletter publication.  
**Deadline for the Mar. / Apr. 2014 issue is  
February 1st, 2014.**

This newsletter is printed on Enviro 100  
20lb paper which is 100% Post Consumer  
Recycled and FSC certified.

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## President's Corner

by Donald Himbeault



### ***The Nature Manitoba Paradox... puzzle solvers needed***

**W**ithin Nature Manitoba's mission statement exists a fundamental contradiction: on the one side we have our goal of fostering the awareness and appreciation of the natural environment through scientific, educational and recreational programs; on the other is our concurrent role of working for the preservation of our natural environment.

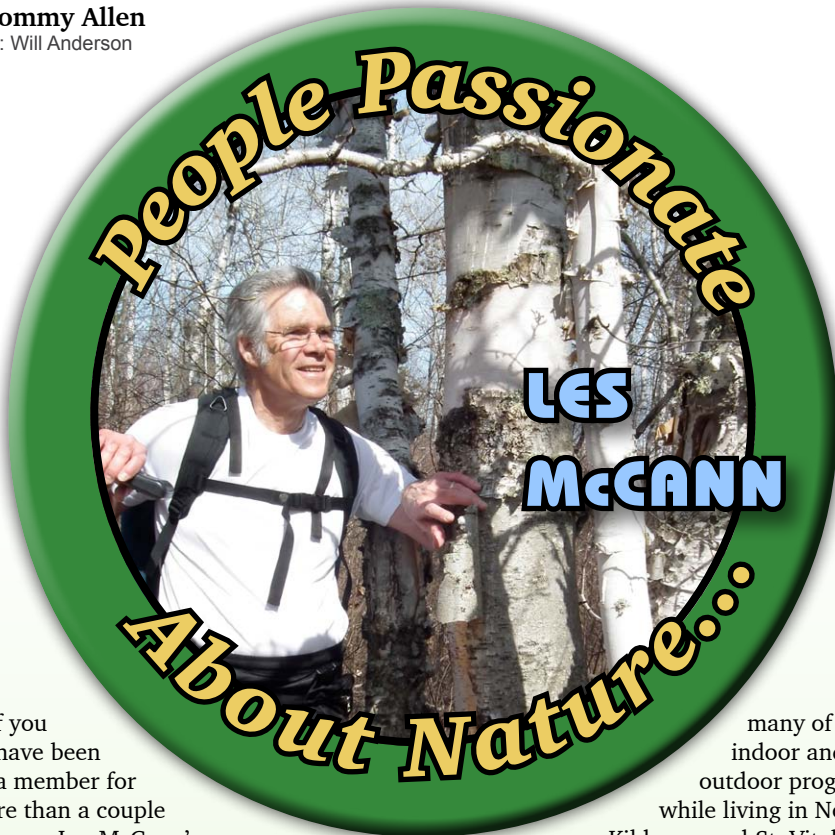
Thus we have a paradox – how does one allow access to nature to as many people as possible while still leaving the environment unimpaired and preserved? It is unrealistic to think that every one of our interactions with nature will have a “zero footprint”. To bring people to nature, we rely on roads, parking lots, trails, shelter and toilets – all things that have an impact on the environment. In fact, you may recall the need for toilets was the subject of a previous Roger's Rant column (see “...on crappy campsites” on page 9 of the Nov./Dec. 2012 issue). In the time since that article appeared, I have noticed the installation of permanent toilet facilities in some of the backcountry regions of our provincial parks, and I would say these have greatly improved the surrounding environment. But still, to some, the sight of these structures might constitute an impairment of the natural environment. Nonetheless, this is an example of how this paradox, at least a small part of it, can be resolved..

With the application of rational, careful and passionate thought, our mission can be accomplished, or at least mostly accomplished. However, many issues are more complex than that of the biffy example above, and the best solutions are not always obvious. We are in need of people with diverse backgrounds, experience, good judgment and a passion for nature to propose solutions and to champion the causes that best achieve these goals. For that, we have our Environmental Action Committee (EAC), consisting of Nature Manitoba members who are interested in undertaking and supporting projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship, particularly those which relate to natural ecosystems, threatened habitat, and wild species.

As you might expect, there is no lack of issues that could benefit from the attention of our EAC. Some recent developments we are monitoring relate to Little Mountain Park and the native prairie grassland area known as the St. Charles Rifle Range, where the proposed expansion of neighbouring commercial projects may see roads and other development encroach upon these natural areas. As well, many of the provincial parks are reviewing their management plans, including changes in land use categories and boundaries, and construction of new roads. We should be, and in some cases are, invited to provide input on these issues. But we can always use the help of a few more members ready to commit some time and ideas to these causes. If you think you have what it takes to help solve these sorts of puzzles and paradoxes, I invite you to get involved with our EAC by contacting the Nature Manitoba office.

**“ ...we could always  
use the help of a  
few more members  
ready to commit  
some time and ideas  
to these causes.”**





If you have been a member for more than a couple of years, Les McCann's name will be familiar to you. He was President of the MNS from 2006-2008, during the period that the name change to Nature Manitoba took place.

Les grew up in the Wolseley neighbourhood of Winnipeg, and was introduced to the backcountry through his parent's interest in trailer camping and fishing. The trailer soon morphed into a cottage on Eleanor Lake along the Winnipeg River. His dad, a carpenter, spent most of his time at the cottage tinkering and building, giving Les a lot of time to explore on his own. Even when his two siblings stopped heading out to the cabin for the summers, Les continued to go along with his mom – exploring the trails and taking the boat out on the lake.

As Les spent most of his teenage summers at the cabin, he always came back to the city with stories to tell about his discoveries. His neighbour, an MNS member, took note and brought him along to an indoor meeting, a memory that stuck with him, even though he didn't join for another 15 years.

After high school, Les went to the University of Winnipeg and completed his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Economics and Sociology. He adds with a laugh: "although the only course I got a decent mark in was zoology." He became a provincial welfare officer, and several years later he decided to join the MNS. He enjoyed taking part in

many of the indoor and outdoor programs while living in North Kildonan and St. Vital, and he continues to enjoy them, now retired and living with his wife Helen Whetter in Headingley.

Les has been retired for 14 years, yet still recalls a government pre-retirement seminar where he learned about "The 5 Things" to consider post-retirement: (1) Family & Friends, (2) Ordered Finances, (3) Health, (4) Doing something for yourself, (5) Doing something for society. He says that Nature Manitoba has really helped him with all of these, although admits other factors have played their role – such as a good pension and having had no kids. "Nature Manitoba has made for a very satisfying retirement," he says.

Les has been very active with the organization since his retirement. In addition to his stint as President from 2006-08, Les continues to serve on the Board, is involved with the Outdoor Committee as both a committee member and trip leader, is a member of the Indoor Programs

**"Nature Manitoba has made for a very satisfying retirement."**

Committee, and is involved with the Bridging the Gap program. He was also a part of the EAC's (see page 2) involvement in the East Side Planning Initiative. Les also contributes outside of Nature Manitoba – he's active with the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association, and he and Helen run an Outdoor Living Program with the Headingley 4-H Club. It may not sound quite like "retirement" to some, but Les is certainly happy with it!

## Welcome New Members!

Oct 15 – Dec. 14, 2013

Gerrie Barylski  
Michelle Johannsson-Beaulieu  
Paul Buisson  
Johann Eyolfson  
Wayne Glowacki  
Christopher Gray  
Bill Head Sr.  
Paolo Matteucci  
Courtney Mondoux  
Ted Muir  
Peter Panufnik  
Michelle Perron  
Bob Schmalenberg  
Linda Wilson

## Change to Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Discovery Evening

The Discovery Evening on February 3<sup>rd</sup> has been changed, see page 16 for details. We hope to reschedule Terry Galloway's presentation on ectoparasites (listed in the previous two issues) to next year's program.

## Nature Manitoba's 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

**Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**7:00pm at Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain** (340 Provencher Blvd, in St. Boniface). The AGM will be held in **Salle Antoine-Gaborieau** (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

It will be followed by two 20-min member presentations (see pages 16-17).

The AGM's Agenda and Call for Nominations are on page 17.

## Our GIANT Garage Sale

**Sat. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Nature Manitoba's next Giant Garage Sale will be on Sat. March 29, 2014. Volunteers are needed, call the office at 204-943-9029 to offer your help.

Please keep in mind that we can pick-up and store smaller items prior to that. Just call the office and we will arrange a pick-up.

# Encounters of the **NATURAL** Kind

Please send us  
your short stories  
(approx. 300-500  
words) of interesting  
encounters with  
Manitoba nature.

Nella Schmidt



Another Downy Woodpecker  
at a feeder in Nella's yard

## **Chips of a Different Matter**

by Nella Schmidt

**D**awn was desperately trying to break through a misty fall morning. My eyes were drawn to movement on my frost-covered Goodland apple tree. A Downy Woodpecker "branch-hopped" in a behaviour that I had become familiar with from the various species that had come to quench their thirst at the bird bath just a few feet below. Even in the poor light, the red cap established its gender. Once he determined the best direction to his destination, he flew and perched on the rim. He pecked at the edge of the ice, but there was no

water. Then he slid onto the miniature rink, and "skated" in a confined circle. After positioning himself, he hammered into the hard surface. In the dim light I discerned the thin icy flakes flying in every direction. He stopped. Carefully and confidently he waltzed around, dug his feet into the ice and began once more to hammer. The ice chips scattered. After several interruptions and re-positionings, he must have realized the futility. The water was solidly frozen. The drilling ceased, and he flew off. Morning had also broken.

## **One Single Monarch**

by Ardythe McMaster

**I** never discourage the milkweed plants that pop up in my garden, for I know that milkweed, and milkweed alone, hosts the regal Monarch butterfly. The finishing touch on my garden is always the sight of a Monarch or two fluttering among the flowers.

The summer of 2012 offered us many Monarchs. They arrived unusually early in the season, and set about their summer business. What fun to come

upon some tiny Monarch hatchlings! Measuring hardly more than a quarter inch, they were nevertheless easy to identify in their tiny yellow, white and black stripes.

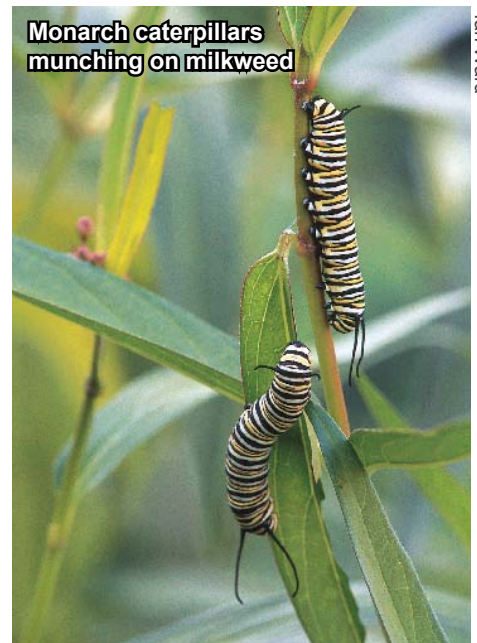
They did not remain tiny for long! They nibbled, and munched, and then chomped on their milkweed menu (though the milkweed did not seem to mind), and in no time those Monarch larva had grown to a couple of inches!

Stepping outside one sunny morning, I saw that a sun ray had caught something shiny at the far end of the garden. I hurried over to investigate and there it was, the first Monarch chrysalis, gleaming bright gold and green from beneath its leaf!

That summer, many Monarchs soared and fluttered over my garden and over our prairie.

But that was last year (2012). This summer (2013), I watched in vain for Monarchs. Not one until, on the sunny afternoon of September 29, a single one appeared briefly, then disappeared.

Monarch caterpillars  
munching on milkweed



Ian Ward

One single Monarch. It is disheartening to learn that 2013 brought a widespread crash in Monarch population numbers across all of the range. I can only hope that better conditions, and my milkweed, will bring them back to my garden, to our prairie, and to their vast migration range.

See "Where have all the Monarchs gone?" on page 8.

Roger Turenne



Monarch chrysalis





The 52-km Duff Roblin Parkway Trail, along the Floodway, officially opened in July 2012.

Daniela Rempel

## The Grey Hares Cycle the Duff Roblin Parkway Trail

by Daniela Rempel

**O**n September 4th, twenty Grey Hares (an outstanding turnout) gathered together with trip leader Daniela Rempel and their bicycles at the Cedar Bog parking lot in Birds Hill Park. The day was sunny with moderate temperatures, perfect for this inaugural Grey Hares cycle on the Duff Roblin Parkway Trail (DRPT).

We began our ride on the Cedar Bog Spur Trail, a scenic 3.2 km paved trail leading from the Cedar Bog parking lot to the Highway 59 pedestrian overpass. We cycled over the highway and onto the seasonal floating bridge, and then up onto the trail along the floodway. Cycling high up along this trail was awesome as we enjoyed the views looking down onto the floodway channel and above to the green tinged landscape with soft white puffy clouds on the horizon. We soon reached huge, round, golden hay bales scattered below and beside us, adding more texture and richness to our cycling experience.

The DRPT trail is mostly gravel except for a 5 km paved section between Garven Road and Dunning Road. Interpretative signs along the way contain interesting floodway

construction facts, such as the temporary Lego-like bridges that were built to facilitate rail and vehicle traffic over the floodway during its construction. We also learned about built-in ecological provisions for the rivers and fish movement, and the shaping of the floodway's wall heights at different levels to mitigate field flooding. Another interesting fact is that the floodway is recognized as one of the world's great engineering marvels, and as a National Civil Engineering Historic Site. Who knew, right in our own backyard!

Some of the ambitious Grey Hares cycled to the south end of the trail, on St. Mary's Road at Duff Roblin Provincial Park (a total distance of over 40 km). We all managed to meet up for lunch, and found comfortable spots among the hay bales, taking in the beautiful scenery around us while we ate and visited.

A great day it was and the bonus was meeting some brand new members on their first Grey Hares outing!

For more info on the DRPT, including a map, see [www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca/po\\_recreation.html](http://www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca/po_recreation.html)

Photos: Daniela Rempel



Clockwise from right: Ted Harvey, Kathy Picard, Fenella Temmerman, Lynn Bates, and two others (sorry we don't have your names!)



The "Seasonal Low Flow Floating Bridge" used to cross the floodway just south of Birds Hill Park.

## Adult Zebra Mussels Found in Lake Winnipeg

(excerpted from a Manitoba government press release and website, October 17, 2013)

### Province Implements Rapid Response Protocol to Prevent Spread to Other Lakes, Rivers...

**M**anitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship confirms zebra mussels have been found in Manitoba waters. Mussels were recently found on the hull of a private boat and a dock at Winnipeg Beach, and on some fishing boats dry docked at Gimli.

Zebra mussels are an aquatic invasive species that multiply rapidly, affecting fish and other native aquatic species. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship continues to investigate where the species has been established in Manitoba waters.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is implementing a rapid response protocol to address the situation (*details on the website included at the end of this article*).

All individuals who live along or boat in the Red River, Lake Winnipeg and Nelson River are asked to watch for zebra mussels, report any findings and clean boats and any water-related equipment before using it elsewhere.

To avoid the spread of zebra mussels to other areas in Manitoba, boat owners are asked to implement the following steps before launching and before leaving the Red River and Lake Winnipeg:

- » **CLEAN** and inspect watercraft, trailers and all water-based equipment. Remove all plants, animals or mud. Rinse with hot water, preferably 50 C (120 F) or hotter, for several min.
- » **DRAIN** water from watercraft and all water-based equipment (motors, live wells, bilges, transom wells, nets, ballast tanks and bait buckets).
- » **DRY** all equipment, boots and clothing before transporting them to another water body. Dry anything that comes into contact with water such as watercraft and gear for at least five days in the hot sun, 18 days in the spring or fall, or freeze for three days continuously if rinsing is not possible.
- » **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash and dump all water from bait buckets on land away from any water body. Never release plants, fish or animals unless they came out of that water body and are free of any aquatic invasive species.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



Zebra mussels are the only freshwater mollusc that can firmly attach themselves to solid objects (rocks, docks, boats, intake pipes, etc). As they spread, they can clog water treatment plant intake pipes and effluent discharge pipes, encrust in-water infrastructure, foul boat motors and may affect beaches.

Zebra mussels spread primarily by attaching to boat hulls and fishing equipment, or by dispersal of the juvenile stage through water. Adult zebra mussels can survive out of water for days under certain conditions. Established populations have been found for several years in Ontario, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Zebra mussels are originally native to southern Russia and are now found as an invasive species in many countries. In North America, they were first found in the Great Lakes in the late 1980s. They can grow up to five centimetres long but are generally under 2.5 cm in length.

Manitobans are reminded that it is illegal to introduce, possess or transport zebra mussels in this province, except when providing them for identification.

Manitobans who think they have zebra mussels are asked to: (1) note the geographic location where they were found; (2) place specimens in a sealed plastic bag or store in rubbing alcohol; and (3) call the aquatic invasive species number at 1-87-STOP-AIS-0 or 1-877-867-2470 (toll-free).

Once reported, and if no further identification is required, individuals should bag the mussels and dispose of them with the household garbage.

More information on aquatic invasive species in Manitoba is available at [www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/stopais](http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/stopais).

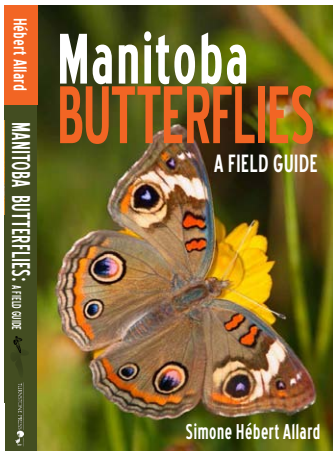
### How to Identify An Adult Zebra Mussel:

- » Usually 1 to 3 cm (0.4 - 1.2 inches) long.
- » Triangular, or "D"- shaped shell.
- » Most have light & dark brown bands on shells.
- » Adult shells have very strong tufts of hair-like filaments, called byssal threads.
- » Usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals.
- » Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mussel that firmly attaches itself to solid objects, including rocks, watercraft hulls etc. Native mussels will bury into soft substrates on lake and river bottoms.
- » Unlike adults, young zebra mussels, called veligers, in their larval stage are free-swimming and microscopic; they are difficult to see with the naked eye.





# Nature Books of Note



## Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide

by Simone Hébert Allard (Turnstone Press, 2013)

Book Review by Pat MacKay

**T**his butterfly field guide will be a wonderful addition to the bookshelf of anyone in Manitoba interested in natural history. The book contains a wealth of information on life cycles and ecology of butterflies,

written in an engaging and easily accessible style. As a biologist but not a lepidopterist, I often found myself wishing the text had included reference to sources of information, so that I could follow up on some of the fascinating tidbits on each species. I realize this is unrealistic for two reasons: the first being that this is a field guide, and cluttering it up with formal references would make it too unwieldy to function as intended; the second is that I suspect much of the information arises from the extensive experience of the author herself.

The introductory chapters, often skipped past by users of field guides, are well worth a visit, particularly for those for whom this is a first in-depth exposure to insects, but even for those who work with insects professionally. I talked to one lepidopterist who loved the book but was a bit frustrated because it was not clear how the order of the species within each colour-coded lepidopteran family grouping had been determined. Had they read the introductory material, they would have learned that the order was determined by size – a useful pattern for a field guide. In addition to such practical issues, the introductory material provides the background biological information that makes the field guide that much more rewarding.

The entries for each of the species show the breadth of the author's knowledge about this beautiful group of insects. The many wonderful photographs show all life stages, including life-sized photographs of many of the natural postures of the adults, with the upper and under sides of both sexes – these will help in making correct identifications. Information on when and where to find a species, and on what host plants or food sources each stage depends, will be helpful to those who wish to collect, rear, or just photograph the insects.

The range maps are likewise useful to show quickly whether a species is likely to be found in a particular locale. I do

have one minor criticism of the maps. While I like the use of colour coding to show the area of distribution of the species in each family, I do not like the standard grey background colour of the maps. It does not contrast enough with the colours that show the species distribution, and occasionally, depending on the family and its colour, I had to stop and think about which area denoted presence of the species and which denoted absence. Indeed, I wonder if people who are colour-blind would be able to interpret the maps. I would have preferred a white or near white background.

One topic in the introductory chapters for which I would have appreciated more detail relates to the number of species in Manitoba and the choice of species included in the guide. The author indicates that there are 153 species of butterflies in Manitoba, of which she has included 101. *The Butterflies of Manitoba* by P. Klassen, A.R. Westwood, W.B. Preston and W. B. McKillop, published in 1989, puts that number at 144. Nine species is a substantial difference, and I couldn't help but wonder about the reasons. I also wondered what the author's main reasons were for deciding to omit a species. A key factor may have been whether she was able to obtain photographs of all the life stages. This seems the likely reason for two species so rare as to be officially endangered in Manitoba, the Dakota Skipper and the Poweshiek Skipper. Macoun's Arctic is also missing, perhaps because of its complicated life cycle: two years from egg to adult, resulting in even year and odd year populations which may be completely isolated from one another.

This brings me to the back pages of the book, where the author has included a list of the 52 missing species, along with a sentence or two about each. The back

pages contain a number of other useful indices and lists including a glossary, a larval food plant list, and lists of other books, scientific resources and websites.

In summary, I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in butterflies, whether that interest is a professional one, that of a recreational naturalist akin to the interest birders have in their taxonomic group, or the casual interest of a home owner or gardener wondering what's visiting the plants in the yard. This book will help you identify and learn a great deal about that butterfly you might see flying sometimes weeks before the last snow has disappeared (a Mourning Cloak), or that spectacular caterpillar on your parsley plant (a Black Swallowtail).

***“The entries for each of the species show the breadth of the author's knowledge about this beautiful group of insects.”***

# Where have all the Monarchs gone?

by Donna Danyluk

The experience described in Ardythe McMaster's story on page 4 ("One Single Monarch") was shared by naturalists, gardeners and butterfly watchers all over Eastern and Central North America this year. A Google search on the drastic decline in the Monarch population this year produces many articles from major North American newspapers and media outlets. From some of these, I have gleaned the following bare-bones summary of observations and theories about this decline. For more in-depth information, I encourage readers to visit the websites of:

- » **Journey North** ("A Global Study of Wildlife Migration and Seasonal Change"), specifically the Monarch butterfly migration-tracking pages at [www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/News.html](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/News.html). Elizabeth Howard, director and founder of Journey North, is quoted in many of the news articles.
- » **Monarch Watch**, [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org), a research and educational organization founded by Chip Taylor, an ecologist at the University of Kansas and also frequently quoted in the press.

First, a brief synopsis of Monarch migration, as detailed in the book *Naturescape Manitoba* (pages 138-9): In early March, Monarchs leave their winter roosts in the mountain forests of Mexico and fly northward, laying eggs on emerging milkweed plants (the larval host plant) along the way. The Monarchs that arrive at the northern end of their breeding range (including southern Manitoba) hatched from eggs laid in the U.S. during this spring migration, and can be two or three generations removed from the wintering population. Depending on conditions, one, sometimes two, generations of Monarchs are produced here. It is the late-summer Monarchs, having somehow inherited the instinct to migrate, that make the incredible journey of thousands of miles back to Mexico, the longest migration of any butterfly in the world.

## The numbers

In the winter of 2012-13, the number of Monarchs wintering in Mexico's sanctuaries was estimated at 60 million, down 80% from the yearly average of 350 million. One of the main reasons given for this massive decrease was the extreme heat and drought in central and southern U.S. in the summer of 2012, which impacted both reproduction rates and the migration.

When this already greatly reduced population of Monarchs began the northward journey in March of 2013, they encountered an unusually cold spring in Texas, and the milkweed plants they require for egg-laying were not advanced enough. Those butterflies that did manage to hatch across the southern U.S. in early spring were impacted by cold weather and lack of food the rest of the way north, leading to the extremely low numbers in the northern parts of their range.

So, instead of the numbers rebuilding through the successive generations on the way north, it appears that last winter's record

lows in Mexico will be followed by even lower numbers this winter. In fact, one article (New York Times, Nov. 22, 2013) reports once again record-low numbers returning to the roosts in Mexico. "Last year's low of 60 million now seems great compared with the fewer than three million that have shown up so far this year."

These declines are part of a long-term trend; one expert refers to it as "a continuation of a statistically significant decrease...that began at least a decade ago." The numbers in 2012-13 were the lowest in the 20 years that records have been kept, and the third-straight year of decrease. It is estimated that there are now only one-fifteenth as many Monarchs as there were in 1997.

The reasons for the decline that are discussed at length in the various articles can largely be broken down into two categories: habitat loss and climate conditions.

## Loss of habitat

Agricultural practices in North America, such as expansion of cropland at the expense of native vegetation, pesticide and herbicide use, and Roundup-ready corn and soybeans, have resulted in less milkweed for egg-laying and larval food, and loss of nectar food sources for adults during both migration and breeding. Suburban sprawl is also a culprit, especially when the landscaping in those suburbs is predominantly a monoculture of lawns.

What about loss of habitat on their wintering grounds? Illegal logging in the nature reserve west of Mexico City that was established for the wintering Monarchs was long thought to be a factor in their decline, but a CTV News article (March 14, 2013) reports that such logging has been vastly reduced by increased protection and enforcement. It states: "a 2012 aerial survey showed almost no detectable logging, the first time that logging had not been found in detectable amounts since the mountaintop forests were declared a nature reserve in 2000." However, other experts indicate that problems in Mexico still exist and play a role in the decline, including small-scale logging, diversion of water resources and other disruptive activity.

## Climate conditions and weather extremes

As mentioned above, drought and heat in the U.S. in 2012 and its impact on their food sources affected both the Monarch's ability to reproduce and to migrate. The unusually cold and wet spring in 2013 also took its toll. According to a Globe and Mail article (July 31, 2013), Elizabeth Howard says that Monarchs "can't even fly until their flight muscles are 13 degrees C. So, they can't migrate. They are basically stuck in their tracks by the cold."

On the other hand, an unusually warm and early spring the year before, in 2012, also contributed to lower numbers returning south. An article in the Ottawa Citizen (Sept. 25, 2013) reports that in some areas, Monarchs arrived too early, before milkweed was up, and in their search for it, moved so far north they were beyond its range and could not reproduce.

Ian Ward



Monarch butterfly on one of its nectar plants, Meadow blazingstar (*Liatris ligulistylis*).



The Globe and Mail article goes on to say “The extremes in weather conditions, she (Howard) adds, stem from climate change. ‘I don’t think this is a stretch to say that this is an example of how climate change is affecting a species.’”

## Can the population recover?

Monarch populations have a history of large fluctuations. For example, according to an article in the Minneapolis StarTribune (July 12, 2013), a freak storm in Mexico in January 2002 killed 80 percent of the overwintering butterflies, but “the population was near normal a little more than a year later. ‘But we’re never going to see Monarchs like we did, say, in the 1990s,’ Chip Taylor said. ‘We’ve lost too much habitat.’”

Ian Ward



Attractive and non-invasive in the garden, Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) will host Monarch eggs and larvae.

A CBC News article (Sept. 25, 2013) summarizes the expert’s opinions: “Both (Elizabeth) Howard and (Chip) Taylor point out that, as insects, Monarchs have the capacity to bounce back.... Taylor predicts they will recover. ‘The conditions can’t be like this forever and they will turn around...The question is when.’ Howard is less certain. ‘I wouldn’t want to say that all they need is the right climate conditions because they also have disease and parasite effects as well...our migration records make me at this point quite concerned that we won’t see more than the record low.’ She doesn’t foresee extinction, but does worry that the Monarch numbers may be at a tipping point. For University of Guelph biologist Ryan Norris, ‘It’s looking like a long-term decline.’ He expects ‘there will likely be a bit of bounce-back but I think we’re looking at numbers staying low...unless there’s some really major conservation action done.’”

## What can you do?

While “major conservation action” is needed, individual actions at the local level can help sustain the existing population. You can create a Monarch “oasis” in your yard by planting milkweed, and providing nectar plants that will help all butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects. There are many excellent how-to sources for butterfly-friendly gardens: books such as *Naturescape Manitoba* (published in 2006 by Nature Manitoba) and the new *Manitoba Butterflies: A field guide* (see page 7 for a book review), the Naturescape program at FortWhyte Alive (see [FortWhyteAlive.org/naturescape](http://FortWhyteAlive.org/naturescape)), Nature Canada’s “Take Action” webpage [www.naturecanada.ca/take\\_action\\_monarch\\_friendly\\_garden.asp](http://www.naturecanada.ca/take_action_monarch_friendly_garden.asp), as well as the websites mentioned at the beginning of this article. You can also be a citizen scientist and share your Monarch observations on [eButterfly.ca](http://eButterfly.ca), a database that is helping to document changes to butterfly populations.

## Our Natural Garden Tour 2014 It’s Garden Tour Time again!

**M**ark **July 5th** on your 2014 calendar and join us for another day of flora, fauna and fun.

This year, the tour will be in two parts of the city tied together by Portage Avenue. From a cluster of four gardens in the Silver Heights/Birchwood area of St. James, east of the Moray Bridge, a short drive down Portage Avenue will take you to five more gardens in the areas of south Broadway, East Gate, Crescentwood and River Heights.

There are four lovely large gardens, some on the river. Four smaller yards illustrate a variety of styles, including a low maintenance garden, an English country cottage garden, an all-garden/no-grass yard and a garden showcasing an intriguing set of structures for growing vegetables.

Our community garden this year is Enderton Park, affectionately known as Peanut Park, in the Crescentwood area. This elegant and peaceful park will provide the perfect lunch stop for tour goers.

ONGT 2014 will take place on **Saturday, July 5** and the ticket price is **\$15**. Gardens are open from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets are available from the Nature Manitoba office (204-943-9029), at all 2014 workshop programs from February to May (see pages 18-19), and from various garden centres and other vendors starting in April.



Dianne Beaven

# OUTDOOR activities

To receive a weekly list of outdoor activities, sign-up on our website at [www.naturemanitoba.ca](http://www.naturemanitoba.ca).

## Hike FortWhyte & Conquer the IKEA hill

**Sun. December 29th**

Join Roger Sutherland for this expedition.  
Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 2-3]

## Winter Camping in Riding Mountain National Park

**Fri. Jan. 3rd - Sun. Jan. 5th**

Camp at Moon Lake in Riding Mountain National Park on the first weekend of 2014. There is access to a cookshelter with wood stoves, but sleeping is done outside in whatever tent or shelter you provide. Saturday we will snowshoe the Moon Lake snowshoe trail, and Sunday we may cross country ski. This campground provides a pit privy, and car access. Participants do not need winter camping experience but require a good warm sleeping bag and warm clothing. Cold weather gear and personal acclimatization to winter is a necessity.  
Contact Sean Worden at 204-781-0796 or [srworden@mts.net](mailto:srworden@mts.net). [Rate 3-4]

## Snowshoe the Lake Winnipeg Shoreline

**Sat. January 11th**

Snowshoe along the east Lake Winnipeg shore between Beconia and Grand Beach.  
Contact Rose Kuzina by emailing [rkuzina@mymts.net](mailto:rkuzina@mymts.net). [Rate 2-3]

## Help Shape the Future of Whiteshell Provincial Park

As detailed in an article in the May/June issue (page 6) of *Nature Manitoba News*, the Manitoba government is proposing to expand Whiteshell Provincial Park in the area near Whitemouth Bog, and amend land-use category boundaries in the areas near Sylvia, Heart and Meditation Lakes. The public consultation process is underway, with a **January 13, 2014 deadline** for public input. To view the full proposal and provide comments, visit:

[www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/consult/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/consult/)

## Hike the Seine River

**Sun. January 12th**

Join Roger Sutherland for this winter hike from Royalwood to near Fermor. Potential for a shuttle.  
Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 1-2]

## Ski Pinawa

**Sat. January 18th**

Join Les McCann to ski the Whiteshell Ski Club trails.  
Contact Les at 204-895-8108 or [lmccann2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lmccann2001@yahoo.com). [Rate 2-3]

## Ski the Lac du Bonnet Trails

**Sat. January 25th**

Join Brian Wagg to ski the 10 km of looped trails in Agassiz Provincial Park. The trails go through Jack Pine and poplar forests and spruce bogs. \$5 trail fee to be collected. Lunch in Lac du Bonnet. Meet at the 59er Esso Station near the Birds Hill Park gate at 9 am.  
Contact Brian at 204-663-8333 or [bwaggwpg@gmail.com](mailto:bwaggwpg@gmail.com). [Rate 2-3]

## Hike the Seine River

**Sun. January 26th**

Join Roger Sutherland for this Seine River hike, which will involve a shuttle from Happyland Park to the Red River.  
Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 1-2]

## Ski Otter Falls/Seven Sisters

**Sat. February 1st**

Join Kathy Picard to ski the Otter Falls (11km) and Seven Sisters (7km) ski trails. Lunch at the warm up shelter on the Otter Falls trail.  
Call Kathy at 1-204-345-8422, or email [kdpcard@mymts.net](mailto:kdpcard@mymts.net). [Rate 2-3]

## Hike the Assiniboine River

**Sun. February 9th**

Join Roger Sutherland for this hike on the Assiniboine River from East Gate to the Forks. A shuttle will be involved.  
Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 1-2]

## Mantario Potluck

**Sun. February 9th**

An afternoon of winter fun! Skiing, skating, shinny, tobogganing and playing in the snow, followed by a delicious potluck supper.  
Contact Scotty Nystrom at [scotty.mantario@gmail.com](mailto:scotty.mantario@gmail.com). [Rate 1]

## Ski the Birds Hill Park Trails

**Sat. February 15th**

Join Brian Wagg to expand your knowledge of the established ski trail network. Being aware of the interconnecting points between trails will add alternative routes for you to discover. Meet at the 59er Esso Station near the Birds Hill Park gate at 10 am.  
Contact Brian at 204-663-8333 or [bwaggwpg@gmail.com](mailto:bwaggwpg@gmail.com). [Rate 2-3]

## Shannondale's Ski Day

**Sat. February 22nd**

Join Al Louer for Shannondale's Ski Day for a leisurely day of skiing. Bring lunch and water. More details to be provided later as the activities of the day are announced.  
Register with Al at 204-235-1790 or [alainlouer@hotmail.com](mailto:alainlouer@hotmail.com). [Rate 2-3]

## Ski Pinawa

**Sat. February 22nd**

This is a Whiteshell Ski Club ALS Support Fundraiser. Beginners have an easy, flat 2 km loop. The intermediate loop is 8 km and has some hills (the two most difficult hills can be bypassed). The advanced tour is 16 km and very difficult. There is a \$30 registration fee or a min. of \$30 in pledges.  
Contact Les McCann at 204-895-8108 or [lmccann2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lmccann2001@yahoo.com). [Rate 2]

## Hike Birds Hill

**Sun. February 23rd**

Join Roger Sutherland for this hike in Birds Hill. A chili cook-out is a possibility.  
Contact Roger at 204-451-1219. [Rate 1-2]



Les McCann



# GREY HARES

*Free on Wednesdays?*

*Join the Grey Hares for interesting trips and activities and good company.*

## Snowshoe in Birds Hill Park Wed. January 8th

If you don't have snowshoes, they can be rented from Mountain Equipment Co-op or other outdoor stores – a good opportunity to try different types. Remember to bring a park pass!

Brian Bettess at 204-256-2248. [Rate 2]

## Ski Pinawa Trails Wed. January 15th

7 kms of easy skating and classic trails on the Pinawa Golf Course, and 40 kms of classic forested trails of varying levels of difficulty in the Canadian Shield, with warming huts. An easy ski on the golf course is possible for a leisurely group. The Pinawa Club is right at the trail head. *Golf course is rated at 1, the rest at 2-4.* Ted Harvey at 204-889-5725. [Rate 1-4]

## Ski Pumpkin Creek Trails Wed. January 22nd

Ski the Pumpkin Creek Trails in Roseisle Valley of the Pembina Hills, west of Carman.

Doug Belcher at 204-334-2108. [Rate 2-3]

## Ski West Hawk Lake Trails Wed. January 29th

Ski the trails of the West Hawk Lake area in the Whiteshell. Remember to bring your park pass!

June Thomson at 204-837-6469. [Rate 2-3]

## Skate the Red River Trail Wed. February 5th

For those unable to go on the Hecla Island trip, enjoy a skating outing on the River Trail on the Red & Assiniboine Rivers.

Denise Levesque at 204-889-2297. [Rate 1]

## Ski/Snowshoe Hecla Island Tue. Feb. 4th - Thu. Feb. 6th

Groomed trails with two overnight stays at Lakeview Hecla Resort.

Remember to bring your park pass!

**Deadline to register is January 15.**

Doug Belcher at 204-334-2108. [Rate 2-3]

## Ski Shannondale Trails Wed. February 12th

The Shannondale Ski Trails (west of Morden) are 15-20 kms on hilly terrain, with warming huts. The Burwalde Ski Trails (on Highway 3 between Carman and Morden) are 5-10 kms and flat.

Ted Harvey at 204-889-5725. [Rate 2-3]

## Ski Pine Falls & Lac du Bonnet Wed. February 19th

The Pine Falls Trails are approximately 9 kms and have a warm-up shelter and outhouse. Enjoy a lunch in Pine Falls before heading to the Lac du Bonnet Trails off Highway 317. There are four loops with about 11 kms, no warm-up shelter and a primitive outhouse. Both sets of groomed trails are flat or gently rolling with options for hills in Pine Falls.

Contact Kathy Picard in Lac du Bonnet at 1-204-345-8422. [Rate 2]

## Ski Bittersweet Trails Wed. February 26th

Ski the Bittersweet Trails near Treherne. They include 24 kms of skating and classic ski trails of varying difficulty, from easy to difficult. Easier trails are toward the east side, with more difficult trails and hills to the west side. There is a central warming hut plus a new clubhouse at the trail head.

Call Kevin or Anita Miller at 204-224-3628. [Rate 3-4]

## GENERAL RATING GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES

**Rate 1 Novice:** Typically 2 to 3 hours duration. Little or no experience required.

Easy terrain. Limited physical fitness acceptable. Weather not likely to be severe and normally we can retreat to shelter.

**Rate 2 Intermediate:** Typically 4-6 hours long. Some previous experience and skill desirable. Some steep or difficult terrain.

Moderate physical fitness required. Seasonal weather normally not severe.

**Rate 3 Advanced:** Typically full day trip. Previous experience, significant skill and good physical condition required. Steep or difficult terrain. Sustained strenuous activity required. Weather not normally severe.

**Rate 4 Advanced:** Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Effects of inclement weather and injuries more severe. Seasonal weather not normally severe.

**Rate 5 Advanced:** Trip of several days duration with heavy packs, specialized equipment and skills. Possible severe weather conditions – wind, cold rain, sleet – may halt trip and demand use of skilled survival techniques or make accidents or physical injuries life threatening. Aid or rescue is difficult to obtain.

## PLEASE NOTE:

All those planning to participate in a trip must register with the leader beforehand, unless otherwise indicated. Space is often limited, so call early. If the leader cannot be reached, call the office at 204-943-9029.

As a member of Nature Manitoba you have the right to participate in all of our activities and programs, but you must provide a valid membership card. Trips are led by unpaid, non-professional volunteers.

Trip leaders may exercise discretion and decline to include any person. When registering you must rely on your own assessment of your ability to participate, based on the requirements of the trip as described in the trip rating guidelines and at [www.naturemanitoba.ca](http://www.naturemanitoba.ca).

By showing up it is understood that you acknowledged and are prepared and able to participate at the level indicated. You will be required to sign an Informed Consent and Liability Release Agreement in order to participate.

Participants must be prepared for inclement weather. Participants must have adequate clothing, water, food, must carry their own gear, and are responsible for ensuring it is in good working condition. See the Outdoor Activity section of our website for more details on the Trip Rating Guidelines.



Les McCann

Participants of our Autumn Riding Mountain Backpacking trip. Irene Blank, Shauna McQuarrie, Fran and Jerry Ameis.

# BIRD NEWS

by Gordon Grief

**A**s in past years, October and November saw good numbers of late migrants. One migrant in particular was completely off course – a Calliope Hummingbird found at a feeder in Selkirk – a first sighting for Manitoba. It is normally found in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta and British Columbia and south through the mountains of the United States and into Mexico. Fifteen or twenty lucky birders were

able to see this bird before it was captured and taken to a rehab facility. Read the story on page 1 by Gerald Machnee for additional information on this sighting.

Some additional unusual sightings during the period were all 3 scoter species, Barrow's Goldeneye, Clark's Grebe, Prairie Falcon, Whooping Crane, Purple Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, Varied Thrush and Northern Cardinal.

I have included a few of the extremely high numbers of hawks seen by Charlie McPherson, Ray Methot and Bob Shettler in Whytewold on October 1 and 2. In my last column I listed some of the sightings that they made on September 30. Their totals were 1,729 hawks on September 30, 1,718 on October 1 and 739 on October 2. Charlie noted that he was able to observe all these birds while sitting in his recliner chair – pretty hard work if you ask me.

*If you locate some unusual birds during the winter, be sure to post them on the **ManitobaBirds** Yahoo group or email them to me at ggrief@mts.net. If you do not have internet access, you can mail them to me at 31 Kara Cove, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2N 3C2.*

<b>Species</b>	<b>#'s</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	Oct 12 13	St. Paul	D. Martin
Gadwall	25	Nov 3 13	East Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Green-winged Teal	1	Nov 16 13	Oak Hammock Marsh	R. Koes
Harlequin Duck	2	Nov 2 13	Victoria Beach	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Surf Scoter	3	Oct 13 13	Oak Lake	M. Waldron
White-winged Scoter	1	Nov 16 13	Hecla Island	J. Smith
White-winged Scoter	1	Nov 25 13	Pine Falls	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, A. Mickey, R. Austin
Black Scoter	1	Nov 2 13	Victoria Beach	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Black Scoter	15	Nov 17 13	Seal River Lodge	D. Fast
Bufflehead	2	Nov 19 13	Grand Marais	P Taylor
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	Oct 30 13	Lake Manitoba Narrows	D. Martin, R. Methot
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	Oct 31 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Hooded Merganser	1	Nov 13 13	Victoria Beach	R. Parsons
Common Merganser	3,800	Nov 13 13	Hecla Island	R. Koes, P Taylor
Common Merganser	24	Nov 19 13	Pine Falls	P Taylor
Common Merganser	1	Nov 25 13	Pine Falls	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, A. Mickey, R. Austin
Ruddy Duck	3	Nov 15 13	Brandon	C. Cuthbert
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Nov 13 13	Gimli	R. Koes, P Taylor
Clark's Grebe	1	Oct 5 13	West Shoal Lake	G. Budyk, Nature Manitoba members
American White Pelican	2	Nov 13 13	Hecla Island	R. Koes, P Taylor
American White Pelican	2	Nov 29 13	Lockport	G. Machnee
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Nov 16 13	Hecla Island	J. Smith
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Nov 19 13	Lockport	G. Machnee
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Nov 25 13	Pine Falls	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, A. Mickey, R. Austin
Great Blue Heron	1	Nov 12 13	East Shoal Lake	R. Methot, C. McPherson
Great Egret	20	Oct 5 13	West Shoal Lake	G. Budyk, Nature Manitoba outing
Great Egret	40+	Oct 14 13	West Shoal Lake	M. Lloyd
Turkey Vulture	32	Oct 1 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Bald Eagle	45	Oct 2 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson, R. Methot, B. Shettler
Northern Harrier	1	Nov 16 13	Blackdale	R. Koes
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,234	Oct 1 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Sharp-shinned Hawk	358	Oct 2 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson, R. Methot, B. Shettler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Nov 28 13	Steinbach	D. Fast
Cooper's Hawk	1	Oct 30 13	Starbuck	C. Penner
Broad-winged Hawk	36	Oct 1 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Broad-winged Hawk	45	Oct 2 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson, R. Methot, B. Shettler
Swainson's Hawk	1	Sep 30 13	West Shoal Lake	R. Porteous, L. Jansson, L. Cocks, R. Austin
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Nov 13 13	Breezy Point	G. & C. Machnee
Golden Eagle	1	Oct 2 13	Libau	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
American Kestrel	64	Oct 1 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
American Kestrel	1	Nov 12 13	Komarno	R. Methot, C. McPherson
Peregrine Falcon	8	Oct 2 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson, R. Methot, B. Shettler



<b>Species</b>	<b>#'s</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Prairie Falcon	1	Oct 23 13	Oak Hammock Marsh	P Douglas, A. Mickey, G. Franzman, N. Butchard
Prairie Falcon	1	Oct 26 13	Plum Coulee	L. Blanchette
American Coot	300+	Oct 10 13	East & West Shoal Lakes	K. Gardner
Whooping Crane	1	Sep 25 - Oct 15/13	Woodnorth	T. Patterson
Greater Yellowlegs	3	Nov 2 13	Patricia Beach	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Greater Yellowlegs	6	Nov 3 13	East / North Shoal Lakes	K. Gardner
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	Oct 9 13	Delta	D. Martin, R. Methot
Pectoral Sandpiper	400+	Oct 9 13	Delta	D. Martin, R. Methot
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Nov 2 13	Patricia Beach	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Purple Sandpiper	3	Oct 20 13	Churchill	B. Chartier
American Woodcock	1	Oct 17 13	Hodgson	J. Smith
Sabine's Gull	1	Nov 3 13	East Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Common Tern	3	Oct 5 13	West Shoal Lake	G. Budyk, Nature Manitoba members
Mourning Dove	3	Nov 2 13	Brandon area	C. Sangster
Mourning Dove	1	Nov 24 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Northern Hawk Owl	1	Nov 26 13	Beaudry Park	P Otis
Long-eared Owl	1	Nov 1 13	Starbuck	C. Penner
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Oct 18 - Nov 6/13	Starbuck	C. Penner
Calliope Hummingbird	1	Oct 23 - Nov 10/13	Selkirk	J. Minish, G. Machnee, C. Artuso, m.obs.
Belted Kingfisher	4	Oct 14 13	West Shoal Lake	M. Lloyd
Northern Flicker	1	Nov 27 13	Brandon area	M. & C. Sangster
Brown Creeper	1	Nov 13 13	Headingley	B. Shettler
Winter Wren	1	Oct 19 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Winter Wren	1	Oct 19 13	Whytewold	C. McPherson
Winter Wren	1	Oct 21 13	Beaudry Park	R. Wiebe
Marsh Wren	1	Nov 2 13	Patricia Beach	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Oct 26 13	Winnipeg	G. Budyk
Eastern Bluebird	17	Oct 2 13	Monominto/Elma/ Hadashville	R. & I. Porteous
Eastern Bluebird	17	Oct 10 13	West Shoal Lake / Woodroyd	K. Gardner
Eastern Bluebird	12	Oct 13 13	Hodgson	J. & D. Smith
Eastern Bluebird	15	Oct 15 13	Delta to St. Ambroise	R. Nickel, P. Fast, A. Ens, D. Wiebe
Eastern Bluebird	12	Oct 16 13	Woodnorth	L. Boys, M. Yorke, M. Reid
Eastern Bluebird	5	Oct 21 13	Beaudry Park	R. Wiebe
Townsend's Solitaire	1	Nov 2 13	Grand Marais	R. Koes, Nature Manitoba outing
Townsend's Solitaire	1	Nov 18 13	Oakville	G. Ogilvie
Swainson's Thrush	1	Oct 7 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
American Robin	1	Nov 16 13	Hecla Island	J. Smith
Varied Thrush	1	Oct 23 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Brown Thrasher	1	Nov 21 13	Winnipeg	D. Dodgson, G. Budyk
American Pipit	1	Nov 13 13	Hecla Island	R. Koes, P. Taylor
Cedar Waxwing	12	Nov 27 13	Brandon area	M. & C. Sangster
Tennessee Warbler	1	Oct 7 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Oct 10 13	West Shoal Lake	K. Gardner
Nashville Warbler	1	Oct 7 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	Oct 20 13	Winnipeg	R. Mooi
Ovenbird	1	Oct 14 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Northern Waterthrush	1	Oct 7 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
Chipping Sparrow	1	Oct 1 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	Oct 12 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	Oct 7 13	Hecla Island	B. Shettler
Fox Sparrow	4	Oct 26 13	St. Jean Baptiste	L. Blanchette
Fox Sparrow	1	Nov 10 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
White-throated Sparrow	1	Nov 25 13	Winnipeg	R. Staniforth
White-throated Sparrow	1	Nov 28 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
White-throated Sparrow	1	Nov 30 13	Headingley	B. Shettler
Harris's Sparrow	1	Nov 13 13	Gull Lake	R. Parsons
Harris's Sparrow	1	Nov 17 13	Morden	R. Hiebert
White-crowned Sparrow	1	Nov 17 13	Winnipeg	R. Clarke
Northern Cardinal	1	Oct 15 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Northern Cardinal	1	Nov 8 13	Dufresne	B. Krosney
Northern Cardinal	1	Nov 27 13	Brandon	K. McKiernan
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	Oct 4 13	Grosse Isle	K. Gardner
Rusty Blackbird	500+	Oct 2 13	Walkeyburg	G. Budyk, D. Dodgson
Rusty Blackbird	2	Nov 13 13	Patricia Beach	R. Parsons
American Goldfinch	25	Nov 28 13	Steinbach	D. Fast

### Atlassers paddling up to the Golden Eagle nest



## Golden Eagles breeding in Wapusk

An article on the first confirmed breeding of Golden Eagle in recent decades in Manitoba has been published in *Canadian Field Naturalist*. The article, titled “Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) breeding in Wapusk National Park, Manitoba” and written by N.C. Asselin, M. S. Scott, J. Larkin, and C. Artuso, is available at:

<http://canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/1450>

An excerpt from the article’s Abstract: “The North American subspecies of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is of conservation concern throughout Canada. The species is not currently known to breed in Manitoba. In 2011 and 2012, during the course of surveys in Wapusk National Park of Canada in northeastern Manitoba, seven pairs of Golden Eagles and one sub-adult were observed. The identification of nests in proximity to three pairs, the presence of an adult at one nest, and visible white down feathers on two nests confirm breeding and extend the breeding range of the Golden Eagle into Manitoba, where breeding was previously uncertain.”

## Canadian Scientists Publish Human-Related Bird Mortality Estimates

From the Bird Studies Canada Newsletter

October 1, 2013 – Over the last four years, 20 Environment Canada scientists conducted extensive analyses to produce the first-ever estimates of annual direct bird mortality from human-related sources. Their findings were published this week in *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, the electronic scientific journal of Bird Studies Canada and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. The results indicate that human-related activities destroy roughly 269 million birds and 2 million bird nests in Canada each year.

Most human-related bird deaths (about 99%) are caused by impacts of feral and pet cats, and collisions with transmission lines, buildings, and vehicles. Cats appear to kill as many birds as all other sources combined – more than 100 million birds

**“Cats appear to kill as many birds as all other sources combined...”**

annually in Canada. Species that nest or feed on or near the ground are especially vulnerable to cat predation. Collisions with transmission lines are the second-largest human-caused source of mortality in Canada, causing between 10-41 million deaths per year. Collisions with residential and commercial buildings are the third-highest of the human-related sectors, killing an estimated 16-42 million birds each year.

To learn more, read our post on the BirdLife Community website at [www.birdlife.org/americas/news/canadian-scientists-publish-human-related-bird-mortality-estimates](http://www.birdlife.org/americas/news/canadian-scientists-publish-human-related-bird-mortality-estimates) or explore the special issue of *Avian Conservation and Ecology* at [www.ace-eco.org/issues/view.php?sf=4](http://www.ace-eco.org/issues/view.php?sf=4).

## New Manitoba IBA Coordinator – Diana Teal

Diana Teal is an environmental educator with a deep love for nature and 14 years of experience in developing, teaching, administering and raising funds for natural heritage and conservation programs.

Before relocating to Winnipeg this fall, Diana was the Executive Director at the High Park Nature Centre, which is a non-profit outdoor education centre dedicated to increasing awareness, respect and stewardship of the significant natural areas in Toronto’s largest downtown park, High Park. She has also worked for the Toronto Botanical Gardens teaching horticulture programs for school children, and the Toronto Zoo coordinating

the Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Program and Frogwatch Ontario.

Diana holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University and an Ontario College Graduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration from Niagara College. A qualified teacher in Ontario, Diana holds a B.Ed from Queen’s University, specializing in Outdoor and Experiential Education.

Diane will be working to foster Manitoba’s IBA Caretaker Program and the Manitoba Grassland Bird Conservation Initiative. *Diana and Christian Artuso will be hosting a workshop about the IBA Program on March 4th (see page 18).*



Diana in the Rockies



**Greater Sage Grouse  
near Grasslands National  
Park in Saskatchewan**



## First ever emergency order protects endangered Greater Sage Grouse in western Canada

**O**n December 4, Canada set a precedent under the Species At Risk Act (SARA) by enacting an emergency order to provide extra protection to the endangered Greater Sage Grouse. This species depends on the prairie ecosystem of southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. Fewer than 160 birds now exist in Canada.

The emergency order, which will come into force in February 2014, protects habitat on provincial and federal Crown lands (approx. 1700 square kilometres in the two provinces) and restricts some activities considered harmful to habitat. It does not apply to private land.

Used when a species is facing imminent extirpation in Canada, the order is part of a larger protection strategy. A new recovery strategy for the sage grouse is now posted on the SAR Public Registry for public comment. This first use of the emergency order resulted in part from the urging of several conservation groups including Nature Canada, Nature Saskatchewan and the Alberta Wilderness Association.

Read more at: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/ottawa-to-protect-iconic-sage-grouse-prairie-bird-on-the-brink-of-vanishing-1.1574080>

Photos: Doug Belcher

## Osprey Nest Near Gimli

by Doug Belcher

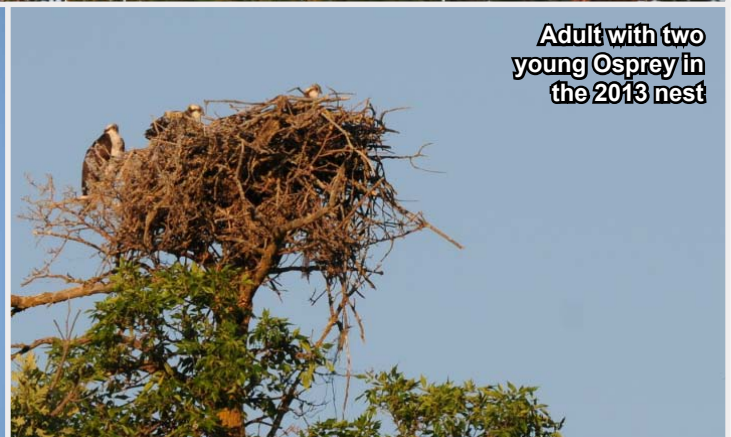
**T**his Osprey nest is about 5 km south of Gimli. For two years the nest was on a “dummy” hydro pole that Manitoba Hydro erected for the purpose of the Osprey building a nest. However, this year the nest was taken over by geese, so the Ospreys moved across Highway 9 to a wooded area and used a Black Ash tree for the nest. This worked out well except for the fact that there were a number of other birds nesting in close proximity to the Ospreys, and the Eastern Kingbirds were the most aggressive in protecting their territory. All turned out well as two young ospreys hatched.



**The adult Ospreys in  
their 2013 nest in a  
Black Ash tree**



**Nesting on the  
“dummy” hydro  
pole in 2012**



**Adult with two  
young Osprey in  
the 2013 nest**

# DISCOVERY EVENINGS 2013-2014

Nature Manitoba's Discovery Evenings are held at **Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain**, 340 Provencher Blvd, in St. Boniface. All programs will be held in **Salle Antoine-Gaborieau** (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

Programs start at **7:30 pm** *except* for the March 17<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. which starts at 7:00pm.

**Admission is \$2 for members / \$3 for non-members.** Members must show member card.

For more information, call the Nature Manitoba office at 204-943-9029 or email [info@naturemanitoba.ca](mailto:info@naturemanitoba.ca).

**Monday, January 6, 2014**

## **Growth of the Lesser Snow Goose Population: Consequences and Control Efforts**

**Frank Baldwin**, *Game Bird Manager, Wildlife Branch,  
Department of Conservation and Water Stewardship*

**B**eginning in the mid-1990's, waterfowl biologists became increasingly alarmed at the persistent and rapid growth of the mid-continent population of Lesser Snow Geese. This species nests in sub-arctic and arctic regions of Canada, migrates through the prairies, and winters in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. This presentation will summarize the changes which released this population from historical controls, describe the ecological consequences of too many geese, provide an update on the effectiveness of population control efforts and discuss considerations for future management.

**Monday, January 20, 2014**

## **Probing Benefits of Play to Polar Bears and Potential Problems Posed by Tourism**

**Drs. Jane Waterman & Jim Roth**,  
*Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba*

**P**lay behaviour is common in young mammals in good condition, but adult play is rarely observed, especially in mammals that are fasting. Polar bears in northern Manitoba spend several months on land fasting while Hudson Bay is free of ice, and during this time adult male polar bears frequently play. We are examining this play behaviour to determine the benefits of these energetically costly interactions, such as developing dominance hierarchies with low risk. To collect these data without impacting bear behaviour, our research program has developed several non-invasive techniques to determine body size, body condition, and the identity of free-ranging bears. We have used these new techniques to examine the influence of tourist vehicles on the behaviour of polar bears in this region. Habituation to human activities may be a larger concern for these bears than potential disturbance caused by tourism.

**Monday, February 3, 2014**

## **Laws and Sausages... Should we conserve endangered species or endangered spaces?**

**James Duncan**, *Director, Wildlife Branch,  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*

**"L**aws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made." said Otto von Bismarck, German Prussian politician (1815 - 1898). That said, James Duncan will give us a digestible glimpse of the former. Manitoba has participated on provincial, national and international efforts to conserve species at risk since at least the 1970's. This presentation will examine the history and effectiveness of this endeavor in light of Manitoba's overall biodiversity and other conservation efforts including the protection of habitat. Factors considered will include habitat loss and degradation, invasive alien species, climate change and human dimensions. The role of humans as an agent of ecological change will be explored, culminating in a new innovative legislative approach to conservation in Manitoba.

**Monday, March 3, 2014**

## **Stationarity on the Run: The New Normal for Manitoba's Climate**

**Dr. Danny Blair**, *Associate Dean of Science, Univ. of Winnipeg*

**T**he concept of 'normal' in climatology defines the range of conditions expected in the near future, based upon the recent past, with the assumption that the recent past is a reasonable approximation of the near future. Thanks to climate change, this assumption of 'stationarity' in the climate is no longer valid. One of the most important consequences of non-stationarity in the climate system is that the probability of extreme events will change. Dr. Blair will discuss the evidence for non-stationarity in Manitoba's rapidly changing climate, and will review the implications of continuing change in the coming decades on the nature and impacts of extreme weather.

See next page for our last Discovery Evening:  
**A.G.M. & Members' Night...**



# Nature Manitoba's

## 94<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7:00pm

The AGM will start at **7:00pm** at **Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain** (340 Provencher Blvd, in St. Boniface). The AGM will be held in **Salle Antoine-Gaborieau** (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). It will be followed by two 20-min member presentations (see below).

**Monday, March 17, 2014**  
(early start at 7:00 pm)

### **Annual General Meeting & Members' Night**

#### **A Churchill River Adventure**

by Roger Turenne

What do you do when you're several days into a two-week canoe trip on the upper reaches of the Churchill River in northern Saskatchewan and, faced with unexpectedly strong currents due to historically high water levels, you realize you've bitten off more than you can chew? Experience this adventure through Roger's signature storytelling, photography and music.

#### **Hiking the Land of the Long White Cloud: A brief introduction to New Zealand's endless opportunities for tramping**

by Friederike von Aweyden & Dan Livingston

Join us on our hiking tours while learning about New Zealand's biogeographical background. From kias to penguins, from glaciers to volcanoes, and other consequences of evolution.

### **2014 AGM Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the preceding AGM (March 18, 2013)
3. Annual Report of the President
4. Treasurer's Report and the Report of the Auditors
5. Appointment of Auditors for 2014
6. Annual Reports of Nature Manitoba Committees
7. Resolutions
8. Election of Directors of the Board
9. Election of the Executive of Nature Manitoba
10. Presentation of Awards
11. Adjournment

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Nature Manitoba board**

Nominations are invited for positions on the Nature Manitoba board, to be elected at the **AGM March 17, 2014**. Any two members of the Society may submit nominations for any position by delivering to the Nature Manitoba office a nomination paper signed by at least two members of the Society (other than the proposed nominee) and the consent in writing from the nominee. Nominations shall close at noon on the business day prior to the date of the AGM.

Positions open for nominations are

- » President (1-year term)
- » Executive Vice President (1-year)
- » Vice President (1-year)
- » Secretary (1-year)
- » Treasurer (1-year)
- » Directors (3-year terms)



Fall colours were at their peak for Al Ross' Autumn Photo Tour of the Whiteshell.

# NATURE MANITOBA'S WORKSHOP SERIES 2014

from February 4<sup>th</sup> until May 6<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 7:30pm

**PRE-REGISTRATION required!** Contact the Nature Manitoba office at 204-943-9029 or [info@naturemanitoba.ca](mailto:info@naturemanitoba.ca).

**REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**

Class sizes are limited to 30. **If you are unable to attend, please cancel** by calling the office so others may benefit from the vacancy.

**LOCATION:** KELVIN HIGH SCHOOL (Room 31),  
Stafford Street at Academy Road. Parking at Kelvin is available in the lot behind the school, by the west entrance.

We ask for your understanding and suggest that you sign up for **ONLY THREE WORKSHOPS**. If you are interested in more than three workshops, you are welcome to call the office one week prior to any additional workshops. If there are any vacancies, you will be able to register.

**FEE:** \$5 for Nature Manitoba members, \$10 for non-members (students: \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members). Workshops are open to children over 10, accompanied by a parent.

*Workshop Co-ordinator: Julia Schoen*

1

## BATS and CAVES in MANITOBA

**Tuesday, February 4, 2014**

**Jack Dubois**, *Retired Director of Wildlife Branch, Manitoba Conservation*

The Interlake region of Manitoba is a unique landscape in Canada and possibly the world. It is underlain by soft limestone and dolomite bedrock, often exposed and strongly modified by glaciation. It is in this region that most of Manitoba's caves are found. There are three main cave types: crevice caves, wave-cut caves and solution or groundwater-caused caves. The latter are the longest and most complex, and are where the majority of bat hibernacula are found. This workshop will cover how the caves and other karst landscape features are formed, where to find them in the province and the natural history of the three species of bats that overwinter in the caves, with emphasis on the most common, the little brown bat.

2

## ECLIPSES AROUND the WORLD

**Tuesday, February 18, 2014**

**Jay Anderson**,  
*Retired Environment Canada Meteorologist*

Jay travels the world with his wife, Judy, to watch solar eclipses – an alignment of the Earth, Sun and Moon that has the Earth passing through the Moon's shadow. Solar (and lunar) eclipses have been a part of mankind's fascination with the stars from the earliest Babylonian and Chinese records to the present. This talk will discuss the mechanism of eclipses, the visual and emotional impact of eclipses, the adventures that come from chasing eclipses and the expectation for the next North American eclipse in 2017.

3

## HONEYBEES, NATURALLY!

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

**Doug Beckingham**, *Local Hobby Beekeeper*

This workshop will include a short talk on where the honeybee fits in our everyday lives, pressures facing the bees and what you can do to help maintain a better balance in nature. Views will be presented on organic vs natural and help clear the air around some overused "buzz" words. Hopefully, our understanding of natural health will be broadened. People will be able to see, smell and feel some common beekeeping items and a Q & A will follow. Bring your questions and your sweet tooth as honey will be available to sample.

4

## MANITOBA'S IMPORTANT BIRD AREA PROGRAM

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014**

**Diana Teal**, *Manitoba IBA Co-ordinator and...*  
**Christian Artuso**, *Bird Studies Canada Manitoba  
Program Manager & Chair of IBA Committee*

The Birdlife International partnership has identified 12,000 sites around the world that are known as "Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas" (IBAs). IBAs represent an enormous global network designed to protect the planet's biodiversity by engaging grassroots support for key sites. These key sites are identified using rigorous, internationally standardized criteria. There are 38 IBAs in Manitoba, from the grasslands of the southwest to the Hudson Bay coast, each with its own special significance. This workshop examines the IBA program globally and here in Canada, with a focus on Manitoba's sites and our IBA program. We will showcase some of the great work being done in Manitoba and discuss simple ways that you can become involved in this global conservation initiative.



5

**BIRDING for BEGINNERS**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

James Whitelaw, *Nature Manitoba Birder*

Spring is a great time to start birding, and Manitoba is a great place for birds. This workshop will cover the equipment you will need, the principles of bird identification, where to look for birds and the variety of birds to be found in Manitoba.

6

**BOTANY for BEGINNERS**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Marilyn Latta,  
*Nature Manitoba Weekend Botanist*

Many people enjoy seeing wildflowers and would like to know more about them but are often intimidated by the identification process. This workshop will cover some of the basics of plant identification. Discussion will include plant naming (not as difficult as one might think once you know a bit about the system!), features of plants to watch for and the use of simple keys. Images will be used to illustrate some of the major plant families and their important characteristics, and participants will be given the opportunity to test their new skills on an A-Z presentation of Manitoba wildflowers.

7

**SHOREBIRDS**

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Rudolf Koes, *Nature Manitoba Birder*

Manitoba harbours a fine array of shorebirds and they will soon start to return from warmer climes. Some are difficult to identify, but with the help of this workshop the task may be a bit easier. We will look at some slides and reference materials and we will also discuss some of the best places in Manitoba to see them.

8

**GROWING a GARDEN  
from the GROUND UP**

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Kelley Leibzeit, *Master Gardener in Training*

Kelley will show you how her garden went from dirt and gravel to an oasis for people, plants, and wildlife. With 20 years of gardening experience, she'll share tips and photos on how her garden grew. After attending a Naturescape program, she made a decision to change the direction of her garden. She added more native plantings to draw in even more birds and butterflies. The Spring Migration of 2013 was a roaring success, bringing in many varieties of warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers and hawks, as well as a few of her favourites like waxwings and orioles. She even had a few unusual surprises. Come and hear Kelley's Garden Story.

9

**A PRIMER on MANITOBA  
BUTTERFLIES in SPRING**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Simone Hébert Allard,  
*Author of "Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide"*

Nothing lifts my spirits more, after a long winter, than my first butterfly of the year – often a Mourning Cloak that shows up when snow is still on the ground. How come certain species appear so early? It all has to do with their life cycles, how they overwinter, what they eat and whether or not they are a migratory species. Though most of you are probably familiar with the ubiquitous Cabbage White and the Mourning Cloak, early 'birds' both, this one-hour workshop will help you identify and, hopefully, locate certain spring species of butterflies such as the Silvery Blue, the Satyr Comma, the Spring Azure, the Western White, the Compton Tortoiseshell and the Eastern Pine Elf.

10

**FLYCATCHERS for BEGINNERS**

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Ward Christianson, *Nature Manitoba Birder*

This workshop will cover the basics of identification of Manitoba's flycatcher species. Emphasis will be placed on the pitfalls of this difficult group. Become more confident in your ability to identify this group of birds; or not.

11

**MORELS and OTHER FUNGI**

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Dr. David Punter, *Retired Prof. of Botany*

Morels are the mushrooms that appear in the spring while most other fungi can be found in late August and September. Participants will begin learning to identify mushrooms in time for the morel season. A field trip will be offered in the late summer.

12

**SKULL-DUGGERY**

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Bill Watkins, *Biodiversity Conservation  
Zoologist, Manitoba Wildlife Branch and...*  
Sarah Watkins, *Education Programming Consultant*

Have you ever wondered how paleontologists seem to know everything about a long-extinct species from a few skull and jaw fragments? Or how investigators can identify a predator from bite marks on a dead animal? Perhaps you have found a skull with attached jaw and wondered what kind of animal it was from, what it ate, or how it lived. This workshop will teach you how to "read" skulls by observing the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, and between predators and prey. Participants will be given an opportunity to practice their skills by examining several mystery skulls.

401-63 Albert Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G4  
Phone: 204-943-9029  
info@naturemanitoba.ca



### Become a Member of Nature Manitoba!

Individual \$40, Family \$55, Student \$20, Senior \$35

Join online at [www.naturemanitoba.ca](http://www.naturemanitoba.ca).

### About Nature Manitoba

Nature Manitoba is people sharing a passion for nature. Since its foundation in 1920, Nature Manitoba's mission has been to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of nature, and to preserve and enjoy it. In support of this mission, Nature Manitoba offers a wide variety of educational programs and publications, supports research into Manitoba's biological and geophysical diversity, organizes field trips and outdoor activities year-round, and advocates for the protection of our natural environment.

## DISCOVERY EVENINGS

We still have five more Discovery  
Evenings left, see pages 16-17.

## NATURE MANITOBA'S WORKSHOP SERIES 2014

from February 4<sup>th</sup> until May 6<sup>th</sup>

See pages 18-19 for the full workshop listing.  
Register soon as many workshops do fill up.

### Whiskeyjack Nature Tours

#### ARIZONA IN FEBRUARY

19 Feb - 2 March 2014 (12 days)

\$2790 (dbl occup) from Phoenix

Arizona is home to some of the most unique & famous landscapes in the world, Saguaro NP, Sabino Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon & Sedona. Join us for a mid-winter tour to the blue skies and fascinating deserts of this famous state.

#### SOUTHERN UTAH

15 - 26 April 2014 (12 days)

\$2900 (dbl occup) from Las Vegas

The mighty Colorado River, aided by the arid erosion cycle, has waged battle across the eons with the sandstone strata and fashioned landscapes so unique that they are more redolent of an extra-terrestrial origin. We visit Bryce Canyon, Valley of the Gods, Arches NP, Canyonlands, Monument Valley & Zion Canyon.

#### YUKON-DEMPSTER HWY

##### Land of the Midnight Sun

18-29 June 2014 + 1-12 July 2014 (12 days)

\$3700+GST (dbl occup) from Whitehorse

The heart of our adventure is the drive up the Dempster Highway from Dawson City to Inuvik and a flight to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean.

At latitude 66N we cross the Arctic Circle and enter the Land of the Midnight Sun.

**WHISKEYJACK NATURE TOURS**  
BOX 319, SECHLT, BC, V0N 3A0  
604-885-5539

E-m [tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com](mailto:tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com)  
Web: [www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com](http://www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com)



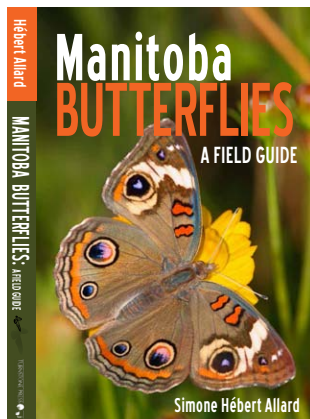
### Finding Birds In Southern Manitoba

Manitoba Naturalists Society  
Brandon Naturalists Society

## Finding Birds in Southern Manitoba now available for only \$10!

No birder should be without a copy (or two!) of *Finding Birds in Southern Manitoba*. The popular guide contains pertinent information on where and when to go birding in our province, anywhere south of Thompson. Nicely illustrated and with plenty of maps, plus seasonal bar-graphs, it provides more in-depth information than can be gathered elsewhere. And now the price has been reduced to \$10 (from \$20). At this low cost it makes for a perfect gift to all people who want to get to know their province and its birds better.

Available from the Nature Manitoba office or website.



## Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide

Available for \$39 (no tax) from our website at [www.naturemanitoba.ca](http://www.naturemanitoba.ca) (via PayPal), or order from our office by calling 204-943-9029 or emailing [info@naturemanitoba.ca](mailto:info@naturemanitoba.ca). Shipping fees are \$10 for orders within Manitoba.

See a review of this book on page 7 by Pat MacKay. The author, Simone Hébert Allard, will be hosting a workshop on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 – see page 19 for a write-up and registration details.