



the HOOTER

| September 2016 |

*A monthly newsletter from the
Peace Parkland Naturalists &
Friends of Saskatoon Island*

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Nature Kids

Sightings for
July - August

Tidbits

***editor's* MESSAGE**

Welcome back! Our editor Wendy has stepped away for a month or so but will be back at it as soon as she is able.

I've been seeing migrating warblers out my office window and heard passing white-fronted geese so fall is definitely here. We will hopefully see lots more waterfowl on the September 25th field trip to the McNaught property.

Speaker ideas are always welcome and we are also looking at maybe offering bird identification workshops at the October and November meetings.

Enjoy the changing season and be sure to send in those sightings.

Margot Hervieux
(back-up editor)



*Nature Kids organizers | Marilyn Grubb
August 2016*

what's NEW

- **Our first meeting of the fall will be on September 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the small meeting room at the GP library.** This will be our AGM, with elections and financial report. Members are also invited to bring a few photos or a story about somewhere they went or something they saw over the summer.
- Come explore the new board walk at the McNaught property on September 25th. We will meet to car pool in the Muskoseepi Pavilion parking lot at 9:00 am. Bring your lunch.
- Amisk Power has changed the parameters of its dam project upstream from Dunvegan. The dam is now proposed to be taller and it will flood a significantly larger area. The proposed site remains within the Dunvegan West Wildland Provincial Park and the new flooding would also now impact the Silver Valley Ecological Reserve as well. Moira Cooke is our representative on a local working group.

Nature Kids

The Nature Alberta program Nature Kids has been launched in Grande Prairie. An inaugural Explorer Day was held on August 20 at Crystal Lake and at least five families came out. Four club members also helped on the day and local resident Alex Comeau has stepped up to be the coordinator. There will be lots of opportunities for the club to support this group through additional explorer days in and around the City. If you know of any families that might be interested in getting their kids involved, email naturekidsgp@gmail.com or visit www.naturealberta.ca/nature-kids for more information.



*Mallards at Crystal Lake | Rick Scott
August 2016*

SIGHTINGS

Ken Dies of Fairview reported that there are at least 6 pairs of Eurasian collared doves nesting in that area and have been for at least four years.

Rick Scott spotted a long-eared owl near Cutbank Lake July 11th.

Jeanne Smith had an American goldfinch visit her Beaverlodge area yard in late August.

Joan Kerr reported:

- A pair of ruby-throated hummingbirds nesting in her yard near Beaverlodge.
- A white (leucistic) Canada goose in the Beaverlodge area June 8/9.
- A gray catbird at Saskatoon Island June 13.
- A Pacific-slope flycatcher near Chetwynd June 18 and a mourning dove in the Tumbler Ridge area and harlequin ducks at Kinuso Falls June 19.
- A sharp-tailed sparrow near Halcourt with Jeanne Smith June 20.
- Connecticut, Townsend's and McGillivray's warblers near Chetwynd and three red-breasted sapsuckers at McKenzie with Jeanne June 27.
- A palm warbler and broad-winged hawk north of Ft St John July 2.
- A yellow-bellied flycatcher near Dawson Creek, black swift at Kinuso falls, and rusty blackbirds, violet-green swallows and calling barred owls in the Tumbler Ridge area with Jeanne and Syl Bourdage July 5.
- 2 adult whooping cranes at Kleskun Lake July 14. The birds were around for a couple of weeks.
- Horned lark, yellow-bellied flycatcher, and Townsend's solitaire at Pink Mountain July 17.
- Purple martins at both Kimiwan and Winagami lakes and a pair of Swainson's hawks near Woking with Jeanne and Marie Cliffe July 28.
- Say's phoebe, northern goshawk, and mountain bluebird in the Chetwynd area August 8.
- American pipets in Dawson Creek September 6.



American Robin | Rick Scott 2013

Twitters and Tweets

Long Distance Travelers

Back in June, twenty-eight robins were netted in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park by scientists from Columbia University working with NASA. The birds were equipped with tiny GPS tracking devices and when the data came back for fifteen of them, the robin had travelled all the way to Alaska. This project is part of an international biodiversity study on the potential effects of climate change.

Last winter the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory also received information about a red-eyed vireo that had been banded in June of 2013. The bird hit a hospital window in Cundinamarca, Columbia in October 2015. Under the care of a local biologist it recovered and may yet be travelling over 6600 km every spring and fall between its nesting and wintering areas.

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