

The Helmut Grünberg

YUKON BIRDATHON

2021 Feature Birder – Mary Whitley



Mary Whitley has been watching, listening to and learning about Yukon birds since she and her late husband, Gerry, moved to the territory in 1971. A former president of the Yukon Bird Club, she remembers field trips with Helmut Grünberg, the Birdathon's namesake, in the days before the club existed. She and Gerry have birded throughout the Yukon and in exotic locations outside the territory - notably South and Central America - and while travelling across Canada.

One of her favourite birds is the Northern Wheatear, a sparrow-sized songbird that nests in northern Yukon and is known for its astonishingly long migration route. It winters in North Africa, getting there by heading west to Siberia then southwest over Asia to Africa, covering up to 15,000 kilometres and spending about three months in transit.

You may not see a Northern Wheatear during this year's birdathon, but there are many species you can observe while staying fairly close to home. Mary, who now has limited mobility, says the key is to always have your binoculars and field guide ready (not buried in your pack) and to walk and speak softly. Even sitting quietly in your car, in a bushy area near the water, with the windows rolled down, can bring rewarding sightings of birds.

Please consider sponsoring Mary in this year's Yukon Birdathon, especially if you cannot take part yourself.

36th Annual YUKON BIRDATHON 2021

FEATURE BIRDER – Mary Whitley – Pledge Form

Your support of the Yukon Bird Club benefits bird and habitat conservation in the Yukon!

To sponsor Mary just fill out this form and mail to:

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

OR

donate securely online at <https://yukonbirds.ca/join/> via our partner CanadaHelps.

Choose Yukon Birdathon under Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10.

Thank you!!