

# YUKON WARBLER

Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club

Spring 2025



**2025 Birdathon  
Feature  
Birder  
Pages 4-5**

**A Spotted Towhee  
Brings Big  
Winter Joy  
Pages 8-9**

**(Cover) Bay-breasted Warbler,  
Watson Lake, June 8, 2024**

**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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#### For more information contact:

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4061-4th Avenue Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1  
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YBC Website: [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca)  
Yukon Birds Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/](https://facebook.com/groups/212509148852262/)  
YBC Bluesky: [@yukonbirdclub.bsky.social](https://@yukonbirdclub.bsky.social)

## 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](mailto: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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# Bird Friendly City Project Update

By Glenn Rudman

The Bird Friendly City (BFC) project, sponsored by the Yukon Bird Club and coordinated nationally by Nature Canada is progressing steadily. Volunteers have been working with the City of Whitehorse to produce a map of key bird habitat and bird viewing locations, based on the input of over 40 people who contributed information at a workshop held in March, 2024. The list of locations can be found on the YBC website

under the Community tab. Once the map is ready it will be provided along side the list. The intention is for the list to be a good starting point to emphasize the importance of the locations for birds and wildlife and, to the extent possible, encourage the City of Whitehorse to exclude the areas from future development. The Bird Friendly City Whitehorse Working Group is also looking at ways to encourage people to reduce bird window strikes (see Jim Hawkings' article on

page 13) and is looking at pesticide use and roaming cats. Applying to be recognized as a Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada is one of the next steps. If you would like to be involved in the BFC project or simply want to find out more please contact [glenn@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:glenn@yukonbirds.ca).

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## Fiona Drinkwalter receives the Yukon Bird Club Conservation Scholarship



Fiona is a Yukoner currently enrolled in Renewable Resources Management at Yukon University. She has an eclectic resumé including lots of volunteer outdoor and natural history activities, and is looking forward to working as a Yukon Park Ranger this summer. Congratulations Fiona!

By Jim Hawkings

Fiona Drinkwalter is the deserving recipient of our 2024/2025 Yukon Bird Club Conservation Scholarship.

You can see info about the scholarship and a list of previous winners at <https://yukonbirds.ca/yukon-bird-club-conservation-scholarship/>.

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### In this issue:

Bird Friendly City Update	3
YBC Conservation	3
Scholarship	
2025 Birdathon	4
Warbler Changes	5
Field Trip Schedule	6
Winter Spotted Towhee	8
Lives of Trumpeter Swans	10
Easy Bird-Friendly	13
Windows	
Youth Programming	13
Funding	
Tagish CBC	14
Crossword Puzzle	15

# 2025 Birdathon: Celebrating 40 Years!

By Gemma Richardson

The annual Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon is taking place from 5 p.m. Friday May 30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 31. This fun event open to everyone has now been held for 40 years in the Yukon and is the main fundraiser for the Yukon Bird Club.

Take part in this 24-hour Birdathon as an individual, group or family, or sponsor this year's Feature Birder, John Meikle (see profile below). Whether you stay

close to home to discover the birds in your own backyard, or venture to hotspots in your surrounding community, this is a great opportunity to witness the spring migration and nesting season in the Yukon.

Afterwards, all are welcome to join the Birdathon BBQ potluck, starting at 6 p.m. at the Robert Service campground. Prizes will be available to attendees who observed the most birds in various categories, including youngest and oldest birders,

enviro-birders who travelled without the use of fossil fuels, and for the overall most species seen.

The money raised from the Birdathon supports education and outreach activities, including field trips, this newsletter, and conservation scholarship awards.

You can find out more about the Birdathon at [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca) or the Yukon Bird Club's Facebook and Bluesky pages.

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## 2025 Feature Birder – John Meikle

John Meikle has always been interested in birds, but it wasn't until he was working as a park system planner and with Cameron Eckert, a founding member of the Yukon Bird Club, that his interest in identifying birds was sparked. It's now been 25 years of actively birding in the Yukon for John.

A particularly memorable moment while birding in the Yukon was while exploring a mountain area near Whitehorse in July 2014. John suddenly found himself surrounded by at least 100 gray-crowned rosy finches feeding their young on an insect irruption. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches are unique among songbirds for nesting high in rocky alpine regions of western Canada and Alaska. John works



Photo: Courtesy of John Meikle and Helen

Liskova

in land planning so he has had the opportunity to work with wildlife experts and First Nation Elders on traditional knowledge and ecosystem mapping. Some of his work has included mapping bird habitats in the Southern

Lakes region of Yukon, where knowledge of birds has been helpful to his work. "Knowing birds opened up a new lens on the land" he says.

In recent years, John and Helen have birded across Latin

**Continues on page 5**

# Changes at the Helm for the Yukon Warbler

By Jennifer Trapnell

The Yukon Bird Club would like to say a big thank you to outgoing Yukon Warbler editor, Ulrich Trachsel. Ulrich initially took on the role for the Winter 2020-2021 issue as a board member and stayed on as a volunteer editor for the last two years. Ulrich has seen growing demands for his time, becoming a parent along with his spouse, Shyloh van Delft, to two daughters since 2020. Ulrich has also recently launched a new

furniture-making business, Ibex Valley Wood Products. Best wishes to you all and good luck with your new venture, Ulrich.

This issue sees a new editor for the Yukon Warbler, Aaron Kuntz. Aaron, who works as a planner for the City of Whitehorse, has been an active board member for three years, most recently as its Vice-President.



**Above: Premium Nest Box for Chickadees and Swallows, by Ibex Valley Wood Products**

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## 2025 Birdathon Feature Birder (Continued from page 4)



**Photo: Courtesy of John Meikle and Helen Liskova**

America over the course of multiple trips, including recently returning from Colombia for a second time. They also enjoyed a spring trip last year to Europe, seeing Mediterranean and African migrant birds returning to their nesting grounds.

John has participated in numerous Christmas Bird counts and several birdathons. For this year's birdathon, John and Helen are considering camping out overnight in the mountains and working their way down to see as many different bird species as possible.

As for advice for those who are new to birding, John recommends connecting with an experienced birder and asking to tag along. He also recommends downloading the Merlin app to help with bird song identification. Of course, John doesn't list any birds as observed from the Merlin app alone, but finds it a useful tool to help identify an unfamiliar bird song for future reference.

All are welcome to participate in the Birdathon, regardless of experience. If you cannot take part yourself, please consider sponsoring Feature Birder John Meikle in this important fundraiser for the Yukon Bird Club.

# Field Trips & Events 2025

All are welcome!

4061-4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 1H1

Email: [yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca) / web: [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca)

For this schedule & updates: [yukonbirds.ca/field-trips](http://yukonbirds.ca/field-trips)

## Spring

Friday 25 April: Carcross – The annual **Dusky Grouse hike** with Joel Luet. Meet at the gazebo opposite Montana Services at 6:30pm. Wear warm clothing and sturdy footwear for hike to lower slopes. (3hrs)

Tue 29 April: **Litter pick-up for birds at Quartz Road wetlands** with the Yukon Bird Club. Meet at Boston Pizza Parking lot 6pm. (1 hr). Thank you!

Fri-Sun 2-4 May: Faro **Crane & Sheep Festival**. View thousands of migrant cranes over Tintina Trench. Meet at Campbell Regional Interp Centre for events.

Thurs 8 May: **Quartz Road Marsh spring birding** riverside walk with Lena Ware. Meet at Boston Pizza Parking lot at 5:30pm. (1.5hrs)

Sat 10 May: **Birding for Beginners Workshop** - Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with a day-long workshop at the Whitehorse Public Library (1171 Front Street). 10:30am to 4pm. For more info and to book your spot email [glenn@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:glenn@yukonbirds.ca)

Sun 11 May: Carcross – Enjoy a **bird walk around Nares Lake** with Dan Patterson & Jim Hawkings. Meet 10am at the gazebo opposite Montana Services. (2.5hrs)

Tue 13 May: Birds of the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve** with Jake Paleczny and friends at 6pm. Entrance fee \$13.30 for non-members of YWP (2hrs)

Wed 14 May: **Haines Junction – Spring migration** at the lagoons with Julie Bauer & Terry Skjonsberg. Meet at the sewage lagoons at 6pm. (2hrs)

Wed 14 May: Whitehorse – Join Tracy for a **bird walk** along Eagle Bluff with fine views of the Yukon River! Meet at Range Rd Bluff parking spot at 6pm. (1.5hrs)

Thurs 15 May: Birds of the **Millennium Trail** with Jenny Trapnell. Meet at the Whitehorse Fish Ladder 6:00pm. Wheelchair accessible. (2hrs)

Sat 17 May: Dawson – **Spring birds of the Klondike** with Annie Morrison. Meet at Henderson's Corner west entrance at 8am. (2hrs)

Sat 17 May: **Birding for Kids** with Shyloh van Delft & Gemma Richardson, for kids aged 6 to 12 (with parent/guardian). At Yukon University at 9:30am. Prepare for a short hike with hills. 25 spots available. Register by email [gemma@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:gemma@yukonbirds.ca)

Sat 17 May: **Army Beach spring beach bird hike** with Jim Hawkings. Meet at the SS. Klondike at 9:30am, or the Army Beach day-use area at 10:15am. (2hrs)

Sun 18 May: **All ages are invited** to [#learntobird](https://www.instagram.com/learn_tobird) along the Yukon Wild Road with Shyloh van Delft. Meet at the Elk Rd pullout in Ibex Valley at 9am. Carpooling encouraged!

Tue 20 May: **Peak migration** at Quartz Road wetlands with Kirsten Wilcox. Meet at Boston Pizza Parking lot at 5:30pm. (1.5hrs)

Thurs 22 May: **Judas Creek Migration Spectacular** with Jim Hawkings. Meet at the SS Klondike at 5:30pm, or Marsh Lake Community Centre at 6:15pm. (3.5hrs)

Sat 24 May: Mayo – **A spring bird walk** at this much-loved lake with Mark O'Donoghue. Meet at 5-Mile Lake campground at 8:30am. (3hrs)

Sun 25 May: **Birdsong Workshop** & eBird primer at Chasàn Chùà-McIntyre Creek with Pam Sinclair. Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 7:30am. (3hrs)

Wed 28 May: **Almost summer** at Quartz Road wetlands! A family-friendly stroll with Jim Hawkings. Meet at Boston Pizza Parking lot at 5:30pm. (1.5hrs)

Thurs 29 May: **A fun bird walk in collaboration with CPAWS Yukon** at Chasàn Chùà-McIntyre Creek. Meet at the gazebo at the Copper Haul Rd & Fish Lake Rd. 6pm. (1.5 hrs)

Fri-Sat 30-31 May (starts 5pm)

**Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon!**

Sharing the passion – a conservation fundraiser!

For more info – [yukonbirds.ca/birdathon/](http://yukonbirds.ca/birdathon/)



# Field Trips & Events 2025

All are welcome!

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## Summer

Fri-Sun 6-8 June: **Tombstone Weekend on the Wing!**

Hosted by Friends of Dempster Country & Yukon Parks at Tombstone Campground (Dempster km 72).

For info email [tombstonecentre@gmail.com](mailto:tombstonecentre@gmail.com)

Tues 3 June: **Explore McIntyre Creek** by Yukon University with Katie Aitken. Some steep hill climbing. Meet at student parking lot 6:30pm. (2 hrs)

Tue 10 June: **Summer bird walk** at peaceful Paddy's Pond in Hillcrest with Jenny Trapnell. Meet at Skky Hotel parking lot at 5:30 pm. (1.5hrs)

Sat 21 June: **Birding for Kids** with Shyloh van Delft & Gemma Richardson, for younger kids under age 6 with their parent/guardian at Yukon University at 9:30 a.m. 25 spots available. To register email [gemma@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:gemma@yukonbirds.ca)

Sun 22 June: **Valerie Lake Canyon Hike** in search of rare Western Flycatchers with Syd Cannings. Meet with your walking shoes at Winterlong Brewery on Mt Sima Way at 9am. (2.5hrs)

Thurs 26 June: **Wetland breeding birds along** Chasàn Chùà-McIntyre Creek with Lena Ware and friends. Meet at the gazebo on Fish Lake Rd at 6pm. (1.5hrs)

Sat 19 July: Learn about **Yukon bumblebees** on this special outing with Syd Cannings. Meet at the SS. Klondike at 1pm. (2hrs)

Sun 20 July: **Baby birds abound** at Verslucé Meadows with Pam Sinclair. Meet at the Porter Creek Super A at 9am. (2hrs)

Sat 26 July: **Summer birding the Takhini Salt Ponds** with Alex Oberg. Meet at the corner of the Alaska Hwy & Elk Road at 10am. (2hrs)

Sun 27 July: **Dragonflies of Hidden Lakes** with Syd Cannings. Dragonflies, birds, and biodiversity! Meet at the SS Klondike at 1pm. Wear rubber boots, or water shoes. (3hrs)

## Fall

Sat 2 August: Fall migration launch at **Teslin Lake Bird Observatory** with Ted Murphy-Kelly. Meet at Teslin Lake campground 8am, follow signs to banding station.

Sat 9 August: **Fall birding** at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve with the Yukon Bird Club. Meet at 10:30am. (2 hrs) \$13.30 entrance for non-members of YWP.

Sun 14 Sept: Check out **Teslin Lake Bird Observatory** with Ted Murphy-Kelly. Meet at Teslin Lake campground at 8am, follow signs to banding station.

Sat 20 Sept: Haines Junction – **Experience the magic of Rainbow Street** with Julie Bauer & friends. Meet at Rainbow Street at 11am. (2hrs)

Wed 19 November: **What's on the river?** A lunch-time stroll across the Rotary Centennial foot-bridge with Cameron Eckert and friends. Meet at the Fish Ladder at 12pm. Dress warmly! (1 hr)

14 Dec to 5 Jan. **Yukon Christmas Bird Counts!** All are welcome – be part of a North American-wide bird conservation event. For more info email [yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca)

*Come birding with the*

## Yukon Bird Club!

- ✓ Field trips & events throughout the Yukon
- ✓ Informative newsletter – *Yukon Warbler*
- ✓ Conservation education scholarship

**For more information or to join contact:**

Yukon Bird Club, 4061-4th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 1H1  
email: [yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca](mailto:yukonbirdclub@yukonbirds.ca) / web: [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca)

*Yukon Bird Club field trips & events are free — visitors and non-members are welcome!*



# A Spotted Towhee Brings Big Winter Joy



## Spotted Towhee Field Sketch, November 11, 2024

Courtesy of Erica Mah

By Erica Mah

It was a mid-November afternoon, when a large flock of waxwings settled onto a stand of tall birch trees behind our house. Like many Whitehorse residents, this spectacle always brings joy to our family. This past year, we have been especially keen to take

time out of the day to observe birds, because our son, at 10 years-old, has become deeply fascinated by them. He spends hours each week, scouring the pages of field guides, exploring the Merlin Bird ID app, drawing birds in his sketchbook, and planning our next birdwatching trips in the Yukon and beyond.

Naturally, he was the first one to identify the Spotted Towhee, perched on a lower branch of the tree, surrounded by waxwings. I never would have noticed it on my own, but my son is a far more patient and detailed observer. He recognized it right away, and knew how rare it was to see this bird in the Yukon. My husband and I took turns with the binoculars to confirm the sighting. How unusual! How exciting! Neither of us is very experienced at identifying birds, but the distinct markings left little room to doubt what it was.

My father-in-law, who lives in Ontario, is the designated bird expert in the family, so we sent him news of our sighting via text message. "A mega rarity for the Yukon!" he replied. Our son was over the moon to get this kind of validation from his grandfather. The Spotted Towhee stayed put for several minutes, and we didn't even think to take a photo; we simply lived in the happy moment together before it took off. We thought that it would be heading south to its usual range, and that would be the last we'd see of it. Later that day, we reported the sighting on e-Bird, but without a photo to back it up, it didn't get any attention.

For Christmas, we pooled our resources to get our son his own set of good quality binoculars. It was his only Christmas wish, and

## A Spotted Towhee Brings Big Winter Joy (Continued from page 9)



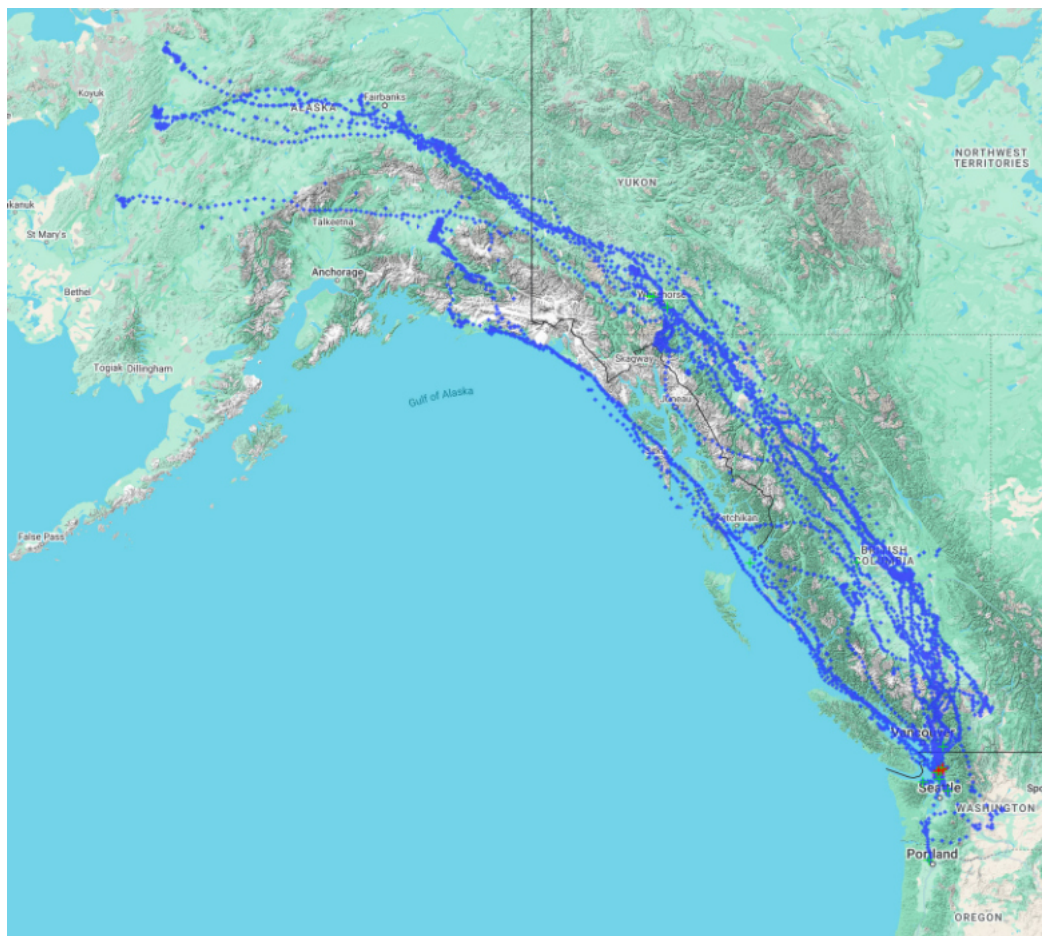
he had proven himself capable of taking care of them. On Boxing Day, he and a couple of family members joined a group for a walk along the Yukon River for the Christmas Bird Count to try them out. He brought up the Spotted Towhee sighting again, eager to impress local birdwatchers with his news. "Did you get a picture?" they asked.

On New Year's Day, as the temperature plummeted into the 30s, we made birdseed ornaments for our emptied out Christmas Tree, and set it up on our back deck. We had been given a set of pretty anti-collision decals, so we decorated the back windows too. It was a great way to spend a chilly first day of 2025. The very next day, my daughter announced, "Mom, look, a bird outside!". And there it was, the Spotted Towhee had returned! It was perched on the monkeybars beside the old Christmas Tree. My son danced around the living room in giddy excitement, while I scrambled to find my phone. I snapped a couple of blurry, but adequate for identification, shots before it moved on. With photos to share this time, we put up another report on e-Bird, and this time the report caught some interest.

Since then, the Spotted Towhee has attracted many birdwatchers to our quiet corner of Riverdale to share the childlike joy and wonder that this kind of bird sighting brings.

**Close Up - Spotted Towhee Field Sketch, November 11, 2024**  
Courtesy of Erica Mah

# The Lives of Trumpeter Swans Revealed!



However, both regular metal legbands and coded neckbands depend on a person encountering the swan, so they are virtually useless in the vast wilderness areas where Pacific Coast Trumpeter Swans spend much of their lives. A few Trumpeter Swans have been marked with conventional VHF radio trackers, but these also require a person with a radio-receiver to be close to the bird, so they too are of little use in remote areas. Airplanes have also been used to survey swans across their wilderness breeding grounds, but they are very expensive, and, though hundreds of swans can be located and counted this way, they cannot be identified as particular individuals.

**Tracks of the 19 Trumpeter Swans fitted with GPS trackers Jan. 2024 in Washington State. Over 300,000 locations are spread between those southern wintering grounds and the furthest -flung breeding areas in western Alaska (from Movebank.org Trumpeter Swan Winter Forage)**

Courtesy of Jim Hawkings

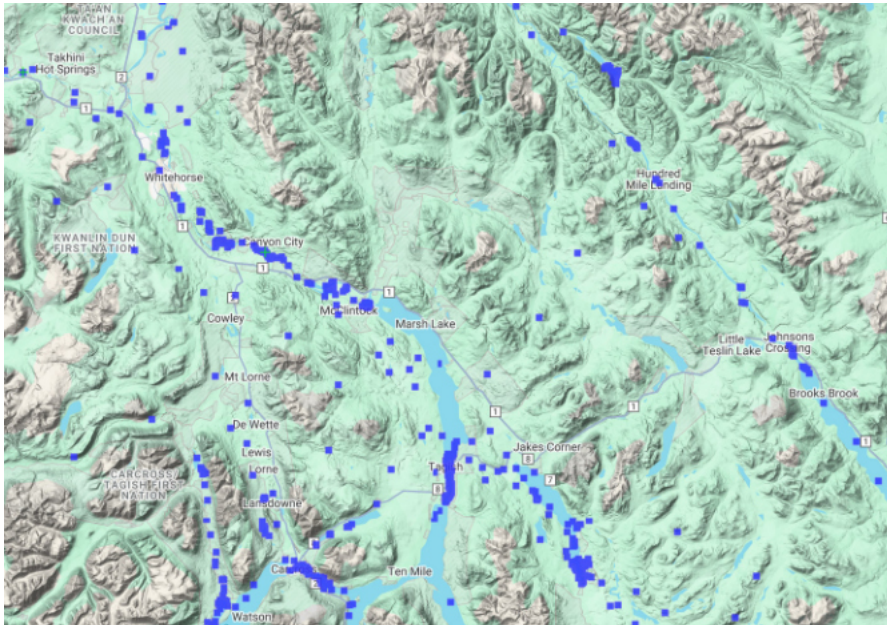
By Jim Hawkings

We know quite a bit about our Yukon Trumpeter Swans. We know roughly where they breed, the places they gather in migration, and where they winter. But there is an awful lot we don't know. Much of our current knowledge of Trumpeter Swans in the Pacific Flyway has been learned from observations of birds flying overhead, at migration areas such as Swan Haven, or on accessible nesting lakes. Some

swans have been marked with individually numbered metal leg bands. A metal leg band on any bird typically provides only one or two locations: where/when the bird was banded, and where/when the bird died. A few swans have also been marked with coded and coloured neckbands (readable with binoculars or a spotting scope), which can provide dozens of locations – wherever a person has been able to correctly read the colour and codes on the neckband.

Thanks to the efforts of a graduate student from California, our knowledge is about to take a huge leap forward. Ivonne Romero came to Whitehorse on 13 April, 2025 to give a presentation about her study at the Yukon Beringia Centre. She and her colleagues have marked 19 Trumpeter Swans on their wintering grounds in Washington's Skagit Valley with state-of-the-art tracking devices. These are global-positioning-system (GPS) trackers, similar in size to a GPS sportswatch, but unlike a sportswatch, they can also communicate with the cell phone network. The trackers are embedded in plastic neckbands, and their small batteries can be

## The Live of Swans Revealed (Continued from page 10)



**Trumpeter Swan GPS locations recorded in the Yukon Southern lakes region from Jan 2024 - Jan. 2025. Obvious concentrations can be seen at well-known migration areas as well as other places off the beaten track. (From Movebank.org Trumpeter Swan Winter Forage)**

Courtesy of Jim Hawkings

recharged by tiny solar panels on the outside of the neckband. The result of this technology is incredible. The trackers can record and store a precise location every 15 minutes using the GPS satellite system. Every four hours they attempt to download location data to the cell phone network. If they are out of cell network coverage, they simply keep stored location information until they get back into cell coverage – for months if necessary. Most of the swans in the study were captured in January 2024, so they have been collecting location information for over a year. That's much as **17,000 locations per marked swan**, spanning wintering, migration, and breeding grounds!

Of interest, Ivonne's study is primarily focused on how Trumpeter Swans use their wintering grounds

in the Skagit Valley, where they are hugely dependent on agricultural lands for food. To emphasize how different this is from their environment in the Yukon, she mentioned during her visit that she has never seen Trumpeter Swans feeding in the water – they do virtually all their winter feeding on farm fields and pastures.

So the enormous amount of data from these birds during spring, summer, and fall is a bonus, but of intense interest to all of us curious folks in the north!

Another staggering thing about the data provided by these transmitters is that it includes a whole raft of other parameters besides latitude and longitude, for example: time, altitude, speed, air temperature, light intensity, battery

status. Together, all these parameters shed light on many, many interesting questions:

- Do swans fly at night or during the day?
- How high do they fly?
- How fast do they fly?
- How long do they stay at each stopping place?
- Exactly where does each bird nest?
- When do they lay eggs, incubate, and raise their cygnets until they can fly?
- Do they return to the same wintering and breeding areas each year?
- Do they use the same migration route in spring and fall, and do they change routes from year to year?

Ivonne is in the middle of her project so isn't in a position to say exactly what she has found out yet, but certainly there is much that will be learned from all these locations.

One more thing. If you are curious and comfortable with a computer, you can look at these swan locations in detail yourself! Go to [movebank.org](https://movebank.org) and search for Skagit Valley Trumpeter Swan Winter Forage. You can zoom in to whatever local area interests you!

Ivonne's trip and presentation were co-sponsored by the Yukon Science Institute and the Yukon Bird Club. This visit came together on very short notice, and we are particularly grateful to Air North for offering special fares to get her here from Vancouver. Thanks to Ivonne and all the YBC and YSI folks who made this visit and presentation a big success. Stay tuned!

# Bird-Friendly Windows Made Easy!

By Jim Hawkings

Birds often collide with residential windows, usually because they see reflections in the window – similar to looking in a mirror. We know that it is a bad idea to fly through a mirror, but they don't, and there is often no second chance.

Did you know that all you need for a quick solution to birds crashing into your windows is a bar of soap? Just grab a bar of household soap and scribble broad lines on the outside surface of your window, ideally spaced less than 5 cm (2 in) apart. If you are artistically inclined, go wild with whatever pattern or drawing suits your fancy. Cost – a few cents or less per window. This seems like an ideal quick-fix in our Yukon climate, which is very dry so your handiwork should last months. If it gets rained off, you can just re-apply it. If you want to get rid of it altogether or replace it with another bird-friendly solution, just wash it off with a wet cloth – presto, you just cleaned your windows as well! It's so quick, easy, and cheap that you can just do it seasonally if you only have a bird-strike problem at certain times, for example during the Redpoll spring migration when many people have huge hordes flocking to their feeders.

Here's another simple

solution that works well in the Yukon. Elaine Carlyle reported her experience to the Yukon Bird Club in February 2025. She was impressed with Acopian Bird Savers aka Zen Wind Curtains (See link below):

I made the DIY curtains and I'm not handy but it was relatively simple. 100% success rate with windows and glass panels on a big second story balcony! I had one bird collision against balcony glass in early spring 2023 before I made the acopian bird savers and 0 bird strikes in the entire time after these were installed.

I've tried lots of other solutions but this one is hands down the best!. I recommended it to a friend and she had the same 100% success rate. She's in Hillcrest and I'm in Whistle Bend.

(Regarding) netting over windows as a solution, the DIY acopian bird savers and their string design that will not entangle a bird so they seem safer than the netting solution.

The bird savers' DIY plans use paracord that is readily available



**Window before (top) and after (middle) soap bar treatment. Reflections are much worse from other angles. The stick-on bird feeder does not contribute to bird-strikes as it is right next to the glass. (Bottom) Inside view after soap treatment.**

Photos: Jim Hawkings

Continues on page 13

## Bird-Friendly Windows Made Easy (Continued from page 12)



at hardware stores. So the solution is DIY friendly and not costly.

This solution also adheres to the 2 x 4 rule which is based in fact and proven by various studies (see page 47 of publication Bird-Friendly Building Design by American Bird Conservancy and New York City Audubon. Here's

the link [https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Bird-friendly-Building-Guide\\_2015.pdf](https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Bird-friendly-Building-Guide_2015.pdf)). Various other bird studies mention the 2x4 rule.

Here is a link to the Acopian Bird Savers web page: <https://www.birdsavers.com/make-your-own/>



**Acopian Bird Savers saving birds in Whitehorse!**

Photos: Elaine Carlyle



**(Above) Windows treated with a China Crayon (grease pencil)**

Photo: Glenn Rudman

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# Funding to Support Youth Programming

By Gemma Richardson

The Yukon Bird Club is thrilled to receive funding through Lotteries Yukon to support youth programming initiatives. This funding will be used to purchase several pairs of child-friendly binoculars for use on our dedicated birding events for kids throughout the year. A large portion of the funding will go

towards producing a bird poster featuring local species that will be sent out to schools to display. We will be working with a local artist to create bird illustrations and work on poster layout and design. Agreeing on which species to include on the poster is one of the initial steps of the project, with the plan to go to print before 2026.

The Yukon Bird Club is grateful for the generous support of Lotteries Yukon, allowing us to move forward with these new youth-focused initiatives!



# Tagish Christmas Bird Count Trend-Through-Time

## Tagish Christmas Bird Count Trend-Through-Time

by Clive Osborne

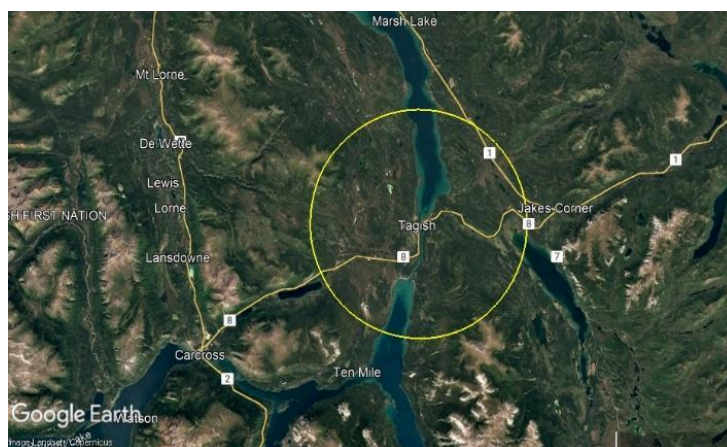
Each spring for the past four years, I have presented a short summary of observations of a Yukon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) throughout most of its history. This year's summary of the Tagish CBC is the fifth Yukon Count to be summarized; the Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Carcross Counts were featured in the Spring 2021-2024 Warbler newsletters. Table 1 reports the data for the Tagish CBC counts that were conducted for 10 years from 2009 to 2019 inclusive.

The data reported in the Maximum, Minimum and Mean columns below the header of Table 1 is numbers of birds per party (observer group) hour. This statistic allows the data to be comparable among years and, if one chooses, among other Counts. The downside of using this statistic is that not all participants have an equal opportunity to observe a species occupying limited habitat within the Count circle (e.g., open water habitat, landfill site). For these species, the statistic generally decreases as the number of participants increases.

The centre of the Tagish CBC is adjacent to the Tagish Bridge, so the circle includes southern Marsh Lake and northern Tagish Lake and the northern tip of Little Atlin Lake. Similar to the Carcross CBC, coastal weather and open water where the Six Mile River drains Tagish Lake have yielded unusual sightings of waterfowl, sparrows, creepers and owls in some years. In common with most other Yukon CBCs, the Tagish circle incorporates the suburban subdivision of Tagish where supplement feedings and a landfill attract birds. The Count was established by Shyloh van Delft in 2009 and she has been ably assisted by Cameron Eckert over the years.

**Table 1: Number of Birds Observed per Party-Hour for the Tagish Christmas Bird Count from 2009 - 2019.**

	No. of Years Observed	Max.	Min.	Mean
Number of Participants	10	21	4	12
Number of Party Hours	10	24.00	2.50	13.28
Number of Species Reported	10	20	10	16
Black-capped Chickadee	10	5.64	1.58	2.85
Boreal Chickadee	10	9.96	0.11	2.56
Common Raven	10	4.80	0.65	2.14
Black-billed Magpie	10	4.00	0.26	1.60
Canada Jay (Gray Jay)	10	2.11	0.26	1.02
Pine Grosbeak	9	19.92	3.42	8.14
Common Goldeneye	9	21.79	0.21	5.02
Red Crossbill	9	16.42	0.11	2.87
Common Merganser	9	9.20	0.16	2.49
Mountain Chickadee	9	1.50	0.40	0.94
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	1.26	0.06	0.56
White-winged Crossbill	6	34.05	0.56	12.78
Common Redpoll	6	26.32	0.54	10.47
Dark-eyed Junco	6	7.37	0.06	1.36
Bald Eagle	4	0.40	0.05	0.18
Northern Goshawk	4	0.42	0.04	0.16
Spruce Grouse	4	0.19	0.08	0.12
Bufflehead	3	0.32	0.16	0.22
Hoary Redpoll	3	0.24	0.16	0.21
Bohemian Waxwing	2	5.05	0.25	2.65
Willow Ptarmigan	2	1.70	0.18	0.94
Snow Bunting	2	0.97	0.18	0.58
Ruffed Grouse	2	0.40	0.38	0.39
Brown Creeper	2	0.56	0.21	0.39
ptarmigan sp.	2	0.24	0.21	0.23
Downy Woodpecker	2	0.38	0.04	0.21
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	2	0.11	0.05	0.08
Great Horned Owl	2	0.06	0.04	0.05
Northern Shrike	1	0.21	0.21	0.21
Northern Hawkowl	1	0.04	0.04	0.04
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0.04	0.04	0.04
Boreal Owl	1	0.04	0.04	0.04



**Screenshot: Courtesy of Clive Osborne**

# Springtime Crossword Puzzle: Who Am I

By Jeremy  
Baumbach

## ACROSS

1. I am an avian anteater  
8. I travel headfirst down trees  
12. I build a floating nest  
13. An A.A. Milne character  
14. A note on the scale  
16. A name for a female bird

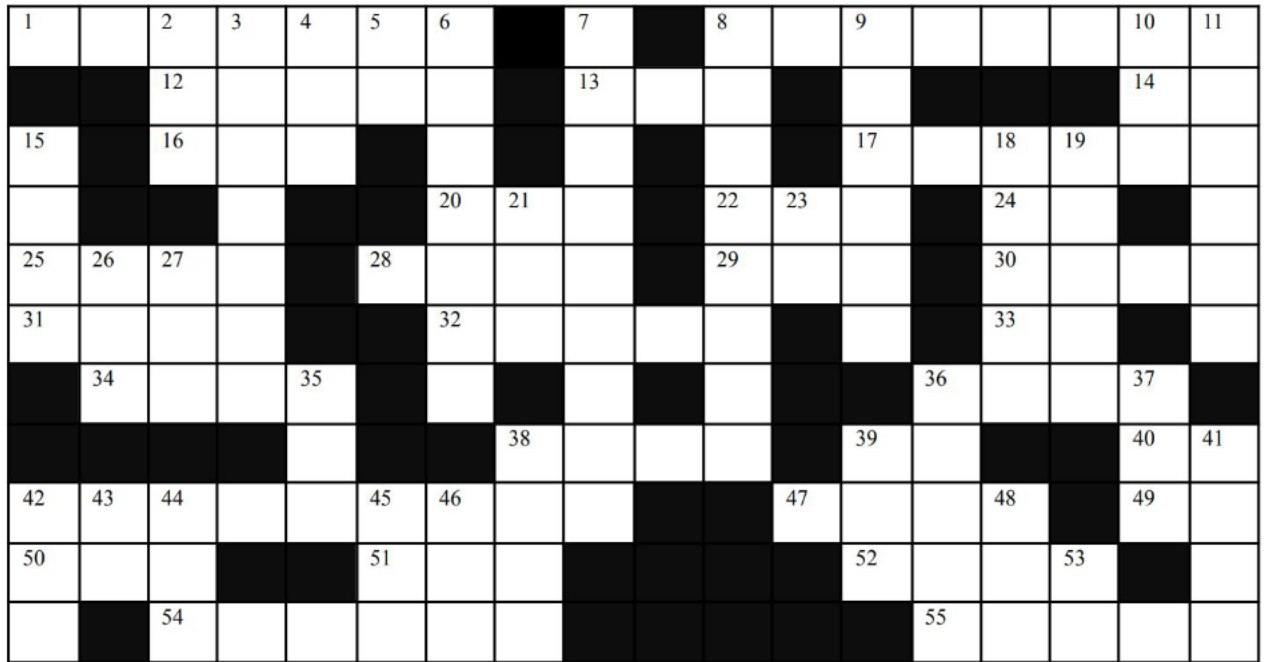
17. I am a pelagic bird and, unlike most birds, I have a strong sense of smell  
20. A diagnostic test  
22. In the Yukon you are advised to \_\_\_\_ where you do this (Hint: Yukon Health)  
24. An education professional (abbrev.)  
25. PDQ  
28. Call of #7 Down  
29. The night before  
30. I am small but loud  
31. In birds the bill protrudes from the face; in humans it's the \_\_\_\_  
32. Account action on computer  
33. A suffix used to make the plural form of some nouns  
34. With #47 Across I nest in the Ogilvie and Richardson Mountains  
36. The first and only black man to win a singles title at Wimbledon  
38. Sometimes this part of a bird is distinctively marked  
39. Iron (abbrev.)  
40. Used instead of streaming music in my youth (abbrev.)  
42. I am known by many names and am found in every Canadian province

- and territory  
47. See #34 Across  
49. Add a "g" to make a kind of fruit  
50. "Good heavens" in texter talk  
51. Each  
52. Amphibian found in a hole?  
54. I am sometimes found drowned after misjudging my prey's weight  
55. I am known for my winnowing

## DOWN

2. "OK" in text  
3. I walk up trees  
4. Knowledge  
5. Used to be a games store in Whitehorse  
6. I am named for my head colour  
7. I am the tallest owl in the world  
8. "The owl and the pussy-cat", a limerick by Edward Lear, appeared in his Book of \_\_\_\_ in 1846  
9. I might be a duck or a puffin  
10. A return address that often stirs unease in the recipient  
11. We nest in rookeries  
15. I mate for life  
18. Name of an upper stretch of the Yukon River from 1843 to 1945  
19. I am a species of #30 Across

21. Informal name of an Ontario city (Hint: It has a sister city in Michigan)  
23. A form of hydration (abbrev.)  
26. A call for help (abbrev.)  
27. South-western U.S. post-secondary school (abbrev.)  
35. A craze  
36. Porous candy bars  
37. I am the smallest North American owl  
38. No one or none at all  
39. What one is advised to do at the location mentioned in #22 Across  
41. I could be a species of grosbeak, siskin, or warbler  
42. What lovebirds do  
43. Typical timing for YBC Field Trips (abbrev.)  
44. The Food Bank, the Anti-Poverty Coalition, and Blood Ties are all in this category  
45. A month known for its longer days and the return of many birds (abbrev.)  
46. Apparently this is a "playable Scrabble word", worth 10 points!!  
48. Vancouver-based song bird: \_\_\_\_ Mangan?  
53. A term that might be found in a British police procedural (abbrev.)



# Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

## Crossword Feedback Welcomed

By Jim Hawkings

Our long-serving Crossword Puzzle creator, Jeremy Baumbach, would love to hear readers thoughts about the puzzles:

- Are they too easy? Too hard?
- Do you want more or less of a Yukon focus?
- Do you have any suggestions for themes?
- Generally, are you enjoying the puzzles?

Please let Jeremy know at [jeremy.baumbach@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.baumbach@gmail.com)

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## 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 are a lot of interesting history here!  
See <https://yukonbirds.ca/warbler/>

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YBC Bluesky: [@yukonbirdclub.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/yukonbirdclub.bsky.social)