

The Whitehorse area features spectacular scenery and diverse habitats ranging from lowland marshes and fens, riparian White Spruce, and upland Lodgepole Pine and Trembling Aspen forests, to higher elevation Subalpine Fir, and alpine tundra. This is the traditional territory of five Yukon First Nations. Since the first edition of this checklist in 1995, a remarkable 47 new species have been recorded in the area. While this is largely a result of the tenacious efforts of Yukon birders, bird populations are also changing. Southern invaders such as American Crow and House Sparrow, previously rare, are now nesting here. As well, an amazing array of rarities has occurred over the years. A decade ago, no one would have expected that the likes of Snowy Plover, Tundra Bean-Goose, Dusky Thrush, Hooded Oriole, or Lesser Goldfinch would ever appear on a Yukon checklist – yet here they are. This checklist describes the seasonal status of 264 species which have been documented in the area, with confirmed breeding records for 129 species.

SEASONS

SP Spring: March 1 – May 31
SU Summer: June 1 – July 31
F Fall: August 1 – November 30
W Winter: December 1 – February 28

FREQUENCY and BREEDING CODES

C Common: expected in appropriate habitat.
U Uncommon: expected but not always seen.
R Rare: annual in low numbers or very localized.
ca Casual: at least 2 records but not 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 still possible, and much remains to be learned. For example, confirmed breeding records are still lacking for a few common species such as Dusky Flycatcher, and suspected rare breeders such as Hooded Merganser and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Contribute to our knowledge of the Yukon's birdlife by sending written or photo documentation of rare, casual, or accidental species or those not on the checklist, and details of breeding observations to:

Yukon Bird Club
Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 5P7
e-mail: yukonbirdclub@gmail.com
www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Tundra Bean-Goose			ac	
Greater White-fronted Goose	U	ca	C	
Snow Goose	U	ca	ca	
Ross's Goose	ac			
Brant	R	R	ac	
Cackling Goose	R			
Canada Goose *	C	C	C	
Trumpeter Swan *	C	U	C	R
Tundra Swan	C	ca	C	ca
Whooper Swan	ca			
Wood Duck	ac		ac	
Gadwall *	C	U	U	
Eurasian Wigeon	U	ca	ac	
American Wigeon *	C	C	C	
Mallard *	C	C	C	R
Blue-winged Teal *	C	U	R	
Cinnamon Teal	R	ca		
Northern Shoveler *	C	C	C	
Northern Pintail *	C	C	C	ac
Green-winged Teal *	C	C	C	ac
Canvasback	C	U	U	ac
Redhead	U	R	U	
Ring-necked Duck *	C	C	C	ac
Tufted Duck	ac			
Greater Scaup *	C	C	C	
Lesser Scaup *	C	C	C	ca
King Eider	ac		ac	
Harlequin Duck *	U	U	U	
Surf Scoter	C	C	C	ac
White-winged Scoter	C	U	U	
Black Scoter	ca	ca	ac	
Long-tailed Duck	C	R	U	ca
Bufflehead *	C	C	C	ca
Common Goldeneye *	C	C	C	U
Barrow's Goldeneye *	C	C	C	ca
Hooded Merganser	R	ca	ca	ac
Common Merganser *	C	C	C	U
Red-breasted Merganser *	C	C	U	ac
Ruddy Duck *	R	R	R	
Ruffed Grouse *	C	C	C	C
Spruce Grouse *	C	C	C	C
Willow Ptarmigan *	C	C	C	C
Rock Ptarmigan *	U	U	U	U
White-tailed Ptarmigan *	R	R	R	R
Dusky Grouse *	U	U	U	U
Red-throated Loon	U	R	U	
Pacific Loon *	C	C	U	ac
Common Loon *	C	U	C	ac
Yellow-billed Loon	ca	ac	R	ac
Pied-billed Grebe *	ca	ca	ac	
Horned Grebe *	C	C	C	ac
Red-necked Grebe *	C	U	C	ac
Eared Grebe	ca	ca	ca	
Western Grebe			ca	
American White Pelican		ac		

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Double-crested Cormorant *	R	R	R	
Great Blue Heron	ca	ca	ca	
Turkey Vulture	ac			
Osprey *	U	U	U	
Bald Eagle *	C	C	C	R
Northern Harrier	C	U	C	ca
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	ac
Northern Goshawk *	U	U	U	U
Swainson's Hawk	R	ca	ca	
Red-tailed Hawk *	C	C	C	ac
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	
Golden Eagle *	C	C	C	ca
American Kestrel *	U	U	U	
Merlin	U	R	U	
Gyr Falcon *	U	U	U	ac
Peregrine Falcon *	U	R	U	
Sora *	U	U	R	
American Coot *	U	U	U	
Sandhill Crane *	R	R	R	
Black-bellied Plover	R	ca	ca	
American Golden-Plover	U	R	R	
Pacific Golden-Plover	R		ca	
Snowy Plover	ac			
Semipalmated Plover *	C	U	U	
Killdeer *	U	U	U	
American Avocet	ac			
Greater Yellowlegs	U	U	U	
Lesser Yellowlegs *	C	C	C	
Solitary Sandpiper *	C	C	U	
Willet		ac		
Wandering Tattler	R	ca	ca	
Spotted Sandpiper *	C	C	C	
Upland Sandpiper *	U	U	R	
Whimbrel	U	R		
Hudsonian Godwit	U			
Bar-tailed Godwit	ca			
Marbled Godwit	ac			
Ruddy Turnstone	ca	ac	ca	
Black Turnstone			ca	
Surfbird	ac		ac	
Red Knot	ca	ca	ac	
Sanderling	ca		R	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	U	U	
Western Sandpiper	R	ca	R	
Little Stint	ac			
Least Sandpiper *	C	U	U	
White-rumped Sandpiper	R			
Baird's Sandpiper	U	ca	U	
Pectoral Sandpiper	C	ca	C	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			R	
Dunlin	R	ca	ca	
Stilt Sandpiper	ca		R	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	ca		ca	
Ruff	ac			

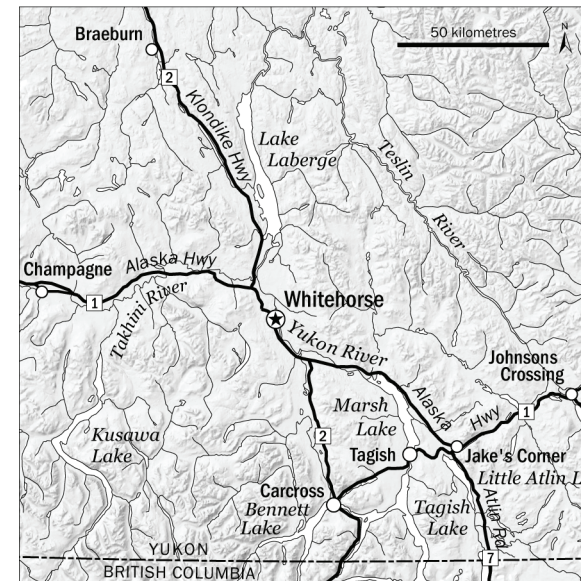
✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Short-billed Dowitcher *	U	R	R	
Long-billed Dowitcher	C	R	U	
Wilson's Snipe *	C	C	C	
Wilson's Phalarope *	R	R	R	
Red-necked Phalarope *	U	U	U	
Red Phalarope			ca	
Parasitic Jaeger	ca		ac	
Long-tailed Jaeger			ca	
Franklin's Gull	ac	ac		
Little Gull	ac			
Bonaparte's Gull *	C	U	U	
Mew Gull *	C	C	C	ac
Ring-billed Gull	R	R	ca	
California Gull	ca	ca	ca	
Herring Gull *	C	C	C	ac
Thayer's Gull	ca	ca	U	
Iceland Gull			ca	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		ac		
Slaty-backed Gull		ca	ca	
Glaucous-winged Gull	R	ca	ca	
Glaucous Gull	R	ca	U	ca
Sabine's Gull	ca	ac	ac	
Black-legged Kittiwake	ac		ac	
Ivory Gull			ac	ac
Caspian Tern	ac	ca		
Arctic Tern *	C	C	R	
Black Tern		ca		
Rock Pigeon *	R	R	R	R
Oriental Turtle-Dove		ac		
Eurasian Collared-Dove			ac	ac
Mourning Dove	ca	ca	ca	
Great Horned Owl *	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl	ac		ca	
Northern Hawk Owl *	U	R	U	U
Northern Pygmy-Owl	ac			ac
Great Gray Owl *	ca	ca	ca	ca
Short-eared Owl	U	ca	U	ca
Boreal Owl *	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl	ca			ac
Common Nighthawk *	R	U	U	
Rufous Hummingbird	ca	R	R	
Belted Kingfisher *	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *	U	U	R	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	ca		ac	
Downy Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Black-backed Woodpecker *	R	R	R	R
Northern Flicker *	C	C	C	ac
Olive-sided Flycatcher *	U	U	R	
Western Wood-Pewee *	C	C	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		R		
Alder Flycatcher *	U	C	U	

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Least Flycatcher *	U	U	R	
Hammond's Flycatcher *	C	C	U	
Dusky Flycatcher	R	U	R	
Say's Phoebe *	U	U	R	
Western Kingbird		ac		
Eastern Kingbird	ac	ca	ac	
Northern Shrike	U	R	U	R
Blue-headed Vireo		ac		
Warbling Vireo *	U	C	U	
Red-eyed Vireo		ca		
Gray Jay *	C	C	C	C
Steller's Jay	ca	ca	ca	ca
Clark's Nutcracker			ca	
Black-billed Magpie *	C	C	C	C
American Crow *	R	R	R	
Northwestern Crow	ac			
Common Raven *	C	C	C	C
Horned Lark *	U	U	U	ca
Purple Martin	ac			
Tree Swallow *	C	C	R	
Violet-green Swallow *	C	C	R	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	R	R		
Bank Swallow *	C	C	U	
Cliff Swallow *	C	C	U	
Barn Swallow *	U	U	U	
Black-capped Chickadee *	C	C	C	C
Mountain Chickadee *	U	U	U	U
Boreal Chickadee *	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	U	U	U	R
Brown Creeper		ac	ac	
Winter Wren		ca		
American Dipper *	U	U	U	U
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U	ca
Ruby-crowned Kinglet *	C	C	C	
Mountain Bluebird *	U	U	U	ac
Townsend's Solitaire *	U	U	U	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	ca	R	
Swainson's Thrush *	U	C	U	
Hermit Thrush	U	C	U	
Dusky Thrush			ac	
American Robin *	C	C	C	R
Varied Thrush	U	U	U	
Northern Mockingbird		ac	ac	ac
European Starling *	R	R	R	ca
Red-throated Pipit			ac	
American Pipit *	C	U	C	ac
Bohemian Waxwing *	U	U	U	U
Cedar Waxwing *		ca	ca	

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Tennessee Warbler *	R	U	ca	
Orange-crowned Warbler *	U	C	C	
Nashville Warbler		ac		
Yellow Warbler *	U	C	C	
Magnolia Warbler		ac		
Cape May Warbler		ac		
Yellow-rumped Warbler *	C	C	C	
Townsend's Warbler	R	R	R	
Blackpoll Warbler *	U	C	U	
Black-and-white Warbler		ac		
American Redstart *	ca	R	ca	
Northern Waterthrush *	C	C	U	
MacGillivray's Warbler	ca	ca	ca	
Common Yellowthroat *	C	C	C	
Wilson's Warbler *	C	C	C	
Western Tanager	ca	ca		
American Tree Sparrow *	C	U	C	ca
Chipping Sparrow *	U	C	U	
Clay-colored Sparrow	ac	ac	ac	
Brewer's Sparrow *	ca	U	R	
Savannah Sparrow *	C	C	C	ac
Fox Sparrow *	C	C	C	ac
Song Sparrow	ca	ca	ca	ac
Lincoln's Sparrow *	U	C	U	ca
Swamp Sparrow	ac	ac		
White-throated Sparrow		ca	ca	ca
White-crowned Sparrow *	C	C	C	ca
Golden-crowned Sparrow *	U	U	U	ac
Dark-eyed Junco *	C	C	C	R
Lapland Longspur	C	ca	U	
Smith's Longspur	ca		ca	
Snow Bunting	U		U	ca
Black-headed Grosbeak		ac		
Red-winged Blackbird *	C	C	U	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	ac	ca	ac	
Rusty Blackbird *	C	C	C	ca
Brewer's Blackbird	ca	ca	ca	ac
Common Grackle			ac	
Brown-headed Cowbird *	U	U	R	
Hooded Oriole	ac			
Brambling	ca			
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	R	R	R	ca
Pine Grosbeak *	C	C	C	C
Purple Finch *	U	C	U	
House Finch	ca	ca	ca	ca
Red Crossbill *	U	U	U	U
White-winged Crossbill *	U	U	U	U
Common Redpoll *	C	U	U	C
Hoary Redpoll	U		R	U
Pine Siskin *	U	C	C	ca
Lesser Goldfinch			ac	
American Goldfinch		ac		
Evening Grosbeak	ac		ca	ca
House Sparrow *	R	R	R	R

The Whitehorse Checklist area

This checklist encompasses Whitehorse, Tagish, Champagne, and Carcross. For birders traveling the highways, it runs from Johnsons Crossing west to Champagne on the Alaska Highway; north to Braeburn on the Klondike Highway; and south to British Columbia on the Atlin Road. Larger lakes include Laberge, Kusawa, Marsh, Little Atlin, and the Yukon portions of Tagish, Bennett, and Atlin lakes.



Notes:

Checklist of the Birds of Whitehorse, Yukon. January 2010. Compiled by Cameron D. Eckert, Helmut Grünberg, Lee Kubica, and Pamela Sinclair with data provided by the Birds of the Yukon Database. Mew Gull photo by Cameron Eckert.



YUKON BIRD CLUB

Checklist of the

BIRDS of

WHITEHORSE

YUKON



OBSERVERS: _____

DATE: _____

LOCATIONS:

Awareness ~ Appreciation ~ Conservation