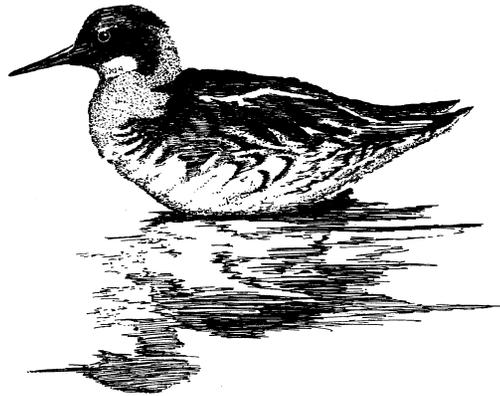


The Helmut Grünberg

2020 YUKON BIRDATHON

Supporting bird & habitat conservation



Spring marks the return of our birds of summer, and the Yukon Birdathon is a special way to celebrate! Initiated in 1986, the Birdathon is an exciting 24-hour birdwatching festival and an annual highlight of spring for many Yukon birders. Participants collect sponsors on a dollars-per-species basis in their quest to observe as many species as they can anywhere in the Yukon within the specified 24 hour period. The proceeds normally support bird and habitat conservation in the Yukon.

The Birdathon is held on the last weekend in May. This year's Birdathon begins at 5:00 pm. on Friday May 29 and finishes at 5:00 pm. on Saturday May 30. You do not have to be an experienced birdwatcher, and beginners are most welcome! Whether you spend all day prowling mountains for pipits and searching marshes for Soras, or just spend an hour or two at your favorite birding location, your participation is important!

BIRDATHON BASICS: IT'S COVID-19 AND CORVID FRIENDLY!

The goal of the Birdathon is to have fun while celebrating our diverse and beautiful bird life in support of conservation education. The rules are few: 1) Count all species that you can *confidently identify by sight or sound* in the Yukon within the 24 hour period; 2) Follow Yukon Bird Club's *code of ethics* which guide responsible birders; 3) Fully comply with current Yukon COVID-19 rules and guidelines. We encourage participants in the Birdathon to solicit sponsors, but as always sponsors are not required. This year circumstances are a bit volatile, so we also request that you let us know via **email** if you are planning to participate so we can keep you updated as we get closer to the event.

As further guidance, we encourage participants this year to stay relatively close to home. Unless you have mobility issues, we strongly encourage you to use environmentally friendly transportation, especially your own human power!

You can bird on your own or in a team of people you live with. Birding with others is socially enjoyable and fewer birds go unnoticed! Team members must bird together in order to contribute to the team's total. More than ever, participants are opting for an "Environmental Birdathon" relying solely on bikes, canoes or their own two feet for transportation.

SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The Yukon Birdathon adds to our knowledge of the Yukon's birdlife. Each year the Birdathon provides a snapshot of diversity and abundance during the peak of bird activity in the Yukon. The group total for all participants is usually about 130 species. The Birdathon provides excellent information about the occurrence of many of our common species. As well, the unusual sightings always add to the excitement. A few of the notable species sighted over the years includes Yellow-billed Loon,

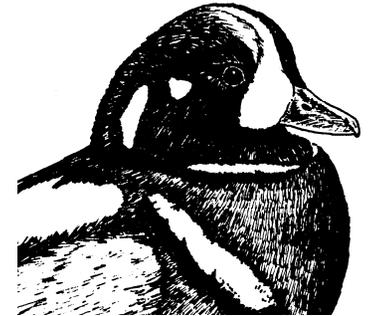


Double-crested Cormorant, Bar-tailed Godwit, Smith's Longspur, Brant, Sandhill Crane, Tennessee Warbler, Western Kingbird, Sabine's Gull, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Tanager, House Finch, and Brewer's Sparrow! What next??

FUNDRAISING IN 2020 FOR THE WHITEHORSE FOOD BANK

Normally the Birdathon serves as a fundraiser to support the Yukon Bird Club's activities. However these are not normal times. In recognition of the difficult circumstances faced by many people this year, we are asking sponsors to instead make a donation to the Whitehorse Food Bank. This can be done directly via their online fundraising page at:

<http://www.whitehorsefoodbank.ca/donations>. Donors will receive a charitable donation tax receipt automatically. To make the Birdathon more interesting to everyone, you may want to use the pledge sheet to keep track of sponsors and afterwards can contact them with the appropriate amount to donate to the food bank depending on the number of species of birds you found on your Birdathon. If you cannot participate and don't know anyone who is, consider sponsoring our FEATURE BIRDER Taylor Belansky!



PRIZES!

We will have prizes for the following:

- Most species
- Most species envirobirding
- Most species by a family/household
- Most species by a new participant
- Youngest birder
- Oldest birder
- Most species of Corvids (ravens, crows, magpies, jays, Clark's Nutcracker)

