

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: A needle in a haystack: The search for important and critical bat habitat in Saskatchewan

Speaker: Brandon Burda, Research Technician, University of Saskatchewan

Summary: The University of Saskatchewan has recently started up a new research project looking to record both different types of bat habitat in Saskatchewan. Bat populations across North America have been decreasing at a startling rate, with one of the prime reasons being the spread of a fungal disease known as White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS affects non-migratory bats while they are in their hibernacula over the winter and has led to three species being listed as endangered in Canada. With the detection of WNS in Manitoba and Montana it is only a matter of time before it reaches Saskatchewan making research into where bats hibernate in the province crucial. To date though there are no known long-term hibernacula recorded in Saskatchewan meaning that the search is on along with other important habitats that may better help us conserve our bats in Saskatchewan.

About the Speaker: Brandon Burda is a research technician at the University of Saskatchewan in Dr. Jeffrey Lane's lab. Previously he completed his masters at the University of Regina looking at the habitat selection and population trends of Sharp-tailed grouse in the prairies of Saskatchewan, which if you're interested in can be found in our [YouTube archives](#)! He's still not sure if he needs to change his last name to match his shift from birds to bats but he's excited to share his new research!

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