

Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association Inc.

What's flying around....



TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF NATURAL WORLD

Yorkton Regional Students form group to develop increased awareness of the natural world.

Rob Wilson - Editor

During February, March and April, I worked with a group of young people at the Regional High School in Yorkton. We applied for provincial funding. If successful these young people will use the money in an attempt to develop increased awareness of the natural world. They want to express their concerns about continuing loss of habitat and their concerns about continued pollution of our water and our air. As we discussed the group's concerns and its desire to "get people to stop taking nature for granted" we agreed that in order to make a difference we need to develop awareness. If awareness is raised, the group believes that action will



Blue Winged Teal - Photo by John Simpson

follow. I agree.

On behalf of these young people, I challenge you to take some personal action to improve the lot of the myriad forms of plant and animal life that are affected by your lifestyle. You will have opportunities to "make a difference". You may assist an individual plant or animal or you may find a way to protect some natural spaces.

I would like to remind you of something said by Sheila Lavender at our 3rd Annual General Meeting in Yorkton. She suggested that our organization could benefit if each of us "took out" a "friend membership" for a special friend. As I work on behalf of YFBTA I

repeatedly hear, "We need to get young people involved." So to Sheila's excellent suggestion I add, "Why not take out a "friend" membership for a YOUNG friend? It will cost you a staggering \$5.00 – the young person will, for a time at least, "be with us" and he/she will receive all YFBTA newsletters. Perhaps one or two of these potential new young members will grow into an individual of the ilk of Bill or Joyce Anaka, Jim or Shirley Jowsey or Mary or Stuart Houston (to illustrate with only a few of our sterling members)? Your gesture may ignite a spark which kindles a fire that may burn for decades (and think of the services that that person will provide to the natural world). You will have ACTED.

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After all, every dollar you spend IS a political decision.

Sheila has engendered a powerful concept. Let's think of the synergies here. Each of the eighty-or-so of you takes out one friend membership on behalf of a young friend. By taking out such a membership you have now encumbered yourself with a possible responsibility to actually ENGAGE with the young person. You might consider something as radical as collecting that person and exploring one of YFBTA's five trails. You might encourage that young person to record some memories of such an excursion. Let's see now, with eighty new members, our planning committee (for the 4th Annual General Meeting set for February 2007), will feel obliged to build some items of interest to youth into our day. We (I think I'M on this committee) will probably SPECIFICALLY INVITE these young members to that meeting. We might, in an aggressive stroke, ask that the person who initially provided the "friend" membership, take the responsibility for getting the young person to and from the meeting. We might, incredibly, ask YOU to SPEND THE WHOLE DAY at Esterhazy WITH your young charge! (This of course, will place great burdens upon your planning committee who will now need to find space and food for an additional eighty people (all of them young)). I'm probably dreaming. Who would take the time for something as CRAZY as this? **I hope the press doesn't get wind of this...there is a DANGER of being misquoted.**

BIRDING TRAILS AND ECO - TOURISM

Wally Karau

The very idea of birding and bird trails brings out the inherent naturalist in most persons who take an interest. In fact a number of the members of the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association (YFBTA) are active members of Nature Sask. It is easy to see why this is a natural fit in that both organizations have an interest in the protection of wild life and its habitat. For these reasons we have on occasion had to remind ourselves that a good part of our raison d'être has to do with eco-tourism and is the reason why YFBTA has in the past and continues to receive the active participation and support of the Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Authority (YREDA).

It was in January of 2003 that Ken Kessler's work as eco-tourism co-ordinator for Saskatchewan took him to Saltcoats to meet with a group of individuals who expressed an interest in expanding on birding and nature trails already in existence in the area. Ken's enthusiasm, knowledge and eloquence on the topic of Birding Trails along with the resultant economic

benefits of tourism caught the imagination of those present..

In addition to interested area citizens being in attendance at the meeting with Ken Kessler, the YREDA Economic Development Officer (EDO) was in attendance, who immediately saw the possibilities of birding as a means of encouraging tourism and it's resulting economic benefits. Subsequent meetings attracted sufficient interest from surrounding Communities to warrant the formation of an association and the continued participation of YREDA. The involvement of YREDA Economic Development Officer (EDO) in the person of Kim Wondrasek (Reitenbach) has been key in the establishment of YFBTA as a "Charitable Non Profit" Corporation. Under her guidance YFBTA became a Non Profit Corporation in June of 2003 and received Charitable status in January of 2004. I tell you this not as a history lesson, but to remind members there is a part of YFBTA that has to do with the stimulation of economic activity through the promotion of Birding Trails as a means of attracting tourists to our area.

Having said all that, just how have we done in terms of Eco-Tourism? The first steps in this direction have been directed as much to promoting local area citizens awareness, and to encourage participation and support as it has been to promotion tourism further afield. To this end, the Annual General Meetings (AGM) have been held in different Communities for each of the three years in our short history. The Inaugural AGM was held October 24th and 25th, 2003 in Langenburg, followed by Churchbridge on 19 February 2005 and Yorkton on 18 February 2006. Each of the AGM's featured a variety of Displays, Workshops, Mini Trade Shows, Guest Presenters and renowned after Dinner Speakers all of which featured topics of interest relating to Birding and Natural Ecology. Approximately fifty five to sixty five members and interested persons attended each of the AGM's. The AGM's along with the media promotion have been an excellent source of recruiting new members and has resulted in our membership rising from approximately fifteen in 2003 to approximately ninety in 2006 which includes ten corporate members.

Each of the AGM's did draw participants from the surrounding area that would not have otherwise visited each of the host communities. Although not a large amount of economic activity results from hosting an AGM most Towns were happy to oblige. The 2003AGM in Langenburg resulted in YFBTA taking in approximately twelve hundred dollars from registrations and the silent auction. It cost eleven hundred dollars to cover the cost of hall rental, catering and other incidental expenses. The point being that the Town of Langenburg and their businesses gained eleven hundred dollars as a result of YFBTA activity in their community.

The results for the 2005 AGM held in Churchbridge were similar with the registration and Silent Auction taking in around fourteen hundred fifty dollars and the cost of hall rental, meals and incidentals costing in the neighborhood of seven hundred

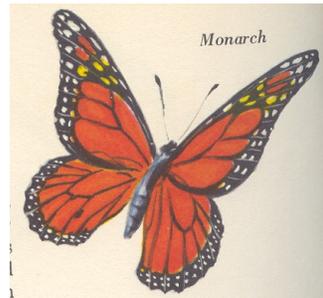
similar with the registration and Silent Auction taking in around fourteen hundred fifty dollars and the cost of hall rental, meals and incidentals costing in the neighborhood of seven hundred eighty dollars plus an honorarium of one hundred dollars for the guest speakers. The 2006 AGM held in Yorkton brought in approximately thirteen hundred seventy dollars in registration and silent auction with expenses amounting to thirteen hundred thirty dollars for hall, catering and hotel for the guest speaker. The figures provided are revenues and expenses collected and paid out by YFBTA. As mentioned earlier each of the AGM's had various displays and a mini trade show with articles for sale. We have no way of knowing the value of monetary activity as a result of these sale. In addition YFBTA has no way of accounting for other economic activity in the host communities as a result of visits to local restaurants, boutiques, stores and gas stations.

The one activity that YFBTA has taken on that has had the biggest impact in terms of Tourism was the hosting of Nature Saskatchewan's Fall Meet at Saltcoats 22 thru 24 September, 2004. This activity attracted approximately seventy naturalist to the area who were catered to in both the Saltcoats Community Hall and Town Center as well as the Saturday night Banquet having been Catered in Bredenburg by the United Church Ladies. The weekend program included the opportunity to tour several local birding trails between Yorkton and Esterhazy. The registrations for this weekend brought in approx eight thousand dollars. To keep expenses to a minimum all the members pitched in to help by preparing, cooking and serving most of the meals. This resulted in a tidy profit of around four thousand dollars being realized even after settling all the bills for groceries, hall rentals in both Saltcoats and Bredenburg and car/bus rental (Tours to Birding Trails). I might add the profits from the hosting of this event has been vital in covering many of YFBTA's start up expenses. Of course YFBTA only accounted for those monies which were directly related to hosting of the meet itself. In that most of the individuals who traveled to Saltcoats to participate where from outside the local area and were responsible for their own billeting, a number of B&B's and hotels/motels and other businesses in the area benefitted as a result of YFBTA having hosted this event. The reason why Nature Saskatchewan chose our area as the venue for their 2004 Fall Meet was, at least in part, a result of the opportunity to experience the Birding Trails that were being promoted by YFBTA.

In the fall of 2005 YFBTA contracted Weber's Building Centre to build a viewing stand at a cost of one thousand dollars. The stand has been sited near a marsh adjacent to highway 16 at Saltcoats. As additional sites are identified and on the availability of funds it is planned to acquire more viewing stands.

The hosting of the Nature Saskatchewan Meet was a resounding success in that it was an organized event and the guests were accompanied by tour guides to assist in directing

them to the trails and to interpret the significant features. In order to take advantage of the casual birders who are traveling to or through the area it is important that we move quickly to direct our attention toward erecting direction signs along highways and major roadways leading to the various trails and viewing stands and to erect interpretive signs along the trails and near the viewing stands. These steps along with YFBTA's web site that is up and running should have a positive impact on encouraging Birders to spend time in the area with the resultant economic spin offs.



MONARCHS LIKE MILKWEED

Kathy Morrell

More than 180 million monarch butterflies migrate each year from their wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico to points in the northern United States and Canada. Along the way, they seek out milkweed, the sole source of food for their larvae.

The problem is that the plant is becoming less and less common. The increased use of herbicides reduces habitat for milkweed. Urban growth decreases the pasture land where the plant thrives. Constant mowing of ditches prevents seeding of the plant.

In other words, milkweed is in trouble and along with it the monarch butterfly. According to Monarch Watch, a conservationist group, the monarch butterfly needs our help. Monarch Watch advocates that people along the butterfly's migration route plant milkweed in unused plots of land, home gardens, schools, parks, and along roadways. In Saskatchewan, the prairie milkweed and the showy milkweed are climate hardy.

The plant is surprisingly toxic. When the monarch larvae ingest the leaves and stems, they store the poisonous elements in their wings and exoskeletons, making both the adult and larva toxic to many predators.

Milkweed seldom presents problems for livestock.

"Cattle soon learn to avoid milkweed," stated Christy Winquist of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Good. "Generally, cattle are smarter than we give them credit for."



KAPOSVAR BIRDING TRAIL

Article and Photos

John Simpson

The idea of a birding trail along the Kaposvar reservoir first developed when I attended the inaugural meeting of the YFBTA. Judy Parker, REDA officer of Esterhazy, felt Esterhazy should be represented and asked me to attend. When discussing possible bird trails in the YFBTA areas, I immediately thought of John Nightingale's land located two miles west of Esterhazy.

Dr. Stuart Houston stated in his after dinner talk at the first annual general meeting of the YFBTA: "If Saskatchewan is the Duck factory of North America, the Yorkton-Duck Mountain area is its heart. The area of the YFBTA encompasses a part of the heart. Esterhazy's closeness to the Qu'Appelle Valley, the creeks Kaposvar and Cutarm, and the many potholes and sloughs in the area provides many opportunities for birding. The interpretive trail around the golf course is another. The little creek that flows into the Kaposvar reservoir on the Nightingale property is my favourite.

After the meeting with John Nightingale and gaining his permission and enthusiastic support we scouted out possible trails on the site. This was accomplished in March 2004. It was decided that an eight foot bridge would be needed to cross a three foot trench that the beavers had excavated. This would allow access to cross the creek via one of the beaver dams. With the assistance of the Esterhazy Scouts, this bridge was constructed and put in place in the spring of 2004. In June the trail was visited by the grade four classes of P. J. Gillin School.

After spending three hours on the trail, July 4, 2004 I wrote an article about what I saw that day. At the suggestion of Walter Farquharson it was offered to "Nature Views" where it was published in the fall issue. On the last weekend of September

28, 2004, approximately 60 members of Nature Saskatchewan visited the Kaposvar Trail.

John Nightingale and I, along with the assistance of Wayne Provick have expanded the trails. Plans are in the works to construct a bridge and set up a viewing platform. Also signs will be placed where needed. It is the hope of the Kaposvar Birding Trail Committee that all will be in place for the 2006 birding season.





Turkey Vulture Tracking Program, Saskatchewan 2006

Dr. C Stuart Houston

Saskatchewan continues to lead in three aspects of Turkey Vulture research:

The only current nesting Turkey Vulture wing-tagging program in North America; 14 large wing tags, with an easily read white letter and two numbers on a green tag, were applied at 9 nests in 2003, 30 at 17 nests in 2004, and 43 at 29 nests in 2005. Another 8 nests, active in other years, are known to have failed in 2005: at three nests raccoons evidently ate the nestling vultures.

The only nestling carrying a satellite transmitter (tagged west of Leoville, Saskatchewan, on August 05, 2004), wintered in Costa Rica and summered in Nebraska; locations within 10 km, several per day, come every two days by email). A 2003 nestling from Nora, Saskatchewan had its wing tag read in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in November 2005.

The only two adult vultures captured on their nest carried bodypack GPS transmitters that provided hourly reports of location within 10 m accuracy. We learned the distance traveled to obtain food for young (50 km), and length of time on a singlecarcass (up to 13 hr). A bodypack transmitter was applied to an adult at her nest west of Duck Lake on June 18,

2005. This bird was killed while eating a carcass on the highway at Anamoose, North Dakota, on October 7. A presumed adult male was given a transmitter at his nest south of Hanley on June 19. Hourly reports came every six days by e-mail, telling us the speed of flight (40 km/hour without a tail wind) and the elevation (up to 3000 feet above ground), until the vulture tragically wandered onto the missile range at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on October 31.

Anyone sighting a vulture is encouraged to look for a wing tag – nestling tags on right wing, adult tags on left wing. Please report the date, exact location, and number of the tag to: C Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0J8. Phone 306-244-0742 before 9 p.m. CST or send data to: houstons@duke.usask.ca.

Saskatchewan observers are encouraged to check every deserted farm building – after July 1, when young have hatched and parents are unlikely to desert them. In July, look, smell and listen. Look in basement and attic and clothes-closets, smell for rotting food, and listen for a loud steam-engine hiss. Please report nesting vultures to Houston (see above). The young vultures are usually large enough to be tagged during the first week in August.

(Reprinted from Nature Sask.'s "Nature Views" Summer 2006 ed.)

TURKEY VULTURE TRACKING PROGRAM, SASKATCHEWAN 2006

At this moment, Saskatchewan leads in three aspects of Turkey Vulture research:

the only current nestling Turkey Vulture wing-tagging program in North America; 14 large wing tags, with an easily read white letter and two numbers on a green tag, were applied at 9 nests in 2003, 30 at 17 nests in 2004, and 43 at 29 nests in 2005. Another 8 nests, active in other years, are known to have failed in 2005; at three nests raccoons evidently ate the nestling vultures.

the only nestling carrying a satellite transmitter (tagged west of Leoville, Saskatchewan, on August 5, 2004, wintered in Costa Rica and summered in Nebraska; locations within 10 km, several per day, come every two days by e-mail). A 2003 nestling from Nora, Saskatchewan, had its wing tag read in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in November 2005.

the only two adult vultures captured on their nest, carrying GPS transmitters that provide hourly reports of location within 10 m accuracy. We are learning the distance traveled to obtain food for young, length of

time on a single carcass. A bodypack transmitter was applied to a presumed adult female at her nest west of Duck Lake on June 18, 2005, and a presumed adult male at his nest south of Hanley on June 19. Hourly reports come every six days by e-mail, telling us the speed of flight (40 km/hour) and the elevation (up to 3000 feet above ground).

This is a team effort. Financial support for the first and only nestling transmitter (previously on an Osprey that made two trips to Costa Rica and back) and for the cost of Argos satellite transmissions, came from Nature Saskatchewan, donations matched dollar-for-dollar by Saskatchewan Power. Geoffrey Holroyd and Helen Trefry of Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, applied the transmitter. Peter H. Bloom of Orange County, California, provided hands-on wing-tag instruction to Brent Terry in California.

The two 2005 transmitters have been funded through research grants assigned to Keith Bildstein, and hourly locations are supplied by David R. Barber. James Mandel is the Ph. D. graduate student at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Both Bildstein and Barber are at the Acoopian Center for Conservation Learning, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania. The bodypack transmitters were installed by Dr. Marc Bechard of Boise State University, during his 21st field banding trip to Saskatchewan. Wing tags were applied by Brenton Terry and Michael Blom of Saskatoon. Heart loggers were inserted under anesthesia at the field locations by Dr. Karen Machin, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon.

Anyone sighting a vulture is encouraged to look for a wing tag – nestling tags on right wing, adult tags on left wing. Please report the date, exact location, and number of the tag to: C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8. Phone 306-244-0742 before 9 p.m. CST or send data to houston@duke.usask.ca.

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In the past, vultures normally nested in caves along banks of lakes and rivers, or in large, dark, dense brush piles. Only in the last 25 years have they learned to nest in attics or basements of deserted houses in Saskatchewan – and in the Saskatoon area, for only 4 years! These new nesting sites have allowed vultures to expand their territory greatly. People are seeing vultures where they saw none previously.



Courtesy: "Saskatchewan Birds" Alan Smith

BASIC FACTS ABOUT TURKEY VULTURES:

Unpleasant aspects:

1. They are ugly and dirty.
2. They drool on you and vomit on you – and hiss loudly – as defense mechanisms.
3. They stink – because they eat long-dead mammals and birds.
4. After a human visitor leaves, they eat the decayed meat they had regurgitated when that visitor arrived.
5. They cool off by passing urine and faeces down their legs (called urohidrosis).
6. They are HUGE – with a six-foot wingspan and weigh up to 2 kilograms (4.4 lbs). Wing chord measures 500 to 545 mm, tarsus length 62 to 78 mm, and tail length 250 to 300 mm. As with most raptorial bird species, the female is larger than the male.
7. When an adult takes flight from within a house attic, it scares the daylighters out of you.
8. The adult's head is unfeathered (allowing it to stick its head within rotting carcasses).
9. They are the main bird species causing military aircraft collisions.
10. They have a well-developed sense of smell, allowing them to find totally hidden dead carcasses – and to avoid entering any building with a human being in it.

But wait a minute! When you get to know them, they are fascinating, even charismatic!

1. Vultures are no longer thought to be raptors, related to hawks and eagles. Many authorities believe they are more closely related to storks.
2. They are closely related to the California Condor, which is now being saved from extinction through captive breeding and release.
3. Turkey vultures perform a valuable health function as mopper-uppers or "garberators."
4. Vultures find leaks in natural gas pipelines by circling over escaping ethyl-mercaptan.

5. Vultures are magnificent and effortless, but slow, in flight – they soar for long periods without ever flapping a wing. When no thermals are present, they “rock” their wings.
6. Vultures are adaptable. Their newly-acquired habit of nesting in deserted, windowless houses, barns and granaries, has extended their range into new parkland areas, especially. Their numbers are increasing.
7. Vultures build no nest whatever, merely laying one or two eggs on the attic or basement floor or the dirt beneath a brush-pile.
8. The 1 or 2 eggs are incubated for 38 to 40 days, male and female alternating. Hatchlings are brooded only for 1 to 2 weeks. Adults then go out to hunt and leave nestlings alone all day, visiting to regurgitate food about once each day. At 8 weeks, young have a few patches of white down remaining on throat and neck and are ready to tag. They fly at 9 or 10 weeks of age, but perch in trees near their nest for another four weeks while they learn to fly, increasing in altitude capability each week. Thus, as most nest visits, no adult appears.
9. Over a million Turkey Vultures fly over Xalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico, each fall, and they winter as far south as Colombia and Venezuela (But one-third of Pennsylvania vultures stay year-round, one-third wander to Carolina and New Jersey, and one-third winter in Florida).
10. We don't yet know at what age they first breed; the only Turkey Vulture breeding at a known age was 11 years old. Probably they first breed at 6 to 10 years, a fact we hope to learn. How far they disperse to new nest sites should also become known from observations of tagged vultures in years to come.
11. We don't yet know how long they live, but a maximum of 40 years is a best guess (after I am dead!).
12. Because they are increasing, and extending their range, Saskatchewan people who have never seen a Turkey Vulture before, are seeing them now.

In retrospect, the unthinking Alberta farmer who sent a sick cow to market could have prevented the BSE debacle and saved Canadian farmers billions of dollars – if only he had shot that cow on the “back forty” and allowed the vultures to clean it up.

Interview by Mario Sumner

Hi! Mario Sumner here. Since joining the birding group, I heard about some other people who love nature, so I interviewed them. I hope you enjoy the story...

Mario: How did you become the “birding bus driver”?
Ms. Barb Ford: By kids asking, “What was that?!” when we saw wildlife! So, I started bringing the book on the bus (to help identify sightings). It has been about 6 years now. That book is pretty beat up!

Mario: Tell me some interesting or rare bird sightings you may have seen on your bus route.

Barb: Whooping Cranes, Great Blue Herons, Cormorants, Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles.

Mario: Why is it important to teach children about nature?

Barb: Because we live right in the middle of it! It is all around us. It helps everyone understand the ecosystem and what’s going on around them.

Next, I spoke to Tanner Burman, a student who rides Barb’s bus...

Mario: What is the coolest bird sighting you’ve ever seen while riding Ms. Ford’s bus?

Tanner: Probably the blue herons, because you don’t see them a lot. We’ve seen about 4 sightings of herons.

Mario: Do you like having a bus driver who knows so much about birds? Why?

Tanner: Yes, because it teaches us how to identify birds and everything. It makes time go by faster on the bus!

Mario: Why do you think it is important for kids to be interested in nature?

Tanner: So they have it for when they get older, so they don’t destroy the habitat, so they can appreciate birds and that kind of stuff.

Cordell Young also rides Ms. Ford’s bus and he has become the “recorder” of sightings. Here’s what he writes about his experience...Thanks everyone! Keep in touch! Let us know about your sightings!



Cordell Young

"Bird watching is one of the more major events that takes place on the bus. I am the recorder, and we’ve got a book that all of the sightings are recorded in. Besides seeing the herons, cormorants, eagles and a whooping crane, we have seen a horned grebe, a ruddy duck, several kinds of woodpeckers, sandhill cranes and a mountain bluebird. I think the rarest though, was a bar-tailed godwit. It is just very cool seeing all these birds and it is fascinating to find out about them and intertwine with nature!" - **Cordell Young**

Thank You Ann Tatham
The Yellowhead Birding Trail Association would like to thank Ann Tatham for the beautiful hand made blanket (afghan) to be used as a fund raiser by the YFBTA. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

BOREAL CHICKADEE VISITORS

Our esteemed editor Robbie Wilson asked that I write about **what he says** is a fairly rare occurrence. This past winter, at our house in Canora, we had numerous visitations by two Boreal Chickadees on a regular basis. Those are the little guys that have rusted-out chests, no doubt from excess humidity on their metal parts. We saw them at our shelled peanut feeders and at our peanut butter feeder, every few weeks or so, most of the winter. We have pictures.

Respectfully submitted,
Thom Carnahan

PERCEIVED PECKING ORDER

All of this past winter we have had five Blue Jays and a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers visiting our shelled peanut and peanut butter feeders in Canora. Early on it became apparent that there was a possession issue transpiring. Neither bird specie appreciated having the other around at feeding time. And they certainly would not share or cooperate. When they did arrive at the same time, there was considerable squawking and wing flapping. Those displays were wonderful to watch. Sometimes one, and sometimes the other, would back off and allow the other to feed, while the other watched at a safe distance. The boss had not yet been identified.

After a few days of this, it was time for the showdown. The larger Blue Jay and the Male Hairy arrived at the feeder at the same time, one on either side. They squawked and displayed as usual. This time was different however. They approached each other and began making physical contact. The fight over ownership of the feeder ended quickly when the woodpecker gave the Blue Jay a very solid knock between the eyes with that huge wood-destroying beak. The blue one shook its head, backed off, then flew away somewhat askew. There has not been a problem or dispute over the feeders since then. Everyone knows who the boss is! Avian peace reigns once more in our backyard.

Respectfully submitted,
Thom Carnahan

2nd Annual Wings Over Russell Birdfest and Art Exhibition **June 10th-June 18th, 2006**

Wings is back for another year with a little different format. We will be having tours every day and the art and artists will all be at the Smellie Block on Main Street, Russell. You will be able to watch the artists at work and visit the art displays as well as this will be the meeting place for Birdfest.+

For further information please contact Lois Wilson at Russell, MB - Phone : 204 - 773 3437 or visit the Russell , MB website www.russellmb.com

The Last Word

Once again Rob Wilson and I would like to thank everyone for their submissions. We appreciate all the assistance we have received from members of the YFBTA organization in helping us with the newsletters - proofreading - and printing it. Kim Wondrasek at REDA has kindly offered to print the newsletters on their new laser printer giving it a new look. Thank you Kim for your assistance.

I hope to update the website with many articles, photos and stories which have appeared in print in other publications this past while. We are committed to publishing the YFBTA newsletter at least four times a year.

We welcome all new members and all those who may be interested in joining our group. If you would like additional newsletters or YFBTA business cards for distribution - please contact me (John Sawkey at 744 2436) or via email at john.s@imagewireless.ca.

If you have any articles or comments for publication in this newsletter or website, please send them to Rob Wilson, Editor.



Finally, we were all saddened by the passing of another great member of our group, Dean Maddaford of Saltcoats. Dean has been a respected member of the community for many years. He will be greatly missed by all those who have known him. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Irene and Dean's family and share their loss. We would like to thank all those who made contributions to the YFBTA in Dean's memory.

I hope you all have a great summer - and please keep in touch. **Publisher : John Sawkey**

Website [http:// yfbta.com](http://yfbta.com)

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