

# Condie Nature Refuge



Condie Nature Refuge is a 10 minute drive from Regina and has a small lake for **canoeing and kayaking**, 4 kms of **nature trails** and many **picnic areas**. A great place to **birdwatch**, **find wildlife** and **pond dip**. Wheelchair and stroller accessible in some areas.



Head out on Hwy #6 or #11 towards Lumsden. Follow the Condie Nature Refuge signs.

Condie Nature Refuge is a Ducks Unlimited conservation easement. Find out more at [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)



Boat launch for canoes and kayaks

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Change location Year-round All years

## Condie Nature Refuge Regina County Saskatchewan, CA

Overview 227 Species observed 1393 Complete checklists

### Sightings

Last seen First seen High counts

SPECIES NAME	COUNT	DATE
1. Canada Goose	6	23 May 2021
2. Blue-winged Teal	2	23 May 2021
3. Mallard	5	23 May 2021
4. Lesser Scaup	6	23 May 2021
5. Ruddy Duck	3	23 May 2021
6. Eared Grebe	2	23 May 2021
7. Western Grebe	3	23 May 2021
8. Mourning Dove	10	23 May 2021
9. Franklin's Gull	30	23 May 2021
10. Ring-billed Gull	3	23 May 2021
11. Black Tern	150	23 May 2021
12. Double-crested Cormorant	3	23 May 2021

Which types of waterfowl and birds have been spotted at Condie Nature Refuge recently?

[ebird.org/home](http://ebird.org/home)

Explore  
Explore Regions  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Click on **Hot Spots**  
Look for Regina — Condie Nature Refuge  
Select it!

Click on the Species Name and it will provide a **picture** and the **bird song**.

Young ruddy ducks **stay in the nest for one day** after hatching. At one day old they can **dive for food and defend themselves!**

eBird Canada

## Ruddy Duck

Identification

Small, compact duck with a long, thin, straight bill. Often held sticking up out of water. Breeding males have a chestnut body, black cap, white cheek, and baby blue bill. Winter males have a brown body, black cap and white cheek. Female and immature males are brown overall with a dark cap and dark line through the cheek. Often in tight groups holding the necks up, ponds and bays. Often to forage on aquatic invertebrates, but often seen flying.

Statistics Range Map

**Breeding males have a baby blue bill!** Ruddy ducks are between the size of a Robin and a Crow. They are divers and dive to eat aquatic insects.



More outdoor adventures at [natureregina.ca/get-outside-family-hikes](http://natureregina.ca/get-outside-family-hikes)

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# Nature Bingo



Can you find Boggy Creek?



What birds did you spot? Use [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) to find out more! These are tree swallows.



Can you find the boat launch? Hint: look for a spot you could safely put a canoe in the water



Did you spot waterfowl? Dabblers or diver? Dabblers stick their butts in the air as they search for food!



What wildlife did you spot? This is a 13 Lined Ground Squirrel



This is not a pine cone. It is a Willow Pinecone Gall Midge. There is a hibernating insect inside!



How do you protect nature on your hike?



Did you find a flowering plant? Visit [www.inaturalist.ca](http://www.inaturalist.ca) to find out what it is!



Diverts excess water into Boggy Creek.



Take a close look at the erosion along the lake.



Wild licorice was the inspiration for Velcro. What does it feel like?



Wheelchair and stroller accessible picnic spot.



Read about the history of the Condie Nature Refuge



Can you find evidence of a beaver? We found 2 beaver lodges!



This is rumored to be a buffalo rubbing stone. What do you think?



What did you spot while pond dipping? Use the Nature Regina identification guide.



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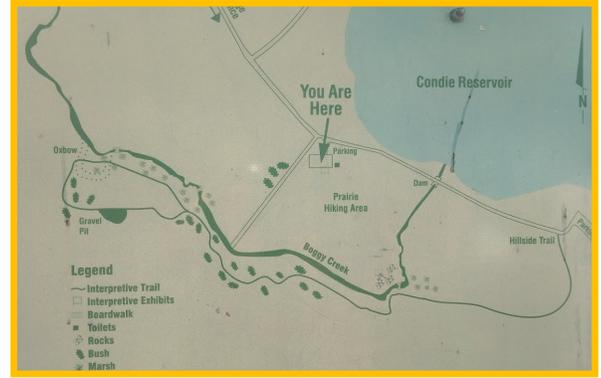
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There are 3 parking lots and trails. The **Prairie Hiking Area** includes Bogy Creek.



Head out on a socially distanced nature exploration with family and friends! A great place for **pond dipping** and hiking.



The **shrubs and brush** in this area are a **bird nursery!** Listen quietly and take a few moments to watch these areas! You might be surprised by what you see!



Look closely at the plants in this area. Many **plants have sharp thorns** including the hawthorn and wild rose bushes. Birds **use these plants as a natural defense** by nesting in these areas!



Beaver or muskrat habitat?



Who can resist **rock tag** or rock jumping?



**Bogy Creek** is great for **pond dipping**.

Watch a short "how to" pond dip guide at [www.natureregina.ca/earth-day-2021](http://www.natureregina.ca/earth-day-2021)



More outdoor adventures at [natureregina.ca/get-outside-family-hikes](http://natureregina.ca/get-outside-family-hikes)

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# Pond Dipping Guide



You'll need:  
-large bucket  
-smaller buckets  
-net  
-magnifying glass



How do I pond dip?  
[www.wikihow.com/  
Pond-Dip](http://www.wikihow.com/Pond-Dip)



When you are finished, return the aquatic insects to the spot in the water where you found them. Gently tip the basin as close to the water as possible and allow the aquatic animals to swim away. Please do not touch what you find.

Once you've finished pond dipping spend some time looking at the water and **now see what you can find!**



## Whirligig Beetle

Each eye is divided into two parts. One to see above water and one to see below at the same time!



## Dragonfly Nymph

When it changes into an adult dragonfly it climbs out of the water!



## Water Mite

Very, very small and looks like a fat spider with a bright red, round body.



## Water Flea

A healthy freshwater pond has a tonne of these! They are the lowest on the food chain so lots of creatures eat them. If there are lots then an ecosystem is doing well!



## Snail

Frogs and smaller fish eat these. If you find one and look carefully you might spot a frog or fish.



## Water Boatman

Long oar-like legs moves it through water. Eats algae and decaying plant material on the bottom of the marsh.



## Caddisfly

These are important food for fish.



## Caddisfly Larvae

They can resemble hermit crabs because they sometimes surround themselves with a hard casing.



## Water strider

They appear to stride over the water by distributing their weight evenly.



## Leech

Most pond leeches feed on decaying material and bottom sludge. These keeps the muck out of our rivers and lakes.



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The Hillside Trail hikes along the Condie Reservoir. Enjoy a picnic or a BBQ in one of the charcoal BBQ pits!



There are three hiking areas with three parking lots. The third hiking trail is unnamed. The third trail has three trails!



Yellow trail through the forest



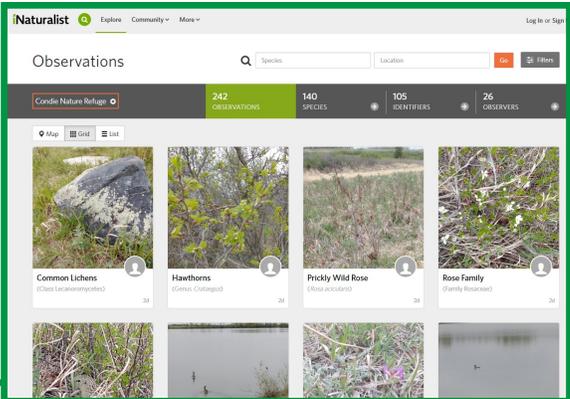
Green trail along the Condie Reservoir



Orange trail connects the yellow and green trails



To find out more about the plants, insects, wildlife including birds and fungi that you spot....check out [www.inaturalist.ca](http://www.inaturalist.ca) and search for Condie Nature Refuge



Head to [www.inaturalist.ca](http://www.inaturalist.ca), create an account, download the free iNaturalist app, **take pictures of nature and find out what you spotted!**



Golden Bean or Buffalo Bean was named by Blackfoot First Nations people because this flower bloomed as the buffalo moved to their summer grazing grounds.



**Wild Licorice** seeds were the **inspiration for Velcro**. How long will they hold on?



Milkvetch...come back in a few weeks to see the flowers bloom!



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## Pond Dipping Guide

How do I pond dip?

[www.wikihow.com/  
Pond-Dip](http://www.wikihow.com/Pond-Dip)

Crouch or lie on the edge of the water by some vegetation.



Fill a bucket with water and place it on a flat surface. Dip the net into the water slowly.

We recommend pond dipping by lying on your belly (for water safety).



Swirl the net in a figure eight motion. Move the net slowly or you will scare the aquatic animals away!



Pull the net from the water and gently dump it into the bucket.



Look at what you have found with a magnifying glass.



Rinse all of your equipment once you get home.

Use your identification guide to see what you have found.

Gently pour the contents of your container back into the water. Please remember that these are very small aquatic animals. Being dropped from tall heights can injure them. If they are not returned to the water they will not survive.



Try pond dipping in different months. You'll see different things every time!



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# Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River

