



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

Native grassland and its importance to grassland songbirds



Tuesday March 19th, 2019 at 2:00pm CST

Presenter: Sarah Ludlow, Conservation Science Coordinator/GIS,
Nature Conservancy of Canada | Saskatchewan Region

Register for Free: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1599569913222238210>

More Information: SK PCAP: 306.352.0472 pcap@sasktel.net or www.pcap-sk.org

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Conservation Science Coordinator/GIS
Nature Conservancy of Canada | Saskatchewan Region

Presentation Summary:

Native grassland has declined significantly over the last century, particularly in agricultural regions where it has been converted into cropland. Recent estimates suggest that less than 20% of original native grassland remains on the Canadian Prairies. Large declines in the extent and quality of native grassland habitat has contributed to the population declines of many species of grassland birds. Subsequently, a common strategy to restore habitat for grassland birds has been to seed cropland to perennial grassland, which may also be used for livestock pasture and hay. Our objectives were to determine if the abundance and reproductive success of grassland songbirds varied between planted and native grasslands or with the amount of grassland in the surrounding landscape. The presentation will explore the results of this study, which highlight the importance of preserving native grasslands for the conservation of grassland birds.

About Sarah Ludlow:

Sarah Ludlow is a Conservation Science Coordinator – GIS with the Nature Conservancy of Canada in Saskatchewan. She has a Master of Science and two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Regina. Her MSc research investigated the effects of oil and gas development on grassland songbirds. Following her graduate degree, Sarah collaborated on multiple research projects focused on conservation of grassland birds. She is a regular volunteer on larger bird conservation projects, such as the Breeding Bird Survey and the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas, and runs a MAPS banding station in the Qu'Appelle Valley.