

YUKON BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

- FALL 1993 -

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YUKON BIRD CLUB (Vol 1, No 3), P.O. BOX 31054, WHITEHORSE, YUKON, CANADA, Y1A 5P7

FALL BIRDING - MIGRANT WAVES AND SPECIAL TREASURES!

The excitement of fall birding lies in its unpredictable nature. A birder can walk for hours only seeing a few birds, and then happen upon a huge wave of migrating warblers. Sorting through the more common Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers to find small splashes of diversity - perhaps a Townsend's, Tennessee, Palm, or MacGillivray's Warbler! Scanning across a nearly frozen lake and spotting a lone loon - while it's most likely a Common, Pacific or Red-throated, in the magic of autumn it just might turn out to be a Yellow-billed Loon!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Fall Field Trip
Schedule. Page 2

Annual General
Meeting. Page 3

Summer Field Trip
Report. Page 4

The Bohemian
Waxwing. Page 5

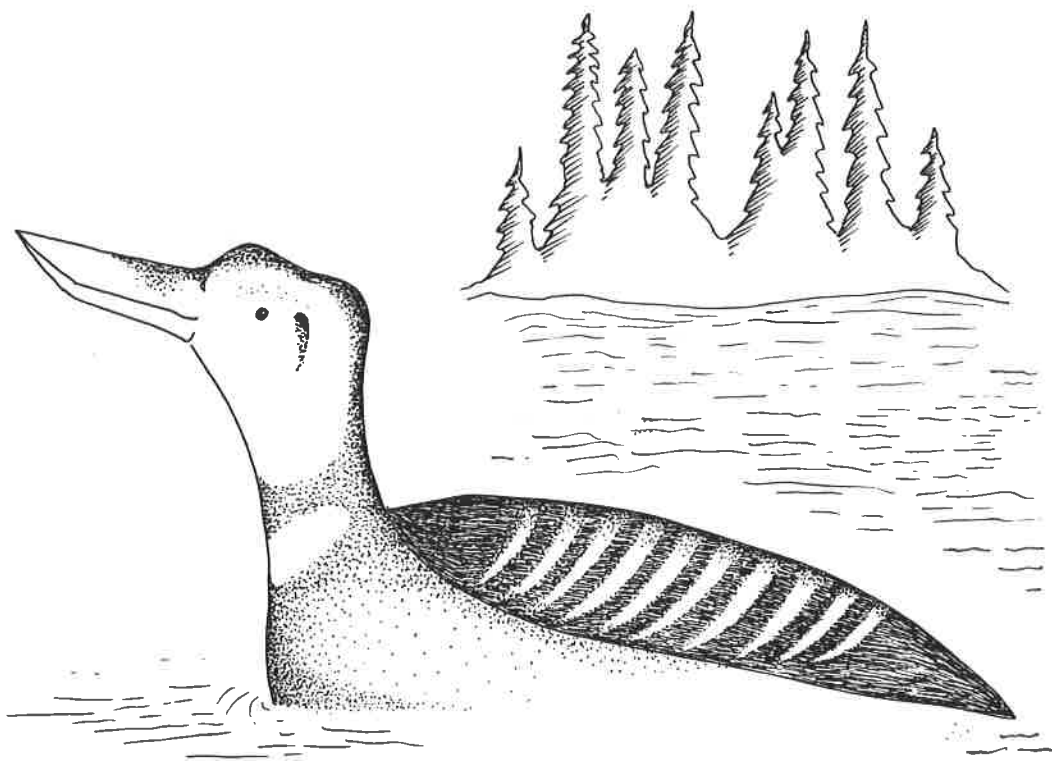
Observations From
The Field. Page 6,7

Migration Monitoring
in Whitehorse.
Page 8,9

Little Brown Birds.
Page 10

Trumpeter Swans!
Page 11

Bird Club News.
Page 12



*immature Yellow-billed Loon, Nares Lake, Yukon
November 8, 1992, by Cameron Eckert*

FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Trip leaders are reminded to record all their sightings on a Yukon Checklist and send it to Pam (14-11th Ave, Whitehorse, Y1A 4H6). Also, be sure to check all the cars at the meeting place for birders - try holding up your binoculars!

WEEKEND DAY TRIPS - With the shortened days of fall, all the fall and winter field trips are scheduled for Saturdays or Sundays. These weekend day trips will start in the morning and go a little farther afield. Bring a lunch, warm clothes, and binoculars. For more information about any of the following field trips call Pam at 667-4630.

Sunday 12 September. *More Than Swans at Swan Lake!!* Swan Lake is one of Yukon's birding treasures! An excellent location for migrating waterfowl, raptors, warblers and sparrows. Wear rubber boots, bring a lunch, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 9:00 a.m.** Leader: Helmut Grunberg.

Sunday 19 September. *Waves of Migrants at Wolf Creek!!* Golden-crowned Kinglets among the Ruby-crowned, migrating warblers, chickadees, and possibly a Three-toed Woodpecker will make for an exciting outing! Dress warmly, bring a snack, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 9:00 a.m.** or at **Wolf Creek Campground at 9:30 a.m.** Leader: Pam Sinclair.

Sunday 26 September. *Ptarmigan Tracks at Stoney Creek!!* This all day walk will explore the uplands of Stoney Creek - watch for ptarmigan, sparrows and warblers. Wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, bring a lunch, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 9:00 a.m.** or at the **Porter Creek Super A at 9:30 a.m.** Leader: Lee Kubica.

Saturday 2 October. *Fall Migration at Shallow Bay!!* Always an excellent location for fall migration - watch for a wide variety of grebes, waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. Wear rubber boots, dress warmly, bring a snack, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 9:30 a.m.** or the **Porter Creek Super A at 10:00 a.m.** Leader: Jim Hawkings.

Saturday 16 October. *The Tagish Birding Tour!!* This birding tour offers an excellent opportunity to explore a variety of ponds and lakes en route to Tagish and Carcross in search of loons, grebes, raptors, and surprise migrants. Dress warmly, bring a lunch, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 10:00 a.m.** Leader: Cameron Eckert.

Sunday 21 November. *Feeder-hopping Yukon Style!!* This unique birding trip will visit some of Whitehorse's best bird feeders in search of nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, and bramblings! Of course, the feeder owners know that we're coming and participants may even be greeted with the odd cup of hot chocolate! Dress warmly, and meet at the **SS.Klondyke at 10:00 a.m.** Leader: Wendy Nixon and friends.

PLAN TO ATTEND ...



YUKON BIRD CLUB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!!

Date: September 24, 1993.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Whitehorse Public Library Meeting Room.



MEETING AGENDA AND ENTERTAINMENT:

- Yukon Bird Club business (*short and to the point!*)

- Slide Show: *Yukon's Birds and Their Favorite Places!!*

WHAT IS AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ...

The Yukon Bird Club was initiated last March and has since been registered as an official Yukon non-profit society. Spring and summer field trips attracted enthusiastic participation from the growing community of Yukon birdwatchers.

This Annual General Meeting provides an excellent opportunity for Yukon's birders to touch base, and provide direction for the Yukon Bird Club.

AGM participants will be treated to a very interesting slide show highlighting Yukon's birds and the many beautiful places they inhabit.



WHO SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND?

Anyone with an interest in Yukon's birds, members and non-members alike, are welcome to attend.

SUMMER FIELD TRIP REPORT

The summer field trips were enthusiastically enjoyed by both local and visiting birders. A very interesting trip to Mary Lake, led by Wendy Nixon, enjoyed excellent weather and excellent looks at a wide variety of interesting species including Alder Flycatchers, sparrows, and a variety of warblers.

Great summer birding continued for birders who explored MacIntyre Creek with Gavin Johnson - a mixture of excellent bird habitats revealed a variety of warblers, Belted Kingfisher, kinglets, thrushes, Hammond's Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat, and all 5 swallow species!!

Birders who trekked up MacIntyre Mountain with Helmut Grunberg were treated to a fascinating array of sub-alpine and alpine birds. Participants were delighted by Horned Larks singing their tinkling flight song in the alpine, and Brewer's Sparrows singing their "exhilarating song" from the low shrubs! A number of other species were observed including Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers, Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Redpolls, and a Northern Harrier.

For months Yukon birders have been wondering "where are the *Saltponds*?" A very pleasant outing in search of migrant shorebirds found enjoyed great views of a variety of birds including Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plovers, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. An American Kestrel and the setting sun also made a good showing!!

A relatively small group of birders braved the rain showers to make the trip to Caribou Lakes with Lee and Greg Kubica. Golden-crowned Kinglets are always hard to find in the Yukon, however, the rain cleared long enough for excellent looks at a family of Golden-crowned Kinglets foraging through the mixed pine-spruce forest while White-winged Crossbills fed on cones high in the tree tops.

A great thanks is due to all the field trip leaders who have treated us all to excellent birding!!

Pam Sinclair



Northern Wheatear, by Cameron Eckert

FOCUS ON: *The Bohemian Waxwing*

The Bohemian Waxwing is the essence of beauty and life on an icy cold winter's day. Its soft pastel blend of grey, yellow, red, and black, with a bright yellow-tipped tail, is topped with a most dignified crest. Few birders forget their first encounter with this spectacular bird.

Two species of waxwings, Bohemian Waxwing and Cedar Waxwing, occur in North America, and a third waxwing species is native to Japan.

While the Bohemian Waxwing is a common and widespread year-round resident of the Yukon, there are only two documented records for Cedar Waxwing in the Yukon. While the two species are quite similar in appearance and behaviour, the Bohemian can be readily distinguished from the Cedar by its grey belly and chestnut-red undertail coverts. The Cedar Waxwing has a yellow belly and whitish undertail coverts. Also, the Bohemian has yellow and white trim on the primary flight feathers which the Cedar lacks. For both species of waxwings, sexes are alike in terms of plumage characteristics.

Yukon birders who spend time examining the delicate features of waxwings may turn up a few more vagrant Cedar Waxwings among the flocks of Bohemians.

Bohemian Waxwings feed on both insects and berries. During spring and summer they display their considerable flycatching skills, catching insects on the wing, while during winter they forage in relatively large flocks for berries. Mountain Ash trees, which can be successfully grown in southern Yukon, are a favorite of waxwings. Saskatoon berries are also excellent for attracting waxwings. Large flocks of

waxwings will typically settle into a berry-laden tree, eat every last berry and then disappear. It is a spectacular show, while it lasts!

Waxwings do not sing a true song, rather, their primary vocalization is a high-pitched rolling trill. Relatively little is known about the breeding biology of Bohemian Waxwings. They tend to nest in conifers near lakes, streams or swamps.

They build a a cup nest constructed of conifer twigs and lined with hair and down. The females lays 4 to 6 pale blue eggs and incubates the eggs while the male forages and feeds the female. The young hatch within 13 or 14 days and leave the nest approximately 16 days after hatching.

Waxwings are so-named because of a red wax-like appendage at the tip of each secondary flight feather. But where does the name *Bohemian* Waxwing come from? Geographically, Bohemia is a region in Europe's western Czech Republic. However, while the Bohemian Waxwing occurs throughout northern Europe its range barely extends into the

Czech Republic and since it is Europe's only species of waxwing, it is known there simply as the Waxwing. In North America this beautiful bird was named the *Bohemian* Waxwing to reflect its wandering nature. While primarily a bird of northwestern North America, large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings frequently invade the east during the winter in search of winter forage. Like true Bohemians they dazzle the locals, stay for a meal, and then are gone.



Bohemian Waxwing, by Pam Sinclair

Cameron Eckert

FIELD NOTES: *Observations from the field*

While some parts of the country experienced poor weather conditions, the Yukon had excellent weather all across the territory during June and July resulting in high nesting success among passerines, shorebirds and waterfowl.

A pair of **Pacific Loons** successfully raised one young on Shadow Lake this spring (SR,DR).

Two **Double-crested Cormorants**, considered accidental in the Yukon, were observed on Lake Labarge through early August (MC,PSp).

A **Great Blue Heron** was fishing at Klukshu Village on August 28 (JM).

One male **King Eider** was observed with 20 **Common Eiders** at Komakuk Beach on June 27 (MC,CE,PS).

An **American Coot** was reported doing "cootish things" at the Crestview sewage lagoons on June 9 (DW). On July 6, another **American Coot** was observed doing similarly "cootish things" just south of Ross River along the Campbell Highway (CE,PS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings included a bird at a nest on June 9 on the Babbage River (MC), and a lone bird on the Running River on June 26 (KW). 2 **Red Phalaropes** were observed along the Babbage River on the Yukon's North Slope on June 16 (PS,DS). 14 **Ruddy Turnstones** were observed at Clarence Lagoon on June 9 (JH,MB,NH,JS). A **Sanderling** was foraging along the shores of Finlayson Lake on August 29 (MC). **Upland Sandpiper** sightings at Shallow Bay included 2 birds on August 22, and a lone bird on August 26 (CE,PS,GK,LK,RM,NH). Seven **Stilt Sandpipers** were foraging in shallow water at Swan Lake on August 28 (CE,PS).

1 **Pomarine**, 10 **Parasitic**, and 6 **Long-tailed Jaegers** were observed along the Yukon's Arctic coast on June 16 (MC,CE,DS,PS). An adult **Long-tailed Jaeger**, *sans tail*, was observed at Km 90 on the Dempster Highway on June 29 (CE,PS). Five **Thayer's Gulls** were in Whitehorse on August 25 (CE).

An **Osprey** was sighted at Snafu Lake on June 5 (VE). Another **Osprey** was at Squanga Lake on August 22 (MC). **Peregrine** and **Gyrfalcons** were also observed along the Running River on Yukon's North Slope on June 8 and 12 (BM,KW,TH,LG).

A male **Rock Ptarmigan** was snoozing at MacMillan Pass on July 4 (CE,PS). Two **White-tailed Ptarmigan**, feeding in the high-alpine, and 5 **Willow Ptarmigan**, cavorting in the low-alpine willows, were observed on Montana Mountain on August 29 (CE,HG,PS). Four **Blue Grouse** were spotted at an undisclosed location somewhere near Carcross on August 29 (CE,HG,PS).

A flock of approximately 30 **Sandhill Cranes** were catching a thermal over Finlayson Lake on August 29 (MC).

A nesting pair of **Three-toed Woodpeckers** excavated their nesting hole in Wolf Creek in mid-May and successfully fledged their young in mid-June (JH). An immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** visited a suet feeder at Lake Labarge during the last week of August (TH).

The known tally of Canadian **Bluethroat** sightings increased in June with 2 males observed in song display along the Babbage River on June 9 (MC,CE,DS,PS). At least 7 different male **Bluethroats** were observed along the Clarence River through June (JH,NH,MB,JS). A pair of **Northern Wheatears** with young were observed just north of Tombstone Campground off the Dempster Highway on July 23 (MC).

FIELD NOTES: More Observations From the Field ...

Yellow Wagtails were observed throughout June along the Babbage River with a high count of 4 pairs (and 1 nest) on June 11 (MC,CE,DS,PS). 4 **Yellow Wagtails** were sighted along Running River on June 15 (BM,KW,TH,LG). Relatively high numbers of migrating **American Pipits** were observed by many birders in the Whitehorse area through August.

An **Eastern Kingbird**, a rare breeder in souther Yukon, was sighted along the Teslin River on August 13 (LK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, considered accidental in the Yukon, were found at one Breeding Bird Survey stop on the Campbell Highway on July 6, and at five BBS stops along the Tungsten Road on July 8 (CE,PS).

Yukon's first **Magnolia Warbler**, a male, was observed feeding young on the Liard River on July 14 (CE,PS). With only a few previous records for **American Redstarts** in the Yukon, 8 breeding pairs of redstarts with young along the Liard River, July 11 to 14, was very exciting (CE,PS). Whitehorse area birders should also watch for this attractive warbler as an immature male **American Redstart** was banded at the Fish Farm on August 25 (PS,RM,GK,NH).

White-throated Sparrows, considered rare in the Yukon, were commonly observed around the Watson Lake area throughout June and July (RF). A **Brewer's Sparrow** was sharing a willow with an **American Tree Sparrow** on Montana Mountain on August 29 (CE,HG,PS). A **Song Sparrow** was sighted on the Tungsten Road on July 8 (CE,PS).

Quite astounding was a juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbird** being benevolently attended by 2 **Savannah Sparrows** at Komakuk Beach on the Yukon's Arctic coast on June 27 (CE,PS). Two juvenile **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were observed being fed by **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in early July in Whitehorse (CE,GJ,PS).

A male and female **Snow Bunting** were observed at a nest in rocky alpine habitat at MacMillan Pass on July 4 (CE,PS).

While the Haines Summit is not quite in the Yukon, it is a place that attracts many Yukon birders - a **Northern Wheatear**, a **Brewer's Sparrow**, a **Wandering Tattler**, 2 **Gyrfalcons**, and approximately 10 **Smith's Longspurs** made for an interesting day of birding on the Haines Summit on August 29 (GK,LK).

The Liard Hotsprings also lie just outside of the Yukon, yet attract many Yukon birders - a variety of extremely attractive songbirds including a **Magnolia Warbler**, 4 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, and 3 **Western Tanagers** were observed there on July 6 (GK,LK). While these species are at the edge of their ranges, Yukon birders should watch for them within the territory.

Observers: Marc Boulerice, Mark Connor, Cameron Eckert, Vic Enns, Rob Florkiewicz, Leo Gordon, Helmut Grunberg, Tracie Harris, Nancy Hughes, Jim Hawkings, Todd Heakes, Gavin Johnson, Greg Kubica, Lee Kubica, Joyce Majiski, Bruce McLean, Richard Mueller, Marty Mossop, Wendy Nixon, Don Russell, Sharon Russell, Dwayne Semple, Pam Sinclair (PS), Joy Snyder, Paul Sparling (PSP), Debbie van de Wetering, Ken Wright. A Canadian Wildlife Service and Renewable Resources cooperated project collected the interesting observations from Yukon's North Slope.

Observers are encouraged to record their sightings and report any interesting, unusual or rare birds to the Yukon Bird Club, Box 31054, Whitehorse, Y1A 5P7, or Call Cameron at 667-4630.

MIGRATION MONITORING IN WHITEHORSE: A CLOSER LOOK AT SONGBIRDS

This past spring, many Yukon birders enjoyed the spectacular variety of songbirds which migrate through the Whitehorse area. Right now it's happening again, as these birds and their offspring head south. At this time of year, even people who don't usually notice birds find themselves watching with interest as a migrant Water Pipit walks along a downtown sidewalk, or a bright yellow Wilson's Warbler flits about in the back yard.

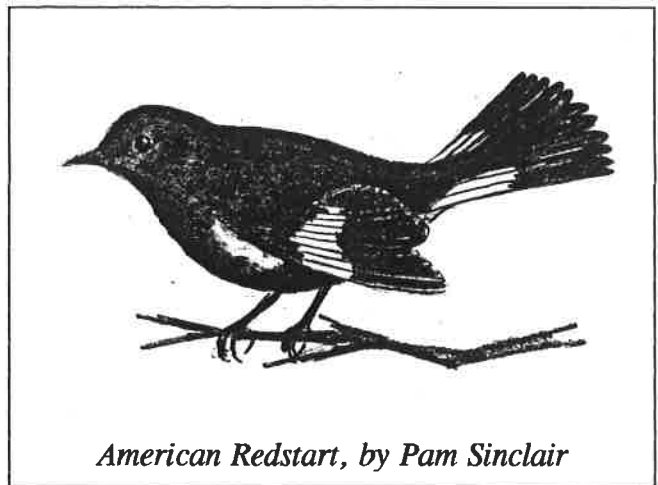
Until recently, even most bird biologists didn't take much notice of songbird conservation. But when long-term studies such as the North American Breeding Bird Survey (which relies mostly on volunteer bird watchers) began to show negative trends in songbird numbers, birders and biologists alike started to worry. By the late 1980's, these surveys had gathered enough data to provide convincing evidence that populations of many songbird species were steadily declining.

Still relatively little is known about Yukon's songbirds. In order to find out more, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Yukon Conservation Society, with support from the Northern Research Institute, set up a songbird banding station in the Whitehorse area this spring. The purpose was to find out which species pass through, when and in what numbers. If the project is continued in future years, we will be able to track the numbers of birds and contribute to continent-wide population monitoring. And if we are very lucky, one of the birds we have banded will be found somewhere, and we will gain some of the first information on where Yukon's songbirds spend the winter.

In early May, Richard Mueller, Wendy Nixon, and I set up 8 mist nets around the Icy Waters Fish Farm on the Fish Lake Road. This site has a variety of good habitats for songbirds, and the owners, Gavin Johnson and Kate McEwen, are both avid birders and welcomed us to operate the station there. The nets are 6 to 12 meters long, and 2 meters high, and are held up by a pole at each end. Mist nets, which are made of a fine nylon mesh, are almost invisible and very efficient at safely catching the small birds which

fly into them. We check the nets every half hour, removing and banding all birds caught, and close the nets when we leave the area.

Once a bird is removed from the net, it is weighed and measured, and an aluminium band is placed on one leg. Each band has a unique number on it, so that if a banded bird is caught or found dead elsewhere, the origin of the band can be traced to Whitehorse. In addition to banding the birds, we also determine the age and sex, and take some measurements. The size and plumage of songbirds varies slightly across the continent, so these measurements will contribute to the rather sparse knowledge of northwestern populations of species which are better known in the east or south.



American Redstart, by Pam Sinclair

To date, spring and fall combined, we have banded a total of 373 birds of 35 species. Almost half were Yellow-rumped Warblers. Other common species were Wilson's Warbler, Hammond's Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco. Three species, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadee, and Downy Woodpecker, are year-round residents of the area. Twenty of the 35 species banded were long-distant migrants that are now making their way to Central and South America! The other 12 species will spend the winter somewhere between Vancouver and Mexico.

...continued on Page 9

MIGRATION MONITORING ...

Netting and banding birds gives us an opportunity to see them up close. This allows us to positively identify, using size measurements, difficult species such as the flycatchers. Yukon birders have debated for years about which species of empidonax flycatchers inhabit the Whitehorse area. Our banding work has confirmed that the Hammond's Flycatcher is a common species at low elevations.

The most unusual bird banded this year was a young male American Redstart. Perhaps the most striking of North America's warblers, the Redstart is rare in the Yukon and had only been seen once before in the Whitehorse area. We were amazed when species that we hadn't yet seen or heard, such as the redstart, turned up in the nets - although, anyone who has tried to watch warblers feeding busily in fall would not be surprised that some species go undetected!

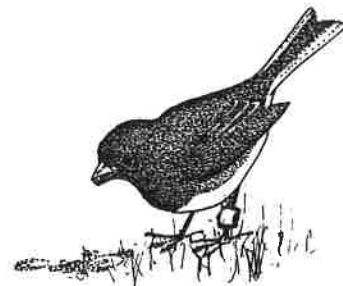
In the fall, the large majority of birds banded have been young birds hatched this summer. Young birds tend to linger on the breeding grounds later than adults, perhaps because it takes them longer to build up the fat reserves necessary for migration. At the banding station, we have been amazed by the amount of energy young birds must put into growing feathers in their first few months. When baby birds hatch, they are covered with a plumage of down. During the two weeks (or less) they spend in the nest, nestling songbirds achieve their full adult body size, and grow a complete set of feathers - the juvenile plumage. As soon as they leave the nest, they start growing a whole new set of body feathers - the winter plumage, often identical to the adults' winter plumage - which will be fully grown in within a couple of months. Meanwhile, these young birds must learn to feed efficiently, and store enough fat to climb 10,000 feet in the air and fly all night long for as many nights as it takes to get to Venezuela!

We will continue to band birds throughout September, as long as it doesn't get too cold. We also hope to continue the project next spring, beginning in April. If you are interested in visiting the songbird banding station, to help out or just to take a look at the birds, please call me at 668-2285.

Pam Sinclair

MIGRATION MONITORING: BIRDS BANDED IN 1993

SPECIES	TOTAL
Yellow-rumped Warbler	170
Wilson's Warbler	41
Hammond's Flycatcher	21
Alder Flycatcher	15
Dark-eyed Junco	14
Lincoln's Sparrow	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13
Swainson's Thrush	11
Northern Waterthrush	10
Black-capped Chickadee	9
White-crowned Sparrow	7
Common Yellowthroat	5
Boreal Chickadee	5
American Robin	4
Yellow Warbler	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4
Blackpoll Warbler	3
Spotted Sandpiper	2
Savannah Sparrow	2
Barn Swallow	2
Belted Kingfisher	2
Purple Finch	2
Least Flycatcher	1
Western Wood Pewee	1
Varied Thrush	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Solitary Sandpiper	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1
N. Rough-winged Swallow	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Cliff Swallow	1
Chipping Sparrow	1
American Tree Sparrow	1
American Redstart	1
Northern Flicker	1



LITTLE BROWN BIRD No.1: *The Dark-eyed Junco*

"Little Brown Birds" will be a regular feature of the YBC Newsletter, highlighting aspects of the identification, behaviour, and habitats of that great lot of small, difficult to identify sparrows known as little brown birds. Introducing Little Brown Bird No.1 ... the Dark-eyed Junco!

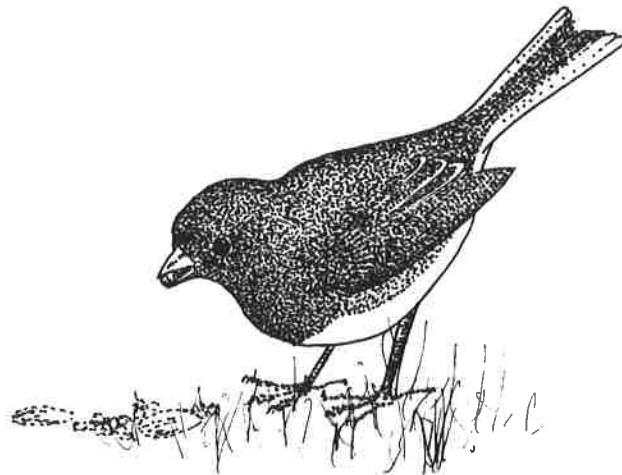
One of the first songs heard in the Yukon spring is that of the Dark-eyed Junco. The single-pitch melodic trill can be heard in most forested habitats in southern Yukon as early as mid-April. The male junco usually sings from the upper branches of a tree, throwing its head back and singing its loud trill. The junco's song has some variation and can sound like other trilling songsters especially the Chipping Sparrow. However, the Chipping Sparrow's song is generally "drier" (that is, less musical) and longer than the junco's trill.

For the beginning bird watcher, Dark-eyed Juncos fall into the category of "little brown bird". However, juncos can be distinguished from other "little brown birds" by their lack of distinctive field marks such as wing bars, head stripes, breast spots, or streaking. Dark-eyed Juncos have a pale pink bill, white belly, and are otherwise slate-grey or brown with a dark head and breast. A distinctive feature of the junco is its white outer tail feathers which it flashes in flight.

There are at least six different and very distinct races of Dark-eyed Juncos across North America. The dominant race in the Yukon is the "Slate-coloured" Junco. Male "Slate-coloured" Juncos are uniform slate-grey through the head, breast, and rump with greyish flanks and a white belly. The common junco of the Pacific Coast, the "Oregon" Junco, is a rare wanderer to the Yukon. Male "Oregon" Juncos are characterized by a white belly and a grey-black head contrasting sharply with a chestnut-brown back and pinkish-buff flanks. Intermediate forms, hybrids between "Oregon" and "Slate-coloured" Juncos, are also common in the Yukon.

Dark-eyed Juncos are found throughout the Yukon from early spring through late fall, feeding on seeds and insects. They nest on the ground, usually under the cover of low branches or fallen trees. In fall they migrate south as far as northern Mexico. Juncos are easily attracted to backyard feeders from early spring to late fall. Simply spread a mixture of sunflower and millet seeds on the ground. A few hardy individuals attempt to over-winter at Yukon feeders - some survive, and some do not.

Wendy Nixon



Dark-eyed Junco, by Pam Sinclair

TRUMPETER SWAN NEWS

Few Cygnets Return to Central Alaska This Year

Counts of swans at Marsh Lake, Yukon, in April this year revealed a very low proportion of cygnets (young swans) in the Trumpeter Swan population. This spring there were only 2.04 cygnets per 100 adults compared to about 10 to 13 in a normal year. This is the worst production ever measured at Marsh Lake. Swans passing through Whitehorse are thought to be part of the Pacific Coast Population destined for breeding grounds in central Alaska, including the Gulkana, Upper Tanana, and Lower Tanana.

An Alaskan Gulf Coast Swan Appears at Marsh Lake

In April 1992, a number of neck-banded Trumpeters were sighted at Marsh Lake. Most wore blue collars and had been banded by Rod King in Minto Flats, Alaska, or by Terry Doyle in the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, but one wore a green neck band with the code "3C7". This swan was banded as a one-year-old female on Little Martin Lake near Cordova, Alaska, on 20 July 1991. It provides an interesting link between the Gulf Coast segment and the central Alaska segment of the Pacific Coast Population. Perhaps this female was hatched in central Alaska, spent the next summer in a nonbreeding flock on the Gulf Coast, and then returned the following year (to breed?) in central Alaska ... Or do the Gulf Coast birds routinely migrate through southern Yukon? Sadly, no more Cordova swans appeared this spring, but we will keep our eyes open for more on this interesting phenomenon.

Trumpeter Range Continues to Expand

Last Summer, Denny Denison of Coyote Air Service in Teslin noticed swans in July near Teslin on the lower Nisutlin River, where there has virtually never been a breeding pair of Trumpeters. When he took a careful look, he found it was a family group, which prompted him to search the entire lower river. This search revealed 13 pairs of Trumpeters with young where there had been none on the 1990 survey,

and none even the previous year. This is likely a westward expansion of Rocky Mountain Population birds, which are fairly common in the Watson Lake area, some 70 to 100 miles east of Teslin. At this rate, Trumpeters could be nesting near Whitehorse in the next few years!

Jim Hawkings

A Society for Trumpeter Swan Enthusiasts!

The Yukon is an excellent place for swan enthusiasts! The large number of migrating swans, both Tundra and Trumpeter, which congregate at Marsh Lake every spring attracts hundreds of enthusiastic swan observers. A new swan observation facility planned for M'Clintock Bay reflects Yukoners' love of swans. While less obvious to Whitehorse area residents, the fall swan migration is also a wonderful natural spectacle. During fall migration large numbers of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans stop at the Nisutlin Delta, near Teslin, to feed before continuing on to their wintering grounds.



The Trumpeter Swan Society is dedicated to monitoring the status and working towards the survival of North America's Trumpeter Swan populations. The Society publishes a very interesting newsletter highlighting Trumpeter Swan research and management activities from across North America. If you would like more information about the Trumpeter Swan Society or are interested in joining the Society then contact Jim Hawkings at the Canadian Wildlife Service (668-2285), or write the Society directly at; ***Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN, USA, 55359***

THE YUKON BIRD CLUB

1993 Board of Directors

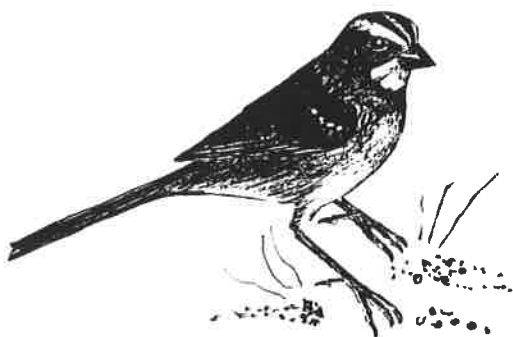
President:	Cameron Eckert
Secretary:	Wendy Nixon
Treasurer:	Jeremy Baumbach
Field Trip Coordinator:	Pam Sinclair
Events Coordinator:	Dave Mossop
Newsletter Editors:	Cameron Eckert Tracie Harris
Youth Coordinators:	Greg Kubica Sam White
Special Projects:	vacant

"The goals of the Yukon Bird Club are to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats".

The Yukon Bird Club is a registered non-profit group and membership is open to everyone!

\$10.00 for individuals.
 \$25.00 for families.
 \$5.00 for full time students and individuals 65 years of age or older.

For more information contact:
The Yukon Bird Club, Box 31054,
Whitehorse, YT, Canada, Y1A 5P7



White-throated Sparrow, by Cameron Eckert

YUKON BIRD CLUB NEWS

A Fall Birdwatching and Birdfeeding Course!

Whitehorse's Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a fall birdwatching and birdfeeding course. For more information refer to the Fall Recreation Guide or call Parks and Rec at 668-8327.

Yukon Bird Club's Growing Membership

Since the Yukon Bird Club was initiated last March the membership and enthusiasm for the club has grown steadily. We now have over 50 members! The interest in the Yukon Bird Club has not been restricted to the Yukon - we now have members from as far away as British Columbia, Ontario, and California!

THE NEWSLETTER STILL NEEDS A NAME!!

If you have planning to *brainstorm* for a brilliant name for the Yukon Bird Club's Newsletter - it's time to put pen to paper and write down your ideas! Bring your suggestions to the Annual General Meeting on September 24 where a vote will be held on the proposed names. The winning name will be awarded with a very special prize!

All Yukon birders are invited to write articles for this newsletter!! Contact Cameron (Ph.667-4630) or Tracie (Mobile Phone: Laberge 2M-4554) with your ideas.

Classified Adds for Birders

We will publish ads and notices of interest to YBC members. *Members and non-profit or non-commercial organizations may submit non-business-related ads at no charge.* Business-related ads will be published at a reasonable rate.

**Please send your submissions to:
Cameron Eckert, 14-11th Ave.,
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4H6**