

# Count Summary Report

Printout Date: 1/9/2025

<b>Count Name:</b> Whitehorse	<b>Count Code:</b> YTWH	<b>Count Date:</b> 12/26/2024
<b>Organizations &amp; Sponsors:</b> Yukon Bird Club	<b># of Party Hours:</b> 69.00	<b>Species reported on count date:</b> 26

## Compiler(s)

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

## Start & End Times

Start time	End time
09:00 AM	06:00 PM

## Effort

Observers	
In Field	Total Number: 56
	Minimum Number of Parties (daylight): 15
	Maximum Number of Parties (daylight): 27
At Feeders	Total Number: 10

Party Hours and Distance (excludes viewing at feeders and nocturnal birding)			
By	Hours	Distance	Units
Foot	60.00	128.00	Kilometers
Car	6.00	94.00	Kilometers
Air			
All-Terrain Vehicle			
Bicycle			
Dog Sled			
Golfcart			
Horseback			
Motorized Boat			
Non-Motorized Boat			
Skis/Xc-Skis	3.00	12.00	Kilometers
Snowmachine			
Snowshoe			
Wheelchair			

Other Time and Distance			
	Hours	Distance	Units
At Feeders	5.70		

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Nocturnal Birding	0.00	0.00	
Total Party	69.00	234.00	Kilometers

## Weather

Weather Summary			
Temperature	Minimum: -2.0 Celsius	Maximum: 1.0 Celsius	
Wind Direction	South		
Wind Velocity	Minimum: 12.00 Kilometers/hour	Maximum: 35.00 Kilometers/hour	
Snow Depth	Minimum: 25.00 Centimeters	Maximum: 39.00 Centimeters	
Still Water	Frozen		
Moving Water	Partly Open		
AM and PM Conditions			
Cloud Cover	AM: Cloudy	PM: Cloudy	
AM Rain			
AM Snow			
PM Rain			
PM Snow			

## Checklist

Species	Number or cw	Flags	Max Number	# Of Counts	Editor Comm.
Mallard	135	HC,	135/125	29	
Common Goldeneye	3		5/123	16	
Common Merganser	3		6/115	23	
Spruce Grouse	2		9/118	29	
Northern Goshawk	cw		2/100	13	
Bald Eagle	92		130/120	31	
Downy Woodpecker	1	LC	8/122	30	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	LC	12/110	31	
American Three-toed Woodpecker	1		9/100	23	
Northern Shrike	2	HC,	2/125	9	
Gray Jay	10		33/110	33	
Black-billed Magpie	132		191/112	33	
American Crow	12	HC,	12/125	6	
Common Raven	1594		3300/122	33	
Black-capped Chickadee	109		152/120	33	
Mountain Chickadee	3		7/121	17	
Boreal Chickadee	70		96/109	33	

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Red-breasted Nuthatch	29	HC,	29/125	27	
American Dipper	11		17/119	33	
American Robin	1		8/112	13	
Bohemian Waxwing	610		4032/123	33	
Snow Bunting	11	US,	22/107	3	
Pine Grosbeak	107		378/122	33	
Red Crossbill	176	HC,	176/125	26	
White-winged Crossbill	165		264/108	26	
crossbill sp.	1		49/123	14	
Common Redpoll	18		681/108	30	
redpoll sp.	93		380/111	22	
Pine Siskin	cw		12/111	5	
House Sparrow	78		213/121	19	
Total Individuals	3470				
Total Species Reported	26				

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

Snow Bunting [Plectrophenax nivalis]

### Special Aspects

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Well, that was a very pleasant Whitehorse Christmas Bird Count on Boxing Day – very similar to last year’s weather. It turned out to be one of the warmest days of December – but just a tad on the windy side! In spite of the balmy weather, and above-average temperatures in December, it should be noted that November was NOT above average – in fact it was almost as cold as December... and we had tons of snow by late October! We had a record high 57 participants, including a handful of visiting birders here for the holidays. Our species total of 26 was pretty much bang-on the average of 25.4 over the past 25 years. We often think we should have all kinds of weird birds here when we have relatively mild weather, but the only somewhat unusual species was 11 Snow Buntings found on a grassy slope near Ear Lake – only the third year they have been seen on the Whitehorse CBC. Instead of unusual species, it seems we get more individuals of the species that are just at the northern edge of their wintering range: We had high counts for Mallard (135), Northern Shrike (2), American Crow (12), Red Breasted Nuthatch (29). All four of these have become more regular in recent years. The Crows this year were double the previous high count, and they were found primarily along the Millenium Trail between the Robert Campbell Bridge and the Rotary Centennial Bridge (it was actually a bit tricky to count them as they seemed to be flying all over the place!), whereas in previous years they have been mostly found downtown and in the Shipyards Park area. And the Red-breasted Nuthatches have gone crazy – the previous high count was 9 in 2023! We continue to be awash in Bald Eagles with the second highest count ever (92) – and they were literally seen everywhere, by 13 different parties. We also had a second consecutive high count (176) for Red Crossbills, which are one of several irruptive finches whose numbers fluctuate wildly from year to year. Bohemian Waxwings continue their boom/bust pattern. After a poor berry crop and a dismal Christmas count of Waxwings (21) last year, there was an enormous crop of berries this year around town. But it seems we still only had a modest number of Waxwings in Whitehorse during November and December, including on the Christmas Count (610 – compared to over 4000 in 2022). Those that were here had no shortage of food - on my Boxing Day travels around Riverdale I saw many, many berry trees that seemed to be virtually untouched! There were some close-calls for common species: Spruce Grouse, American Robin, and all three woodpecker species on the count were only represented by 1 individual each! Oh, and several exciting species turned up in Whitehorse after count day, just outside the 3-day “count week” window: A Sharp-shinned Hawk was in Porter Creek on 30 December, a Spotted Towhee appeared in Riverdale on 2 January, and a Northern Hawk Owl was on the Whitehorse Nordic Centre trails on 5 January. All in all a very enjoyable and successful count. Thanks to everyone who took the time to participate!