



# Ducks Unlimited Canada: Preserving our wetlands

One of the fastest growing recreational activities in North America today is that of birding. Clubs are springing up all over, drawing increasing numbers of dedicated birds whose hallmark is an appreciation for our wonderful wildlife resources.

The Melville area is blessed with a wide and diverse number of bird species, not to mention the abundant wild animal species, which make their homes in the forests, plains, lakes and streams throughout the region.

Nature watching can be done anywhere throughout the region but there are certain areas, especially on lands owned and managed by Ducks Unlimited Canada, that are particularly rewarding because of the many species that reside there.

DU Canada, in existence for more than 70 years, has arguably become one of the world's most well-known and well-respected organizations dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and habitat.

In those 70-odd years DU has been involved with projects covering 25 million acres of habitat in Canada. Saskatchewan has in excess of 2,300 habitat projects partnering with over 6,000 land owners. About 1.6 million acres have been secured as wildlife habitat. DU has spent about \$250 million on projects in Saskatchewan.

The Yorkton Area Office is responsible for the projects in the Melville region. It manages over 200 projects and more than 45,000 acres of secured habitat.

If the great outdoors with all its wonderful flora and fauna appeal to you, there aren't many better places to find it than on DU projects in Melville and area.

What variety of wildlife can you expect to see during your visit to a DU project? More than 600 wildlife species utilize DU projects in Canada, United States and Mexico.

On your tour in the Melville area some of the species you can expect to see are mallard ducks, Canada geese, mountain bluebirds, horned larks, yellow-headed blackbirds, mourning doves and great Here are some of the Melville area DU projects you may be interested in visiting:

## SURPRISE LAKE and SURPRISE LAKE UPLANDS

Located eight miles south and 1 1/2 miles west of Melville, this project consists of a large wetland that most waterfowl

species frequent. It's been enhanced by the construction of nesting islands designed to provide secure nesting habitat for upland nesting fowl.

The upland portion of this project consists of a quarter section of land purchased by DU and planted to nesting cover for upland nesting waterfowl, and provides habitat for many waterfowl and non waterfowl species.

### KUCUIK UPLANDS

This project, located eight miles northwest of Melville along Highway 15, consists of three quarters of land leased by DU and cultivated lands seeded to a planted cover for upland nesting waterfowl. The land is very rolling and has an abundance of wetlands.

### LUTZ UPLANDS

The 60-acre parcel of land leased by DU and planted to upland cover is located 8 1/2 miles northwest of Melville along Highway 15. The project is very similar to KucuiK Uplands in terrain and wetland types.

### SCHICK UPLANDS

Located eight miles northwest of Melville along Highway 15 and three miles north along the grid road, this project is a quarter of land purchased by DU. It features a large wetland along the northern edge of the quarter with many artificial nesting structures placed in the wetland. The uplands have been planted to upland nesting cover and provides habitat for many wildlife species.

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