

Yukon Warbler

Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club

Fall / Winter 2007



Inside: Christmas Bird Count Schedule • Sightings • Bird Banding Reports

Christmas Bird Counts Schedule 2007/08

Please contact count coordinators directly to participate in any or all Christmas Bird Counts.

<p>Carcross Date: Sunday, December 16, 2007 For route assignment contact Dan Kemble, Carcross 821-3461</p>	<p>Haines Junction Date: Thursday, December 20, 2007 Time: 9:15 a.m. Location: Visitor Information Centre For route assignment contact Julie Bauer, Haines Junction 634-2002 email: julie-ann-bauer@northwestel.net</p>
<p>Marsh Lake – Yukon River Date: Sunday, December 16, 2007 Time: 9:15 a.m. Location: Yukon River bridge at Lewes Marsh (Alaska Highway) For information contact Helmut Grünberg, Whitehorse 667-6703 .or Clive Osborne, Whitehorse 667-6976 email: grunberg@northwestel.net</p>	<p>Mayo Date: Saturday, December 29, 2007 For route assignment contact Mark O'Donoghue, 996-2529 email: mark.odonoghue@gov.yk.ca</p>
<p>Skagway, Alaska Date: Saturday, December 15, 2007 for more information: call Elaine Furbish (907) 983-2049 or Sandy Snell-Dobert (907) 983-3510 or come to the Sweet Tooth Café in Skagway between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. on count day email: snowshoes@aptalaska.net</p>	<p>Teslin Date: Wednesday, January 2, 2008 For route assignment contact Ben Schonewille, 867-334-2683 email: bschonewille@edynamics.com</p>
<p>Watson Lake Date: Wednesday, December 26, 2007 For route assignment contact Jenny Skelton, Watson Lake 536-7488 or Tor Forsberg, Watson Lake 536-2984</p>	<p>Whitehorse Date: Wednesday, December 26, 2007 For route assignment contact Wendy Nixon, Whitehorse 668-7572 email: wendy.nixon@ec.gc.ca</p>

YUKON BIRD CLUB

Promoting awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats

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The Yukon Bird Club is a registered non-profit, charitable organization.

Membership fees:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
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Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$50.00
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For more information contact:

Yukon Bird Club, Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 5P7

Email: yukonbirdclub@gmail.com

**Yukon Bird Club Web Site:
www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/**

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Yukon Warbler - Fall Winter 2007

Cover Photo
Ruffed Grouse, Policeman's Point, 2007-09-20
B.Dobrowolsky

Notice

Yukon Bird Club
Annual General Meeting
Monday, February 4th 0700 pm
Whitehorse Public Library

Volunteers Wanted

There are several vacancies on the Yukon Bird Club Executive. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time please contact Helmut at 667-6703 or show up at the Annual General Meeting

YBC BIRDS: A free email information flyway with updates of sightings, events and issues. To subscribe email yukonbirdclub@gmail.com with the message "subscribe YBC BIRDS". To cancel send "cancel YBC BIRDS".

Yukon Bird Club Web Site:

www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/

This is a reminder that if anyone out there is addicted to Trumpeter Swans and wants to become more involved in an organization that is dedicated to this magnificent bird and the places it needs to live, you might want to consider joining and possibly becoming a Director of the Trumpeter Swan Society. At present there are only two members in the entire Yukon Territory....not nearly enough to look out for our growing swan population. For more information you can visit the Society's website at www.swansociety.org or contact me.

Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service
ph (867) 667 3927

email jim.hawkings@ec.gc.ca

Field Notes: Observations from the field Winter 2006/07 (December, January, February)

Compiled by Cameron Eckert and Helmut Grünberg

Please report your observations to the Yukon Bird Club via the sightings coordinator, Helmut Grünberg phone 667-6703; email: grunberg_AT_northwestel.net, or Cameron Eckert phone: 667-4630; email: cdeckert_AT_northwestel.net. Include important details such as date, location, number, and observer(s). Please provide as much detail as possible for breeding records, and descriptions of rare sightings. All observations will be forwarded to the Canadian Wildlife Service for inclusion in the comprehensive Birds of the Yukon Database. **Abbreviations:** CBC = Christmas Bird Count

The novelty of increasingly warm winters has worn thin in the Yukon. The long-term health of Yukon ecosystems depends on deep and persistent cold winter temperatures – conditions that are disappearing with the rapid onset of climate change. In southwestern Yukon, a decade of above-normal winter temperatures has spawned a massive Spruce Bark Beetle outbreak now covering more than 350,000 hectares. Elders and people living on the land can no longer rely on their traditional knowledge to understand and predict winter conditions. This year, the trend continued with temperatures well above normal. Along with the warmer temperatures, much of the Yukon experienced unusually high snowfall. As always, our winter report benefits from Christmas Bird Count observations.

The Yukon has several species of wintering waterfowl: the reliable winter flock of **Mallards** in Whitehorse numbered 17 on 24-26 December (HG, TH; CE). The other regular winter ducks, **Common Goldeneye** and **Common Merganser**, were seen at a variety of locations in the Yukon Southern Lakes (m.ob.). At the Tagish Cottage Lots, 4-6 **Willow Ptarmigan** were observed throughout December (MG). Three unidentified **ptarmigan** were observed in the hills north of Lewes Marsh, Marsh Lake area during a dog mushing run as part of the 17 December Marsh Lake – Yukon River CBC (TT). The Willow Ptarmigan is a common winter species in the Yukon but few are reported due to a lack of observers out in the bush. The ever-reliable pair of **Bald Eagles** was present at McIntyre Creek in Whitehorse 24 December (HG, TH); however, one was subsequently injured and spent the rest of the winter in rehab, while the other made good on the 26 December CBC (CE). An adult **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, photographed at Marsh Lake 28 December provided the Yukon's first winter record (photo DP, DS).



**Mountain Chickadee, Porter Creek 2007-04-16
Photo C. Eckert**

The Yukon's rarity of the season was an immature **Ivory Gull** which came to a sad end when it was found starving at Johnson's Crossing, Teslin River bridge on 1 January and subsequently died (SP). The circumstances were similar to the two previous records for Ivory Gull in the area; an immature bird found starving in late November 1999 at Tagish also died; while one on nearby Atlin Lake, British Columbia in mid-November 1987 showed up in weak condition but fed on fish entrails and meat until its departure.

The number of **Rock Pigeons** in Whitehorse remained steady throughout the winter; the highest count was 43 on 14 December (HG). Three **Downy Woodpeckers**, near the northern limit of their winter range, were recorded on the 29 December CBC in Mayo (MOD).

Northern Shrike reports included one with a redpoll in Whitehorse 5 January (BoS) and one in Haines Junction 13 January & 28 February (RJ, WJ). It seemed there was no turning back for many of the

Steller's Jays that poured into the Yukon last fall; small numbers were reported through the season from Whitehorse, Teslin, Tagish, and Carcross – now, having survived the winter, will they breed? Whitehorse edged closer to **Common Raven** supremacy in all of Northern Canada, this year with 1318 tallied on the 26 December CBC (*fide* WN) (the highest being Yellowknife, Northwest Territories with 1377).

The Yukon's only **American Robin** was reported from Haines Junction 4 January (BaS, ET). Single **Mountain Chickadees** were reported from several feeders this winter, all in south central Yukon as expected: at the Saw Mill Road near Lewes Marsh 15 & 19 December (HG), at Schwatka Lake in Whitehorse 23, 26 & 28 December (HG, CO; BD, YS), at Jake's Corner, Alaska Highway (HG, TH), in Tagish 7 January (HG, TH) and at a Carcross feeder during the 16 December CBC (*fide* DK).

Red-breasted Nuthatches are sporadically seen in winter in southern Yukon at feeders: one was at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake 15 December (HG) and two there 17 December (PH); a male and a female were banded in Teslin and seen there throughout the winter (BeS; HS). **Bohemian Waxwings** had to look for other food sources around Whitehorse as a hard frost back in May resulted in a very poor Mountain Ash crop; however, a few flocks of up to 100 birds were seen here through December, and a flock of 26 was seen in Haines Junction 21-23 February (IW, RW).

Small numbers of **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported in southern Yukon from Carcross (DK, NM), Teslin (MG; BeS), and Haines Junction (SR, WR). Rare winter sparrows reported in the Yukon this year included a **Lincoln's Sparrow** through the season at Carcross (DK, NM), an immature **Golden-crowned Sparrow** through the season at Canyon, southwestern

Yukon (RRH), single immature **White-crowned Sparrows** through the season at Shallow Bay, Lake Laberge (CG) and Haines Junction (SR, photo WR), an immature **White-crowned** at Teslin 31 December – 1 January (MG, BeS), and an adult at Schwatka Lake 23-28 December (HG, CO; BD, YS).

However, the champion survivalist was a **Fox Sparrow** that wintered in Dawson through temperatures as low as -48°C (ML). Small numbers of **Snow Buntings** were reported this winter: 22 in Whitehorse on the 26 December CBC (*fide* WN) and 13 in Teslin on the 2 January CBC (*fide* BeS).

Both **Common** and **Hoary Redpolls** were fairly common this winter. A **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (coastal race) was observed through the winter in Whitehorse taking advantage of three different feeders (HG; BSw, PSw; BaS, BoS).



Ivory Gull, Johnson's Crossing, YT 2007-01-01
Found by Shayne Parker, Photo C. Eckert

CONTRIBUTORS: Boris Dobrowolsky, Cameron Eckert, Margaret Garolitz, Helmut Grünberg, Chad Gubala, Todd Heakes, Peter Heebink, Keith Hickling, Rita Jux, Walter Jux, Dan Kemble, Maria Ledergerber, Nancy Maides, Wendy Nixon, many observers (m.ob.), Mark O'Donoghue, Clive Osborne, Shayne Parker, Doug Phillips, Sharon Riedl, Wolf Riedl, Robyn Rufiange-Holway (RRH), Ben Schonewille (BeS), Henderien Schonewille, Dale Stokes, Yammy Stote, Barbara Studds (BaS), Bob Studds (BoS), Bill Swainson (BSw), Pat Swainson (PSw), Enid Tait, Thalina Tchulokovsky, Iris Wilson, Ron Wilson.

Field Notes: Observations from the field Spring 2007 (March, April, May)

Compiled by Cameron Eckert and Helmut Grünberg

On June 21 of this year, 15 year-old Yukoner Malkolm Boothroyd and his parents cycled south to begin a year-long, fossil-fuel-free journey in search of birds. It's an inspiration to see a great birding adventure launched to raise awareness of bird conservation and climate change. Follow their journey at www.birdyear.com.

Spring began with a bitter cold snap in March with temperatures plunging to -35°C. Strong southwest winds in April may have pushed the Tundra Swan migration off its normal route through southern Yukon.

A raft of 61 **Greater White-fronted Geese** was a sizable flock; it was seen at the mouth of McIntyre Creek in Whitehorse 4 May (RP). A flock of 67 **Snow Geese** was encountered at Shallow Bay, Lake Laberge 11 May (CE). Canada Goose of the mostly "large" and "small" varieties were recently split into two species; both are relatively common spring migrants in southern Yukon with the larger Canada Goose being the only one known to breed in the Yukon. Participants of the Yukon Bird Club outing to Judas Creek, Marsh Lake on 20 May had a chance to study a small **Cackling Goose** with a slight neck ring, distinctive with its high voice, among 20 **Canada Geese** (JH, YBC). **Trumpeter Swan** migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake 23 April with a count of 897 (JJ). **Tundra Swan** migration through southern Yukon was well off its regular track this year; M'Clintock Bay had a high count of just 106 on 28 April (JJ), while 1237 were tallied flying over Albert Creek, Upper Liard near Watson Lake 28 April (TMK); strong southwest winds through late April apparently pushed the migration east from the Yukon River valley to the Liard Basin. Usually Tundra Swans outnumber Trumpeter Swans by a wide margin during spring staging at M'Clintock Bay. A peak count of 836 **Northern Pintails** was recorded at M'Clintock Bay, 25 April (JJ). A hybrid male **Common x Barrow's Goldeneye** was at M'Clintock Bay 16 April, and another was at Shallow Bay, Lake Laberge 18 April (JJ).

Dusky Grouse reports, all from the Yukon Southern Lakes area, included five along the Annie Lake Road 22 April (HG), six at Montana

Mountain near Carcross 27 April (DK, YBC), and four on Grey Mountain in Whitehorse 1-2 May (CE; BD, HG, CO, PSi). A flock of 30 **Sharp-tailed Grouse** was observed in the headwaters of the Nisling River, southwestern Yukon 14 March (MW).

A breeding plumage **Eared Grebe**, rare in the Yukon, was a great find in Whitehorse on the 26 May Yukon Birdathon (photo MB, WB); it was seen being courted by two Horned Grebes 28 May (photo HG, BSu). A rare **Great Blue Heron** was spotted at Jackfish Bay, Lake Laberge 15 May (HM). A **Gyrfalcon** was chasing and attacking a **Common Raven** on Grey Mountain 24 May (RP, JP).



Eared Grebe, Whitehorse YT, 2007-05-26
Photo H. Grünberg

The Tintina Trench is a major flyway for **Sandhill Cranes** across the Yukon to their breeding grounds in northwestern Alaska; counts this year in the Faro/Ross River area included 2995 on 9 May and 3025 on 10 May (PSi). A solitary **Sandhill Crane**, uncommon in the Yukon Southern Lakes area, was seen in Tagish 16 May (PD, JD). Some were also heard on the top of Grey Mountain, apparently passing through flying very high (above the clouds) 16 May (RP, JP).

A male **Pacific Golden-Plover** was right on cue for a YBC outing along the Yukon River in Whitehorse 10 May (photo CE, YBC); other

reports included a male at M'Clintock Bay 12 May (photo CE), a female at Horse Creek, Lake Laberge area 14-15 May (photo CE), and a male there in mid-May (JJ). An impressive shorebird fallout at M'Clintock Bay on 12 May produced 300 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 1000 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 100 **Least Sandpipers**, 40 **Baird's Sandpipers**, and 2000 **Pectoral Sandpipers** (CE). A flock of 17 **Whimbrels**, first seen at M'Clintock Bay 12 May (CE), remained in the area for a week or so. A notable shorebird migration was observed in the Faro area 16 May: 1450 shorebirds heading WNW in flocks of 60 to 200 were mostly (or all) **Long-billed Dowitchers** and **Pectoral Sandpipers**; another 295 of the same species was recorded early on 17 May (PSi). A total of 28 **Solitary Sandpipers**, mostly migrants, was recorded during surveys of 67 wetlands in the Faro/Ross River area 16-17 May (PSi). A **Wandering Tattler** at Albert Creek 18 May (TMK) provided one of very few records for southeastern Yukon. Two **Upland Sandpipers** were seen along the Aishihik Road, southwestern Yukon 18 May (RRH).



Hudsonian Godwit, Tagish, YT 2007-05-12
Photo C. Eckert

Hudsonian Godwits are scarce in southwestern Yukon; four were seen at Dezadeash Lake 18 May (EK). Somewhat more common in the Southern Lakes area, three were seen at Shallow Bay 11 May (CE), and one was enjoyed on a YBC trip there 17 May (BD, YBC). A **Red Knot**, very rare in southern Yukon, was at Judas Creek 23-27 May (photo CE, PSi). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** touched down at Herschel Island, northern Yukon 30 May (AK, DR, EM). Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** were displaying at Coffee Lake near Ross River 25 May, and west of Coffee Lake 30 May (PSi).

Wetland surveys in southern Yukon recorded a few concentrations of migrant **Bonaparte's Gulls** including 115 at Johnson's Lake near Faro on 16 May, and 128 at Jackfish Lake near Ross River on 25 May (PSi). A count of 100 **Mew Gulls** was made at Little Salmon Lake, southern Yukon 17 May (PSi). The **Ring-billed Gull** is rare in the Yukon; reports this year included a 3rd calendar-year bird at Wye Lake in Watson Lake 17 May, an adult there 18 May (JJ), and an adult in Mayo 19 May (photo MOD). **Herring Gull** migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay with a count of 1250 on 22 April (JJ). Seven **Glaucous-winged Gulls** (all 1st year birds) were tallied during a scan of 250 Herring Gulls on the Yukon River in Whitehorse 1 May (CE). The number of **Rock Pigeons** in Whitehorse had remained steady throughout the winter; the highest spring count was 40 on 4 March (HG).



Great Grey Owl, Swan L. YT, 2007-05-17
Photo B. Dobrowolsky

A **Great Gray Owl** nesting at Swan Lake, near Whitehorse 2 May (BD, HG, YS) was using a nest occupied by a Great Horned Owl in 2006 and a Harlan's Hawk in 2004 (*fide* HG).

Northern Hawk Owls seemed scarce in early spring in southern Yukon: one was seen near Pelly Crossing along the North Klondike Highway 12 April (MW). Two were encountered at Albert Creek 24 April (TMK). A cooperative **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, the Yukon's 3rd, discovered calling on territory on Grey Mountain 1 May (photo CE) stayed long enough for birders to enjoy a view the following day (PSi, BD, HG, CO).

A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was netted and released unbanded at Teslin Lake 13 May (BSc). An integrate “**red-shafted**” **Northern Flicker** at a nest cavity was reported from Carcross 5 May (photo AC); a subsequent study of the bird on 2 May revealed that it showed the red malar stripes of the red-shafted race, the red nape patch of the yellow-shafted race, and reddish-yellow underwings (photo CE). These are typical plumage features of coastal “red-shafted” Northern Flickers at the northern edge of their range in southeast Alaska (*fide* SH).



Integrate “red-shafted” Northern Flicker, Carcross, YT, 2007-05-01. Photo C. Eckert

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, rare in the Yukon, was banded at Teslin Lake 28 May (BSc). A record-early **Hammond's Flycatcher** was at Carcross 21 April (photo BD). Single **Dusky Flycatchers**, rarely seen in southern Yukon lowlands, were banded at Teslin Lake 21 & 28 May (photo BSc). Heavy snow conditions in alpine areas of southern Yukon likely accounted for sightings of Dusky Flycatchers singing at lower than normal elevations including one at Jackfish Bay 25 May (HG), one at Marsh Lake 27 May (CE, PSi), and two on the lower slopes of Mt. McIntyre 31 May (SF, HG *et al.*).

At least a few **Steller's Jays** survived the winter in the Yukon Southern Lakes area as birds were reported from various locations from March through mid-May (m.ob.). A pair of crows was seen at the Whitehorse Shipyards 1 May (CE); one to two **American Crows** were also seen at Albert Creek seven times 11- 31 May (TMK). **Swainson's Thrushes** returned early to southern Yukon this year; six were seen in the Faro area 10 May (PSi), and one was banded along with a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Albert Creek 11 May (TMK).



Northern Pygmy-Owl, Grey Mountain, YT 2007-05-01 Photo C. Eckert

A **Tennessee Warbler** an increasingly more common species in southern Yukon, was banded at the Teslin banding station 28 May; this number jumped to four birds banded 29 May (BSc). A **Cape May Warbler**, first heard singing at Albert Creek 26 May, was banded 31 May (JJ, TMK); another one, singing at Jackfish Lake 30 May (PSi), established the first record of the species for the Ross River area. A male **Black-and-white Warbler**, very rare but apparently now more regular, was recaptured at Albert Creek 19 May (photo JJ, TMK); it was originally banded there 21 May 2006 (TMK). A second **Black-and-white Warbler** was banded at Albert Creek 20 May (JJ, TMK). Record-early warblers banded at Albert Creek included a **Northern Waterthrush** 5 May, and two **Common Yellowthroats** 11 May (TMK). A male **Western Tanager**, west of its range, was seen at Teslin 29 May to 1 June (photo BSc).

It was a banner year for sparrows at Albert Creek with record-high numbers of **American Tree Sparrows** (345), **Savannah Sparrows** (70), **Lincoln's Sparrows** (120), and **Dark-eyed Juncos** (339), and near-record numbers of **Fox** (60) and **White-crowned Sparrows** (219) (TMK). Likewise, the Teslin Lake banding station netted an amazing 579 **White-crowned Sparrows** which accounted for 46% of the birds banded this spring (JJ, BSc). A **White-throated Sparrow**, west of its normal range, was banded at Teslin Lake 26 May (photo BSc). A **Fox Sparrow** which had just made it through the winter season at a Dawson feeder was still there 15 March (ML). **Oregon-race Dark-eyed**

Juncos are very rare in southern Yukon; a female was at Carcross 12 May (photo CE); another one was banded at Albert Creek 15 May (JJ, TMK). Two **Smith's Longspurs** were seen at Herschel Island 29 May (AK). A patrol on Mt. Logan, southwestern Yukon reported two **Gray-crowned Rosy Finches** during 28 May to 1 June (LF). A **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** that had been first seen 13 November 2006 at a feeder in Whitehorse (HG) was spending the winter and early spring at four feeders in

Whitehorse about a kilometre apart (PSw, BSw; BaS, BoS; LD; HG) and was last reported 19 March (PSw, BSw). **White-winged Crossbills** galore! – An excellent cone crop led to a widespread surge in White-winged Crossbill numbers this spring (m.ob.). A female **Evening Grosbeak** at Canyon 30 May (photo RRH) established the first record for southwestern Yukon.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Malkolm Boothroyd, Wendy Boothroyd, Andrew Cremata, Judy Dabbs, Paul Dabbs, Lee Dickson; Boris Dobrowolsky, Cameron Eckert, Lloyd Freese, Sam Fried, Helmut Grünberg, Jim Hawkings, Steve Heinl, Jukka Jantunen, Dan Kemble, Alice Kenney, Maria Ledergerber, many observers (m.ob.), Edmund McLeod, Hugh Monaghan, Ted Murphy-Kelly (TMK), Mark O'Donoghue (MOD), Clive Osborne, Jim Pojar, Rosamund Pojar, Don Reid, Robyn Rufiange-Holway, Ben Schonewille (BSc), Pamela Sinclair (PSi), Barbara Studds (BaS), Bob Studds (BoS), Bill Swainson (BSw), Pat Swainson (PSw), Yammy Stote, Betty Sutton (BSu), Mary Whitley, Yukon Bird Club.

Support the Fossil-fuel free Bird Year!

On June 21, 2007, 15-year-old Yukoner Malkolm Boothroyd and his parents, Wendy Boothroyd and Ken Madsen cycled south on a year-long, fossil-fuel-free journey (by bikes, boots and boats) in search of birds – their *Bird Year*. They've plotted a route that will take them some 16,000 kilometres along the



Alaska Highway, down the west coast to California, and east across the southern US to Texas and Florida. Their journey will cover an astonishing variety of ecosystems with an amazing diversity of birds each with a story to tell. Malkolm has also set a personal goal of raising 12,000 dollars for Bird Conservation. What an inspiration!

To help Malkolm with his fund-raising effort, I am pledging to give to the Bird Year fund established by the Yukon Bird Club the same amount I spend on gasoline. So when I drive to the pump and spend \$35.00, I will put \$35.00 into the Bird Year Fund. This comes to about 8 cents per km in my case. The funds raised during the Bird Year will help bird conservation across North America. This will be my own reminder to always try to drive less, while at the same time supporting an amazing conservation effort.

I would like to encourage others to consider making similar pledges in support of the Bird Year. **To follow Malkolm's progress or to make a donation check www.birdyear.com.**

All the best,

Helmut Grünberg

Bird Banding at the Albert Creek Banding Station

Ben Schonewille & Ted Murphy-Kelly



Master Bander Ted Murphy-Kelly extracting a bird from a mist net

Albert Creek saw another great year of migration monitoring in 2007. Thanks to sufficient funding and an unprecedented number of volunteers and students we were able to produce one of our best years so far. The station covered both spring and fall migration seasons. It operated for 44 days in the spring from April 27th to June 7th. We banded 2,798 birds of 52 species and observed 129 species during this time. Our fall season began on July 26th and wrapped up on September 21st for a total of 56 days with 2504 birds banded of 46 species. Not surprisingly, our total species observed was lower than that of the spring season with 107 species recorded. See table on the final page of this article to see the breakdown of birds banded during 2007. Two new species were added to our banding list (Spotted Sandpiper, Tree Swallow) bringing the all time total (since 2001) to 82 species.

Spring Migration Season:

Once again, the spring season began during late April and the high snowpack from the past winter made setting up the station a challenge. As was the case in past years, snowshoes were required to run the station early in the season. Despite the “wintery conditions” during late April, a number of birds were already present at the site including American-tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. There was an impressive diversity of birds present at the site during the last week of April including a mix of sparrows and low numbers of warblers. The first Yellow-rumped Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler were banded on April 23rd and 25th, respectively. Lincoln’s Sparrow (April 23rd), Savannah Sparrow (April 23rd) and Golden-crowned Sparrow (April 26th) were also encountered during the last week of April. During the first few days of operation (April 23rd – 24th), relatively high numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglet and American-tree Sparrow were encountered. Towards the end of the month, species such as White-

crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco began to increase in numbers. In terms of waterfowl, an unprecedented number of Tundra Swans were observed with over 1200 observed of April 28th.



Yellow-rumped Warbler (male)

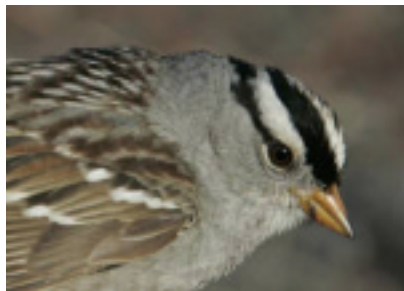


Orange-crowned Warbler



Savannah Sparrow

The first two weeks of May saw a typical shift from primarily sparrows being captured to the “mid season” migrants, dominated by the warblers. Early in the month, high numbers of White-crowned Sparrow were banded along with Golden-crowned Sparrow and lower numbers of American-tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. The baited ground traps were effective in capturing high numbers of sparrows at the site. Common warbler species such as Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warbler increased in numbers towards the end of the month.



White-crowned Sparrow



Dark-eyed Junco



American-tree Sparrow

New migrants banded during the period included; American Pipit (May 10th), Common Yellowthroat (May 11th), Gray-cheeked Thrush (May 11th), Hermit Thrush (May 12th), Northern Waterthrush (May 5th), Purple Finch (May 3rd), Red-winged Blackbird (May 10th), Rusty Blackbird (May 1st), Swainson’s Thrush (May 2nd), Swamp Sparrow (May 5th), White-throated Sparrow (May 2nd), Wilson’s Warbler (May 11th) and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (May 7th).



Wilson’s Warbler



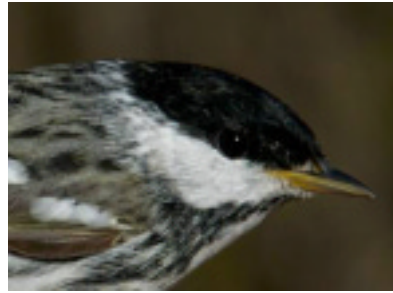
Swamp Sparrow



White-throated Sparrow

The latter portion of May is typically the busiest time of year at Albert Creek and 2007 was no different with two very high daily banding totals at the end of the month (149 – May 29th; 166 – May 31st). There was also a large increase in the diversity of species and Wilson’s Warbler was once again seen in very high numbers. The number of sparrows drastically declined and the numbers of warblers and thrush increased. New migrants banded during the period included; Alder Flycatcher (May 23rd), American Redstart (May 29th), Blackpoll Warbler (May 16th), Brown-headed Cowbird (May 29th), Cape May Warbler (May 29th), Chipping Sparrow (May 16th), Least Flycatcher (May 22nd), Magnolia Warbler (May 29th), Olive-sided Flycatcher (May 18th), Solitary Sandpiper (May 17th), Tennessee Warbler (May 24th), Warbling Vireo (May 26th), Western Tanager (May 26th) and Yellow Warbler (May 18th). A

very exciting capture during this period was a Black-and-white Warbler banded on May 21st. Additionally, a second individual originally banded in 2006 was also recaptured the previous day.

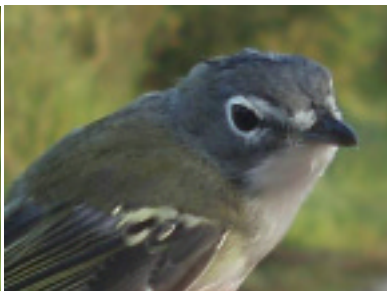
***Black-and-white Warbler******Blackpoll Warbler******Gray-cheeked Thrush***

It was no surprise that the number of birds captured during the first week in June was drastically reduced. This time of year typically marks the end of the spring migration season, and subsequently high numbers of local breeders are captured. Known local breeders such as American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Tennessee Warbler and Alder Flycatcher were the most common species encountered. Always an exciting capture, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded on June 4th. Perhaps the most intriguing discovery from 2007 was an Alder Flycatcher recaptured on June 4th that was originally banded on June 4th, 2001. This individual is possibly the oldest individual of this species on record (by the Bird Banding Laboratory).

***Alder Flycatcher******Yellow-bellied Flycatcher******Common Yellowthroat***

Fall Migration Season:

The fall season began with the regular trimming of net lanes to remove the year's vegetation growth. This is a task which has to be completed every year as the vegetation within the marsh grows very rapidly during the summer months. The early portion (late July – early August) typically sees low numbers of migrants and a high proportion of local breeders captured at the station. During this time, the station often captures "rare" species which have a restricted range in the Yukon and this was once again the case in 2007 with the following notable captures; Blue-headed Vireo (Aug 4th), Cedar Waxwing (Aug 2nd), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Jul 27th), Western Tanager (Aug 4th), Cape May Warbler (Jul 27th).

***Cape May Warbler******Blue-headed Vireo******Western Tanager***

The period from mid August until early September saw a high number of individuals of numerous species passing through the study site. Species such as Common Yellowthroat, Alder Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped

Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet dominated the number of birds handled, including a very high proportion of hatch year birds. The number of Northern Waterthrush were exceptionally notable and was likely due to the high water levels at the site which created a large expanse of suitable foraging habitat for this species.



Northern Waterthrush



Yellow Warbler



Swainson's Thrush (juvenile)

Notable captures during this portion of the fall season included the following; Cape May Warbler (Sep 3rd, Sep 6th), Dusky Flycatcher (Sep 3rd), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Aug 18th) and Townsend's Warbler (Aug 20th). During this period, a number of Rusty Blackbirds were also captured which provided an opportunity to color band these individuals and collect a feather sample for stable isotope analysis (a study in coordination with Pam Sinclair of CWS). Additionally, testing was also done to monitor the feasibility of monitoring nocturnal owls. Two Boreal Owls were captured and a Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard.



Dusky Flycatcher



Townsend's Warbler



Rusty Blackbird

During the latter part of the fall season, the high numbers of sparrows typically seen were all but absent. The reason for this is unknown; however, it is likely that weather played a role in these results. Despite the decreased number of birds, the end of the fall season was very similar to the start of the spring season with Dark-eyed Junco and American-tree Sparrow being the most common species. In terms of observations, a Swainson's Hawk seen soaring on September 16th was a new species for the station. The fall season came to a close on September 23rd when all the nets were taken down until next year. The site was also tested for banding ducks and although none were captured, further testing is required to determine the long term feasibility of this add on study.

In closing, the banders at the station would like to thank the following financial supporters which made this year possible; Yukon Environment, Yukon Bird Club, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Yukon Environmental Awareness Fund and Canadian Wildlife Service. In addition, a thank you goes out to all the volunteers who were crucial in the success of the 2007 banding season.

Visit the banding station's online photo album (<http://picasaweb.google.com/yukonbanding>) to see upwards of 300 digital photos of birds banded at Albert Creek and Teslin Lake.



Volunteer Julie Bauer of Haines Junction, YT



Master Bander Ted Murphy-Kelly erecting a mist net



Volunteer Gwenn Baluss of Juneau, AK



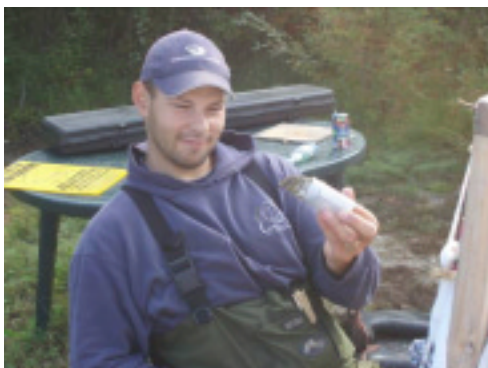
Volunteer Elizabeth Kellogg from Ontario



Y2C2 Crew Leader Jamie Wintemute



Assistant Bander Jukka Jantunen of Lazo, BC



Assistant Bander Ben Schonewille



Volunteer Sarah Davidson of Whitehorse, YT

Birds banded at Albert Creek during the spring and fall seasons of 2007

SPECIES	SPRING	FALL	SPECIES	SPRING	FALL
Alder Flycatcher	28	253	Northern Waterthrush	145	248
American Pipit	1		Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	
American Redstart	10	50	Orange-crowned Warbler	251	151
American Robin	18	2	Purple Finch	5	1
American-tree Sparrow	345	116	Red-breasted Nuthatch		1
Belted Kingfisher		2	Red-winged Blackbird	4	
Black-and-white Warbler	1		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	75	184
Black-capped Chickadee		10	Rusty Blackbird	1	31
Blackpoll Warbler	57	41	Savannah Sparrow	71	18
Blue-headed Vireo		1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	4
Boreal Chickadee		12	Solitary Sandpiper	9	3
Boreal Owl		2	Spotted Sandpiper	1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	4		Swainson's Thrush	55	137
Cape May Warbler	2	3	Swamp Sparrow	5	21
Cedar Waxwing		8	Tennessee Warbler	21	22
Chipping Sparrow	8	3	Three-toed Woodpecker	1	
Common Redpoll	12		Townsend's Warbler		1
Common Yellowthroat	85	217	Tree Swallow	1	
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco	1		Unidentified Dark-eyed Junco	4	
Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco	334	81	Varied Thrush		3
Dusky Flycatcher		1	Warbling Vireo	7	26
Fox Sparrow	60	9	Western Tanager	1	2
White-crowned Sparrow	217	10	White-throated Sparrow	14	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3	White-winged Crossbill		12
Golden-crowned Sparrow	14	1	Wilson's Snipe	1	1
Gray Jay	1	1	Wilson's Warbler	369	165
Gray-cheeked Thrush	13	8	Yellow Warbler	261	219
Hammond's Flycatcher	9		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	2
Hermit Thrush	1	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	16	16
Lapland Longspur	1		Yellow-rumped Warbler	113	262
Least Flycatcher		14	Northern Flicker	1	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	120	74	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	2798	2504
Magnolia Warbler	5	38			



Cape May Warbler, Albert Creek

Bird Banding at the Teslin Lake Banding Station

Ben Schonewille



Mist net set along the shoreline of Teslin Lake

Teslin Lake saw another productive year of migration monitoring in 2007. To date the station has not been able to operate at full capacity due to financial and personnel constraints; however, a valiant effort was made to once again monitor the spring bird migration in the Teslin region. The station was operated only during the spring season; 25 days of operation from April 22nd to June 3rd. A total of 1,267 birds of 43 species were banded and 91 species were observed. See table on the final page of this article to see the breakdown of birds banded during 2007. Three new species were added to our banding list (Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-throated Sparrow and Hoary Redpoll) bringing the all time total (since 2005) to 66 species.

The spring season at Teslin Lake began quite slowly with low numbers of a variety of species banded during the last week of April. The first Yellow-rumped Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet of the year were banded on April 29th, April 28th and April 22nd, respectively. The first White-crowned Sparrow of the year was also banded on April 29th.



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Lincoln's Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrow

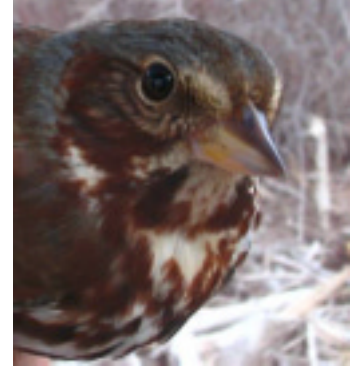
Beginning on May 1st, the number of birds banded increased substantially with 199 banded on May 2nd and 132 on May 5th. The majority of these birds were White-crowned Sparrows, American-tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Fox Sparrows. It was apparent that there was a very large migratory movement of sparrows at this time as wave after wave of birds passed through the study site. With a proper number of qualified extractors and banders at this time, it is unimaginable how many birds could have been banded as the Bander In Charge was forced to close all but two mist nets on numerous occasions.



American-tree Sparrow

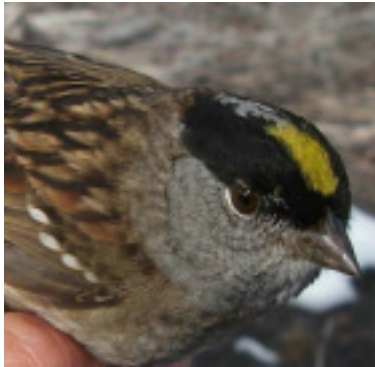


Dark-eyed Junco



Fox Sparrow

Other new species banded during the first 10 days of May included the following: Orange-crowned Warbler (May 5th), Savannah Sparrow (May 1st), American Robin (May 6th), Golden-crowned Sparrow (May 1st), Hammond's Flycatcher (May 5th), Purple Finch (May 2nd), Hoary Redpoll (May 7th), Rusty Blackbird (May 5th), Sharp-shinned Hawk (May 1st), Varied Thrush (May 6th), Common Redpoll (May 7th) and Northern Flicker (May 7th).



Golden-crowned Sparrow



Hammond's Flycatcher

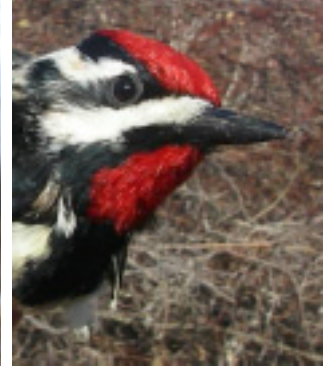


American Robin

The remainder of May saw somewhat limited coverage at the station with the station being operated for 10 days from May 10th – 31st. The numbers of White-crowned Sparrows were unprecedented with a grand total of 579 banded including a high daily banding total of 112 on May 12th. The number of Golden-crowned Sparrows banded was also impressive with a total of 16 banded. As is typically the case, the number of sparrows decreased in mid May and the warblers and thrush became more common. New migrants banded during the period included the following: Wilson's Warbler (May 12th), Swainson's Thrush (May 19th), Yellow Warbler (May 20th), Common Yellowthroat (May 27th), Northern Waterthrush (May 19th), Alder Flycatcher (May 29th), Blackpoll Warbler (May 20th), Chipping Sparrow (May 27th), Tennessee Warbler (May 28th), Gray-cheeked Thrush (May 20th), Least Flycatcher (May 26th), Dusky Flycatcher (May 21st), Say's Phoebe (May 13th), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (May 13th), Red-winged Blackbird (May 13th), White-throated Sparrow (May 26th), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (May 29th). Although the total number of birds banded during this period was not very impressive, the high diversity of species was promising. It appeared as though there were no major migratory movement of warblers as was the case with the sparrows earlier in the season.

During early June, low numbers of local breeders and late season migrants were captured. The most common species at this time included Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Waterthrush and Alder Flycatcher.

Also during the time, the rising waters of Teslin Lake became an issue as many net lanes became flooded. This is a yearly occurrence at the study site as Teslin Lake has drastically fluctuating water levels during the spring due to rapid snowmelt in the surrounding mountains. Exciting captures in the final days of operation (June 2nd – 3rd) included American Redstart, Western Wood-pewee, Spotted Sandpiper, Sharp-shinned Hawk and a recaptured female Yellow Warbler originally banded at the site in 2005.

*Chipping Sparrow**Say's Phoebe**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**Yellow Warbler**Common Yellowthroat**Blackpoll Warbler**Spotted Sandpiper**Western Wood-pewee**Sharp-shinned Hawk*

The 2007 season at Teslin Lake was made possible due to financial contributions from the following; Yukon Environment, Teslin Renewable Resources Council, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Enhancement Trust Fund), Ducks Unlimited and the Yukon Bird Club. This year would also have not been possible without the numerous volunteers who helped out at the station. It is hoped that in 2008, enough funding will be secured to operate the station at full capacity during the spring season and possibly the fall. Visit the banding station's online photo album (<http://picasaweb.google.com/yukonbanding>) to see upwards of 300 digital photos of birds banded at Albert Creek and Teslin Lake.

Birds banded at Teslin Lake during the spring season of 2007

SPECIES	SPRING	SPECIES	SPRING
Alder Flycatcher	10	Orange-crowned Warbler	47
American Redstart	1	Purple Finch	6
American Robin	17	Red-winged Blackbird	1
American-tree Sparrow	72	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	27
Black-capped Chickadee	2	Rusty Blackbird	2
Blackpoll Warbler	10	Savannah Sparrow	24
Boreal Chickadee	2	Say's Phoebe	2
Chipping Sparrow	6	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Common Redpoll	1	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Common Yellowthroat	11	Swainson's Thrush	48
Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco	135	Tennessee Warbler	6
Dusky Flycatcher	2	Unidentified Dark-eyed Junco	0
Fox Sparrow	17	Varied Thrush	2
White-crowned Sparrow	579	Western Wood-pewee	2
Golden-crowned Sparrow	16	White-throated Sparrow	1
Gray Jay	1	Wilson's Warbler	63
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5	Yellow Warbler	37
Hammond's Flycatcher	11	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Hoary Redpoll	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2
Least Flycatcher	3	Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler	29
Lincoln's Sparrow	39	Northern Flicker	1
Northern Waterthrush	11	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1,267



Cedar Waxwing, Albert Creek

