

Herschel Island—Qikiqtaruk lies just off the Yukon's Arctic Coast and its Inuvialuit name, pronounced <kee keek ta ruk>, means *It is island*. Qikiqtaruk was given its English name in 1826 by Sir John Franklin in honour of the Herschel family who were British astronomers. By 1890, the island hosted 1500 whalers who were followed by Anglican missionaries in 1893 and the Northwest Mounted Police in 1903. By 1907, the whaling era was over and the non-native population dwindled. The R.C.M.P. bred sled dogs on the island until 1964 when they permanently closed the post. Qikiqtaruk is now a Yukon territorial park where the Inuvialuit continue to hunt and fish, and visitors from around the world travel to experience its very special natural character and cultural history.

This checklist summarizes the occurrence and breeding status of 121 species of birds which have been recorded on Herschel Island. Breeding has been confirmed for 46 species. Frequency codes indicate relative abundance from spring through fall.

FREQUENCY and BREEDING CODES

- C Common:** expected in appropriate habitat.
U Uncommon: expected but not always seen.
R Rare: expected annually, but easily missed.
CA Casual: at least 2 records but not seen every year.
AC Accidental: recorded only once.

Confirmed Breeding (*): Observations of an active nest or dependent, flightless young.

DOCUMENTING BIRD SIGHTINGS

The Yukon is a place where true discovery is possible and much remains to be learned. Contribute to our knowledge of the Yukon's bird life by sending written or photo documentation of rare species, and details of breeding observations to:

Yukon Bird Club

Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7, Canada
 e-mail: yukonbirdclub@gmail.com



A pair of Black Guillemots at Pauline Cove, 23 June 2007.

Checklist of the Birds of Herschel Island—Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, April 2015. A Yukon Bird Club publication; compilation and photos by Cameron D. Eckert. Cover – an adult Semipalmated Plover surveys its breeding territory at Simpson Point on 20 June 2010.

✓ SPECIES	A	B	C	D
Greater White-fronted Goose * C				
Snow Goose * U				
Brant * U				
Canada Goose * C				
Trumpeter Swan AC				
Tundra Swan * C				
Whooper Swan AC				
Gadwall AC				
American Wigeon U				
Mallard * U				
Northern Shoveler * U				
Northern Pintail * C				
Green-winged Teal * U				
Greater Scaup U				
Lesser Scaup U				
King Eider U				
Common Eider * C				
Harlequin Duck CA				
Surf Scoter C				
White-winged Scoter C				
Black Scoter CA				
Long-tailed Duck * C				
Common Goldeneye CA				
Barrow's Goldeneye AC				
Red-breasted Merganser U				
Common Merganser CA				
Willow Ptarmigan CA				
Rock Ptarmigan * U				
Red-throated Loon * C				
Pacific Loon U				
Common Loon R				
Yellow-billed Loon R				
Horned Grebe CA				
Red-necked Grebe CA				
Bald Eagle CA				
Northern Harrier * U				
Sharp-shinned Hawk AC				
Rough-legged Hawk * C				
Golden Eagle CA				
Sandhill Crane * C				
Black-bellied Plover R				
American Golden-Plover * U				
Common Ringed Plover CA				
Semipalmated Plover * C				
Spotted Sandpiper CA				
Lesser Yellowlegs CA				
Wood Sandpiper AC				
Whimbrel * R				
Hudsonian Godwit AC				
Ruddy Turnstone * CA				
Stilt Sandpiper R				
Red-necked Stint AC				
Sanderling R				

✓ SPECIES	A	B	C	D
Dunlin CA				
Baird's Sandpiper * C				
Least Sandpiper * R				
White-rumped Sandpiper R				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper * R				
Pectoral Sandpiper * C				
Semipalmated Sandpiper * C				
Western Sandpiper CA				
Long-billed Dowitcher U				
Wilson's Snipe * R				
Red-necked Phalarope * U				
Red Phalarope R				
Pomarine Jaeger U				
Parasitic Jaeger * U				
Long-tailed Jaeger * C				
Thick-billed Murre CA				
Black Guillemot * U				
Horned Puffin CA				
Black-legged Kittiwake CA				
Sabine's Gull CA				
Bonaparte's Gull CA				
Ross's Gull AC				
Mew Gull CA				
Herring Gull R				
Thayer's Gull CA				
Glaucous-winged Gull CA				
Glaucous Gull * C				
Arctic Tern * R				
Snowy Owl * U				
Northern Hawk Owl CA				
Short-eared Owl * U				
Northern Flicker AC				
American Kestrel AC				
Merlin R				
Peregrine Falcon * C				
Gyr Falcon R				
Say's Phoebe CA				
Common Raven * U				
Horned Lark * U				
Tree Swallow CA				
Bank Swallow CA				
Cliff Swallow CA				
Barn Swallow CA				
Northern Wheatear * CA				
American Robin * R				
Varied Thrush CA				
Eastern Yellow Wagtail CA				
American Pipit * C				
Lapland Longspur * C				
Smith's Longspur * R				

