YUKON WARBLER

Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club

Winter 2022-23



Christmas Bird Counts 2022

Report: 2022 Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon

Mississippi Kite in Haines Junction - Story on page 8

Photo: Marty Samis

Yukon f 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.

Membership fees are based on the Calendar Year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). The end of the year is a good time to renew your membership. If you have paid for multi- year memberships in the past and are unsure of your current status, feel free to contact us for clarification. If you receive a paper copy of "The Warbler" your mailing label will indicate the latest year for which you membership is paid up, i.e. 2021 or 2022.

For more information contact:

Yukon Bird Club 4061-4th Avenue Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1 Canada yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca

YBC Website: yukonbirds.ca Yukon Birds Facebook group:

facebook.com/ groups/212509148852262/

YBC Twitter: yukonbirds

We want your birding photos and stories!

Thank you to all those who contribute the *Yukon Warbler*. To make a submission, write to newsletter@ yukonbirds.ca

Board of Directors

Vacant - President/Chair

Jim Hawkings - Treasurer/ call host

Glenn Rudman - Secretary

Cameron Eckert - Sightings & Checklist Coordinator

Sean Munro - Special Projects Coordinator

Syd Cannings - Field Trip Coordinator

Betty Sutton - Events Coordinator

Jenny Trapnell- Birdathon Coordinator

Vacant - Youth Coordinator

Ulrich Trachsel - Newsletter Editor

Lena Ware - Director and Website Assistant

Kristen Wilcox - Director and Membership Assistant

NEW PAYMENT OPTION: You can now join the Yukon Bird Club or renew your membership online thanks to our non-profit charity partner Canadahelps. org. Go to: yukonbirds.ca/join/

You can also print the membership form and mail it with your payment.

Yukon Warbler is published by the Yukon Bird Club. Copyright © 2022 Yukon Bird Club. All rights reserved. Printed material, artwork, or photographs may not be reproduced by any means without permission from the author, artist, or photographer. All other material may not be reproduced by any means without the Editor's permission.

Mark Your Calendars for the YBC potluck dinner and slide show!

Thursday January 26, 2023, 6PM

By Betty Sutton

The Yukon bird club is pleased once again to have a potluck dinner and slide show on Thursday January 26th at 6 PM at Hellaby hall. Please bring your favourite potluck dish and up to five of your most exciting bird pictures on a memory stick.

Anyone is welcome - you don't need to be a Yukon Bird Club member. Feel free to email the club if you have any questions.

Birding with Catherine Millar

By Catherine Millar

Here's a picture I took on December 12, 2022 of a very late season junco hanging out

with the crossbills! I don't believe I have ever seen a junco this late in the year so I thought that it might be of some interest though perhaps other birders are also seeing them around this winter.



Yukon Territory's Christmas Bird Count 2021

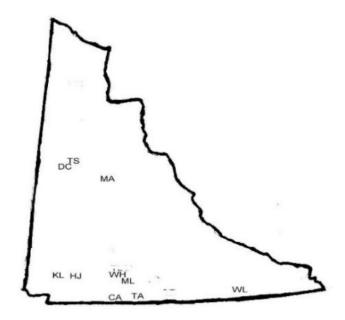
By Clive Osborne

Here is a summary of observations made on last year's Yukon Christmas Bird Counts. Ten Christmas Bird Counts (up one from the previous year) were conducted by citizen scientist-birders in 2021. However, it appears that observation effort data for the Watson Lake Count did not get posted to the database which renders the Count incomparable.

A few changes in this year's numbers seem significant to me. For the first time, we see that Mountain Chickadees make it into the top ten most abundant species list. Also, Audubon flagged the total absence of the Bohemian Waxwing from the Whitehorse Count as a record low. Sightings of the American Dipper seem to be increasing, perhaps reflecting an increase in linear distance of shallow open water.

The following tables summarize observations made on the 2021 Yukon Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) as posted to the Audubon Society's website. A total of 6440 birds comprising 34 species were counted from December 19 to January 2. The location of the Counts is shown in Figure 1 and the Counts are summarized in Tables 1-3.

Figure 1. Locations of 2021 Yukon CBCs



This year's counts once again yielded a few observations of record high numbers: Whitehorse (Barrow's Goldeneye – 6, Downy Woodpecker – 8, American Crow – 6, Common Raven 3300, Redbreasted Nuthatch – 5, Pine Grosbeak - 378).

Record low numbers were also recorded: Whitehorse (Bohemian Waxwing – 0, Tagish (Common Goldeneye - 12, Mountain Chickadee - 5) Some sightings were flagged as unusual (rare): White – throated Sparrow (2 - Haines Junction), Townsend's Solitaire (1 – Tagish).

Table 1. Yukon Christmas Bird Counts 2021

| Count | Date | No. of Field Observers | No. of Species Observed | No. of Birds Observed |
|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Whitehorse (WH) | 26/12 | 44 | 24 | 4147 |
| Haines Junction (HJ) | 19/12 | 19 | 18 | 739 |
| Carcross (CA) | 19/12 | 10 | 20 | 167 |
| Tombstone (TS) | 02/01 | 10 | 17 | 278 |
| Marsh Lake (ML) | 19/12 | 8 | 15 | 204 |
| Dawson City (DC) | 26/12 | 8 | 8 | 92 |
| Kluane N.P. (KL) | 30/12 | 6 | 12 | 47 |
| Tagish (TA) | 19/12 | 5 | 14 | 209 |
| Mayo (MA) | 29/12 | 2 | 11 | 290 |
| Watson Lake (WL) | | | 12 | 423 |

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

| Species | No. of Birds | Rank |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Common Raven | 3765 | 1 |
| Pine Grosbeak | 1184 | 2 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 360 | 3 |
| Common Redpoll (redpoll sp.) | 340 (0) | 4 |
| Boreal Chickadee | 196 | 5 |
| Black-billed Magpie | 157 | 6 |
| Gray Jay | 85 | 7 |
| Red Crossbill | 62 | 8 |
| House Sparrow | 40 | 9 |
| Mountain Chickadee | 30 | 10 |

Continues on page 6

Yukon Christmas Bird Counts 2022

All are welcome – beginners, feeder-watchers, and seasoned field birders! Enjoy winter birding and contribute to a North American-wide bird monitoring and conservation program. To participate contact the *count compiler* before count day.

Sponsored by the Yukon Bird Club

Carcross – Saturday 17 December

Compiler – Geoff Rushant

E-mail: rushant@northwestel.net

Phone: 821-4401

Haines Junction – Sun 18 December

Compiler – Julie Bauer

E-mail: <u>bauerjulieann@outlook.com</u>

Phone: 336-0688

Marsh Lake – Sunday 18 December

Compiler – Jim Hawkings E-mail: jimh@yukonbirds.ca

Phone: 668-2639

Teslin – Sunday 18 December Compiler – Ben Schonewille

E-mail: teslin.bird.banding@gmail.com

Phone: 334-2683

Johnson's Crossing – Saturday 24 December

Compiler – Minnie Clark & Ben Schonewille E-mail: timberpoint@northwestel.net

Phone: 334-2683 / 390-2824

Dawson City - Monday 26 December

Compiler - Sebastian Jones

E-mail: sebastian@northwestel.net

Phone: 993-4430

Whitehorse – Monday 26 December

Compiler – Jim Hawkings E-mail: jimh@yukonbirds.ca

Phone: 668-2639

Watson Lake - Monday 26 December

Compiler – Jenny Skelton

E-mail: jskelton@northwestel.net

Phone: 536-7488

Mayo – Thursday 29 December Compiler – Mark O'Donoghue E-mail: mark.odonoghue@gov.yk.ca

Text only: 334-5602

Kluane Lake – Saturday 31 December

Compiler – Julie Bauer

E-mail: bauerjulieann@outlook.com

Phone: 336-0688

Tombstone Territorial Park – Mon 2 Jan

Compiler – Sebastian Jones

E-mail: sebastian@northwestel.net

Phone: 993-4430

New Christmas Counts are welcome! To

organize a Count in your community contact yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca

Christmas Bird Counting with Julie Bauer

The picture below is from December 15, 2018 of the CBC4KIDS at Haines Junction. The walk was organized by Brent Little and Debbie Osborne. -20C.

The first CBC4Kids was held in Dawson City and lead by Sebastian Jones, in 2016. Haines Junction has had four counts, 2019, 2018, 2017 and started in 2016. Not planned for 2022 but hoping that the fun day will happen again in 2023.



Continued from page 4

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

| Species | No. of Counts |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Common Raven | 10 |
| Pine Grosbeak | 10 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 10 |
| Boreal Chickadee | 9 |
| Gray Jay | 9 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 7 |
| Black-billed Magpie | 6 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 6 |
| American Dipper | 6 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 5 |

A few diligent birders out over the holidays observed some species during count week that were absent on count day: Whitehorse (Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Dark-eyed Junco) Haines Junction (Northern Goshawk, American Robin, European Starling), Kluane National Park (Willow Ptarmigan) and Watson Lake (Pileated Woodpecker).

Results from 2022 Global Big Day

By Lena Ware

On May 14th, a team of six birders from the Yukon Bird Club participated in Global Big Day, a yearly event hosted by Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. A 'big day' is when a birder or team of birders attempt to see as many species as possible in 24 hours. Global Big Day is one day in spring each year where birders across the globe collectively observe as many species as possible and submit checklists to eBird. The Global Big Day has become an exciting celebration of bird diversity, while contributing your local knowledge to global bird conservation.

Our team of birders toured the Birdmuda Triangle (Whitehorse, Tagish, Carcross), visited eight birding hotspots, and observed a total of 95 species! Most fruitful birding locations were Nares Lake (61 species), Lewes Marsh (58 species), and Tagish Narrows (56 species). Highlights included a Rufous Hummingbird, a Short-billed Dowitcher, an Olive-sided



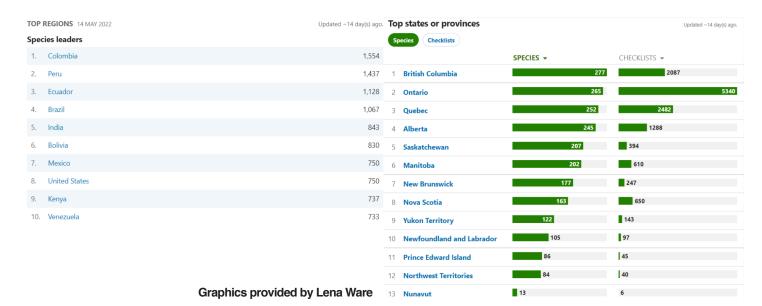
Flycatcher, and a Says Phoebe. The unexpected final bird #95 was a Peregrine Falcon flying over the Smoke and Sow parking lot at 7:30 pm.

On this day globally, 54,286 participants observed 7,797 species. USA boasted the most checklists of any country (72,439 checklists), but Columbia scored the most species (1554 species). Canada collectively observed 409 species, with BC ranking #1 for the province with the most species observed. A total of 38 eBirders across the Yukon observed 122 bird species, ranking 9th behind Nova Scotia.

From left to right: Pam Sinclair, JF Jetté, Syd Cannings, Lena Ware, Cameron Eckert, Logan McLeod Photo: Lena Ware

Participating in Global Big Day next year is easy! First, if you don't already have one, make an eBird account online at https://ebird.org/home. Second, watch birds on May 13, 2023! Third, enter the birds you observed and submit your eBird checklists. And four, watch the global stats roll in (in real time!)

To view the trip report from this exciting day, visit: https://ebird.org/tripreport/56195



Somewhere over the Rainbow ...

By Cameron Eckert

There's a bit of magic happening in Haines Junction – bird magic, and there's no end in sight. It seems Canada's first Hawfinch, first spotted by Wolf Riedl in his Rainbow Street yard on 14 December 2020, just wasn't enough for this scenic little Yukon community. Haines Junction's rare bird mojo heated up again this summer when an absolute shocker, the Yukon's first Mississippi Kite, some 3,300 km northwest of the species' breeding range, was photographed by Marty Samis in his Willow Acres yard on 17 June 2022. Haines Junction's rarity train continued, and Rainbow Street was back in the game with the Yukon's fourth Lesser Goldfinch on 13 September 2022 – identified by Jill McPhie when this brilliant black-and-yellow songbird dropped in at the birdbath in her Rainbow Street yard. The goldfinch played a disappearing act until it reappeared in Jill's yard two months later, on 12 November. An amazing rarity, though Rainbow Street had one more surprise in store that day. The reappearance of the goldfinch had Julie Bauer on the scene right away trying for documentary photos of the tiny finch when she spotted a "buffy sparrow", that Jill had been seeing for a few days. A quick text back-and-fourth with Cameron confirmed that this was in fact the Yukon's firstdocumented Bobolink, An



excited convoy of Whitehorse birders arrived the next morning to enjoy this extraordinary Yukon double-twitch.

Bobolink was a longoverdue addition to the Yukon checklist as Bob Frisch had reported a male from the Dempster Highway in July 1976 – but without further details. A

Mississippi Kite, June 17, 2022

Photo: Marty Samis

male Bobolink was also photographed at Eagle, Alaska on 13 June 2020, just a stone's throw from the Yukon border. Haines Junction residents must now be used to seeing little groups of birders wandering their quiet town in search of





Top left: Lesser Goldfinch, November 13, 2022 Top right: Bobolink, November 13, 2022

Photos:Cameron Eckert

Bird-Twitchers at Rainbow Street

Photo: Lena Ware

these tantalizing rarities – even so, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous welcome visiting birders have enjoyed. So what's next for Haines Junction? It's anyone's guess, but a good bet would be to head straight for Rainbow Street.



Report: 2022 Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon



Harlequin Ducks are late migrants, but they can be a bit hard to find by Birdathon time at the end of May. Kim Selbee found this amorous pair near Mayo on Friday evening.

Photo: Kim Selbee

By Jim Hawkings

Well, after a couple of pretty weird years, the Yukon Bird Club is back in normal field trip operating mode this year, including a fully-fledged Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon held on 27-28 May - complete with an IN PERSON potluck dinner on Saturday evening after the 24 hours of birding was finished. This was a pleasant change from two years of Zoom meetings which made it very difficult to share any delicious food!

Results

Total participants: 29

Number of people attending the post-Birdathon BBQ: 27

Total Species observed: 146 (plus 2 varieties)

(Summary Tables with names of all participants and a complete species list are at the bottom of this article)

Most Species by a new Birdathoner:

Kirsten Wilcox 116 Dominique Blanc 96 Alex Oberg 60 Ryleigh Whitefield 44 James Whelan 26 Amy, Lauren, and Hannah Ryder 21 Lawrence Purdy and Pippa Lawson 13

Most Species by a family/household:

Wendy Nixon and Grant Abbott 50 (also winners of the yet-to-be-created Electric Car birding category!) John Meikle and Helen Liskova 42 Amy, Lauren, and Hannah Ryder 21 Lawrence Purdy and Pippa Lawson 13

Youngest Participant:

Hannah and Lauren Ryder (11 years old!)



Overlooking the mouth of Judas Creek, Marsh Lake. Veteran Birdathon participants know big rewards lurk in Yukon wetlands where dozens of species of waterfowl and other waterbirds can be found in the spring. Spotting scopes are a big help in these wide-open spaces.

Photo: Lena Ware

Oldest Participant:

Mary Whitley (50 species! Way to go Mary!)

Most Species Envirobirding:

Jim Hawkings 56 (traveled by Bike: Pineridge, Wolf Creek, Mary Lake, Lewes Marsh and points between) Amy, Lauren and Hannah Ryder 21 (walked trails near/around Whistlebend)

Most species found near your own home/ backyard/shared space:

Amy, Lauren and Hannah Ryder 21 (walked trails near/around Whistlebend)



Male Long-tailed Duck. Another hard-to-find species come Birdathon time in late May. This one beautifully captured by Kim Selbee near Mayo.

Photo: Kim Selbee

This year's Birdathon had tremendous participation. There were 29 birders, including 11 first-timers. For the first time in several years, the weather was quite pleasant (definitely in a different league than last year!), notwithstanding a few isolated squalls of rain and hail on Friday night in the Whitehorse area.

People were birding mostly in the Southern Lakes between Marsh Lake, Carcross, and Lake Laberge, but a few went as far as Haines Junction, and we had Kim Selbee up in Mayo. This was the first year in quite awhile that none of our participants were birding in the Watson Lake area, where a handful of species can be found at the very northwestern part of their North American range. In spite of that, our hard-birding crew managed to see or hear 146 species, just one less that the 147 seen in 2021, and better than the 139 seen in 2020. The best recent year was 151 species recorded in 2019.

As to the actual birds seen this year, a few oddballs turned up. A Willet - a large shorebird normally found on the prairies- was seen by multiple participants at Lewes Marsh. Tracy Allard glimpsed a Black Tern at Jackfish Bay on Lake Laberge. Black Terns are also prairie birds that just poke their noses into the southeast Yukon. A Glaucous-winged Gull

Continued from page 11

was skulking among the hordes of Herring Gulls on the gravel bars at Quartz Road, well inland from it's usual home on the Pacific Coast. Alex Oberg found another visitor from the southeast - a Western Tanager - at the Marsh Lake Campground.



Cameron Eckert and Kirsten Wilcox in search of the elusive Willet in the bowels of Lewes Marsh

Photo: Lena Ware

After all the Steller's Jays seen in the past 18 months, only one turned up on the Birdathon - all that is left of the big invasion?



Dufflbags, the winning team composed of our Feature Birder Lena Ware, Cameron Eckert, and Kirsten Wilcox, found 116 species of birds during the 24-hour event! They look pretty happy here on Friday evening at Judas Creek, no doubt fueled by thoughts of nice weather and upcoming sleep deprivation.

Photo: Lena Ware

Our top birders this year were a team of biologists: the Dufflbags, including our feature birder

Lena Ware, long-time YBC board member Cameron Eckert, and Kirsten Wilcox. They managed 116 species of birds - and even got a few hours of sleep in the middle of it! Close on their heels was Adam Perrier with 114 followed by Tracy Allard with 106. Our perennial winner, Jukka Jantunen, tried his luck in Haines Junction this year instead of his usual Watson Lake haunts. Along with teammates Shyloh van Delft and Julie Bauer, he saw 96 species.

It was particularly heartening to see the 11 first-time Birdathoners, many of whom are still quite new to birding. Congrats to all of you! One of our new youngish keeners, Kirsten Wilcox, topped this crowd as well as being part of the overall winning team. Behind her was Dominique Blanc with 96 and Alex Oberg with 60. Among our newcomers were 11-year-old sisters Lauren and Hannah Ryder and their mom Amy Ryder. Lauren and Hannah were also our youngest participants and their team also distinguished themselves by enviro-birding very close to their own home in Whistle Bend!



Hannah and Lauren Ryder were youngest Birdathon participants. Along with their mom Amy they scoured the trails around their home neighbourhood of Whistle Bend.

Photo: Amy Ryder

Aside from the Ryder clan, the only other envirobirder this year was yours truly. Enviro-birders participate under their own power or using only renewable energy during the entire 24 hour period. Traditionally this has been walking, biking, or paddling. This year does mark our first Electric Vehicle participants: Grant Abbott and Wendy Nixon!

Next year we will consider officially expanding this with some other categories: e-bikes, other Electric Vehicles, Car Pooling, Public Transit. Let us know if you have other suggestions!



In 2022 we were finally able to re-instate our inperson potluck BBQ social event on Saturday night following the Birdathon. Here participants, including Birdathon Coordinator Jenny Trapnell (in red), gather around as Lena Ware goes through the checklist of Yukon Birds to find out how many different species were seen in total - as well as where any unusual birds turned up.

Photo: Beth Hawkings

This year our Birdathon wasn't completely without glitches, as our normal post-Birdathon social venue, Robert Service Campground, was closed for renovations, forcing a move to a more exposed location at Rotary Park. Luckily for us, the sun was out and the wind calmed down so it was an extremely pleasant shirt-sleeve event attended by 27 people!

As always, there were interesting stories of adventure from participants. Among my memorable moments was exploring the bike trail along the Alaska Highway between Golden Horn subdivision and the Yukon River Bridge for the first time ever, even though I have lived here since 1983, and even lived for 7 years at the Yukon River Bridge! This was a very pleasant ride in the warm(ish) morning sun, made even better by a nice tailwind from the north and a generally downhill gradient. Coming back at the end of the afternoon into the wind and uphill was a bit more exhausting however. Another great moment was a surprise I got while watching an Olive-sided

Flycatcher busily working the shrubby area at the far end of Lewes Marsh next to the sawmill road. I was enjoying a nice view of this bird through my binoculars and lazily waving at a bee that was buzzing around me, when the flycatcher looked my way and then, completely unprovoked, suddenly charged directly at my head. I was actually quite startled but quickly understood the situation as the bird snagged the bee next to my ear and darted back to it's perch, where it beat it's quarry furiously against a tree branch and swallowed it. That was the end of that buzzing.

On behalf of myself and all the other participants, I'd like to thank our Birdathon Coordinator Jenny Trapnell for all her efforts, as well as Betty Sutton who lined up prizes and took care of logistics for the BBQ. And of course thanks to all the participants and sponsors for making the event a huge success this year!

Participants

2022 Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon Participants

| Team | # species | Enviro-birding |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| Dufflbags (Lena Ware, Cameron Eckert, Kirsten Wilcox) | 116 | |
| Adam Perrier | 114 | |
| Tracy Allard | 106 | |
| Jukka Jantunen, Shyloh van Delft, and Julie Bauer | 96 | |
| Syd Cannings and Dominique Blanc | 94 | |
| Jenny Trapnell | 65 | |
| Alex Oberg | 60 | |
| Kim Selbee | 59 | |
| Jim Hawkings | 56 | Yes |
| Mary Whitley | 50 | |
| Wendy Nixon and Grant Abbott | 50 | |
| Ryleigh Whitfield | 44 | |
| John Meikle and Helen Liskova | 42 | |
| Pam Sinclair | 40 | |
| James Whelan | 26 | |
| Amy, Lauren, and Hannah Ryder | 21 | Yes |
| Betty Sutton and Paul Warner | 20 | |
| Pippa Lawson and Lawrence Purdy | 13 | |

Master Checklist

See bottom of this blog post on our Yukon Bird Club website:

https://yukonbirds.ca/report-2022-helmut-grunberg-yukon-birdathon/

On July 9

By Adam Skrutkowski

I live on the lakeshore of Teslin Lake, 10 kilometers north of Teslin. On the morning of July 9, 2021, I was lounging on my couch when a bird landed on my feeding bench that needed a second look and even a third look. It looked familiar but not exact, even though some birds result in different colourations. My little brain thought it could possibly be a cross between a varied thrush and robin. Nah! The mind usually sees what it is familiar with, so I needed 'Sibley Birds West' to confirm it as a unique Yukon sighting.

If you lived south of central B.C., birders probably wouldn't look twice (the same way we look at local pine grosbeaks) as that would be the northernmost habitat this bird would normally be comfortable in. According to the 'Birds of the Yukon territory', the previous brief sighting in the Yukon of a female Black-headed grosbeak was on May 31, 2000, north of Whitehorse. Surprisingly, then it was the first documented sighting. YBC had to wait 21 more years for the next documented one.

The difference this time was that it was a male. It hung around until the next day and continued to a place unknown after that and hasn't returned.

Unfortunately, I wasn't in the right place or time to hear its call. So, when you least expect it, expect it! A picture is usually undeniable proof of what you saw. Next!







Photos: Adam Skrutkowski

Long-time Crossword-Maker Retires

By Jenny Trapnell

The Warbler's long-time crossword creator is stepping down - is her successor out there somewhere?

Though Ruth McCullough says she LOVES puzzles, and regularly does them on CodyCross on the internet, "I got tired of creating them."

She took up crossword-making almost a decade ago after her predecessor stepped away.

"I did the crossword the week before the deadline. I'd print off a grid and then put the birds' names or something that related to birds into the grid and tried to get the letters to fit. "It usually took me a couple of hours to complete each puzzle." To connect the names she'd look for small words, like "nest" or "seed".

Though she said she enjoyed making the crosswords for many years, " it's not a very easy puzzle to do because the names are so damn long".

McCullough used a bird guide for each spring and fall issue, picking birds that live or migrate to the Yukon. She also used it to write the clues, but inserted her own colourful adjectives, too.

For example, in the clue for the Steller's Jay in a 2021 crossword, McCullough wrote that it had a sound "like a scalded cat."

"Anything to make the puzzles more interesting."

A birder since she was six years old, McCullough says her favourite hotspot is "out her kitchen window" and the Whiskey Jack" is her favourite bird. "But any bird is worth watching."

McCullough says she has only one regret from her Warbler crossword work. "Somebody phoned me once and asked to help with it, and I stupidly didn't ask their name.

The Yukon Bird Club wishes to express its thanks to Ruth McCullough for her commitment to finding bird words for the Yukon Warbler and wishes her well.

And if there's a successor out there, let us know!

Birding with Kim Selbee

I was very fortunate to spot these "not often spotted" Whiterumped Sandpipers, making their way north, when I was spending some time in Dawson on June 9th. They were foraging busily along the Yukon River, right next to the ferry launch, and came so close to

me that I had to step back a bit with my telephoto lens! A first-time sighting for me of these elusive birds.







Yukon Warbler back issues online!

By Jim Hawkings

For a treat, why not browse our huge collection (over 50) of electronic Yukon Warbler issues stretching back to the beginning of the Yukon Bird Club in 1993! Each issue entry on the list has a short synopsis of articles to help you find items of interest. You can download any of them to enjoy at your leisure. There is a lot of interesting history here!

See https://yukonbirds.ca/warbler/

Southern Yukon heads into the Deep Freeze!

By Jim Hawkings

This flock of eight Dark-eyed Juncos (one not shown in photo) and a single American Tree Sparrow are still lingering in the Pineridge subdivision just south of Whitehorse as we head into our first nasty cold spell of the winter on 17 December 2022. Neither species is typically found overwintering in the Whitehorse area. The question is: will they survive the next week of bitterly cold weather?





Photos: Jim Hawkings

For more information contact:

Yukon Bird Club 4061-4th Avenue Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1 Canada yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca

YBC Website: yukonbirds.ca Yukon Birds Facebook group:

facebook.com/ groups/212509148852262/

YBC Twitter: yukonbirds

