

# YUKON WARBLER

*Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club*

Spring-summer 2018



© Ed Jenni

Ed Jenni photos

***This Sharp-shinned Hawk*** swoops for the birds at a backyard feeder in the Granger subdivision of Whitehorse on April 18, 2018.

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# Yukon Bird Club

Promoting awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats

The Yukon Bird Club is a registered non-profit, charitable organization.

## Membership fees

Individual	\$15.00
Family *	\$25.00
Senior/Student **	\$10.00
Institutional	\$50.00
Contributing	\$50.00
Supporting	\$100.00
Lifetime	\$200.00

\* Family memberships cover two or more people living at one address.

\*\* Also includes those for whom finances are limited.

Foreign members please pay by Canadian dollar or money order.

## For more information contact:

Yukon Bird Club  
4061-4th Avenue  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 1H1  
Canada

[yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)

YBC Website: [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca)

Yukon Birds Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/)

YBC Twitter: [yukonbirds](https://twitter.com/yukonbirds)

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## *We want your birding photos and stories!*

Thank you to all who contribute to make the *Yukon Warbler*. To make a submission, write to:

[YBCnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:YBCnewsletter@gmail.com)

Our next deadline is September 30, 2018.

Yukon Warbler Editor: Liz Hargreaves:

[YBCnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:YBCnewsletter@gmail.com)

## 2018 Board of Directors

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## Rare sightings reports

All sightings of rare or notable birds should be sent directly to the Sightings Coordinator:

[yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)

## Contributors

**Cameron Eckert**

**Julie Bauer**

**Ed Jenni**

**Ruth McCullough**

**Kayla Arey**

**Mary Whitley**

**Boris Dobrowolsky**



Cameron Eckert photo

*This Yellow-billed Loon first seen on the Yukon River in Whitehorse on 18 December, was seriously challenged by accumulation of ice on its bill when seen here on 5 January -- it was last seen 3 days later.*

# Sightings Report – Winter 2015/2016

by Cameron Eckert

Late freeze-up on large lakes in southern Yukon produced noteworthy winter records, while Christmas Bird Counts across the Region turned up unexpected wintering species. Our appreciation goes out to the many Northerners who, despite some extreme weather conditions, spent time observing and reporting on the Region's winter birds.

A juvenile **Tundra Swan**, casual in winter, was among 16 **Trumpeter Swans** at Johnson's Crossing 31 Dec (ph. CE, AS). Rare winter ducks included a **Canvasback** at Johnson's Crossing, 3 Jan (BD, CE); single **Greater** and **Lesser scaup** and a **White-winged Scoter** at

Lake Laberge 5 Dec (BD, CE); a **Long-tailed Duck** at Lake Laberge 1 Dec (BD, CE); and a single **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the Whitehorse CBC 26 Dec (JH), and at Tagish Narrows 17 Jan (CE).

Lake Laberge is one the last large lake to freeze in the Yukon and so is a good spot to check for lingering waterbirds which this year included a **Pacific Loon** 1&5 Dec (BD, CE), a **Common Loon** 1 Dec (BD, CE), and a **Red-necked Grebe** 1&5 Dec (BD, ph. CE). A **Yellow-billed Loon** seen along on the Yukon River in Whitehorse, 18 Dec to 8 Jan (ph. CE, JH; PS; LM, TM; JV) eventually succumbed to freezing.

A total of 27 **Bald Eagles** on the Dec 26 Whitehorse CBC (fide JH) reflects the

new normal for this species wintering status.

A **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, casual in winter, was seen at Haines Junction 11&21 Dec (JB, TS).

A **Golden Eagle**, casual in winter, was noted on the Whitehorse CBC 26 Dec (ph. CE).

Two long-staying **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were auspiciously noted on the Dawson CBC 20 Dec (GB, CH).

**Snowy Owls** winter in the territory but are rarely seen; one present at Mayo from Oct through late Dec was unfortunately missed on the Dec 29 CBC (fide MOD), one was at Johnson's

*Continued on page 4*



Cameron Eckert photo

*Like many vagrants, his female Pileated Woodpecker enjoyed by many in Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 21 Dec through the season (here 20 Feb.) has us wondering what route it took to get there?*

## Sightings Report – Winter 2015/2016

Crossing, Yukon 30 Dec (ph. AS), and perhaps the same bird was at nearby Morley Bay, Yukon 2 Jan (ph. CA, DH).

**Two Northern Pygmy-Owls**, casual in s. Yukon, were seen 31 Jan with one at Dezadeash Lake, and another along the Kluane Range (ph. CE).

Single **Great Gray Owls** were seen in Tagish 20 Dec (ph, CE, PS), and near the Ibx Valley 3 Feb (DB).

**Black-backed Woodpecker** can be scarce in s. Yukon; singles were at Louse Lake 23 Feb (TA), and M'Clintock Bay 28 Feb (JH).

A **Northern Flicker**, casual in winter in the Yukon, was reported on the Watson Lake CBC 26 Dec (fide JS).

A **Pileated Woodpecker**, the first for sw. Yukon, was seen around Haines Junction 21 Dec through the season (ph. JB, TS; SD; DB; ph. CE).

Leading Canada for **Common Ravens** numbers on a Christmas Count was Whitehorse with a high count of 2,795 on 26 Dec (fide JH).

**Northern Shrike** is rare but regular in winter; singles were at Dawson CBC 20 Dec (fide SJ), and Haines Junction

21&28 Dec (JB, TS; DB).

**Mountain Chickadee** numbers were down on the Carcross CBC with just 5 on 19 Dec (fide DK).

The season's high count of **American Dippers** was 9 along the Takhini River 7 Feb (CE), while 6 were recorded on the Yukon River in Whitehorse 27 Feb (JH).

A single **American Robin**, which appeared to make it through the winter along the Yukon River in Whitehorse (m.ob.), was duly noted on the 26 Dec CBC (fide JH); while another was seen



Cameron Eckert photo

**Birding off the regular tail** can turn up surprises, such as this Northern Pygmy-Owl found above treeline in the Kluane Ranges, sw. Yukon 31 January 2016.

at Kusawa Lake 7 Feb (CE).

A flock of 40 **Snow Buntings** was recorded on the Kluane Lake CBC 27 Dec (fide JB), and 31 were seen at Mendenhall 20 Feb (CE).

Rare winter sparrows included a **Lincoln's Sparrow** on the Carcross CBC 19 Dec (DK), single **White-throated Sparrows** at Haines Junction 23-31 Jan (RJ, WJ; JB, ph. CE), and a **White-**

**crowned Sparrow** at Shallow Bay through the season (MD, CG; ph. CE).

A low year for **Common Redpolls** produced a high count of 100 at Haines Junction 21 Dec (JB, TS). High counts for **Hoary Redpolls** were 20 on the Takhini-Laberge CBC 27 Dec (BD, CE), and 11 at Shallow Bay 21 Feb (CE).

**Observers:** Tracy Allard, Carolyn Allen, Julie-Ann Bauer, David Blackburn,

Greg Brunner, Sarah Davidson, Boris Dobrowolsky, Marianne Douglas, Cameron Eckert, Martin Gebauer, Chad Gubala, Jim Hawkings, Dave Hett, Cynthia Hunt, Sharon Irwin, Sebastian Jones, Rita Jux, Walter Jux, Dan Kemble, Lisa Mahon, Todd Mahon, Mark O'Donoghue, Pam Sinclair, Jenny Skelton, Terry Skjonsberg, Adam Skrutkowski, Jesse Viglioti.



# Thousands of cranes seen at Faro Sheep & Crane Festival

by *Cameron Eckert*

The annual Faro Sheep & Crane Festival held May 4-6 was a resounding success this year. Thousands of migrant Sandhill Cranes and flocks of Tundra Swans were right on cue, calling loudly in big

flocks as they headed north. Festival highlights were a bison bar-b-que with live music by the Faronian Hillbillies, morning bird walks and Fanin sheep viewing with Yukon Environment Wildlife Viewing and the Yukon Bird Club, and the keynote talk by Cameron

Eckert, Migration wonders -- the incredible journeys of Yukon birds. More than anything, the festival shone a light on the natural wonders and endearing community spirit of the town of Faro. See you next year!





Cameron Eckert photos





# Environmental birding an adventure

by Boris Dobrowolsky

Half the fun of doing the environmental birdathon is the planning of the event. Creating a route by bike, foot or boat or that includes a lot of good varied bird habitat and is physically possible by an aging birder is not an easy task.

So utilizing a sail boat when the forecast promised South winds seemed like a no brainer. I would leave from downtown Whitehorse after snagging the House Sparrow and American Crow.

Then sail down to an area on the Yukon River where I could walk into the Sewage Lagoon. A few hours there and then a sail twenty kilometers down to an access into Swan Lake would complete the first day.

Then wake up at 0500 and bike the 5 kilometers in to Swan Lake. Then much biking and walking around Swan Lake followed by a return to the boat and a sail down the Yukon River to Lake Laberge. Of course it always seems easier to accomplish on paper than in real life.

As it turned out it mostly worked. The sewage lagoon was pretty slow



and ate up a lot of time as did the sailing down the river which accounted for almost no new species and ate up a lot of time. But the sailing was fantastic at times and provided a lot of entertainment for the few passing canoeists.

The highlight was walking down Vir-eo Trail at Swan Lake. The sun had just warmed things up and the woods were alive with bird song. Warbling vireos were present as well as Purple Finches, Sapsuckers and a multitude of warblers and just for a little spice the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse.

Walking along listening to bird song

and tallying up more and more birds I was reminded of why Helmut found this place so special.

I guess the thing I hadn't planned on was my old bones and how tired and exhausted I would get. By the time I arrived at Lake Laberge I had just enough energy to snag a few missing species before losing all competitive spirit. So the day ended up meeting Pam and Cameron at Horse Creek drinking a beer and starting to plan the next birdathon effort.

Thanks to Cameron for the digis-coped sailing picture.



# YUKON BIRD CLUB

## Field Trips & Events - 2018

All are welcome!

Car-pooling from meeting points is encouraged

For info email [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)



### Summer

**Special Event!** Friday-Sunday 1-3 June: **Tombstone Weekend on the Wing!** A northern birding festival hosted by Friends of Dempster Country and Yukon Parks at Tombstone Campground (km 71, Dempster Hwy). A great chance to see northern specialties – Surfbird, Long-tailed Jaeger, Smith's Longspur, and Northern Wheatear. For more info email [friendsofdempster@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdempster@gmail.com)

Tuesday 5 June: **Explore the forest and ponds along McIntyre Creek** near Yukon College with Katie Aitken. Some steep hill climbing. Meet at student parking lot 6:30pm. (2 hrs) *#learntobird*

Thursday 7 June: **Spruce Hill bird walk to Cowley Creek** with Betty Sutton & Clive Osborne. 1pm. Please register at 335-3232. (2 hrs) *#learntobird*

Saturday 9 June: Birds of the **Millennium Trail** with Jenny Trapnell. Meet at the Whitehorse Fish Ladder 7:30am. Wheelchair accessible. (2 hrs) *#learntobird*

Tuesday 12 June: **Explore summer birds** at the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve** with Dave Mossop and friends. 9:45am. (2 hrs) \$7 entrance fee for non-YPW members. *#learntobird*

Thursday 21 June. Dawson – **Solstice birding in Dawson City** with Sebastian Jones. Meet at the SS Keno at 6pm.

**Special Event!** Friday 29 June - 1 July: **Tombstone BioBlitz!** Learn about this region's special birds and biodiversity with a host of expert biologists at Tombstone Territorial Park. This special event starts on Friday evening. For more info email [bruce.bennett@gov.yk.ca](mailto:bruce.bennett@gov.yk.ca).

### Fall

Saturday 1 September: **Fall birds on Schwatka Lake** with Tracy Allard. Meet at the SS Klondike at 10am. (2 hrs) *#learntobird*

Sunday 16 September: **Fall migration at Teslin Lake.** Visit the Teslin Lake Bird Observatory with the Yukon Bird Club. Meet at Teslin Lake Campground at 8am.

Saturday 6 October: **Loons of Lake Laberge** with Boris Dobrowolsky. Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 10am. Dress warmly (3 hrs) *#learntobird*

Wednesday 21 November: **What's on the river?** A lunch-time stroll across the Rotary Centennial foot-bridge with Cameron Eckert. Meet at the Fish Ladder at 12 pm. Dress warmly! (1 hr)

Friday 14 December to 5 January. **Yukon Christmas Bird Counts!** All are welcome – beginners, feeder-watchers, and seasoned field birders! Be part of a North American-wide bird monitoring and conservation program. To organize a count in your community email [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)

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*Come birding with the*

## Yukon Bird Club!

- ✓ **Field trips & events throughout the Yukon**
- ✓ **Informative newsletter – *Yukon Warbler***
- ✓ **Web site – [www.yukonbirds.ca](http://www.yukonbirds.ca)**

**For more information or to join contact;**

Yukon Bird Club, 4061-4th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 1H1

Email: [yukonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:yukonbirdclub@gmail.com)

*Yukon Bird Club field trips & events are free, and visitors and non-members are welcome!*



# Protection of migratory birds

By Mary Whitley

In your summer travels around the Yukon you may have seen machinery working along the road cutting brush. Recently this work has only been taking place after the end of July. This action is a welcome change from several years ago when brush clearing might be seen in May or June. For us birders that action was a real concern. Many bird species would see the brush along the highways as prime nesting habitat. And the timing, too, was critical being during the nesting season. That brush clearing was probably killing nesting birds or destroying their nests and habitat.

This has now changed. Highways and Public Works (HPW) contracts stipulate that clearing will start no earlier than the end of July. My research into contract start dates show

July 24 or July 27.

The Migratory Bird Convention Act of 1994 (Article II) states that the act is intended to provide for and protect the habitat necessary for the conservation of migratory birds. And in Article IV the signatories to the Act (the U.S. and Canada) "shall conserve habitat essential to migratory bird populations."

Here in the Yukon there is a conflict between the need to protect nesting birds and the need to control the sweet clover that is growing along the highways. The control of this invasive plant hinges on the need to mow before it sets seed in mid July. Some highway sections badly infested with sweet clover have been targeted by HPW for early mowing.

Contracts for vegetation control work within five meters of the edge of the road may occur prior to July 31 if safety is an issue. This includes keeping

signs visible and providing for safe lines of sight for passing and merging. The information I received from the acting Superintendent Maintenance and Planning (HPW) also mentioned the need for visual detection of wildlife near the road.

Contracts for vegetation control state that work beyond five meters of the roadway before July 31 must be approved by a project manager only after a Migratory Bird Assessment Plan has been prepared by a qualified biologist. There is no contract record for bird biologists for the past two years.

All this is by way of explanation of the vegetation control you may see along Yukon highways this summer. There should be very limited mowing before July 31. If you see activity that concerns you, please contact me at 668-2903 with details of date, time and place.

## Summer Neighbours

By Mary Whitley

The raven flew through the spruce trees and disappeared. What?! Where did that raven go? That piqued my curiosity. I watched the area for a few more minutes and another raven did the same. Then a raven suddenly appeared and flew back the way it had come.

To unravel this mystery, I crossed the street to the bush on the other side armed with binoculars, watching for activity. There it was! A stick nest up in a spruce tree right across the busy street. This was putting a lie to the understanding that ravens nest away from people in the remote cliffs, or in trees in secluded areas.

I continued to watch the nest from a comfy spot at the base of a spruce tree over the course of the next week or more. Eventually I was rewarded with the sight of little fuzzy heads moving

around up there. Nestlings! The eggs had already hatched. Over the course of the next weeks the nestlings grew and more of them could be seen. There were four in all. And an active bunch they were.

One weekend there was a strong wind which may have blown two nestlings out of the nest. I rescued one from the middle of the street two days later. It was being attacked by a small dog followed by his screaming owner. The adult ravens were diving on the dog. All this commotion at 6 a.m. I put on leather gloves and grabbed a big thick towel, thinking I may have a fight on my hands. But the nestling was passive.

Bringing him into the house, I put him in a big box and covered it with the towel. He didn't look too good. No movement I could see. But after about an hour he showed signs of life. Later



Scott Lough photo/Flickr

that day he went to the Wildlife Preserve where he was checked for injuries and rehydrated. He was brought back the next day and, although he couldn't fly, released near the nest tree.

The good news and the bad news: he survived (a sib-

ling was found dead under the nest tree) and he and his nestmates chose the top of a big spruce tree right outside our bedroom window to congregate and squawk to be fed. Noisy neighbours. Raven neighbours.



**This Yellow Warbler** nested in our yard two summers ago.

Mary Whitley photo

## Seagull Island

By Kayla Arey

If there is anything I have learned as a new birder, it is that there is no such thing as a seagull! But there is Seagull Island. Off the Yukon North Coast lies a tiny sandbar in the Beaufort Sea of the Arctic Ocean. This sandbar is about two kilometres long, and one kilometre wide, but it changes every year depending on the water levels and sea-storm activity. Seagull Island was one of my first introductions to birding, even if I did not know it specifically. As a teenager, and even as kid, I was birding; making observations of birds and their activities with my family, throughout our travels along the Arctic coast:

We land our motor boat on Seagull Island on a sunny day, grab the nearest stick, and immediately hold it upwards, so the end is above our heads. This is so the gulls and terns dive-bombing us will hit the stick, rather than our heads. We have our fishing rods with us to cast a few lines, and some snacks that the kids can munch on in-between their birding session. But to be honest, I'm also bunched in with the kids, taking part in the birding session. And who doesn't want animal crackers anyways.

We're wondering if we'll find any Common Eiders or King Eiders nestled among the Herring, Mew, and Glaucous Gulls, and Arctic Tern nests. We

are here on Seagull Island just when the nests all have hatchlings, and maybe an egg or two here and there that are in the process of hatching. We cautiously take every step, and make sure there's no little critter hiding underfoot. There's also drift wood everywhere, and then we have to be extra cautious, as the little birds like to hide in all the crevices they find. Tiny balls of fluff scutter about, there's movement everywhere. Baby gulls run to the water and escape, leaving rippling waves trailing behind. An Arctic Tern pecks one of our sticks, reminding us not to let our guards down. The parent shrills at us, we better run! Arctic Terns are ruthless, but run carefully!

Overhead, flocks of Snow and Canadian Geese fly by, Surf Scoters and Tundra Swans sometimes making an appearance as well. It's getting late in the evening, but the sun is still high in the sky, it never goes low these days, and won't until closer to fall. The adults call us over back to the boat. It's time to return to the mainland, where our whaling camp is. We load in the boat, and take-off. As we drive along, gulls follow along behind to try and catch the fish that jump up in the outboard motor currents. We reach our creek that flows from the hills above our camp. The boat must be driven in to avoid being damaged from the waves and driftwood on the open-ocean side

of our camp. But the creek is shallow, so they outboard has to be lifted, and we putter in towards camp. Here, the habitat turns grassy, with herbaceous vegetation scattered about. We watch Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers peck at the mud. Their little bodies float along as their legs move in flurries.

After we eat a dinner of fish caught earlier that day, we get out some marshmallows for roasting. More snacks, this is great. As we sit outside listening to the fire crackle, we hear a Willow Ptarmigan in the distance. "Come'ere come'ere come'errre" he calls. Gulls are also calling overhead. We watch them gracefully glide through the skies. Today was a successful birding day. Although I did not consider myself a birder, I remember I would eagerly flip through my grandfather's bird book, a copy of National Geographic's "Field Guide to the Birds of North America: Third Edition." I used to imagine what seeing many of these birds would be like in person. Were Great Blue Herons as big as our Sandhill Cranes? Does anything fly quite like a Whimbrel? A Pacific Loon calls in the distance, usually this means the winds will die down. The Loon is letting us know ahead of time what weather to expect tomorrow. A calm day. Perhaps another trip to Seagull Island?



Cameron Eckert photo

*A portion of a flock of 300 Snow Buntings in Haines Junction on 30 March 2018.*

# Snow buntings appear in large numbers

It has been an awesome year for our work with snow buntings. It is almost over as we only handled 14 birds today. We started capture work on March 23. The first five days of capture work was intense as we handled over 200 birds each day. During our 19 days of capture work we have banded approximately 1640 new birds and recaptured 460 banded birds.

Of real interest is the capture of previous year's birds. We have recaptured 5 birds that were banded in 2017 ( 1173 birds banded that year ) ; 1 bird that was banded in 2016 ( 239 birds banded that year ) ; and 1 bird banded in 2015 ( only 136 birds banded that year ).

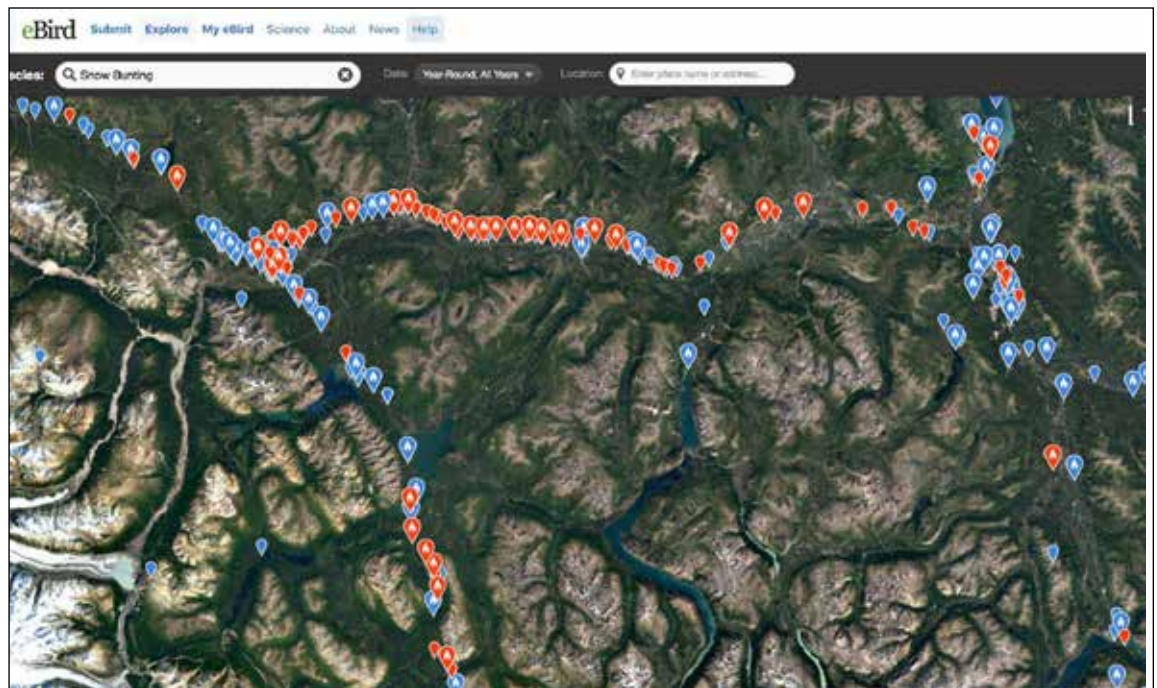


Photo courtesy eBird

**eBird map for Snow Bunting with orange points indicating recent sightings (30 March 2018).** *An impressive Snow Bunting migration this spring has painted a ribbon of orange between Whitehorse and Kluane on the eBird map. We tallied 957 on that route yesterday, along with 6 Northern Hawk Owls, and the first Short-eared Owl of the season. Julie Bauer and Terry Skjonsberg have been monitoring the Snow Bunting migration in Haines Junction this spring, and notably Terry recorded a massive flock of 960 buntings there on 22 March.*

We have had quite a few visitors to the site and it has been great to share

the experience with them. A few people have volunteered and their help was

greatly appreciated.  
– Terry and Julie Bauer

# The 2017 Raven Award winners are ...

... **Neil Paprocki and Rob Spaul** of [Hawkwatch International](#)

*The Raven is an annual award presented by the Yukon Bird Club to recognize outstanding contributions to the Yukon birding community, our knowledge of Yukon birds and their habitats, and bird conservation. The spirit of the award reflects the mission of the Yukon Bird Club – which is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats.*

The 2017 Raven Award recognizes Neil Paprocki and Rob Spaul of Hawkwatch International for their research into Golden Eagle migration along the Kluane Ranges in southwest Yukon. In fall 2017 Neil and Rob conducted migration watches for Golden Eagles at various sites in the Kluane Region, especially at the Slims River Delta and the Donjek River. The Kluane area is well known as a key migration corridor for Golden Eagles moving between their interior Alaska breeding grounds and wintering areas which extend from southern Alberta to northeast New Mexico. The goal of this year's Hawkwatch International research was to quantify the number of migrant eagles as a way of understanding and monitoring the Alaskan breeding population. The results were impressive. Neil and Rob conducted migration watches for 181 hours over 26 days and counted a total of 1,278 Golden Eagles along with 395 raptors of a variety of species. Their single highest count was 281 Golden Eagles flying past the Donjek River on 20 October.

The research results were fascinating, though it was Neil and Rob's involvement of the Yukon birding



*Cameron Eckert photo*

**Rob Spaul (left) and Neil Paprocki (right)** on the shores of Kluane Lake, 22 October 2017.

community that is especially recognized through this award. They invited Yukon birders to participate in the migration watches, and made a special effort to involve birders from the community of Haines Junction. It was an incredible experience to learn about Golden Eagle migration and raptor identification. Neil and Rob were very generous in sharing their results with Yukon birders, both through eBird and social media. The Yukon Bird Club extends our appreciation and congratulations to Neil and Rob.

## **Past Raven Award recipients**

**2009 – Malcolm Boothroyd.** In recognition of Malcolm's fossil fuel-free Big Year to raise awareness about bird conservation and climate change.

**2010 – Sylvia Frisch.** In recognition of Sylvia's work as part of International Polar Year to host a series of natural history events, including Weekend on the Wing, at Tombstone Territorial Park.

**2011 – Shyloh van Delft.** In recognition of Shyloh's outstanding representation of the Yukon birding community at the

Young Ornithologists' Workshop at Long Point Bird Observatory.

**2012 – Karen Baltgailis and Christina Macdonald.** In recognition of Karen and Christina's dedicated efforts to protect the McIntyre Creek watershed and wetlands.

**2013 – Lone Christensen.** In recognition of Lone's much appreciated series of summer bird presentations co-hosted with the MacBride Museum in Whitehorse.

**2014 – Dan Kemble.** In recognition of Dan's enthusiastic leadership of the annual Nares Mountain Dusky Grouse hike.

**2015 – Adam Skrutkowski.** In recognition of Adam's diligent monitoring of the Yukon's wintering Trumpeter Swans at Johnson's Crossing for the past 10 years.

**2016 – Devon Yacura.** In recognition of Devon's ground-breaking research investigating bird populations and contaminants at the Whitehorse Sewage Lagoons.

# Birdmania brings a fascinating history to life

## Birdmania

### A Remarkable Passion for Birds

Bernd Brunner

*Editors note: I am half way through this book and loving it. And the illustrations are fantastic! It's available at Mac's Fireweed but you may have to order as they were down to their last copy!*

*A window on the world of birders—obsessive, passionate, quirky, and always interesting.*

There is no denying that many people are crazy for birds. Packed with intriguing facts and exquisite and rare artwork, Birdmania showcases an eclectic and fascinating selection of bird devotees who would do anything for their feathered friends.

In addition to well-known enthusiasts such as Aristotle, Charles Darwin, and Helen Macdonald, Brunner introduces readers to Karl Russ, the pioneer of "bird rooms," who had difficulty renting lodgings when landlords realized who he was; George Lupton, a wealthy Yorkshire lawyer, who commissioned the theft of uniquely patterned eggs every year for twenty years from the same unfortunate female guillemot who never had a chance to raise a chick; George Archibald, who performed mating dances for an endangered whooping



### **Grey parrot.**

crane called Tex to encourage her to lay; and Mervyn Shorthouse, who posed as a wheelchair-bound invalid to steal an estimated ten thousand eggs from the Natural History Museum at Tring.

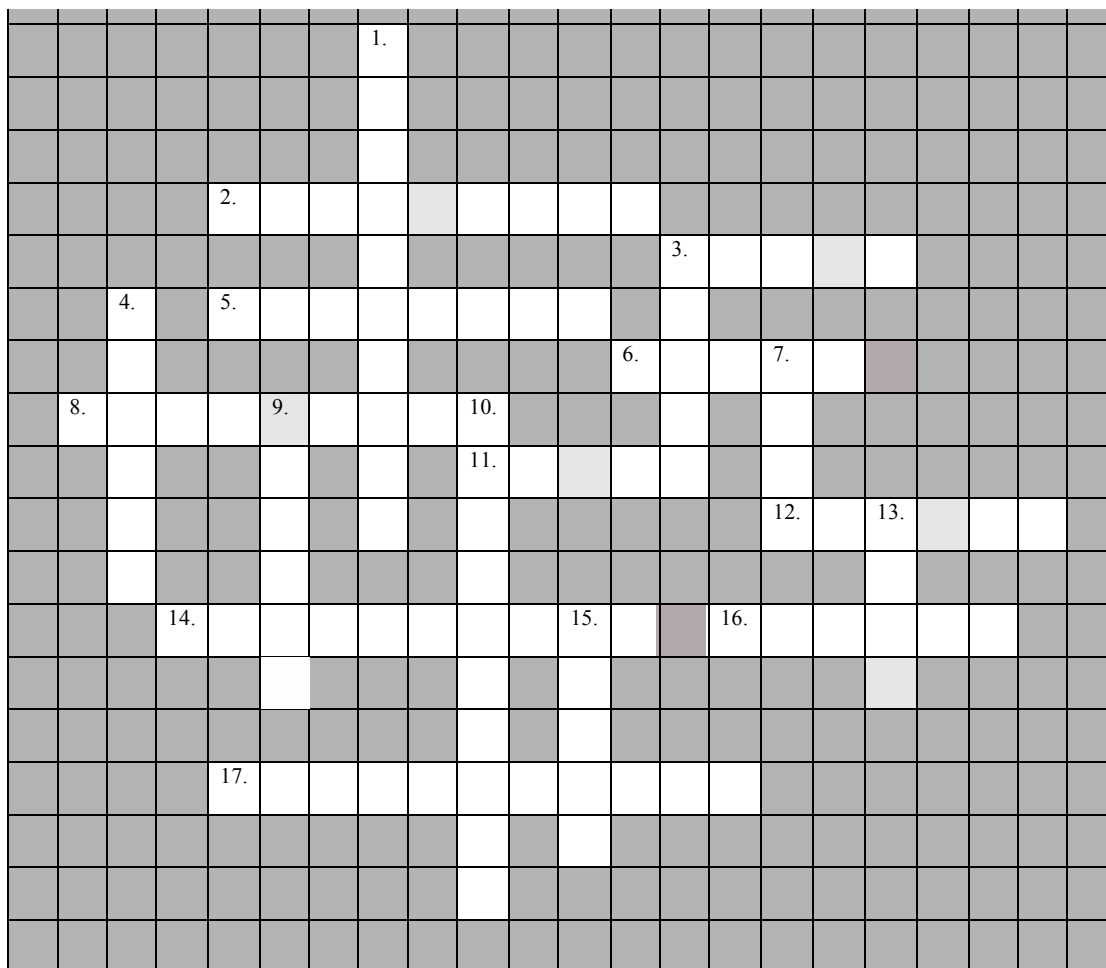
As this book illustrates,

people who love birds, whether they are amateurs or professionals, are as captivating and varied as the birds that give flight to their dreams

*Bernd Brunner's work has been published in Lapham's Quarterly, the Paris*

*Review, the Wall Street Journal Speakeasy, and the Huffington Post. He has lectured at New York's Bard Graduate Center and the Goethe Institute in San Francisco.*

# Crossword



by Ruth McCullough

**The grey squares spell the name of a family of water birds that flutter and hop over the waves, pattering with webbed feet.**

## Across

2. This swan is becoming increasingly common in American places such as Yellowstone Park as well as parts of the Canadian Rockies.  
 3. This ally of Pelicans winters on the ocean  
 5. This goose is an old world species.  
 6. This species of bird is large, plump with a long neck and short legs.  
 8. This bird is well known as part of the story of the Ancient Mariner.  
 11. These birds are mostly wading birds with long legs, neck and bills.

12. This common duck is recognized by its large white patch on the forewing.

14. This small bird has a thin upturned bill, high rounded back, and rump usually held high, fluffed.

16. This bird, a common resident in Southwest Alaska, it often nests under rocks.

17. This bird is noted for a prominent crook in its wing and a long slender tail. The male's pouch is inflated during mating.

## Down

1. This bird has a yodel like call and breeds along the shore of remote northern lakes.

3. The color of a male Mallard's head.

4. This bird can be told from gulls by its stiff flight and habit of flapping and gliding.

7. A rare visitor to northern coasts, it associates with other diving ducks in lakes and sheltered bays.

9. This bird was formerly called the whistling swan.

10. This bird differs from 4. down in having longer, narrower wings, a narrower tail and a longer thinner bill.

13. This species has webbed feet, long pointed wings, a stout hooked bill, generally a square tail and are primarily scavengers.

15. This bird is a regular summer visitor to Florida, but is rarely seen from the mainland.

