



Birding Tips

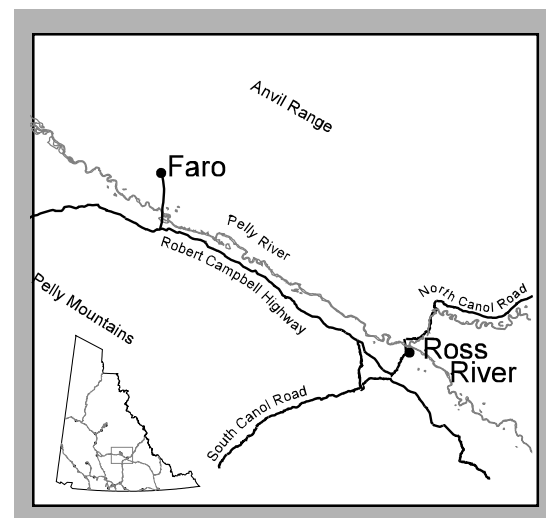
Habitat is the key to successful wildlife viewing. Wildlife is dependant on habitat. The rolling hills, fast flowing creeks, wetlands and lakes, broad river bottom, accessible alpine areas and cliffs provide a wide range of natural habitats for a great variety of birds. Learning more about the species' habits and habitat requirements will help you find them.

• Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses. By doing so you will get a more detailed look or a better photo without disturbing the birds.

- You may find what appears to be an 'orphaned' bird; leave young birds where you find them. The parents are most certainly nearby, waiting for you to move away before returning for their offspring.
- A bird that displays odd behaviour or calls and flies over your head is likely a parent requesting that you move on, carefully. Many birds nest on the ground and are vulnerable to trampling. Remember, a closer look could alert nest predators to the nest's location. Please do not break or remove vegetation for a better photo.

This checklist was produced with assistance from the Canadian Wildlife Service Birds of Yukon database and the Yukon Bird Club.

A Birder's Checklist of the Faro & Ross River Region
ISBN 1-55362-139-5



The Campbell Region lies in south central Yukon and contains the Village of Ross River and the Town of Faro. Bisected by the Tintina Trench, North America's largest fault, the area is one of the best locations to observe bird migration in Yukon. This long valley acts as a giant flyway, funnelling birds between southern and northern regions.

How You Can Help

In order to improve and revise this checklist we need the help of people like you! This checklist is a first attempt to summarize the expected species in the area. Of the territory's 279 know bird species (60 of which are casual or accidental) 160 have been found or are expected to be found in the area. If you find any birds described as rare, casual, or not recorded on this checklist, please report them along with complete field observation notes to:

Wildlife Viewing Program

Department of Environment

P.O. Box 2703

Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6

(867) 667-8291

Pass this list along to someone else!

The Seasons

Yukon bird migrations do not necessarily correspond with our calendar. Their seasons are described as:

SPRING (March 1 - May 31)

SUMMER (June 1 - July 31)

AUTUMN (August 1 - November 30)

WINTER (December 1 - February 28)

The Symbols

C - Common - usually present and expected in suitable habitat

U - Uncommon - often present in suitable habitat but not regularly observed

R - Rare - observed annually, but infrequently encountered

X - Casual/Accidental - not observed annually; species beyond its normal range

*** - Confirmed Breeder**

Lower case symbols are expected species without confirmed sightings.

Dedicated to Con Carlson

Much of the knowledge of birds of the region is due to careful observations by the late Con Carlson.

Con was, at first glance, an unlikely birder. A bearded, burly man, he worked for many years in Faro at the mine assay lab, as a mechanic and finally for the Yukon Government operating equipment. He was never without his well-worn binoculars, and documented the reliability of the Sandhill Crane migration dates along the Tintina Trench.

With his dog Quint, he enjoyed the fall hunt both for upland game birds and waterfowl. One day he was amazed to have a Gray Jay swoop into his cabin pursued closely by a goshawk. He managed to get the hawk out of the cabin and it made for a lively story as only he could tell.

Mary Whitley

SPECIES	SEASONS			
	SP	SU	A	W
Red-throated Loon	r		r	
Pacific Loon*	C	C	C	
Common Loon*	U	C	u	
Horned Grebe*	C	C	C	
Red-necked Grebe*	u	C	u	
Tundra Swan	C		c	
Trumpeter Swan	C	r	c	
Greater White-fronted Goose	u		U	
Snow Goose	r		r	
Canada Goose	C	C	C	
American Wigeon*	C	C	C	
Mallard*	C	C	C	
Blue-winged Teal	R	R		
Northern Shoveler*	C	C	c	
Northern Pintail	C	C	c	
Green-winged Teal	C	C	c	
Canvasback	U	R	r	
Redhead	U	r	r	
Ring-necked Duck*	U	C	u	
Greater Scaup	u	U	u	
Lesser Scaup*	C	C	C	
Harlequin Duck*	R	R	R	
Surf Scoter	U	U	u	
White-winged Scoter	U	C	U	
Oldsquaw	U	R	u	
Bufflehead*	C	C	C	
Common Goldeneye	U	U	u	
Barrow's Goldeneye*	C	C	C	
Hooded Merganser	X			
Red-breasted Merganser*	U	u	U	
Common Merganser	U	U	U	
Ruddy Duck	r	R	r	
Osprey*	r	U	u	
Bald Eagle*	C	C	U	
Northern Harrier	U	u	u	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	R	R	r	
Northern Goshawk	U	U	U	r
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	
Rough-legged Hawk	r		r	
Golden Eagle	U	U	U	
American Kestrel	U	U	U	
Merlin	r	R	R	

SPECIES	SEASONS			
	SP	SU	A	W
Peregrine Falcon	R	r	R	
Gyrfalcon	R	r	R	r
Ruffed Grouse	C	c	c	c
Spruce Grouse*	C	C	C	c
Blue Grouse	u	U	u	u
Willow Ptarmigan	r	r	R	R
Rock Ptarmigan	U	U	u	u
White-tailed Ptarmigan	r	r	R	r
Sharp-tailed Grouse	R	r	r	r
Sora	U	U	r	
American Coot*	u	U	r	
Sandhill Crane	C		C	
Black-bellied Plover	r		r	
American Golden Plover	R	r	r	
Semipalmated Plover*	u	U	u	
Killdeer	u	u	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs*	C	C	c	
Solitary Sandpiper	c	U	u	
Wandering Tattler	R	r	r	
Spotted Sandpiper*	C	C	c	
Upland Sandpiper	r			
Whimbrel	R			
Hudsonian Godwit	r			
Sanderling	r			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	u	X	r	
Western Sandpiper	r			
Least Sandpiper	u	U	u	
Baird's Sandpiper	U		R	
Pectoral Sandpiper	U		r	
Long-billed Dowitcher	r	X	r	
Common Snipe	C	C	C	
Red-necked Phalarope	U	U	u	
Red Phalarope	r			
Bonaparte's Gull*	U	C	u	
Mew Gull	C	C	c	
Herring Gull	C	C	c	
Glaucous Gull	X			
Arctic Tern	C	C	u	
Rock Dove	X			X
Mourning Dove		X		

SPECIES	SEASONS			
	SP	SU	A	W
Common Nighthawk	r	C	u	
Rufous Hummingbird		X		
Belted Kingfisher	U	C	u	
Great Horned Owl	u	U	U	u
Snowy Owl	X		X	
Northern Hawk- Owl	r		r	r
Great Gray Owl	R	r	r	r
Short-eared Owl	r		R	
Boreal Owl	U	u	r	r
Downy Woodpecker	R	r	R	r
Hairy Woodpecker	u	U	u	r
Three-toed Woodpecker*	U	U	U	U
Black-backed Woodpecker	X			
Northern Flicker*	C	C	c	
Pileated Woodpecker		X		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	u	C	u	
Western Wood-Pewee	U	C	u	
Alder Flycatcher	c	C	u	
Least Flycatcher	r	U	r	
Hammond's Flycatcher	r	R	r	
Say's Phoebe	U	U	u	
Northern Strike	U	U	U	
Warbling Vireo		X		
Gray Jay	U	C	C	C
Black-billed Magpie	X			X
Common Raven*	C	C	C	C
Horned Lark	U	U	u	
Tree Swallow	C	C	r	
Violet-green Swallow*	C	C	U	
Bank Swallow*	C	C	U	
Cliff Swallow*	C	C	U	
Barn Swallow	u	U	r	
Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C
Boreal Chickadee	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	r	R	r
American Dipper	U	u	u	U
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	C	C	

SPECIES	SEASONS			
	SP	SU	A	W
Mountain Bluebird	U	U	R	
Townsend's Solitaire*	U	U	u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	u	U	r	
Swainson's Thrush	C	C	u	
Hermit Thrush	C	C	u	
American Robin	C	C	c	
Varied Thrush	U	U	u	
American Pipit	C	U	C	
Bohemian Waxwing	U	C	u	r
Tennessee Warbler	r	R	r	
Orange-crowned Warbler*	U	C	U	
Yellow Warbler*	C	C	c	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	
Townsend's Warbler			R	
Blackpoll Warbler	U	U	u	
Northern Waterthrush	U	U	r	
Common Yellowthroat*	u	C	u	
Wilson's Warbler	C	C	c	
Western Tanager			X	
American Tree Sparrow	U	R	U	
Chipping Sparrow*	U	C	r	
Savannah Sparrow	C	C	u	
Fox Sparrow	U	U	u	
Lincoln's Sparrow	c	C	c	
White-crowned Sparrow	C	C	c	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	U	U	u	
Dark-eyed Junco*	C	C	C	r
Lapland Longspur	C	R	u	
Snow Bunting	U		U	
Red-winged Blackbird*	U	C	u	
Rusty Blackbird*	C	C	C	
Brown-headed Cowbird	R	R	R	
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	U	U	U	X
Pine Grosbeak	u	U	U	u
Purple Finch	X			
Red Crossbill	u	u	u	r
White-winged Crossbill	c	C	C	u
Common Redpoll	C	r	C	C
Hoary Redpoll	r		r	r
Pine Siskin	u	C	c	
Evening Grosbeak		X		