



LRIGS Master's student Scott Wilson.

worked with Dr Anne McIntosh, an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, and Ms Bonnie Drozdowski, a Reclamation Scientist at Alberta Innovates Technology Futures, who helped to influence his interest. He was initially interested in related fields, especially ecology, and his time in LRIGS has shown him how knowledge from these areas can be applied. He suspects most people become involved in land reclamation this way. Scott appreciates the interdisciplinary and applied nature of land reclamation, and its continuing growth and evolution. His fellow program participants have contributed to his interest in the field with their varied research projects.

In his personal time, it's probably no surprise that Scott enjoys bird watching. He volunteers as a gallery guide and interpreter at the Telus World of Science. His volunteering with the Royal Alberta Museum's lichen collection, however, comes with an interesting LRIGS twist. It arose from an LRIGS experience he had in spring 2015 when he participated in a short course on lichens and land reclamation offered by LRIGS and Dr Diane Haughland from the Royal Alberta Museum. The course piqued his interest in lichens so he was

Scott Wilson is an MSc student from the Department of Biological Sciences who started in the LRIGS program in fall 2014. With his supervisor, Dr Erin Bayne, he is using arrays of microphones to triangulate positions of singing birds in an effort to understand how they use reclaimed well sites at different stages of vegetation recovery. Birds can be used as indicators to help assess the success of land reclamation, and Scott's work is anticipated to help land reclamation practitioners better assess progress toward desired end points.

Scott didn't have one defining moment when his interest in land reclamation crystallized; he became increasingly more interested in the field over time. Before starting his MSc program he





happy to find an opportunity to do further work with Dr Haughland at the museum.

During his relatively short time as a student of land reclamation, Scott has had the pleasure of working with some great people who have encouraged him along the way. Dr McIntosh and Ms Drozdowski inspired him with their wealth of knowledge of land reclamation and motivated him to do good science. His supervisor, Dr Bayne, inspires him to be rigorous in his application of science as did Dr M Anne Naeth, the LRIGS Director, who also encouraged him and other members of his

cohort to make a positive impact in the world through their practice. Scott's mentor through the LRIGS program, Mr Austin Schumacher from the Alberta Energy Regulator, has been his very own policy guru.

Scott plans on completing his MSc work within about a year after which time he wants to work for a consulting company or for the provincial government as a land reclamation scientist.