

The Avocet



*Kimiwan Birdwalk and Interpretive Centre
Town of McLennan—Bird Capital of Canada*

Kimiwan Lake Quick Facts

- 4200 ha (10,400 ac) in size
- Key site for waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds
- Globally significant Important Bird Area
- Candidate Provincial Natural Area
- Nominated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site
- Thousands of tundra and trumpeter swans converge on the lake in early October
- Typically in August, 15-20,000 ducks use the lake each day
- Up to 5000 Franklin's gulls can be observed from July until early September

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Ducks Unlimited and Kimiwan Lake Naturalists Announce Major Partnership

This summer the Kimiwan Lake Naturalists and Ducks Unlimited Canada signed a major partnership agreement in which Ducks Unlimited pledged \$20,000 over five years to help support the work of the KLN. In a ceremony on September 5, Ken Lumbis, Manager of the Peace Region of DUC presented the funds to the volunteers of the KLN. According to Lumbis, DUC is proud of the work that is being achieved by the KLN and was anxious to

help support the projects being spearheaded by a group with such a successful record. "We (DUC) have agreed to provide funds that will help with initiatives that involve direct habitat programs, stewardship and education to help ensure that the significant conservation values of the lake and area are maintained." And, according to the KLN, long term partnerships are an important step in helping the group achieve the goals of increasing pub-

lic awareness of the values of Kimiwan Lake.

Thank you to the McLennan DU Committee for their efforts to raise funds that will be used to support local conservation efforts.



Photo: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Kimiwan Lake—A Special Place!

Kimiwan Lake, located at McLennan, Alberta, Canada is an internationally recognized wetland which has tremendous wildlife values, particularly for waterfowl and

shorebirds. The importance of the lake is recognized by several designations including; Globally Significant Important Bird Area, candidate provincial Natural

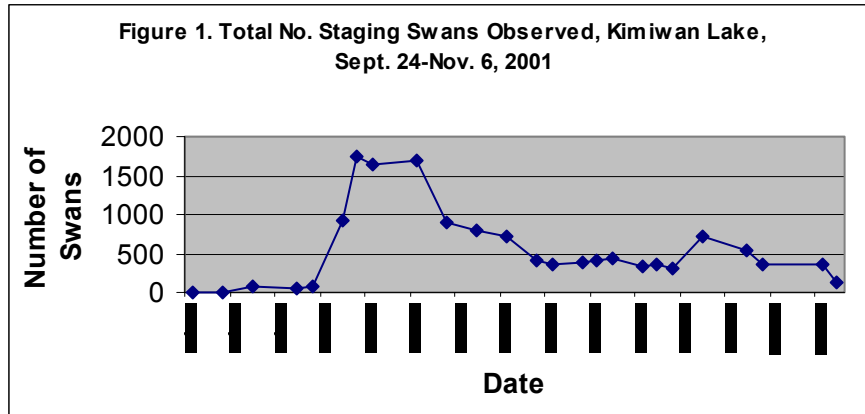
Area, Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the most northern site in Alberta nominated under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Fall Staging Swan Survey 2001

The Kimiwan Lake Naturalists conduct annual surveys of fall staging swans at Kimiwan Lake. In 2001, a total of 25 surveys were completed between Sept. 24 and Nov. 6. The minimum number of swans observed was 61 and the maximum count was 1735. The most dramatic increase in swan numbers occurred in the first week of October.

A total of 13,708 swans were observed during the surveys, averaging 548 swans/survey. A total of 24,126 swan-days were

utilized at Kimiwan Lake during the 2001 fall staging period. Thank you to Ducks Unlimited Canada for funding 50% of the costs of this survey.



Kimiwan Lake Avian Inventory 2000

This project, funded through the IBA Community Action Fund and Ducks Unlimited with support from Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, focused on the collection of songbird, waterfowl and shorebird data in May, June and August, 2000.

Songbird Counts- A total of 66 species and 2993 individuals were recorded during the songbird transect counts. In May and June an average of 229 songbirds/survey day were recorded and in August an average of 124 songbirds/survey day were recorded. Recorded songbirds increased throughout the survey days and peaked on June 1.

The songbird survey showed that the uplands surrounding the lake are important for both resident and migrating songbirds.

Waterfowl Transect Counts- Both avian species richness and average number of individuals recorded/survey day were higher on the transect along the west shoreline than on the north shoreline transect. A total of 26 species and 3319 individuals were recorded on the west transect and a total of 18 species and 1104 individuals on the north transect.

Waterfowl Point Count- Total waterfowl counts were more than seven times higher in August than in May and June, however species diversity was higher in May and June than in August. These results support the fact that Kimiwan Lake is an important migration stopover in both spring and fall and that overall abundance in staging waterfowl is highest during the fall. An estimated 15-20,000 ducks used the lake each day in August.

A highlight of the survey was observing more than 80 long-tailed (oldsquaw) ducks stage at the lake in early June.

“These results indicate that Kimiwan Lake is an important migration stopover...”

Canada Day Celebration

A special Canada Day celebration was held at the Interpretive Centre to recognize the 10 year anniversary of the Birdwalk. About fifty people attended the ceremony to sing our national anthem and

dine on a piece of delicious cake. Afterwards, children, with the help of parents, built a bird house to bring home.

Since 1993, over 30,000 visitors from all over the world have experienced the interpretive displays and shared their birding stories in the Interpretive Centre.



Photo: A. Trotter

Where do the visitors come from...

With nearly 3000 visitors annually, the staff at the Interpretive Centre meet and greet a lot of people!

Between May and August 2002 approximately 2190 people took in the displays. Visitors have come from as far away as Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Japan, the U.K., United States and many from local communities. We have also had visitors from other Canadian prov-

inces such as: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

The visitors that visit the Interpretive Centre come for different reasons: some out of curiosity, others for the love of birds and some as parts of tours.

This year our first group to come for a tour was 50 kindergarten students from Routhier Ele-

mentary School in Falher, Alberta.

As part of a promotion for Francophone tourism opportunities in Alberta, staff from CBC Radio-Canada came to interview Josée Fournier, Interpreter at the Interpretive Centre.

June was also very busy with 90 students studying wetlands and wildlife. Everybody seemed to have enjoyed their visit at the Kimiwan Birdwalk.



Birdwalk is Great for Kids!

The Kimiwan Birdwalk was a busy place this summer. Many activities were planned for kids. On June 1st, the kids were invited to the Birdwalk to build and fly kites. This

activity was part of the Town of McLennan Summer Frolic. The kids had fun assembling the kites.

The Birdwalk also held a special Summer Program consisting of crafts,

nature walks, games and experiments from the "Science in a Crate". The kids really enjoyed themselves.

"We offer great programs for children, both in the Interpretive Centre and extension programs for schools and groups."



What's New at the Interpretive Centre?

As you walk into the Kimiwan Birdwalk Interpretive Centre you will notice a **mural** that depicts Kimiwan Lake through the different seasons.

You will also see the **Migration Map** that shows the migration routes of

some unique species. The information doesn't end there.

We have **books, videos and a computer**. Check out the **CD ROMs on birding**. The computer is available for **public**

Internet use and research.

We also have an extensive **Herbarium** for those interested in plants.

And before you leave, you can even **pick up a souvenir!**

Photos: M. Heckbert



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Friends and Sponsors

*We thank the following people and organizations
for their contributions in 2002*

Bronze (up to \$100)

*Dr. Pieter DeWet
Dr. Denis Boettger
Wildbird General Store
Mark Heckbert*

Silver (\$100-\$500)

*Homestead Outfitters
Northbrock Resources
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Esther Coulman
Woodland Photo Source
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*Dr. Alexandra de Souza
Devon Canada Corp.
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society*

Platinum (\$1000-\$5000)

Buchanan Lumber

Life (+\$5000)

*Ducks Unlimited Canada
Town of McLennan*

We Need Your Help!

If you or your organization would like to support the programs that benefit Kimiwan Lake, or to advertise on the web site, please contact Mark at (780) 324-2570.

