

If you see anything of special interest, please let us know by calling 204-425-3229. Any information recorded may be an asset to our research.

Upcoming Events

- July 10 & 11 – Gardenton Ukrainian Festival
For more information call 425-3072.
- August 14 – Prairie Day. Find out what's happening on Canada's largest remnant of tall grass prairie.
For more information call 425-3041.

For more information about the cultural history of the Preserve area, visitors may wish to stop by the Gardenton Ukrainian Museum and St. Michael's Church.

Tall Grass Prairie Guided Walks

2:00 pm

Every Wednesday & Sunday in July & August

Meet at the Prairie Shore Trail,
2 miles east of Tolstoi on PR 209

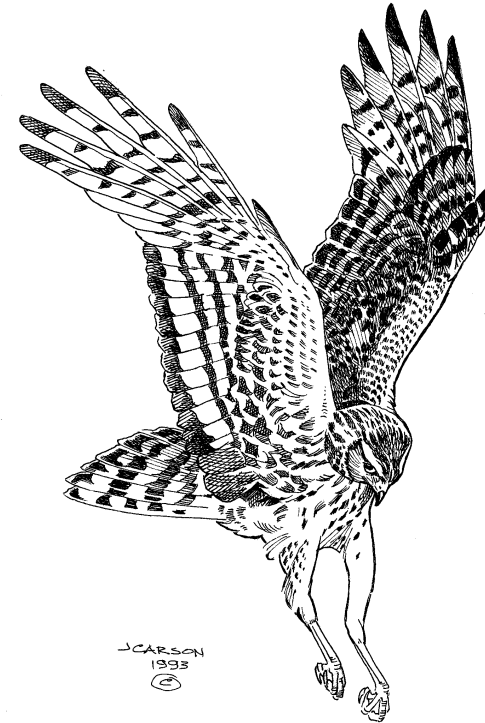
For more information call: 204-425-3229

The Preserve was established to protect and conserve the native species found there.

Please do not pick, dig or collect any of the plants or animals.

* Lady's slipper artwork copyright 1993 by the Manitoba Naturalists Society

Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve



Prairie Ponders June 1999

Critical
Wildlife Habitat Program

As the tall grass prairie comes alive with sights and sounds, the captivating smell of balsam poplar is fading. The sweet smell of the balsam, or black, poplar originates from the extremely sticky sap that oozes from the leaf buds before the leaves emerge. This sap has antiseptic and decongestant properties.

Hoary Puccoon is now in full bloom. Its bright orange-yellow flower clusters are a welcome sight across the prairie. “Puccoon” is an aboriginal word meaning dye and, in fact, both the flowers and roots were commonly used as dyes by Native people – children would often use it to colour their chewing gum! The dye from the flowers is the same colour as the blossoms while the roots produce a dark red dye.

Early this spring, a Northern Shrike was spotted along the Roseau River. These robin-sized birds capture small birds and rodents with their hooked bill and often impale them on thorns or barbed wire because they lack the sharp talons of hawks and owls.



jail for each offence.

An early spring fire raged across a large portion of the Preserve this year. Look for the endangered Small White Lady's Slippers in the burned areas. It is interesting to note that this plant began flowering in the burned areas earlier than in the unburned areas. These tiny flowers exist in only a handful of sites in Manitoba. Possession of these plants carries a penalty of up to \$5000 and/or six months in

This year, research is being done to determine which insects pollinate the Small White Lady's Slipper. A powder that is sensitive to ultraviolet radiation, or “black” light, is being sprinkled in the flowers so that any insect that crawls inside the flower will pick up the dust. Insects flying around the plants are then trapped and put under black light to reveal which ones have been inside the flowers.

As the migration period comes to an end, be on the lookout for bats. A study, using an instrument that records the high-pitched frequency of bat sonar, revealed that there are five species of bats present on the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve including the Big Brown, Little Brown, Red, Silver-haired, and Hoary bats. All of these bats become active approximately half an hour after sunset and feed exclusively on insects. The main type of insect in the diet of each species varies according to how high the bats fly and where they hunt, be it over open water, among treetops or in open air.

June Research Projects

- Small White Lady's Slipper pollinator study
- Bird banding
- Bird song surveys
- Noxious weed control and monitoring
- Plant inventories
- Moth flight period study
- Photostations

