

Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/4/2024

Count Name: Whitehorse	Count Code: YTWH	Count Date: 12/26/2023
Organizations & Sponsors: Yukon Bird Club	# of Party Hours: 75.30	Species reported on count date: 25

Compiler(s)

First Name	Last Name	Email	Is Primary Compiler
Jim	Hawkings	northhawk@gmail.com	Yes

Start & End Times

Start time	End time
10:00 AM	06:00 PM

Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 46
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 10
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 26
At Feeders	Total Number: 12

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	62.50	139.80	Kilometers
Car	8.80	82.90	Kilometers
Air			
All-Terrain Vehicle			
Bicycle			
Dog Sled			
Golfcart			
Horseback			
Motorized Boat			
Non-Motorized Boat			
Skis/Xc-Skis	4.00	12.50	Kilometers
Snowmachine			
Snowshoe			
Wheelchair			

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units
At Feeders	12.80		

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Nocturnal Birding	0.50	0.00	
Total Party	75.30	235.20	Kilometers

Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: -4.0 Celsius	Maximum: 1.1 Celsius	
Wind Direction	South		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 7.00 Kilometers/hour	Maximum: 16.00 Kilometers/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 5.00 Centimeters	Maximum: 18.00 Centimeters	
Still Water	Frozen		
Moving Water	Partly Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Partly Clear	
AM Rain	None		
AM Snow	Light, None		
PM Rain	None		
PM Snow	None		

Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Mallard	70		116/118	28	
Common Merganser	1		6/115	22	
Ruffed Grouse	1		4/113	23	
Spruce Grouse	1		9/118	28	
Golden Eagle	1		1/124	7	
Bald Eagle	89		130/120	30	
Downy Woodpecker	2		8/122	29	
Hairy Woodpecker	2		12/110	30	
American Three-toed Woodpecker	2		9/100	22	
Gray Jay	27		33/110	32	
Black-billed Magpie	109		191/112	32	
American Crow	3		6/123	5	
Common Raven	1693		3300/122	32	
Black-capped Chickadee	147		152/120	32	
Mountain Chickadee	1		7/121	16	
Boreal Chickadee	47		96/109	32	
chickadee sp.	2		18/104	16	

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Red-breasted Nuthatch	7		9/123	26	
American Dipper	9		17/119	32	
Bohemian Waxwing	21		4032/123	32	
Pine Grosbeak	206		378/122	32	
Red Crossbill	147	HC,	147/124	25	
White-winged Crossbill	33		264/108	25	
crossbill sp.	7		49/123	13	
Common Redpoll	213		681/108	29	
Hoary Redpoll	1		6/115	16	
House Sparrow	205		213/121	18	
Total Individuals	3047				
Total Species Reported	25				
cw = Reported count week US = Flagged as an unusual species HC = Flagged as an unusually high count LC = Flagged as an unusually low count					

Species Requiring Rare Bird Reports to be Submitted to Regional Editor

Species

Special Aspects

The 2023 Whitehorse Christmas Bird Count was both remarkable and rather ordinary. The weather was remarkably warm, as it has been all fall and for most of the past year - a sign of things to come no doubt. December 2023 was a full 10 degrees C warmer than December 2022. There was very little snow on the ground and plenty of open water. Together, these conditions likely make life relatively easy for our resident birds - no pressing need to mob feeders during the day in order to survive the long cold nights. It's been easy for people too - lots of observers (44) ventured out all over Whitehorse to count in the balmy weather (right around freezing) and 12 watched their feeders. But strangely there were no unusual birds found this year, save for a young Golden Eagle found at the landfill by Cameron Eckert and Lena Ware. We expected all kinds of migrants to hang around to enjoy this weather and easy access to food. But there were no lingering juncos, sparrows, or American Robins to be found. One lonely merganser was the only duck on the Yukon River. There were also remarkably few Bohemian Waxwings (21 - compare this to 4,023 last year!), likely a result of our warm, dry summer which led to a miserable crop of berries - meaning not much for them to eat. Bald Eagles, on the other hand, were flying around everywhere this year, including a pair checking out their(?) nest on the bluff along Robert Service Way. Some of our regular winter residents were found in close to record numbers: Red Crossbills were found in many parts of town, enjoying the offerings at feeders, as were Canada Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, and House Sparrows.