



## The Pelicans Have Landed!

April 16, 2021

### Meewasin Pelican Watch Update

Spring has officially sprung! The first pelican to touch down at the Official Splash Down Zone between the CPR Bridge and the Weir in 2021 did so **Thursday, April 15 at 4:58 p.m.**, as confirmed by the official spotters from the Saskatoon Nature Society.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest. Previous arrival times have been between April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. CEO Andrea Lafond spoke of the Pelican Watch Contest, “It’s always exciting when the Pelicans arrive! The beautiful creatures are a wonderful reminder of the importance of protecting natural habitats and help us celebrate the arrival of spring.”

The American White Pelican is one of the largest birds on the continent weighing 7-10 kg and having a wing span of up to 3 m. Breeding birds develop an orange horn on their bill that falls off after nesting season. The breeding birds seen at the weir have likely flown to Saskatoon from Redberry Lake, the site of the nearest nesting colony. They make the 160 km round trip daily. In late fall, our pelicans migrate to sites in California, Florida, Mexico and even Guatemala.

The winners of the contest will be contacted and announced soon. Thank you to all who participated, the Saskatoon media and all of the businesses that have supported the contest with prizes including Don’s Photo Ltd., Wild Birds Unlimited Saskatoon, Atmosphere Saskatoon, Pelican Market, Wild About Saskatoon, Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan, Market Tire, and Pizza Hut. Special thank you to the Saskatoon Nature Society for being the official spotting partners, this is a vital part of the contest and we could not do this without them.

For more information, contact Meewasin at 306-665-6887 or [meewasin@meewasin.com](mailto:meewasin@meewasin.com)

### **About Meewasin Valley Authority**

*The Meewasin Valley Authority exists to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation by:*

- *Providing leadership in the management of its resources;*
- *Promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the Valley; and*
- *Undertaking programs and projects in river valley development and conservation,*

*for the benefit of present and future generations.*

*There are 67 square kilometers of land and over 90km of established trail, which has seen up to 1.87 million trail visits per year, in the Meewasin Valley. The area also features sites that help people to connect to nature through experiences such as Beaver Creek Conservation Area, the Northeast Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, the River Landing Spray Area, and the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza. Meewasin is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and volunteers for sustainability. To get involved or learn more visit [www.meewasin.com](http://www.meewasin.com)*