

Yukon Warbler

Newsletter of the Yukon Bird Club



Cameron Eckert photo

These male Harlequin Ducks on the Yukon River in Whitehorse throughout the winter of 2013-14, established the Yukon's first over-wintering record for the species; and highlighted how the wonderful pedestrian foot-bridge over the river is a cornerstone of the Yukon River Millennium Trail.

Southern rarities spotted over summer

Three new species documented in Yukon.

See Observations from the Field page 4



Seeking help with chickadee project

Researcher to spend next few years tracking abundance of chickadee species.

See story page 7

Yukon Bird Club

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

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** Also includes those for whom finances are limited.

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We want your birding photos and stories!

Thank you to all who contribute to make the Yukon Warbler. YBCnewsletter@gmail.com

Our next deadline is May 1, 2015.

Yukon Warbler Editor: Liz Hargreaves:
YBCnewsletter@gmail.com

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Rare sightings reports

All sightings of rare or notable birds should be sent directly to the Sightings Coordinator:
yukonbirdclub@gmail.com

Raven award winners

The Raven Award – recognizing outstanding contributions

The Raven is an annual award to recognize an individual's outstanding contribution to the Yukon birding community or bird conservation. The spirit of the award reflects the mission of the Yukon Bird Club – which is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Yukon birds and their habitats.

2009 – Malkolm Boothroyd. In recognition of Malkolm's fossil fuel-free Big Year to raise awareness about bird conservation and climate change.

2010 – Sylvia Frisch. In recognition of Sylvia's work as part of International Polar Year to host a series of natural history events, including Weekend on



Cameron Eckert photo

The Raven is not only the largest member of the crow family, it is also the Yukon's official bird, and an award that the Yukon Bird Club gives to an individual who provides an outstanding contribution to the Yukon birding community or to bird conservation.

the Wing, at Tombstone Territorial Park.

2011 – Shyloh van Delft. In recognition of Shyloh's outstanding representation of the Yukon birding community at the Young Ornithologists' Workshop at Long Point Bird Observatory.

2012 – Karen Baltgailis and Chris-

tina Macdonald. In recognition of Karen and Christina's dedicated efforts to protect the McIntyre Creek watershed and wetlands.

2013 – Ione Christensen. In recognition of Ione's much appreciated series of summer bird presentations co-hosted with the MacBride Museum in Whitehorse.

by Betty Sutton

Summer events for the Yukon Bird Club were held at the MacBride Museum in downtown Whitehorse.

There were four events over the summer that were well attended. Talks with slide show presentations on Birds of Spring, Summer and Fall were given by Ione Christensen, always a treat for locals as well as visitors to the Yukon.

A winter event is planned for Wednesday evening, January 15th at Hellaby Hall (corner of Fourth and Elliot street) beginning at 4 p.m. It will be a meet & greet, potluck, presentation and talk about special birds.

by Mary Whitley

Do you have Matthew Lien's recent CD Headwaters? It is a celebration of the Peel watershed: wonderful musical creations, poetry, recollections by First Nations residents of the Peel. And the sounds of several birds.

The CD opens with a recording of either wind or water and faintly in the background is the cry of (possibly) a



Red-tailed Hawk. Interspersed with the opening sounds are alarm calls of a passerine.

Track 4 has repeated calls of the Upland Sandpiper that was complaining about Matthew's intrusion. The calls are integrated into the instrumental Feathered Friends track.

A Peregrine Falcon introduces track 6, Sanctuary, and gulls are part of the tracks 14 and 15.

It is great that Matthew has included birds in his soundscape of the Peel.

Observations from the field

by Cameron D. Eckert

Summer 2013

A variety of southern rarities were found by birders, with three new species documented in the Yukon. Lingering cold and ice in the far north and Arctic regions provided to be challenging to late migrants and nesting species.

Brant is a late spring migrant through s. Yukon; 258 were seen over Wolf Creek 2 June (JHa). A sea-watch off the northeast side of Herschel I. 13 June produced 1175 **Long-tailed Ducks**, along with 5 **Red-throated**, 20 Pacific, and 12 **Yellow-billed loons** (CE).

The Yukon's first **Long-billed Curlew** was one seen at Scotty Is., Tagish L. 7 July (ph. BS). **Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Herschel I., n. Yukon 12 June (CE, EM, SM). An impressive count of 48 **Long-tailed Jaegers** was recorded at Running R., n. Yukon 27 June (BD). A single **Sabine's Gull** drifted in out of the fog at Herschel I. 11 June (ph. CE). A check of the **Black Tern** colony at Blind L., se. Yukon recorded 20 adult terns on 25 June (CE, LH).

Now that **Eurasian Collared Dove** is regular across s. Yukon, it seemed time for a new rare dove which came in the form of the Territory's first **White-winged Dove**, which appeared briefly at a Marsh L. feeder 4 July (ph. FT).

A **Dusky Flycatcher** was at the edge of its range at km 458 Robert Campbell Hwy. 11 June (JJ). A **Gray Catbird** at Kluane Lake 27-28 June (ph. LGo, ph. MB, CE) established the Yukon's first well-documented record. A displaying **Northern Wheat-ear** and a singing **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** were highlights at Herschel I. 12 June (CE), while 4 **Northern Wheatears**, and a single **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** were reported from a remote site in the British Mountains, n. Yukon 21 July (KS).



Pete Nielson photo

This Long-eared Owl was an unexpected visitor to Braeburn November 10, 2013.

Clay-colored Sparrow is just about annual at Watson Lake; this season 1 was singing at Wye L. 1 June (JJ; CE, TMK). **Sooty Fox Sparrow** just reaches s. Yukon at treeline along the Haines Road south of Haines Junction; 3 were singing on territories there 29 June (CE). Rare sparrows at Herschel I. included a **Harris's Sparrow** 22 July (RJ), and a wayward **Golden-crowned Sparrow** 11-14 June which provided a first record for the island (ph. CE).

Fall 2013

Monitoring bird populations in the sparsely populated North has many challenges. So it is heartening to see that diligent observers across the Territory are exploring remote areas, spending considerable time in the field, and reporting impressive numbers for a variety of migrant species, including many birds of conservation concern. This information is critical to tracking populations and identifying important habitats and migratory staging areas for conservation.

Canada Goose migration peaked in mid-Sept; for example, a count of

950 at Nisutlin R. Delta 23 Sept (AC, JJ). High counts of staging waterfowl in Whitehorse included 300 **Gadwall**, 3000 **American Wigeon**, 500 **Mallards**, and 500 **Northern Shovelers** on 21 Sept (CE). A total of 107 **King Eiders** flew w. past Herschel I. 8-18 Aug (CE). A successful ptarmi-trek up Montana Mt. 12 Sept produced 9 **Willow** and 30 **White-tailed ptarmigan** (BD, CE, SVD). Six **Sharp-tailed Grouse** were seen near the Slim's R. 7 Oct (LD, NH, RW). A migrant flock of 400 **Sandhill Cranes** passed over Watson Lake 19 Sept (SD). **Black-bellied Plover** is a rare but regular migrant in s. Yukon; a flock of 12 was at Whitehorse 22 Sept (CE), while 25 were at Nisutlin R. Delta 23 Sept (AC, JJ). Thirty **Baird's Sandpipers** were tallied at Nisutlin R. Delta 14 Aug (AC, JJ). The season's only **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, a juv., was seen at Whitehorse 6 Oct (ph. CE).

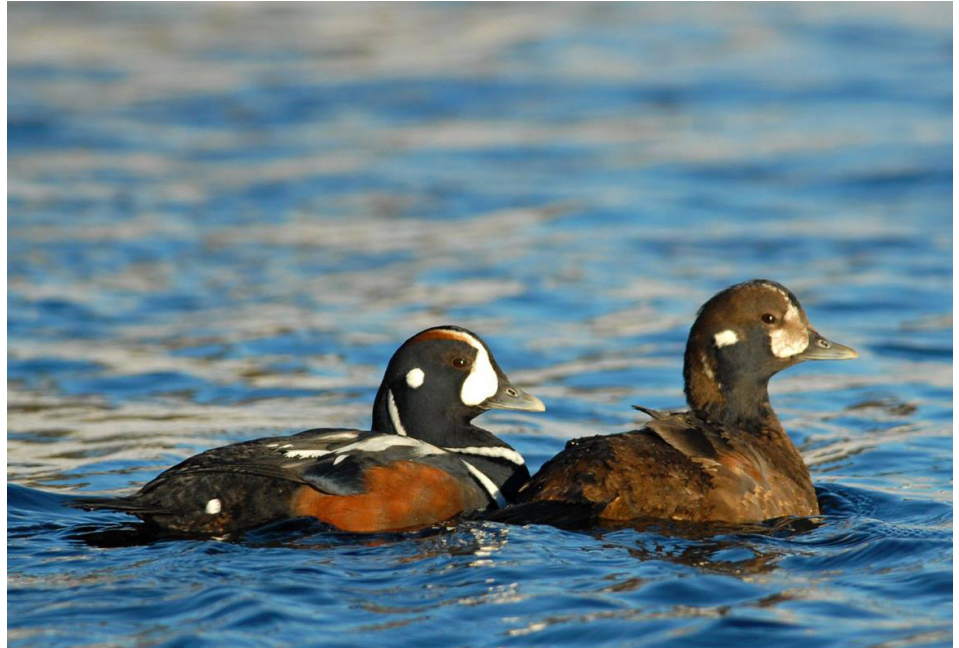
Thayer's Gull migration through s. Yukon peaked on about 19 Sept with a high count of 180 (120 ads., 60 juv) in Whitehorse (CE). A **Kumlien's Iceland Gull**, casual in s. Yukon, was in Whitehorse 3-6 Oct (ph. CE). Two

Five duck species at Christmas count

Sabine's Gulls, a rare interior migrant, were at Teslin L. 31 Aug to 5 Sept (JJ). An east-bound ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake**, rare in the s. Beaufort Sea, was seen off Herschel I. 15 Aug (CE). Migrant flocks of 48 and 40 **Arctic Terns** were recorded at Teslin L. 5 & 9 Aug (JJ, SVD). An ad. **Thick-billed Murre**, rare along the Yukon's North Coast, was seen at Herschel I. 15 Aug (CE). Monitoring of the **Black Guillemot** population at Herschel I., n. Yukon yielded 14 successful nests with 21 chicks, and a high count of 41 adults 9 Aug (CE). A tardy **Mourning Dove** was at Little Atlin L. from late Oct through 3 Nov (KG, SG; BD, ph. CE, SVD).

A **Long-eared Owl**, casual in s. Yukon, was unexpected at Braeburn 10 Nov (ph. PN). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, near the edge of its range, was reported from Dawson City 15 Aug (KB). Late migrants in Whitehorse included a very late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on 29 Sept (ph. CE), and a record-smashing **Warbling Vireo** 19 Oct (BD, ph. CE; RM).

American Crow numbers continues to increase in the Territory; for example, a count 20 at Watson Lake 3 Oct (SD). A count of 8 **Mountain Chickadees** visiting a Tagish feeder 25 Nov (SVD) was indicative of higher than normal numbers in the area. A calling **Pacific Wren**, casual in s. Yukon, was seen at Little Atlin L. 15 Oct (vr. CE). The migration of **American Robins** was noted with flocks of 50 at Watson Lake on 19 Sept (SD); and impressive flights of 3135 and 1390 **American Robins** recorded during migration watches at Teslin L. 22 Sept & 1 Oct (AC, JJ); along with counts there of 333 and 380 **Varied Thrushes** on 19 & 22 Sept (AC, JC); and 3445 and 2434 unid. thrushes on 19 & 22 Sept (AC, JJ). Noteworthy sparrow reports included a mixed flock of 100 **American Tree Sparrows** and 200 **Dark-eyed Juncos** in Whitehorse 30 Sept (CE); an imm. **Clay-colored**



Cameron Eckert photo

These male Harlequin Ducks on the Yukon River in Whitehorse established the Yukon's first over-wintering record for the species.

Sparrow moving along the Yukon R. in Whitehorse 24 Oct (ph. CE); and an adult **Harris's Sparrow** at Herschel I. 8-19 Aug (ph. CE). Migration watches at Teslin L. yielded a total of 1468 **Rusty Blackbirds** during 9 Sept to 7 Oct (JJ et al.). And finally, a record-high Yukon count of 60 **House Sparrows** was recorded in Whitehorse 17 Nov (CE).

Winter 2013/14

Many are surprised to learn that waterfowl winter in the far north. This year, a record five species of ducks were recorded on four Yukon Christmas Bird Counts, including the Yukon's first record of over-wintering **Harlequin Ducks**. Reports of higher than normal **Mountain Chickadee** numbers in the Yukon Southern Lakes region inspired a fascinating citizen science project to monitor and track changes in its population at the edge of its boreal forest range; for more information see story on page 7.

Six **Trumpeter Swans** were at their traditional wintering spot on the Teslin R. at Johnson's Crossing

through mid-Dec (AS), but unfortunately were not there for the Christmas Bird Count, likely because higher than normal water levels on the river meant that the swans could not reach the roots of aquatic vegetation. Open water along the Yukon R. in Whitehorse hosted a number of rare ducks this season – a trio of **Harlequin Ducks**, 2 males and a female (with only the males surviving through the season), established the Yukon's first winter record and first Christmas Bird Count record for the species (ph. CE; JHa; GN; m.ob.); and 2 male **Barrow's Goldeneye**, casual in s. Yukon in winter, were noted there on the Whitehorse CBC 26 Dec (CE; JHa), with one male there at least through early Feb (ph. CE; JHa; GN; m.ob.). Other s. Yukon waterfowl highlights included 46 **Mallards** at McIntyre Creek 26 Dec & 53 there 15 Feb (CE), 85 **Common Goldeneye** at Tagish L. 4 Dec (SVD), 2 **Common Mergansers** on the Carcross CBC 21 Dec (DK), and 18 **Common Goldeneye** with 14 **Common Mergansers** on the Tagish CBC 22 Dec (fide SVD). The Yukon's

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Carcross feeder

highest CBC ptarmigan count was 33 **Willow** along with 2 **White-tailed ptarmigan** at Haines Junction 21 Dec (fide JB).

Wintering **Bald Eagles** at Whitehorse continue to benefit from the close proximity of a fish farm and the dump, as well as a long open stretch of the Yukon River; this year 13 adults were counted on the 26 Dec CBC (CE), while singles were at Marsh Lake 22 Dec (CO), and Tagish 22 Dec (fide SVD).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** wintering at Watson Lake was duly noted on the 26 Dec CBC (fide JS). Single **Northern Hawk Owls** were reported from Wolf Cr. 15 Dec (JHa), Johnson's Crossing 27 Dec (fide BS), and Stepping Stone, Pelly R. 6 Feb (SC); while 2 were at Kluane L. 28 Dec (fide JB). **Northern Shrike** reports included 1 at Whitehorse 27 Jan (CE). Yellowknife took honours as the North American **Common Raven** Christmas Count capital with 2056 on 28 Dec (fide RB); while Whitehorse was a close second with 1823 on 26 Dec (fide WN). Higher than normal numbers of **Mountain Chickadees** tracked in the Yukon Southern Lakes region this winter (SVD) produced some impressive counts; for example, 11 at one Tagish feeder 4 Dec (SVD), 11 on the Carcross CBC 21 Dec (DK), 22 on the Tagish CBC 22 Dec (fide SVD), and 5 on the Whitehorse CBC 26 Dec (fide WN). Every year at least a few **American Robins** attempt to overwinter in the Yukon; this season up to 2 were seen on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse to 1 Jan but not later in the season (CE). A **European Starling**, casual in s. Yukon in winter, was on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse 1 Dec (CE, SVD). A late start to the **Bohemian Waxwing** fall season in White-



Joel Luet photo

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch appeared at a feeder in Carcross Jan. 5 & 6.

horse meant that good numbers were still present for the CBC with 1377 tallied 26 Dec (fide WN); this species is rare in winter further north and so 1 seen on the Mayo CBC 29 Dec (MOD) was noteworthy.

Snow Bunting is scarce in winter; reports from s. Yukon included 2 on the Teslin CBC 15 Dec (fide BS), 2 on the Haines Junction CBC 21 Dec (fide JB), 3 on the Tagish CBC 22 Dec (CE, NG, PS, SVD), 2 at the Kluane Lake CBC 28 Dec (JB), and 1 at Whitehorse 26 Jan (CE). Rare winter sparrows included a **White-crowned Sparrow** at Carcross 12-21 Dec (DK), a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at the Takhini R. 15 Dec through the season (ph. LGe, JHo), and a **Dark-eyed Junco** at Dawson 22 Dec (fide JS). A coastal-race **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**, casual in winter, appeared at a feeder near Carcross 5-6 Jan (ph. JL, TL). The Yukon's highest CBC redpoll counts were at Tagish with 419 **Commons** and 4 **Hoaries** 22 Dec (fide SVD), while Dawson also reported good numbers with 257

Common Redpolls 22 Dec (fide SJ), and Mayo reported 174 **Common** and 42 **redpoll sp.** 29 Dec (fide MOD). Later in the winter, a mixed flock of 200 **Commons** and 4 **Hoaries** was seen at Dawson 8 Feb (CE). An early **Pine Siskin** appeared at a Teslin feeder 22 Feb (ph. AS).

Observers: Julie-Ann Bauer, Kathy Bearden, Malkolm Boothroyd, Robert Bromley, Syd Cannings, Abril Copali, Lucas DeCicco, Boris Dobrowolsky, Susan Drury, Cameron Eckert, Ken Gabb, Sandra Gabb, Linda Gerrand (LGe), Lance Goodwin (LGo), Nick Guenette, Nick Hajdukovich, Lee Hawkings, Jim Hawkings (JHa), Jurg Hoefler (JHo), Jukka Jantunen, Ricky Joe, Sebastian Jones, Dan Kemble, Joel Luet, Trish Luet, Robbie Mackay, Edward McLeod, Sam McLeod, Geoff Newhouse, Ted Murphy-Kelly, Pete Nielson, Wendy Nixon, Mark O'Donoghue, Clive Osborne, Ben Schoneville, Kevin Seymour, Pam Sinclair, Jenny Skelton, Adam Skrutkowski, Frank Taylor, Shyloh van Delft, Rebecca Windsor.

Help research chickadee populations in Yukon

by *Shyloh van Delft*

Highly localized and seen only in low numbers, Mountain Chickadees are a treat at winter feeders in the Yukon.

Tagish and Carcross are the Mountain Chickadee hotspots of the Yukon, with 'high numbers' frequenting various bird feeders throughout the winter. Their range reaches as far north as Lake Laberge, and as far east as Teslin Lake. South, their range and densities increase all the way to the northern-most areas of Mexico. Major bird publication summaries such as North American Birds have highlighted sightings of as many as 3 Mountain Chickadees at a feeder in the Yukon. Christmas Bird Counts in Tagish and Carcross have

Total Chickadees in Southern Lakes, YT Nov. - Dec. 2013	Mountain	Boreal	Black-capped
	78	84	136

Total Chickadees in Tagish, YT Nov. - Dec. 2013	Mountain	Boreal	Black-capped
	32 confirmed (15+Unconfirmed)	36	52

reported as many as 10 of these chickadees across the community in a day.

This was before winter 2013/14.

Feeder watchers in the southern lakes region observed a very unusual anomaly last winter, especially through November to mid-January. Mountain Chickadee numbers exploded – at some feeders, counts were as high as fifteen!

To document these numbers, I collected Mountain Chickadee sightings

through November/December 2013 from as many Yukon feeders as possible, focusing on Tagish as a hotspot. A good number of reports came in, and the data proved that their abundance at feeders had soared to new levels. Some numbers were unconfirmed, but the collected data indicates that it is likely that Mountain Chickadees became more abundant than even Boreal Chickadees at Tagish feeders during the winter – something that has never been recorded in the community (and likely the Yukon) before.

Notes:

- Tagish feeders are all listed regardless of whether or not Mountain Chickadees were reported. This allows for comparisons between feeders within the community.

- Feeders outside of Tagish were only noted if Mountain Chickadees were reported.

- Five communities in the Southern Lakes counted chickadees, with the number of feeders reporting Mountain Chickadees indicated in brackets: Tagish 32 (14 feeders); Carcross 26 (unknown); CCC Subdivision 9 (1 feeder); Wolf Creek 6 (1 feeder); Whitehorse 5 (3 feeders).

- Mountain Chickadees are most common in the Tagish/Carcross area, becoming less numerous further north to the south end of Lake Laberge. The incursion in Tagish did not indicate any kind of northward expansion.

I have lengthened and further devel-



photos courtesy Shyloh van Delft

Tagish and Carcross are the Mountain Chickadee hotspots of the Yukon.

oped my project since November. For the next 3-5 years, I will examine concentration, abundance, and breeding density/success of all three chickadee species throughout the Yukon with focus on Mountain Chickadees in the Southern Lakes Region.

The project involves community participation in the form of feeder watching and general observations year round, data sharing by the Yukon Bird Observatories in concern to chickadee migration through Teslin Lake, McIntyre Marsh, and Albert Creek, as well as sightings reported through the Yukon Bird Club. Lastly, it involves monitoring of breeding populations and reproductive success. Specially-designed nest boxes have been hung at various GPS-marked locations through Tagish for nest-monitoring purposes. This part of my project won't officially begin until spring 2015, due to a late start last spring.

My Mountain Chickadee project has been given the support of the Yukon Bird Club, and the Yukon Bird Observatories. The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of Mountain Chickadee movements, densities, range, and breeding success in the Yukon. It is exciting to learn more about a little-known bird in the territory!

If you see/hear Mountain Chickadees anywhere in the Yukon, please



photos courtesy Shyloh van Delft

Boreal Chickadee.



photos courtesy Shyloh van Delft

Black-capped Chickadee.

contact me at beakingoff@gmail.com ! I would like to know the number of chickadees and their location, as well as any other noteworthy info. Photo or audio documentation if possible is strongly recommended. For those who see Mountain Chickadees at their feeders, I will need the following details:

1. A count of all species of chickadees at your feeder (e.g. 2 Boreal, 3 Black-capped, and 1 Mountain Chickadee)
2. The name of the community in which your feeders are located
3. A brief description of the habitat surrounding your feeders (e.g. lake-side White Spruce forest)
4. Yes or No as to whether or not you have had Mountain Chickadees at your feeders in previous years.
5. The date you saw these chickadees.

If you find nesting chickadees, (Mountain, Boreal, or Black-capped) please try your best to take a photo of the nest/birdhouse and chickadees, and send it to me along with the location of the nest, and the date you found it. If you know how many eggs/nestlings there are, please pass that info to me as well.

A note: If you do find an active nest, please do not disturb the parents. Wait

until the parents have left for food or water before looking in the nest, and then be extremely careful not to disturb the chicks/eggs. Leaving the lid of a bird house open too long can release heat from inside and chill the nestlings, making them weaker and decreasing their chance at survival. It is best not to approach a bird house too closely at all, as your scent can attract predators such as weasels and squirrels.

Please contribute to this project - share your sightings with me and spread the word!!! If you know someone in the Yukon with a bird feeder, please let them know about this project. Community participation through feeder-watching and general observations in the field are key to learning more about the Yukon's little-known Mountain Chickadees.

I can be contacted at beakingoff@gmail.com , or you can send your sightings to the Yukon Bird Club at: yukon-birdclub@gmail.com.

[Beakingoff](#) is on [Facebook](#) – like my page and share your sightings there!

You can also find Yukon Birds ([Yukon Bird Club group](#)) on Facebook.

Thank you very much for your support! Happy feeder-watching!

Christmas Bird Counts 2013

by Clive Osborne

There was an excellent turn-out to the annual Christmas Bird Counts in Yukon with counts being conducted in 13 locations in 2013. The data from these counts have been posted to the [Audubon Society's website](#), the official sponsor of the Christmas Bird Count throughout North America. This article summarizes the information collected from all 13 Yukon Christmas Bird Counts in 2013 by field observers. A total of 7932 birds comprising 40 species were counted by 114 participants during the period December 15 – January 6. The location of the counts is shown in Figure 1 and the counts are summarized in Tables 1-3.



Figure 1. Locations of CBCs

Unusual sightings where a species was observed in only one count were: Mallard (46 - Whitehorse), Harlequin Duck (3 - Whitehorse), Barrow's Goldeneye (2 - Whitehorse), White-tailed Ptarmigan (2 - Haines Junction), Northern Goshawk (1 - Haines Junction), Rock Pigeon (9 - Whitehorse), Eurasian Collared Dove, (1 - Watson Lake), Am. Three-toed Woodpecker (2- Haines Junction), Am. Robin (1 - Whitehorse), White-crowned Sparrow (1 - Carcross) and House Sparrow (9 - Whitehorse). Other notable observations were: Willow Ptarmigan (36 in two counts), Bald Eagle (15 in three counts), Great

Species	No. of Counts
Common Raven	13
Black-capped Chickadee	13
Pine Grosbeak	12
Gray Jay	11
Boreal Chickadee	11
Common Redpoll	10
Black-billed Magpie	9
Ruffed Grouse	8
Spruce Grouse	8
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8
Hairy Woodpecker	7

Table 2. The top ten most abundant species over all counts.

Species	No. of Birds	Rank
Common Raven	2567	1
Bohemian Waxwing	1390	2
Common Redpoll (redpoll sp)	1228 (166)	3
Pine Grosbeak	889	4
Black-capped Chickadee	418	5
Boreal Chickadee	257	6
Gray Jay	208	7
White-winged Crossbill	198	8
Red Crossbill	115	9
Black-billed Magpie	105	10

Horned Owl (4 in three counts), Northern Hawk Owl (4 in two counts), Downy Woodpecker (15 in six counts), Am. Dipper (11 in six counts), Bohemian Waxwings (1390 in three counts), Mountain Chickadee (39 in four counts), Dark-eyed Junco (9 in six counts) and Snow Bunting (9 in four counts).

Species observed during count week but not counted on count day were: Common Merganser (Marsh Lake), Willow Ptarmigan (Teslin) and White-winged Crossbill (Dawson).

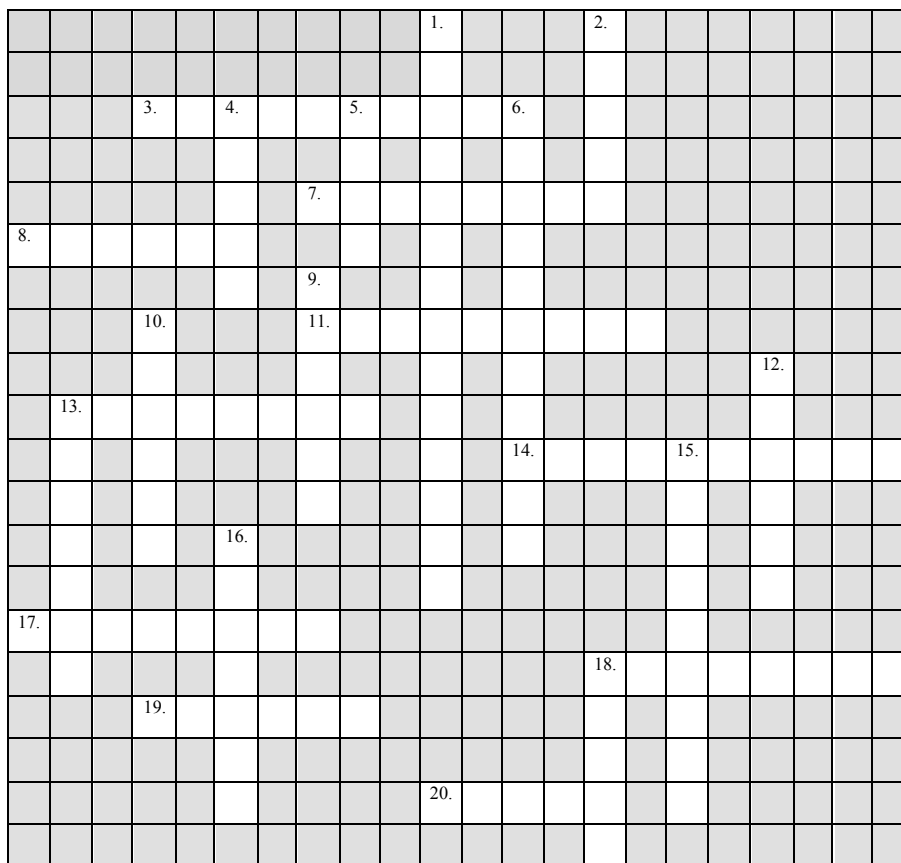
Count	Date	No. of Field Observers	No. of Species Observed	No. of Birds Observed
Whitehorse	26/12	26	25	3655
Haines Junction	21/12	26	20	689
Watson Lake*	26/12	19	14	381
Carcross	21/12	14	17	375
Tagish	22/12	13	20	874
Marsh Lake	22/12	9	16	332
Kluane	28/12	7	8	44
Mayo	29/12	5	13	575
Dawson	22/12	4	9	445
Teslin	15/12	4	15	136
Johnson's Crossing	27/12	3	5	27
Carmacks	27/12	2	5	147
Takhini - Laberge	27/12	1	12	217

* Effort data not on Audubon website

Table 1. Summary of Yukon Christmas Bird Counts.

Yukon birds crossword - shorebirds

by Ruth McCullough



Across

3. Common on muskegs & tundra in summer, this species of bird has two categories of greater & lesser
7. This Sandpiper is distinguished by its barred outer tail feathers & plain dark wings when in flight
8. The pale feather edgings give the back of this Sandpiper a scaly appearance
11. These shorebirds have slender pointed bills, slightly upturned at the top
13. The most common of the cranes
14. One of this common Dowitcher's summer plumage features a rusty lower belly
17. This Sandpiper has an abrupt border between its streaked breast & white under-parts, an erect stance, short bill & greenish legs
18. This shorebird is common in marshes, mudflats, shores & prairies. Call is a short mellow whistle repeated 6 – 7 times
19. This accidentally sighted shorebird normally breeds along the eastern coast
20. This small wader usually breeds in Arctic Europe and occasionally is a vagrant to North America

Down

1. In spring, this common Plover has golden plumage above and black below with a dark rump & tail & no wing stripe
2. This Turnstone is common only on the far north coast
4. Browner & more streaked on the breast than other Sandpipers
5. This Sandpiper breeds in the subarctic wetland from the Scottish Highlands & across Europe & is a vagrant visitor to the Yukon
6. In the fall, this Sandpiper's breast is buffy and narrowly streaked at the sides
9. This uncommon Sandpiper has a rusty cheek & crown with barred flanks present only in breeding plumage
10. This stout short-necked shorebird with a long, slightly down curved, heavy at the base bill, is rarely seen in the Yukon
12. This Plover has a distinctive long neck, small head, short bill & relatively long tailed silhouette
13. This common Sandpiper bobs its tail up and down almost continuously
15. This Godwit nests in arctic Alaska & is distinguished by the barring on the tail
16. This Godwit breeds on prairies, meadows & pastures & winters along the coast. Nor normally seen in the Yukon
18. This is the color of the rump that is the best field mark of this Sandpiper

Answers on page 12

Yukon Christmas Bird Counts – 2014

All are welcome – beginners, feeder-watchers, and seasoned field experts! Enjoy winter birding and take part in a North American wide bird monitoring and conservation program. To participate contact the count compiler before count day.
Sponsored by the Yukon Bird Club.



Teslin – December 14

Compiler – Ben Schonewille
E-mail: teslin.bird.banding@gmail.com
Phone: 867-334-2683

Carcross – December 20

Compiler – Dan Kemble
Phone: 867-821-3461

Haines Junction – December 20

Compiler – Julie Bauer
E-mail: bauerjulieann@outlook.com
Phone: 867-334-2002

Skagway, AK – December 20

Compiler – Elaine Furbish
E-mail: snowshoes@aptalaska.net
Phone: 907-983-2049

Tagish – December 21

Compiler – Shyloh van Delft
E-mail: yukonbirder@gmail.com
Phone: 867-399-3022
Meet 10am at the Tagish Bridge day-use area.

Dawson City – December 21

Compiler – Sebastian Jones
E-mail: sebastian@northwestel.net
Phone: 867-993-4430

Marsh Lake – December 21

Compiler – Clive Osborne
E-mail: osborne@northwestel.net
Phone: 867-667-6976

Whitehorse – December 26

Compiler – Jim Hawkings
E-mail: northhawk@gmail.com
Phone: 867-668-2639

Watson Lake – December 26

Compiler – Jenny Skelton
E-mail: jskelton@northwestel.net
Phone: 867-536-7488

Takhini-Laberge – December 27

Compiler – Cameron Eckert
E-mail: cameron.eckert@gmail.com

Carmacks – December 27

Compiler – Jessica Condon
E-mail: jaybee79@hotmail.com

Kluane Lake – December 27

Compiler – Julie Bauer
E-mail: bauerjulieann@outlook.com
Phone: 867-334-2002

Johnson's Crossing – December 27

Compiler – Minnie Clark & Ben Schonewille
E-mail: teslin.bird.banding@gmail.com
Phone: 867-334-2683

Mayo – December 28

Compiler – Mark O'Donoghue
E-mail: mark.odonoghue@gov.yk.ca
Phone: 867-996-2529

Atlin, BC – December 28

Compiler – Andrea Sidler
E-mail: contactandrea.sidler@gmail.com

New Christmas Counts are welcome! If you don't see your community on this schedule and would like to organize a Christmas Bird Count then please e-mail: yukonbirdclub@gmail.com to get started!

