

Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc.

# What's flying around....



## What's New For 2006?

The 2006 YFBTA should be an exciting year for members of this organization. The goal is to educate the public on the importance of wildlife and how to protect wildlife and its habitat. In particular, the emphasis is the protection and preservation of our birds in North America.

The year began with a bird count within a seven mile radius from Saltcoats. The total of birds counted on January 4 was approximately 702. The count took place within the Town of Saltcoats and farm yards around Saltcoats.

The Annual General Meeting of the YFBTA will be held on February 18, at St. Gerard's Parish Complex in Yorkton. Everyone is invited to attend.

Membership in this group has grown during the past year. The YFBTA hopes to expand its membership this coming year and will be actively recruiting new members in malls and other locations.

In addition, it is our hope to publish a newsletter several times during the year in order to keep everyone informed with regards to the group's objectives and activities.

We are inviting you to submit pictures, letters and articles of interest for future publication. Your views and comments are important to us.

A YFBTA web site is in the creation and will be used to keep everyone informed and hopefully help create an interest in birds, bird trails and wildlife.

There are numerous bird trails in this area which will be described on our web site. There is also a new bird viewing platform located west of Saltcoats. We are hoping that residents and visitors to our community would tour these trails and use the viewing platform.

Finally, we will be renewing memberships in the YFBTA for 2006. If you are not a member and wish to become one, you are invited to join. *This newsletter is free to all members.*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 18, in St. Gerard's Parish Hall, 125 - 3rd Avenue N in Yorkton.

The day's events begin at 11:00 am with registration and a time to browse the dozen or so display tables. A *silent auction will also be featured*. Lunch is at 12:00 noon.

**Pre-registration by phoning 783-5193 is necessary and no later than February 10 for those planning to attend either or both the lunch and supper meals. Costs are \$25 for the entire day, including both meals; lunch only is \$15; supper only is \$20.**

After lunch and a welcome by Mayor Phil De Vos, there will be a short general business meeting followed by a series of speakers: Raymond Lacusta (Nature Videos); Dale Hjertaas (A Celebration of Warren and Elinora Hjertaas and the History of Yorkton's Ecological Ravine Trail); Rob Wilson (Nesting Loon and Grebe Initiatives for Madge Lake); Trevor Plews and Chuck Deschambeau of Ducks Unlimited (Land Stewardship Practices/Conservation Easement),

*Continued ....*

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**AGM continued .....**

and Bill Anaka (Recognizing Local Birds by Their Calls). Supper will be served at 6:00 pm. The after-dinner speaker will be Branimir Gjetvaj who will speak on Landforms of Saskatchewan.

The event is open to the public (although only paid members will be allowed to vote during the business meeting.) Annual memberships are : **family \$15, individuals \$10, friends \$5** (which is non-voting) and **corporate \$50.**

**Registration Fees to AGM and Membership Fees: to be paid to Sheila Lavender.**

**Annual General Meeting Agenda**

**(Tentative)**

- 11:00 -12:00 Registration. Time for browsing tables
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (Pre-registration is requested)
- 1:00 - 1:15 Welcome/Introductions
- 1:15 - 2:15 3rd Annual General Business Meeting
- 2:15 - 2:30 Break/Coffee/Juice/Browse
- 2:30 - 3:00 Presentation: Nature Videos  
- Raymond Lacusta
- 3:00 - 3:10 Break/Coffee/Juice/Browse
- 3:00 - 3:40 Presentation: Dale Hjertaas: Celebration of Warren and Elinore Hjertaas /History of Yorkton's Ecological Ravine Trail
- 3:40 - 4:10 Presentation to be arranged. (Perhaps on native plants.)
- 4:10 - 4:20 Break /Coffee/Juice/Browse
- 4:20 - 4:35 Presentation: Rob Wilson / YFBTA's Nesting Loon and Grebe Initiatives for Madge Lake
- 4:35 - 4:50 Presentation : Trevor Plews/Chuck Deschambeau of Ducks Unlimited Land Stewardship Practices / Conservation Easement
- 4:50 - 5:00 Break/Coffee/Juices/Browse
- 5:00 - 5:20 Presentation:Bill Anaka :Recognizing Local Birds by their calls.

**Items for silent auction welcomed.**



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

*Don't forget to purchase your 2006 Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc. Membership!*

**Executive and Board of Directors of YFBTA**

**Chairperson: Lois Wilson** (204) 773 3437  
**Secretary: Rob Wilson** (306) 744 8140  
**Treasurer: Martha Karau** (306) 896 2660  
 Arden Bradford  
 Joan Farquharson  
 Walter Farquharson  
 Jim Jowsey  
 Wally Karau  
 Martha Karau

Rob Lavender  
 Sheila Lavender  
 John Simpson  
 Lois Wilson  
 Dean Maddaford  
 John Sawkey  
 Rob Wilson  
 Kim Wondrasek

**YELLOWHEAD FLYWAY BIRDING TRAIL ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Memberships and Renewals**  
 Sheila Lavender :  
 Phone (306) 783 5193  
 lavenders@sasktel.net  
**Pictures, Letters, Articles for Publication:**  
 Rob Wilson :  
 Phone : (306) 744 8140  
 rjwilson@sasktel.net

**Bird Count in the Saltcoats Count Locality: Tallied by Jim and Shirley Jowsey Jan 4/06**

Ruffed Grouse .....7	Blue Jay ..... 8	American Robin Jan2.....1	House Sparrows. . 122
Sharp-tailed Grouse ....15	Blackbilled Magpie .... 49	Dark-eyed Junco ..... .1	<b>Total Species on Count Day</b>
Bald Eagle (Dec.25).... 1	Common Raven .....78	Snow bunting .....300+	<b>18: Additional Species</b>
Rock Pigeon ..... ..10	Black-capped	Purple Finch ..... .8	<b>2 :Total Birds 702</b>
Great Horned Owl ..... 2	Chickadee..... 66	Common Redpoll ..... 9	
Downy Woodpecker ...12	White-breasted	Pine Siskin ..... 1	
Hairy Woodpecker..... 9	Nuthatch.....4	American Goldfinch .... .1	

## A Short History of Saltcoats' Leflay Trail

By Rob Wilson

*In conjunction with Walter Farquharson, Jim and Shirley Jowsey*

**This article also describes how the YFBTA came into existence. We hope to feature the history of each trail in our area in future issues of this newsletter.**

The genesis of the Leflay Trail lies within the hearts and minds of the community in and around Saltcoats. It required a desire on the part of the Art Klause family (Art, Dorothy, Blaine and Brent) to ensure that the soil, vegetation, and wildlife would continue to be revered in the way it had under the stewardship of the previous landowners, Jay and Minnie Leflay. It required the vision and determination of Jim and Shirley Jowsey who wanted to encourage people to become more aware and more interested in the natural world.

The Klause family and the Jowsey family began to envision a trail through the strip of protected land along the east side of Anderson Lake in Saltcoats. With the generous permission and encouragement of the Klause family, who own the land, Jim and Shirley began to formulate an inventory of the plants, animals and birds which were dependent on this remaining bit of relatively undisturbed land. The Jowseys' with some help of a relative with some surveying skills began to survey and mark out a trail.

Saltcoats sought and received some Federal Government monies in 2000 as part of a federal centennial program. Among other projects some funds were allocated toward signage for a possible trail on the Klause land on the edge of Anderson Lake. Numerous community volunteers including Scout groups and Saltcoats School students worked throughout the winter of 1999 to mark and clear a trail which the Klause Family requested be named the Leflay Trail.

The Leflay trail, including signage, was officially opened July 1, 2000.

The trail was maintained through support from the Town of Saltcoats and volunteer labour from citizens of Saltcoats and the surrounding area. The Leflay Trail was managed in this manner until May of 2003.

In February of 2003 at Saltcoats, Ken Kessler, Coordinator of The Provincial Birding Trail spoke to 16 people representing various communities along the Yellowhead Highway (Carleton Trail, Langenburg, Esterhazy, Churchbridge, Saltcoats, Yorkton, Good Spirit Park). At that time the Provincial Tourism Branch was encouraging Saskatchewan communities who had active birding groups to coalesce in an effort to foster increased tourism in the province. The people gathered decided that there would be enough interest to warrant a second meeting April 10, 2003. At this meeting a decision to form a regional Birding Trail Organization was taken.

At the April 10 meeting the Langenburg office of the Regional Economic Development Authority threw its support behind the concept of a Regional Birding Trail Association. A committee was formed and charged with formulating plans for such an organization. June 5, 2003 marked the inception of the **Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail**.

Since that time the YFBTA has continued to meet on a monthly basis. The Leflay Trail is one of a number of trails which is supported, promoted and/or managed by the YFBTA. The Leflay Trail receives strong volunteer support from the community within and near Saltcoats. The Leflay Trail continues to be supported by the Langenburg R.E.D.A. , the Klause family, and the Town of Saltcoats.

The Leflay Trail sign on Yellowhead Hwy No. 16 is an invitation to visit the trail which can be accessed at the Regional Park.

### Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc. - /2005 Members / and /Previous Members/.

- Rob and Sheila Lavender -Yorkton
- Rob, Joan, Trent and Shevon Wilson-Saltcoats
- Thom and Oney Carnahan-Canora
- Dr. Stuart and Mary Houston - Saskatoon
- William and Joyce Anaka -Yorkkton
- John Simpson-Esterhazy
- Walter and Joan Farquharson-Saltcoats
- Jim and Shirley Jowsey-Saltcoats
- Ian and Lois Wilson-Russell ,MB
- Wally and Martha Karau -Churchbridge
- Evan Ortynsky-Yorkton
- Dean and Irene Maddaford-Saltcoats
- John Sawkey- Saltcoats
- Arden Bradford-Saltcoats
- Garland Thiele-Churchbridge
- Terry and Barb Frank-Esterhazy
- Janet Scholz
- Barb Hewson-Esterhazy
- Jim and Phyllis McCallum-Saltcoats
- Elinore Hjertaas-Yorkton
- Doug and Laura Lomenda
- Charles and Virginia Lomenda

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- Dale and Myrna Cherry-Yorkton
  - Marie Scherloski-Langenburg
  - Deborah Aberhart-Langenburg
  - Diane Brenner-Churchbridge
  - Glen and Monique Smith-Saltcoats
  - Mabel Kerr-Esterhazy
  - Lawrence and Carol Hozjan-Esterhazy
  - Brian Sych-Esterhazy
  - Mickey Kubik- Esterhazy
  - Cam Morrison-Esterhazy
  - Judy Parker-Esterhazy
  - John Nightingale-Esterhazy
  - Gil Brule-Esterhazy
  - Cam Dawson-Saltcoats
  - Len and Cindy Smith Puchella
  - Don and Virginia Battiste-Waldron
  - David and Dani Russell Sumner-Saltcoats
  - Geunter Gauer-Esterhazy
  - Grant and Helen Solmes Percy-Esterhazy
  - Wayne and Sharon Provick-Esterhazy
  - Alan Porter -Esterhazy
  - Eugene and Karen Assailly-Esterhazy

**New 2006 and corporate members will be listed in the next newsletter.**





**Black-capped Chickadee**

Photo by Oney Pollock - *Canora*

The Chickadees greet us on the Cross Country Trails at Good Spirit Provincial Park well before we get to the ski shelter. They gather in the trees surrounding the shelter waiting for the feeders to be filled by the skiers that regularly visit the shelter. It is always a treat for a new skier to have a chance to feed the chickadees from their hands. Some even poise for pictures, some are just busy feeding. The Good Spirit Cross Country Ski Club bring out the seed and suet for the birds all winter long. We all get rewarded with "bird television" through the windows when we stop for a snack at the shelter. We have a good vantage point to take some close shot of the variety of feathered friends that come to feed from inside the shelter. - **Anne Stupak - Yorkton**



**Boreal Chickadee**

Photo by Rob Wilson

### **Boreal Chickadee**

The Boreal chickadees range across Canada and into Alaska, where they live among willows or stunted spruce near the tree line.

It is a relative of the more familiar black-capped. The boreal's personality generally matches its plumage: It is often more retiring and quiet than its curious and vocal cousins. It has a grayer crown, longer tail, and larger white cheek. It is sometimes called the Siberian tit. It nests in a loose cap of moss, lichens and plant down on the floor of the tree cavity, either natural or excavated by parents. They lay 4—9 white, speckled or spotted with brown, eggs. The eggs hatch in 11-16 days and the young leave the nest in about 18 days. The boreal chickadee's food consists of seeds and insects. - ***Book of North American Birds published by the Reader's Digest.***

### **Editorial Comments**

In addition to articles featuring trails within the YFBTA area, we will also feature a bird found in Saskatchewan. If you would like to contribute an article or pictures, these would be most welcome.

The tragic fact is that across Canada many bird species are declining. Ask not what YFBTA can do for you...ask what you can do to help birds. You can help by becoming a member of our group. Even if you cannot become an active member, lend us your name and we will send you a copy of our newsletter. Meeting attendance is optional for those who may not be able to attend but who are interested in birds and what we are doing to protect them. **You would be an important strand within YFBTA's web of influence. Your name on our membership list makes us stronger.**

We have been saddened by the passing of a member of our group, Elinore Hjertaas, who has played a very important role in the development of Yorkton's Ecological Ravine Trail. She has been very supportive of the YFTBA and was an inspiration to all who knew her. Elinore will be greatly missed.

Rob and I have enjoyed putting together this newsletter. We would like to thank all those who assisted us in this project. A special thank you to Kim Wondrasek of REDA who has been a great asset to the YFBTA and all the tremendous work she has done over the years assisting our group.

We would like to thank each member of the YFBTA for all your contributions over the past. You have been a great group to work with. Your dedication and enthusiasm is unparalleled.

In conclusion, this newsletter is your newsletter and we would appreciate input from anyone who wishes to contribute items of interest. If you would like to receive this newsletter or assist in the preservation of birds and wildlife, we urge you to become a member.

**Rob Wilson : Editor - John Sawkey : Publisher**