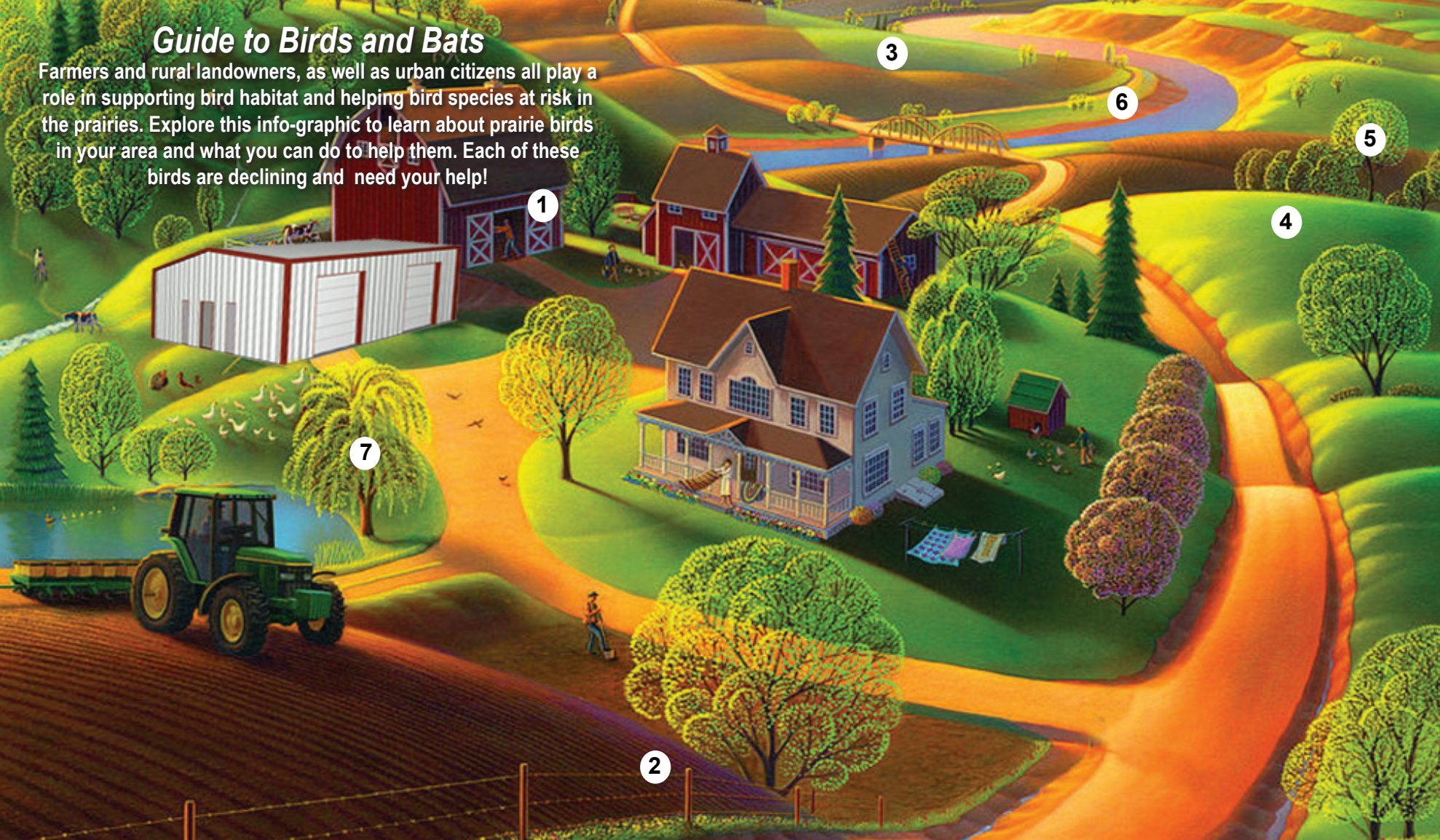# Guide to Birds and Bats

Farmers and rural landowners, as well as urban citizens all play a role in supporting bird habitat and helping bird species at risk in the prairies. Explore this info-graphic to learn about prairie birds in your area and what you can do to help them. Each of these birds are declining and need your help!

Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

1. Barn Swallows
It takes a barn swallow over a thousand trips to build their nest with mud, grass, or twigs! They work hard to build it and they will use the same nest year after year! They need to build their nest on structures like a house, garage or barn. People can encourage barn swallows to nest in a better location by providing a platform, a nest shelf or a cup. Remember to leave birds' nests alone and don't disturb them or knock them down during the nesting season.

2. Loggerhead Shrike
Loggerhead shrikes prefer to live in trees or shrubs near wild grassy areas. Shelterbelts near farms and ranches make an ideal home for them! They impale their prey (mice, bugs, snakes) on thorny bushes or trees, or barbed wire before they eat their meal.

3. Burrowing Owl
Burrowing Owls like to live in pastures or farm land. They use an abandoned badger or gopher burrow to build their nest underground where it is protected from predators. They love to eat grasshoppers, beetles and mice! A family of burrowing owls can eat over 1000 mice in a summer!

4. Sprague's Pipit
Grassland songbirds like Sprague's Pipits like to live in wide open spaces such as native prairie grasslands, pastures or rangelands. They build their nest with grasses on the ground. Cattle ranches make a great home for pipits because they prefer land that is moderately grazed.

5. Ferruginous Hawk
Ferruginous Hawks build a huge nest made of sticks! They will use a cliff side, tree or human-made structure to build their nest. In one summer, a pair of Ferruginous Hawks will eat over 500 gophers!

6. Piping Plover
Piping Plovers lay their eggs on the sandy, gravel area beside ponds, lakes, sloughs or rivers. They have four eggs that just blend into the gravel. Once the little chicks hatch, they are immediately mobile and active. The chicks learn to feed themselves within hours of hatching!

7. Little Brown Bat
Little Brown Bats like to roost under bark, or crevices in trees, cliffs or rock outcrops. They will also roost under bridges, or houses and you can give them a place to stay by putting up a bat house in your yard. Bats can consume 1,000 insects a night! They need access to rivers or ponds to be able to drink water and hunt for bugs.

What can YOU do to HELP Birds & Bats?

- Become informed! Learn more about these critters, their habitat and diet!
- If you find a bird's nest, give it a lot of space and stay a safe distance.
- Our pet cats and barn cats eat a lot of birds! Don't let cats roam free.
- Limit the use of pesticides or products that kill insects. Bugs are an important food for birds!
- Remind your parents to follow speed limits and watch out for birds on the road.
- Keep cattle away from ponds, lakes, sloughs or rivers during the spring nesting season.
- Let burrowing mammals like badgers and gophers (ground squirrels) live! Their burrows are needed! And poison will find its way to birds.
- Follow optimal habitat guidelines or best management practices to make your farm or ranch bird friendly. Check out the PCAP website for more information!

- Keep land in its native state. Converting native prairie for cities, roads, crops, or mining means less habitat is available for these species.
- Plant insect-friendly native flowers in your yard to help attract bees, butterflies and other insects that are food for these birds.
- If you find an injured bird or bat: ensure the animal is safe from people and pets, do not feed it, and immediately contact a local wildlife rehabilitator, Call Wildlife 911:(306) 242-7177
- Collisions with windows are a leading cause of bird deaths. Reduce the risk by making windows visible to birds.

For More information, visit https://www.pcap-sk.org/

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