



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Virtual)

7pm MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2021

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the preceding AGM March 2020 (cancelled)
3. Annual Report of the President
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Auditors for 2021
6. Annual Reports of Nature Manitoba Committees
7. Resolutions
8. Election of Board Members
9. Election of Executive Members
10. Announcement of Awards
11. Adjournment
12. Presentation: by Dr. Michael Schrimpf, a postdoctoral fellow
with Dr. Nicola Koper at the University of Manitoba

Migration in a COVID World: the Effect of Lockdown on Birds

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Jack Dubois)

A whole lexicon of adjectives that has been used to describe the pandemic year 2020 and Nature Manitoba has experienced many of them, like the rest of society. We were forced to cancel all group activities, outdoors and indoors. For the first time in our 100 year history we had to close our office indefinitely except for staff and cancel the annual general meeting.

Although we were unable to host any gatherings to celebrate our centennial, I hope you have had a chance to read the accounts in every newsletter this year of the scope and depth of activities carried out by this organization and its dedicated and enthusiastic members over the last 100 years. We have been instrumental in preserving natural areas all over Manitoba, from the Narcisse Snake Pits, Oak Hammock Marsh, Tall Grass Prairie Preserve to Atikaki Provincial Park. Just as important, thousands of Manitobans have become passionate advocates for nature through membership and participation in our programs. It is a legacy to be very proud of and a solid foundation for our future. Special thanks to Lynsay Perkins and Sandy HayGlass for their efforts to make as much of our centenary as we could during this unique year.

Paradoxically there have been some positive aspects of this pandemic year, the biggest being the unprecedented popularity of all kinds of outdoor activities. In a year when Nature Manitoba was forced to cancel all organized activities the bicycle shops are sold out and walking trials are crowded. Camp grounds were full and the lakes were alive with canoes and boats of all kinds. Hopefully this new-found enthusiasm for all things outdoors carries on once we are all vaccinated and back to the new “normal”. Our organization is well positioned to welcome current and new members to our many facilitated activities and will be phasing them back in as soon as public health regulations permit.

Financially the year turned out positive despite the closure of most of the sources of revenue for Nature Manitoba, as shown in the Treasurer’s Report. This was thanks primarily to a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation and the availability of various programs, provincially and federally to aid non-profit organizations such as ours – and we are very grateful to them all, as well as to many members who made generous contributions to get us through. I would also like to thank the Government of Manitoba for their ongoing support, both logistical support for the

Mantario Cabin programs (Manitoba Conservation and Climate) and core financial support through Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living. We have received additional grants in support of the Important Bird Areas, Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative and Bridging the Gap programs – please check out their reports for the details of these terrific programs.

One of the biggest events of the year for Nature Manitoba was the donation of our Tall Grass Prairie lands to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, an organization much better equipped to look after those lands in perpetuity. As described in the Habitat Conservation Committee Report, we also donated monies to set up an endowment fund to ensure there will be resources to cover taxes and management expenses going forward. Once public health regulations permit there will be a joint ceremony with Nature Conservancy Canada at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve to celebrate our donation, to which all members of Nature Manitoba will be invited, so watch for your invitation.

This year we welcomed Bee City Brandon as a subcommittee of Nature Manitoba, an arrangement for mutual benefit. Please check out their website at <https://beecitycanada.org/city/brandon/> as they are doing very interesting work in promoting native pollinators in western Manitoba.

I have been President of this wonderful organization for five years now and my term is over. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you. Other than this past year it has been a relatively smooth and easy job that I have enjoyed very much, thanks to the hard work of the staff, Susan McLarty, Lynsay Perkins and Deanna Dodgson, and of my fellow Board members. I will continue to serve the organization as Past President and look forward to supporting our new President, Sandy HayGlass, as she assumes her new responsibilities.

Stay healthy and I hope to see you on the trails and lakes of this great province sometime soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Andre Laberge)

Nature Manitoba's general operation finished the year 2020 with an excess of revenue over expenses for \$34,177.

The general operation's biggest change from the previous year was grants received due to Covid-19 for \$24,000. Due to Covid-19, our fundraising revenues were down by \$5,803 and our membership fees were down by \$4,440 from the previous year. The general operations received a disbursement from the Manitoba Naturalists Endowment Fund held at the Winnipeg Foundation for \$6,688, an increase of \$330 from 2019.

The expenses of the general operation saw minor changes. The changes were due to a reduction of salaries due to the reduced office hours and a credit from our insurance provider due to Covid-19.

The Paul Guyot Endowment Fund for Habitat received a disbursement of \$8,203 and the Manitoba Bluebird Endowment Fund received a disbursement of \$13,424 from the Winnipeg Foundation.

During the year, the Nature Fund received a bequest of \$5,000, and in December, the Paul Guyot Endowment Fund for Habitat and the Habitat Conservation Fund donated \$50,000 and \$20,000 respectively to Nature Conservancy Canada (Manitoba Region) for the maintenance of the land donation.

In 2020, the board approved transfers from the general fund for \$714 to the Mantario Fund, \$90 to the Mantario Cabin Fund, \$1,769 to the Bridging the Gap Fund, and \$10,000 to the Nature Fund.

This year planning was made difficult with the uncertainties due to Covid-19. Although our financial planning is to have a balanced budget each year, it is typical for our year-end position to cycle between surpluses and deficits. The board continues to look at ways to increase revenue and reduce costs, while also wanting to make sure the money we are spending is being effective and providing value to the members. I would like to thank our volunteers, those who have donated, and our grantors for their support during these challenging times.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GARDEN TOUR

Report by Tim Evans

I was asked to take over as the coordinator for Nature Manitoba's 2020 garden tour, and had begun planning for the tour in 2019. We had the tickets and posters printed and ready to go, and we had 10 beautiful gardens lined up.

Unfortunately, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the tour due to COVID-19. Although by the time of the tour the risk in Manitoba was relatively low, many people were nervous about any kind of gatherings, and we did not have the capacity to put in safety precautions required at each location.

In 2020 we did make one major change to the garden tour, changing the name from "Our Natural Garden Tour" to "Gardens of Distinction". The new name has been well-received and I anticipate it will have a positive impact on ticket sales in the future.

I would like to thank all the gardeners who offered up their spaces in 2020, and I look forward to the 2021 tour.

GREY HARES

Report by Francy Wheadon

Grey Hares group continues to thrive with a variety of activities, appealing to like-minded people. Since 2015, our membership has increased by 57% to 211 members as of December 31, 2020. The average pre-COVID-19 participation rate per outing was 17 members.

Our Winter 2020 scheduled activities were cancelled on March 25 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and resulting Provincial Health Guidelines.

A soft re-opening of activities occurred on July 15 with 4 activities scheduled on a trial basis respecting COVID-19 Protocols and Provincial Health Guidelines. Due to the success of this trial period, we resumed our regular activity schedule (COVID-19 style) on August 19, lasting until October 14.

During the re-opening period, our activities were greatly impacted by COVID-19:

- Outings were limited to cycling and paddling to adhere to COVID-19 protocols, ie: social distancing.
- Most activities were held in close proximity to Winnipeg as car-pooling was not recommended.
- Participation per outing was approx. 10 members – due in part to COVID-19 protocols and to members' concern for the health of others and themselves.

On November 12, 2020 our activities were again cancelled when the Province moved to Critical level (Red) on the Restart MB Pandemic Response System and this remained in effect for the balance of the year.

DISCOVERY EVENINGS

Report by Sandy HayGlass

The Indoor Program Committee (Donna Danyluk, Joe Leven, Les McCann, Julia Schoen, Martin Zeilig and Sandy HayGlass) would like to thank the volunteers that helped us out at the admission table - Katharine Schultz and John Schultz, Jenny Kuchta, Rose Kuzina and Julia Schoen.

We greatly appreciate the generous contribution of time and effort made by all of our 2020 volunteers. Due to the COVID Pandemic all Discovery Evenings were cancelled after February 2020.

2020 Presentations

January

The Flies that Bind– the (little known) shared history of the Manitoba Museum and Nature Manitoba - Randy Mooi, Curator of Zoology, Manitoba Museum (37 attendees)

February

Imaging Canada's Climate Future - Danny Blair, Co-Director, Prairie Climate Centre; Professor of Geography, University of Winnipeg (69 attendees)

We are looking forward to offering more Discovery Evening programs in 2020 once Covid restrictions are loosened further.

WORKSHOP SERIES

Report by Al and Cindy Louer

The goal of the Workshop Series is to increase our understanding and appreciation of the wonders of the natural world under the guidance of experts. Some of the sessions include field trips, which greatly enrich our experience of the outdoors.

The fees charged to workshop participants (\$5.00 for members; \$10.00 for non-members; \$3.00 for student members; and \$5.00 for student non-members) bring in much needed funding for Nature Manitoba programs. Attendance continues to be high and response to the workshops remains enthusiastic.

We would like to thank the Winnipeg #1 School Division for providing Nature Manitoba with a venue for the workshops. Kelvin High School has continued to be a fine location with central access and a helpful and co-operative night staff.

We would like to thank the following presenters for sharing their knowledge with us in 2020:

1. **Lampreys** with Dr, Margaret Docker, Faculty of Science Research Chair in Life Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba.
2. **State of Climate** with Jay Anderson, Faculty of Science, Meteorology, University of Winnipeg.
3. **Birding for Beginners** with James Whitelaw, Nature Manitoba Birder.
4. **Ticks** with Dr. Kateryn Rochon, associate professor of Veterinary and Wildlife Entomology at the University of Manitoba
5. **Ecology of Hibernating Bats** with Dr. Quinn Fletcher, Faculty of Science, University of Winnipeg
6. **Animal X Games: Exploring Species at the edge of their Range** with Dr. Randy Mooi, Head of Mammals at the Manitoba Museum

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, we had to cancel the remainder of the workshops scheduled for this season. We would like to thank the following presenters who had generously agreed to present their workshop:

1. **Manitoba Day Trips by Canoe** with Charles Burchill, Nature Manitoba canoeing enthusiast and canoe instructor. Charles graciously provided a link to those registered for his workshop so that they could enjoy his presentation in virtually.
2. **Mushrooms** with Donna Kurt, Nature Manitoba member and mushroom enthusiast.

3. **Grassland Birds** with Tim Poole, Nature Manitoba member and Ornithologist with the Province of Manitoba
4. **Shore Birds** with Rudolf Koes, Nature Manitoba Birder.
5. **Propagating Plants by Cutting and Ground Layering** with Stu Innes, Member of the Bonsai Society.
6. **Warblers** with Ward Christianson, Nature Manitoba Birder
7. **What's That Wildflower** with Marilyn Latta, Nature Manitoba Botanist.

We hope to continue having workshops in 2021 but time will tell.

For more information or to get involved with some of Nature Manitoba's most successful programs, please contact Al or Cindy Louër for the Workshop program at alainlouer@winnipeg.ca or cin7cin7@hotmail.com or Sandy HayGlass for the Discovery Evening Program at sandyhayglass@gmail.com.

MANTARIO

Report by Katrina Froese

MANTARIO SUMMER PROGRAM

Summer Program volunteers and program themes for July and August were confirmed by Committee volunteer and posted on the Nature Manitoba website.

The Committee made purchases of non-perishable food and supplies in preparation for Summer Program, and had them delivered to the cabin by Conservation in February, 2020.

The Mantario Committee met virtually in May, as COVID-19 restrictions were lessening, to discuss the possibility of moving ahead with the Summer Program. It was determined among the group that COVID-safety precautions in a group-living type setting led by a volunteer would be too risky to go ahead, and the Summer Program was cancelled.

The Summer Program foodstuffs remain at the cabin, stored as effectively as possible, with the hope that they can be used for Summer Program groups when it is safe to deliver this program again. Some near expiry canned items were offered to private booking groups to reduce food wastage.

MANTARIO CABIN - Usage and Communication

After the cancellation of the Summer Program, the Mantario Cabin was opened for private, member-led trips throughout the summer. Volunteers prepared the cabin by creating protocols, stocking sanitizer products, removing sheets and pillows which are difficult to clean, and communicating with booking users about precautions such as self-screening.

Nature Manitoba sent communications in newsletters and posts online to direct any approved users to book their space through a Committee volunteer, as the reduction in staffing hours at the office was identified as a barrier in communication. The method of payment for groups continued the nightly rental fee paid via PayPal on the NM website.

Members who booked the cabin were instructed to follow Provincial health restrictions on household contacts, and trips remained within those users' contact "bubbles." The cabin was left empty for 3 days between groups to reduce surface contamination risk.

MANTARIO CABIN - Bookings

In early 2020, there were numerous winter cabin bookings from approved trip leader groups, and a listed guided trip at the end of January. Groups continued to book and access the cabin until mid-March, 2020.

In March, 2020, all trips to the cabin were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning in July until late October 2020, the cabin was booked by 10 approved cabin users who enjoyed swimming, sauna and family time in the Wilderness Zone. Length of stay varied from 3 days to 5 days.

In November, 2020, after Manitoba entered Critical restrictions, all trips to the cabin were halted until 2021.

MANTARIO CABIN – Maintenance

Small volunteer work parties, consisting of Committee members and their families, took place in June and October to maintain the cabin.

Special Note: Manitoba Conservation continues to help us by bringing dry goods, fuel and materials to the cabin by snowmobile. These goods and materials are used for the summer program and for cabin maintenance and repair. Conservation staff stayed at the cabin overnight to meet and patrol the area. We continue to have a good relationship with Manitoba Conservation staff.



Report by Amanda Shave

Despite challenges by COVID-19, the Manitoba IBA program was able to alter our programming to allow for both some online and in-person events to take place. A big thank you to our volunteers, funders and Nature Manitoba who all helped us to run a successful program in a challenging year.

Funding

- At the beginning of this year Manitoba IBA was running low on funds, however, by the end of the year Manitoba IBA was successful in finding additional funding through a combination of contract work, federal and provincial grants and donations.
- For grassland work, Manitoba IBA is in the second year of a contract with Birds Canada to administer a project discussing conservation programming initiatives with landowners in southwestern Manitoba. We also continued with year two of our grassland bird surveys funded in round two of the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Land (SARPAL) program with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and the Manitoba Beef Producers. Manitoba IBA also received a grant from the Baillie fund to conduct additional outreach with grassland landowners in southwestern Manitoba. While normally Baillie Fund grants are single year, they have kindly

allowed us to complete our grant objectives over two years due to limitations on the work possible with COVID-19.

- Manitoba IBA also received two grants this year related to shorebirds and shorebird habitat. Manitoba IBA partnered with the Province of Manitoba to build a shorebird scrape at Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management
- Area with a grant from The Conservation Trust. We also heard in late summer that we received a three-year federal grant from EcoAction Community Funding Program. This grant is focused on monitoring and awareness of shorebirds and their freshwater ecosystems. We received additional funding for shorebird work through the Baillie Fund to conduct shorebird outreach at various IBAs in Manitoba. As with our Grassland Grant from the Baillie Fund, this grant will support work in both 2020 and 2021.
- Our last grant is for a different type of programming than we have done in the past. In late summer we received the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program Grant for a period of three years. This grant supports monitoring and public outreach for the threatened Red-headed Woodpecker and Eastern Whip-poor-will. With this funding Manitoba IBA will be establishing a Conservation Champions program to reward landowners who manage habitat for both of these species through a gate sign, informational support and an optional bird survey.

Volunteers

- Over 40 volunteers contributed to the IBA program. This includes roving monitors, blitz volunteers, International Shorebird Survey (ISS) volunteers and Steering Committee members. We are so glad that our volunteers were able to safely adapt to the changing COVID-19 situation and still spend time with us this year.

- Volunteers donated almost 1000 hours of time for activities such as: monitoring bird populations and habitats at local IBAs, public outreach, social media, and signs and partnership building. Roving bird monitoring at IBAs using the IBA Protocol on eBird was particularly of importance this year, as we largely could not gather in groups for bird blitzes. Roving monitors provided key information about bird populations in our IBAs.
- Monitoring data submitted by our volunteers covered 13 of our 36 IBAs. These included: Whitewater Lake; North, East and West Shoal Lakes; Oak Lake/ Plum Lake; Southwestern Manitoba Mixed-grass Prairie; Delta Marsh; Oak Hammock Marsh; Ellice-Archie Spyhill; Kinosota-Leifur; Grant's Lake; Riverton Sandy Bar; Netley-Libau Marsh, Marshy Point and Saskatchewan River Delta.
- Tim Sopuck stepped down from our Steering Committee this year. We extend a big thank you for all of Tim's work on the IBA Steering Committee thus far! We are currently looking for a new Steering Committee member to join us. A thank you to current Committee members for a great 2020: Chair Tim Poole, and Members Paula Grief, Christian Artuso, Bonnie Chartier and Marika Olynyk.

Significant Bird Findings in IBAs

- Globally significant concentrations of Tundra Swans were seen at Saskatchewan River Delta this spring. 26,111 individuals were counted by an IBA roving monitor. This is an estimated 8.7% of the global Tundra Swan population.
- Globally significant concentrations of Franklin's Gulls were seen at Delta Marsh. 15,000 individuals were counted in September 2020, an estimated 1.5% of the global Franklin Gull population.
- Significant concentrations of threatened species including Chestnut-collared Longspurs (Ellice-Archie Spyhill IBA) and Red-headed Woodpecker

(North, East and West Shoal Lakes IBA) were seen during the breeding season.

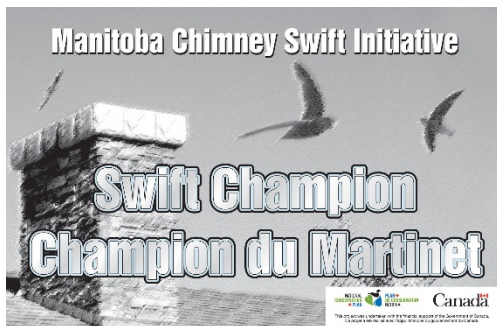
Events and Activities

- Manitoba IBA held four webinars in 2020. Three were held in spring, with topics including Identification of Shorebirds (Guest Speaker: Dr. Christian Artuso), Identification of Prairie Wetland Birds (Guest Speaker: Paula Grief) and Identification of Grassland Birds. In the fall we held an Identification of Fall Warblers webinar. All webinars had great attendance ranging from 30-70 people each. Webinar recordings are available on our Manitoba IBA Youtube channel and have been viewed a further 570 times since they were posted.
- The International Shorebird Survey (ISS) ran this spring and fall at Oak Lake/ Plums Lakes and Whitewater Lake. Not all visits were able to be made (normally 3 surveys each spring and fall) due to COVID restrictions, but we are happy that some monitoring was completed.
- The number of blitz events were reduced this year due to COVID-19. Two blitzes for Red-headed Woodpeckers were able to take place with COVID safety protocols and included 23 volunteer monitors. Blitzes were delivered at Oak Lake Plum Lakes IBA, and North, East and West Shoal Lakes IBA. While an official IBA Shorebird blitz was cancelled for Whitewater Lake (due to COVID-19 travel restrictions from eastern Manitoba) a number of local volunteers still monitored for us. Subsequent blitzes had to be called off due to COVID-19 travel restrictions as we entered into the “Red” zone.
- One weed pull event was held at Riverton Sandy Bar IBA. We had a total of nine volunteers, including two new volunteers that we were glad to see. We were able to pull a total of 20 bags of weeds – not bad! Our efforts were also published in the local paper ahead of the event.

- We ran several activities for Oak Hammock Marsh’s Migration Festival in September 2020. Tim Poole and Amanda Shave offered two shorebird walks in the morning. Manitoba IBA also ran a “Migration Station” during the festival highlighting the newly built shorebird scrape.
- Manitoba IBA together with Manitoba Conservation built Manitoba’s first Shorebird Scrape. A scrape is a shallow, seasonally water-filled depression in the earth. It provides key shoreline and shallow water habitat that shorebirds use. This is an established conservation method in Europe, but less common in North America. The Scrape is located south of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and is viewable from the waterfowl blind on Duck Pond Trail.
- We continued to work with Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and the Centre for Indigenous Environment on the *Dakota Field Guide and Storybook* in the winter and spring of 2020. While we had hoped to hold one last outdoor birding opportunity in January 2020 with Sioux Valley High School students, it was changed to an indoor presentation due to extremely cold weather. The field guide and storybook was finished in spring 2020 and you can read it at <http://www.yourcier.org/news/read-now-dakota-field-guide>.
- We had two summer assistants this year, Nathan Entz joined us with funding we received for grassland bird monitoring and Alyssa Stulberg with help from the Manitoba Green Team program.
- Amanda and Nate conducted grassland bird monitoring as part of Manitoba IBA’s involvement in the ‘Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Land (SARPAL)’ program. We monitored 20 properties (71 quarter sections) in southwestern Manitoba through point counts. Project partners have worked with beef producers to improve habitat for avian species at risk and promote responsible grazing on native prairie to help both wildlife and producers thrive. All property owners were provided a personalized report of birds

found on their land, including species at risk such as Ferruginous Hawks, Loggerhead Shrikes, Baird's Sparrows, Sprague's Pipits and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

- Manitoba IBA also continues to work on delivering a Conservation Trust project on behalf of Birds Canada to help identify blocks of land in southwestern Manitoba that may be key for conservation. We are also talking with cattle producers and other landowners to determine what types of conservation programming, and help from conservation organizations can help landowner keep native grasslands in grass. Part of this project has resulted in Lynnea Parker's report *Landowner & Cattle Producer Values Towards Grasslands and Avian Species at Risk in Southwestern Manitoba* available on our website.



Report by Amanda Shave

The Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative was lucky enough to largely be able to run as usual this year with some modifications/ cancellations due to COVID-19. Thank you to our volunteers, partners and funders who all made this challenging year a success!

Chimney Repairs and Cleanings

- MCSI was able to repair four chimneys in 2020. Two chimneys were repaired at Roxy Lanes in Winnipeg, a chimney was repaired at an apartment building in Winnipeg, and the chimney on the St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Parish was also repaired.

- A chimney repair in Brandon, and another repair at a Winnipeg grocery store were unable to be repaired within the timeframe this year. We are working with the building owners to complete these projects in spring 2021.
- Due to COVID-19 we had a chimney cleaning cancelled as the chimney sweeps need to enter the home and the homeowners were uncomfortable with that.

Monitoring

- Our season of Chimney Swift monitoring was just beginning as COVID-19 became more prevalent in Canada.
- In the spring, when Chimney Swifts are arriving at their roosting chimneys we normally take part in the National Roost Monitoring Plan (NRMP) nights. The NRMP is a federal program that sets certain evenings for monitoring over a 30-day period that tracks Chimney Swift roosting numbers across Canada. Due to COVID-19 the NRMP was cancelled in 2020, and so MCSI conducted our own roost monitoring nights.
- We began with a stay-at-home monitoring plan, with volunteers monitoring from their backyards. We included in this plan monitoring for other aerial insectivores (birds who eat insects in flight) such as swallows and nightjars.
- As we moved a bit later into the spring/ early summer it was clear that volunteers were comfortable going out to monitor chimneys and that the number of COVID-19 cases in Manitoba remained low, so our monitoring program returned to in-person chimney monitoring with COVID-19 protocols in place. We termed our monitoring nights “MCSI nights” and they ran each Wednesday from May 20th to June 24.
- Volunteers also monitored nesting chimneys starting in June, until the last of our monitored swifts left in September.

- We had Chimney Swifts nesting in an artificial tower for the first time in Manitoba this year. The tower at the Assiniboine Park Zoo successfully fledged three young. Thank you to zoo staff who helped to monitor swifts at the tower this year and provided some neat looks inside the chimney through their monitoring cameras that were retrieved once breeding was completed.
- Volunteers and staff discovered 21 new chimneys used by swifts this year.
- Over 75 volunteers spent almost 500 hours monitoring chimneys. We were able to monitor a total of 185 chimneys in 25 communities this year.
- Biggest roost: Our biggest roost this year was once again at Ecole Assiniboine School in Winnipeg with 75 swifts counted entering the chimney in one evening. Runners-up include the Malcom Block in Dauphin with 50+ swifts counted and the large chimney stack at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre with 24 swifts counted.
- Confirmed breeding: We had confirmed breeding sites in four communities in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Lockport and St Adolphe.

Outreach

- Outreach was the main part of our program impacted by COVID-19 this year due to gatherings (indoor and outdoor) being limited. Outreach opportunities were largely limited to one-on-one outreach with volunteers and building owners.
- MCSI was able to give a presentation to a daycare this summer – the children were very knowledgeable about different types of birds!
- We also gave an online presentation to Grade 3/4s at Dr. D.W. Penner school as well, where many good questions were asked about how chimney swifts, and other birds used urban habitats to survive.

- MCSI had four Chimney Swift Champions this year – individuals, businesses or organizations who work to provide outreach or protect habitat for Chimney Swifts. Our champions were Nicole Firlotte, Guent Salzmann, Roxy Lanes and Rhonda and Craig Baxter.
- A big thank you to Frank Machovec for once again managing our website and spreading the work of our program across the birding community.

Steering Committee

- After our shuffle of the Steering Committee last year, the committee has remained the same for 2020. A big thank you to Chair Christian Artuso, and Committee Members Tim Poole, Rob and Barb Stewart, Nicole Firlotte, Ron Bazin, Frank Machovec, Ken de Smet, Jack Dubois, Lewis Cocks, and Neil Butchard.

MANITOBA BLUEBIRD FUND

Report by Don Himbeault

The Manitoba Bluebird Fund (MBF) was established in 2011 by Nature Manitoba and was made possible by the donations of Elva and Guent Salzmann whose vision was to stop, and more importantly reverse, the continuing decline in the numbers of songbirds in Manitoba.

Since its inception, the fund has encouraged the planting of trees and shrubs that provide food and habitat for Manitoba songbirds, by both subsidizing the purchase of trees by private land owners, and by the purchase of trees and shrubs for other planting campaigns on public land, which in the past has included places such as Henteliff Park and the S.O.S. Rain Garden.

It was with great sadness that on 18th of November, 2020, Mr. Salzmann passed away peacefully in St. Vital just, ten days shy of his 101st birthday. However, Mr. Salzmann's vision will continue on thanks to the fund that he started for the benefit of birds in need of our help. In 2020, the MBF private landowner tree campaign continued to be popular, and has funded the planting of approximately 100 new trees. This campaign subsidized up to \$50 towards the initial purchase of specific

trees or shrubs, and as an added incentive to the owner to ensure the survival of the tree, provided a further equivalent subsidy in the third year if the tree survived.

The MBF committee meets formally to review ongoing programs and to decide future spending initiatives. A decision was made that in 2021, the program will commit to subsidizing the purchase of up to 75 eligible trees with a one-time subsidy of up to \$100 at the time of purchase. The fund will also continue support to the Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative with a grant of \$5,000 over two years where the funds will provide a base amount that can be matched with other funding requests to provide and even greater impact.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Engaging Inner-City Youth in Stewardship

Report by Taja Hanine

Field Trips

Although we had a significant increase in participating classroom and therefore a large demand for field trips, in 2020, we were unable to offer them due to COVID 19. Field trips will continue in spring 2021, if permissible with current COVID 19 restrictions.

Seed Starting

For a sixth year in a row, BTG offered in-class seed starting. We had several classes booked but were unfortunately, had to cancel all of them as they fell within the time frame of the spring lockdown. All the seeds in the greenhouse at the Program manager's house were still started and taken care of over winter and spring.

Gardening

Of course, due to lockdown, we were also unable to offer our gardening classes with schools. Instead of teaching the program to students, the Program manager got permission to go to certain schools to maintain the gardens over spring and fall. This was mostly to ensure the gardens did not degrade and to make sure all the plants that were started, were planted.

Harvesting

Harvesting was offered again in the fall of 2020. Many of our new schools, that could not participate in spring programming, participated in our harvesting. It was the year, since the beginning of harvesting with Bridging the Gap, that had to the most booked classes. The schools that participated were: Wellington, Norquay, Pinkham, Victoria Albert and Weston school.

BTG News

Bridging the Gap did a PD day presentation in February 2020 which is what got us so many new contacts for school. We were privileged to have been asked as it made a huge difference for our programming. Although things did need to be put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is looking as though programming will continue in spring 2021. Although there may need to be a few differences for our gardening, i.e. smaller classes and all outdoors which will probably mean more booked classes, we are optimistic that we will be able to accommodate all classrooms that will be participating.

Grantors

At this time, BTG extends a big thank you to grantors; The Winnipeg Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, Province of Manitoba's Heritage grant, Manitoba Hydro and The Red River co-op whose grants enabled us to offer programming throughout 2020; as well as our in-kind donations from the City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services Branch, McKenzie Seeds, Prairie Originals and the City of Winnipeg.

For more information about our program and what we offer, please visit our website at: www.btgwinnipeg.ca.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Report by Lynsay Perkins

Although Nature Manitoba programs were shut down for most of the year, 2020 was especially busy in the communications department.

Early in the year we were enthusiastically promoting workshops and marketing our 100th anniversary festivities. That quickly changed in March, when the pandemic

forced us to promptly adjust. Navigating the ever-changing restrictions, frequent communication with our many committees to adapt our programs and policies, and ensuring on-going, clear communication with our members became the new normal. We would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers who worked in tandem with us through this time. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank all those who contributed to our “virtual” centennial celebrations! We had a number of volunteers who put in many hours of research, writing and coordinating. With the help of these volunteers, we were able to put together a rich historical picture of Nature Manitoba and celebrate the incredible work the organization has done over the past 100 years.

Every month in 2020 we were able to feature a different aspect of Nature Manitoba’s history in our newsletter. We had fully researched articles, virtual photo albums, anecdotes, a contest and an interactive historical timeline to name a few.

One of the most well-received items was the collection of photo albums put out monthly on our Facebook page. We had several people sharing memories and connecting with old friends via those albums. Many members mentioned they eagerly awaited these albums each month, and they were a real bright spot during a difficult year.

One of the added benefits of the hard work that went into our centennial celebrations is that we are able to use a lot of the information and photos to update our website. For example, in 2020 we were able to add a section to our site for Nature Manitoba awards and scholarship. This information was not available on our site previously, but now is easily accessible under the “Get Involved” tab of our main menu.

You can find our 100th anniversary page at naturemanitoba.ca/100 to revisit our fantastic centennial content from 2020!

HABITAT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Report by Marilyn Latta

The focus of the Habitat Conservation Committee has been mainly on the conservation of tall grass prairie and management of the 880 acres of prairie owned by Nature Manitoba. However, it had become apparent over the past few years that some of these prairie lands were becoming increasingly grown in with woody

species and that Nature Manitoba did not have the capability to effectively manage these lands. Additionally, legislation to protect Species at Risk (threatened and endangered species) had made the formulation and implementation of management plans a complex business requiring considerable expertise and manpower. As Nature Manitoba could not provide this level of management, it was felt that the lands should be transferred to an organization that had the capacity to do so.

It was proposed by the Habitat Conservation Committee that all Nature Manitoba lands in the area of the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve be transferred to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Articles were printed in the 2020 January and February newsletters about the history of these lands and some of the management issues involved. A resolution was proposed for the AGM. Due to COVID-19, there was no formal AGM meeting but the resolution was passed by a special on-line voting procedure in June. Subsequently, a motion was passed by the board (2020-09-29) to provide an amount equal to 10% of the appraised value of the land to NCC for their trust fund to help ensure funding for management of the lands in the future. Of this \$70,000 amount, \$20,000 was provided by the Habitat Fund and the remaining \$50,000 from the principal in the Paul Guyot Endowment Fund managed by the Winnipeg Foundation. Although it was hoped that the land transfer would be completed in 2020, as part of the celebrations for Nature Manitoba's 100th anniversary, final documents were not quite completed by the end of December. The Guyot Fund was initially started in 1990 for the purpose of providing funding for taxes and management of lands owned by Nature Manitoba and for acquisition or leasing of wildlife lands. At the 2013 AGM the terms of reference were expanded to include special projects related to habitat concerns. After the removal of \$50,000 from this funds, as mentioned above, there will still be approximately \$125,000 remaining in the fund which will provide an income of approximately \$5000/year to the Habitat Conservation Committee.

Nature Manitoba will continue to be a part of the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Steering Committee and is currently represented by Marilyn Latta.

Proposed Amendments to NM's Bylaws

Whereas Manitoba Public Health regulations, brought about by Covid-19 prohibit indoor gatherings such as our traditional annual general meeting for the foreseeable future;

And whereas the Manitoba Naturalist Society (Nature Manitoba) bylaws currently make no provision for the holding of meetings and the attendance at meetings by electronic means or for the use of electronic or mail-in ballots:.

Therefore be it resolved that the current Manitoba Naturalist Society Bylaws, dated March 9, 2009 be amended as detailed in Schedule A below, such changes to take effect immediately following approval by a two-thirds majority of members.

SCHEDULE A

1. Section 3 Definitions Add a new definition “Meeting – means a gathering of members, including the Board, committee members or general members that is held electronically or in person.”
2. Section 9.2 Special General Meetings After the last sentence add a new sentence: “The matter or question that the special general meeting was called to address shall be decided by:
 - a. Voting only at the special meeting of members if held in person; or
 - b. Voting by a combination of mail and/or electronic ballots and votes at a special meeting of members; or
 - c. Voting by mail and/or electronic ballot only for special meetings held electronically only
3. Section 9.5 Voting Privileges The last sentence shall be replaced by: “Voting at a meeting of members shall be by show of hands, or, in the case of an electronic meeting, voting shall also be permitted by electronic voting.
4. Section 10.4.3 Elections After the last sentence add a new sentence: “The directors shall adopt policies and procedures for conducting a vote by electronic and/or postal means, including methods of delivery by electronic or paper means and the processes for verifying votes received by electronic or mail-in means.

NOMINATIONS

2021/2022 Proposed Slate of Officers

EXECUTIVE (1year term)

President	Sandy HayGlass
Executive Vice President	Don Himbeault
Vice President	James Whitelaw
Treasurer	Andre Laberge
Secretary	Katrina Froese
Past President	Jack Dubois

BOARD MEMBERS (3 year terms)

Term ending Mar/2024	Term ending Mar/2023	Term ending Mar/2022
Les McCann	Christian Artuso Marika Olynyk	Maria Mitousis Lesly Andrews Al Louer

DONORS 2020

Mervyn Anderson
Dianne Beaven
John Bourbannais
Heather & Laurence Brownell
Kim Burnett
Linda Cameron
Alexander Campbell
Shirley Carson
Don Chubey
Red Clark
Cynthia Cohlmeier
Gary & Fiona Crow
Leigh Cullen
Linda Curtis
Donna Danyluk
Catherine Dewar
Peter Douglas
Leonard Dueck
Alfred Dyck
Katarzyna Dyszy
Dennis Fast
Gary Franzmann
Kerry Fraser
Ralph Frith
Ron Froese
Pascal Gariepy
Ghislaine Giroux
Jeanne Gitzel
John & Pat Gray
Miriam Greene
Ron Greening
Gordon Grief
Herta Gudauskas
Glenn Halm & Carol Reeve
Arther Hanson
Ann Harwood
Tony Hawrychko

Marilyn Hearn
Don Henry
Carol Hitchon
Phyllis Hunter
Harry Ingleby
Karen Johnson
Janis Kaminsky
Rudolf Koes
Evelyn Labun
Art Lamb
Robert Lamb & Patricia Mackay
Patty Lapkin
Werner & Gail Langendorfer
Helen Leeds
Andre Leberge
William Legge
Alain Louer
Lorna Lyons
Linda MacDonald
Christie MacDonald
Alan & Macklem
Lynn Markert
David McCorquodale
Michelle Mico
Peter Miller
Gary Mills
Maria Mitousis & Barry Gorlick
Randall Mooi
Liz Morash
Doris Orchyk
Helen Orr
Doreen Penneys
Diether Peschken
Bruce Piercy
Diane Prescott
Linda Prystupa
Gerald Recksiedler

Blair Reid
Stanley Reimer
Nichole Riese
Mile & Janet Rendulic
Jeanette Robinson
Ann Rosapep
Ed & Christina Sanwell
Stephen Sawchyn
Ken Schykulski & Danielle Papin
John Schultz
Carol Scott
Kelvin Seifert
Tirzah Sharpe
Merlin Shoesmith
Brian Simmons
Roberta Sparling
Valerie Stark
Cathy Swiderek
Shelley Tallin
Betsy Thorsteinson
Dana & Cynthia Trenaman
Friederike Von Aweyden
Albert & Brigitta Voth
Marie Waldron
Marlene Waldron
Rick Walker
Shelley Walker
Patricia Wallace
Ian Ward
Barb Weshnoweski
Rachel Wilson
Chuck Wong
Lyn Wright & Kate Hemblen