

Meewasin Valley Explorer

This summer Beaver Creek Conservation Area completed its pilot year as a member of a bird banding program with The Institute For Birds Populations, in California called Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). Beaver Creek is one of over 500 participating members throughout Canada, Mexico and the continental United States. All have enlisted to help monitor the vital rates and population dynamics of landbirds and play a major role in aiding in the conservation of avian diversity in North America.



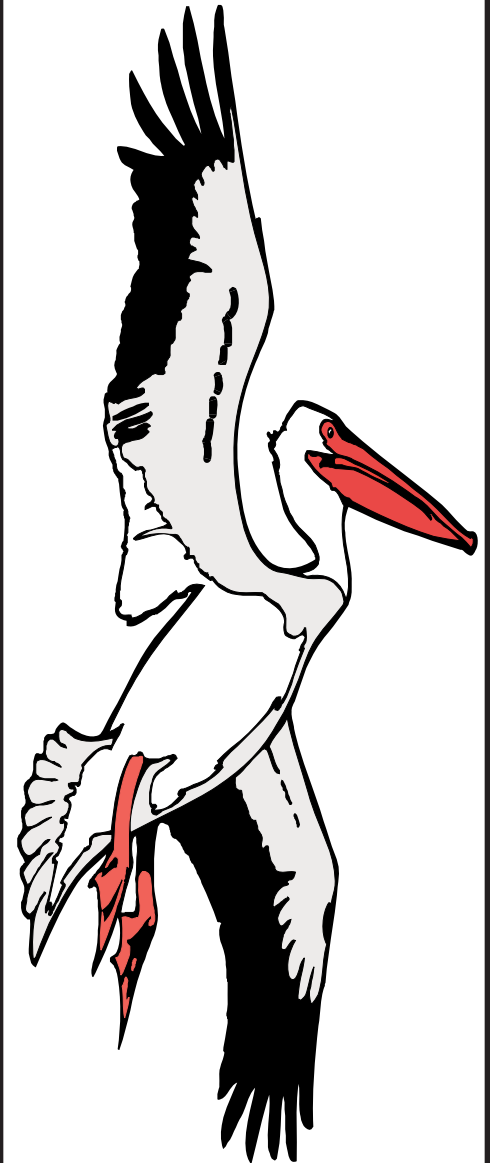
A Gray Catbird being banded at Beaver Creek

Birds have been monitored for many years through various bird banding programs and are considered excellent indicators of the effects of environmental change, including climate change. Information collected at Beaver Creek Conservation Area will offer unique site information and be combined with data from across North America.

The MAPS season at Beaver Creek began June 11th and ended on the 1st of August, with 6 banding sessions spaced once within a 10 day period. All birds captured during the program were identified to species, age, and sex, and if unmarked, ringed with a uniquely numbered aluminum band. Breeding status of all birds seen, heard, or captured on every banding day combine to give a breeding status for every species indicated to be at the site.

The following 24 different species of birds were banded at Beaver Creek Conservation Area this summer: Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Yellow Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, American Goldfinch, Northern Rough Winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, American Redstart, Eastern Kingbird, Tennessee Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Song Sparrow, Ovenbird, Purple Finch, Gray Catbird, Brown Cowbird, Spotted Towhee, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow bellied Sapsucker and American Robin. All birds banded this year save the Purple Finch are considered to be birds who breed at Beaver Creek Conservation Area.

It has been a rewarding first year of an on-going monitoring process where we will continue to get a better understanding of the variety of birds using Beaver Creek Conservation Area to nest and raise their young. The MAPS program at Beaver Creek Conservation Area would like to thank TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their financial support in helping make this pilot year possible. A special thank you to Alan Smith of the Canadian Wildlife Service for his on-going assistance with the project. Thank you to the volunteers who have joined Meewasin BCCA Interpreters Brenda Kramarchuk, Jamie Harder and Andrew Whiting. The volunteers included: Jan & Stan Shadick, Lori Parker, Greg Fenty, Melanie Elliot, Richard Afseth, Joyce Tremmel, Heather Fenton, Sandy Jasieniuk, Robert Nelson, Steve Davis, Peter Gallen, Aidan and Susan Darby, Karl Miller, Manene Fayos, Karen Weibe, Lennox Saunders, and Jan Jabusch



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Province of Saskatchewan Announcement

The Meewasin Valley Centre will soon be undergoing renovations for increased accessibility thanks to a \$1,712,767 investment from the Province of Saskatchewan through the Building Communities Program.

The Building Communities Program investment will go towards the construction of new visitor reception and information facilities, new exhibits and a rooftop garden area. The building will also feature increased accessibility for visitors.

"Upgrading the Centre will improve the experience for all visitors, help to attract more, and assist us by expanding our world-class programming," Meewasin Valley Authority Board Chair Richard Neiman said. "The funding will also kick - start our renovation plans to make the Meewasin Valley Centre

Meewasin Summer Students



This past summer, Meewasin employed a number of summer students. The summer students worked as interpreters in the Meewasin Valley Centre and Beaver Creek Conservation Area developing educational programs focusing on Saskatoon's history and conservation of the natural environment. Students also led canoe tours of the river valley and were involved in planning, design and development, conservation, enforcement, and construction. The students came from post secondary institutions and provide a youthful energy, enthusiasm, and expertise that Meewasin welcomes, nurtures, and embraces.

Planned Giving Idea

If you are in a life insurance program at work, you can choose to name a charity like Meewasin as the beneficiary of the policy. This may be a good choice for those who do not have dependents or have more than one insurance policy to allocate. Very often your employer is also making contributions to the life insurance program, which increases the amount you can eventually contribute. Leave a legacy!

Saskatchewan Envirothon 2007

The Saskatchewan Envirothon team attended their first North American Canon Envirothon on July 29-August 4 in Geneva, New York. In May of this year, the team of five students from Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon, won the Saskatchewan Envirothon and with it, the right to represent Saskatchewan at the international event.



Pitted against many teams that had attended the Envirothon before, the Walter Murray team did an exemplary job. While the students placed 28th out of 53 teams, they displayed an extraordinary knowledge in soils by having the fourth highest score for that part of the competition. The team was also awarded the "Extra Mile Award" for exemplary leadership, teamwork and cooperation, and the "Rookie Team of the Year Award."



The team was made up of five students: Howard Meng, Bobby Xiao, Divya Pahwa, Amir Taherian, and Rocky Wang. The team was advised by Catherine Johnston (teacher from Walter Murray, and Jennifer Nelson (manager, Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin).

"Despite this being the first year for Saskatchewan to attend the Canon Envirothon this team held its own and made all of us proud. The dedication and knowledge they displayed was spectacular. Saskatchewan looks like it will take Arizona by storm in 2008," claims Nelson.

Meewasin Valley Centre and Gift Shop

402 Third Avenue South ~ 665-6888

Open 9 am to 5 pm Weekdays - Noon to 5 pm Weekends & Holidays

Celebrate the South Saskatchewan River in September at the MVC

On display at the Meewasin Valley Centre during September and October - **CITY, NIGHT & PRAIRIE** - a collection of photographs of Saskatoon and the surrounding area, taken by Jordan Heise, which attempt to hold some part of the quieter moments of the day and night. Accordingly, although the subjects may be familiar, their interpretation is unique.



September 9 - Gallery Opening- City, Night & Prairie - For Everyone (2 pm)

The Meewasin Valley Centre is hosting a gallery opening to showcase this exhibition by Jordan Heise. Come visit the Centre, view our displays, and the art work. Refreshments will be

September 21 - Bridging 125: Chief Whitecap - John Lake Celebration - For Everyone (5 - 9 pm)

2007 marks the 125th anniversary of the meeting of Chief Whitecap and John Lake. Join the Meewasin Valley Centre staff in celebrating this anniversary celebration hosted by the City of Saskatoon and Whitecap Dakota First Nations. Enjoy a re-enactment, dancing and a fabulous musical light show. The Centre will remain open until 9 pm for this event. For more details call 665-6888

September 23 - Corn Husk Dolls - For Children ages 6 - 12 (2 pm)

Before the rise of department stores in Saskatoon dolls were made of different types of material. One common doll was made of corn husks. Come and make your own doll to take home. Please call 665-6888 to register. Program cost is \$2.00 per person.



October is Women's History Month



October 6 & 7 - "Ladies Home Journal" - For Everyone (2 pm)

Go back in time and experience the lives of pioneer women in early Saskatoon. Hear stories

October 14 - Traffic Bridge Centenary Walking Tour - For Everyone (2 pm)

On October 10, the Traffic Bridge celebrates its 100th birthday! Join an Interpreter on a walking tour which will discuss the history of the Traffic Bridge. Included in the walk will be a history of Saskatoon, of the South Saskatchewan River Valley and river traffic on the South Saskatchewan, and subsequent area-based development. Please call to register.

October 28 - 8th Annual Haunted History Party - For Kids (1 - 3 pm)

Halloween is sneaking up on us, so come to the Meewasin Valley Centre for some spooky fun. Play ghoulish games, make creepy crafts, and get a terrifying treat. Limit 40 children. Call **665-6888** to register.



***Programs are for the general public. If your group wishes to participate, please call 665-6888 to book a separate time. A nominal fee may be charged.

Meewasin Valley Centre Fall Hours

Weekdays: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Weekends and Holidays: Noon - 5:00 pm



Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Tour du Jour in September



It is never the same day twice at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. On the Tour du Jour, we will explore what Mother Nature has to offer at that time. **The Tour du Jour is offered every Sunday in September at 2:00 p.m.** This trail hike program is one hour in length.

Eye Spy in October

Animal cut-outs have been placed along the trails. Depending on the type of animal you choose to be you will have to keep an eye out for those animals that would want to eat you or that you would want to eat. **Eye Spy is offered every Sunday in October at 2:00 p.m.** This trail hike program is one hour in length.

All Things Cold and Slimy - a Halloween Trick

Saturday, October 27 - 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Bring your goblins and witches to Beaver Creek to experience some weird nature as we explore and discover all things cold and slimy. This spooky evening is presented as a come & go program.



Organized Group Bookings

Book your nature adventure at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. An **environmentally based program** can be tailored to meet the specific nature needs of your group. Call Beaver Creek Conservation Area at 374-2474 for information on fees and program details. Group booking program times available on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area
Follow Lorne Avenue South
13km on Highway #219
Email: meewasin@meewasin.ca
Website: <http://www.meewasin.com>



Fall Hours: September & October
Weekdays 9am-5pm
Weekends & Holidays Noon - 5pm
FREE Admission

Chip's Hotline: 374-2474

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