

Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc.

What's flying around....



John Sawkey - VIP in our midst Kathy Morrell

In mid-November, John Sawkey received a letter from Ducks Unlimited informing him that he had been nominated for the Saskatchewan Lieutenant-Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award. Ducks Unlimited select the candidates and then the information is turned over to a selection committee who choose the annual recipient. This year, seven individuals or couples were nominated.

Later, John received an invitation from the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, requesting his attendance at the presentation of the Award on Wednesday, November 25 at Government House.

"I arrived at the reception only too pleased to meet fellow Saltcoats citizen, Gordon Barnhart. I completely forgot protocol in the receiving line," John said with a smile in his voice. "An RCMP escort had to remind the two of us that there was a line up to meet the Lieutenant-Governor and that we should visit later."

Before each plaque was presented, Mr. Jack Hole, President of Ducks Unlimited Canada, read a short history about each recipient. The presentation was a combination of the sign message at the head of



Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan - John Sawkey, Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail - Jack H Hole, President Ducks Unlimited Canada

the Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail and the article Walter Farquharson wrote for the last issue of *What's Flying Around*. Jack Hole also mentioned John's assistance with the YFBTA newsletter and his role as webmaster for the YFBTA website.

And no, our resident VIP, John Sawkey, did not receive the award, but he did receive recognition in the form of a plaque. The inscription on the award read: *"DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA. In Recognition And Appreciation Of Your Outstanding Leadership, Commitment And Dedication To the Cause of Wildlife Habitat Conservation And The Preservation Of North America's Waterfowl Heritage for Generations To Come In the Role of Nominee-2009 Lieutenant Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award - John Sawkey."* At the bottom was a gold engraved emblem of Ducks Unlimited, sponsor of the award.

"I may have played a role in all this," Sawkey admitted, "but I am

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<http://www.yfbta.com>

certainly indebted to members of the YFBTA and members of my family who helped and supported me through the years.”

“Gordon and I stood together in the center of the group,” John explained. “Gordon mentioned the fact that we were both Saltkites. And then there were the laughs and the jokes. Someone even pointed out that men from Saltcoats must be alike because neither of us has much hair.”

“I have never met so many distinguished people,” John added. “Jack Messer, a member of the selection committee, congratulated me for the work that I have done over the years.”

“I was deeply moved, too, to meet Clem Miller of Chaplain, the first recipient of this award. He was a student at Mortlach where I began my teaching career. He was a grade nine and ten student in the classroom opposite mine. He remembered me.”

“This award was an honour which I shall not forget,” John concluded.

We of the YFBTA might add that it was well deserved, for John Sawkey is the man who plants trees as his contribution to the conservation of the natural world. In 1994, John decided to stop cultivating his land, to return the property to a more natural state in order to create and preserve a safe habitat for birds and other wildlife. He expanded the size of the yard site to ten acres and planted flower gardens and fruit trees to attract the birds.

In 1995, Sawkey began the plantation of some 20,000 trees on the land that had once been cultivated. The PFRA Shelterbelt in Indian Head supplied trees and shrubs. Ducks Unlimited provided grass cover for ducks and other birds. Slowly, the transformation took place. The land now provides shelter, water and food for wildlife.

In 2000, John Sawkey moved to his next project – the creation of the nature trail. The trail affords the opportunity to see a variety of birds, animals and plant life. Hidden close to the walking path is the slough from which the Park derives its name. The wetlands create a haven for ducks and geese. At the trail head is an honour garden. Members of the public can plant a tree to honour the special people in their lives.

Over the years, John Sawkey has created Slough View Park and the Sawkey Bird and Nature Trail named to honour the Sawkey family. This special place has become a habitat for the birds, a preserve for wildlife, a refuge of hope for future generations.



The Joy of Gardening with Nora Stewart : Kathy Morrell

Photo Courtesy Nora Stewart

“Joy in looking and comprehending is nature’s most beautiful gift.” - Albert Einstein

“It’s not just about the flowers and grasses,” Nora Stewart explained. “It’s about joy – the joy of working outside, of appreciating the prairie plants, and of delighting in the song birds, the bees and the butterflies.”

Joy in gardening with plants native to the prairies is the topic of Stewart’s workshop. The session is just one event in a day-long Birding Symposium sponsored by the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association (YFBTA).

During her workshop, Stewart will talk about:

- the meaning of prairie
- the interaction among plants, birds, and insects
- the variety of prairie flowers and grasses available to the home gardener
- helpful gardening techniques for prairie plants and their incorporation into the home garden
- suggested plantings to attract butterflies and song birds

Nora Stewart is a Saskatchewan botanist and gardener who specialized in the study of prairie plants and the production of their seed. Educated in biology at the University of Toronto, she moved to Saskatoon and then to Regina. There, Stewart immersed herself in the study of prairie flowers and grasses. She joined the newly formed Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and volunteered with a group creating a garden

of plants indigenous to the province at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM). The first issue the group faced was the finding of seed. To resolve the problem, Stewart trudged through roadside ditches and walked the hills of the Qu'Appelle Valley, one of the few areas of original prairie left in the province. She found the plants the group wanted for the RSM and returned some weeks later to collect the seed. She and the RSM group shared their collective knowledge and the garden grew to an astonishing two thousand species.

Realizing the need, Stewart decided to go into the production of prairie plant seed in 1996. She and husband Don, now retired from the University of Regina, bought land near Arcola in the Moose Mountains of eastern Saskatchewan. The first step in the new venture was the identification of prairie plants, the collection of seed, and the development of techniques to enhance germination rates. The next step was the selection of a site for the beds and the eradication of weeds. Then, there were the deer, the rabbits, the gophers, the squirrels, and some species of birds – all of which thought they'd found a feeding paradise in Stewart's gardening plots. To defend against the onslaught of the deer, the couple erected a fence 2.4 metres in height. They trapped the rabbits and gophers. The only protection against the birds, Stewart discovered, was a protective cage made of wire netting. And then there were the insects. – some beneficial; and some not so much. Butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and wasps pollinated the seed. The lady beetles and lacewings munched on the aphids. Other non-beneficial insects could be controlled by removing the leaves where eggs were laid. Others – well, Stewart learned to tolerate them and hoped they wouldn't thrive.

The details of the Stewart operation are described in Nora's book *Cultivating Our Roots: Growing Authentic Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses*. Stewart will bring copies of her book to the workshop and will autograph purchased copies.

"More and more gardeners are becoming interested in prairie flowers and grasses," Stewart said. "Although local people may not be aware of it, they, too, can play a role in the preservation of the wild flowers and grasses of Saskatchewan."

Nora Stewart will present a workshop of interest to local gardeners. The session will focus on native plants that will thrive in the gardens of the area.



Featured in the photo is the playwright Kathy Morrell (far right) and left to right, members of Saltcoats Laketown Players - Nicole Maddaford, Joan Wilson, Gloria Rathgeber (director), Marissa Kruger and Mason Bradford.

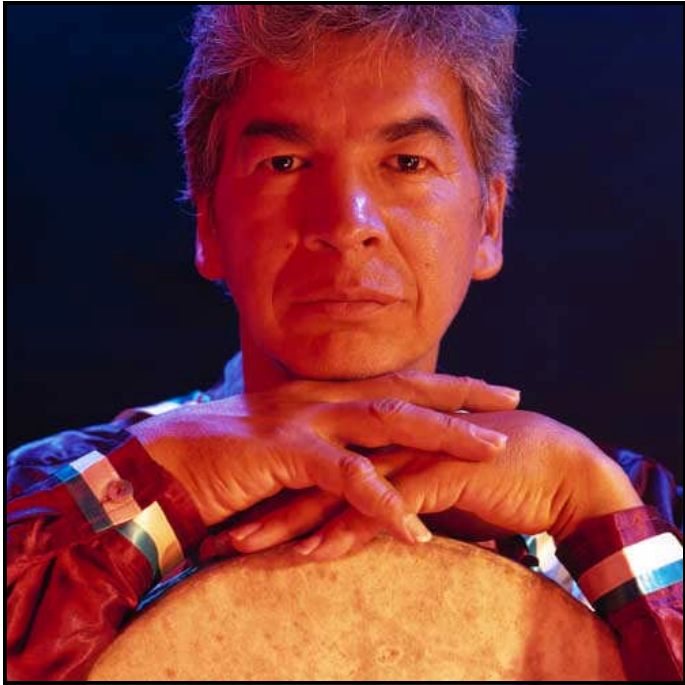
Isabel Priestly

The Birding Symposium (April 17th at Yorkton's St. Gerard's Parish Hall) concludes with a banquet and the performance of a short play about Isabel Priestly.

Directed by Gloria Rathgeber and written by Kathy Morrell, the twenty-minute vignette will present the life of a woman who was the founder of the Yorkton Natural History Society and the *Blue Jay*, a newsletter that would expand to become the magazine of Nature Saskatchewan. Priestly was an enthusiastic mentor to teenagers Harvey Beck and Stuart Houston, who saw, in her commitment to the natural world, a role model into the future. These two individuals, former Yorktonites, are characters represented in the vignette.

Quill Lakes International Bird Area: Lauretta Ritchie-McInnes

This presentation will be about the collaboration of the towns of Wynyard, Wadena and Foam Lake. At the Interpretive Center in Wynyard, one will find interactive displays, wildlife dioramas, an activity center and a movie theatre. At the Nature Center, you'll find interactive maps of the Wadena Wetlands Viewing Area, computer games, and exhibits featuring shorebirds and waterfowl. The Foam Lake Nature Centre features a wetland diorama with waterfowl, an interactive map of the Foam Lake Heritage Marsh, interpretive displays and an activity center for children.



Joseph Naytowhow, aboriginal storyteller and musician – Kathy Morrell

Joseph Naytowhow is an aboriginal storyteller and musician from Sturgeon Lake First Nation. In his performances, he incorporates gentle humour, aboriginal song and the wonderful stories of his people. He has recorded numerous CDs including one with Metis artist, Cheryl L'Hirondelle Waynotêw.

In his life, in his music, the importance of family and aboriginal tradition is apparent. As a child, Joseph heard the early morning drumming of his grandfather (Big) John Naytowhow as he greeted the sun with prayer and song. The drumming created Joseph's sensitivity towards ritual music, the foundation for the 'kayas nikamowin' (long ago songs) he composes and sings in Cree and English. Joseph's grandmother, Annie Rabbitskin, was a master herbalist and healer. From her, he learned to forage for plants in the boreal forest of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Joseph's mother, Irene Ratt (Naytowhow) from Sucker Lake, Saskatchewan, is a role model. Like his mother, Joseph is ever ready to try new things.

Joseph's Spirit name is Kamiyo-kesikan-kesikaw-pimohtew (Day Spirit drives my Life). His return to the Cree way of

worship strengthened the music and ritual-based life that Joseph now leads.

Joseph was a storyteller-in-residence with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. In addition, he acted on television and with various theatre groups. Joseph is a gifted storyteller and musician with more than twenty years of performance experience. The YFBTA is privileged to welcome him to the Birding Symposium to be held April 17th at St. Gerard's Parish Hall.

Joseph Naytowhow will bring an educational CD entitled "All One People" which will be sold.



Trevor Herriot, Award-winning Author and Prairie Naturalist - Paula Maier

Trevor Herriot is a renowned Saskatchewan author and naturalist. He has expressed his concerns in his book *Grass, Sky, Song* and also on his website, about the ever decreasing number of prairie birds. There are varied reasons for this happening, but certainly the loss of prairie habitat is a very important factor. It is hard to imagine the magnificent expanse of the prairies a century ago as so little undisturbed land remains.

Unfortunately, loss of prairie habitat continues. Trevor has been examining ways to stop this trend and find ways to recover and preserve prairie areas. Thoughts on ways to assist and support owners of undisturbed areas are at times met with cultural, political and economic obstacles to the recovery process.

One such thought is the setting aside of undisturbed areas to be managed so as to restore the bountiful biodiversity that makes these areas such wonderful places. Another idea is to reward owners and farmers for their stewardship in use of such areas. Recovering and restoring disturbed areas is still an area of science that seems to have limited success, and is something that needs more research.

The idea of having huge tracts of land managed and cared for to encourage the return of threatened bird species as well as animal populations while still having an economic use for the land is an intriguing idea. This will need further serious examination if we are to preserve and increase the numbers of these creatures. Certainly, there needs to be co-operation and interest of all levels of government, land owners and environmental groups in order to work out solutions to restore suitable habitat for endangered birds and other wildlife. More of Mr. Herriots's thoughts on this troubling situation can be found on his very interesting website, *Trevor Herriot's blog "Grass Notes"* trevorherriot.blogspot.com

Trevor Herriot is the author of "River in a Dry Land", "Grass, Sky, Song" and "Jacob's Wound". He will autograph purchased books.

AN ADDITIONAL NOTE

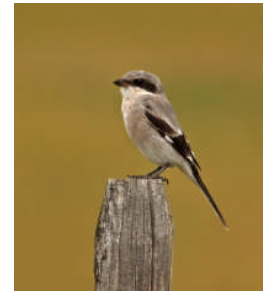
Thursday, March 25, 2010. Everyone is invited to a nature presentation by award-winning author and CBC radio personality, The Bird Line's Trevor Herriot; 7:30 pm at the Preeceville Recreation Plex. This event is sponsored by the Kelsey Ecological Society. Admission is free.

Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Symposium 2010

Date : Saturday, April 17
Location: St. Gerard's Parish Complex 125 - 3rd Avenue N Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Registration: 11:00 am
Noon Luncheon: with Trevor Herriot
Afternoon speakers begin at 1:30 pm
 Nora Stewart
 Joseph Naytowhow
 Quill Lakes International Birding Areas
Reception: 5:30 pm
Supper and performance: 6:30 pm



Northern Shrike



Loggerhead Shrike

A

**Shrike Comes to Visit
 Bonnie Rushowick**

A Shrike had a brief dining experience in our yard the morning of Saturday February 6th. We have birdfeeders just outside our kitchen window. This winter we have enjoyed seeing pine siskins, nuthatches and chickadees along with the occasional blue jays, slate coloured juncos, house finches and of course "stinky house sparrows" (my husband's comment, not mine). I enjoy glancing out the window as I work to see who is "on view" at that moment. That morning a flash of black and white caught my attention and I looked out to see a bird I had never seen before in the branches of our lilac trees (I can't call anything nearly as tall as our one and half story home a bush). The bird was tearing away at something caught in the branches. It was blue-grey on top, whitish on the breast and had a black stripe over its eyes and black patches on wing and tail. Our visitor flew to the ground, picked something up, flew back up into the lilac branches and then flung its prize onto the branch where it had been feeding.. The black mask made it look like a bandit.

It took me awhile to find the bird in our copy of the Peterson Western Birds we keep near the window. It was definitely a shrike, either a Northern or a Loggerhead. I watched it for nearly 10 minutes as it tore pieces from whatever was stuck in the branches there then flew away. The bird came back 15 minutes later to have seconds but was further back in the branches. I took pictures through the window and storm screen. Bill and Joyce Anaka, Yorkton are the local go-to-birders for help in identifying species unfamiliar to us. Unfortunately the pictures are not clear enough to definitively say it was a Loggerhead or a Northern. Bill states that Northern Shrikes are known to be here in the winter but it wasn't out of the realms of possibility that a Loggerhead decided to visit. Being an optimistic amateur with little to no experience I will continue to believe my "bandit" was a Loggerhead.

Bonnie Rushowick lives in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Photos Courtesy Nick Saunders - Saskatoon

Editor's Note: Loggerhead Shrikes are seen less frequently than Northern Shrikes. It takes a keen birder to be able to distinguish between the two species.

Upon Hearing Ken Cheveldayoff on the Radio, Monday, March 01, 2010 - Rob Wilson

“How to catch the ear of this Minister.”

I caught a radio broadcast in which Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Enterprise, Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy and Minister responsible for Trade, invited citizens, especially those within the “private sector” to come forward with proposals. He mentioned “partners”, “other revenue streams” and hinted at possible Government of Saskatchewan support through agencies such as “The Gaming Corporation”. He was searching for “natural linkages”.

I immediately visualize. In our very own YFBTA region we will develop collective recommendations to restore, manage, protect and preserve an area of native prairie. This will be done because the prairie is intimately bound with our history. It is part of our heritage. It will provide a legacy for the young people of today and for their descendants. It will be a living museum. It will be a public space where anyone and everyone will have the opportunity to hear, once again, the calls of Sprague’s Pipits, Baird’s Sparrows and Meadowlarks. It will be a place for reflection and spiritual rejuvenation. Plant, insect, bird and animal numbers will be monitored and regulated. We will decide. How many are too many? How many are too few? What is the appropriate number for each? Research will provide the policies to ensure protection, integrity and sustainability. Soil, water and air quality will all be monitored. The native prairie, integral to our region, will again be accessible - as it was in the early 1900s. Once the land is acquired and native vegetation is re-introduced we will meet with firemen and cattlemen to find ways to restore the two necessary disturbances that sustain prairie plants – fire and grazing. The area will, of course, be large enough to ensure a sustainable habitat for grassland species. Most of these species continue to diminish in number. Some, like the Burrowing Owl and the Whooping Crane are no longer to be seen in our area. We will work to remove invasive species from our prairie. We will work to.... We will work to.....but hold on a minute.

Mr. Cheveldayoff is referring to the funding of a new football stadium, possibly with a dome. The discussion suggests that this project, with some help from taxpayers throughout the province, will bring benefits to Regina and surrounding area- perhaps to the entire province. We all love The Roughriders. This project is encouragement for a local dream. Approximate figures of 380 million, with another 45 million for the dome are bandied about. Dialogue is invited. The invitation is extended within a very specific context. Ken may not even be interested

in MY ideas. My imagination and enthusiasm are now considerably diminished. I suppose none of the above is possible.

But wait. It has been written, “Build it and they will come”. Mr. Cheveldayoff, if there is encouragement for the dreams of the people of the Regina region surely there is also encouragement for dreams developed in other regions. I advocate for a collective plan for restoration of native prairie in my YFBTA region. Will you again be heard on the radio, only, this time providing advocacy and encouragement for something different? Will you speak of partnerships, engaging the private sector, procuring finances.....?

The moment I type “finances” I am struck by some harsh realizations. I don’t own the needed land. I don’t have money to fund this dream. I don’t know if my envisioned prairie will be able to be economically self-sustaining. I don’t know if it would contribute to prosperity. Does that mean that the vision lacks VALUE? Are initiatives that add to a provincial economy the only initiatives that we in Saskatchewan can AFFORD?

This vision is looking unrealistic now, but I hear statements to the effect that the stadium can be self-sustaining if it can host thirty events each year. I present some events for a local prairie: (Could some of these garner revenues?)

Hikes (individual; students; tourists; families). **4 events**

Photography (individual; students; workshops; tourists). **4 events**

Experiential tourism (guided and regulated hunting; tourists working with researchers who study grass, soil, insects, birds, stars; guided trail rides). **3 events**

Regulated camping (individual; with guides; with programs; families). **4 events**

Demonstration (best land management practices; managed grazing; controlled burns; promotion of grass-fed beef). **4 events**

Managed recreation (star gazing; cross country skiing; motor tobogganing (on trails); archery; cross country running). **5 events**

Promotion of commerce (market organic food, grass-fed beef on site; promote point of production labeling ; promote local marketing (eg. free range chickens); farmers’ market onsite; tour operators; hunting guides; educational classes (eg. plant taxonomy); food services; accessories outlet (eg. clothes, books, outdoor accessories such as cameras, sunglasses, repellent, field glasses) **9 events**

If we build it, they will come. If it is sustainable, they will stay. Here are some who will come: Upland Sandpiper;

Grasshopper Sparrow; Lark Bunting; Baird's Sparrow; Piping Plover (need some marsh edge incorporated for this one); Sprague's Pipit; Ferruginous Hawk; Chestnut-collared Longspur; Bobolink; Burrowing Owl; Swainson's Hawk; Loggerhead Shrike. This list highlights only the bird group while ignoring plants, insects, soil regimes, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. (Remember Joni: "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.").

Mr. Cheveldayoff, we have much, much more to dream about, to talk about and to plan for, but we DO have to START NOW. There is little time left for undisturbed prairie in my region. The good news is that we can start SMALL and INEXPENSIVELY (sums far less than millions of dollars will get us going once we have land). We will have to grow this vision. Should we try to build something and then observe to see if "they come"? Mr. Cheveldayoff, do you, or any spokespersons for government or loyal opposition, local, rural, or municipal want to encourage me?



I just wanted to share another unusual bird sighting.

Joan and I were on our way to ski at the park when we came to the valley here just north of Springside and what do we see all over the sides of the roads and feeding on old Hawthorns and Chokcherry bushes? Robins! And quite a few of them! I am not sure where they came from or what the dickens they are doing here so early.

I don't want spring to come too early! Lo! We still need snow. Anyway, there must have been at least 50 or so - that we could see - but I am sure there were many more.

They were mostly on the sunny face of the valley in the warmth of the sun. I thought it was strange and wanted to share with another bird aficionado.

Oh by the way ...trails are awesome!

Till next time ...jump in the creek.

Terry Popoff - Springside, SK January 18, 2010

Photo by Rob Wilson

Letter From the Editor: Rob Wilson

YFBTA's Summer Student Initiative

What Will Be Different About YFBTA in 2010?

Often an organization settles into a yearly routine of conducting business as usual. On rare occasions an organization will flourish because of exceptional commitment on the part of its ACTIVE members and because it is able to capture the imagination and the support of the public. On such occasions an organization exudes vitality. Your directors adamantly believe in the vitality of YFBTA. In 2010 we are making a move FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION.

Unlike many organizations membership in YFBTA is NOT about privileges and advantages and prestige. It IS about opportunity. It IS about working together. In 2010 membership IS about INNOVATION and ACTION.

You will learn many details of an exciting initiative in the insert that accompanies your newsletter. Please read it and then take the time to engage with us.

I believe that every one reading this note will find SOME WAY to be part of the solution. It is our responsibility to provide resources, support and encouragement for our Program Facilitator (see insert). I believe that we will be hearing from you. Welcome aboard

MEMBERSHIPS: (www.yfbta.com)

Our YFBTA has grown from a very local grassroots organization with approximately a dozen original members to a provincially recognized association of nearly one hundred family members and approximately a dozen corporate and municipal members. Unless they have renewed their membership, this will be the last newsletter sent to all of our 2009 supporters. It is very important for those of us who work to produce the newsletter to know the number of copies to be ordered from our printer. With the advent of 2010 we have dropped to fifty members and a couple of corporate members. At this point that will mean reducing the number of copies to be ordered for our next newsletter by half. I am hopeful that this situation exists simply because you have not yet renewed for 2010. **If you have not yet renewed, please renew today.** It is your support that justifies the creation and distribution of these newsletters. It is your support that galvanizes the directors. It is your encouragement and support that stimulates us to advocate and to act on behalf of nature.

Please tell your friends about us. You might, as I have done, encourage them by gifting them a membership. Let's not only return our memberships to one hundred, let's surpass that count in 2010. Towns, Rural Municipalities and Corporate supporters, please stay with us. **Make renewal a priority.** By acting together we are a powerful force. We are making a

huge commitment to our Summer Student Initiative and are counting on your support as we work to provide resources for our Program Facilitator.

If, for some reason, you choose not to renew, would you help us by indicating your reason or reasons for not renewing? This too will help us shape our future as an organization.

Letter to the Editor

The Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trails Association is proud of the recent achievement of Rob Wilson. Rob volunteered, after a little arm-twisting, to write a species account on behalf of the Yellowhead Flyway Bird Trail Association for the forthcoming two-volume BIRDS OF SASKATCHEWAN, by Stuart Houston and Alan R. Smith.

Editor J. Frank Roy, the editor, was very pleased with Rob's succinct 768-word account of the Lincoln's Sparrow, a common but unobtrusive and often unrecognized sparrow that passes through the YFBTA region in great numbers each spring and fall. I wrote to Rob to tell him that he is "something of a hero" among writers of species accounts, over 200 of which have now been handed in, and over 100 now approved. Rob followed the instructions, especially concerning reporting of migration dates, much better than most writers, most of whom have had more field birding experience than Rob. There are a few species not yet assigned, and any YFBTA member who wishes information about what is involved is invited to contact Dr Houston at 306-244-0742.

C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 : Phone 306-244-0742, but please never after 9pm.

The Last Word

First of all, I would like to congratulate Rob and myself for producing the newsletter beginning our fifth year. I have enjoyed doing the layout of the newsletter after Rob and the contributors have done most of the hard work.



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Thank you for being a member of this caring organization and thank you to those who contributed articles and photos for publication.

In case you are interested, the following individuals were re-appointed to the executive and the Board of Directors of the YFBTA: Laretta Ritchie-McInnes is the Chairperson, Wally Karau Vice-chairperson, Rob Wilson Secretary and Martha Karau Treasurer/Membership. The twelve member Board of Directors consist of Arden Bradford, Joan Farquharson, Walter Farquharson, Jim Jowsey, Wally Karau, Martha Karau, John Andrew Sawkey, Rob Wilson, Laretta Ritchie-McInnes, George Maben, George Murray and Paula Maier.

Tickets have been made and will be sold at various locations to raise money for the YFBTA. Once again Martha Karau has created a beautiful quilt and Ann Tatham a colorful afghan. Tickets will be sold and a draw will be made at the Bird Symposium in Yorkton on April 17.

If you would like to receive the unapproved minutes of each YFBTA meeting, please make certain that Rob Wilson has your correct email address. A pdf version of the newsletter can also be sent via email saving time and money. If you wish to receive it in this manner, please contact Rob Wilson. Members will receive a membership card as a receipt.

The Christmas Bird Count has been posted on our website. Many individuals were surprised to see that many Robins decided to spend the winter with us.

We look forward to your contributions to this newsletter. Finally, thanks to all those who keep encouraging me during the prolonged and hectic period of chemotherapy as well as your congratulations on my award.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Bird Symposium.

My best regards to everyone.

John Sawkey / Publisher

Memberships and Renewals

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