



## *Native Prairie Speaker Series*

**Presentation:** Saskatchewan's Migratory Bats on the Move

**Speaker:** Erin Swerdfeger, Masters of Science student at the University of Regina

**Presentation summary:**

Three of Saskatchewan's bat species roost in trees and migrate long distances annually: hoary bats, eastern red bats and silver-haired bats. There is a lot we don't know about these bats. This includes where they go as they migrate south through Saskatchewan in the Fall. Bats provide many important ecosystem services, including eating lots of nocturnal insects. Unfortunately, migratory bats are facing a variety of threats, such as habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and fatalities at wind energy facilities. Hoary bat populations could decrease by up to 90% in the next 50 years if current fatality rates continue. There is a lot of research being done to reduce bat fatalities at wind energy facilities. If we can identify areas or landscape features associated with bat migration, this information can be used to inform siting decisions for future wind energy projects.

**Biography:**

Erin did her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at the University of Calgary, and worked as a research technician on a bat project during that time. She then spent a few years working in environmental consulting. In 2017, Erin came back to research through an internship in Panama at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Now Erin is working on her Masters' with Drs. Erin Baerwald and Mark Brigham at the UofR studying bat migration in southern SK.

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