

YUKON BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

- SUMMER 1993 -

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YUKON BIRD CLUB (Vol 1, No 2), P.O.BOX 31054, WHITEHORSE, YUKON, CANADA, Y1A 5P7

A YUKON SPRING FOR BIRDERS!

The spring season has been extremely exciting for the Yukon Bird Club. Spring field trips were enthusiastically enjoyed by a wide variety of members who observed an astonishing number of species. Thanks to all the trip leaders who made the outings so enjoyable! We welcome all local and visiting birders to come out and enjoy the summer field trips. Have a great summer and enjoy the birds!

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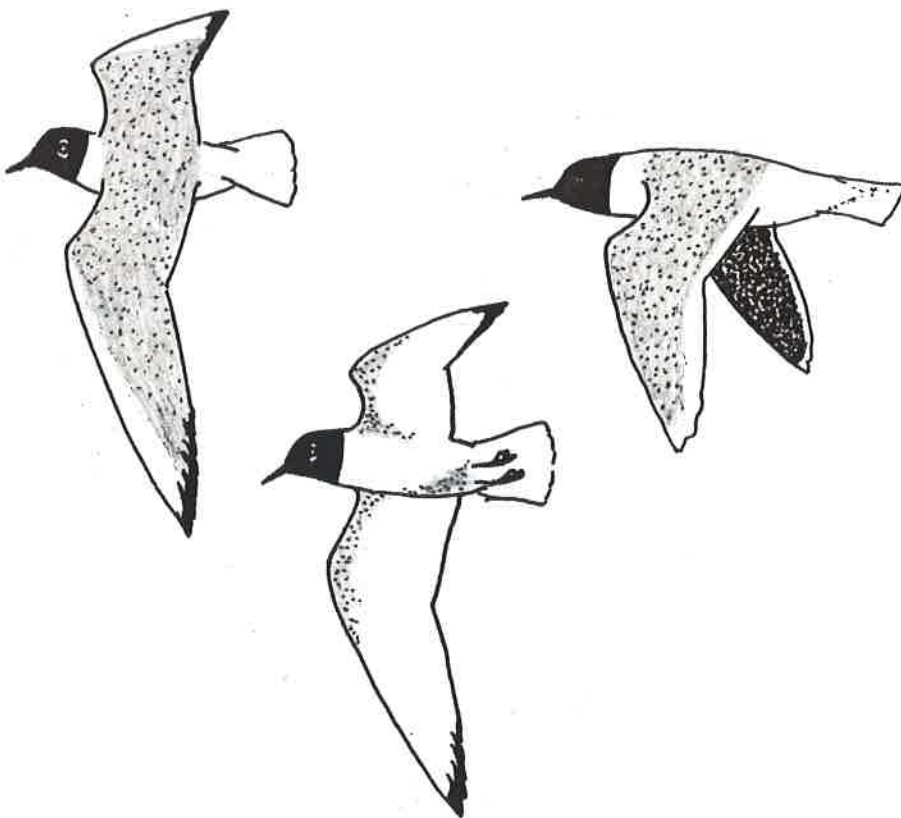
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*Little Gull with Bonaparte's Gulls, by Cameron Eckert
Lewes Marsh, May 8, 1993*

SUMMER 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!

EVENING WALKS - casual bird walks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Whitehorse area. Bring sturdy walking shoes or boots, warm clothes, and binoculars.

Thursday 10 June. *The Summer Birds of MacIntyre Creek.* This walk will be an exploration of some rich songbird habitats. Bring your rubber boots and be prepared for a little bush-whacking! Meet at the SS.Klondike at 7 p.m. Leader: Gavin Johnston.

Tuesday 15 June. *Explore Mary Lake!!* Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds, and breeding songbirds and grebes will make for an interesting outing. Meet at the SS.Klondike at 7:00 p.m. Leader: Wendy Nixon.

Tuesday 27 July. *Winging It at Annie Lake.* A Chukar was once spotted on the Annie Lake Road ... *what next!!* Meet at the SS.Klondike at 5:30 p.m. Beginners are most welcome!! Leader: Cameron Eckert.

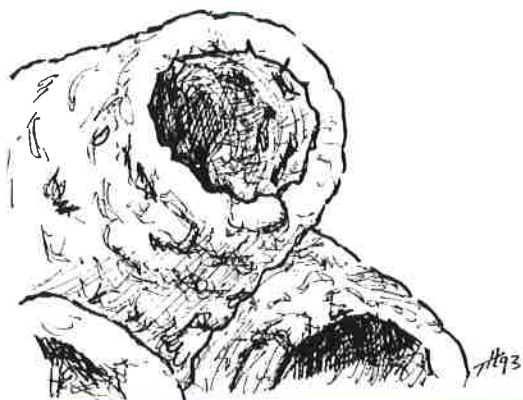
Thursday 12 August. *Fall Shorebirds at the Salt Ponds!!* Expect the unexpected ... Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, and perhaps a Stilt or Western Sandpiper. Meet at the Porter Creek Super A Store at 6:00 p.m. Leader: Cameron Eckert.

Tuesday 24 August. *Fall Migration at Caribou Lake!!* Enjoy the subtle yet beautiful plumages of fall waterbirds, warblers and sparrows. Meet at the SS.Klondike at 6:00 p.m. or at the Lewes Bridge at 6:30. Leader: Lee Kubica.

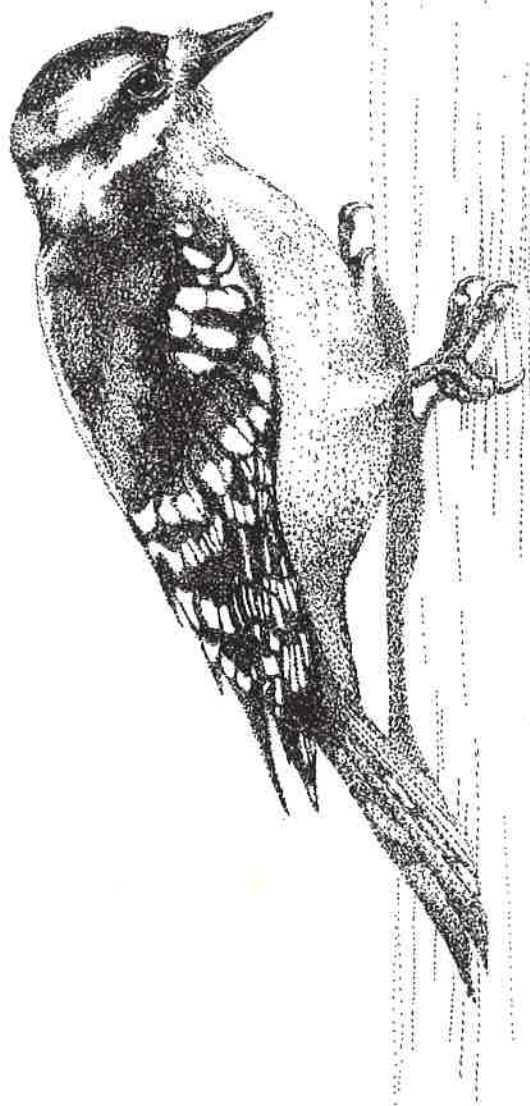
WEEKEND DAY TRIPS - these trips will start in the morning and go a little farther afield. Bring a snack, rubber boots, warm clothes, and binoculars.

Saturday 19 June. *MacIntyre Mountain.* Discover a variety of alpine birds just outside Whitehorse! We'll be looking for Willow Ptarmigan, Horned Larks, Dusky Flycatchers, and more! Meet at the SS.Klondike at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Helmut Grunberg.

Saturday 21 August. *Songbird Banding.* See those elusive fall warblers and sparrows up close, while you see the new Whitehorse banding station in operation! Meet at the SS.Klondike at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Pam Sinclair.



Field Trip Report: 100 species and counting!!



Downy Woodpecker
Courtesy of YCS Nature Appreciation.

Enthusiasm for the Club's field trips was very strong, and groups of 20 people with binoculars are becoming a common sight in the Whitehorse area! There was a lot to be enthusiastic about. The field trips provided a great opportunity for members to share their excitement about spring migration, and to exchange notes on good birding spots and identification tips. Beginners and long-time birders alike were energized by the obvious abundance of interest in birds, bird-watching, and bird conservation.

The birds themselves made a great showing, with dippers, bluebirds, and owls appearing on cue where and when they had been promised! At least 100 species were seen on field trips during April and May. Highlights included 900 swans at M'Clintock Bay on April 22 (and a caribou which wandered out of the shrubs on the far side of the bay); 29 species of waterfowl were tallied during April and May!! Great-horned and Boreal Owls heard calling on April 15; a Golden Eagle nest discovered by the group at Takhini ponds; three Eurasian Wigeons with a variety of other ducks at Tagish; banding over 100 ducks at Shallow Bay including 10 Blue-winged Teal; a Hooded Merganser near Sheep Mountain (and of course the newborn lambs seen on the mountain itself!); High soaring Golden Eagles and Townsend's Solitaires in full flight song at Sheep Mountain; Arctic Tern nests along the Yukon River; seven species of warblers!; a Wilson's Phalarope with Red-necked Phalaropes at Haines Junction; "definitive" looks at Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs followed by "definitive" looks at Greater and Lesser Scaup; a Ruddy Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, and Osprey at Shallow Bay; On May 6 a Northern Hawk Owl near Jarvis Creek graciously posed for a over 20 YBC birders.

Pam Sinclair

FOCUS ON: *The Timberline Sparrow*

Imagine that you are birding in an area which you have never explored before - perhaps in the mountains around Kluane Lake. An unusual and unfamiliar song catches your ear inspiring an immediate investigation! Scanning the low brush you spot a small and subtle, yet beautiful sparrow - a bird that you have never seen before. Your delight at finding a new bird turns to confusion when you cannot find the bird in your field guide, and then to shock when further study reveals that nobody has ever seen this species before! In the summer of 1924 Harry Swarth and Allan Brooks had such an experience.

Swarth and Brooks were on a collecting expedition in the mountains around the Atlin region of northwestern British Columbia. On August 8, Swarth was hiking at 5000 feet on Spruce Mountain when he discovered a very unusual sparrow. The bird displayed a brown crown with fine black streaks, grayish-brown streaked upperparts, with a grayish-white breast and belly. While Swarth considered the bird to be most similar to the Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), the bird was distinct from any other known species. It was grayer with coarser dorsal streaking than the more sandy coloured, lightly streaked Brewer's Sparrow. They noted a longer tail and thinner bill than was typical of the Brewer's Sparrow. Harry Swarth and Allan Brooks had discovered a new bird to the ornithological world!

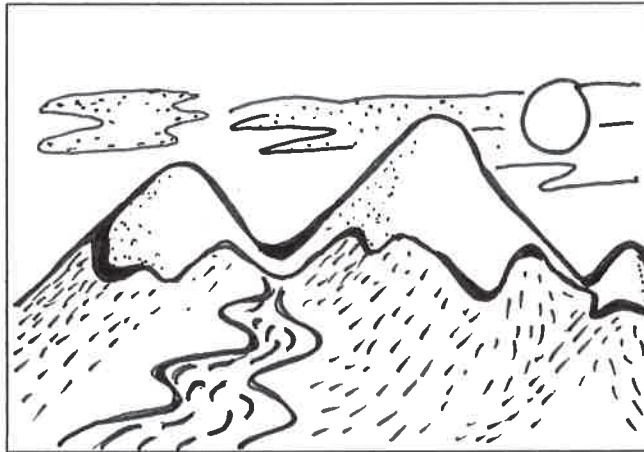
In 1925 Swarth and Brooks published a full description of their discovery and named it the Timberline Sparrow for its favored habitat, and gave it the scientific name *Spizella taverneri*, named for the Canadian ornithologist P.A. Taverner.

However, the Timberline Sparrow did not retain its full species status for very long. In the 1928

edition of "*Birds of Western Canada*", Taverner himself listed the newly discovered Timberline Sparrow as a subspecies of Brewer's Sparrow and noted that the "[Timberline Sparrow] will probably be reduced to a subspecies *Spizella breweri taverneri*". Taverner's prediction was correct and the ornithological world currently treats the *Timberline Sparrow* as a distinct subspecies of Brewer's Sparrow.

The Brewer's Sparrow, named by John James Audubon in 1838 for his friend Thomas Mayo Brewer, is unusual among passerines in that it has 2 distinct breeding populations. The southern subspecies is a common breeder in sagebrush

flats of the Great Basin, while our northern subspecies, the *Timberline Sparrow*, breeds in the mountains of southern Yukon and northwestern British Columbia. Both subspecies winter in mixed species flocks from southern California to central Texas and south into Mexico.



The Brewer's Sparrow's song is a series of varied bubbling notes and buzzy trills at different pitches. Peterson's 1941 edition of *A Field Guide to Western Birds* describes the song as a "Chipping Sparrow trying to sing like a canary"!

The Brewer's Sparrow is present in the Yukon only during summer months, and can be observed at treeline on Montana Mountain near Carcross, in mountains around Kluane Lake and the Haines Road. Breeding adults probably arrive during the last week in May and breed through June and July. In August Brewer's Sparrows may be more difficult to find as adults have ceased singing, however, small groups of fledglings can still be found at treeline.

Cameron Eckert

FIELD NOTES: *Observations from the field*

As spring draws more birders from their backyards into the field, we have expanded the winter *Feeder Watcher's Report* to include field observations.

2 Pacific Loons swam on Schwatka Lake on May 6 (HG). A breeding pair of Pacific Loons returned to Shadow Lake in mid-May (DR).

A Red-necked Grebe was calling at the Yukon River Bridge on May 3 (JH). Pairs of Horned Grebes were widely reported from small ponds through May.

Quite unusual were 4 "Cackling" Canada Geese at the Nisutlin Delta on May 24 (CE,PS). 2 Snow Geese were unusual at Swan Lake on May 9 (HG). 12 Harlequin Ducks swam on Teslin Lake on May 12 (PD). A lone male Eurasian Wigeon was present on Schwatka Lake on May 6 (HG). The first Blue-winged Teal of Spring was at Swan Lake on April 25 (HG). It was an excellent spring for Blue-winged Teal which were widely reported in fairly high numbers.

An American Coot and a Sora were at Swan Lake on May 9 (HG). Another Sora was at the Crestview Lagoons in late-May (DW).

Killdeer returned in third week in April with 3 birds at Shallow Bay on April 21 (CE). On May 8, 2 male Hudsonian Godwits were feeding with a variety of other shorebirds including Pectoral, Solitary and Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated and American Golden Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, on the mudflats at Lewes Marsh (CE,PS). They were joined by 2 Baird's Sandpipers on May 10 (CE). A Dunlin was at the Nisutlin Delta on May 24 (CE,PS). A Whimbrel foraged along the shoreline at Judas Creek on May 25 (JH et.al). A White-rumped Sandpiper, accidental in the Yukon, was at Lewes Marsh on May 19 (CE,PS). A Western Sandpiper was a rare spring migrant at Swan Lake on May 30 (HG,KW).

The first Herring Gulls of spring returned to M'Clintock Bay in mid-April and Mew Gulls arrived during the last week in April. Rarer gulls included a first summer Glaucous-winged Gull, and a 3rd summer Glaucous-winged Gull in Whitehorse on April 23 and April 26. A 1st summer Glaucous Gull, and an adult Glaucous Gull were in Whitehorse on April 24 and April 29 (CE,PS). An adult California Gull was observed in Whitehorse on May 29 (GK,LK).

An adult Little Gull, only the third recorded in the Yukon, was observed with Bonaparte's Gulls at Lewes Marsh on May 8 (CE,PS). While the adult Little Gull is quite similar in appearance to the Bonaparte's Gull, it can readily be distinguished from the Bonaparte's by its striking black underwings.

2 American Dippers were dipping on the Takhini River on April 25 and May 1 (JA,EB).

Upto 3 Willow Ptarmigan were observed cavorting on MacIntyre Mountain through May (CE,HG,PS). While it may not have been a truly *wild bird*, a Chukar was a surprising find on the Annie Lake Road on April 26 (GW).

An active spring for Boreal Owls included 4 owls calling at Kluane Lake on April 8 (CE,TH,PS), and 2 owls calling along the Star Ranch Road on April 14 (CE,HG). A Northern Saw-whet Owl heard calling near Kluane Lake through late April provided the first "live" record for the Yukon (TH,JS).

A Rough-legged Hawk was observed at the Yukon River Bridge on April 18 (DR). A breeding pair of Osprey returned to their nest site on Squanga Lake on April 26 (PD). A female Northern Harrier flew by the S.S.Klondike in Whitehorse on April 14 (JH). A Swainson's Hawk was sighted along the Alaska Highway near MacIntyre Creek on May 1 (GK,LK).

FIELD NOTES: More Observations From the Field ...

Most Yukon birder's are familiar with the rich vocal gymnastics of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The first Ruby-crowned of spring was singing at Shadow Lake on April 19 (KR,SR). Upto 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets, singing their rather subdued song, were at the Fish Farm through May (CE,HG,RM,WN,PS).

The first Hammond's Flycatcher of spring foraged silently along the Takhini River Road on April 25 (CE,PS). Upto 5 Hammond's Flycatchers were singing at the Polar Sea Fishery through May (CE,RM,WN,PS). Upto 5 Dusky Flycatchers have been observed at treeline on MacIntyre Mountain through late May (CE,HG,PS).

10 species of warblers were reported during spring. First spring arrivals included a Yellow-rumped Warbler at the Takhini Hot Springs on April 25 (CE,PS); Yellow and Wilson's Warblers arrived in Teslin on May 6 (PD); A Blackpoll Warbler was briefly heard at Swan Lake on May 9 (HG); Likewise, a Northern Waterthrush was heard on the Fish Lake Road on May 10 (PS). 2 male Townsend's Warblers were singing at the Polar Sea Fish Farm in mid-May (CE,RM,WN,PS). A male McGillivray's Warbler was observed singing at the Fish Farm on June 2 (WN,PS). Another McGillivray's Warbler was sighted at Haines Junction on June 2 (TH).

10 species of sparrows were reported and first spring arrivals included a Dark-eyed Junco at Teslin on April 14 (PD), and a second Dark-eyed Junco at Shadow Lake on April 15 (KR,SR); A White-crowned Sparrow was in Teslin on April 26 and high numbers of White-crowned Sparrows were moving through Watson Lake during the first week in May (LE). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed at Shadow Lake on May 3 (SR). Relatively high numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were passing through Teslin in early May with the first on May 6 (PD). Another Lincoln's Sparrow seemed out of place foraging on the mudflats at Lewes Marsh on May 10 (CE). A Fox Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow, both spring arrivals, were observed at Shadow Lake on May 3 (SR). An American Tree Sparrow fed at a Porter Creek feeder on April 16 (CE,PS). The numbers of Lapland Longspurs were obviously lower than last year with only a few reports of small groups of migrants observed in late-April - a male and female Lapland Longspur were observed foraging at the Lakeview Ski Trails on May 6 (NH) .

Spring movements of redpolls became evident as feeder watchers reported quite erratic numbers of redpoll through early April - birds completely disappeared from some feeders while large flocks arrived at other feeders. Small numbers of Pine Siskins were observed at a variety of locations after mid-April.

The first Purple Finch of spring was reported from Teslin on April 28 (PD). Purple Finches arrived at Lake LaBerge on April 30 (KO).

Observers: Jennifer Adams, Eric Betteridge, Rene Carlson, Patty Denison, Cameron Eckert, Lois Everett, Kirsty Gladish, Helmut Grunberg, Jim Hawkings, Todd Heakes, Nancy Hughes, Greg Kubica, Lee Kubica, Richard Mueller, Wendy Nixon, Kate Ostrom, Don Russell, Sharon Russell, Kelsey Russell, Pam Sinclair, Jamie Smith, Debbie Van de Wetering, Graham Wilson, Ken Wright.

Feeder Watchers and Field 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, (Ph.667-4630) or the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ph.668-2285).

A BACKYARD FOR THE BIRDS

While field outings are a great way to see a variety of birds, many birders spend much of their birdwatching hours gazing from their kitchen window. Most backyard birders who have spent even a little effort providing for the needs of birds quickly learn that an astounding variety of birds can be observed around their own yard! This article highlights a few of the many ways in which one can enhance a backyard for birds.

Creating Habitats In Your Yard

Birds live in a variety of habitats, and the greater the variety of habitats you create in your yard, the more birds you will attract.

Offer food and nest sites at all levels. There are basically four levels you should try to create;

- Grass level: 2 inches to 1 foot in height.
- Shrub level: 2 to 5 feet in height.
- Small tree level: 5 to 15 feet in height.
- Tall tree level: 15 to 40 feet in height.

Try to add to your yard whatever levels are missing. Choosing plants and trees to attract birds serve two functions:

- 1) Produce berries or seeds for birds to eat.
- 2) Provide places for nesting.

Other Features For Birds

Brush piles provide as very important cover from predation and shelter from bad weather. Build one or more loose piles of brush with limbs, branches and old Christmas trees.

Let part of your yard grow with natural grasses.

Leave dead limbs on trees as long as they are not a hazard.

If you are surrounded by trees, consider cutting a few to make a small clearing. Alternatively, if you are surrounded by a clearing, consider planting a few shrubs and trees.

Tracie Harris

Plants Which Do Well In The North.

Although we in the north are limited to the types of shrubs that will survive our winters, the local nursery can supply you with some trees and shrubs that do well here.

Shrub Level:

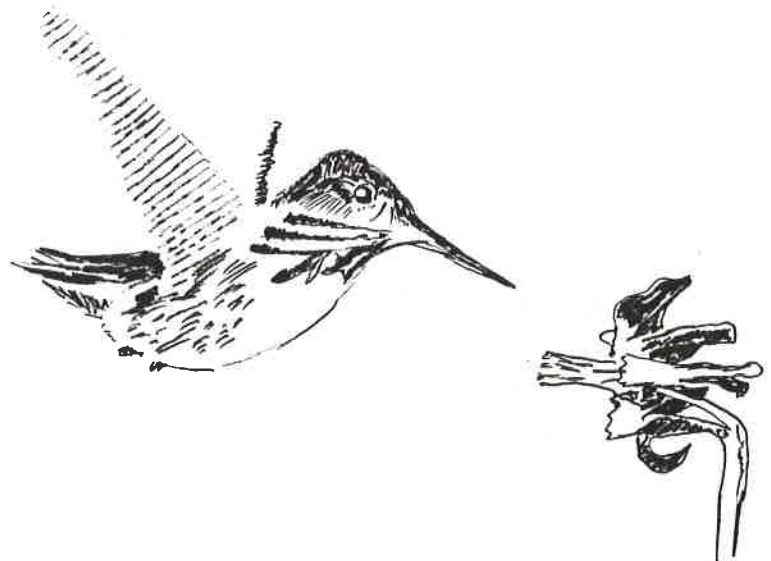
- 1) honeysuckle shrub (not vines).
- 2) Juniper Shrub - a variety that grows 5 feet.
- 3) Cotoneaster.

Small Tree Level:

- 1) Crab Apple with small apples.
- 2) Juniper - a variety which grows to 15 feet.
- 3) Saskatoon Berry.

Tall Tree Level:

- 1) Pine and Spruce provide cones and cover.
- 2) Ash (female tree) and Birch provide seed.
- 3) Mountain Ash produce berries.



NEST BOXES AND BLUEBIRD TRAILS!

Nest boxes are an excellent way to attract birds to backyards and allow birders to closely observe many fascinating mating and nesting behaviours. There are a wide variety of nest box styles which may attract a wide variety of species. With different nest boxes, Yukon birders may attract nesting Mountain Bluebird, swallows, American Kestrel, Boreal Owl, Common or Barrow's Goldeneye, woodpeckers, and chickadees. This article provides some tips and suggestions for the construction, placement and enjoyment of bluebird boxes.

Construction and Placement of Boxes

When building bird boxes, be sure to drill holes along the top of the sides for ventilation and in the bottom for drainage. A piece of plastic mesh stapled to the inside of the box below the hole enables the bird to climb out of the box. Nesting boxes, placed 2 to 10 feet high on a post or tree free from most human activity, should attract new residents to your yard. For best results, boxes should be put up in the fall or winter. In addition to nesting, many birds such as woodpeckers, swallows, and nuthatches use the boxes for roosting at night. Four or five nest boxes per acre is not too many. Place them in a variety of habitats at different heights. Experiment! Not all will be used every year, but by having several boxes you provide more choices for the birds.

Cleaning and Maintaining Nest Boxes

While providing nesting boxes is a very enjoyable way to attract birds to your yard, bird boxes constitute a responsibility as the birds will come to rely on the boxes. Boxes should be cleaned and maintained on an annual basis. Bluebirds build a complete "robin-like" nest inside the box. All nesting material should be removed at the end of the nesting season to avoid the build-up of avian parasites in the nest boxes. If the box has physically deteriorated then it should be repaired or replaced. **Anyone wishing for a basic bluebird box pattern, or wishes to set up their own bluebird trail, can contact Tracie Harris (Laberge channel 2M 4554).**

FEEDING YUKON'S HUMMINGBIRDS

Yes, there are hummingbirds in the Yukon - the brilliant rust-red Rufous Hummingbird!! These little fellows seem completely unconcerned by people, and amaze us with so many features; their jewel-like colours, their fantastic flying abilities, and their size - about 1/10 of an ounce and only 3.75 inches long.

Like living helicopters, they fly in every direction: up, down, sideways, and even upside down. When they are hovering, their wings move backward and forward, rotating at the shoulder as their wing tips trace a horizontal figure eight. Hummers are among the fastest flying small birds reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour in forward flight.

Hummingbirds seem to like any colour as long as it's red and they seem to learn through trial and error that red means good food. Many attractive feeders are on the market with attachments which look like red plastic flowers. This initially helps the birds find your feeder. Despite the continuing debate about the "right mix" to give hummingbirds, four parts plain water with one part white sugar is tried and true. Boiling the sugar water for 1 or 2 minutes will retard fermentation. Honey is bad for hummers!! It causes fungal growths in their throats. Do not use red food colouring to attract hummers. Also, we do not recommend the commercially available "Hummingbird Food".

It is important to maintain and clean feeders to avoid fungi and bacterial build-up which causes the solution to ferment. Thoroughly and frequently clean feeders with hot soapy water and rinse with vinegar; every 5 or 6 days.

Garden plants are an important source of nectar - especially the red columbine, coral bells, bee balm, delphiniums, holly hock, and larkspur. Hummers are also attracted to fuchsia, gladiolus, petunias and nasturtiums. With the birds visiting your feeder regularly, you will soon recognize individuals. You may want to keep records of their arrival and activities. Let us know about your hummingbirds!!

Tracie Harris

YUKON'S BOREAL OWLS

Pillip-pie tshish "The Water-dripping Bird"

Pillip-pie tshish was at one time the largest owl in the world and it had a very loud voice. One day it perched itself near a large waterfall and tried not only to imitate the sound of the fall, but also to drown the roaring of the torrent in its own voice. At this the great spirit was offended and transformed it into a pygmy, causing its voice to resemble slowly dripping water instead of the mighty roar of a cataract.

Montagnais Indian legend of the Boreal Owl, from Comeau 1923

The name says it all. The Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*, is a small owl of the boreal forest. Inconspicuous by nature, these little creatures are often overlooked. They tend to be active only at night and roost in dense spruce forests during the day. A close inspection reveals a streaked breast, yellow bill, and round white spots on the forehead. A lack of ear tufts and no visible tail help to distinguish this bird from other small owls of western North America.

Boreal Owls are usually only heard in late winter and early spring. In the Yukon, males start calling some time in March. He will keep calling until he finds a mate or it gets too late in the season for raising a family. Because of predation, it is to their advantage to be as unobtrusive as possible, so calling stops as soon as a mate is found.

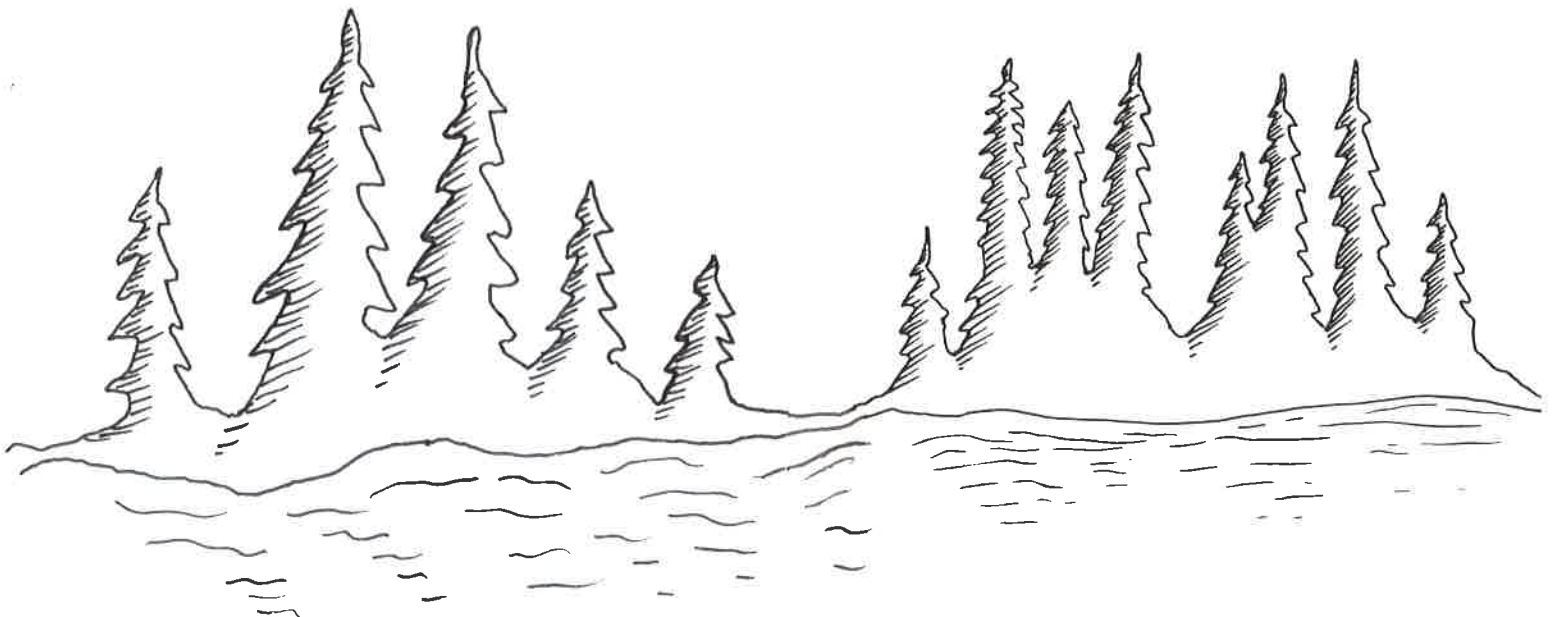
Old flicker holes or natural tree cavities are usually used as a nesting site. Once the eggs are laid the female will rarely leave the nest until

young have fledged. The future father spends most of his time bringing food to the incubating female.

Boreal Owls tend to be a bit fussy when it comes to food, feeding mostly on voles and mice. They have also been known to dine on small birds and beetles. Nesting success seems to be dependant on food supply. In some years, when the vole populations are low, these owls may not even attempt to nest.

The call of the Boreal Owl is a series of high pitched rapid hoots - generally given in series. This past spring Boreal Owls have been heard calling throughout southern and central Yukon. Reports have come in from Kluane Lake, the Upper White River, the Stewart River, Marsh Lake, Million Dollar Falls, and the Shandindu River north of Dawson City.

Todd Heakes



A BIRDER'S BOOKSHELF

YBC field trips have provided a chance for birders to compare various field guides and other books. Many people have voiced their questions about the quality and value of various bird books. This article provides a very brief review of a few field guides, handbooks, and journals.

FIELD GUIDES. While lots of folks carry binoculars, it's a well used field guide that marks a birder in the field. In general, field guides that use painted plates are better than those which present photographs. However, most birders will find it useful to own more than one field guide. There are currently a number of choices for North American birds;

National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America (Second Edition 1987). This guide uses an excellent layout and is generally the most accurate and detailed North American field guide. If you do not already own a field guide then this guide should be the first choice.

Field Guide to Western Birds (Third Edition 1990). By Roger Tory Peterson. Peterson's latest effort is an excellent improvement over the 1961 Second Edition. While not quite as detailed as the National Geographic guide, Peterson's guide is an excellent choice, particularly for beginners, and is widely available in bookstores. A number of bookstores are still flogging the Second Edition - be sure to check!

Golden Guide's Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America (Second Edition 1983). By C.S.Robbins, B.Bruun, and H.S.Zim. This book is less expensive than other field guides, however, it contains many errors and plates generally lack detail. Birders may find this book frustrating as they become more experienced.

HANDBOOKS. While these books can be carried in the field, they are generally larger than field guides and contain a wealth of very detailed information. I would highly recommend two publications;

The Birders Handbook: A field guide to the Natural History of North American Birds. (1988). By P.R.Ehrlich, D.S.Dobkin, and D.Wheye. Published by Simon and Schuster Inc. This book contains a fabulous wealth of information! It is well written, extremely interesting and a must for any birder's bookshelf!

Advanced Birding. (1990). By K.Kaufman. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Have you every wondered how to distinguish Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers? This book focuses on a number of very difficult identification problems presented by a few groups of North American birds. The author is an excellent birder and the book is very well written.

JOURNALS and NEWSLETTERS. These publications are generally acquired by joining a bird club or society. I would highly recommend that birders consider purchasing a subscription to the following publications;

American Birds. Published by the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY, USA, 10022. \$32.50 per year.

Yukon Bird Club Newsletter. An entertaining and informative publication for birders interested in Yukon's wild and wonderful bird life.

Birder's Journal. An interesting *Canadian content* publication published in Ontario. Write to; 8 Midtown Drive, Suite 289, Oshawa, Ontario, L1J 8L2.

YUKON BIRD CLUB NEWS

A Birder's Bird-a-Thon!!

Over 20 YBC members participated in this year's 8th Annual *Yukon Bird-a-thon* and raised upto 1700 dollars!! Last year's record of 94 species fell by the wayside!!

While this spring has been relatively quiet in terms of "bulk numbers" of migrants, Bird-a-thon birders were treated to an unprecedented variety of species!! The Bird-a-thon total count tallied 135 species!! Spectacular finds included 4 Western Grebes, 7 Brant, a Baird's Sandpiper, one Gadwall, and a Song Sparrow at Judas Creek. A lone Brant and female Harlequin Duck were at the SS.Klondike. 3 Sandhill Cranes, 5 Black-bellied Plovers, a Sanderling, 2 Hudsonian Godwits and Yukon's second Bar-tailed Godwit were at M'Clintock Bay. A Cinnamon Teal and Wilson's Phalarope were sighted at Shallow Bay. 2 Smith's Longspurs, 5 Dusky Flycatchers, 3 Willow Ptarmigan, and 2 Brewer's Sparrows were on Mount MacIntyre. A Swainson's Hawk was spotted near Schwatka Lake. A Tennessee Warbler was singing at the Fish Farm and 2 Townsend's Warblers were singing on the Copper Haul Road.

Cameron Eckert and Pam Sinclair won the *Highest Team Total Award* with 112 species. Helmut Grunberg had the highest total for a non-team birder at 93 and raised the most money at \$830. Jeremy Baumbach found 44 species on foot and won the *Enviro-birder Award*. Wendy Nixon found over 30 species and won the *Toddlers in Tow Award*. Jim Hawkings, who started this whole thing in 1986, was awarded the *Founder's Award*.

Report On The Constitution

The Yukon Bird Club Board of Directors have submitted the Yukon Bird Club's constitution to the Territorial Government. The Territorial Government has accepted our club name, Yukon Bird Club. With the approval of the constitution under the *Society's Act* the Yukon Bird Club will become a registered non-profit society. Thus any donations to the Bird Club will be tax-deductable.

An Art Felt Thanks!!

YBC thanks Tanya Handley for offering her lovely line drawings of ducks and swallows!

A Date For The Annual General Meeting.

This year's Yukon Bird Club AGM will be held on Friday September 24, 1993, in the evening. In late August all members will receive a complete schedule of events for the September meeting. Special field trips for AGM participants will be run on the following Saturday September 25.

The Bird Club's New P.O.Box ...

The Yukon Bird Club now has a P.O.Box at Whitehorse's Main Street postal outlet. Please make note of the new address:

**Yukon Bird Club
P.O.Box 31054
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 5P7**

Mail Order Birding ...

Many YBC members have requested information about sources for bird books and equipment. While we provide no specific endorsements, we know of 2 mail order services for birders;

Skua Supplies, One The Courtyard, 109 Old Kingston Road, Ajax, Ontario, L1T 3A6, (Ph. 416 427-6097)

ABA Sales, Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO, USA, 80934, (Ph. toll free 1-800-634-7736)

YUKON BIRD CLUB CLASSIFIEDS

Nature Appreciation! The Yukon Conservation Society has scheduled a Summer Series of Nature Appreciation Walks. *All are welcome!* Call YCS @ 668-5678 for details.

THE YUKON BIRD CLUB

1993 Board of Directors

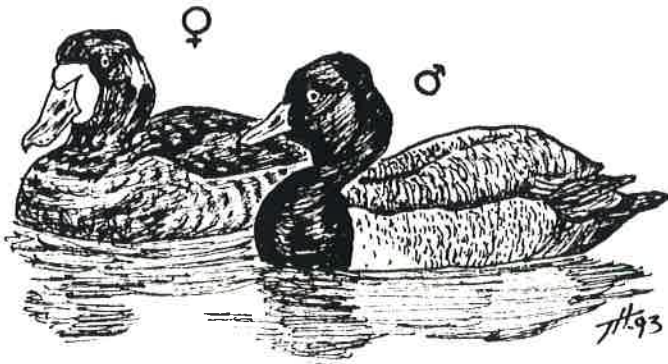
President:	Cameron Eckert
Secretary:	Wendy Nixon
Treasurer:	Jeremy Baumbach
Field Trip Coordinator:	Pam Sinclair
Events Coordinator:	Dave Mossop
Newsletter Editors:	Cameron Eckert Tracie Harris
Youth Coordinators:	Greg Kubica Sam White
Special Projects:	vacant

"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



Lesser Scaup by Tanya Handley

Notes on Naming the Newsletter

The Winter 1993 Newsletter will unveil the winning name for the Yukon Bird Club Newsletter. All members are encouraged submit their suggestions. A few names proposed so far include;

- The Arctic Turn
- Ptarmigan Tracks
- The Dipper
- Northern Shrike

A vote on proposed names will be held at the September Annual General Meeting. The winning suggestion will be awarded with a very special prize!

YBC members are invited to write articles highlighting special birding locations, notable observations, biology and natural history, identification, bird projects and research, conservation, stories and poetry. Line drawings would also be quite welcome. Contact Cameron (Ph.667-4630) or Tracie (Mobile Phone: Laberge 2M-4554) with your ideas.

Birder's Classified!

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 yet-to-be-determined rate.

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

Features to watch for in the Fall Newsletter!

Feeding Birds in Winter

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in the Yukon? When to look and where!