The 32 Annual Prairie Canada Show and Competition is now just two months away. We will be returning to our new location at the Pembina Curling Club and are looking forward to another great show.

The numerous classes that were held in conjunction with the last show proved to be very popular so we are repeating that format. Details are being finalized and a full listing of the classes along with the registration form will be the subject of our next bulletin.

In the meantime we want to remind you that we are pursuing the gray jay theme for this year's show. As an added encouragement, we are offering a chance to win a beautiful stained glass piece featuring the gray jay. We are also offering two patterns (below) that might help you get started. One is a pattern that might be used as the basis for a pyrography piece or even a relief carving. The other is for a life size decorative gray jay. These patterns can be used as they are or can be used as a starting point for developing your own pattern.

Canada's National Bird?

In our first bulletin of this carving season (back in November) we announced that Prairie Canada would be promoting the gray jay as a subject for carvings at our upcoming show. We mentioned that we are following the lead of Canadian Geographic Magazine. In December 2016 they announced their choice of the gray jay as Canada's national bird. While the federal government has not yet made it official, there is an ongoing campaign for them to do so.

We are encouraging carvers to consider incorporating the gray jay theme wherever possible. Here are some possibilities: decorative songbirds – life size and miniature; natural finish birds; wild bird heads; stylized or artistic carvings; relief; intarsia; bark; carving found wood; canes and walking sticks; bone and antler; stone; pyrography; cocktail carvings

We are grateful to Prairie Canada Board member Neill Johnson for arranging this prize and to his talented son Chris for creating the prize.

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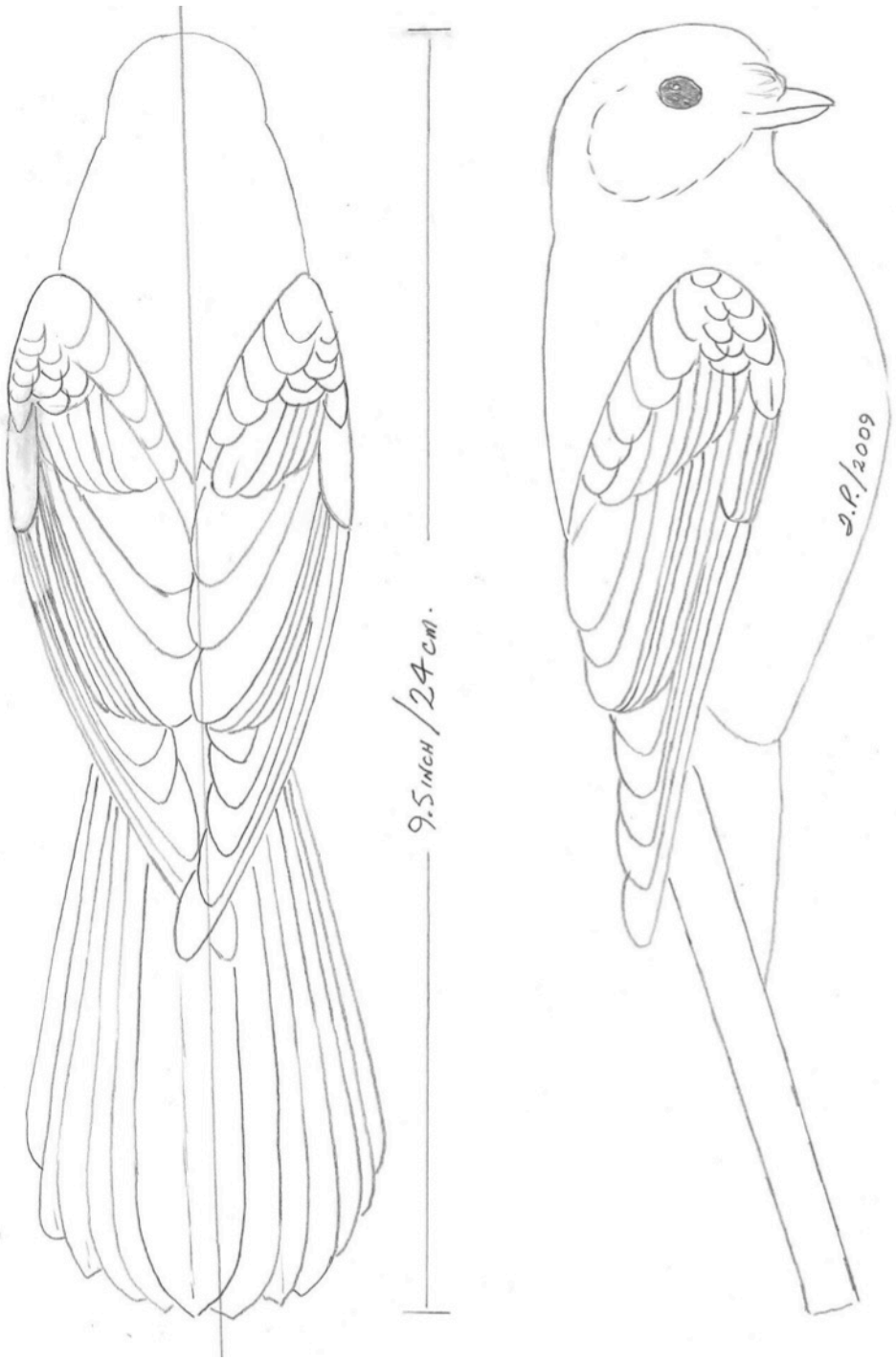
As an incentive to enter, Prairie Canada is pleased to offer a special prize. Every carving that incorporates the gray jay theme, regardless of category, will qualify the carver to enter a draw for a chance to win a special prize (one entry per carving that incorporates the gray jay theme). The winner will receive a beautiful stained glass piece created by Chris Johnson. The stained glass is still in production so we can't yet provide a picture. However it will be based on the photograph below and will be 16" long by 11 ½ inches wide.

We are grateful to Prairie Canada Board member Neill Johnson for arranging this prize and to his talented son Chris for creating the prize.



Notes: The Golden Field Guide, used as reference by Prairie Canada judges, lists the gray jay as 10” long sitting in a natural position. This is an average and can vary by up to one inch on a bird this size. Therefore, this pattern is for a bird at the small end of the range. The size can be adjusted to fit anywhere between 9 ½ and 10 ½ inches. It can also be reduced for a miniature or a cocktail carving.
Extra material has been left in the tail area.