

YUKON WARBLER

Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club

Winter 2023-24



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**Unusual Sighting of a Black-Legged Kittiwake at this
Year's Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon - Page 6**

Photo: Adam Perrier



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.

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Yukon Birds Facebook group:
facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/
YBC X/Twitter: [yukonbirds](https://twitter.com/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

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

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

Thursday January 18, 2024, 6:00 pm

The Yukon bird club is pleased once again to have a potluck dinner and slide show on Thursday January 18th 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.

YBC gets started with the Bird Friendly Cities program for Whitehorse

By Glenn Rudman

YBC has teamed up with the City of Whitehorse, the Yukon Conservation Society and local birders to form a Whitehorse group working towards the Bird Friendly Cities (BFC) certification.

The urbanization of our cities, including Whitehorse, brings potential negative effects for wildlife. As the populations of many bird species continue to decline across Canada and around the world we can all act to help our feathered friends.

The Bird Friendly Cities program is coordinated by Nature Canada, a national environmental organization, and focuses on activities including reducing bird window collisions, managing pesticide use, reducing habitat loss and ensuring that pets are controlled responsibly.

Over the past nine months the Whitehorse BFC group has identified priorities to work on and better understand

before applying to Nature Canada for BFC certification. These priorities include promoting action on bird window collisions, working with the City of Whitehorse to identify critical habitat for birds, reviewing pesticide use policies and management, and understanding if pets at large in Whitehorse is a high priority topic.

If you'd like to learn more about the national program please visit naturecanada.ca. If you have suggestions or comments about local BFC activities or would like to help with the initiative, please email Glenn at glenn@yukonbirds.ca.

Common Yellowthroat: A species with a relatively high number of window collisions despite being associated with wetlands/riparian areas.

Photo: Cameron Eckert

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Yukon Christmas Bird Counts 2023

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 – Sunday 17 December
Compiler – Janet & Geoff Rushant
Phone: 821-4401

Marsh Lake – Sunday 17 December
Compiler – Jim Hawkings
E-mail: jimh@yukonbirds.ca
Phone: 668-2639

Tagish – Sunday 17 December
Compiler – Shyloh van Delft
E-mail: yukonbirder@gmail.com
Phone: 332-2470
Meet at Tagish Bridge at 10:30am

Haines Junction – Sunday 17 December
Compiler – Julie Bauer
E-mail: bauerjulieann@outlook.com
Phone: 336-0688

Teslin – Sunday 17 December
Compiler – Ben Schonewille
E-mail: teslin.bird.banding@gmail.com
Phone: 334-2683

Johnson's Crossing – Saturday 23 December
Compiler – Minnie Clark & Ben Schonewille
E-mail: timberpoint@northwestel.net
Phone: 390-2624

Dawson City – Saturday 23 December
Compiler – Sebastian Jones
E-mail: sebastian@northwestel.net
Phone: 993-4430

Whitehorse – Tuesday 26 December
Compiler – Jim Hawkings
E-mail: jimh@yukonbirds.ca
Phone: 668-2639

Watson Lake – Tuesday 26 December
Compiler – Jenny Skelton
E-mail: jskelton@northwestel.net
Phone: 536-7488

Mayo – Friday 29 December
Compiler – Mark O'Donoghue
Text only: 334-5602

Kluane Lake – Saturday 30 December
Compiler – Julie Bauer
E-mail: bauerjulieann@outlook.com
Phone: 336-0688

Tombstone Territorial Park – Sat 30 Dec
Compiler – Sebastian Jones
E-mail: sebastian@northwestel.net
Phone: 993-4430

Takhini-Laberge – Sunday 31 December
Compiler – Cameron Eckert
E-mail: cameron.eckert@gmail.com

New Christmas Counts are welcome! To organize a Christmas Bird Count in your community contact yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca to get started.

Yukon Christmas Bird Count Results 2022

By Clive Osborne

Yes, I know that you are all dying to learn about this summary of observations made on last year's Yukon Christmas Bird Counts. Nine Christmas Bird Counts (down one from the previous year) were conducted by citizen scientist-birders in 2022. Sadly, a couple of long-standing Counts, Marsh Lake and Tagish were not conducted. It seems that participation is waning as people begin to age out of this activity.

First impressions are that our winters are getting warmer with increasing area and shoreline

distance of open water. Consequently, numbers of Bald Eagles and dabbling ducks are abundant and a few unusual sparrow species were detected. Bohemian Waxwing went from being virtually absent in 2021 to being the most abundant species in 2022.

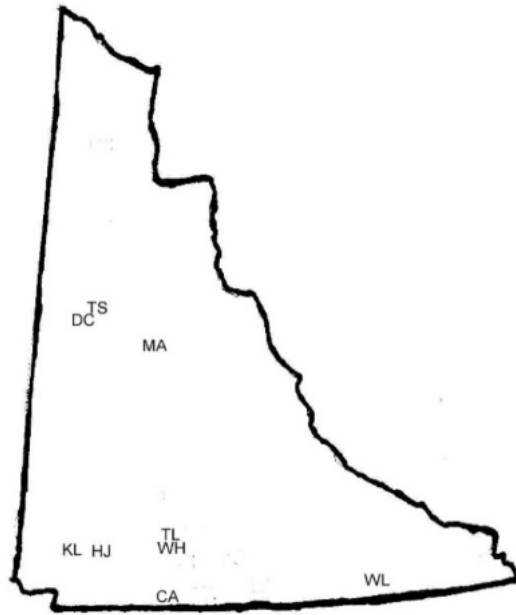


Figure 1. Locations of 2022 Yukon CBCs

Count	Date	No. of Field Observers	No. of Species Observed	No. of Birds Observed
Whitehorse (WH)	26/12	39	28	6821
Carcross (CA)	17/12	10	19	293
Haines Junction (HJ)	18/12	10	17	773
Kluane N.P. (KL)	31/12	8	9	353
Tombstone (TS)	02/01	8	7	175
Mayo (MA)	29/12	5	10	446
Dawson City (DC)	26/12	4	8	122
Watson Lake (WL)	26/12	1	13	303
Takhini – Lk. Laberge (TL)	01/01	1	12	211

Table 1. Yukon Christmas Bird Counts 2022.

Species	No. of Birds	Rank
Bohemian Waxwing	4052	1
Common Raven	2275	2
White-wing Crossbill	719	3
Pine Grosbeak	546	4
Common Redpoll (redpoll sp.)	488	5
Black-capped Chickadee	303	6
House Sparrow	152	7
Black-billed Magpie	133	8
Canada Jay	121	9
Boreal Chickadee	111	10

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

In keeping with a warming climate, a few species flagged as unusual showed up: Whitehorse (American Widgeon – 1, American Tree Sparrow – 1), Haines Junction (Chipping Sparrow – 1, White-throated Sparrow – 1), Carcross (Pine Siskin – 6).

Conscientious observers recorded some species during count week that were absent on count day: Whitehorse (Ruffed Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee)

The following tables summarize observations made on the 2022 Yukon Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) as posted to the Audubon Society's website. A total of 9497 birds comprising 34 species were counted by 86 observers from December 17 to January 2. The location of the Counts is shown in Figure 1 and the Counts are summarized in Tables 1-3. Record high numbers for some species were documented again this year: Whitehorse (American Crow – 6, Red-breasted Nuthatch – 9, Bohemian Waxwing – 4032, White-crowned Sparrow – 4, Dark-eyed Junco – 39, Purple Finch – 10), Takhini – Laberge (Black-billed Magpie – 28)

Continues on page 7

Report: 2023 Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon, May 26-27, 2023

By Jim Hawkings

2023 marked the second full-on Birdathon since we (mostly) emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again it was a pleasure for everyone to be able to gather socially for dinner after the birdwatching dust cleared!

Results

- **Total participants: 32**
- **Number of people attending the post-Birdathon BBQ: 28**
- **Total Species observed: 139**

Most Species by a new Birdathoner:

- Cathy Hoehn 32
- Colin Abbott and Vickie Rochon 31
- Tony Gonda 23
- Jasper Caudle 16
- Gemma and River Richardson 16

Most Species by a family/household:

- Julie Bauer and Terry Skjonsberg 78
- Shyloh, Toren, and Cassandra van Delft 68
- John Meikle and Helen Liskova 42
- Amy, Lauren, and Hannah Ryder 22
- Gemma and River Richardson 16

Youngest Participants:

- River Richardson (6 years old)
- Hannah and Lauren Ryder (12 years old)
- Jasper Caudle (12 years old)

Oldest Participant:

- Faulty Team (Bob Atkinson, Barbara Grueger, and Angelika Lange) Age 75
- Jim Hawkings Age 69

Most Species Envirobirding:

- Shyloh, Toren, and Cassandra van Delft 68 (bike and foot)
- eShrikes – Lena Ware and Cameron Eckert 63 (eBike and foot)
- Jenny Trapnell 57 (foot and public transit)
- Cathy Hoehn 32 (foot and plug-in-hybrid electric vehicle)
- Becky Striegler 31 (foot and public transit)
- Jim Hawkings 31 (foot)
- Tony Gonda 23 (foot)
- Amy, Lauren and Hannah Ryder 22 (foot)

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

- Jim Hawkings 31 (walked around Wolf Creek, Pineridge, Fox Haven)
- Tony Gonda 23 (walked around Hidden Lakes)
- Amy, Lauren and Hannah Ryder 21 (walked trails near/around Whistlebend)



Is that a Swainson's or Hermit Thrush? Our youngest birder this year was 6-year-old River Richardson, who participated with his mother Gemma Richardson

Photo: Gemma Richardson



Hannah and Lauren Ryder had so much fun on last year's Birdathon they came back again! This year they had some serious competition for the youngest participant award!

Photo: Amy Ryder

Winter Birding with Lauren Ryder



Lauren's Mom, Amy Ryder, submitted this picture of Lauren, who has a really special relationship with ravens. She says they are her spirit animal. 🐼

Photo: Amy Ryder

Christmas Bird Count 2022, Continued from page 5

Haines Junction (Mallard, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Shrike), Kluane National Park (Sharp-tailed Grouse, Northern Hawk Owl, American Dipper) and Mayo (Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, Bohemian Waxwing). 🐼

Species	No. of Counts
Common Raven	9
Common Redpoll	9
Canada Jay	9
Boreal Chickadee	9
Black-capped Chickadee	8
White-winged Crossbill	7
Pine Grosbeak	7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
Black-billed Magpie	5
Dark-eyed Junco	5

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

Once again we had tremendous participation. There were 29 birders, including seven first-timers. Cathy Hoehn had a great time in her first birdathon, using her plug-in-hybrid electric vehicle to get around. Newcomer 12-year-old Jasper Caudle made a great effort, and even dragged his six siblings and both parents to the potluck!

Lots of folks made a really good effort to be enviro-birders: Five people were solely on foot, two more used foot and public transit, three were on regular bikes (even hauled an infant with them!), two were on eBikes, and one used an electric car. Together, that's 13 of 29 participants – a huge change

from previous Birdathons.

Weather.....well, after a pretty nice time last year, 2023 was a bit of a character-builder. Windy and pretty cool (11-13C), with just a few drops of rain on Saturday. The wind was definitely our constant companion, and it made life at the potluck dinner much more interesting as well. Luckily, at Rotary Park Paul Warner and John Meikle stepped up and rigged a very nice windbreak using tarps and rope. With the wind at bay, the evening sun kept everyone warm long enough to enjoy a great meal and the great company of other birders.

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Birdathon 2023, Continued from page 7

As usual, most people were birding in the Southern Lakes between Marsh Lake, Carcross, and Lake Laberge, again this year, but we did have some going further afield. Julie Bauer and Terry Skjonsberg were out between Kluane and Haines Junction. Jukka Jantunen and Ted Murphy-Kelly decided to relive their birdathon of 10 years ago, so they drove from Whitehorse to Watson Lake on Friday and returned on Saturday. Thanks to their sleep-deprived efforts, our species total was bumped up by 20 species. Close to half of that increase was from birding in southeast Yukon – where a handful of species can be found at the very northwestern part of their North American range (e.g. Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Clay-coloured Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Tennessee Warbler, American Redstart, Western Tanager) . Meanwhile Julie and Terry added another five species that were not seen by other observers (Northern Harrier, Great Gray Owl, Great Horned Owl, American Pipit, Pine Grosbeak).

Hard work (and covering a lot of ground) makes for a long bird list. Our resident experts Jukka Jantunen and Ted Murphy Kelly proved this once again. Their “sleepless in Watson Lake” epic netted 111 species. This year’s Feature Birder, Alex Oberg, got a better night’s sleep at home, and was not too far behind with 87 species, followed by Tracy Allard with 81.

Our Birdathon species total was 139, which ties for the lowest number in recent years. The cold, windy weather definitely played into this relatively low number. Compare that to 151 in 2019, 139 in 2020, 147 in 2021, and 146 in 2022.

As to the actual birds seen this year, nothing horribly unusual was seen, but there were a few interesting wanderers: a Black-legged Kittiwake



Shyloh van Delft and her daughter Cassandra all set for a fun day of birdwatching by bike! Note the multi-function child seat on this bike...

Photo: Toren van Delft



Perhaps the most unusual bird found in this year’s Birdathon was this Black-Legged Kittiwake, found at the Quartz Road Marsh and seen by multiple observers.

Photo: Adam Perrier

appeared at Quartz Road – this is a gull that never really strays far from salt water and nests on cliffs along the coast! Also at Quartz Road was a Ring-billed gull....common on the prairies, but not here.

Memorable moments from this year’s 24 hours? Swallows will figure in most people’s notes: It seems people saw almost no swallows, or, if they were lucky, stumbled on one of the sheltered wetlands



Toren, Shyloh, and Cassandra van Delft in Ibex valley show how much fun our Yukon Birdathon is when you envirobird! (Shyloh van Delft). All three of them spent the day getting around by bike and foot from their home base near the Takhini River Bridge on the Alaska Highway.

Photo: Toren van Delft



Ted Murphy-Kelly took the opportunity to bask in his favorite haunts at the Albert Creek Bird Observatory at Upper Liard.....which was a bit wetter than normal this spring.

Photo: Jukka Jantunen



Our Feature Birder, Alex Oberg, managed 87 species in only his second Yukon Birdathon.. Alex also put in a huge effort to get sponsors for his Birdathon. Well done, Alex!

Photo: Jenny Trapnell

where hundreds or thousands of swallows were desperately wheeling about trying to get enough to eat. In my case, the only one I saw during 30 km of walking was the Tree Swallow that was nesting in my nestbox at home – and all I saw was its head! Logan McLeod found the other end of the spectrum – hordes of them in a small pothole lake near the Whitehorse Sewage Lagoons.

The Birdathon is one of the main fundraisers for the Yukon Bird Club – really the only one we have aside from our annual membership dues. This year several participants really stepped up: Alex Oberg, our 2023 Feature Birder, Cathy Hoehn – a new member and brand new participant in the Birdathon, and Ted Murphy-Kelly – a longtime YBC member and an undisputed cornerstone of the Yukon birding community. A huge THANK YOU to them and all the other participants and their sponsors this year.

On behalf of myself and all the other participants, I'd like to thank once again 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.

For a version of this with complete participant and birds lists see the recent blog post on our YBC website <https://yukonbirds.ca/report-2023-helmut-grunberg-yukon-birdathon-2/> 🌿



Hardcore Yukon Birdathoners (left to right) Jukka Jantunen, and Ted Murphy-Kelly managed to see/hear 111 species this year, making them champions by quite a good margin. We're not sure if Rudy – on the left with the binoculars – was part of the team or not.

Photo: Courtesy of Ted Murphy-Kelly

An Exciting Year of Birding in Mayo

By Kim Selbee

For such a small place, Mayo is big on surprises when it comes to birds! Located in the beautiful traditional territory of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation, the village is situated at the point where the Mayo River empties into the Stewart. River A rich variety of habitats support a great many species, for a relatively small area that I can hike easily in a few hours.

This year has been the most interesting yet, beginning in May, with the brief sighting of a north-bound Starling -- my first glimpse of one in the Yukon!

Then, as the snow began to melt and form roadside ponds, an extremely shy American Coot—another Yukon first for me -- was spotted, to my surprise-- right near the entrance to town, hiding amongst partially submerged willows!

On that same day, a pair of Snow Geese touched down in the ballpark field, where they stayed for over a week—to the delight of many! Another goose soon joined them, and the trio spent their time nibbling the grass and taking turns sleeping, seemingly unfazed by the attention.



Brambling

Photo: Kim Selbee



Upland Sandpiper

Photo: Kim Selbee

By mid-May, I would have as many as 50 species on my checklist in a few hours, and I couldn't wait to get up each morning to search for new arrivals. A Whimbrel was spotted at Minto Bridge, and on the 21st of May, the White-throated Sparrows had arrived and were singing along the Dike Road. By July, it was getting quite warm and there were several wildfires burning in our area. With the smoky skies came a smooth-feathered, black-masked visitor, one I'd never seen in Mayo before-- a Cedar Waxwing! I could hardly believe my eyes—right in my yard, stealing berries from the "regulars", to their consternation, and it was quickly chased away. Wow!!

Within a week of that surprising sighting, the entire community of Mayo was being evacuated due to an out-of-control wildfire that was now headed straight for the village! We spent a tense week in Whitehorse, and then everyone was incredibly relieved and thankful to be able to return to our untouched homes. As I walked around town a few days later, it was to the non-stop sound of firefighting helicopters as they flew back and forth, working to keep the remaining hotspots under control. Then, to my great surprise, as I checked out a some rustling in the bird cherry trees at the Binet House, I discovered a whole family of seven Cedar Waxwings! They were gone within a few days, and strangely, I did not see a single Bohemian Waxwing here all summer or fall this year.

The weather grew cooler and wetter, and soon noisy flocks of Canada geese were flying overhead daily. On the first day of September, as I watched a particularly large flock flying low over the ballpark, I noticed a small movement in the field and discovered a strange bird walking around nervously; its large, expressive eyes gave it a rather worried look. Not wanting to unduly frighten it any further, I took only a few photos and went on my way. A few hours later, perusing my Sibley guide, I would discover that it was an Upland Sandpiper--- the first one I have ever seen!

But it wasn't the only surprise sighting that day. As I walked the Dike Road towards Gordon Park, and my shortcut back into town, a very small movement along the base of a cottonwood stump caught my eye. At first glance, it almost looked like a little brown mouse-- but my photos would reveal a Pacific Wren!! I was beside myself with excitement, and could hardly believe it---my first sighting of one here in the Yukon.

With some very cold weather and snow arriving in mid-October, I resigned myself to the inevitable farewell to an amazing year of birding.



Pacific Wren

Photo: Kim Selbee

Little did I suspect that the biggest surprise of all was actually on the way! And so it was that on the afternoon of October 22, as I was looking out my living room window at what I thought was a straggling Dark-eyed Junco, it soon became apparent that it was something quite different. There was a striking orange color on the chest and shoulders of this bird, and I quickly grabbed my camera as it hopped about under the conifer trees, foraging hungrily in the dried grass. I had no idea what it could be, until --there it was, in my Sibley guide---a male Brambling, and a "Very rare visitor from Eurasia", according to the book. This time, I was beyond excited---I was in shock!!! As fast as I possibly could, I sent three photos to Cameron to confirm what I could hardly believe my own eyes were seeing... incredible!!!

As the temperature slowly began to rise, the Brambling seemed more revived, flying in and out of the yard over the next five days.

Then it was gone...hopefully well on its way now to warmer places. Wow, what a year it's been---

and it's not over yet... 🌱

Changes to Yukon Bird Names?

By Jim Hawkings

A bunch of Yukon birds are slated for name changes in the not-too-distant future. The authorities who determine the common names of North American Birds have decided that all birds whose names are Eponymous (i.e. they contain the names of individual people) should be renamed. According to the American Ornithological Society, this will affect 152 species across North America, and 111 in South America. Of the North American birds, about 29 are on the Yukon checklist. Why are they doing this? Well, the main reason is that some birds were named after people whose reputations are now seen as a bit dodgy, as in the case of many historical figures in the news over the past few years. Of course this is not the case with everyone whose name is on a bird species; but after considerable discussion, these groups decided it would be opening Pandora's box to look at each one on a case-by-case basis - where do you draw the line between keeping a name and ditching it? There are other good reasons to change these names as well: Many birds were named at a time when the only people involved in naming birds were white men in privileged positions – not exactly equitable. In addition, a person's name on a bird tells nothing about the bird – far better to have a name that provides some useful information about the bird, which would also strengthen the average person's connection with birds and nature in general. For example, a distinctive colour or other physical features can be ideal to incorporate in a name. As for the folks whose surnames currently adorn these birds, there are other, arguably better, ways to recognize their contributions to ornithology.

This initiative is being greeted with mixed emotions by the birding community. It's going to be fairly disruptive to have a whole rift of obsolete bird names enshrined in millions of field guides, books, and other ornithological literature. Older, veteran birders can be justifiably annoyed at the need to learn new names when they are perfectly familiar and comfortable with the old ones. On the other hand, the new names should be helpful in identifying the birds, especially for less-experienced birders.



Barrow's Goldeneye pair 23 April 2019

Photo: Tony Gonda



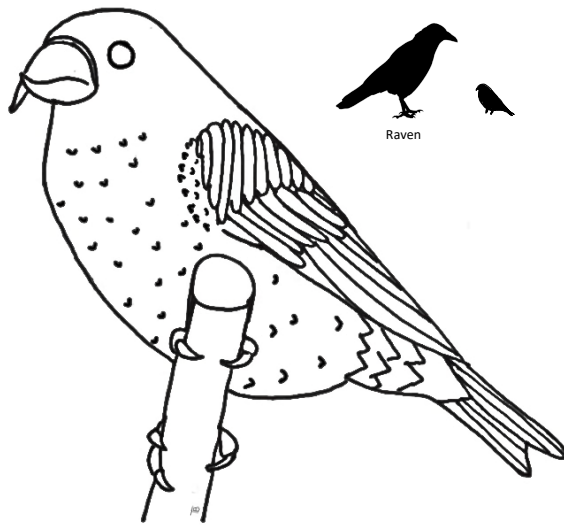
Swainson's Thrush 17 May 2012

Photo: Keith Williams

Many of the 340-odd bird species on the Yukon checklist are actually rarely seen here, and the same goes for many of the 29 species whose names may change. The most commonly encountered birds whose names might change are: Wilson's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bonaparte's Gull, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

The process of changing names is not going to be rushed or haphazard, and it will involve public consultation of some kind. Yukon birders should start thinking of some appropriate descriptive names for these birds – especially the ones that are common fixtures here. Black-capped Yellow Warbler? Crescent-faced Pond King? Boreal Tree Gull? Blankity-blank Flycatcher?

Red Crossbill

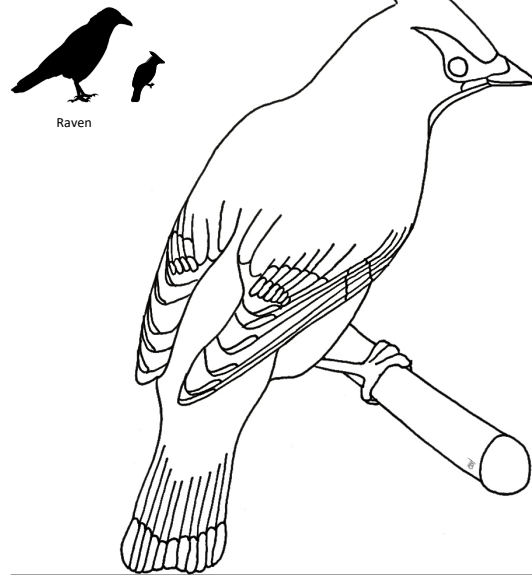


Colour in the Red Crossbill!

My head and belly are red. My feet and my beak are grey.
My wings and tail are red and brown. My eyes are black.

**Yukon
Bird Club**

Bohemian Waxwing



Colour in the Bohemian Waxwing!

My body is beige. My feet and eyes are black.
My beak is grey. My chin and around my eyes are black.
My wings have yellow, red and white patches.
The tips of my tail feathers are yellow.

**Yukon
Bird Club**

Bird Names ...continued from page 12

If you want to learn more about this, there is PLENTY of reading material online. A good place to start is <https://www.birdscanada.org/birds-canada-and-quebecoiseaux-welcome-the-announcement-from-the-american-ornithological-society>

List of species with eponymous names on the Yukon bird list.

- Ross's Goose
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Wilson's Snipe
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Ross's Gull
- Sabine's Gull
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Franklin's Gull
- Swainson's Hawk
- Hammond's Flycatcher
- Say's Phoebe
- Steller's Jay
- Clark's Nutcracker
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Swainson's Thrush
- Cassin's Finch
- Smith's Longspur
- McKay's Bunting
- Brewer's Sparrow
- Harris's Sparrow
- LeConte's Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Brewer's Blackbird
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler 🐦

Male Wilson's Warbler 5 May 2023

Photo: Ed Jenni



Ed Jenni

Spring Clean-Up at the Quartz Road Marsh



Volunteers gather May 3 at the finish of the Yukon Bird Club's spring clean-up at the Quartz Rd marsh, in Whitehorse. The marsh is an important birding hotspot.

Photo: Lena Ware

By Jenny Trapnell

A hard-working crew of Whitehorse birders took part in the second annual Quartz Rd Marsh clean-up, on May 3.

The Yukon Bird Club held the event at the well-known birding hotspot located on the Yukon River across from Walmart.

In only 1.5 hours, 10 volunteers filled 18 large bags of trash like plastic, cans, and fast-food containers. They also delighted in observing early spring arrivals like Short-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls, Killdeer, White-crowned Sparrow and Fox Sparrow, an American Robin, 20 Green-winged Teal, and a pair of Trumpeter Swans.

According to eBird, an annual total of 154 bird species, mostly visitors, has been recorded at the marsh.

YBC would like to thank the City of Whitehorse for its support through the City's Community Clean-up Grant program. The grant will be used in club activities to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats - like the Quartz Rd marsh.

Watch for your chance to sign up for YBC's 2024 spring clean-up! 🌱

Wintertime Crossword Puzzle

By Jeremy Baumbach

ACROSS

1. Feature Whitehorse was named for
5. Distinctive feathers on a crane
9. Used with "out" and required for grocery budgets these days
11. Plural of pages (Abbrev.)
12. Yesteryear Rotary Park
16. A kind of owl or a chickadee or forest
18. Indefinite article
19. Part of the cuckoo family
21. An ____ for an ____
22. A kind of work or mushroom

23. ____ shot
24. A Vanc. Isl. College
27. Currently understaffed Whse. facility
28. As opposed to "mod"
30. Coveted item at the Arctic Winter Games
31. A U.S. singing/dancing/etc. competition

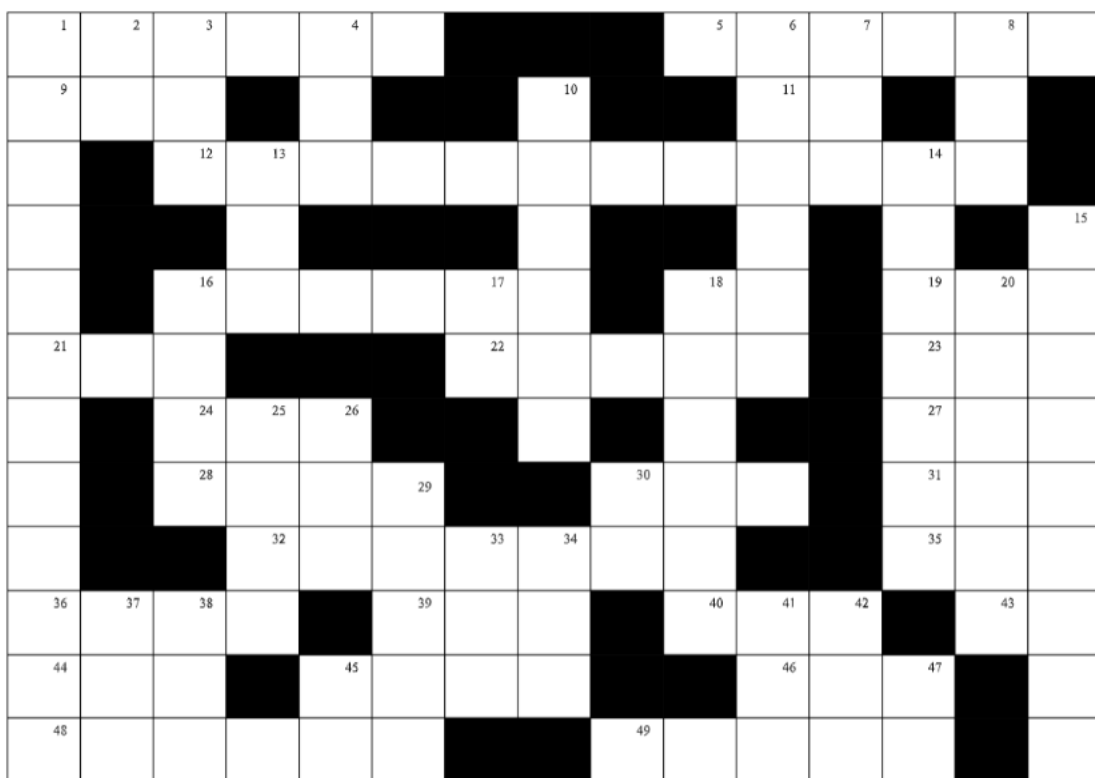
32. See 45 Across
35. Slangy agreement
36. Performs a particular type of music
39. A metric used for academic achievement (Abbrev.)
40. Celebration marking the end of Ramadan
43. British thank you
44. The key to stepping back from the big picture?
45. One of the First Nations on whose traditional territory Whitehorse is located (with 32 Across)

46. Pool implement
48. Fish hawk
49. Not straight

DOWN

1. Bird that takes the overnight flight?
2. ____ 47
3. Church furniture
4. A cause of MVAs
6. Not a downtown sandpiper?
7. The new Takhini Hot Springs bills itself as this
8. ____ Indios Tabajaras, a guitar duo from Brazil
10. Cornell birders' app
13. Long-eared owl call
14. Transportation around Miles Canyon during the Gold Rush
15. Bird that stays up late?
16. Not straight
17. Type of heart problem (Abbrev.)
18. Cherished business now closed (hopefully temporarily)

20. A Gold Rush find
25. Bugs
26. Corvid call
29. Swan in Southern Tutchone
30. U.S. state
33. Nat. org. for some mental health professionals
34. "People of the river"
37. "The law is an ____", from a play published in 1654 (some things don't change)
38. An illegal street drug, also known as "angel dust" (Abbrev.)
41. Wine or cubes
42. We're ____ for a bit of sun
45. Add a letter for a tasty brew
47. Department at 27 Across



Crossword puzzle solution

R	A	P	I	D	S				B	U	S	T	L	E
E	K	E		U			M			P	P		O	
D		W	H	I	S	K	E	Y	F	L	A	T	S	
E			O				R			A		R		N
Y		B	O	R	E	A	L		A	N		A	N	I
E	Y	E				F	I	E	L	D		M	U	G
D		N	I	C			N		P			W	G	H
V		T	R	A	D			P	I	N		A	G	T
I			K	W	A	C	H	A	N			Y	E	H
R	A	P	S		G	P	A		E	I	D		T	A
E	S	C		T	A	A	N			C	U	E		W
O	S	P	R	E	Y			Q	U	E	E	R		K

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/>

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