

Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc.

# What's flying around....



## Nature Sask. Fall Meet

The Fall Meet for Nature Sask. is being hosted in Saltcoats, September 24,25,26.

The hosts will be the one year old Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association working co-operatively with the Yorkton Natural History Society.

Most events will be held in Saltcoats although Saturday's banquet will be in Bredenbury, 14 km south east on #16.

The local planning committee group hopes that some registrants will choose to come for a Friday afternoon walking tour or perhaps enjoy a Sunday afternoon walking tour.

Friday afternoon welcomers will

greet you at the Sterling Room in the Community Services Building. A variety of displays will invite your attention. These will include some school displays as the YFBTA visited several area schools and sought participation from selected groups of elementary students. A plant identification program will happen on site.

Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon walking tour options will include;

- (1) a visit to the Leflay Trail and viewing spots along Anderson Lake and neighboring marsh,
- (2) a more strenuous wade and walk at the Rokeby Marsh (suitable attire and good mobility a requisite),
- (3) an en route stop at Good Spirit Lake. While there will be no charge for these events , donations to the YFBTA will be appreciated.

Friday evening will provide an excellent opportunity for socializing and will include a pot pourri of reflections of naturalists of the area from early pioneer diarists and pioneering naturalists to Jim and Shirley Jowsey, Dr. Stuart Houston, Bill and Joyce Anaka. This celebration of the area, its ecology, plants, animal and bird residents and visitors should delight all and set off a chain reaction of story telling and reflecting to fill the

weekend.

Saturday will provide opportunity to participate in two of the available half-day tours. John Simpson's delightful account of a day of the Kaposvar Trail (adjusted according to calendar) gives an idea of what delights await birders and plant enthusiasts. Depending on migration patterns sandhills should be in abundance and whooping cranes have staged in the area within the past 4 years. Various raptors and turkey buzzards should be on view.

Saturday evening the banquet will take place at the Bredenbury Community Hall. We will have some local entertainment and banquet speaker will be Lorne Scott. Lorne's passion for conservation will be high-lighted in his engaging presentation.

Sunday morning will be meeting time and dispersal time. Bag lunches will be available for those taking part in one of the Sunday afternoon options, heading out on their own explorations or just desiring sustenance for their homeward journey.

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## About the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail

The somewhat elastic area of the YFBTA is from the Manitoba border west basically to # 9 Highway - it is bordered on the south by the Qu'Appelle Valley with its northern boundary somewhere north of # 10 highway.

The area was once almost devoid of trees and bush, part of the prairie - with agricultural settlement and the control of the prairie fires more and more areas of poplar, aspen and willow bush thrived. There are many small lakes and large sloughs, extensive marshes. Wild flowers bloom in abundance and native fruits have produced banquets for people and other mammals, birds .....

In recent years agricultural

lands have been extensively cleared of bush and many sloughs have been drained. While some habitat has been destroyed, other has been maintained. Various individuals and organizations have worked to protect wetlands and to enhance community knowledge and awareness of environment and environmental concerns.

An increased number of birders are recording the sighting of more and more species.

Apparent changes in migratory patterns has meant larger numbers of geese and cranes both spring and fall, an extending of nesting areas for these birds - and larger numbers of song birds.

This year more warblers, finches, orioles have been present through the spring and summer. A few years ago the Golden Eagles group from Saskatoon visited Saltcoats - in one three day period they identified 110 species of birds and some added to their lifetime lists.

The area is rich in history, in artists and artisans, too, but that's a whole other story.

Join Nature Sask for the Fall Meet but come and experience more of what the area can offer as well.

See you there!



The Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc. is recognized as part of the Saskatchewan Birding Trail.

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*The YFBTA would like to thank all of the committees, communities, businesses and volunteers that are part of making the YFBTA trail system a success!*

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## How To Register For The Nature Sask Fall Meet

Please contact; o Yellowhead REDA Box 159 Langenburg, SK S0A 2A0  
 Walter Farquharson Box 126 Saltcoats, SK S0A 3R0  
 Or call Kim at (306) 743-5177 for registration fees, details and event information.  
 Kim Wondrasek c/

## YFBTA Thank-You's

The YFBTA would like to thank all of the committees, communities, businesses and volunteers that are part of making the YFBTA trail system a success! Also an extended Thank You goes

out to the Cherrydale Golf & Campground for the addition of their 2km native grass land walking trail. The trail is home to over 60 species of wild flowers, plants and wildlife. For a

brochure contact Cherrydale Golf & Campground at (306) 786-6877 or the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association.

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