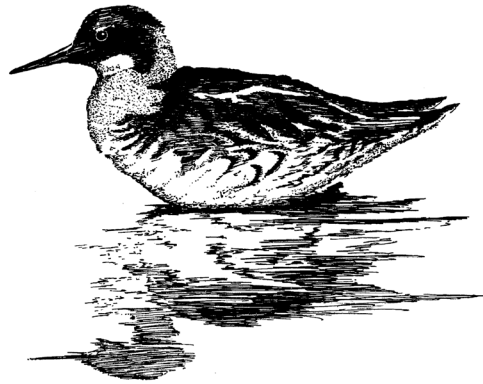


*The Helmut Grünberg*

# 2026 Yukon Birdathon

Supporting bird & habitat conservation  
5 p.m. Friday May 29 - 5 p.m. Saturday May 30



Spring has arrived and so have the birds of summer! The annual Helmut Grünberg Yukon Birdathon is a fun, exciting way to immerse yourself in birds and celebrate their return.

Over 24 hours, Birdathon participants go looking and listening for as many different bird species as they can, anywhere in the Yukon. They collect pledges from sponsors who pay for each species observed. The proceeds support the conservation and education work of the Bird Club.

Since it began in 1985, the Birdathon has been an annual highlight of spring for many birders. But you don't have to be an experienced birdwatcher to take part. Beginners are welcome!

Whether you spend all day prowling mountains for Pipits and searching marshes for Soras, or just spend an hour or two sitting by a pond or in a bushy part of your backyard, your participation is important!

## BIRDATHON BASICS

The goal of the Birdathon is to have fun while celebrating and learning more about our diverse and beautiful bird life.

There are a few rules:

- 1) Count all species that you can *confidently identify by sight or sound*, in the Yukon, within the 24 hours.
- 2) Follow the Yukon Bird Club's *code of ethics* which guide responsible birders. You can find them at [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca).

We encourage participants to solicit sponsors but you can also take part without sponsorship and just make a donation yourself. Sponsors can pledge to donate an amount per species you identify, or they may donate a flat sum.

### When

The Birdathon takes place at the height of Yukon spring bird activity - the last weekend in May. This year, it takes place from 5 pm. Friday, May 29 to 5 pm. Saturday, May 30.

### Where - Home Tweet Home

You can do your birdathon-ing anywhere in the Yukon. Unless you have mobility issues, we strongly encourage you to use environmentally friendly transportation, especially human power! More than ever, participants are opting for an "Environmental Birdathon" - relying on bikes, canoes or their own two feet for transportation.

You can bird by yourself or in a team. Birding with others is socially enjoyable and fewer birds go unnoticed! Team members must bird together in order to contribute to the team's total.

## SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The Birdathon adds to our knowledge of the Yukon's bird life. Each year it provides a snapshot of diversity and abundance during the peak of bird activity. The group total for all participants is usually about 130 species. The Birdathon provides excellent information about the

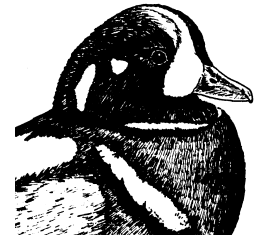


occurrence of many of our common species, but unusual sightings add to the excitement. A few of the notable species sighted over the years include Yellow-billed Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Bar-tailed Godwit, Smith's Longspur, Brant, Sandhill Crane, Tennessee Warbler, Western Kingbird, Sabine's Gull, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Tanager, House Finch, and Brewer's Sparrow! What next??

## FUNDRAISING AND RECEIPTS

The Birdathon is the main fundraiser of the Yukon Bird Club. The funds support activities to promote awareness and appreciation of Yukon birds and their habitats. This includes birding field trips and bird-counting activities for the public, educational projects and annual scholarships for students committed to environmental conservation.

We suggest using the pledge sheet to keep track of sponsors. After birding, please contact sponsors to inform them of the amount to donate to the Yukon Bird Club, based on the number of species you observed during your Birdathon. Donations can be made at [yukonbirds.ca](http://yukonbirds.ca), on the Join YBC page. Donors will receive a charitable donation tax receipt.



If you cannot participate and don't know anyone who is, consider sponsoring our 2026 FEATURE BIRDER Kim Selbee!

## PRIZES

We will have prizes for the following:

- Most species
- Most species enviro-birding (human-powered)
- Most species using only mass transit or renewable energy-powered transport (wind/solar/hydro)
- Most species by a family/household
- Most species by a new participant
- Youngest birder & oldest birder
- Most species found at home (in your yard or shared common space)

