

## **Alan R. Smith - Biography**

A native of Saskatchewan, Alan (Al) Smith is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (Bachelor of Science Advanced). Most of his 45-year career has been spent with the Canadian Wildlife Service where he has studied waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, raptors and landbirds from the High Arctic to the Tropics. Although now “retired” has continues to be involved in the managing Last Mountain Bird Observatory (LMBO), the only Saskatchewan Member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. He also coordinates the Christmas Bird and Mammal Count, Breeding Bird Survey, and Nocturnal Owl Survey for Saskatchewan. Al is the author of two books: the “Atlas of Saskatchewan Birds” and “Saskatchewan Birds”, and the coauthor of “Compact Guide to Saskatchewan Birds”. The Atlas summarizes in map form the year-round status of Saskatchewan birds; the last two books are less academic works which have done much to popularize birding as a pastime in Saskatchewan. Most recently, he has teamed up with Dr. Stuart Houston and J. Frank Roy to edit the two volume “Birds of Saskatchewan”, due for publication early in 2017. Al’s favourite birds are the grassland birds of the Northern Great Plains. He has a special interest in the Ferruginous Hawk, having documented 2000 nestings at over 400 sites in Alberta and Saskatchewan.