

# YUKON WARBLER

*Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club*

Winter 2021-22



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**Photo: Steve Wilson**

*A Merlin perched on a pole marking the edge of the road on the Dempster Highway, north of the Arctic Circle in August 2021.*

*There were no trees, so these highway markers were the tallest vantage points available.*

# Yukon Bird Club



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

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Yukon Birds Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/)  
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## We want your birding photos and stories!

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# Winter Bird Feeding

By Julie Bauer

During the cold of the winter, birds at a feeder are a welcome sight. Although the number of species seen may be few you never know when an uncommon bird may occur. I have belonged to PROJECT FEEDERWATCH since 2007. Because of Covid more people spent time at home during the day and had opportunity to look out those windows at the birds utilizing their yards. This project is a great way to spend time with family observing wildlife. Website is <https://feederwatch.org>. Haines Junction and Whitehorse are the only communities in the Yukon on the participant map. Become a citizen scientist and contribute data. For a family just starting to feed birds there is information on feeder types, food types and the use of water. There is a sharing of photos and for the documentation of plumage anomaly, bill deformity, sick or injured birds. A downloadable app is available.

Finches are some of the birds seen at feeders during the winter. Look for Pine Grosbeaks, Common and Hoary Redpolls, White-winged and Red Crossbills. Occasionally there may be a pine siskin mixed in with those redpolls. There is a Finch forecast for eastern Canada, which looks at the distribution and food sources of these birds. <https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2021-2022-by-tyler-hoar>

Feederwatch data is used and an example is an ongoing study on



A sharp-shinned hawk watching birds at my feeders in Haines Junction.

Photo: Julie Bauer

Black-capped chickadees in Alaska. A high percentage of these chickadees have an overgrowth of the bill, the outer layer of keratin. This disorder is called Avian Keratin disorder (AKD). The cause of the disorder is a newly discovered virus called Poecivirus. I receive a newsletter from the Alaska Songbird Institute (ASI) and recently joined an interesting zoom meeting about AKD. The spread of disease is prevented by proper cleaning of feeders.

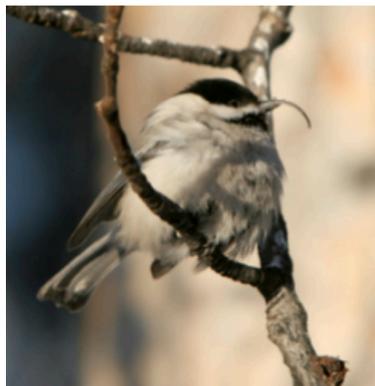


Photo from ASI website: <https://aksongbird.org/about-us/>

Please also look at the Yukon Bird Club website for bird feeding tips and feeder cleaning.

So enjoy those feeder birds and you never know what you might see. If you're lucky you might glimpse a Sharp-shinned hawk, Northern shrike, Northern goshawk, overwintering sparrows or a boreal owl hanging out at the compost pile.

My best ever bird seen on a Feederwatch count day was last winter, a Hawfinch which was the first recorded in Canada!

Happy Birdwatching.  
Julie Bauer 

# Bird Feeders: Squirrel Proof or Squirrel Resistant?

**By Lone Christensen**

When I was growing up in Fort Selkirk, if you wanted to feed the birds, you just put out a dish of rolled oats, bread crumbs or a piece of fat out in the yard. That was it, nothing fancy.

Once I was married and we had our home in Riverdale, there were friends who had bird feeders in their yards, and it was great fun to see who would visit.

We had two small boys and I felt they should get to know our birds and a feeder in the backyard would be a good beginning.

Lee Valley was THE place to get a good feeder. The selection was limited, most were just something you hung in a tree, it had a top you could open and put in seed, the sides were a mesh through which the seed fell and a large metal rim at the bottom to catch the seed and where the birds could perch and feed. The mesh was to keep the squirrels out of the feeder, but they very quickly worked out if you leaped from the fence and landed on the mesh, a shower of seeds would come out and you had all you could eat. Very much Squirrel Resistant, but not Squirrel Proof.

Fast forward fifty years and the old feeder was getting rusty, and we needed a new one. I went online and googled 'Bird Feeders' and the computer screen lit up with more

Bird feeders than you could imagine! But there was one which stood out, both in looks and price. A long, clear, plastic cylinder with a wide plastic top. At the bottom was another circle of plastic to provide protection for the birds to feed under. This was about eight inches above the bottom platform where the birds would come in to feed completely protected from rain. And no squirrel could get into it. (And they tried). It was Squirrel PROOF, but after having it up for a month and a half, it also proved to be bird proof as well. Our Yukon birds just could not figure out how to get in under the second plastic weather roof to feed.

So, it was back to Lee Valley where I purchased a sturdy blue metal feeder, with a perch on each side. These perches were adjustable, and could be set depending on the weight of the birds you had coming in. This also prevented Squirrels from getting into it. If they tried to step on the perch, it would drop down and a lid would cover all the feeding stations. Yes, Squirrel Proof. Not so fast. I have my feeder on the top of a metal fence, difficult for a Squirrel to navigate, but my little fellow drops down from the tree on to the fence and up to the feeder; left, back foot, on the fence rail; right, back foot, against the feeder; right, front foot, on the edge of the feeder and the left, front foot, ever so gently, on the perch. Then, very quickly, the head comes around

the corner of the feeder, into the feed tray, before the perch can bring the metal cover fully up. Squirrel has a mouth full of seeds, and happily munches away, then repeats the performance.

Yes, Squirrel Resistant but not Squirrel Proof.

I feel every feeder should have one, well fed Squirrel, and it will keep all other Squirrels away. It has worked for years at my feeder, and if it is a slow year for birds, you still have the Squirrel to entertain you.

This has been one of those slow years, the summer was not bad, a good number of Siskins, Crossbills and four Black-capped Chickadees. Now all I have are the four Chickadees who come by once a day. However, there is a small group of new visitors. Six Magpies and two young Ravens and an infrequent Steller's Jay. The magpies dig in the snow for seeds, but the two Ravens are trying to work out how to use the feeder.

Lone Christensen

PS. My two young Ravens have worked out how they can get seeds out of the feeder. By standing on the fence and bracing hard on the feeder they can just get their head and long beak around the corner of the feeder and grab a mouth full of seeds. Who knew Ravens liked sun flower meal!?

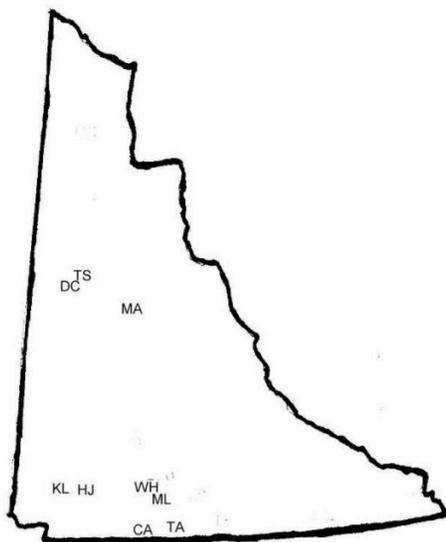


# Yukon Territory's Christmas Bird Counts 2020

By Clive Osborne

Welcome again to a brief summary of observations made on last year's Yukon Christmas Bird Count. Regular readers of the Warbler may find this article rather mundane, but some of us are interested in how the numbers change and in unusual sightings. Nine Christmas Bird Counts (up two from the previous year) were conducted by citizen scientist birders in 2020. This year we see the steady march of the urban House Sparrow as they become established in Yukon's largest city, the Bohemian Waxwing responding to a good production of exotic berries and the Bald Eagle largely absent for the winter holidays. The following tables summarize observations made on the 2020 Yukon Christmas Bird Counts as posted to the Audubon Society's website. A total of 7161 birds made up of 34 species were counted by 131 participants from the first Count on December 19 to the last Count on December 29. The location of the Counts is shown in Figure 1 and the Counts are summarized in Tables 1-3.

Figure 1. Locations of 2019 Yukon CBCs



A few counts recorded record high numbers: Whitehorse (House Sparrow – 213, Steller's Jay -12, Mountain Chickadee -7, Red-breasted Nuthatch - 5), Marsh Lake (Bald Eagle - 2, Snow Bunting -1), Tagish (Common Merganser - 47. Only one Count recorded record low numbers: Tagish (Common Goldeneye - 5, Mountain Chickadee - 4)

Table 1. Summary of Yukon Christmas Bird Counts.

Count	Date	No. of Field Observers	No. of Species Observed	No. of Birds Observed
Whitehorse (WH)	26/12	52	28	4541
Haines Junction (HJ)	19/12	22	21	888
Tombstone (TS)	19/12	13	6	65
Kluane N.P. (KL)	27/12	11	7	108
Carcross (CA)	19/12	10	20	167
Tagish (TA)	20/12	7	16	212
Marsh Lake (ML)	20/12	7	16	178
Dawson City (DC)	19/12	5	14	476
Mayo (MA)	29/12	4	11	526

Table 2. The top ten most abundant species over all counts

Species	No. of Birds	Rank
Common Raven	3049	1
Bohemian Waxwing	1098	2
Pine Grosbeak	890	3
Common Redpoll (redpoll sp.)	348 (68)	4
Black-capped Chickadee	361	5
Black-billed Magpie	224	6
House Sparrow	213	7
Boreal Chickadee	210	8
Gray Jay	112	9
White-winged Crossbill	98	10

Table 3. The top ten most widespread species as determined by the number counts on which they were observed.

Species	No. of Counts
Common Redpoll (redpoll sp.)	9
Boreal Chickadee	9
Gray Jay	9
Common Raven	8
Black-capped Chickadee	8
Pine Grosbeak	7
Hairy Woodpecker	7
Black-billed Magpie	6
Downy Woodpecker	6
Ruffed Grouse	6

Audubon flagged a few sightings as unusual: Mallard, Red-breasted Nuthatch (2,3 – Dawson City), Steller's Jay (2 – Haines Junction), Savannah Sparrow (1 – Carcross), Snow Bunting (29 – Tagish)

Some species were observed, but not counted, during count week: Whitehorse (Song Sparrow) Haines Junction (Great Gray Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Goshawk, Northern Shrike) and Kluane National Park (Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill). *f*

# Birding with Steve Wilson

We had a bear in our neighbourhood in early November, so we were late putting out our bird feeders.

I was worried that the birds would have found alternate food sources when we finally set them out in mid-November.

There was no need to worry, because in a few short days all of the regulars from previous years had returned.

In fact, we also had a very rare (for us) visit from a Hairy Woodpecker and a first-ever visit from a Red-Breasted Nuthatch!

It has been hot and heavy action ever since with the shelled peanut halves being the clear winner in the popularity contest.

They are the favourite food for the horde of Chickadees and occasional Nuthatch.

The Chickadees will also eat some black-oil Sunflower seeds and will eat suet, especially when it is extra cold.

The Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks feed exclusively on the black-oil Sunflower seeds.

The Woodpeckers love the seed cakes and almost never bother with the suet. **f**



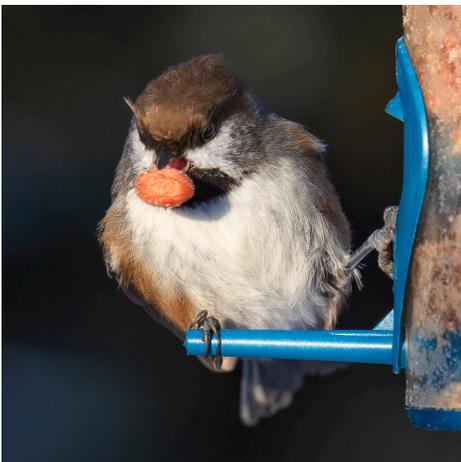
Black-capped Chickadee



Hairy Woodpecker



Downey Woodpecker



Boreal Chickadee



Red-Breasted Nuthatch

Birding with Steve Wilson cont'd)



Male Crossbill



Female Crossbill

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## Birding with Jeremy Baumbach and Yvette Lepage



We saw this very tame little Sanderling at Little Salmon Lake, at the Little Salmon Lake Campground on August 23rd. Oddly, the only other time we've been at Little Salmon Lake in August (2012) we also saw a juvenile sanderling, albeit at the other end of the lake and one day later! Happy Birding!

Photo: Yvette Lepage

# Dan Kemble - he wasn't just about the birds



Dan was a down-to-earth guy and well-suited in so many ways as a trip leader  
Photo: Cameron Eckert 26 April 2019



Dan treated participants so well, often making hot drinks half-way up the mountain while we awaited the evening emergence of Dusky Grouse (29 April 2016)  
Photo: Jim Hawkings

## **By Jim Hawkings**

We were all saddened by the tragic death of Dan Kemble on 29 July this past summer. He was a remarkable person who left us far too early. It seemed particularly weird as he had just been featured on Yukon Bird Club's audio column on the CBC Yukon Morning show the day before. That interview gave listeners an all too brief glimpse of his fascinating life and how birds played into it.

Like many Yukon birdwatchers, I knew Dan primarily from the annual Dusky Grouse field trip he led for the Yukon Bird Club every year since at least 2009 (notwithstanding the pandemic lockdown of 2020). He also reached out to the club as an outspoken advocate – in his articulate but always non-electronic way – for the Canada Jay to be designated as Canada's National Bird. I feel it's a bird that maybe shared a lot of traits with

Dan: friendly, intelligent, hardy, adaptable, bold at times.

What follows is just a taste from my very limited time with him.

When it comes to the best things in a birding field trip, I have to admit that interactions with people come out high on my list, maybe even higher than the birds we may have (or have not....) seen. The annual Dusky Grouse field trip to Nares Mountain each



In 2014 YBC awarded Dan with the Raven Award, presented just prior to the Dusky Grouse field trip on 24 April, 2015. Along with the award came a Sibley field guide to the birds and a book on Herschel Island. Left to Right Shyloh van Delft, Cameron Eckert, Dan Kemble.



Dan was always eager to share his intimate knowledge of the area and help everyone absorb whatever was on hand, whether it was grouse, sheep, or the great scenery. (28 April 2017)



Joel Luet about to discover his telephoto lens doesn't focus THAT close! (25 April 2014)



Many photographers on this trip discovered that a combination of twilight, telephoto lenses, and moving grouse are a challenging combination. I just call these blurry photos "artsy".... (28 April 2017).

**Photos: Jim Hawkings**

spring has played no small role in that view.

In all the years I have participated on Dan's trip – often with my wife Beth and some close friends - I'm not sure we ever had a huge species list to show at the end of the evening. After all, it's not focussed around water, where by far the greatest selection of species

are found at that early point in the spring. But it was perhaps the one Yukon Bird Club trip each year that was guaranteed to leave me feeling I had a really good time. I would bet that is true of all the other folks who willingly undertook the evening hike up Nares Mountain.

The reason is simple, and obvious to anyone who has been

on one of these trips: Dan Kemble. From starting at the Gazebo on Nares Lake to finishing just before dark at the trailhead on Nares Mountain, Dan took everyone under his wing and gently relieved any stress and anxiety they may have brought that day with his quiet, warm, capable, patient, and confident manner.

**Continues on page 10**



There was always ample time to socialize at Bear Camp while waiting for twilight (7 May 2021).

Photo: Jim Hawkings



Everyone will remember their evening trip(s) up Nares Mountain with Dan. The scenery alone made it worthwhile. The grouse were a bonus – but one that Dan never failed to deliver for his customers (24 April 2015).

Photo: Jim Hawkings

Dan designed these outings to give everyone lots of time to make their way up and down the mountain at their own speed. We were NEVER in a hurry – quite the opposite. How unusual is that for people these days! He built in a stop halfway up for people to relax, enjoy the magnificent views, and socialize to their heart's content. A few times he even made us hot drinks using water hauled up by one of his friends from the community.

On paper, the purpose of the trip is to see first-hand the impressive breeding display of the

male Dusky Grouse as they kick off the breeding season just above treeline. Dan always carefully explained how the trip would go and gave us some general guidelines for viewing/ photography etiquette when we reached the open rocky knolls where the grouse would appear around dusk.

We never failed to see and hear this great spectacle. Sometimes people found themselves close enough to almost touch the grouse. I'm pretty sure more than one well-equipped photographer had to back up when

a male grouse approached too close to focus on!

Some years we saw lots of birds and sometimes just one or two. It didn't really matter. I never got the sense anyone came off that mountain disappointed at the experience they had. Dan's annual field trip enriched the life of every single person who participated – bar none.

Even to those of us who only had these brief encounters with Dan, it was obvious how deep and rich a person he was. We will all miss him dearly. *f*

# The Swirling, Whirling Bohemian Waxwing Show

**By Syd Cannings**

In the darkening days of November, just after the last sparrows have left and as the last swans are leaving, the winter bird scene in Whitehorse brightens with the arrival of flocks of Bohemian Waxwings. These flocks have been gathering for over a month, pulling birds from their nesting grounds in the boreal forest and taiga throughout the Yukon and Alaska. They come to the city to feed on the abundant berries available during the snowy months: favourites include Mountain Ash, Bird Cherries, and Saskatoons.

Birdwatchers and photographers love to see the handsome birds with their smooth, grey-brown plumage, jaunty crests, and slashes of black, white, and yellow on the wings and tail. The wings have the trademark scarlet bands that resemble blobs of sealing wax. They can be surprisingly difficult to see if they are perched on conifers, but their high, sibilant trills give them away every time.

Flocks in the hundreds (the Yukon record is a flock of 1000 reported by Cameron Eckert on November 16, 2010!) swirl around Whitehorse for a month or so, but as Christmas approaches the

waxwing numbers begin to dwindle and by January, few waxwings remain. Where do they go? The bird's common name refers to its wandering lifestyle, and it seems that the answer to that question might be, "a lot of different places." There isn't a lot of detailed information on movements, but a bird banded in British Columbia turned up a year later in South Dakota and a bird banded in Saskatchewan turned up 5 years later in British Columbia. However, the species may be more of a regular, short distance migrant than these examples indicate.

In North America, Bohemian Waxwings are primarily birds of the northwest. They breed in the boreal and northern mountain forests and taiga west of Hudson Bay, and in winter most migrate south primarily to the central and southern interior of British Columbia and the southern half of the Prairie Provinces. Fewer wander across eastern Canada all the way to the Maritimes. Not many go beyond the northernmost United States, although a handful fly further south during irruption years. If you really want to see a lot of Bohemian Waxwings in the midwinter, it's best go to Edmonton, Alberta (holder of the Canadian Christmas Bird Count record of 35,298!), or to the

vineyards and orchards of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.

In the Yukon, Bohemian Waxwing numbers continue to decline through the winter as the birds deplete the berry supplies, but the migrants begin to return in April and early May. Unlike the big flocks of early winter, the spring groups are small as the returnees disperse to their breeding haunts.

In the summer, Bohemian Waxwings supplement their fruit diet with insects. They nest in conifers and hang out near ponds and rivers, where they spend warm afternoons and evenings sallying out from treetop perches like big flycatchers to nab the abundant caddisflies and mayflies emerging from the rich waters.

Keep an eye out for these lovely birds while you walk your dog, get your groceries, or do your Christmas shopping... enjoy the swirling, whirling waxwing show while it lasts! 



Photo: Derek Panter

**For a quick online primer on Bohemian Waxwings, have a look at [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bohemian Waxwing](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bohemian_Waxwing) or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian\\_waxwing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_waxwing).**

# Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon 2021



Swallows were in short supply on this year's Birdathon. Kim Selbee found this female Tree Swallow checking out a possible nesting spot in Mayo.

Photo: Kim Selbee

## By Jim Hawkings

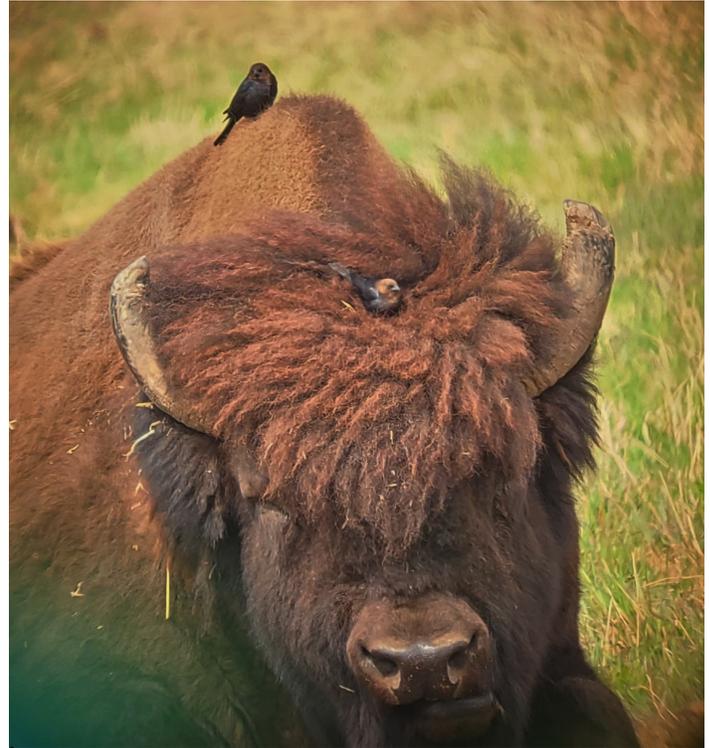
Well, another Birdathon is history. The 2021 event on 28/29 May was memorable for all 23 participants who scoured the countryside from Watson Lake to Teslin, Whitehorse, Haines Junction, the Haines Road, and even Mayo.

It was a memorable event for the birding – as always – but also for the second year in a row of an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and “challenging” weather. Most of south-central Yukon was windy and cool on both days.

I know my own enviro-birdathon by bike was gruelling enough that I spent most of Sunday just trying to recover. I recall biking happily along the backroads Friday evening into Whitehorse from my home in Pineridge wearing shorts and a long-sleeved

wool shirt – it felt like appropriate dress and the wind was at my back. But as the evening wore on and I slowly poked my way along the waterfront from Schwatka Lake through downtown, the temperature was dropping and the wind strengthened. By the time I got to the end of Shipyards Park I was deliriously dreaming of a very large hot coffee in the warmth of one of the nearby fast-food joints. In fact I was flirting with hypothermia, so I stopped in the lee of River's Reach and put on every stitch of warm clothing I had. In a rare case of good planning I had actually stowed extra clothes in my backpack!

Around 10 pm I was heading back south along Robert Service Way and ran in to Malkolm



Boris Dobrowolsky managed to find these Brown-headed Cowbirds hiding at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. Did they get their name because they like to sit on brown heads like this one?

Photo: Boris Dobrowolsky

Boothroyd coming the opposite way on his bike. He was suitably bundled up but looking a bit thrashed, having already been to the Whitehorse Sewage Lagoons and back....and who knows where else. We briefly compared notes. Apparently, he had been planning to camp out somewhere on the Fish Lake Road, but decided (wisely I thought...) that might be more of a character-builder than he really needed. I fought my way back home, choosing to climb all the extra hills on the Miles Canyon Road rather than face the unrelenting wind on the Alaska Highway.

As any birder knows, cold, windy weather makes life interesting, but is generally not great for birding. The birds are less active in bad weather – most of them are busy just trying to survive! For example the swallows that are normally cavorting happily overhead are crowded in a few places where there are some insects available, often just above the surface of sheltered productive wetlands. Most participants this year saw very few swallows unless they happened on one of these hotspots.

So much of spring birding is done by sound, but in bad weather there is less singing, and it's much harder to hear in the wind. As far as seeing anything in the trees and bushes, add shaking binoculars and a million moving leaves and branches.

But there's good news! In spite of the pretty awful weather, 23 people were out doing their best, and by 5 pm Saturday they had seen 147 species of birds - a pretty good chunk of the 177 that were reported in Yukon on eBird to that point in 2021. This is better than the 139 last year and just short of 151 counted in 2019 – which was one of the earliest springs we have ever had.

A few highlights: lingering Snow Geese, Brant, and a gorgeous Cinnamon Teal at Swan Haven; a full breeding plumage Pacific Golden Plover at Judas Creek; an Eared Grebe at the Whitehorse Sewage Lagoon; a Western Sandpiper and Sandhill Crane at Quartz Road in Whitehorse. The crane had become a bit of a social media star

during its stay at this location. I often wondered how it was finding enough to eat; did it have some problem that prevented it from moving on?

A lone Steller's Jay was found at the last minute by Betty Sutton in Spruce Hill. Who would have thought they would be so hard to find now after the hordes that invaded last fall - enriching everyone's life – and survived all through the fall and winter?

Several groups were birding well east of Whitehorse where a bunch of less-common Yukon bird species are at the northwestern edge of their range. These keeners managed to find Blue-headed Vireo, Ovenbird, Black and White Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Western Tanager.

No surprise to anyone, perennial champ Jukka Jantunen topped the list for number of species sighted with 111, but nipping at his heels were Adam Perrier with 102 and Julie Ann Bauer with 92. Safe to say they all were exhausted and sleep-deprived by Saturday evening!

This year four enviro-birders went the entire 24 hours getting around without using fossil-fuels - all on foot or bikes! Malkolm Boothroyd topped that group quite handily with 80 species. Kudos to the other three participants who opted to pit muscle against wind: Jim Hawkings (57 species), Kim Selbee (40), and Glenn Rudman (36). Kim did her entire Birdathon on foot in Mayo, taking advantage of her comfortable pace by snapping lots of interesting photos!



This unusual find – a Sandhill Crane photographed at Quartz Road by Syd Cannings on Friday evening 28 May - was around for almost two weeks prior so was on the hit list for many Birdathoners.

**Photo: Syd Cannings**

We really want to recognize and reward new participants to the Birdathon. This year our new Board of Directors member and 2021 Birdathon Coordinator, Becky Striegler, managed to see 45 species. This is remarkable for someone who is relatively new to birdwatching, especially under difficult conditions. Other newcomers were YBC Board member Glenn Rudman with 36, and Bob Atkinson and Barbara Grueger with 21. Bob and Barbara also won the prize for most species seen by a family and most species (15) seen from their home/yard.

Prizes ranging from bird seed to a ceramic bird bath are going out to the deserving winners in each category.

**Continues on page 14**

# Birding with Kim Selbee



These 2 photos of an American Golden Plover were taken on May 19th of this year. It was the highlight of my first spring as a resident of Mayo, and my first-ever sighting of one.. and standing by a large puddle of water, not a block from my house! What a great start to my birding day that was!! Unforgettable.

Photos: Kim Selbee

## Continued from page 13

Our Feature Birder this year was long-standing community member Mary Whitley. Mary has endured more than her share of adversity in the past couple of years, but she has never shied away from a challenge, and definitely rose to the occasion. I ran into Mary around 4 pm on Saturday afternoon at Army Beach on Marsh Lake. She was just preparing to head for home after an eventful 24 hours.

Mary has health and mobility issues. She explained her well-thought-out plan to camp out in her camper somewhere close to the bird action. Her choice was a good one, the Marsh Lake Campground. Unfortunately, some noisy neighbours put a serious damper on her evening there, so she packed up and moved to Swan Haven, where she

had a much more restful night. And she was right there in the early morning to see the bird-treats, such as a beautiful male Cinnamon Teal, spread before her on the mudflats! On behalf of the Yukon Bird Club and the entire birding community I thank Mary for her efforts under difficult circumstances!

My thanks to this year's Birdathon Coordinator Becky Striegler. And to all participants and those who generously sponsored them.

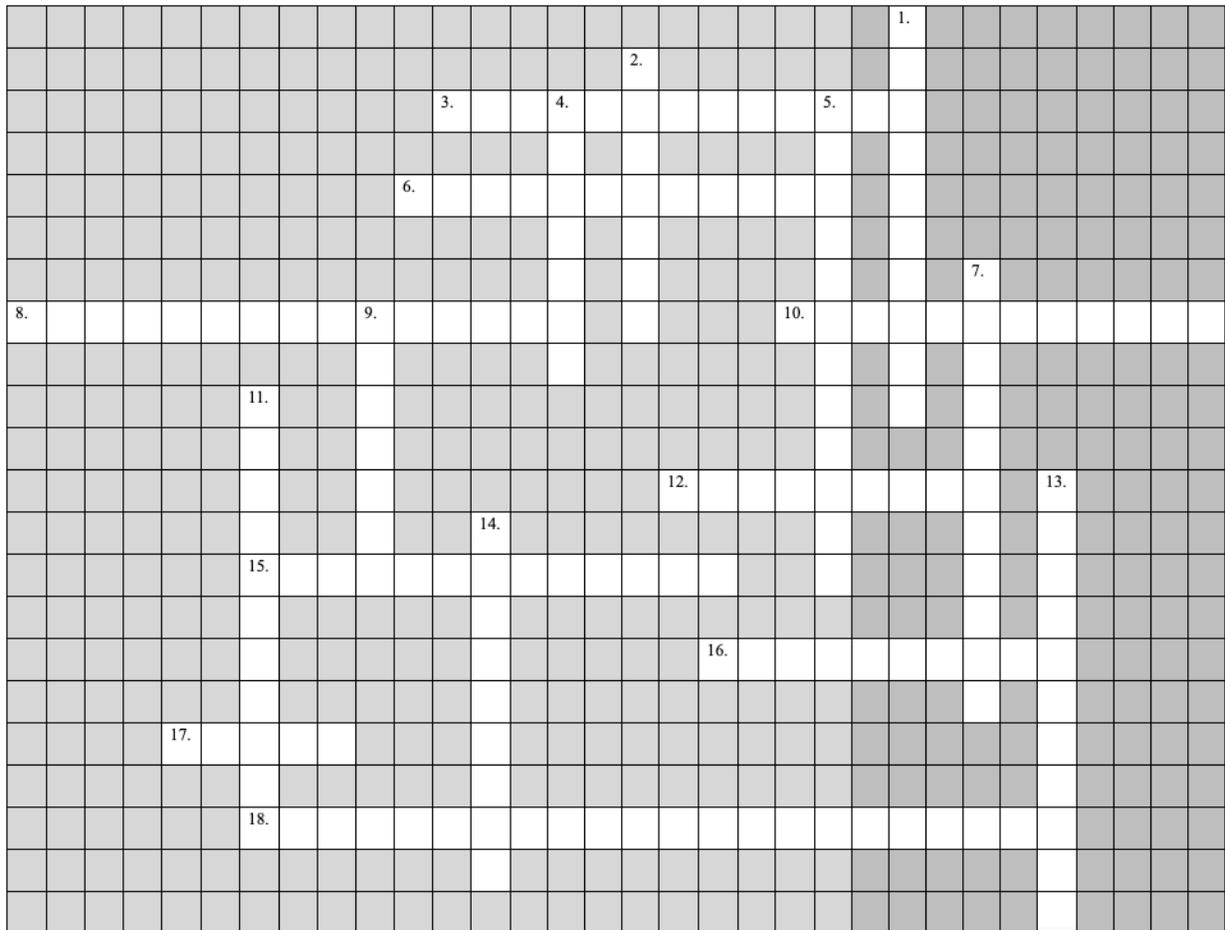


Hard-to-find Baird's Sandpiper photographed by Kim Selbee in a puddle across from the food store in Mayo.

Photo: Kim Selbee

Funds from the Birdathon help the Yukon Bird Club continue its activities promoting awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon Birds and their habitats. See you all next year! 

# Wintertime Bird Crossword



**By Ruth McCullough**

**Across**

- 3. This bird was recently close to extinction and is the largest of its species
- 6. The male of this species is distinguished by the large white patch on its puffy greenish head
- 8. The male of this species has a black-bordered white cockade
- 10. This bird is known colloquially as "Bluebill" because of its bright blue bill
- 12. The black back, white foreparts and heavily shielded bill are good field marks for the male of this species
- 15. The male of this species is recognized by its dark and light

- patterns, small size and long tail
- 16. The adult male has white flanks and a blue grey bill. It resembles the Scaup species
- 17. A small dark goose with a short neck
- 18. The throat pouch of this bird is orange and like others of its species, it slants its bill upward while swimming

**Down**

- 1. This duck has a distinctly flattened head profile. Its bill and head profile provide excellent field marks
- 2. The male of this bay duck has a large round head, light bill, dark breast and white under-parts
- 4. The male of this species is recognized by its green head, white

- neck band and rusty breast
- 5. This grebe has a much longer and more needle like bill than other of this species
- 7. Colloquially, this bird is known as "Little Bluebill" because of its distinctive bill
- 9. Uncommon, surface feeding duck that rarely congregates in large flocks
- 11. This loon has a light colored upturned bill and its summer plumage has white stripes extending up the back of its head
- 13. This is America's only black duck, although the female may have some yellow around the nostrils
- 14. The wings of this duck are short and rounded; the flight is fast and uneven with rapid wing beats

