Bring out the binoculars



Over a dozen local bird watchers of all ages enjoyed the Bird Blitz on May 20 at Jiggin's bluff.

By Carrie Williams

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) hosted a Bird Blitz at Oak Lake and Plum Lakes Important Bird Area (IBA) on May 20, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Tim Poole, Coordinator of Manitoba IBA, along with Rebekah Neufeld, Conservations Operations

Program Coordinator for NCC, led an informational bird walk at Jiggin's Bluff NCC Property for bird enthusiasts.

Oak Lake and Plum Lakes IBA has been internationally recognized as one of the most important places for birds and wildlife. A large diversity of birds can be found in the area. Franklin Gulls nest in vast numbers in the marshes. Eared Grebes and Black-

crowned Night Herons are also found in significant numbers.

Fall migration birds include the tundra swan, Canada goose, and the snow goose. Peak numbers of mallards, lesser scaup, and American coots have been recorded in previous years.

Some of the highest concentrations of bluebirds and mountain bluebirds can be seen in the area. Nationally threatened loggerhead shrike (western species) can also be found at Oak Lake and Plum Lakes IBA. On the west side of the lake, nelsons sharp-tailed sparrows, le contes sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, and bairds sparrows can be spotted. Other birds, such as the burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk have been known to breed in the area says IBA website.



Young bird watcher scans the area. Photos/Carrie Williams



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