

The Whitehorse area features spectacular scenery and diverse habitats ranging from lowland marshes and fens, riparian White Spruce, and upland Lodgepole Pine and Trembling Aspen forests, to higher elevation Subalpine Fir, and alpine tundra. This is the traditional territory of five Yukon First Nations. Since the first edition of this checklist in 1995, a remarkable 62 new species have been recorded in the area. While this is largely a result of the tenacious efforts of Yukon birders, bird populations are also changing. Southern invaders such as American Crow and House Sparrow, previously rare, are now nesting here. As well, an amazing array of rarities has occurred over the years. A decade ago, no one would have expected that the likes of Snowy Plover, Tundra Bean-Goose, Dusky Thrush, Hooded Oriole, or Lesser Goldfinch would ever appear on a Yukon checklist – yet here they are. This checklist describes the seasonal status of 279 species which have been documented in the area, with confirmed breeding records for 131 species.

#### SEASONS

**SP Spring:** March 1 – May 31  
**SU Summer:** June 1 – July 31  
**F Fall:** August 1 – November 30  
**W Winter:** December 1 – February 28

#### FREQUENCY and BREEDING CODES

**C Common:** expected in appropriate habitat.  
**U Uncommon:** expected but not always seen.  
**R Rare:** annual in low numbers or very localized.  
**ca Casual:** at least 2 records but not every year.  
**ac Accidental:** recorded only once.  
 \* **Confirmed Breeding:** Observations of an active nest or dependent, flightless young.

#### DOCUMENTING BIRD SIGHTINGS

The Yukon is a place where true discovery is still possible, and much remains to be learned. Contribute to our knowledge of the Yukon's birdlife by sending written or photo documentation of rare, casual, or accidental species or those not on the checklist, and details of breeding observations to:

#### Yukon Bird Club

Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 5P7  
 e-mail: yukonbirdclub@gmail.com

**Checklist of the Birds of Whitehorse, Yukon. May 2017.** Compiled by Cameron D. Eckert, Helmut Grünberg, and Pamela Sinclair. Cover – a Mew Gull on its nest along the shores of Marsh Lake on 29 May 2006 (photo C. Eckert). ISBN: 978-1-55362-789-0

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Tundra Bean-Goose			ac	
Greater White-fronted Goose	U	ca	C	
Snow Goose	U	ca	ca	
Ross's Goose	ca			
Brant	R	R	ac	
Cackling Goose	R		ca	
Canada Goose *	C	C	C	
Trumpeter Swan *	C	U	C	R
Tundra Swan	C	ca	C	ca
Whooper Swan	ca			
Wood Duck	ca		ac	
Gadwall *	C	U	U	
Eurasian Wigeon	U	ca	ca	
American Wigeon *	C	C	C	
American Black Duck	ac			
Mallard *	C	C	C	R
Blue-winged Teal *	C	U	R	
Cinnamon Teal	R	ca		
Northern Shoveler *	C	C	C	
Northern Pintail *	C	C	C	ac
Green-winged Teal *	C	C	C	ac
Canvasback	C	U	U	ca
Redhead	U	R	R	
Ring-necked Duck *	C	C	C	ca
Tufted Duck	ca			
Greater Scaup *	C	C	C	ca
Lesser Scaup *	C	C	C	ca
King Eider	ac		ac	
Harlequin Duck *	U	U	U	ca
Surf Scoter	C	C	C	ca
White-winged Scoter	C	U	U	ac
Black Scoter	ca	ca	ca	
Long-tailed Duck	C	R	U	ca
Bufflehead *	C	C	C	ca
Common Goldeneye *	C	C	C	U
Barrow's Goldeneye *	C	C	C	ca
Hooded Merganser	R	R	R	ac
Common Merganser *	C	C	C	U
Red-breasted Merganser *	C	C	U	ac
Ruddy Duck *	R	R	R	
Ruffed Grouse *	C	C	C	C
Spruce Grouse *	C	C	C	C
Willow Ptarmigan *	C	C	C	C
Rock Ptarmigan *	U	U	U	U
White-tailed Ptarmigan *	R	R	R	R
Dusky Grouse *	U	U	U	U
Red-throated Loon	U	R	U	ac
Pacific Loon *	C	C	U	ca
Common Loon *	C	U	C	ca
Yellow-billed Loon	ca	ca	R	ca
Pied-billed Grebe *	ca	ca	ac	
Horned Grebe *	C	C	C	ca
Red-necked Grebe *	C	U	C	ca
Eared Grebe *	R	R	R	
Western Grebe			ca	

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel			ac	
Double-crested Cormorant *	R	R	R	
American White Pelican		ac		
Great Blue Heron	ca	ca	ca	
Turkey Vulture	ac	ac		
Osprey *	U	U	U	
Bald Eagle *	C	C	C	U
Northern Harrier	C	U	C	ca
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U	U	ca
Northern Goshawk *	U	U	U	U
Swainson's Hawk	R	ca	ca	
Red-tailed Hawk *	C	C	C	ac
Rough-legged Hawk	U		U	
Golden Eagle *	C	C	C	ca
Sora *	U	U	R	
American Coot *	U	U	U	
Sandhill Crane *	R	R	R	
American Avocet	ac			
Black-bellied Plover	R	ca	R	
American Golden-Plover	U	R	R	
Pacific Golden-Plover	R		ca	
Snowy Plover	ac			
Semipalmated Plover *	C	U	U	
Killdeer *	U	U	U	
Upland Sandpiper *	U	U	R	
Whimbrel	U	R		
Long-billed Curlew		ac		
Hudsonian Godwit	U			
Bar-tailed Godwit	ca			
Marbled Godwit	ac			
Ruddy Turnstone	ca	ac	ca	
Black Turnstone			ca	
Red Knot	ca	ca	ac	
Surfbird	ac		ac	
Ruff	ac			
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			R	
Stilt Sandpiper	ca		ca	
Sanderling	ca	ca	R	
Dunlin	R	ca	ca	
Baird's Sandpiper	U	ca	U	
Little Stint	ac			
Least Sandpiper *	C	U	U	
White-rumped Sandpiper	R	ca	ac	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	ca		ca	
Pectoral Sandpiper	C	ca	C	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	U	U	
Western Sandpiper	R	ca	R	
Short-billed Dowitcher *	U	R	R	
Long-billed Dowitcher	C	R	U	
Spotted Sandpiper *	C	C	C	
Solitary Sandpiper *	C	C	U	
Wandering Tattler	R	ca	ca	
Greater Yellowlegs *	U	U	R	
Willet		ac		

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Lesser Yellowlegs *	C	C	C	
Wilson's Snipe *	C	C	C	
Wilson's Phalarope *	R	R	R	
Red-necked Phalarope *	U	U	U	
Red Phalarope			ca	
Parasitic Jaeger	ca		ac	
Long-tailed Jaeger	ca		ca	
Black Guillemot				ac
Black-legged Kittiwake	ca		ac	
Ivory Gull			ac	ac
Sabine's Gull	ca	ac	ac	
Bonaparte's Gull *	C	U	U	
Little Gull	ca			
Ross's Gull			ac	
Franklin's Gull	ac	ac		
Mew Gull *	C	C	C	ac
Ring-billed Gull	R	R	ca	
California Gull	ca	ca	ca	
Herring Gull *	C	C	C	ac
Thayer's Gull	ca	ca	U	
Iceland Gull			ca	
Lesser Black-backed Gull		ca		
Slaty-backed Gull		ca	ca	
Glaucous-winged Gull	R	R	R	
Glaucous Gull	R	ca	U	ca
Caspian Tern	ca	ca		
Black Tern		ca		
Arctic Tern *	C	C	R	
Rock Pigeon *	R	R	R	R
Oriental Turtle-Dove		ac		
Eurasian Collared-Dove		R	R	ca
White-winged Dove		ac		
Mourning Dove	ca	ca	ca	
Great Horned Owl *	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl	ac		ca	ac
Northern Hawk Owl *	U	R	U	U
Northern Pygmy-Owl	ca			ac
Great Gray Owl *	R	R	R	R
Short-eared Owl	U	ca	U	ca
Boreal Owl *	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R			ac
Lesser Nighthawk			ac	
Common Nighthawk *	R	U	U	
Anna's Hummingbird			ca	
Rufous Hummingbird	ca	R	R	
Belted Kingfisher *	C	C	C	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *	U	U	R	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	ca		ac	
Downy Woodpecker *	U	U	U	R
Hairy Woodpecker *	C	C	C	C
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker *	U	U	U	U
Black-backed Woodpecker *	R	R	R	R

Checklist of the

# BIRDS of WHITEHORSE YUKON



OBSERVERS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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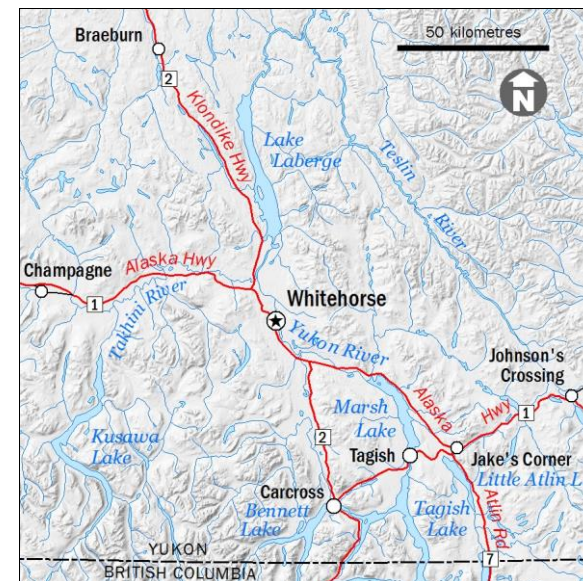
✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Northern Flicker *	C	C	C	ac
American Kestrel *	U	U	U	
Merlin	U	R	U	
Gyrfalcon *	U	U	U	ac
Peregrine Falcon *	U	R	U	
Olive-sided Flycatcher *	U	U	R	
Western Wood-Pewee *	C	C	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		R		
Alder Flycatcher *	U	C	U	
Least Flycatcher *	U	U	R	
Hammond's Flycatcher *	C	C	U	
Dusky Flycatcher	R	U	R	
Say's Phoebe *	U	U	R	
Western Kingbird		ca		
Eastern Kingbird	ac	ca	ac	
Northern Shrike	U	R	U	R
Blue-headed Vireo		ca		
Warbling Vireo *	U	C	U	
Red-eyed Vireo		ca		
Gray Jay *	C	C	C	C
Steller's Jay	ca	ca	ca	ca
Clark's Nutcracker			ca	
Black-billed Magpie *	C	C	C	C
American Crow	R	R	R	
Northwestern Crow	ac			
Common Raven *	C	C	C	C
Horned Lark *	U	U	U	ca
Purple Martin	ac			
Tree Swallow *	C	C	R	
Violet-green Swallow *	C	C	R	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow *	ca	ca		
Bank Swallow *	C	C	U	
Cliff Swallow *	C	C	U	
Barn Swallow *	U	U	U	
Black-capped Chickadee *	C	C	C	C
Mountain Chickadee *	U	U	U	U
Boreal Chickadee *	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	U	U	U	R
Brown Creeper		ca	ca	
Pacific Wren		ca	ac	
American Dipper *	U	U	U	U
Golden-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U	ca
Ruby-crowned Kinglet *	C	C	C	
Mountain Bluebird *	U	U	U	ac
Townsend's Solitaire *	U	U	U	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	ca	R	
Swainson's Thrush *	U	C	U	
Hermit Thrush	U	C	U	
Dusky Thrush			ac	
American Robin *	C	C	C	R

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Varied Thrush	U	U	U	
Brown Thrasher			ac	
Northern Mockingbird		ac	ac	ac
European Starling *	R	R	R	ca
Red-throated Pipit			ca	
American Pipit *	C	U	C	ac
Bohemian Waxwing *	U	U	U	U
Cedar Waxwing *		ca	ca	
Ovenbird		ac		
Northern Waterthrush *	C	C	U	
Black-and-white Warbler		ac		
Tennessee Warbler *	R	U	ca	
Orange-crowned Warbler *	U	C	C	
Nashville Warbler		ac		
MacGillivray's Warbler	ca	ca	ca	
Common Yellowthroat *	C	C	C	
American Redstart *	ca	R	ca	
Cape May Warbler		ca		
Magnolia Warbler		ac		
Yellow Warbler *	U	C	C	
Blackpoll Warbler *	U	C	U	
Palm Warbler			ac	
Yellow-rumped Warbler *	C	C	C	
Townsend's Warbler	R	R	R	
Wilson's Warbler *	C	C	C	
Spotted Towhee		ac		
American Tree Sparrow *	C	U	C	ca
Chipping Sparrow *	U	C	U	
Clay-colored Sparrow	ca	ac	ca	
Brewer's Sparrow *	ca	U	R	
Savannah Sparrow *	C	C	C	ca
Fox Sparrow *	C	C	C	ac
Song Sparrow	ca	ca	ca	ca
Lincoln's Sparrow *	U	C	U	ca
Swamp Sparrow	ac	ac		
White-throated Sparrow		ca	ca	ca
Harris's Sparrow			ca	ac
White-crowned Sparrow *	C	C	C	ca
Golden-crowned Sparrow *	U	U	U	ca
Dark-eyed Junco *	C	C	C	R
Lapland Longspur	C	ca	U	
Smith's Longspur	ca		ca	
Snow Bunting	U		U	ca
Western Tanager	ca	ca		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			ca	
Black-headed Grosbeak		ac		
Red-winged Blackbird *	C	C	U	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	ac	ca	ac	
Rusty Blackbird *	C	C	C	ca
Brewer's Blackbird	ca	ca	ca	ac
Common Grackle			ac	
Brown-headed Cowbird *	U	U	R	
Hooded Oriole	ac			

✓ SPECIES	SP	SU	F	W
Brambling	ca			ac
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	R	R	R	ca
Pine Grosbeak *	C	C	C	C
Purple Finch *	U	C	U	ac
Cassin's Finch				ac
House Finch	ca	ca	ca	ca
Red Crossbill *	U	U	U	U
White-winged Crossbill *	U	U	U	U
Common Redpoll *	C	U	U	C
Hoary Redpoll	U		R	U
Pine Siskin *	U	C	C	ca
Lesser Goldfinch	ac	ac	ac	
American Goldfinch				ac
Evening Grosbeak	ac		ca	ca
House Sparrow *	R	R	R	R

### The Whitehorse Checklist area

This checklist encompasses Whitehorse, Tagish, Champagne, and Carcross. For birders traveling the highways, it runs from Johnsons Crossing west to Champagne on the Alaska Highway; north to Braeburn on the Klondike Highway; and south to British Columbia on the Atlin Road. Larger lakes include Laberge, Kusawa, Marsh, Little Atlin, and the Yukon portions of Tagish, Bennett, and Atlin lakes.



### Notes:

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