

Meewasin Valley Explorer

This summer, Beaver Creek Conservation Area completed its second year as a member of a bird banding program with The Institute for Bird 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 U.S. There are two participating stations in Saskatchewan. MAPS stations work together to monitor landbirds during the breeding season to aid the conservation of our feathered friends in North America.



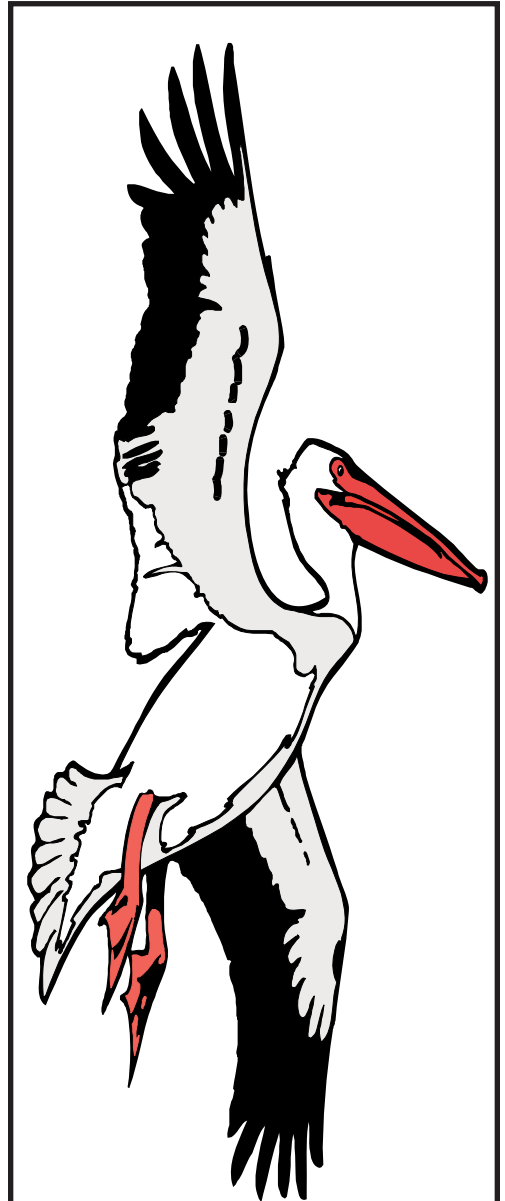
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Photo: Brenda Kramarchuk

The MAPS season at Beaver Creek began June 10th and ended on the August 8th, with 6 banding sessions. All birds captured during the program were identified by species, age, and sex, and if they didn't already have a band they were banded with a uniquely numbered aluminum band. A total of 200 individual birds were banded.

This year was Beaver Creek's first opportunity to recover birds that were previously banded onsite. They were excited to recapture 21 'returns', or birds that were banded here last summer. There is something special in knowing that a bird, like the Yellow Warbler, which weighs 10 grams, can head out in the fall to Mexico, survive its winter there, then safely complete its spring migration back 'home' to Beaver Creek, to re-settle in and raise a family. Returns this year included the Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, Yellow Warbler, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

From the 200 individuals, 28 different species of birds were banded at Beaver Creek Conservation Area this summer. They are as follows: Trail's Flycatcher, American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, House Wren, Yellow Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Clay-coloured Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Pine Siskin, Gray Catbird, Spotted Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Purple Finch, Veery, Yellow bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Brown Thrasher and American Robin. It will be interesting to see which birds out of this group, will fly back into Beaver Creek's nets again next year.

The Beaver Creek Conservation Area MAPS program is a group effort between Meewasin Valley Authority staff and public volunteers. The volunteers have been a key reason to the success of the project. Volunteers who participated in this years banding include: Steve Davis, Ross Dickson, Jan Shadick, Stan Shadick, Greg Fenty, Melanie Elliot, Alison Baudry, Colin French, Brenda Wallace, Kenton Lysak, Kerri Hilsen and Robert Nelson. A special thank you to Steve Davis and Ross Dickson for all their help, knowledge, and training provided this year. Beaver Creek would like to thank our summer students Morgan Placatka and Kendra Danielson for their assistance in setting up and taking down the bird nets.



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Boats, Kites and Ice Cream!



AREVA & Meewasin celebrated with an Ice Cream Party August 14. More than sixty children from the YMCA Day Camp visited the Riverfront to learn more about how waters flow from the Rocky Mountains to the Hudson Bay. Kids were invited to play in the Water Play Feature and everyone enjoyed the ice cream!



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!

Project to Restore Native Prairie

There is a brome-field at Beaver Creek Conservation Area that hasn't had a meadowlark or a crocus for years. The 12 hectare native prairie was ploughed and seeded to brome grass many years ago. Thanks to support from the EcoAction program, Meewasin is bringing the natural prairie back. The process takes a lot of patience and work.

This fall, cattle will graze the field to help reduce the invasive brome grass. Removing brome seeds and weeds will take several years (and may be accomplished by farming the land for a few years). Meewasin needs help to wild harvest seeds from nearby prairies. This seed-stock will then be planted with a rangeland drill. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact Meewasin at (306) 665-6887.

Saskatchewan Envirothon 2008



In May of this year, a team of five students from Bishop James Mahoney Catholic High School (BJM) in Saskatoon won the Saskatchewan Envirothon and, with it, the right to represent Saskatchewan at the Canon Envirothon in Flagstaff, Arizona. Pitted against teams from across the United States and Canada, the team from BJM did an exemplary job. They placed 17th out of 54 teams. The team of students Dylan Hardy, Brittany Thoms, Cameron Baribeau, Amy Gibson Jaden Dirk did exceptionally well in their oral presentation, placing 7th. The team was advised by their teacher Kevin Riffel and his wife Pamela.

Meewasin Valley Centre and Gift Shop

402 Third Avenue South ~ 665-6888

Open 9 am to 5 pm Weekdays - 12 pm to 5 pm Weekends & Holidays

Celebrate the South Saskatchewan River in September at the MVC

On display during September and October - Two Perspectives by Marlessa Wesolowski
This exhibit showcases new and earlier work reflecting her interest in geometry, structure and Canadian Culture of the built landscape and people. Enjoy the highly stylized, semi-abstract landscapes to completely non-representational paintings of simple geometric, often crystalline, shapes, vibrant colours, and dynamic lines of force.



September 7 - Saskatoon's Castle - For Everyone (2 pm)

In 1935 Saskatoon's Castle, the Bessborough Hotel, opened its doors. Visitors to the Meewasin Valley Centre will be able to view a video presentation on the construction of the Bessborough and its subsequent development. Please call 665-6888 to register.

September 14 - Fall Heritage Kick-Off (1 - 4 pm) - Superintendent's House, Forestry Farm Park

This is an opportunity for members of the heritage community in Saskatoon to promote the programming they do during the year and attract new members. Get to know the different heritage groups in Saskatoon and what they do. There will be entertainment and refreshments available for a nominal fee.

September 21 - Gallery Opening for Two Perspectives Exhibit (2 pm)

The Meewasin Valley Centre is hosting a gallery opening to showcase this exhibition by Marlessa Wesolowski. Meet the artist, view the displays, and enjoy the art work. Refreshments will be served.

September 28 - Bridge Tales - For Everyone (2 pm)

Learn more about Saskatoon's river crossings in this entertaining video presentation. Archie, the narrator, has tales to tell about each bridge. How many will you believe? Please call 665-6888 to register.



October is Women's History Month

October 5 - Home Remedies - For Adults (2 pm)

Follow in the footsteps of women who knew the benefits of using medicinal plant remedies. Learn how plants found in the natural environment are used to cure ailments. Please call to register.



October 12 & 13 - "Ladies Home Journal" - For Everyone (2 pm)

Go back in time and experience the lives of pioneer women in early Saskatoon. Hear stories about homesteads, husbands, parties and prairie life in this video presentation.

October 19 - 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 pre-register. Program cost is \$2.00/person.



October 26 - 9th 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 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 pm.** 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 pm.** This trail hike program is one hour in length.

All Things Cold and Slimy - a Halloween Trick

Saturday, November 1 - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Bring your goblins and witches to Beaver Creek for some ghoulish fun games. This "aw-ful" afternoon adventure is presented as a come & go program. When you visit tell us what two words we took the beginning and end from to make "aw-ful" and enter your name for a prize.



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.

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



Fall Hours: September 2 - November 1
Weekdays: 9am - 5pm
Weekends & Holidays: Noon - 5pm
FREE Admission

Chip's Hotline: 374-2474

Meewasin 