



ANNOTATED BIRD CHECKLIST FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

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CANADA YELLOKNIFE, NT

2024

MANUSCRIPT NUMBER 311

The content(s) of this paper are the sole responsibility of the author(s).

Government of
Northwest Territories

ABSTRACT

An annotated checklist of all bird species ever recorded in the Northwest Territories (NWT) is presented. We build on previous checklists published in the 1990s prior to the creation of Nunavut. This annotated checklist for 301 bird species is the first published for the current boundaries of the NWT. We provide details of evidence for inclusion, references and additional notes on behaviour, ecosystem, subspecies, migration, and habitat use, breeding and wintering ranges, as well as earliest and latest dates observed in the NWT for migratory species, highest counts ever recorded, and jurisdictional notes. For rare species, we provide details on each occurrence.

We provide two appendices on 15 additional bird species for which further substantiation is needed to confirm presence in the NWT and on 22 excluded bird species that were reported in the NWT in previous references, but for which we could not find documentation on either identification or exact location.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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investigated the effects of logging in Algonquin Park on physiological stress in Ovenbirds. In 2013, she joined the CWS Landbird program. She has worked all over the boreal forest, monitoring birds. She lives in Yellowknife with her husband, two daughters, and three dogs.

Robert G Bromley - Bromley, a life-long resident of Yellowknife, was introduced to birding while assisting a US Fish and Wildlife waterfowl project on the Yellowknife Study Area. Bob attended universities in Calgary (BSc), Fairbanks, Alaska (MSc) and Corvallis, Oregon (PhD) followed by 16 years as a wildlife biologist researching raptors and waterfowl for GNWT. After seeing alarmingly rapid changes in the environment, he moved into environmental advocacy and consulting for ten years, then served eight years as a Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly.

INTRODUCTION

The previous checklist for the Northwest Territories (NWT), *The Birds of the Northwest Territories, Canada*, was published in 1996 by Jacques Sirois and Doug McRae. Since then, the creation of Nunavut (NU) in 1999 resulted in the splitting of the former NWT into two entities. We present a first comprehensive checklist of the bird species documented in the NWT with its current boundaries.

METHODS

Taxonomic Authority

Checklist organization and taxonomy follows the 7th edition of American Ornithological Society checklist of birds found in North and Middle America, updated to the 63rd supplement in August 2022 (Chesser et al. 2022). Sub-species accounts follow Birds of the World (Billerman et al. eds. 2020) but we added additional information about uncertainties specific to the NWT.

List Criteria

For inclusion in this checklist, we follow this criterion: a species must be documented within the current boundaries of the NWT by a specimen, a photograph, an audio recording, or a written description conclusively identifying the species. We consider adequate documentation to include a complete date, location and observer name, and sufficient documentation to identify the species. We provide details on additional species (Appendix A: Unsubstantiated Species) that partially meet the criterion but require further substantiation and on other species (Appendix B: Deleted Species) that have been reported in the NWT in previous references but are without clear documentation or are reported in circumstances that call into question the species identification or the geographic location of the observation. In some instances, we judge that the observation was not within the current boundaries of the NWT.

Co-management Authorities

In the NWT, responsibility for wildlife management, including bird management, is shared amongst renewable resources boards set up under land claim settlements, involving governments, Indigenous users and beneficiaries. This co-management system provides direct involvement for Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations in the management of all bird species occurring in their land claim area or region (GNWT n.d.). These regions are noted for each species as (I) Inuvialuit Settlement Region, (G) Gwich'in Settlement Area, (S) Sahtu Settlement Area, and (W) Wek'èezhì Boundary (see map in GNWT n.d.). Wildlife, including bird species, occurring in the Wek'èezhì Boundary (W) are co-managed with the Tłı̨chǫ Government. GNWT (2022b) can also be consulted for a map depicting the geographic extent of each region.

Bird species included in Schedule I of *Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994* (S.C. 1994, c. 22) are co-managed with the Government of Canada. All other bird species are co-managed with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). This distinction applies to all areas in the NWT.

We use the codes above to note appropriate management authorities for each species. For species at risk, we coded the appropriate management authorities (2022b). For all other species, we attempted to determine these authorities based on each bird's distribution (eBird) and our understanding of government mandates, but we caution that a spokesperson from each authority is best placed to confirm management responsibilities for any species. Please consult these authorities for any updates or corrections.

We do not attempt to determine NWT-specific management authorities for Canadian vagrant species (native to Canada and only irregularly present in the NWT). We did not assign a species to any management authority for alien species (introduced to North America by human intervention) and for non-Canadian vagrant species (not regularly in Canada).

Ranks and Status

The general status ranks for all species of birds occurring in the NWT is available and updated every five years (WGGSNS 2021). We note the NWT General Status Ranks (GSR), valid for 2021-2025, for each bird species present in the NWT. Consult the General Status Ranking Program for definitions and updates after 2025 (ENR 2021). General status ranks serve to prioritize which species should be assessed in more detail to determine their conservation status, that is to determine if they are at risk of becoming extirpated or extinct in the NWT.

In Canada, the detailed assessment of a species conservation status is conducted by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). We provide the conservation status for each NWT bird species assessed by COSEWIC, tagged with the date the assessment was conducted. Note that assessments that are more than ten years old should be considered "under review". After consultation, COSEWIC's assessment may result in legislated protection of a species under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). We have provided species at risk legal listing designation and the year of application.

Some species may be under varying levels of threats across our vast country; for this reason, the detailed conservation status assessments of species are sometimes conducted at the territorial or provincial levels. In the NWT, the Species at Risk Committee (SARC) is responsible for assessing the conservation status of species anywhere in the NWT. These assessments may result in legislated protection of a species under the territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. As of December 2021, no bird species has been assessed in detail by SARC, nor listed under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Note that only species that are not co-managed by the Federal Government can be listed under the territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. For updates and more information about all species at risk processes in the NWT, consult the NWT Species at Risk Program (GNWT 2022a).

Abundance Notes

We assign a population abundance descriptor of common, fairly common, uncommon or rare for each species, if possible or appropriate. These are broad generalizations about population size and for a large geographic area such as the NWT we note that abundance of any given species may vary widely locally. Where regional patterns of abundance are evident from existing knowledge, these patterns are documented. We use the abundance histograms generated by eBird as key reference because they provide indices relative to the number of overall reports for the NWT. The qualifier “local” indicates a species is restricted to small discrete areas, usually determined by a preferred habitat type. Two additional descriptors are used for species that do not regularly occur in the NWT: “casual visitor” is assigned to species that are not known to breed and have occurred more than once but irregularly, and “accidental” is assigned to species that have been recorded only once in the NWT.

Principal Dates

Each species account includes principal dates that describe when the species is most likely to be seen in the NWT. Where available, we provide early spring arrival and late fall departure records. In some cases where there are large gaps between a late or early record and the next nearest one, multiple dates are noted. Noteworthy high counts are also provided as a point of reference for observers, but there has been no attempt to standardize the approach to these and they are drawn from a variety of sources including single observer checklists over varying geographic scales, Christmas Bird Count records, aerial survey data and other published observations.

Geographical Scope and Habitats

The NWT is vast, covering over 1.35 million km², and hosts a wide range of habitats for birds. Our terrestrial habitat descriptions follow the NWT Ecosystem Classification System (ENR 2007-2013). Our marine habitat description follows Marine Bioregions adopted as the framework for selecting marine protected areas in Canada (DFO 2009) with additional ecosystem descriptions found in Wilkinson et al. (2009).

The Northern Arctic (ECG 2013) encompasses the NWT terrestrial portion of Canada’s Arctic Archipelago, including all of Banks Island and Prince Patrick Island, as well as the western portions of Melville and Victoria Islands. Birding access is by air or boat in summer, by air or by snowmobiles on sea ice in winter. The two communities are Sachs Harbour on the southern coast of Banks Island and Ulukhaktok on western Victoria Island. Bird species diversity is relatively low (*very* low in winter) but several of the tundra, coastal and seabird species occurring here in breeding season, such as red phalarope, may be of great interest to keen birders.

The Southern Arctic (ECG 2012) includes mainland areas north and east of Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake and along the northern coast. This region is above the treeline, featuring

mainly tundra habitats. Small trees may be present in some areas, particularly along major river valleys such as the Thelon, Anderson, Horton, Hornaday, and Coppermine rivers. These areas feature numerous breeding species of water birds and shorebirds; although diversity of land birds is much lower than south of the treeline, species like rock ptarmigan could be a good addition to many life checklists. This region also includes significant sections of the eastern edge of Beringia, where many species typically found further west can also be observed along the Dempster Highway and elsewhere in this ecoregion. This region is most often accessed for birding via backcountry paddling trips, such as those along the Thelon or Horton Rivers. With the completion of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway in the fall of 2017, there is now all-season road access into this mainland tundra region and the Beaufort Sea coastline, around the latter community. Access via the fly-in community of Paulatuk is also available.

The Cordillera (ECG 2010) is located along the western edge of the NWT, where the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains provide breeding habitat for many alpine bird species. Birding access is challenging but rewarding: there are some overland access routes to the Mackenzie Mountains from the Yukon side of the border via the Nahanni Range Road and the Canol Trail, and to the Richardson Mountains via the Dempster Highway. The vast majority of this region is accessible primarily by float plane or helicopter, and once in the region, travel by foot, by horse, or on river systems by canoes, barges, or jet boats are the most efficient methods. Nahanni National Park Reserve (NNPR) is among the most frequently visited areas in the region; it contains unglaciated areas and is well-known for its outstanding backcountry river trips and includes many birding opportunities. Several cordilleran bird species regularly found here, like dusky grouse and wandering tattler, occur nowhere else within the NWT.

The Taiga Plains (ECG 2009) encompasses the Mackenzie River valley from the British Columbia and Alberta borders north to the treeline, where many NWT communities are found, and supports the most productive forest habitats and largest trees in the NWT. Habitats in the Taiga Plains are high boreal coniferous and mixed forests, interspersed with numerous wetlands. The Mackenzie River valley, Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake, are significant migration corridors and breeding sites for water birds. These regions have the most diverse avifauna, particularly in the more southern areas such as the Slave River and Liard River valleys; in fact, many bird species reach the northern limits of their breeding range here, such as American avocet and brown creeper. Birding access is available from all-season roads in its southern portion, and the Dempster Highway provides road access to the northern portion. Access by boats and by air, or in winter via ice roads, snowmobile or dogsled is also available.

The Taiga Shield (ECG 2008) is situated to the east of the Taiga Plains and Great Bear Lake, and south of the Southern Arctic region (described above) including the east arm of Great Slave Lake and areas north and west of the Saskatchewan and Nunavut borders, respectively.

The region's main distinctive characteristics are rock outcrops and smaller trees, and it incorporates a portion of the remote breeding grounds of Harris's sparrow. This region also includes the largest community in the NWT – the capital, Yellowknife. Birding access is available from all-season roads, boats and by air, or in winter via ice roads and other modes of transport such as snowmobiles, or dogsleds.

The NWT boundaries include a large expanse of the Arctic Ocean. Three biogeographic units (or Marine Ecoregions) are described for the NWT waters (DFO 2009). The Arctic Basin is the northernmost offshore part of the Beaufort Sea. It is usually covered in ice forming and moving with the famous Beaufort Gyre, a large counterclockwise oceanic current leading the formation and movement of thick multi-year sea ice in the entire Arctic Ocean. This ecoregion is frequented by the true Arctic birds, such as the ivory gull, adapted to life on the sea ice, where a meal shared with a polar bear is the norm.

The Western Arctic Marine Ecoregion includes the Beaufort Sea near shore region, where seasonal sea ice, marine ship traffic, near-shore activities and development are mostly found. This region is known for the Cape Bathurst Polynya, a marine phenomenon creating high ocean productivity as it remains ice-free year-round due to local currents. Other high productivity sections of this ecoregion occur where the freshwaters of the Mackenzie River mix with the salt water of the Beaufort Sea. The most iconic bird species of this region is the thick-billed murre, nesting on sheer cliffs of Cape Parry within flying distance from these productive ocean areas.

The Arctic Archipelago Marine ecoregion is composed of all the channels, straits, bays and sounds north of Banks and Victoria islands, and around the many islands forming the Queen Elizabeth Archipelago (in the NWT these include Melville and Prince Patrick Islands). This ecoregion hosts many migratory birds, such as the Arctic tern, taking advantage of the short but intense summer season to feed, especially near the ice edges and on the ocean shore.

Sources

All references used in the checklist were noted for each species and in the general references section. A wide range of references were reviewed to compile this checklist. Most notably we consulted the first official checklist developed for the NWT (Sirois and McRae 1996) and used various books, journal articles, reports, governmental publications, databases, and personal notes of the authors (referenced using initials).

Two of the most valuable sources of information were the NWT-NU Checklist Survey, a mail-in checklist scheme initiated in the mid-1990s by the Canadian Wildlife Service in Yellowknife and eBird, an online, citizen science-driven database of bird observation data launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (eBird 2021). Much of the data from the Checklist Survey are now available in eBird. For the most current range maps consult eBird

(2022) and for more information about each species in general consult Birds of the World (2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This checklist includes 301 species confirmed with substantiated evidence to either breed in the NWT or to have been seen at least once. An additional 15 species did not have enough substantiation to be included in the list, but future checklists may confirm these based on further evidence. An additional 22 species were excluded from the NWT checklist: three of these species were actually confirmed in Nunavut, and for all other species we could not find information or were not able to investigate any evidence about their previously reported occurrence in the NWT.

There is still much to be learned about the avifauna of the NWT. The ranges of many species in the NWT are not accurately illustrated in the maps of most field guides and other references. The lack of coverage is particularly acute in the seascapes of the Beaufort Sea within the NWT boundaries where a number of species are yet to be documented in the NWT.

Our knowledge on birds is the result of great efforts of resident knowledge holders. These are augmented by the knowledge from visiting birders. We acknowledge the valuable contributions by many bird enthusiasts who share their knowledge of the NWT's avifauna with everyone. We hope this updated NWT bird checklist will encourage future observers to continue their observations, contribute data to eBird, and share knowledge in our Facebook group *Birding NWT*.

ANNOTATED BIRD CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

Anseriformes

Anatidae

Snow Goose

(*Anser caerulescens*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Oie des neiges

SNGO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in colonies on Arctic tundra near small ponds, lakes, streams and river deltas, close to the coast on the Arctic Islands and north coast. The principal colonies are located at Kendall Island in the Mackenzie Delta, in the Anderson River Delta and on the Egg River on west Banks Island; after breeding, birds stage on the north coast beginning in mid-August, a few also stage on Mill's Lake on the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence (Armstrong et al. 1999). Uncommon migrant through the NWT south of its breeding grounds, most often seen in flocks passing overhead. Much of the breeding population uses the Mackenzie Valley as a migration corridor. The subspecies found in the NWT is the lesser snow goose (*C. c. caerulescens*), wintering in western and south-central USA, and northern Mexico (Mowbray et al. 2020). Principal dates are early May to mid-September. One winter record from the Norman Wells Christmas Bird Count (CBC) during count week in 2007.

Early record: 21 April 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (Snye); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late records: 9 October 2021; 24 individuals; Fort Simpson; Colleen Murchison; eBird 2021

c. 29 December 2007; one individual; Norman Wells (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010.

High Count: 61,713 individuals; 20 May 1972; Mackenzie River downstream of Tsiigehtchic, aerial count; Michael Shepard, eBird 2021

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Ross's Goose

(*Anser rossii*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Oie de Ross

ROGO

I, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and breeder. Believed to breed in small numbers on southwest Banks Island (Manning et al. 1956, Barry 1960). Surveys of waterfowl shot in spring by local hunters in the western Arctic from 1987-1990 found that small numbers were taken annually at Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour (Bromley 1996). There are also historical reports from the north coast at the mouth of the Horton River and at Fort Anderson (Manning et al. 1956). Reported in spring migration 27-28 May 1972 at Little Chicago on the Mackenzie River (Campbell 1972). Historical references suggest it may be a regular migrant in small numbers on eastern Great Slave Lake, particularly in the vicinity of Fort Resolution and the Slave River Delta (Höhn and Robinson 1951, Soper 1957) and perhaps also along the Thelon River (Norment 1985). Since 2018 it has been recorded annually in small numbers during spring migration in Yellowknife, but the species remains unrecorded in fall (eBird 2021). Records from the western part of the NWT are few but include Brackett Lake near Tulita 19 May 2007 (Eckert 2007) and Délîne 16 May 2013 (eBird 2021). There are no recognized subspecies. All birds found in the NWT winter in southern USA to northern Mexico (Jónsson et al. 2020)

Early record: 14 May 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Yellowknife River Mouth); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 May 1972; three individuals; Little Chicago (Between Fort Good Hope and Tsiiigehtchic); Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

High Count: seven individuals; 15 May 2018; Yellowknife; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

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Greater White-fronted Goose
(*Anser albifrons*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Breeds on tundra around small ponds, lakes, river deltas and streams on the north coast and mainland barrens (south to the Thelon River), northwards rarely to the Arctic Islands (Banks, Victoria). Tends to be found in more inland situations than Brant and snow goose. Fairly common migrant throughout the NWT south of the breeding range, with migrating flocks most in evidence in May and from mid-August through September. Mainly seen flying overhead, but birds will occasionally put down on bodies of water or open areas, occasionally mixed in with Canada Geese. The subspecies found in the NWT is *A. a. gambelli*, wintering in central US and northeastern Mexico (Ely et al. 2020). Principal dates are early May to late September.

Oie rieuse
GWFG
I, G, S, W (FED)

Early record: 22 April 2015; eight individuals; Fort Simpson (Snye); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 October 2000; one individual; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High Count: 9,860 individuals (aerial survey); 14 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974.

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Brant

(*Branta bernicla*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Bernache cravant

BRAN

I (FED)

Fairly common but local breeder in colonies at the edges of saltmarshes and estuaries on the north coast (including Kendall Island, Anderson River Delta and Cape Bathurst) and on the Arctic Islands (including Victoria, Banks, Prince Patrick, Melville, Eglinton Islands). Most migration is coastal, via the Beaufort Sea and so this species is very rare as a migrant in the interior of the Territory with only two records of single birds at Lac de Gras, 11 June 1995 and Fort Simpson 20 September 2015 (eBird 2021). Principal dates: early June to mid-August on breeding grounds. The “black” brant *B. b. nigricans* is the widespread subspecies in the NWT, and winters along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Mexico (Lewis et al. 2020). Birds breeding in the high Arctic on Melville and Prince Patrick Islands are sometimes called “western high-arctic brants” or “gray-bellies” and are believed to be intermediate between the black brant and the eastern Arctic race *B. b. hrota*, the Atlantic brant (Lewis et al. 2020).

Early record: 24 May 2005; two individuals; Anderson River Delta; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

Late record (breeding grounds): seven individuals; 14 September 1975; Mackenzie Delta; Eric Tull; eBird 2021

Late record (migration): 20 September 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Flats);
Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 1,500 individuals; 5 July 2013; Aulavik National Park (Thomsen R.), Banks
Island; Andrew Lawrence; eBird 2021

References

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Cackling Goose

(*Branta hutchinsii*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bernache de Hutchins

CACG

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common colonial breeder on the north coast and Arctic Islands, north to Banks, Victoria and Prince Patrick Islands, replacing Canada Goose above the treeline, although there may be some degree of inter gradation near the forest-tundra interface (Mowbray et al. 2002). The subspecies found in the NWT is called Richardson's cackling goose, *B. h. hutchinsii*. Seen regularly in migration in Yellowknife, but there are few records west of the Great Slave Lake area on the mainland. Can be easily confused with Canada geese, which lends caution to many records, both historical and present-day. Cacklings are more apt to fly with the large flocks of snow and greater white-fronted geese at the height of migration. Recent analyses of band recoveries have shown that most of our birds migrate through western Canada, and winter in the southern USA (Mowbray et al. 2020). Principal dates: early May to mid-September.

Early record: 4 May 2013; one individual; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 16 September 2021; two individuals; Yellowknife (Yellowknife Bay); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 6,985 individuals; 12 May 2021; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Canada Goose

(*Branta canadensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bernache du Canada

CANG

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder throughout the treed portion of the NWT, nesting adjacent to permanent water bodies including ponds, lakes, rivers and marshes. Ranges from the Mackenzie Delta southwards. The moult migration in the third to fourth weeks of June can bring a large number of birds to our tundra rivers (R.G. Bromley notes). The subspecies found commonly in the NWT is *B. c. parvipes*, wintering in western USA, from western Washington to southern California (Mowbray et al. 2020). Principal dates: mid-April to early October.

Early record: 28 March 2019; one individual; Yellowknife; mult. obs.; Facebook 2019.

Late record: 22 October 2020; 22 individuals; Hay River; Jaimie Graham; eBird 2021

High count: 2,000 individuals; 5 May 2001; Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

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Trumpeter Swan

(*Cygnus buccinator*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Cygne trompette

TRUS

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common but local breeder in lakes, ponds and large wetlands in the southern Mackenzie Mountains. Rare, but increasingly regular eastwards through the lowlands to

Fort Liard, Fort Simpson and Wrigley. There are scattered sight records down the Mackenzie Valley to Colville Lake and the Delta and east to Fort Smith, Behchokǫ and Yellowknife, although confusion with the more common tundra swan may account for some of these reports. There are no recognized subspecies. This species overwinters throughout western Canada and the US in areas of shallow open water. Principal dates are late April to early October.

Early record: 13 April 2015; one individual; Nahanni Butte; Burton Campbell; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 November 2019; one individual; Fort Liard; Laura Diamond-C, mult. obs.; Cabin Radio article 2019.

High count: 204 individuals; 25 August 2005; NNPR/Nahanni Butte/Fort Liard area, aerial survey, Paul Latour; eBird 2021

References

- Cabin Radio 2019. News. Determined Fort Liard Resident Rescues Injured Swan <https://cabinradio.ca/25519/news/environment/determined-fort-liard-resident-rescues-injured-swan/>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Tundra Swan

(*Cygnus columbianus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Cygne siffleur

TUSW

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder around lakes and ponds on Arctic tundra along the north coast (Mackenzie and Anderson River Deltas) and Arctic Islands (north to Banks Island), with some birds breeding southwards in barrenlands in the Thelon River drainage. Fairly common migrant in the south, with more birds seeming to pass through the eastern part of the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Yellowknife) than further west. The subspecies seen in the NWT is the *C. c. columbianus*, or Whistling Tundra Swan. Our birds are part of an Eastern population as they migrate south to winter on the Atlantic coast, or inland in eastern USA (Limpert et al. 2020). Principal dates: late April to early October.

Early record: 15 April 2015; five individuals; Fort Smith (Rapids of the Drowned); David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 November 2018; one individual; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 3,320 individuals; 25 May 1972; Fort Good Hope-Tsiigehtchic area, aerial survey; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

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- Limpert, R.J., S.L. Earnst, C. Carboneras and G.M. Kirwan. 2020. Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.tunswa.01>

Blue-winged Teal

(*Spatula discors*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Sarcelle à ailes bleues

BWTE

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the south (NNPR, Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith) and sparsely north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Delta and with scattered reports in the northern part of the mainland, including Colville Lake, Tuktoyaktuk and the Anderson River Delta. No subspecies are recognized. They winter in Mexico to northern parts of South America and are noted as one of the earliest ducks to migrate south in the fall, and one of the later ones to move north in spring (Rohwer et al. 2020). Principal dates are early May to early September.

Early record: 27 April 2017; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 September 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 30 individuals; 11 June 2002; Fort Resolution; Paul Jones; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Rohwer, F.C., W.P. Johnson and E.R. Loos. 2020. Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.buwtea.01>

Cinnamon Teal
(*Spatula cyanoptera*)
Vagrant (SGR 2021)

Sarcelle cannelle
CITE
(FED)

Accidental. A male was seen and well-described flying down the Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson with Green-winged Teal on 11 May 1973 (Wormington 1973, Salter et al. 1974). One was reported at Wool Bay and again at Back Bay, near Yellowknife on 2 June 1988 (R.G. Bromley notes). One was reported without details on an aerial waterfowl survey in Macmillan Pass in the north Mackenzie Mountains on 7 August 2006 (Amey and Langois 2007). The subspecies seen in the NWT is *S. c. septentrionalium*. Winters in the central US to Central America.

References

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- Wormington, A. 1973. Description of unusual birds at Fort Simpson – Spring '73. Unpublished manuscript.

Northern Shoveler
(*Spatula clypeata*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Canard souchet
NSHO
I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Delta and nearby coast (Kendall Island, Tuktoyaktuk). Scattered sightings in the northeast (Anderson, Horton and Hornaday rivers). No subspecies are recognized. Our birds may winter across the USA to central America. (Dubowy et al. 2020). Principal dates: early May to late September.

Early record: 23 April 2019; seven individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 17 October 2021; 13 individuals; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021

High count: 120 individuals; 15 May 2001; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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Gadwall

(*Mareca strepera*)

Undetermined (SGR 2021)

Canard chipeau

GADW

I, G, S, W (FED)

Rare migrant and breeder in water bodies and wetlands in the southern mainland including the southern Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR; Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith) and north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Delta. Also records from Tuktoyaktuk and Cape Parry. Fournier et al. (1992) describe a number of breeding records from the Yellowknife area. The subspecies seen in the NWT is the *M. s. strepera*, or Common Gadwall. Our birds winter mostly in central America. (Leschack et al. 2020). Principal dates mid-May to early August.

Early record: 7 May 2011; one individual; Yellowknife River Bridge; Mike Fournier; eBird 2021

Late record: 27 August 2000; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 21 individuals; 29 June 1998; Tuktoyaktuk; Stewart Holohan; eBird 2021

References

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- Leschack, C.R., S.K. McKnight and G.R. Hepp. 2020. Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.gadwal.01>

Eurasian Wigeon**(*Mareca penelope*)****Vagrant (Alien) (GSR 2021)****Canard siffleur****EUWI**

Casual visitor. There are about nine records. Reported from Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Behchokǫ and Yellowknife. In the Yellowknife area, there were six separate observations of a male Eurasian Wigeon from 1990-1992, five of which were in ponds in the same general area along Highway 3 west of the city (Fournier and Hines 1996). The observers speculated that the records might pertain to only one or two individuals. Furthermore, the site fidelity of the Highway 3 bird and its observation on one occasion with an unidentified female wigeon suggested breeding may have occurred. Sightings range from mid-May to late August. No subspecies recognized.

Occurrences

1. 22 August 1898; one male; Fort Rae [now Behchokǫ]; Frank Russell, Hasbrouck 1944. Specimen reported taken.
2. 9 May 1972; one male; Fort Good Hope; R.W. Campbell; Campbell 1972.
3. 14 May 1973; one male; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Alan Wormington; Wormington 1973, Salter et al. 1974.
4. 6 June 1990; one male; roadside pond 45 km NW of Yellowknife; Michael Fournier, James Hines; Fournier and Hines 1996.
5. 23 & 31 May 1991; one male; roadside pond 32 km NW of Yellowknife; Fournier and Hines 1996.
6. 1 June 1991; one male; Great Slave Lake, 5 km from Yellowknife; Fournier and Hines 1996.
7. 27 May 1992; one male; roadside pond 32 km NW of Yellowknife; Fournier and Hines 1996.
8. 28 May & 3 June 1992; one male; pond less than 2 km away from previous location; Fournier and Hines 1996.
9. 14 May 2012; one male; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; Eckert 2013, eBird. Photographed.

References

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American Wigeon

(*Mareca americana*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Common migrant and breeder in wetlands in the south and central parts of the NWT and along river valleys (Mackenzie, Horton) to the north coast. Exceptionally to Banks Island (Manning et al 1956). No subspecies are recognized. Our birds may winter across the USA to central America. Principal dates: late April to late September.

Early record: 21 April 2012; two individuals; Yellowknife River (Tartan Rapids); Mike Fournier; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 October 2015; five individuals; Highway 3 Mackenzie River bridge; Jean-Francois Jette; eBird 2021

High count: 10,500 individuals (aerial survey); 22 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974

Canard d'Amérique

AMWI

I, G, S, W (FED)

References

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Mallard

(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Canard colvert

MALL

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the mainland portion of the NWT. Principal dates: mid-April to mid-October. One winter record from the Yellowknife CBC, and one record of two drakes by Lou Comin at Wild Mint Springs, NNPR on 25 February 1977 (Scotter et al. 1985). These birds may have overwintered in the hot springs. The subspecies seen in the NWT is the *A. p. platyrhynchos*. Our birds winter mostly in the US to central America.

Early record: 25 February 1977; two males; NNPR (Wild Mint Springs); Lou Comin; Scotter et al. 1995.

21 March 2011; three individuals; Norman Wells (Airport); Glen Guthrie; eBird 2021

Late records: 6 November 2021; two individuals; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

30 December 2001; one individual; Yellowknife (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010.

High count: 5,000 individuals (aerial survey); 22 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974

References

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American Black Duck

(*Anas rubripes*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Canard noir

ABDU

(FED)

Casual visitor. There are reports from throughout much of the mainland of the NWT, focussed in three areas: (1) The Thelon River and its tributaries, where there are a number of summer records (although none recent). Kuyt (1964) hypothesized that a small number of moult migrants may use this area, and it is the closest part of the NWT to this species' regular range. (2) The Great Slave Lake area, where there are a number of banding records in the period from 1956-2010 (20 individuals banded at Mills Lake, five in the North Arm), as well as sight records from near the mouth of the Little Buffalo River, Fort Providence and Yellowknife. (3) The Mackenzie Valley, with reports from Fort Simpson, Willow Lake near Tulita (three individuals banded 2003-2006), and Tsuigehtchic. There are apparently no photos of this species in the NWT, the most substantive record is of a male collected on the Thelon River on 9 June 1963 that had been banded in Vermont (Kuyt 1964). Godfrey (1995) felt that a report from the Anderson River from the 1880s (Preble 1908) was probably in error. No subspecies recognized. Usually breeds in eastern North America. Winters in eastern US.

Occurrences

1. Pre-1908; Fort Simpson; reported as occasionally shot in this location by A.F. Camsell; Preble 1908.
2. 26 July 1937; one individual; flushed from a lagoon on the Finnie River, seen at close range; Clarke 1940.
3. 29 July 1937; a small flock; Thelon River at the mouth of the Finnie River; Clarke 1940.
4. 29 May 1955; one individual; Great Slave Lake near the mouth of the Little Buffalo River, with Mallards; Stewart 1966.
5. August 1956; two males; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
6. 9 June 1963; one male; Thelon River at Lookout Point, had been banded at Newport, VA eight years previous; Kuyt 1964.
7. August 1969; one individual; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.

8. 14 September 1972; Mills Lake, seen on an aerial survey; Salter et al. 1974.
9. 12 May 1973; two individuals; Fort Providence (Mackenzie River); Salter et al. 1974.
10. June or July 1973; one individual; Arctic Red River [Tsiigehtchic]; Tull et al. 1974.
11. August 1969; one male; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
12. August 1973; one male; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
13. August 1978; two males; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
14. Pre-1981; Yellowknife; Bromley and Trauger 1981.
15. August 1983; one female; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
16. August 1984; one male; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
17. August 1993; three males, one female; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
18. August 1996; two males; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
19. August 1998; one male; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
20. August 2000; two males; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
21. August 2000; two males; Great Slave Lake (North Arm), banded; CWS banding data.
22. August 2002; one male; Mill's Lake, banded; CWS banding data.
23. August 2002; one male; Great Slave Lake (North Arm), banded; CWS banding data.
24. August 2002; one male; Great Slave Lake (North Arm), banded; CWS banding data.
25. August 2003; one male; Great Slave Lake (North Arm), banded; CWS banding data.
26. August 2003; one male; near Tulita (Brackett Lake), banded; CWS banding data
27. August 2004; one male; near Tulita (Brackett Lake); John Bidwell, Richard Popko; Eckert 2005, CWS banding data.
28. August 2006; one male; near Tulita (Brackett Lake); John Bidwell, Richard Popko; Eckert 2007, CWS banding data.
29. August 2010; one male; Great Slave Lake (North Arm), banded; CWS banding data.

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Northern Pintail

(*Anas acuta*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the mainland portion of the NWT. Ranges regularly further north than any other puddle duck, occasionally reaching SW Victoria and Banks Islands (Manning et al. 1956, Cornish and Dickson 1994, eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Our birds winter across the USA to central America. Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 15 April 2015; one individual; Fort Smith (Rapids of the Drowned); David Britton; eBird 2021

Canard pilet

NOPI

I, G, S, W (FED)

Late record: 19 October 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 5,500 individuals (aerial survey); 22 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974.

References

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Green-winged Teal

(*Anas crecca*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Sarcelle d'hiver

GWTE

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the mainland portion of the NWT, rarely north to SW Victoria and Banks Islands (eBird 2021). The subspecies seen in the NWT is the American Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*). Winters mostly in the US to central America. Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 23 April 2019; nine individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 October 2021; one individual; Behchokǫ; Kristen Heavener; eBird 2021

High count: 200 individuals; 24 May 1972; Fort Good Hope; Michal Shepard; eBird 2021

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Canvasback**(*Aythya valisineria*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetlands through the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie River to the Delta (including Kendall Island and Tuktoyaktuk). Scattered records in the northeast, including Anderson and Horton rivers. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds may winter across the USA to central America. Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 23 April 2019; four individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 20 October 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 5,300 individuals (aerial survey); 22 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974.

References

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- Salter, R.E. 1974. Autumn migration of birds through the central and upper Mackenzie Valley region, 1972. Chapter II in Gunn, W.W.H. and J.A. Livingston (Editors), Bird migrations on the North Slope and in the Mackenzie Valley regions, 1972. Arctic Gas Biological Report Series Volume 13, Canadian Arctic Gas Study Ltd. 83pp.

Redhead**(*Aythya americana*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Rare migrant and breeder in the southern mainland (mostly in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake, also Fort Simpson, Fort Liard) and Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR, Palmer Lake). Scattered sight records north to Norman Wells, Inuvik and Kendall Island. A report of a nest found near Fort Resolution in the early 1900s may be the only documented breeding record (Soper 1957). No subspecies are recognized. Winters across the USA to central America. Principal dates are early May to mid-August.

Early record: 30 April 2016; two individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 September 1972; 170 individuals (aerial survey); Mills Lake; Salter 1974

High count: 170 individuals (aerial survey); 18 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974

Fuligule à dos blanc**CANV****I, G, S, W (FED)**

References

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- Soper, J.D. 1957. Notes on the wildfowl of the Slave River Delta and vicinity, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 71:74-81.

Ring-necked Duck

(*Aythya collaris*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Fuligule à collier

RNDU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the southern mainland and Mackenzie Mountains and north along the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik. Sight records from Colville Lake and Anderson River. No subspecies are recognized. Winters across the USA to central America. Principal dates are early May to late September.

Early record: 29 April 1976; two individuals; Yellowknife (Sewage Outlet); Alan Smith; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 October 2021; one individual; Hay River (West Channel); Vince Hiebert; eBird 2021

High count: 130 individuals; 13 September 2019; Highway 3 Mackenzie River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Greater Scaup

(*Aythya marila*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Fuligule milouinan

GRSC

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant throughout the southern mainland. Has a more northerly breeding distribution in the NWT than Lesser Scaup, nesting in scattered locations along the north

coast (Mackenzie Delta, Anderson River) southwards to Norman Wells. There is an isolated breeding population on the West Mirage Islands in Great Slave Lake (Weller et al 1969, Kessel et al 2020). One sight record from Ulukhaktok on Victoria Island (eBird 2021). The subspecies seen in the NWT is the *A. m. nearctica*. Our birds winter on any coastal areas of Canada or the US, or at some interior locations with large lakes. Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 2 May 2002; two individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 1 November 2013; three individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 595 individuals; 30 September 2012; Great Slave L. (Yellowknife to Devil's Channel); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Kessel, B., D.A. Rocque and J.S. Barclay. 2020. Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.gresca.01>
- Weller, M.W., D.L. Trauger and G.L. Krapu. 1969. Breeding birds of the West Mirage Islands, Great Slave Lake, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 83(4):344-360.

Lesser Scaup

(*Aythya affinis*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Petit Fuligule

LESC

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in wetlands and water bodies throughout the mainland, including the north coast. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds winter across the USA to central America. Principal dates are early May to early October. One winter record from the Yellowknife CBC.

Early record: 30 April 2006; five individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

Late records: 1 November 2013; five individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

16 December 1990; one individual; Yellowknife (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 450 individuals; 30 August 2014; Highway 3 (Chan Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015).

King Eider

(*Somateria spectabilis*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Eider à tête grise

KIEI

I (FED)

Uncommon breeder in tundra lakes and ponds on the north coast and the Arctic Islands. This species reaches its highest breeding densities on west Victoria Island (Kagloryuak River, Tahiryuak Lake); west Banks Island, the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Parry are also important nesting areas (Dickson et al 1997). Spring migration begins in late May when birds move northeast from wintering areas in the Bering Sea into the Beaufort Sea (Alexander et al 1988). There are relatively few sightings after mid-August, but this species likely lingers much later while open water persists before returning to wintering areas in the Bering Sea, as suggested by the sighting of 265 birds offshore of Tuktoyaktuk on 12 October 1988 (eBird 2021). Very rare as a migrant in the southern mainland: Preble (1908) observed a flock of four on the Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson on 25 October 1903 and collected a female; he also obtained a specimen of a male taken by a hunter near Fort Resolution in spring 1904; a juvenile female was found on land near the Yellowknife airport on 12 December 1983 (McCormick and Bromley 1986); and a female-type bird was present at Willow Flats in Yellowknife from 25 October to 13 November 2021 (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Our birds are part of the Pacific population, wintering in the Beaufort Sea, on the coasts of Alaska and Russia (Pearce et al. 2019). Interestingly, telemetry studies have shown that some birds may nest in our region one summer, nest in Russia the next summer, then return to nest here (Pearce et al. 2019).

Early record: 2 June 1990; Pearce Point, 75 km NE of Paulatuk; Carey Bergman; eBird 2021

Late record (breeding grounds): 24 October 2008; ten individuals; Ulukhaktok; eBird 2021

Late record (migration): 12 December 1983; one juvenile female; Yellowknife (Airport); Kevin McCormick; eBird 2021

High count: c. 2,700 individuals; 10 June 1986; Tuktoyaktuk to Mackenzie Bay (aerial survey); Alexander et al 1988

References

- Alexander, S.A., D.M. Ealey and S.J. Barry. 1988. Spring migration of Eiders, Oldsquaws and Glaucous Gulls along offshore leads of the Canadian Beaufort Sea. Technical Report Series No. 56. Western and Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Dickson, L.D., R.C. Cotter, J.E. Hines and M.F. Kay. 1997. Distribution and abundance of King Eiders in the western Canadian Arctic. In: King and Common eiders of the western Canadian Arctic, Occasional Paper No. 94, Canadian Wildlife Service.
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- McCormick, K.J. and R.G. Bromley. 1986. King Eider at Yellowknife – December 1983. Blue Jay 44: 110-111.
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- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.

Common Eider

(*Somateria mollissima*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Eider à duvet

COEI

I (FED)

Uncommon breeder on the north coast and the Arctic Islands, preferring more coastal locations than king eider, often on small offshore islands. This species reaches its highest breeding densities on south and west Victoria Island; southwest Banks Island, the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst and Cape Parry are also important nesting areas (Cornish and Dickson 1997). Spring migration begins in late May when birds move northeast from wintering areas in the Bering Sea into the Beaufort Sea (Alexander et al 1988). There are relatively few sightings after mid-August, but this species likely lingers much later while open water persists before returning to wintering areas in the Bering Sea, as suggested by the sighting of five birds offshore of the Mackenzie Delta on 18 October 2012. Casual migrant in the southern mainland: there are two records of birds shot at Fort Resolution in 1858 and 1861 (Ross 1862); Preble (1908) obtained two specimens shot by local hunters near Fort Good Hope on 14 and 30 June 1904 and another specimen at Fort Providence the same year. He also reported a sight record by J.W. Mills from the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence on 21 June 1904. The subspecies present in the NWT is the largest, *S. m. v-nigrum*, or Pacific common eider. Birds fitted with telemetry devices in

northern Canada were recovered wintering in the range of this subspecies, in coastal areas of Alaska and Russia (Pearce et al. 2019).

Early record: 5 June 1980; 287 individuals; Baillie Island, off the north tip of Cape Bathurst; D.J. Karasiuk; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 October 2012; five individuals; offshore of the Mackenzie Delta; Andy Bankert; eBird 2021

High count: c. 18,600 individuals; Cape Dalhousie to Baillie Island (aerial survey); Alexander et al. 1988

References

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Harlequin Duck

(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

May Be at Risk (GSR 2021)

Arlequin plongeur

HADU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in alpine lakes and fast-flowing rivers in the Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR, Dechenla Lodge, possibly as far north as the Richardson Mountains), also breed rarely and irregularly on fast-flowing rivers along the southern edge of the Canadian Shield around Great Slave Lake (Cameron, Snare, Taltson and Yellowknife). Also recorded rarely as a migrant on the Mackenzie River and Great Slave Lake (Fournier and Bromley 1996).

Principal dates are late May to mid-August. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds are most probably from the western population, wintering on the coasts of Alaska, BC, and Washington State (Pearce et al. 2019).

Early record: 7 May 1988; two males, one female; Yellowknife River Bridge; Jacques Sirois; eBird 2021

Late record: 7 September 2016; one individual; NNPR (The Gate); NNPR staff; eBird 2021

High count: 17 individuals; 20 August 2000; NNPR (Hole-in-the-Wall Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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- Fournier, M.A. and R.G. Bromley. 1996. Status of the Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, in the western Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 110(4): 638-641.
- Pearce, J.M., P.L. Flint, M.E. Whalen and others. 2019. Visualizing populations of North American sea ducks—Maps to guide research and management planning: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2019-1142, 50pp., <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20191142>.

Surf Scoter

(*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Macreuse brune

SUSC

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds at low density in larger wetlands in the northern mainland from the forested areas of the Mackenzie Delta, south to Campbell, Chick and Brackett Lakes and in the vicinity of Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes. Common migrant on water bodies and wetlands throughout the southern mainland. No subspecies are recognized. Birds nesting near Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake that were marked with transmitters wintered on the Pacific Coast of US and Mexico and birds nesting in eastern NWT wintered on the Atlantic Coast (Anderson et al. 2020, Pearce et al. 2019). Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 2 May 2002; three individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 22 October 2016; six individuals; Fort Smith (Slave River); Jason Straka; eBird 2021

High count: 232 individuals; 23 June 1976; Shallow Bay to Inuvik; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- Anderson, E.M., R.D. Dickson, E.K. Lok, E.C. Palm, J.-P.L. Savard, D. Bordage and A. Reed. 2020. Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sursco.01>
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White-winged Scoter

(*Melanitta deglandi*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Macreuse à front blanc

WWSC

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeding range in the NWT poorly known, but likely nests widely at low density near lakes and large wetlands from Great Slave Lake northwards to the Mackenzie Delta. Large numbers also present in summer along the highway to Tuktoyaktuk. Fairly common migrant on water bodies and wetlands throughout the southern mainland. Principal dates mid-May to early October. One was reported to have overwintered at Łutsel K'e in the winter of 2017-2018 (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Our birds appear to be from three populations defined by their wintering region but sharing large areas of sympatric breeding: (1) pairs nesting in and near the Mackenzie Delta winter near the Alaska Coast, (2) pairs nesting around Great Bear Lake mostly winter on the BC coast, and (3) those nesting south and east Great Slave Lake mostly winter on the Atlantic Coast (Brown and Fredrickson 2020, Pearce et al. 2019).

Early record: 2 May 2012; two individuals; Walsh Lake, north of Yellowknife; eBird 2021

Late record: 1 November 2018; one individual; Dettah; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 200 individuals; 25 July 1972; Sitidgi Lake, east of Inuvik; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

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Black Scoter

(*Melanitta americana*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Macreuse à bec jaune

BLSC

I, G, S, W (FED)

Rare. Recorded most frequently from the rivers east of Great Slave Lake (Taltson, Dubawnt, Thelon) and in the Mackenzie Delta and on the Beaufort Sea coast (Kendall Island, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Liverpool Bay). Scattered, infrequent records elsewhere (Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, NNPR). No subspecies are recognized (Bordage and Savard 2020). Birds from the northern NWT (coast of Beaufort Sea) are probably from the western population, wintering on the Pacific Coast. Telemetric studies have shown that birds nesting in southern NWT are from the eastern population, wintering on the Atlantic Coast (Pearce et al. 2019). Principal observation dates are late May to early October.

Early record: 14 May 2014; one male; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); David Britton, Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 14 October 2018; five individuals; Yellowknife (Ndilo); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 90 individuals; 7 September 1974; Liverpool Bay; Searing et al. 1975

References

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Long-tailed Duck**(*Clangula hyemalis*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Harelde kakawi****LTDU****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds in tundra ponds and wetlands from the Arctic Islands (Victoria, Banks, Melville, Prince Patrick) southwards to Great Bear Lake and in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. Fairly common migrant on larger lakes and rivers in the southern mainland. No subspecies are recognized. Birds nesting in the northern NWT (Western Arctic) and tracked were shown to winter mostly in northern Alaska to North Pacific coasts, and also in Japan and South Korea Seas (Pearce et al. 2019). Birds nesting on the barren-lands may be from the eastern population, wintering along the Atlantic Coast and the Great Lakes region (Pearce et al. 2019, Robertson and Savard 2020). Principal dates are mid-May to mid-October.

Early record: 4 May 2020; two individuals; Hay River; Henry Boden; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 October 2018; ten individuals; Yellowknife (Back Bay); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: c. 6,000 individuals; Baillie Island and Cape Bathurst area (aerial survey); Alexander et al. 1988

References

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Bufflehead**(*Bucephala albeola*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Common migrant and breeder on small lakes, ponds and wetlands surrounded by forest in the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells, with scattered sight records north to Fort McPherson and Inuvik. No subspecies are recognized. They winter in the US and Mexico (Gauthier 2020, Pearce et al. 2019). Principal dates are late April to early October. One winter record from the Yellowknife CBC.

Early record: 21 April 2015; one individual; Yellowknife (Latham Island); Elena Kreuzberg; eBird 2021

Late records: 20 October 2013; two individuals; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Vicki St. Germaine; eBird 2021

2 January 2005; one individual; Yellowknife (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 335 individuals; 30 September 2012; Great Slave Lake (Yellowknife to Devil's Channel); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Common Goldeneye**(*Bucephala clangula*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Garrot à oeil d'or****COGO****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common migrant and breeder on wetlands, lakes and rivers surrounded by forest in the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Delta, also recorded on the

Anderson and Horton Rivers. One duck observed and photographed at Fort Simpson by Tate et al. on 15 May 2014 (eBird 2021) was a probable Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrid (Ball 1934, Millard 1994, Sibley 1997). Principal dates: mid-April to mid-October. At least two winter records from the Yellowknife CBC (National Audubon Society 2010). The subspecies present in the NWT is *B. c. americana*. They winter in southern Canada and the US (Eadie et al. 2020).

Early record: 14 April 2015; two individuals; Fort Smith; David Britton; eBird 2021

Late records: 1 November 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Negus Point); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

29 December 2019; one male; Yellowknife River Bridge, Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 210 individuals; 30 September 2012; Great Slave Lake (Yellowknife to Devil's Channel); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Barrow's Goldeneye

(*Bucephala islandica*)

Secure (GWR 2021)

Garrot d'Islande

BAGO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon and local breeder on alpine and subalpine lakes in the Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR, Palmer Lake). There are scattered, occasional sightings in the Mackenzie Valley, as far north as Inuvik, as well as at Fort Liard and on Great Slave Lake (Williams 1933, Wormington 1973, Thompson 1975, Martell 1984, eBird 2021). Status as a breeder away

from the Mackenzie Mountains is not known. No subspecies are recognized. They winter in the northern US (Eadie et al. 2020b). Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 30 April 2002; two individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 16 November 2019, one individual; Kakisa; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 55 individuals; 28 September 2015; Flat Lakes, 15 km north of Tungsten; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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Hooded Merganser

(*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Harle couronné

HOME

S, W (FED)

Increasingly common migrant in spring, summer resident and possible breeder in North and South Slave regions, but at present there are no known nesting records. Far fewer observations in western Mackenzie Valley and elsewhere (records from NNPR, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith) with the northernmost sighting at Norman Wells on 16 May 2021 (eBird 2021) and on shore of Point Lake on 30 August 2022 (iNaturalist 2022). A probable Hooded Merganser X Common Goldeneye hybrid was photographed at Fort Simpson on 15 May 2014 (see Goldeneye species account above). No subspecies are recognized, but two disjunct populations are apparent, one wintering in western Canada and western US and one wintering in south-eastern Canada and the eastern US (Dugger et

al. 2020. Pearce et al. 2019). Birds from either or both populations may be nesting in the NWT. Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 28 April 2019; three individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 3 November 2018; two males; Ingraham Trail (Prosperous Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 110 individuals; 23 September 2021; Ingraham Trail (Upper Terry Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Common Merganser

(*Mergus merganser*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Fairly common migrant and breeder on lakes and rivers bordered by forest throughout the mainland portion of the NWT, north to the Mackenzie Delta (Martell et al. 1984) and the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula (Arner et al. 1985) and along the Anderson, Horton and Hornaday river valleys. One sight record from Banks Island (eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is *M. m. americanus*. Winters in southern US and Mexico. Principal dates are late April to early October.

Early record: 11 April 2017; one individual; Little Buffalo River Falls Territorial Park; Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 26 October 2018; two females; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Grand Harle

COME

I, G, S, W

(FED)

High count: 1,000 individuals; 17 July 2012; North Arm of Great Slave Lake; Vicki St. Germaine; eBird 2021

References

- Arner, B.D., D.L. Dickson and G. Verreault. 1985. Bird observations from Atkinson Point, Northwest Territories, 1984. Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, unpublished paper.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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Red-breasted Merganser

(*Mergus serrator*)

Secure (GWR 2021)

Harle huppé

RBME

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder on lakes and rivers throughout the Taiga Shield region of the NWT, less common to the west of the Shield. Occurs north to the Mackenzie Delta and the north coast. Sight record from Banks and Victoria Islands. No subspecies are recognized. The wintering ranges of our birds are unclear; some may overwinter in the NWT, possibly on rivers with year-round open waters such as Tartan Rapids, some may winter on the Pacific or Atlantic Coasts, or on the Great Lakes (Craik et al. 2020, Pearce et al. 2019). Principal dates are late April to early October.

Early record: 3 March 2002; Tartan Rapids, Yellowknife River, J McKay (R.G. Bromley notes); 15 April 2012; one individual; Tartan Rapids, 15 km northeast of Yellowknife; Bonnie Fournier; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 October 2020; one individual; Ndilo; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 300 individuals; 4 July 2007; North Arm of Great Slave Lake; Cyndi Smith; eBird 2021

References

- Craik, S., J. Pearce and R.D. Titman. 2020. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rebmer.01>
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Ruddy Duck

(Oxyura jamaicensis)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Érismature rousse

RUDU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Migrant and breeder in ponds and wetlands in the southern mainland and southern Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR, Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, occasionally in Yellowknife). There are also more northerly sight records at Dechenla Lodge, Norman Wells and Inuvik (eBird 2021) and to the east at Artillery Lake (Kelsall et al. 1971). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in southern US and Mexico (Brua 2020). Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 29 April 2019; three individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 September 2017; one individual; Hay River, Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 12 individuals; 21 May 1995; Fort Providence; Christopher Shank; eBird 2021

References

- Brua, R.B. 2020. Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rudduc.01>
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- Kelsall, J.P., E. Kuyt and S.C. Zoltai. 1971. Ecology of the Fort Reliance-Artillery Lake area. Unpublished report prepared to provide information for the planning of a new national park. 99pp.

Galliformes

Phasianidae

Ruffed Grouse

(*Bonasa umbellus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Gélinotte huppée

RUGR

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common permanent resident in mixed and deciduous forests often associated with trembling aspen. Found in the southern mainland, southern Mackenzie Mountains and north along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. Outside the Mackenzie Valley, its range does not extend far north or east of Behchokǫ, and the few records from Yellowknife are poorly documented. There are isolated sight records near Inuvik and at Colville Lake. Of the 15 subspecies of ruffed grouse, *B. u. yukonensis* is probably the most likely occurring in the NWT (Rusch et al. 2020).

High count: Ten individuals; 20 July 2000; NNPR (Flat River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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- Rusch, D.H., S. Destefano, M.C. Reynolds and D. Lauten. 2020. Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole and F.B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rufgro.01>

Spruce Grouse

(*Canachites canadensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Tétras du Canada

SPGR

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Common permanent resident in coniferous forest throughout the NWT, north to the treeline at Inuvik and Colville Lake, and it is the most widespread and abundant grouse species in the forested portion of the territory. The subspecies occurring in NWT is the widespread Canada Spruce Grouse, the *C. c. canadensis* subspecies group. Adult males of this group lack the white tail upper coverts and their black rectrices have some red at the tip (this is different from males of the Franklin subspecies group, where the reddish tips are missing). A colour variation of the Canada Spruce Grouse may be considered a valid subspecies (*C. c. osgoodi*) and could be present in western NWT. Plumage on these birds show red marks replaced with grey-cream buff ones (Schroeder et al. 2021).

High count: 100 individuals; 11 October 2014; Mackenzie Highway (Fort Simpson to N'dulee Ferry); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Schroeder, M.A., E.J. Blomberg, D.A. Boag, P. Pyle and M.A. Patten. 2021. Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis*), version 1.1. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sprgro.01.1>

Willow Ptarmigan

(*Lagopus lagopus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Lagopède des saules

WIPT

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Common permanent resident in subarctic and subalpine shrubby habitats north of the treeline on the mainland, including in the Mackenzie and Richardson mountains, and north onto Banks, Melville and Victoria islands. In the winter (November to April) it moves south of the treeline to Yellowknife (where it is usually common to very common every ten years) as well as Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Fort Liard (where abundance varies following a decadal cycle but is typically uncommon). Our birds are members of the *L.l. lagopus* subspecies group (Hannon et al. 2020).

High count: 476 individuals; 19 December 1997; Yellowknife; Audubon CBC Data.

References

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- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (Online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Rock Ptarmigan

(*Lagopus muta*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Lagopède alpin

ROPT

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Permanent resident in tundra habitats above the treeline on the mainland (north coast and south to Lac de Gras and the Thelon River area); in the Mackenzie and Richardson

Mountains, and on the Arctic Islands (Victoria, Banks, Melville, Prince Patrick). Does not appear to regularly move south of the treeline in winter, although it has been reported rarely from Yellowknife (Bromley and Trauger 1981; eBird 2021). Birds ranging in our mountains are considered members of the Beringian subspecies, *L. m. nelsoni*. Birds east of the Mackenzie River are members of the widespread *L. m. rupestris* subspecies group. A third subspecies, the *L. m. macruros*, occurring in Nunavut and northern Greenland also may be present on our northernmost islands (Montgomerie and Holder 2020).

High count: 101 individuals; 27 April 2008; Daring Lake; David Fraser; eBird 2021

References

- Bromley, R.G. and D.L. Trauger. 1981. Birds of Yellowknife: A regional checklist. *Ecology North*. Yellowknife, NWT. 8pp.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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White-tailed Ptarmigan

(*Lagopus leucura*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Lagopède à queue blanche

WTPT

S (TERR)

Local permanent resident in high alpine country in the Mackenzie Mountains, most records are from NNPR (Tsholotsho Plateau, Tundra Ridge, Frost Creek headwaters, Shelf Lake); also Stelfox Mountain (SC, iNaturalist) and Palmer Lake in the central and northern Mackenzie Mountains. Martell et al. (1984) cited a report from Reindeer Station in the Mackenzie Delta in 1934 which is far north of any other sightings and about 80 km east of the Richardson Mountains. Winter distribution is not known in the NWT, but likely moves to lower elevations within the breeding range. The subspecies present in the NWT is *L. l. peninsularis* (Martin et al. 2020).

High count: Seven individuals (family group); 30 August 2014; NNPR (Shelf Lake); David Britton; eBird 2021

References

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- Martin, K., L.A. Robb, S. Wilson and C.E. Brau. 2020. White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P. G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whtpta1.01>

Dusky Grouse

(*Dendragapus obscurus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Tétras sombre

DUGR

(TERR)

Uncommon and local permanent resident in subalpine forest in the southern Mackenzie Mountains including NNPR (Sunblood Mountain, the Gate, Scow Creek, Jackfish Mountain), Nahanni Range (Nahanni Butte) and mountains on the west side of the Liard River at Fort Liard. The subspecies present in the NWT is *D. o. richardsonii* (Zwickel and Bendell 2020).

High count: Seven individuals (family group); 11 September 2002; NNPR (Jackfish Mountain); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Zwickel, F.C. and J.F. Bendell. 2020. Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.dusgro.01>

Sharp-tailed Grouse

(*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Tétras à queue fine

STGR

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Permanent resident in the forested portion of the NWT, north in the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik and Colville Lake. More prone to be found in open forest than other grouse species, it depends on clearings, burns or other openings within the forests for the use of communal leks. The Norman Wells area seems to be a stronghold for this species in the NWT based on eBird and CBC records. NWT birds are considered unique, from a different subspecies than elsewhere: the *T. p. kennicotti* is the darkest coloured, with fewer bars and spots than all others (Connelly et al 2020).

High count: 40 individuals; 21 March 1997; Ray Creek, 30 km northwest of Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

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- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Podicipediformes

Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe

(*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Grèbe à bec bigarré

PBGR

W (FED)

Rare summer resident in ponds and small lakes with emergent vegetation in the southern mainland (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife) and southern Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR – Yohin Lake). Breeding has been confirmed near Fort Liard in 2003 and Fort Simpson in 2016 (eBird 2021). Principal dates: mid-May to late August. The subspecies occurring in the NWT is *P. p. podiceps*, wintering in the US and central America (Muller and Storer 2020).

Early record: 26 April 2019; Hay River; Henry Boden; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 October 2003; one individual; Pine Point mine site; Aaron Marshall; eBird 2021

High count: Eight individuals; 19 June 2015; NNPR (Yohin Lake); Doug Tate, Brent Lewis; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Muller, M.J. and R.W. Storer. 2020. Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole and F.B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.pibgre.01>

Horned Grebe

(*Podiceps auritus*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

**Special Concern, Western Population (COSEWIC
2009)**

Grèbe esclavon

HOGR

Special Concern, Western Population (SARA 2017) I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in shallow freshwater ponds and marshes with emergent vegetation throughout the mainland, north to Mackenzie Delta and Anderson River. A few records above the treeline (Kendall Island, Tuktu Nogait National Park, Lac de Gras). The subspecies occurring in the NWT is *P. a. cornutus*. There are uncertainties about the wintering areas of our populations, whether on the US Pacific or Atlantic coasts, or both (Stedman 2020). Principal dates are early May to late September.

Early record: 30 April 2006; six individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 October 2013; one individual; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 80 individuals; 13 May 2019; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2009. COSEWIC assessment and status report of the Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, Western population and Magdalen Islands population in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii+42pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Stedman, S.J. 2020. Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.horgre.01>

Red-necked Grebe
(*Podiceps grisegena*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Grèbe jougris
RNGR
I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in ponds and small lakes with emergent vegetation throughout the mainland, north to Mackenzie Delta and Anderson and Horton rivers (Fournier and Hines 1998). A few records above the treeline (Kendall Island, Anderson River Delta). Slightly more southerly in its distribution than Horned Grebe. Principal dates: early May to late September, although some birds may linger later on open water. The subspecies occurring in the NWT is *P. g. holbollii*. Wintering areas probably include mostly the North Pacific Coast, but some NWT birds may winter on the Atlantic Coast or the Great Lakes (Stout and Nuechterlein 2020).

Early record: 1 May 1999; four individuals; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 December 1988; one individual; open water in Great Slave Lake 60-80 km south of Yellowknife; Jacques Sirois; Sirois 1991

High count: 90 individuals; 13 May 2019; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Fournier, M.A. and J.E. Hines. 1998. Breeding ecology and status of the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) in the subarctic of the Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 112:474-480.
- Sirois, J. 1991. First record of the Black Guillemot near Yellowknife Northwest Territories, Blue Jay 49:33-34.
- Stout, B.E. and G.L. Nuechterlein 2020. Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.rengre.01>

Eared Grebe
(*Podiceps nigricollis*)
Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Grèbe à cou noir
EAGR
W (FED)

Rare on lakes, rivers and wetlands in the southern part of the NWT, north to Yellowknife. Appears to be an occasional breeder: adults and young were reported without details at the

Slave River Delta in July 1949 (Soper 1957) and an adult with young was seen at Caen Lake on Highway 3 north of Fort Providence on 16 August 2016 (eBird 2021). The latter location has become regular for this species since 2016. Birds occurring in the NWT are the subspecies *P. n. californicus*, wintering in central America (Cullen et al. 2020).

Early record: 9 May 1973; two individuals; Fort Providence (Mackenzie River); Salter et al. 1974.

Late record: 16 August 2016; one adult, one young; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 27 individuals; 13 June 2019; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Occurrences

1. 1860; one individual; Fort Resolution; R. Kennicott; Preble 1908; specimen collected, Smithsonian Cat #A20255
2. July 1949; adults and young, Slave River Delta; Cecil Law; Soper 1957
3. 9 May 1973; two individuals; Fort Providence (Mackenzie River); Salter et al. 1974
4. 13 May 1973; three individuals; Fort Providence (Mackenzie River); Salter et al. 1974
5. 22 May 1979; one individual; Yellowknife; Jenny Clark, Judith Donaldson; Grunberg 1979
6. 13-14 May 2000; one individual; Nahanni NPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
7. c. 2002; one individual; Hay River; NWT-NU Checklist 2003
8. 31 May 2013; one individual; Hay River; Tom Hince and Paul Pratt; Hince 2013
9. 15 May 2014; two individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
10. 4-12 June 2016; up to three individuals; Fort Providence (Dehcho Bridge); Sydney Penner, Doug Tate, eBird 2021. Photographed
11. 4 July - 16 August 2016; up to four individuals Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Doug Tate, Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021. Photographed
12. 1-8 July 2019; up to eight individuals; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
13. 28 May - 1 June 2019; two individuals; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021. Photographed

14. 13-16 June 2019; up to 27 individuals; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed
15. 4 August 2019; one individual; Highway 3 (Chan Lake Territorial Park); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
16. 20 August 2019; two individuals; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
17. 6 June & 24-25 July 2020; up to two individuals; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Columbiformes

Columbidae

Rock Pigeon

(*Columba livia*)

Vagrant (Alien) (GSR 2021)

Pigeon biset

ROPI

Two Rock Pigeons photographed near Hay River in July 2016 (Vizniowski 2016) are believed to be the only documented “wild” occurrence. The closest established breeding population is in Fort McMurray in northern Alberta approximately 500 km to the southeast (eBird 2021). Sirois and McRae (1996) referenced a “small resident population” in Fort Smith, but such a population is no longer extant and no further information is available on it. Birds recorded periodically in Yellowknife are presumed to be free-flying birds from a local pigeon keeper. This species was introduced to North America, from Eurasia, as early as the 1600s (Lowther and Johnson 2020). Subspecies seen in the NWT is unknown.

References

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Eurasian Collared-Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Alien (GSR 2021)

Tourterelle turque

ECDO

Casual visitor (introduced). There are two records, both from Fort Simpson. An individual was observed in Fort Simpson on 8 October 2015 by David Britton and Doug Tate and photographed by Britton (eBird 2021). A second bird was seen by Tate in Fort Simpson the following spring on 4 May 2016 (eBird 2021). This Eurasian species was introduced to the Bahamas and Florida in the mid-1970s but has since spread across much of the North American continent, especially in the west (Romagosa 2020). It is now rare but regular as far north as southern Alaska and Yukon (eBird 2021), so the first NWT record in 2015 was

overdue and future occurrences are expected. The subspecies introduced to North America is *S. d. decaocto*, so this is probably the subspecies seen in the NWT (Romagosa 2020).

References

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Passenger Pigeon

(*Ectopistes migratorius*)

Not Assessed (GSR 2021)

Was casual visitor, now extinct. Formerly only a casual visitor to the NWT prior to the 1860s. There are no breeding records in the NWT. Six NWT records from the Fort Smith area, Fort Simpson and Fort Good Hope were summarized by Schorger (1955). No subspecies were recognized. Once numbered in billions, they nested in very large colonies and had a nomadic habit, ranging in southern Canada, from Alberta to Maritimes, to southern US, from Texas to Florida. Habitat destruction (deforestation) and commercial exploitation (as food and other products) led to their extinction by 1900.

Occurrences

1. 25 July 1789; one individual; Slave River near Fort Smith; Alexander Mackenzie; Mackenzie 1801
2. Spring 1837; one individual; Salt River near Fort Smith; Thomas Simpson; Simpson 1843
3. 29 June 1837; Fort Simpson, reported as a pest in agricultural fields; Thomas Simpson; Simpson 1843
4. 1860 or 1861; one individual; Fort Simpson; *fide* B.R. Ross; Ross 1861. Specimen reported collected
5. 1860 or 1812; “rarely north to Fort Norman” [now Tulita]; *fide* B.R. Ross; Ross 1861
6. 1861 or 1862; one individual; Fort Good Hope; *fide* B.R. Ross; Ross 1861. Specimen reported collected

Tourte voyageuse

PAPI

References

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White-winged Dove

(*Zenaida asiatica*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Tourterelle à ailes blanches

WWDO

Casual visitor. There are three records. On 26 May 2011, an adult was found and photographed by Reid Hildebrandt at Niven Lake in Yellowknife (Eckert 2011, eBird 2021). On 20 June 2013, another bird appeared at the feeder of Chad and Margaret Peterson in the Rat Lake area of Yellowknife and remained for three weeks. It was photographed by Reid Hildebrandt (eBird 2021, Eckert 2014). The third record was a bird present at Sharon Irwin's feeders in Fort Smith on 19-20 May 2017, which was also photographed (eBird 2021). The northern limit of this species' regular range is in the southern United States (Schwertner et al. 2020) but is known to wander widely and there are records from all of the provinces and territories. Subspecies seen in the NWT is uncertain.

References

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Mourning Dove**(*Zenaida macroura*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Tourterelle triste****MODO**

Casual visitor, but now recorded almost annually in the NWT since the early 2000s, with multiple records in many years. No evidence of breeding. Most of the records are from Yellowknife and Fort Simpson, likely reflecting greater observer effort in these communities. This species has also been recorded at, Fort Liard, NNPR, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Łutsel K'e, Reliance, Tulita and Norman Wells. Observations are most frequently made within residential areas in the communities, also recorded in forest openings such as roadsides and burns. This species occurs regularly north to central Alberta and Saskatchewan (eBird 2021). Records range from early May to late October, with an exceptionally late December record from Yellowknife in 2004. The subspecies found in the NWT is probably *S. m. marginella*. The usual breeding range of this subspecies is western Canada to south-central Mexico (Otis et al. 2020). Winters in the US to Panama.

Early record: 7 May 1994; Madeline Lake, D. Robertson (R.G. Bromley notes); 7-9 May 1993; one individual; Yellowknife; D. Muirhead; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 October 2007; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake School); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021. Photographed.

16 December 2004; one individual; Yellowknife; Bas Oosenbrug; eBird 2021

High count: two individuals; 13 June 1908; Hay River; Harry Jones; one reported shot; Soper 1942

two individuals; c.1930; Fort Reliance, East Arm of Great Slave Lake; reported in RCMP diaries, Kelsall et al. 1971

Occurrences

1. 13 June 1908; two individuals; Hay River; Harry Jones; one reported shot; Soper 1942
2. c.1930; two individuals; Fort Reliance, East Arm of Great Slave Lake; reported in RCMP diaries, Kelsall et al. 1971
3. 13 September - 15 October 1940; one individual; Fort Reliance, East Arm of Great Slave Lake; R.W. Thompson; Clarke 1941
4. 18 September 1966, one individual; near Salt River, about 36 km northwest of Fort Smith; Henry Mann; Kuyt 1967

5. Several years prior to 1971; Fort Reliance; East Arm of Great Slave Lake; Ted Butler; Kelsall et al, 1971
6. September - October 1972; one individual; Fort Providence; Salter 1974
7. 7 July 1973; one individual; Norman Wells (burned area 5 mi. east of); Dave Patton; Roe 1975
8. 20 June 1981; one individual; Yellowknife; D. Muirhead; Grünberg 1981
9. 7-9 May 1993; one individual; Yellowknife; D. Muirhead; eBird 2021
10. 15 July 1996; one individual; Łutsel K'e; Warren Witherspoon; eBird 2021
11. 2 June 1999; one individual; Highway 1 at the Alberta border; Eric Tull; eBird 2021
12. 15 June 1999; one individual; Fort Liard; Mike Norton; eBird 2021
13. 10 October 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson (Airport); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
14. 5 June 2002; one individual; Liard Trail near Fort Liard, on the road; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021
15. 5 June 2002; one individual; Highway 1, about 10 km north of Alberta border; Paul Jones; eBird 2021
16. June 2002; one individual; Fort Simpson, Paul Jones; eBird 2021
17. 30 May 2003; one individual; Fort Liard; Craig Machtans, eBird 2021
18. 20-22 June 2004; one individual; Fort Simpson; Edward Cholo, Heather Passmore; Eckert 2004
19. 20 September 2004; one individual; Yellowknife; Bas Oosenbrug; Eckert 2005a
20. 16 December 2004; one individual; Yellowknife; Bas Oosenbrug; eBird 2021
21. May 2005; one individual; Fort Smith; *fide* Sharon Irwin; Eckert 2005b
22. Late May 2005; one individual; Fort Simpson; present for several days; Doug Tate; Eckert 2005b
23. 6 July 2006; one individual; Tulita; Ron Doctor; Eckert 2007a. Photographed
24. 30 August 2006; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate. Glen Sibbeston; Eckert 2007b
25. November 2006; one individual; Fort Simpson; Edward Cholo; Eckert 2007a
26. 8 October 2007; one individual; Yellowknife; Corey Olson; eBird 2021

27. 23 October 2007; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake School); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021. Photographed
28. 12 June 2008; one individual; Fort Providence (Airport); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021
29. Summer, prior to 2009; Dechenla Lodge; Barichello 2009
30. 11 September 2009; one individual; Fort Resolution; R. Hildebrandt; Eckert 2010. Photographed
31. 20 May 2010; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021
32. 30 May 2010; one individual; Norman Wells, Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021
33. July 2011; one individual; Yellowknife, present for several days; Jo Kelly. Eckert 2011
34. 7 November 2011; one individual; Yellowknife; Krista Amey. Eckert 2011
35. 16 May 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Calder Cr.); Vicki St. Germaine; eBird 2021, Eckert 2013
36. 29 May 2012; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; Eckert 2013
37. 31 May 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson (Four Mile); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
38. 25 September 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Wilkinson Cr.); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021. Photographed
39. 25 May 2013; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021
40. 8 August 2014; one individual; Yellowknife (Parker Park); Bonnie Fournier, Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
41. 26 May 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021
42. 15 June 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson, Sara Gordon, eBird 2021
Photographed
43. 13-14 May 2017; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
Photographed
44. 2 June 2017; one individual; Fort Liard; Kristina Hick, Graham Sorenson; eBird 2021
45. 14 September 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Utsingi Drive); Tiarella Hanna; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
46. 9 June 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Finlayson Drive); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Caprimulgiformes

Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk

(Chordeiles minor)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2018)

Threatened (SARA 2010)

Engoulevent d'Amérique

CONI

S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in open areas such as burns and woodland clearings throughout the southern mainland, regularly as far north as Norman Wells and Gamètì (eBird 2021). Exceptionally north to Fort Good Hope (Martell et al. 1984) and Kendall Island in the Mackenzie Delta where a nest with two downy young was reported (eBird 2021). Occasionally seen passing over in flocks in migration in the evenings in late July and early August. The subspecies occurring in the NWT is *C. m. minor*; its plumage is the darkest of all nine subspecies. Winters in South America (Brigham et al. 2020). Principal dates: early June to late August.

Early record: 21 April 1994; two at Fort Providence; CWS records, observers' initials PL; 23 May 2012; one individual; Yellowknife River Bridge; NWT-NU Checklist; eBird 2021

Late record: 14 September 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Jackfish Lake); John Stephenson, Personal communication 2020

High count: 75 individuals; 30 July 2012; Yellowknife (Fritz Field, Old Town); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Apodiformes

Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

(Archilochus colubris)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Colibri à gorge rubis

RTHU

(FED)

Casual visitor. Its presence in the NWT was not confirmed until a male was videotaped at a feeder in Hay River on 13 August 2019 by Cassandra English (Facebook 2019). Two other records come from Norman Wells (NWT Species Infobase), where Angie Denslow has shared documentation of two female birds, one on 6 August 2017 and the other on 3 September 2021 (WGGSNS 2022). A couple hummingbird sightings from Yellowknife may also have been this species. It occurs north to Fort St. John in northeastern British Columbia and at least occasionally to Peace River and Fort MacMurray in Alberta. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico and Central America.

References

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Calliope Hummingbird

(Selasphorus rufus)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Colibri calliope

CAHU

(FED)

Casual visitor. On 30 May 2002, a Calliope Hummingbird was observed feeding on willow florets at Fort Liard by Jason Duxbury and C. Stambough (Canadian Wildlife Service field crew) and described in detail (eBird 2021). An adult male was also photographed, circa 2016, by Debbie McArthur in Fort Smith (Facebook NWT Species). This species occurs as close to this location as the Fort St. John area in northeastern British Columbia, about 450 km to the south of the NWT border. (eBird 2021). No subspecies described. Winters in Mexico.

References

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Rufous Hummingbird

(*Selasphorus calliope*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Colibri roux

RUHU

(FED)

Casual visitor. Hummingbirds are reported nearly annually in the NWT, particularly in late summer and early fall, but often without substantial details. Of these, the majority of the reports seem to pertain to this species which occurs as close to the NWT as the Fort St. John area in northeastern British Columbia, about 450 km to the south of the NWT border. (eBird 2021). Many of the sightings lack documentation, but one was videotaped at Nahanni Butte in 2009 to substantiate this species' occurrence in the NWT. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico.

Occurrences

1. 2 June 2001; one individual; 3.7 kms North of Fort Liard Junction; Laird Law; eBird 2021; NWT-NU Bird Checklist Newsletter
2. 5 August 2009; one female-type; Nahanni Butte; Wesley Marcellais; Eckert 2010. Videotaped
3. 9 August 2013; one individual; Ingraham Trail (Pontoon Lake); Steve Moore; eBird 2021
4. 3 July 2014; one male; Inuvik; Timothy Giilk; Facebook 2014. Photographed

References

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- NWT-NU Bird Checklist Newsletter. 2003. Canadian Wildlife Service. Yellowknife, NT.

Gruiformes

Rallidae

Sora

(*Porzana carolina*)

Secure (GWR 2021)

Marouette de Caroline

SORA

G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation throughout the southern mainland and southern Mackenzie Mountains, with its range also extending north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Norman Wells area. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in southern US, Mexico and central America (Melvin and Gibbs 2020). Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 26 April 2011; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 12 October 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Stephen Fochuk; Facebook 2018.

High count: 29 individuals; June 2004; Fort Providence (Breeding Bird Survey Route); Pardieck et al. 2015.

References

- Melvin, S.M. and J.P. Gibbs. 2020. Sora (*Porzana carolina*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sora.01>
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American Coot

(*Fulica americana*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Foulque d'Amérique

AMCO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in wetlands with emergent vegetation in the southern mainland and southern Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR – Yohin Lake, Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith) with more northerly records in the Norman Wells area and at Inuvik. The subspecies occurring in the NWT is *F.a. americana*. They winter in southern Canada, the US and central America (Brisbin and Mowbray 2020). Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 14 April 2000, Yellowknife Bird Arrivals, R.G. Bromely; 26 April 2003; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 14 October 2021; four individuals; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 250 individuals (aerial survey); 10 September 1972; Mills Lake; Salter 1974

References

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Yellow Rail

(*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2001)

Special Concern (SARA 2003)

Râle jaune

YERA

W (FED)

Rare and local summer breeder in wet sedge meadows in the southern mainland with records from the Slave River Delta (Preble 1908), Little Buffalo River (Seton 1908, Soper 1942, Stewart 1966), the Fox Holes near Fort Smith, near Checkpoint, near Hay River, along Highway 3 north of Fort Providence and on the North Arm of Great Slave Lake (eBird 2021). A large population was recently (McLeod et al. 2021) discovered in the Edéhzhíe protected area, with an estimated population of over 900 individuals. The most northerly individual was recorded near Fort Good Hope (Hache S. and R.F. Pankratz unpublished data). In the southern Mackenzie Mountains, it has been recorded several times at Yohin Lake in NNPR (eBird 2021). Breeding not confirmed but probable. The subspecies found in the NWT is *C. n. noveboracensis*, Northern Yellow Rail. Winters in the south-east US (Leston and Bookhout 2020). Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 16 May 1998; one individual; Miller Creek, North Arm of Great Slave Lake; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 July 2005; one individual; NNPR (Yohin Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: Six individuals; 27 June 2016; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; David Britton; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2001. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii+62pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)
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- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabaska-Mackenzie region. *North American Fauna*, No. 27. 574pp.
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- Stewart, R.E. 1966. Notes on birds and other animals in the Slave River – Little Buffalo River area, NWT. *Blue Jay* 24: 22-32.

Gruidae

Sandhill Crane

(*Antigone canadensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Grue du Canada

SACR

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in wetlands throughout the mainland portion of the NWT and north onto Banks and Victoria Islands. Our birds are part of a large “interior” group breeding from eastern Siberia to the Hudson Bay, all wintering in southern Texas and northern Mexico. This group is divided by some authors into two subspecies: the *A.c. rowani*, breeding in our forested regions and the *A.c. canadensis*, breeding on the tundra (Gerber et al. 2020). Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 15 April 2015; two individuals; Nahanni Butte; NNPR staff; eBird 2021

Late record: 6 October 2019; three individuals; Yellowknife (dump); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 480 individuals; 30 April 2000; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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- Gerber, B.D., J.F. Dwyer, S.A. Nesbitt, R.C. Drewien, C.D. Littlefield, T.C. Tacha and P.A. Vohs. 2020. Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.sancra.01>

Whooping Crane

(*Grus americana*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Endangered (COSEWIC 2010)

Endangered (SARA 2003)

Grue blanche

WHCR

(FED)

Rare migrant and breeder. Formerly an uncommon but widespread breeder across the northern edge of the Great Plains, by the 1950s numbers had declined to less than twenty. At this time, its last remaining nesting ground was discovered in Wood Buffalo National Park, this species has been the subject of one of the most comprehensive conservation programs in history and the Wood Buffalo population now numbers approximately 400 individuals. It nests in shallow, marl-bottomed wetlands in and adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park in an area between the headwaters of the Nyarling, Sass, Klewi, and Little Buffalo Rivers. This population winters at Arkansas on the Gulf Coast of Texas. There have been occasional reports (both historical and recent) elsewhere in the NWT, but few are well-documented (13-15 May 1987, banded female seen on Willow Flats, Yellowknife River, Latham Island and golf course; Yellowknifer newspaper clipping 20 May 1987, R.G. Bromley notes). Confusion with Sandhill Cranes is always possible. No subspecies described. Principal dates are late April to early October.

Early record: 13 April 1996; unknown count; Fort Smith; Larry Grey; Parks Canada, unpublished data

Late record: 20 November 2021 (Conkin 2021); one individual; Wood Buffalo National Park; CWS telemetry data

References

- Conkin, J. 2021. Canadian Wildlife Service, unpublished data. Pers. comm. 10 December 2021.
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Charadriiformes

Recurvirostridae

American Avocet

(*Recurvirostra americana*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Avocette d'Amérique

AMAV

W (FED)

Rare and local migrant and breeder at the Fox Holes near Fort Smith. American Avocets were discovered in this area in 1988 and breeding was confirmed on 30 May 1991 (Kuyt and Johns 1992). The breeding location is quite remote from road access and not visited regularly, but repeated sightings from the general area suggest that it is probably regular here in small numbers. There are also specimens reported taken at Behchokǫ and Fort Resolution from the mid-1800s (Preble 1908). Recent extralimital records are: two birds at Yellowknife on 18 May 2016 and four birds at Hay River on 21 May 2019 (eBird 2021). All reported sightings are from May. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds are probably part of the “interior” population, wintering in Mexico, and the Atlantic and Gulf coasts (Ackerman et al. 2020).

Early record: 4 May 2016; eight individuals; Fox Holes, 40 km west of Fort Smith; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 May 1991; six nests; Fox Holes, 40 km west of Fort Smith; Ernie Kuyt and Brian Johns; Kuyt and Johns 1992

High count: 47 individuals; 20 May 1991; Fox Holes, 40 km west of Fort Smith; Ernie Kuyt and Brian Johns; Kuyt and Johns 1992

References

- Ackerman, J.T., C.A. Hartman, M.P. Herzog, J.Y. Takekawa, J.A. Robinson, L.W. Oring, J.P. Skorupa and R. Boettcher. 2020. American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.ameavo.01>

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Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover

(Pluvialis squatarola)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Pluvier argenté

BBPL

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder on the north coast and Victoria, Banks and Melville Islands in lowland tundra habitats. Uncommon migrant in the southern mainland (Norman Wells, Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Yellowknife). No subspecies are recognized. Wintering areas for our birds may be extensive and include Pacific, Gulf and Atlantic coastal regions to central and South American coasts (Poole et al. 2020). For example, birds tracked from Bathurst Island (NU) had a St-Lawrence River (QC) stop-over then wintered in the Caribbean to the coast of Brazil (Smith 2016). Principal dates are late May to mid-September.

Early record: 30 April 2017; one individual; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 September 2000; two individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 30 individuals; 3 July 1981; SW Banks Island: Cape Kellett; David Holyoak; eBird 2021

References

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American Golden-Plover**(*Pluvialis dominica*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Pluvier bronzé****AMGP****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common breeder in rocky dry tundra above the treeline on Banks, Melville and Victoria Islands, on the north coast, the mainland barrens (Lac de Gras, Thelon River area) and possibly in alpine tundra in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. Fairly common migrant throughout the southern mainland, often in flocks. No subspecies are recognized. Wintering areas are mostly southern Brazil to Argentina (Johnson et al. 2021). Principal dates are mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 8 May 1972; one individual; Fort Good Hope; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 September 2000; two individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 256 individuals; 27 May 2018; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

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Pacific Golden-Plover**(*Pluvialis fulva*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Pluvier fauve****PAGP-****(FED)**

Accidental. An individual of this species was photographed in Tuktoyaktuk by Doug McRae on 11 June 2006 (Eckert 2007). This species breeds on the Bering Coast of Alaska and migrates along the Pacific Coast (eBird 2021), so it was quite far east of its usual range in this location.

References

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Semipalmated Plover

(*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pluvier semipalmé

SEPL

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder on Banks and Victoria Islands on well-drained gravel areas, sand dunes, beaches and heath-lichen tundra above the treeline on the mainland. Occasionally breeds in suitable habitat (open areas of sand or gravel, such as riverbanks, borrow pits and lakeshores) south of the treeline. No subspecies are recognized. Wintering areas are vast, from Pacific and Atlantic coasts in central America to the Atlantic coast in South America (Nol et al. 2020). Birds nesting in the Mackenzie Delta were tracked to a wintering area in northeast South America and the Caribbean and birds nesting in Barrow (Alaska) were shown to use the Mackenzie Valley as a migration corridor (Brown et al. 2017). Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 9 May 2017; four individuals; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Ryan Demong; eBird 2021

Late record: 5 September 2013; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake); Josh Sullivan; eBird 2021

High count: 50 individuals; 3 June 1993; Anderson River Delta; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

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Killdeer

(*Charadrius vociferus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pluvier kildir

KILL

I, G, S, W (FED)

Migrant and breeder in open areas such as sandbars, mudflats and human-modified habitats like athletic fields, airports, golf courses in the southern mainland (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Behchokǫ and Yellowknife). Scattered records north in the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik (eBird 2021), the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktoyaktuk (Eckert 2007b). The subspecies present in the NWT is *C. v. vociferus*, which winters in south to northwestern South America (Jackson and Jackson 2020). Principal dates from early May to mid-August.

Early record: 11 April 2007; one individual; Trout Lake; Dennis Deneron; Eckert 2007a

Late record: 20 September 1976; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Wayne Neily; eBird 2021

High count: 12 individuals; 12 June 1978; Pine Point mine site; C.H.G. Schmidt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2007a. Northern Canada. North American Birds 61(3):463-464.
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- Jackson, B.J. and J.A. Jackson. 2020. Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole and F.B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.killde.01>

Eurasian Dotterel

(*Charadrius morinellus*)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Accidental. One was described by Jacques Sirois in a mixed flock of shorebirds at Niven Lake in Yellowknife on 19 May 1994 (R.G. Bromley notes, Sirois and McRae 1996). This species breeds in northern Eurasia and is a very rare visitor to North America, mainly western Alaska, although there are two other Canadian records from British Columbia and Ontario.

1. 19 May 1994 – Niven Lake, Yellowknife, (J. Sirois, R.G. Bromley notes and in Sirois and McRae 1996).

References

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Gravelot guignard

EUDO

Scolopacidae

Upland Sandpiper

(*Bartramia longicauda*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Maubèche des champs

UPSA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and local breeder in open habitats in widely scattered locations (airports at Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Norman Wells, alluvial fans and alpine tundra in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains), occasionally north to the Inuvik area. No subspecies are recognized but our birds are part of disjunct breeding populations found in northwestern North America. The wintering area includes southern Brazil to Argentina (Houston et al 2020). Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 15 May 2015; two individuals; Fort Smith (Airport); David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 August 2019; one individual; Fort Smith; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 23 May 2000; Gafe River, 50 km southwest of Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

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- Houston, C.S., C. Jackson and D.E. Bowen Jr. 2020. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.uplsan.01>

Whimbrel

(*Numenius phaeopus*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Courlis corlieu

WHIM

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in subarctic tundra and taiga along the north coast (Kendall Island, east to the Horton River), occasionally north to Banks Island (Manning et al. 1956). Summer records from the mainland barrens east of Great Slave Lake (Thelon and Dubawnt rivers) suggest breeding may occur here as well. Uncommon spring migrant throughout the NWT south of the breeding range, rare fall migrant. Often observed in open areas such as airports or fields in the communities. NWT birds are the *N. p. hudsonicus*, Hudsonian Whimbrel subspecies. They winter in South America (Skeel and Malory 2020). Principal dates are mid-May to early August.

Early record: 10 May 2006; two individuals; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 August 1972; one individual; Fort Good Hope; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

High count: 60 individuals; 8 June 1997; Anderson River Bird Sanctuary; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

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Eskimo Curlew

(*Numenius borealis*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Endangered (COSEWIC 2009)

Endangered (SARA 2003)

Courlis esquimaau

ESCU

(FED)

Former migrant and breeder, now almost certainly extinct. The only confirmed nesting locations for this species are within the NWT, along the north coast between the Anderson River Delta and the mouth of the Horton River; and in the mainland barrens at Point Lake, about 250 km southeast of Great Bear Lake. Breeding range may have been continuous between these points (Gollop et al. 1986, Gill et al. 1998). Preble (1908) reported that specimens had been taken in the 1800s at Fort Resolution, Big Island, Fort Simpson, Anderson River, Rendezvous Lake and Fort Good Hope. There were no subspecies recognized; they wintered in Argentina (COSEWIC 2009).

References

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Long-billed Curlew

(*Numenius americanus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Courlis à long bec

LBCU

(FED)

Accidental. An individual was photographed at the Fort Smith airport in late May 2004 by Louis Mercredi (Eckert 2004). The closest this species' regular breeding range comes to the NWT is the prairies of southern Alberta, although it has been occasionally recorded as far north as Edmonton (eBird 2021). The subspecies seen in the NWT is probably *N. a. parvus*. Breeds in southwestern Canada and northwestern US. Winters from California to Mexico.

References

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Hudsonian Godwit

(*Limosa haemastica*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Threatened (COSEWIC 2019)

Barge hudsonienne

HUGO

I, G (FED)

Uncommon breeder in muskeg, bogs and sedge meadows around the treeline on the north coast (Mackenzie Delta, Anderson River Delta), has also bred on West Mirage Islands in Great Slave Lake (Trauger and Bromley 1976). Rare spring migrant, most records are from Yellowknife, also reported from Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Délîne, very few fall migration records in the south (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized but our breeding birds are members of a distinct population that migrates in the fall through Hudson Bay then makes flights across the Atlantic to arrive in the wintering grounds from

Argentina to Tierra Del Fuego. The return migration in spring occurs along the south Pacific Coast then north mid-continent (COSEWIC 2019, Walker et al 2020) to reach breeding areas in Alaska and Hudson Bay. Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 17 May 2008; one individual; Yellowknife; Bob Reid; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 September 2021; two individuals; Yellowknife (Fiddler's Lake); Nicholis Wasalik; eBird 2021

High count: 15 individuals; 10 June 2005; Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary; Nathan Senner; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2019. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xi+50pp. (Species at Risk Public Registry).
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- Walker, B.M., N.R. Senner, C.S. Elphick and J. Klima. 2020. Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.hudgod.01>

Ruddy Turnstone

(*Arenaria interpres*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Tournepierre à collier

RUTU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in wet tundra in lowlands and foothills on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Banks, Melville, Victoria) and on the north coast. Uncommon migrant on the north coast and through the southern mainland portion of the NWT in spring (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Yellowknife, Norman Wells), rare in fall migration in the south. Most of our breeding birds are *A. i. morinella*, the subspecies nesting south of 75°N. These birds winter on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and along both coasts of South America. The *A. i. interpres* subspecies is nesting further north in the High Arctic Islands, but the area of demarcation is uncertain. This subspecies winters in Europe to Africa and maybe elsewhere in Eurasia (Nettleship 2020). Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 23 May 2005; two individuals; Anderson River Delta; Billy Jacobson; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 August 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Tamara Derkowski; Facebook 2021

High count: 15 individuals; 30 May 2001; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

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Red Knot

(*Calidris canutus*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

(*C. c. islandica*)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2020)

Special Concern (SARA 2012)

(*C. c. rufa*)

Endangered (COSEWIC 2020)

Bécasseau maubèche

REKN

I (FED)

Rare and local breeder on sparsely vegetated, dry tundra ridges on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Eglinton, Victoria). Casual migrant in the southern mainland: there are records of single birds at Yellowknife on 1 June 1985 and 29-30 May 2019; at Fort Simpson on 2 June 2001 and at Hay River on 1 June 2020 (eBird 2021). Two subspecies are considered breeding in the NWT: the *C. c. islandica* breeds on the High Arctic Islands and winters in Europe, and *C. c. rufa* pairs breed at mid-latitudes on the Arctic Islands (Banks, Victoria Islands) and probably winters in the Gulf of Mexico (Baker et al. 2020). Other *rufa* populations nesting elsewhere in Canada (mostly in NU) fly further to eastern South America in winter (COSEWIC 2020).

Early record: 29-30 May 2019; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 September 1972; 30 individuals; Toker Point, 30 km north of Tuktoyaktuk; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

*High count: 30 individuals; 4 September 1972; Toker Point, 30 km north of Tuktoyaktuk;
Michael Shepard; eBird 2021*

References

- COSEWIC. 2020. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, *islandica* subspecies (*Calidris canutus islandica*), *roselaari* subspecies (*Calidris canutus roselaari*) and *rufa* subspecies (*Calidris canutus rufa*) in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xxxv + 173pp. www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/red-knot-2020.html
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- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Surfbird

(*Calidris virgata*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau du ressac

SURF

(FED)

Rare, probable breeder in appropriate habitat. This species nests on high alpine scree in the Richardson Mountains in the Yukon adjacent to the border and has long been suspected of breeding in the NWT. Its presence in the NWT was confirmed when Tom Field and Geraldine King observed two Surfbirds on the top of a shaley mountain along the Dempster Highway on 24 July 2018 (eBird 2021). There is also one report of a possible Surfbird in the Mackenzie Delta by Robert Brun on 15 June 2003 from the NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey (CWS, unpublished data). The NWT Species Infobase references a Yellowknife record (NWT Species Infobase) as well, but no information is available on this occurrence. No subspecies recognized. Breeds in Alaska and Yukon. Winters along the Pacific coast of both North and South America.

References

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- WGGSNS. 2022. NWT Species Infobase. www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/biodiversity/nwt-species-infobase

Stilt Sandpiper**(*Calidris himantopus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Bécasseau à échasses****STSA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common breeder in wet tundra on the Beaufort Sea coast and southern Victoria Island. Breeding season records from the mainland barrens (Lac de Gras, Thelon and Dubawnt Rivers) suggest breeding may occur here as well. Uncommon migrant through the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in Central and South America (Klima et al. 2020). Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 10 May 2006; two individuals; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 12 September 1996; one individual; Lac de Gras; Steve Moore; eBird 2021

High count: 50 individuals; 6 August 1990; Tuktoyaktuk; Paul Mackenzie; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Klima, J. and J.R. Jehl Jr. 2020. Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.stisan.01>

Sanderling**(*Calidris alba*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Bécasseau sanderling****SAND****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Uncommon breeder in coastal tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria), rarely on the north coast (Bathurst Peninsula and Franklin Bay). Rare migrant in the mainland south of the breeding grounds (Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Yellowknife, Norman Wells, Lac de Gras, Inuvik) although recent observations suggest a movement of juveniles through the Great Slave Lake area in August and early September. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in Central and South America. Principal dates are early June to early September.

Early record: 28 May 2001; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 September 2019; six individuals; Hay River (beach); Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 28 July 1981; Cape Kellett, sw. Banks Island; David Holyoak; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Dunlin

(*Calidris alpina*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Rare on the north coast with records from Tuktoyaktuk; Richards Island, near the Blow River and Inuvik (Martell et al. 1984) as well as Kendall Island and the Anderson River Delta (eBird 2021). Also reported on Banks Island (Manning et al. 1956, eBird 2021). The only confirmed breeding records are of a female and three downy young collected on Baillie Island off the tip of Cape Bathurst on 2 July 1912 (Godfrey 1995, CMNAV #8107-8110). During surveys in the Lac de Gras area a total of 32 Dunlin were observed from 2-24 June 1995. Birds were observed displaying and nine territories were identified with breeding suspected but not confirmed in four (Anonymous 1995, eBird 2021). Very rare migrant further south (Colville Lake, East Mirage Island in Great Slave Lake, Hay River, Highway 5 near Fort Smith, eBird 2021). Birds nesting in the Inuvialuit Region are considered a western extension of the Hudsonian subspecies *C. a. hudsonia*; they are found on the barrenlands from the west and south sides of Hudson Bay and winter on the Atlantic coast (Warnock and Gill 2020). Our Inuvialuit population could also be an eastern extension of the Alaskan *C. a. arcticola* subspecies, in which case they would winter in Asia, on the coasts of Japan and China (Fernandez et al 2010). Dunlins breeding on the barrenlands in the NWT (if confirmed) are probably of the Hudsonian subspecies. Principal dates are early June to early August.

Early record: 3 June 1995; seven individuals; Lac de Gras; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

Late record: 5 August 2005; one individual; Whitefish Lake, SE of Artillery Lake; Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

High count: 13 individuals; 4 June 1995; Lac de Gras; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

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Purple Sandpiper

(*Calidris maritima*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau violet

PUSA

I (FED)

Rare and local breeder on tundra in the high Arctic on Melville (Payne and Pierce 2020) and Banks (Henry and Mico 2002) islands and probably Prince Patrick (pairs and adults performing distraction displays observed, eBird 2021). No records south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. This species winters on the Atlantic Coast, so it likely enters and leaves the NWT via coastal areas of NU. Principal dates are mid-June to mid-July.

Early record: 20 June 2007; two individuals; Prince Patrick Island; eBird 2021

Late record: 12 July 1995; one individual; Muskox River, Aulavik National Park, Banks Island; David Henry; eBird 2021

High count: Four individuals; 25 June 2007; Melville Island; eBird 2021

References

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Baird's Sandpiper

(*Calidris bairdii*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau de Baird

BASA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder on dry tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) and the north coast. Fairly common migrant throughout the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Migrates in central North America, and winters in southern regions of South America. Principal dates mid-May to early September.

Early record: 10 May 1998; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); eBird 2021

Late record: 19 September 2003; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 70 individuals; 2 June 2020; Yellowknife (Airport); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Least Sandpiper

(*Calidris minutilla*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau minuscule

LESA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds on tundra around wetlands and on beaches on the north coast and sporadically southwards, including at Great Bear Lake, Lac de Gras, the Thelon River (eBird 2021), NNPR (Scotter et al. 1985) and West Mirage Islands in Great Slave Lake (Trauger and Bromley 1976). Reported from Aulavik National Park on Banks Island (Henry and Mico 2002). Fairly common migrant throughout the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from southern US to northern South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 2 May 2002; two individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 5 September 2020; one individual; Highway 3 Mackenzie River Bridge; Vince Hiebert; eBird 2021

High count: 200 individuals; 3 June 1993; Anderson River Delta; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Henry, J.D. and M. Mico. 2002. Relative abundance, habitat use, and breeding status of the birds in Aulavik National Park, Banks Island, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 116(3): 393-407.
- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.
- Trauger, D.L. and R.G. Bromley. 1976. Additional bird observations on the West Mirage Islands, Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 90:114-122.

White-rumped Sandpiper

(*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau à croupion blanc

WRSA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds on wet tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) and on the north coast. Uncommon migrant in the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters near eastern coastal regions at the southern end of South America. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 19 May 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 1996; two individuals; Lac de Gras; Steve Moore; eBird 2021

High count: 32 individuals; 10 June 2020; Hay River Chicken Dump; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Buff-breasted Sandpiper**(*Calidris subruficollis*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Special Concern (COSEWIC 2012)****Special Concern (SARA 2017)****Bécasseau roussâtre****BBSA****I (FED)**

Breeds on tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) and on the north coast (Anderson River Delta, Cape Bathurst). Rare migrant in open, dry grassy areas (e.g. airports, golf courses, sports fields) on the mainland south of the breeding range in spring (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Norman Wells, Hay River, Yellowknife), occasionally in small flocks. Very few fall migration records in the south. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from central to southern South America. Principal dates late May to mid-August.

Early record: 20 May 2018; five individuals; Yellowknife (Range Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 8 September 1984; two individuals; Slave River South of Fort Resolution; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 30 May 2001; Fort Liard; Sandra Kinsey; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x+44pp. (registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Pectoral Sandpiper**(*Calidris melanotos*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Bécasseau à poitrine cendrée****PESA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds on the wet tundra on Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) and on the north coast. Fairly common migrant on the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in southern South America. Principal dates mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 2 May 2002; three individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 September 2000; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 53 individuals; 3 September 2016; Hay River Chicken Dump; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Semipalmated Sandpiper

(*Calidris pusilla*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Breeds near water on tundra in the Arctic Islands (Banks, Victoria), north coast and southwards into the mainland barrens at least as far south as Lac de Gras (eBird 2021). Uncommon migrant on the mainland south of the breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in coastal Central and South America. Principal dates late May to mid-August.

Early record: 2 May 2002; four individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Widerspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 September 2019; one individual; Hay River (beach); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 100 individuals; 7 August 1972; Inuvik; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Western Sandpiper

(*Calidris mauri*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau d'Alaska

WESA

(FED)

Casual visitor. Höhn and Robinson (1951) reported sightings at Fort Resolution, Little Buffalo River and Fort Rae (now Behchokq) in late May and early June of 1949. Scotter et al. (1985) provided several reports from the mid-1970s in NNPR and there is a record from Dechenla Lodge (eBird 2021). There are several reports from Inuvik (Grunberg 1984, eBird 2021) and Martel et al (1984) considered it to be a rare migrant in the Mackenzie Delta region. It is perhaps to be most regularly expected in this area as it occurs regularly along the Beaufort Sea coast of Alaska. Henry and Mico (2002) reported three juveniles near the Thomsen River in Aulavik National Park on Banks Island on 2 August 1995. No subspecies

recognized. Breeds in western Alaska. Winters mostly on Pacific coasts of North and South America. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Occurrences

1. 26-27 May 1949; "in some numbers"; Fort Resolution; Höhn and Robinson 1951
2. 29 May 1949; mouth of the Little Buffalo River; Höhn and Robinson 1951
3. 8 June 1949; several; Fort Rae [now Behchoko]; Höhn and Robinson 1951
4. 20 August 1974; one individual; NNPR (Nahanni Hot Springs); Lou Carbyn; Scotter et al. 1985. "Possible"
5. 11-12 August 1976; one individual; NNPR (Prairie Creek); David Henry; Scotter et al. 1985. Detailed description
6. 8 July 1977; one individual; NNPR (confluence of Flat & S. Nahanni); David Henry; Scotter et al. 1985
7. 23 July 1987; one breeding plumage adult; Oldsquaw Lodge [now Dechenla Lodge]; Brian Self; eBird 2021
8. 18 August 1991; one individual; Inuvik (sewage lagoons); Dennis Forsythe; eBird 2021
9. 2 June 1995; three juveniles; Thomsen River, Aulavik National Park, Banks Island; Henry and Mico 2002
10. 13 August 1997; one individual; Inuvik; Cameron Eckert and Pam Sinclair; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Grunberg, H. 1984. Northwestern Canada region. *American Birds* 38(4): 935.
- Henry, J.D. and M. Mico. 2002. Relative abundance, habitat use, and breeding status of the birds in Aulavik National Park, Banks Island, Northwest Territories. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 116(3): 393-407.
- Höhn, E.O. and D.L. Robinson. 1951. Some supplementary bird notes from the general area of the Mackenzie Delta and Great Slave Lake. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 65:115-118.
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. *Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region*. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Short-billed Dowitcher

(*Limnodromus griseus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Bécassin roux

SBDO

S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant in the southern part of the NWT, at least as far north as Mac Pass and Palmer Lake in the Mackenzie Mountains and exceptionally north to Colville Lake (eBird 2021). The expected subspecies is *L. g. hengersoni*, which breeds in bogs and muskeg in the northern prairies. The NWT reports suggest that its breeding range may extend further north than this, although confirmed breeding evidence is yet to be documented in the NWT. The *hengersoni* most probably winters on the Atlantic coasts of North and Central America. This species is often confused with Long-billed Dowitchers, which are known to breed north in the Mackenzie Delta. Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 16 May 1997; three individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

Late record: 1 September 2017; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 16 individuals; 17 May 1996; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Long-billed Dowitcher

(*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

Undetermined (SGR 2021)

Bécassin à long bec

LBDO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in wet grassy meadows along the north coast (Kendall Island, Anderson River, Franklin Bay). Rare migrant on the mainland south of the breeding range, although possibly underreported due to confusion with short-billed dowitcher. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in southern US and Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 13 May 2000; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 24 September 2015; one individual; Mackenzie River 60 km west of Fort Providence; Josh Sullivan; eBird 2021

High count: 100 individuals; 15 May 2012; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Aaron Donahue; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Wilson's Snipe

(*Gallinago delicata*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bécassine de Wilson

WISN

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in bogs, fens, shrubby swamps and marshy edges of ponds, streams and rivers throughout the mainland including the mainland barrens (Snap Lake, Lac de Gras, Thelon River, Taltson River) and the north coast (Kendall Island, Tuktoyaktuk, Anderson River Delta). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in the southern US to northern South America. Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 4 April 1993; Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, K. Poole, S. Fleck, and P. Nicklen; 14 April 1993; Yellowknife Bay, S. Fleck (R.G. Bromley notes); 16 April 1994, Prelude Lake, S. Fleck (R.G. Bromley notes); 18 April 2003; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 5 October 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Syd Cannings; eBird 2021

High count: 73 individuals; June 2004; Fort Providence (Breeding Bird Survey Route); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/.

Wilson's Phalarope**(*Phalaropus tricolor*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Phalarope de Wilson****WIPH****S, W (FED)**

Rare transient and breeder in larger wetlands in the southern part of the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Yohin Lake in NNPR) which comprises the northernmost extremity of this prairie species' range. The first sighting in the NWT was at the Fox Holes near Fort Smith in 1977 and breeding was confirmed when a nest was found there on 29 May 1984 (Pankratz and Kuyt 1986). Pairs have been seen in several other locations in May-June and juveniles in July, suggesting regular but rare breeding in the NWT. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in South America. Principal dates are mid-May to late July.

Early record: 9 May 2018; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 14 August 2019; one individual; Hay River, Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: eight individuals; 17 May 1988; Fort Smith (Fox Holes); Ernie Kuyt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pankratz, H and E. Kuyt. 1986. Occurrence in Northern Alberta and First Breeding Record for the NWT of Wilson's Phalarope. Alberta Naturalist 16(1):9-10.

Red-necked Phalarope**(*Phalaropus lobatus*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Special Concern (COSEWIC 2014)****Special Concern (SARA 2019)****Phalarope à bec étroit****RNPH****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds on tundra near lakes and ponds on the Arctic Islands (Banks, Victoria, possibly Prince Patrick) on the north coast (Kendall Island, Tuktoyaktuk, Anderson River Delta, Cape Parry) and in alpine tundra in the northern Mackenzie Mountains south at least to the MacMillan Pass and Dechenla Lodge area (eBird 2021). Has also been confirmed nesting on the West Mirage Islands in Great Slave Lake (four eggs on 29 June 1969, R.G. Bromley notes; Weller et al. 1969). Uncommon migrant on water bodies on the mainland south of the

breeding range. No subspecies are recognized. Winters at sea, off the Pacific coasts of Mexico to South America. Principal dates are late May to early September.

Early record: 10 May 2006; one individual; Lynx Lake in the Thelon R. drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 September 2004; nine individuals; Délîne; Sam de Beer; eBird 2021

High count: 250 individuals; 27 June 2014; Niglintgak Island; Mackenzie Delta; Alvan Buckley; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2014. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Red-neck Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x+52pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Weller, M.W., D.L. Trauger and G.L. Krapu. 1969. Breeding birds of the West Mirage Islands, Great Slave Lake, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 83(4):344-360

Red Phalarope

(*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Phalarope à bec large

REPH

I (FED)

Breeds on tundra in the Arctic Islands (Melville, Banks, Victoria, probably Prince Patrick) and sporadically on the north coast (Franklin Bay) (Godfrey 1995). There are a handful of records from the Mackenzie Delta area, including Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, but only two inland records: two birds recorded at Daring Lake in the mainland barrens region on 13 June 2000 and one photographed in fall migration at the Gate in NNPR on 6 September 2016. No subspecies are recognized. Winters at sea off the Pacific coasts of Mexico to South America, some also winters on the Atlantic, off the coast of southern US. Primary dates are mid-June to mid-August.

Early record: 8 June 2006; six individuals; Mackenzie River Delta–Richards Island; Lindsay Armer; eBird 2021

Late record: 6 September 2016; one individual; NNPR (The Gate); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 25 individuals; 28 June 1998; Aulalik National Park; Peter Torvik; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. The Birds of Canada: revised edition. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.

Spotted Sandpiper

(*Actitis macularius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Chevalier grivelé

SPSA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder along riverbanks and lakeshores throughout the mainland portion of the NWT, to the north coast (Kendall Island, Anderson River Delta). No subspecies are recognized. Winters from southern US to southern South America. Principal dates are from late May to late August.

Early record: 10 May 2018; one individual; Yellowknife River Bridge; Paul Woodward; Facebook 2018

Late record: 13 September 2013; one individual; NNPR (Deadmen Valley); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 86 individuals; 10 July 2016; Mackenzie River from Fort Simpson to Hanson Island; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Solitary Sandpiper

(*Tringa solitaria*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Chevalier solitaire

SOSA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in ponds and wetlands in coniferous forest throughout the southern mainland and Mackenzie Mountains and along the Mackenzie Valley north to Inuvik and Colville Lake. Also records from Anderson River Delta, Taltson and Thelon rivers. The subspecies present in the NWT is *T. s. cinnamomea*, the subspecies breeding generally north of 60°, migrating west of the Rocky Mountains, and wintering in South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 22 April 2007; one individual; Wrigley; Sarah Dauncey; eBird 2021

Late record: 3 September 2016; one individual; Wood Buffalo National Park (Hwy 5, km 20); Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: Ten individuals; 3 August 2002; Brackett Lake, 40 km north of Tulita; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Wandering Tattler

(*Tringa incana*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Chevalier errant

WATA

I, G (FED)

Rare and local migrant and breeder around alpine streams and lakes in the Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR at Frost Creek, Funeral Creek and Lonely Lake, Dechenla Lodge, Palmer Lake area) and Richardson Mountains (Dempster Highway in the James Creek area). Breeding in the NWT was confirmed at Frost Creek when an adult and three downy young were observed on 21 July 2010 (Eckert 2011). Migration to and from the wintering grounds in the South Pacific is via the Pacific Coast, so not surprisingly this species has been unrecorded outside the breeding range in the NWT. No subspecies are recognized. Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 17 May 2012; three individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Aaron Donahue; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 August 2014; one individual; NNPR (Lonely Lake); Lyn Elliot; eBird 2021

High count: Five adults; 15 July 1989; Dechenla Lodge; Brian Self; eBird 2021

References

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- Eckert C.E. 2011. Northern Canada and Greenland. North American Birds 64(4):610-612

Greater Yellowlegs

(*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Grand chevalier

GRYE

I, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and summer resident in muskeg, wet bogs and open coniferous forests in the southern mainland north to Fort Simpson and Yellowknife, with isolated records north to Norman Wells area, Inuvik, and the Mackenzie Delta. Probably breeds – there are

a number of records of pairs in suitable habitat, including giving distraction displays (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Winters from central to South America. Principal dates are late April to late August.

Early record: 21 April 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (island airstrip); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 2020; one individual; Hay River Chicken Dump; Vince Hiebert; eBird 2021

High count: 50 individuals; 22 June 2015; Norman Wells; Wes Hodgson; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Willet

(*Tringa semipalmata*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Chevalier semipalmé

WILL

(FED)

Casual visitor, four records. This species has been recorded in Yellowknife, the North Arm of Great Slave Lake and Hay River in May and August. The subspecies seen in the NWT is *T. s. inornata*, of the prairies. Its regular breeding range comes as close to the NWT as central Alberta (eBird 2021). Winters in the coastal US to western South America.

Occurrences

1. 25 May 1985; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Kevin McCormick; NWT Species Infobase
2. 9 August 1992; one individual; Great Slave Lake, North Arm (Trout Rock); NWT Species Infobase
3. 13 May 2015; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski. Photographed
4. 20-22 May 2019; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- WGGSNS. 2022. NWT Species Infobase website. www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/biodiversity/nwt-species-infobase.

Lesser Yellowlegs**(*Tringa flavipes*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Threatened (COSEWIC 2020)****Petit chevalier****LEYE****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common breeder in open coniferous forest and tundra/forest transition throughout the mainland portion of the NWT. Also common in migration around water bodies. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from central to South America. Principal dates are early May to late August.

Early record: 13 April 1997; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Christian Bucher; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 September 2020; two individuals; Yellowknife (Dump); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 208 individuals; July 1, 2018; Hay River Chicken Dump; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2020. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x+64pp. www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Stercorariidae**Pomarine Jaeger****(*Stercorarius pomarinus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Labbe pomarin****POJA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds in low-lying wet coastal tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Banks, Melville, Victoria) and sporadically along the north coast (Franklin Bay) (Cornish and Dickson 1994). Can be abundant in a given location in years with high lemming populations and absent in others. Casual migrant in late spring on the mainland south of the breeding range (Fort Resolution, Behchokò, Big Island near Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Lac de Gras, Fort Simpson, Délîne) (Sirois et al. 1995). No subspecies are recognized. Winters at sea, in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, from central to South America (Haven Wiley and Lee 2020). Principal dates are mid-June to mid-August.

Early record: 24 May 2006; 65 individuals; Anderson River Delta; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

Late record: 17 August 2005; one individual; Délîne; Jeff Wells; eBird 2021

High count: 130 individuals; 25 May 2006; Anderson River Delta; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- Cornish, B.J. and D.L. Dickson. 1994. Distribution and abundance of birds on western Victoria Island, 1992-1994; Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie and Northern Region, Technical Report Series No. 253.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Haven Wiley, R. and D.S. Lee. 2020. Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. [Https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.pomjae.01](https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.pomjae.01)
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service. Occasional Paper 89:1-33.

Parasitic Jaeger

(*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Labbe parasite

PAJA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in low-lying wet tundra on the Arctic Islands (Melville, Banks, Victoria), along the north coast and on the mainland barrens north of the treeline, also on nearshore and offshore exposed islands in Great Slave Lake (North Arm, central part of the Lake, Sirois et al. 1995). The expected jaeger species on Great Slave Lake including around Yellowknife. Rare migrant elsewhere on the mainland south of the breeding range (Hay River, Kakisa, Fort Simpson, Great Bear Lake, Fort Good Hope). No subspecies are recognized. Winters at sea, off both coasts of southern South America. Principal dates are late May to mid-September.

Early record: 10 May 2006; two individuals; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 20 October 2021; one individual; Yellowknife Bay; Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 22 individuals; 5 July 1999; Thomsen River, Aulavik National Park, Banks Island; Andrew Lawrence; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 89:1-33.

Long-tailed Jaeger

(*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Breeds on tundra on the Arctic Islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria), along the north coast, on the mainland barrens (Lac de Gras, Artillery Lake) and in alpine tundra in the Richardson and northern Mackenzie Mountains (as far south as Dechenla Lodge). Rare migrant on the mainland south of the breeding range (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Rae, Norman Wells, Yellowknife). The subspecies present in the NWT is *S. l. pallescens*. Winters at sea off Antarctica and offshore of southern South America. Principal dates are late May to late August.

Early record: 16 May 2014; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Widerspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 September 1972; one individual; Kittigazuit area, Mackenzie Delta; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

High count: 57 individuals; 5 June 2006; Colville Lake; Samuel Denault and mult. obs.; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Alcidae

Dovekie

(*Alle alle*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Mergule nain

DOVE

(FED)

Casual visitor. A specimen was taken in August at Melville Island and well-described by Swainson and Richards (1831). Smith (1973) identified one shot by an Inuvialuit hunter on

26 June 1971 at Holman (now Ulukhaktok) and was told that they were rare in the area but occurred almost every year. Manning et al. (1956) reported that Inuvialuit on Banks Island sometimes saw very small “sea ptarmigan” at the floe edge in late winter and spring, which could be this species. The closest colonies are of subspecies *A. a. alle* (Day et al. 1988) located in the Bering Strait off Alaska, where the species breeds in small numbers amongst colonies of other alcids (Bailey 1948). Much larger breeding numbers, also of *A. a. alle*, occur in Nunavut’s Baffin Bay, but NWT sightings are expected to be from the population in the Bering Strait. They winter at sea in low-arctic regions. The other subspecies, *A. a. polaris*, a larger bird restricted to colonies on Franz Josef Land in Arctic Russia, is not expected in the NWT.

References

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Thick-billed Murre

(Uria lomvia)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Guillemot de Brünnich

TBMU

I (FED)

Rare and local. Breeds at Police Point at Cape Parry on the north coast, where periodic surveys have documented several hundred breeding birds, with a high count of 784 on 2 August 1979 (Johnson and Ward 1985, eBird 2021). This is the only known colony in the NWT (Western Arctic) and is 1,200 km away from the nearest known colony on Somerset Island in NU (*U. l. lomvia*). Wanders rarely further west: Smith reported five separate sightings and collected one specimen near Ulukhaktok in June and July 1971 (Smith 1973). Manning et al. (1956) reported that Inuvialuit on Banks Island sometimes hunted “sea ptarmigan” at the floe edge in late winter and spring, which could include this species. We could not find recent detailed colony counts but it is estimated at about 800 birds and remains the least studied in Arctic Canada (Paredes et al. 2022). The subspecies presumed to be in the NWT is the Pacific Thick-billed Murre (*U. l. arra*): this subspecies winters in the

Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean (Gaston and Hipfner 2020). Subspecies assignment may be revisited based on a recent study that detected significant gene flow between Cape Parry and the Atlantic birds (i.e., Nunavut: *U. l. lomvia*) (Tigano et al. 2015) and recent morphometric measurements placing them between the two subspecies (Paredes et al. 2022). Principal dates are early July to late August.

Early record: 3 July 1964; 14 individuals; Cape Parry (Police Point); Jean Boulva; eBird 2021

Late record: 31 August 2016; one individual; Cape Bathurst (Smoking Hills); Christophe Gouraud; eBird 2021

High count: 784 individuals; 2 August 1979; Cape Parry (Police Point); S.R. Johnson and J.G. Ward; Johnson and Ward 1985

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Black Guillemot**(*Cephus grylle*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Guillemot à miroir****BLGU****I (FED)**

Rare and local. Breeds in small numbers in the Thick-billed Murre colony at Police Point on Cape Parry, with a high count of 37 in early August 1979 (Johnson and Ward 1985). The nearest adjacent colonies are at Herschel Island off the Yukon north coast and in the Chukchi Sea region of Alaska (Butler and Buckley 2020). Smith saw two near Ulukhaktok in mid-July 1971 (Smith 1973). Manning and McPherson observed one south of Cape Prince Alfred on Banks Island on 10 August 1952 (Manning et al. 1956). One was observed on transect surveys in McKinley Bay, 80 km northeast of Tuktoyaktuk on 1 August 1993 (Cornish and Dickson 1994). Some may winter in ice free areas in the Beaufort Sea area as evidenced by a sighting of two individuals at sea 200 km northwest of Tuktoyaktuk on 18 October 2012 (eBird 2021) and single birds found dead at Fort Good Hope in February 1974 (Boles and Letkeman 1976) and Sachs Harbour in February 2002 (eBird 2021). Inland, a Black Guillemot was observed and photographed in open water on the Cameron River; 60 km East of Yellowknife on 26 November 1988 (observer R Lynn, R.G. Bromley notes) and three possible Black Guillemots were also observed in open water on Great Slave Lake on 15 December 1988 (Sirois 1991). There were several other inland reports of this species in western Canada at this time. Subspecies taxonomy is unresolved, but the Beaufort Sea group of the Arctic North American *C. g. mandtii* also nesting on Herschel Island (Yukon) is likely the subspecies observed in the NWT. Winters in marine areas relatively near breeding range from eastern Beaufort Sea to Chukchi and Siberian seas, moving to ice-free or loose ice zones to access foraging habitats

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Least Auklet

(*Aethia pusilla*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Accidental. One was found dead by D. McAlpine on the bare ice of a small lake at Kittigazuit on the eastern side of the Mackenzie Delta, in 1927, although the month of discovery has variously been reported as May (Porsild 1943) and January (Godfrey 1995). The former seems more likely. The specimen is in the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAV 22308). This species breeds in large colonies in the Bering Sea region of Alaska and westward into Siberia (Bond et al. 2020). No subspecies recognized. Winters at sea in the North Pacific Ocean.

References

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Laridae

Black-legged Kittiwake

(*Rissa tridactyla*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor in the Arctic Islands region, including far offshore (Prince Patrick, Banks, Victoria, Canada Basin) (eBird 2021). May be more regular than the small number of records suggest, as flocks of 60+ were reported from the Cape Kellet area on southwest Banks Island in summer 1981. A report of 30 birds at Inuvik on 19 May 1995 (WGGSNS 2022) is intriguing, but lacks supporting details. A report of a “small colony” observed from the air on Prince Patrick Island on 23 July 2000 is also interesting (eBird 2021), given that

Starique minuscule

LEAU

Mouette tridactyle

BLKI

the species is known to nest at similar latitude in the Barrow Strait (NU), 600 km to the east. The widely distributed *R. t. tridactyla* (small in size with a short bill) is probably the subspecies seen in the NWT. It occurs in Arctic and Atlantic regions, wintering in the Sargasso Sea and west Africa. The larger *R. t. pollicaris*, breeding in the North Pacific-Bering Sea and wintering from China Sea to Mexico, have not been recorded in the NWT. Principal dates are late May to early September.

References

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Ivory Gull

(*Pagophila eburnea*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Endangered (COSEWIC 2006)

Endangered (SARA 2009)

Mouette blanche

IVGU

I (FED)

Formerly bred (prior to 1979) on Cape Krabbé on northern Prince Patrick Island and the adjacent Polynia Islands (Alvo and MacDonald 1996). There are currently no known breeding locations within the NWT, but undiscovered colonies could exist. Rare transient elsewhere in the Arctic Islands region (Banks Island, Beaufort Sea north of the Mackenzie Delta) (Harrington 1963, Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). Most contemporary sightings are from July and August and likely represent wanderers from colonies in the eastern Canadian Arctic. A report of four on the Beaufort Sea offshore of Tuktoyaktuk on 12 October 1988 is interesting and reports from the 1920s suggest that juveniles were seen from time to time around open leads on the coast around Tuktoyaktuk in fall and winter, perhaps moving from breeding sites to wintering grounds in the Bering Sea (Porsild 1943). No subspecies are recognized. Winters at sea near the ice edge in the Arctic Ocean, including perhaps the Beaufort Sea.

References

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Sabine's Gull

(*Xema sabini*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Mouette de Sabine

SAGU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder on low lying tundra, often near freshwater bodies, in the Arctic Islands (Banks, Victoria, possibly Prince Patrick) and along the north coast (Richards Island, Cape Bathurst, Franklin Bay). Rare spring migrant over large lakes and rivers in the mainland south of the breeding range (Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Hay River, Yellowknife, Great Bear Lake). Sometimes migrates in flocks: a group of 193 individuals photographed flying down (towards west) the Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson on 1 June 2011 is particularly noteworthy and may be the highest inland count of this species anywhere in Canada. Two flocks totaling 77 birds on 6 June 2019 at Willow Flats in Yellowknife are also worthy of mention. Subspecies *X. s. sabini* breeds in Arctic North America. Our birds are probably part of this subspecies' western population, wintering off western South America, but the exact boundaries with the population nesting in the eastern Arctic and wintering off the western coast of Africa are unclear. Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 31 May 2015; eight individuals; Yellowknife (Negus Bay); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 6 August 2009; one individual; Tuktoyaktuk; Colin Jones; eBird 2021

High count: 193 individuals; 1 June 2011; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021. Photographed

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Bonaparte's Gull**(*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Mouette de Bonaparte****BOGU****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wetland openings in coniferous forest throughout the mainland south of the treeline, occurring less commonly north of the treeline in the north coast and mainland barrens regions (Kendall Island, Anderson and Horton River deltas, Thelon River) where breeding may occur if enough trees are present. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds are probably part of the western population wintering on the Pacific coast, in the eastern part of the NWT pairs may be part of eastern population traveling to the Great Lakes or the Atlantic coast. Principal dates are early May to late August.

Early record: 28 April 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 August 2001; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 274 individuals; 18 May 1972; Norman Wells; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Black-headed Gull**(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Mouette rieuse****BHGU**

Accidental. A winter-plumage adult was seen and photographed by multiple observers at Willow Flats in Yellowknife on 10 October and 3-6 November 2014 (eBird 2021). This is a predominantly Eurasian species, which also breeds very locally in Atlantic Canada. Records from the interior of the continent west of Ontario are very rare (eBird 2021). No subspecies recognized. Winters off Africa to south Asia.

References

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Franklin's Gull**(*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Mouette de Franklin****FRGU****W (FED)**

Rare in spring and summer across much of the southern mainland, and locally fairly common summer resident at the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence. Based on sightings of multiple birds in suitable habitat, Sirois et al. (1995) hypothesized that breeding in the Big Island-Falaise Lake area near Fort Providence was a possibility, and recent records continue to suggest that local breeding is likely. Sightings are concentrated in the Fort Smith, Great Slave Lake (Hay River, Fort Providence, Highway 3, Yellowknife) and Fort Simpson areas. Breeds as close to the NWT as the Peace-Athabasca Delta in northern Alberta. No subspecies are recognized. Winters on the western coast of South America. Principal dates are from late May to mid-July.

Early record: 9 May 2019; one individual; Yellowknife (Jackfish Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 September 2020; 70 individuals; Highway 3 Mackenzie River Crossing; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 374 individuals; 2 July 2020; Highway 3 Mackenzie River Crossing; Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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Black-tailed Gull**(*Larus crassirostris*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Goéland à queue noire****BTGU**

Accidental. A third-summer bird was photographed at the Inuvik dump on 4 June 2002 by Bruce Mactavish (Mactavish 2002). This species breeds in colonies on sea rock outcrops from Siberia to Japan and is a rare stray to North America; records have occurred throughout our continent but are concentrated on the Pacific Coast (eBird 2021). No subspecies recognized. Winters in the China Sea.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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Short-billed Gull

(*Larus brachyrhynchus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Goéland à bec court

SBIG

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in ponds, lakes and rivers throughout the mainland portion of the NWT northwards to the Mackenzie Delta and the Anderson, Horton, Hornaday and Thelon drainages. This gull is unique among *Larus* as it nests in trees and has less affinities with humans except sewage lagoons; it will avoid dumps for example. No subspecies are recognized. *L. brachyrhynchus* was considered a subspecies of the Mew Gull *L. canus*, but it is now a full species. Winters along the northern Pacific Coast. Principal dates are early May to late September.

Early record: 21 April (specific year not given, 1986-1995); Great Slave Lake (North Arm); Sirois et al. 1995

Late record: 19 October 2013; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 1,300 individuals; 14 May 2020; Yellowknife (Sewage Lagoon Road); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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Ring-billed Gull**(*Larus delawarensis*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Goéland à bec cerclé****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common migrant and breeder on islands or peninsulas in lakes or large rivers in the southern mainland region (Fort Smith, throughout the Great Slave Lake area, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard). Scattered records northwards to Norman Wells, Inuvik (Mactavish 2002, eBird 2021) and Richards Island (Martell et al. 1984). No subspecies are recognized. Winters on or near large lakes inland or along coastal areas of Canada, US and central America. Principal dates are late April to late October.

Early record: 9 April 2019; one individual; Hay River; Henry Boden; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 November 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 310 individuals; 25 July 2020; Highway 3 Mackenzie River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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California Gull**(*Larus californicus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Goéland de Californie****CAGU****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake (Fort Resolution, Hay River, Fort Providence, Behchokò, Yellowknife) where it breeds in large colonies on exposed islands in the lake (Sirois et al. 1995). Rare transient elsewhere in the south (Fort Smith, Fort Simpson), exceptionally north to Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik (Mactavish 2002, eBird 2021). Our subspecies is the large *L. c. albertaensis*. Winters along the Pacific Coast. Principal dates are early May to early November

Early record: 20 April 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Vicky Johnston; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 November 2021; eight individuals; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 689 nests. (breeding colony); June 1989; Great Slave Lake (Egg Island); Sirois et al. 1995

References

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Herring Gull

(*Larus argentatus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Goéland argenté

HERG

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder on exposed islands in large lakes throughout the mainland portion of the NWT. Regularly ranges north to the Mackenzie Delta, Cape Bathurst and Cape Parry. Scattered sightings northwards into the Arctic Islands area (eBird 2021). Our birds are part of the *L. a. smithsonianus* group (American Herring Gull). Our birds may winter anywhere from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts of North America. Principal dates are late April to mid-October.

Early record: 10 April 2017; two individuals; Fort Smith (Townssite); Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 October 1989; one juvenile; Yellowknife (landfill); Sirois et al, 1995

High count: 2300 individuals; 18 May 2021; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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Iceland Gull**(*Larus glaucopterus*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Goéland arctique****ICGU****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Thayer's Gull (*Larus glaucopterus thayeri*) is an uncommon and local breeder in colonies in the Arctic Islands (north and southwest Banks and south Victoria). Regular migrant on the north coast and in Inuvik. Rare migrant inland, increasing to uncommon around Great Slave Lake and the lower Mackenzie River (Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Simpson) during the later stages of both spring and fall migration. Some are likely overlooked due to similarity to Herring Gull. Thayer's Gull was formerly accorded full species status but was grouped with Iceland Gull by the American Ornithological Union in 2017. Thayer's Gull winters on the Pacific coast of Canada to Mexico. Neither of the other two subspecies of Iceland Gull occurring in North America (*L. g. kumlieni* and *L. g. glaucopterus*) have been documented in the NWT. Principal dates mid-May to early October

Early record: 18 May 2015; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 November 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Woodworth; eBird 2021

High count: 23 individuals; 13 June 1999; Ulukhaktok; Jim Heather; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Lesser Black-backed Gull**(*Larus fuscus*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Goéland brun****LBBG**

Casual visitor. There are three occurrences from the NWT: a bird reported 3-4 July 1977 in the Northern Richardson Mountains (Godfrey 1995); an individual at Inuvik in July 2008 (NWT/NU Checklist Survey Spring Newsletter 2009) and a second-summer bird photographed by Reid Hildebrandt at Willow Flats in Yellowknife on 17 May 2014. This Eurasian species is a relatively regular visitor to North America, particularly in coastal areas (eBird 2021). Five subspecies are recognized, of which *L. f. graellsii*, breeding from Iceland to Spain has increased sightings across North America. The identification of the subspecies seen in the NWT have not been documented. We may speculate that the Inuvik

region birds may be a different subspecies (e.g. from *L. f. heuglini* from Siberia) than the Yellowknife birds.

References

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- NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey, Spring 2009 Newsletter. Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, 4pp.

Slaty-backed Gull

(*Larus schistisagus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Goéland à manteau ardoisé

SBGU

Casual visitor. There are five records since 1994, all from Inuvik, mostly at the dump. The two birds seen in summer 2002 were considered to be different individuals based on plumage details. This large, dark-mantled gull species breeds in eastern Asia, but wanders regularly to North America with numerous records throughout the continent, particularly in Alaska and along the Pacific Coast (eBird 2021). Records are from mid-June to early August. Historical reports of an adult male at Franklin Bay and a nest with eggs at Harrowby Bay in 1901 are believed to be in error (Martell et al. 1984). No subspecies recognized. Winters at sea from the Bering Sea to Japan.

Occurrences

1. 17 June 1994; one individual; Inuvik; Larry Allen; Bowling 1995
2. 15 June 1997; one adult; Inuvik; Doug McRae; Bowling 1997
3. June 2002; one second-summer; Inuvik (dump); Doug McRae, Mactavish 2002
4. 31 July - 8 August 2002; one second-summer; Inuvik (dump); Bruce Mactavish; Mactavish 2002. Photographed
5. 9 June - 9 July 2018; one third-summer; Inuvik (dump) Cameron Eckert, m.obs.; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

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Glaucous-winged Gull

(*Larus glaucescens*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Goéland à ailes grises

GWGU

Casual visitor. There are sixteen records since 1996. The majority of the records are from the Inuvik dump. There are a number of records of this large gull of the Pacific Coast along the Beaufort Sea coasts of Alaska and the Yukon (eBird 2021), so its occasional occurrence here is not unexpected. There are also inland records from NNPR and Yellowknife. No subspecies recognized. Breeds in western Alaska (US) and Kamchatka (RU). Winters at sea in the Bering Sea and North Pacific. Dates range from May to September.

Occurrences

1. Summer 1996; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Cameron Eckert; Mactavish 2002
2. 16 June 1997; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Doug McRae; Bowling 1997
3. 13-14 August 1997; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Cameron Eckert, Pam Sinclair; eBird 2021
4. Summer 1999; one first-summer; Inuvik (dump); Cameron Eckert; Mactavish 2002
5. 18 June 2002; one first-summer; NNPR (c. 30 km upstream from Virginia Falls); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
6. 21 June 2002; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Bruce Mactavish; Mactavish 2002. Photographed
7. 22-24 June 2002; one first-summer; Inuvik (dump); Bruce Mactavish; Mactavish 2002. Photographed
8. 31 July - 6 August 2002; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Bruce Mactavish; Mactavish 2002. Photographed
9. 4-5 September 2002; Inuvik (dump); Bruce Mactavish; Mactavish 2002. Photographed
10. 15 June 2003; one adult; Inuvik; Bruce Mactavish, Cameron Eckert; Cecile 2004

11. 16 July 2003; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
12. 21 August 2008; one adult; Inuvik; Cameron Eckert; Eckert 2004, eBird 2021
13. 5 June 2015; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Alvan Buckley; eBird 2021 Photographed.
14. 2-3 June 2016; one adult; Yellowknife (dump); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed
15. 18 May 2018; one adult; Yellowknife (dump); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
16. 6-9 June 2018; one adult; Inuvik (dump); Cameron Eckert; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

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- Eckert, C.E. 2004. Northern Canada. North American Birds 58(3):387-388.
- Mactavish, B. 2002. My summer vacation at the Inuvik dump. Birder's Journal 11(5):188-195.

Glaucous Gull

(*Larus hyperboreus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Goéland bourgmestre

GLGU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in coastal areas on open tundra, cliffs, islands in freshwater tundra lakes and sandy islets at river mouths on the north coast and Arctic islands. Uncommon migrant on the mainland south of the breeding range. Some juvenile birds may summer in the Great Slave Lake area as there are a number of mid-June to mid-August records (Sirois et al 1995, eBird 2021). There is one winter record of a bird in Yellowknife in mid-December 1983. Two subspecies are present in the NWT. The *L.h. barrovianus* nests from Alaska to west of the Mackenzie Delta and winters in Alaska to the Pacific Northwest. This subspecies has the darkest grey mantle, with a smaller body and bill. The *L.h. leuceretes* nests across northern Canada east of the Mackenzie Delta. Winters mostly in northeastern US. This subspecies has a very light grey mantle and is much larger. Principal dates are early May to mid-October.

Early record: 23 April (specific year not given, 1986-1995); Great Slave Lake (North Arm), Jacques Sirois; Sirois et al. 1995

Late records: 10-13 December 1983; Yellowknife, R.G. Bromley (R.G. Bromley notes cited in Sirois et al. 1995; 7 November 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021

High count: c. 580 individuals; 29 May 1987; Cape Parry area (aerial survey); Alexander et al. 1988

300 individuals; 6 June 2013; Inuvik (dump); Alvan Buckley; eBird 2021

References

- Alexander, S.A., D.M. Ealey and S.J. Barry. 1988. Spring migration of Eiders, Oldsquaws and Glaucous Gulls along offshore leads of the Canadian Beaufort Sea. Technical Report Series No. 56. Western and Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service.
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Caspian Tern

(*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Sterne caspienne

CATE

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder on the shores and islands of Great Slave Lake observed regularly in the vicinity of the Lake (Fort Resolution, Hay River, Fort Providence, Yellowknife). Casual transient elsewhere in the NWT (Fort Simpson, Délıne). No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 5 May 2012; one individual; Stagg wetlands, near Behchokǫ; Adrian D'Hont; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 September 1993; one juvenile; Yellowknife (landfill); Sirois et al 1995

High count: 100 adults, 20 flightless young (breeding colony); 5 August 1988; Great Slave Lake (North Arm); Sirois et al 1995

References

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Black Tern

(*Chlidonias niger*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Guifette noire

BLTE

S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant and local breeder in shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation in the southern mainland (Fort Liard, NNPR - Yohin Lake, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith, Behchokǫ) Rare transient elsewhere in the southern mainland (Fort Simpson, Yellowknife). An apparently isolated colony was discovered at Brackett Lake near Tulita in 1994 (Barret and Kay 1997). Our birds are the American Black Tern (*C. n. surinamensis*). Winters in Central America to northern South America. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 18 May 2015; three individuals; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt, Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 September 1989; 25 juveniles; Big Island near Fort Providence; Sirois et al 1995

High count: 150 individuals; 8 June 1999; Highway 3 (Caen Lake to Behchokǫ); Eric Tull; eBird 2021

References

- Barrett, G.M. and D.G. Kay. 1997. Northern extension to the known breeding range of the Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*, in the Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 111(3): 469-471.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 89:1-33

Common Tern**(*Sterna hirundo*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Sterne pierregarin****COTE****W (FED)**

Common migrant and colonial breeder on exposed islands and beaches on larger lakes and rivers in the southern mainland, about as far north as Fort Simpson, Yellowknife and Whatì. Possibly occurs occasionally farther north: reported from the Anderson River near the Arctic Circle (Johnson and Herter 1989). Our birds are subspecies *S. h. hirundo*, wintering on the coasts of South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 12 May 2018; five individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt, Rhiannon Pankratz; eBird 2021

Late record: 16 September 2014; three individuals; Fort Simpson (mouth of Liard River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 1,000 individuals; 5 August 1988; Great Slave Lake (North Arm); Sirois et al 1995

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Johnson, S.R. and D.R. Herter. 1989. The birds of the Beaufort Sea. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. Anchorage, AK.
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 89:1-33

Arctic Tern**(*Sterna paradisaea*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Sterne arctique****ARTE****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds on open tundra or barren shorelines in the Arctic islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria), the north coast, the mainland barrens and southwards to NNPR and Great Slave Lake (Scotter et al. 1985, Sirois et al. 1995). Uncommon migrant over larger water bodies in the mainland south of the breeding range, although perhaps overlooked due to its similarity to common tern. No subspecies are recognized. Winters off Antarctica. Principal dates mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 1 May 1999; four individuals; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 September 1975; five individuals; Outer Mackenzie Delta; Eric Tull; eBird 2021

High count: 300 individuals; 29 June 2006; Colville Lake (breeding colony); Oliver Barden, m.obs.; eBird 2021, Eckert 2007

References

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Gaviiformes

Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon

(*Gavia stellata*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Plongeon catmarin

RTLO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon migrant throughout the southern mainland. Breeds in ponds and small lakes from the Arctic islands (Prince Patrick, Banks, Melville, Victoria) south to the Mackenzie Mountains, and the Yellowknife area (including West Mirage Islands) (Bromley and Trauger 1981). No subspecies are recognized. Winters off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 12 May 2020; five individuals; Yellowknife River Bridge; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 September 2013; Highway 3; Edward Jordan; eBird 2021

High count: 51 individuals; 20 June 2005; Niglintgak Island, Mackenzie Delta; Kyle Elliot; eBird 2021

References

- Bromley, R.G. and D.L. Trauger. 1981. Birds of Yellowknife: A regional checklist. Ecology North. Yellowknife, NWT. 8pp.

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Pacific Loon

(*Gavia pacifica*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Plongeon du Pacifique

PALO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant throughout the southern mainland, breeds in ponds and small lakes from the Arctic islands (Prince Patrick, Banks, Melville, Victoria) south to the Mackenzie Mountains, Yellowknife and Fort Providence. No subspecies are recognized. Winters off the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Mexico. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 9 May 2017; one individual; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 September 2015; one individual; Flat Lakes, 15 km north of Tungsten; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 300 individuals; mid-May 2004; Fort Simpson (Liard and Mackenzie River); Doug Tate; Eckert 2004

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2004. Northern Canada. North American Birds 58(3):387-388.

Common Loon

(*Gavia immer*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Plongeon huard

COLO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in large ponds and lakes throughout the mainland portion of the NWT, north to the north coast. Sight records north to Banks Island. No subspecies are recognized. Winters off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 1 May 1999; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 October 2014; 11 individuals; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 115 individuals; 15 September 2013; Yellowknife (Yellowknife Bay); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Yellow-billed Loon

(*Gavia adamsii*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Uncommon breeder in large ponds and lakes on Banks and Victoria Islands, along the north coast and in the mainland barrens north and east of Great Slave Lake (Thelon River, Daring Lake, Lac de Gras). Migration to wintering grounds on the Pacific coast are believed to be mainly coastal but small numbers pass through the southern mainland (Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, NNPR – Rabbitkettle Lake) between the Pacific Ocean and their breeding grounds. No subspecies are recognized. Our birds mostly winter off the coasts of Alaska to British Columbia. Principal dates are late May to mid-September. On the breeding ground on Banks Island they have been recorded as early as 26 May (1953) and as late as 11 September (1952) (Manning et al 1956).

Early record: 18 May 2017; one individual; Kakisa (flew over); Graham Sorenson; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 October 2017; two individuals; Yellowknife (Yellowknife Bay); Steve Moore; eBird 2021

High count: 25 individuals; 12 June 2012; Ulukhaktok; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.
- Uher-Koch, B.D., M.R. North and J.A. Schmutz. 2020. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.yebloo.01>

Procellariiformes

Procellariidae

Northern Fulmar

(*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Fulmar boréal

NOFU

(FED)

Casual visitor. Birds from the eastern Arctic apparently wander rarely west to Banks Island where there are two occurrences: Armstrong reported one or more fulmars at Nelson Head, at the southeast tip of the island, on 7 September 1850; and a specimen was taken by Peter Bernard at Cape Kellet, at the southwest tip of the island, on 27 July 1916 (Manning et al. 1956, Godfrey 1995). The latter is now in the Canadian Museum of Nature Collection (CMNAV 13004) and is of the Atlantic subspecies, *F. g. glacialis*. Winters at sea widely on northern ice-free waters.

References

- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. The Birds of Canada: revised edition. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 13004)

Short-tailed Shearwater

(*Ardenna tenuirostris*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Puffin à bec grêle

GRSH

Accidental. One was found alive at Inuvik on 25 October 1990 (Wormington and Cranford 2011). It subsequently died and the specimen is in the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAV S7537). This species occurs regularly off the northwestern coast of Alaska, so its presence in this location is not entirely surprising, although the date is quite late in the season. No subspecies recognized. Breeds in Tasmania and Australia. Winters at sea widely in Pacific ice-free waters.

References

- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV S7537)
- Wormington A. and M. Cranford. 2011. Ontario Bird Records Committee Report for 2010. *Ontario Birds* 29(3):106-148.

Suliformes

Sulidae

Northern Gannet

(*Morus bassanus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Fou de Bassan

NOGA

(FED)

Accidental. An adult female was collected near Ulukhaktok (Godfrey 1995), Victoria Island on 14 September 1975. The specimen is now in the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAV 65717). No subspecies recognized. Colony nesters on rock outcrops along coasts of North Atlantic. Winters at sea widely in North Atlantic ice-free waters.

References

- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. *The Birds of Canada: revised edition*. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 65717)

Phalacrocoracidae

Double-crested Cormorant

(*Nannopterum auritum*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Cormoran à aigrettes

DCCO

(TERR)

Casual visitor. A number of literature references suggest that this species may occasionally wander north to the Great Slave Lake area (Ross 1862, Preble 1908, Sirois et al. 1995, CWS. Unpublished data.) with at least five reports from this part of the NWT. One individual was seen unusually far north and described in detail by David Britton on 14 June 2008 at Midway Lake on the Dempster Highway about 45 km north of the NWT/Yukon border. Subspecies of NWT sightings are not always confirmed, but the black-crested *N. a. auritus*,

usually found in central North America, is the most plausible subspecies seen here. Winters on the Atlantic Coast. The Alaskan-BC subspecies, white-crested *N. a. cincinatus* has not been recorded in the NWT, yet.

Occurrences

1. c. 10 October 1901; one individual; Willow River near Fort Providence, shot by hunters; *fide* Captain J.W. Mills; Preble 1908
2. Pre-1908; one individual; Big Island near Fort Providence; John Reid; Preble 1908. Specimen reported taken
3. Late December 1994; one individual; Yellowknife, flying over; L. Singer; Sirois et al. 1995
4. 6 June 1995; one individual; near Big Island, Mackenzie River near Fort Providence, loafing; J. Sirois; Sirois et al. 1995
5. 21 June 2008; one individual; Midway Lake, Dempster Highway; David Britton; eBird 2021
6. Summer 2008; one individual; Beaver Lake, southeast of Fort Providence; Jean-François Dufour; CWS unpublished data. On aerial survey

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabaska-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.
- Ross, B.R. 1862. List of mammals, birds and eggs, observed in the Mackenzie River District, with notices. Pages 137-155 in Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, and Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Montreal 7: Article XIII.
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 89:1-33.

Pelecaniformes

Pelecanidae

American White Pelican

(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)

May Be at Risk (GSR 2021)

Pélican d'Amérique

AWPE

(TERR)

Occurs regularly at Fort Smith, where it is reliably found foraging at the Rapids of the Drowned on the Slave River. These birds originate at the species' northernmost documented breeding colony on the Slave River at Mountain Rapids about 4 km south of the NWT/Alberta border. Uncommon but regular in the southern Great Slave Lake area (Hay River, Fort Providence (Big Island), Mills Lake, Kakisa) suggesting the possibility of a colony here. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, up to 1,200 individuals, including two nests were found on the south shore of Great Slave Lake in the Oracha Falls area on the Taltson River (Sirois et al. 1995). Casual wanderer elsewhere, with reports from Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte (eBird 2021). Preble (1908) reported that a specimen was collected at the mouth of the Anderson River on the north coast in June or July 1900 and Searing et al. (1975) referenced a possible observation of seven birds at Richards Island in the Mackenzie Delta on 1 September 1972. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from southern US to Central America. Principal dates are late April to mid-September.

Early record: 18 April 2016; five individuals; Fort Smith (Rapids of the Drowned); Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 October 2016; 12 individuals; Fort Smith (Rapids of the Drowned); Jason Straka; eBird 2021

High count: 1,200 individuals; specific date unknown, (1989-1994), Oracha Falls area, Taltson River, Sirois et al. 1995

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Searing, G.F., E. Kuyt, W.J. Richardson and T.W. Barry. 1975. Seabirds of the southeastern Beaufort Sea: Aircraft and ground observations in 1972 and 1974. Beaufort Sea Project Technical Report 3b. Department of Environment. 238pp.
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.

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Ardeidae

American Bittern

(Botaurus lentiginosus)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Butor d'Amérique

AMBI

(FED)

Rare summer resident in wetlands in the southern mainland (Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Hay River, Taltson River, Fort Resolution, Fox Holes near Fort Smith) and southern Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR – Yohin Lake). There are two northern records in the vicinity of Norman Wells (Roe 1975, eBird 2021) suggesting that this species may range further north along the Mackenzie Valley, at least occasionally. Breeding not confirmed in the NWT, but probable. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from southern US to Central America. Principal dates of observations are mid-May to late July, but these secretive birds are difficult to locate once calling stops and there are sightings from August and late September suggesting that they may remain in the NWT into mid-fall.

Early record: 10 May 2015; one individual; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 September 2017; one individual; Boundary Creek, Highway 3 west of Yellowknife; Damian Panayi; eBird 2021

High count: three individuals; 19 June 2014; Nahanni NPR (Yohin Lake); Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Roe, N.A. 1975. New records of birds in west-central Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 89: 135-142.

Great Blue Heron**(*Ardea herodias*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Grand Héron****GBHE****(FED)**

Casual visitor, about 15 reports. Occurs mainly in the southern part of the NWT but ranging as far north as Délîne and the Thelon River. Sightings are usually associated with lakes, rivers or large wetlands. The subspecies most probably seen in the NWT is *A. h. heroidias*, usually breeding in southern Canada (Alberta to Maritime), wintering from Central to South America. Principal dates are early May to early September.

Occurrences

1. 7 May 1973; one individual; Beaver Lake east of Fort Providence, seen on aerial survey; Salter et al. 1974
2. 13 May 1973; one individual; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River); Salter et al. 1974
3. 23 May 1973; one individual; Fort Simpson (Liard River mouth); Salter et al 1974
4. August 1990; one individual; Hay River, found weakened, later died; G. Low. Sirois et al. 1995
5. 15 August 1991; one individual; Elk River (a tributary of the Thelon River); Norment et al. 1999
6. 16 August 1994; one individual; Jean Marie River; *fide* D. Davidge and R.G. Bromley; Sirois et al. 1995, eBird 2021
7. 4-7 August 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson (Snye); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
8. 11 June 2002; one individual; Fort Resolution; Paul Jones; eBird 2021
9. 20 June 2009; one individual; Tulita; Ron Doctor; Eckert 2009. Photographed
10. 23 May 2013; one individual; Fort Simpson (Snye); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
11. 28 July 2015; one individual; Wood Buffalo National Park (Highway 5 at Little Buffalo R.); Craig Robinson; eBird 2021 Photographed
12. August 2016; one individual; Délîne; Michael Neyelle *fide* Suzanne Carriere; Facebook posting. Photographed
13. 6 August 2017; one individual; Great Slave Lake (East Arm, Etthen Island); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021
14. 1 September 2017; one individual; Hay River, had been present for a few days; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2102. Photographed

15. 18-19 August 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Old Town); Found with broken wing, later euthanized; Bryon Fitzky; Facebook 2020. Photographed

References

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Great Egret

(*Ardea alba*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor, three records. The first record for the NWT was a bird seen by George Low and John McCollum in Hay River in both the east and west channels of the Hay River, near the shore of Great Slave Lake on 15-17 June 1987. The bird was well-described and photos were confirmed by Dr. Henri Ouellette of the Canadian Museum of Nature (Sirois et al. 1991, eBird 2021). The second occurrence was a bird seen at Yellowknife 5-17 June 1993 by Jacques Sirois and others (Sirois et al. 1995, eBird 2021). The third record was a bird found by Ray Sucholdolski at the Inuvik boat launch on 6 October 2017, it was photographed and seen by other birders over a couple of weeks (Burnett 2017). This is very far north and very late for a species whose regular range approaches the NWT only as close as southern Alberta (eBird 2021). The subspecies seen in the NWT is most probably the American Great Egret (*A. a. egretta*), usually breeding in the US and wintering in Central to South America.

Grande Aigrette

GREG

References

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- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Sirois, J., G. Low and J.T. McCollum. 1991. First Great Egret record in the Northwest Territories. *Blue Jay* 49: 36-37.
- Sirois, J., M.A. Fournier and M.F. Kay. 1995. The colonial waterbirds of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories: an annotated atlas. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper 89:1-33.

Snowy Egret

(*Egretta thula*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Accidental. The only record for the NWT is of a bird observed at the north end of the island at Fort Simpson 23-27 June 1977 by Richard Quinlan and others (Quinlan 1979). A Super 8 video was taken of the bird and sent to the Canadian Museum of Nature where the identification was verified by Dr. Henri Ouellette. The subspecies was not recorded, but the most probable is *E. t. thula*: the most widespread and breeding in eastern North America. Winters from southern US to South America.

References

- Quinlan, R.W. 1979. Snowy Egret in the Northwest Territories. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 93(3):329.

Cattle Egret

(*Bubulcus ibis*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor, two records. A Cattle Egret was found 26 May 1971 in a field with horses near Fort Smith by F. Gibot and was photographed and collected by Ernie Kuyt (Kuyt 1972); the specimen is in the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAV 57673). Another bird being harassed by Common Ravens was seen by multiple observers and photographed at Fort Simpson on the late date of 26 October 2011 (eBird 2021). The subspecies most probably seen here is the western Cattle Egret (*B. i. ibis*) breeding in North America. Winters from southern US to Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Aigrette neigeuse

SNEG

Héron garde-boeufs

CAEG

- Kuyt, E. 1972. First record of the Cattle Egret in the Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 86: 83-84.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 57673)

Cathartiformes

Cathartidae

Black Vulture

(Coragyps atratus)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Accidental. The only record was of a bird photographed at Fort Resolution by Reid Hildebrandt on 4 August 2019, following a local Facebook posting. According to residents it had been present for nearly a month. It was observed soaring over the community, perched on hydro poles and frequenting the local dump and was present until at least 6 August 2019. The subspecies most probably seen here is *C. a. atratus*, breeding in North America.

Urubu noir

BLVU

Turkey Vulture

(Cathartes aura)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor. There are seven occurrences in the NWT (East Arm of Great Slave Lake, near Behchokò, near Fort Providence, Wrigley, Norman Wells, Fort McPherson, Paulatuk). This species' regular breeding range extends as far north as central Alberta. Dates in the NWT range from early May to early November. The subspecies most probably seen here is a member of the northern Turkey Vulture group (*C. a. meridionalis*) breeding in western North America, wintering in the US to South America.

Urubu à tête rouge

TUVU

Occurrences

1. 1 May 1989; one individual; Great Slave Lake, East Arm (Reliance); Roger Catling; Species Access Canada website
2. 7 November 2001; one individual; Fort McPherson*; William Firth; Larter 2002. Photographed

3. Early August 2011; one individual; Paulatuk; Eckert 2012. Reported photographed
4. Late April 2012; one individual; Wrigley; Joelle Moses; Eckert 2013. Reported photographed
5. 2 July 2014; one individual; Highway 3, east of Behchokq, near Frank Channel; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed
6. 31 August 2016; one individual; Norman Wells; Travis Wright, Tate 2016. Photographed
7. 16 July 2017; one individual; Highway 3 (km 63); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

* Unconfirmed reports from Aklavik in summer 2001 may have pertained to this bird (Larter 2002).

References

- eBird. 2021 eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, NY. Available: www.ebird.org. (Accessed: 10 October 2016).
- Eckert, C.D. 2012. Northern Canada & Greenland. North American Birds 66(1):110-112.
- Eckert, C.D. 2013. Northern Canada & Greenland. North American Birds 66(3):507-508
- Larter, N.C. 2002. Turkey Vulture in the western Arctic. Blue Jay 60: 57-59.
- Species Access Canada website: www.cbif.gc.ca/acp/eng/species-access/view?recordId=317538. (Accessed 10 October 2016).
- Tate, D. 2016. personal communication. Email dated 31 August 2016.

Accipitriformes

Pandionidae

Osprey

(*Pandion haliaetus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Balbuzard pêcheur

OSPR

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in forested areas adjacent to lakes and rivers throughout the mainland south of the treeline, including north to Inuvik and Colville Lake, as well as in the Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR, Palmer Lake). The subspecies present in the NWT is *P. h. carolinensis*, wintering in Central to South America. Principal dates: breeding period in the NWT is mid May to early-September (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 10 April 2017; one individual; Yellowknife (Ingraham Trail); Tyler Kidd; eBird 2021

Late record: 20 September 2013; one individual; Cameron Falls, 35 km east of Yellowknife, Edward Jordan, eBird 2021

High count: five individuals; 3 July 2011; Yellowknife; Richard Knapton; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Accipitridae

Golden Eagle

(*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Aigle royal

GOEA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in tundra, mountains and open areas. Breeding range poorly known, but appears to include the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains, Mackenzie Delta and the Anderson, Horton, Hornaday and Thelon Rivers. Scattered records further south at Colville Lake, Déljne, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Yellowknife likely represent migrants. The subspecies present in the NWT is *A. c. canadensis*, wintering from Alaska to Mexico. Principal dates: seen in the NWT from early April to late September. Breeding period: mid-April to late August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 15 March 2013; Situ Lake, 50 km north of Yellowknife; Bonnie Fournier; eBird 2021

Late record: 19 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (Nogha Heights); Vanessa and Gary Murtsell; eBird 2021

High count: ten individuals; 26 June 1987; Horton River, 40 km south of Cape Bathurst; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp.
[www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor species breeding periods.pdf](http://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf)

Northern Harrier

(*Circus hudsonius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in open wetlands and dry open uplands throughout the mainland and to the north coast. No subspecies are recognized. Winters from Mexico to Central America. Principal dates: seen in the NWT from late April to late September. Breeding period: late May to mid-August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 2 April 1984; 20 km north of Fort Providence; R. Case (R.G. Bromley notes); 11 April 2017; one individual; Dark morph; Fort Smith, Jason Strafa, eBird 2021

Late record: 17 October 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: ten individuals; 11 June 2002; Fort Resolution; Paul Jones eBird 2021

Busard Saint-Martin

NOHA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp.
[www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor species breeding periods.pdf](http://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf)

Sharp-shinned Hawk

(*Accipiter striatus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Épervier brun

SSHA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in closed forest throughout the southern mainland and Mackenzie Mountains and along the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik and Aklavik. Scattered records on the Horton and Anderson rivers. Principal dates: seen in the NWT in late April to early October. Our birds are part of the northern sharp-shinned hawk group (*A. s velox*), wintering from Alaska to Mexico. Breeding period: mid-June to mid-August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 18 April 2000; one individual; NNPR, NWT-NU Checklist, eBird 2021

Late record: 9 October 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: four individuals (family group); 1 August 1998; Norman Wells (Mirror Lake);
eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Cooper's Hawk

(*Accipiter cooperii*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Épervier de Cooper

COHA

Accidental. A Cooper's Hawk was observed, and a recording of its call obtained in the Fort Liard area on 16 June 2014. While the observer's description of the bird supported the identification, it was confirmed by experts from the recording of the call (CWS. unpublished data). There are a number of other undocumented reports of this species in the NWT, including at Yellowknife on 11 August 1983 (Grunberg 1984), which do not rule out Sharp-shinned Hawk or Northern Goshawk, both of which occur regularly in the NWT. No subspecies recognized. Usually breeds in southern Canada and northern US. Winters from the US to Mexico.

References

- Grunberg, H. 1984. Northwestern Canada region. American Birds 38: 223-224
- Canadian Wildlife Service. Unpublished Data. 2018. Personal communication, email on file.

Northern Goshawk

(*Accipiter gentilis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Autour des palombes

NOGO

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon permanent resident nesting in forests throughout the NWT south of the treeline, including north along the Mackenzie Valley to Déljne, Norman Wells and Inuvik. Sight record near the mouth of the Hornaday River (eBird 2021). Our birds are the American Northern Goshawk (*A. g. atricapillus*). Breeding period: Early May to early August (Shank and Poole 2016).

High count: seven individuals; 13 May 1972; Fort Good Hope to Norman Wells (aerial survey); Michael Shepard, eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pygargue à tête blanche

BAEA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Common migrant and breeder in forested areas adjacent to large water bodies throughout the mainland north to the north coast (Kendall Island, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Anderson and Horton River deltas). The subspecies present in the NWT is *H. l. washingtoniensis*, wintering from coastal Alaska to Mexico. Principal dates: seen in the NWT from late March to early November. Three winter records to date: from the Hay River CBC in 2009 (National Audubon Society 2010) and Yellowknife in January 2021 and December 2022. Breeding periods: late April to mid-September (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 1 March 1995; Con Mine, Yellowknife Bird Arrivals, M.L. Roberton; 16 March 2013; one individual; Great Slave Lake (Wool Bay); John McKay, David Jessman; eBird 2021

Late records: 20 February 2000; one adult at Yellowknife Ski Club, C. Woodward (R.G. Bromley notes); 12 December 2020 to 9 January 2021; one juvenile; Yellowknife (Dump); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021 (note that more overwintering records are expected)

High count: 67 individuals; 16 October 2021; Yellowknife (Dump); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp.
www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Broad-winged Hawk

(*Buteo platypterus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Uncommon and local in mature mixed forest the vicinity of Fort Liard (eBird 2021), where breeding was first confirmed on 24 June 2000 (Machtans 2000). Casual elsewhere in the southern mainland, with reports from Fort Simpson on 23 May 1973 (Wormington 1973, Salter et al. 1974); Checkpoint on 21 June 2004; and Fort Smith on 22-23 August 2019 (eBird 2021). Reported exceptionally far north at Kendall Island in the Mackenzie Delta on 2 July 1954 (Martell et al. 1984). The subspecies present in the NWT is the Northern Broad-winged Hawk (*B. p. platypterus*), wintering in Central to South America. Breeding period: early June to mid-August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 13 May 2003; two individuals; Fort Liard (Muskeg River); Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late record: 31 August 2015; one individual; Chan Lake; Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

High count: three individuals; 11 June 2014; Fort Liard; Rhiannon Pankratz; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Machtans, C.S. 2000. Extralimital observations of Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, and other bird observations from the Liard Valley, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 114: 671-679.
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- Salter, R.E., W.J. Richardson and C. Holdsworth. 1974. Spring migration of birds through the Mackenzie Valley, N.W.T., April-May 1973. Chapter II in Gunn, W.W.H., W.J. Richardson, R.E. Schweinsburg and T.D. Wright (Editors), Ornithological studies in the Mackenzie Valley, 1973. Arctic Gas Biological Report Series Volume 28, Canadian Arctic Gas Study Ltd. 168pp.
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www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Petite Buse

BWHA

(TERR)

- Wormington, A. 1973. Description of unusual birds at Fort Simpson – Spring '73. Unpublished manuscript.

Swainson's Hawk

(*Buteo swainsoni*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Buse de Swainson

SWHA

I, G, S (TERR)

Casual transient throughout the NWT, with reports from Howard's Pass (eBird 2021) and the Flat River (Scotter et al 1985) both in NNPR, Tate Lake near Tulita (Salter 1974), Norman Wells, Inuvik, south of Behchokò, Wood Buffalo National Park, Fort Smith, Bekere Lake near the upper Anderson River (Bechard et al. 2020) and along the NWT portion of the Dempster Highway. Nests were reported from the mid-1800s from the Andrew and Carnwath rivers (east of Inuvik and Colville Lake respectively) (Macfarlane 1891), but no specimens are extant and Bechard et al. (2020) viewed these records as questionable. There are a significant number of records from the Dempster Highway in the Yukon and breeding was confirmed south of Eagle Plains in 2005 (eBird 2021) so future field observations may shine additional light on this species' distribution and breeding status in the NWT. Known occurrences that have supporting details are provided below. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in South America.

Occurrences

1. July 1861; two adults, two young in nest; Onion River, near the Lockhart R.; Roderick MacFarlane; MacFarlane 1891. Male shot
2. June 1865; one female on nest with one egg, 32 km south of Fort Anderson; Roderick MacFarlane; Macfarlane 1891. Female shot
3. 25 August - 25 September 1972; four individuals; Tate Lake (40 km south of Tulita); Salter 1974
4. 16 and 20 June 1977; one dark phase; NNPR (South Nahanni River at the Flat River); J.D. Henry, A.L. Cairns; Scotter et al. 1985
5. 8 September 1985; 80 km SE of Fort Providence on Hwy 3; R.G. Bromley
6. 6 July 2013; one dark phase; NNPR (Howard's Pass Access Road); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
7. 5 July 2014; one individual; NNPR (Howard's Pass Access Road); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
8. 22 June 2019; one intermediate phase bird; Dempster Highway (Km 57); Jukka Jantunen; eBird 2021 Photographed

9. Early August 2019; two individuals; Dempster Highway near Midway Lake; Jukka Jantunen; Pers. comm
10. 5 August 2021; two territorial individuals; Well site South of Colville Lake; Jonathan Gillingham; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

- Bechard, M.J., C.S. Houston, J.H. Sarasola and A.S. England. 2020. Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.swahaw.01>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Macfarlane, R.R. 1891. Notes and list of birds and eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-1866. Proceedings of the US National Museum. 14:413-446
- Salter, R.E. 1974. Autumn migration of birds through the central and upper Mackenzie Valley region, 1972. Chapter II in Gunn, W.W.H. and J.A. Livingston (Editors), Bird migrations on the North Slope and in the Mackenzie Valley regions, 1972. Arctic Gas Biological Report Series Volume 13, Canadian Arctic Gas Study Ltd. 83pp.
- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Red-tailed Hawk

(*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Buse à queue rousse

RTHA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in open forested areas throughout the southern mainland and southern Mackenzie Mountains and along the Mackenzie Valley to Inuvik. The subspecies *B. j. calurus* breeds east of the mountains in the NWT. Also *B. j. harlani* may be breeding in the Mackenzie Mountains, as they are found in Alaska and the Yukon and are reported occasionally as a migrant. Winters from southern Canada to Central America. Principal dates: seen in the NWT in late April to early October. One winter record from the Norman Wells CBC (National Audubon Society 2010). Breeding period: early May to early August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 8 April 2015; one individual; Mason Lake, 15 km southeast of Yellowknife; Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

Late records: 26 October 2011; one individual, ssp. *harlani*; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: six individuals; 26 July 2015; Highway 3 (Birch Creek to Fort Providence);
Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015.)
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. [www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor species breeding periods.pdf](http://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf)

Rough-legged Hawk

(*Buteo lagopus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Fairly common breeder on tundra north of the treeline on the north coast, mainland barrens and Arctic islands. Uncommon as a migrant in the southern mainland and Cordillera in April-May and September-October. The subspecies present in the NWT is *B. l. sanctijohannis*, wintering in southern Canada and US. Principal dates: seen in the NWT from mid-April to early October. Breeding period: mid-May to late August.

Early record: 11 April 2017; Fort Smith (Thebacha Campground); Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 31 October 2013; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 26 individuals; 4 August 2001; Aulavik National Park; Angus Simpson; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Strigiformes

Strigidae

Great Horned Owl

(*Bubo virginianus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Grand-duc d'Amérique

GHOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon permanent resident in forests below the treeline on the mainland, including along the Mackenzie Valley as far north as Inuvik and Reindeer Station. The subspecies *B. v. subarcticus* is thought to be found throughout the NWT, but considerable variation in plumage colouration has been observed.

High count: Four individuals (family group); 4 June 2015, Hay River; Doug Tate, Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Snowy Owl

(*Bubo scandiacus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Harfang des neiges

SNOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon breeder on tundra on the Arctic islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) and the north coast. May also breed, at least occasionally, in the mainland barrens (e.g. north of Artillery Lake, Hornby 1934). Some may occasionally winter within the breeding range (as far north as Banks Island, Manning et al. 1956), but most move south. South of the breeding range it is a rare migrant, with most records from mid-October to late November in open areas like airports and golf courses. Most birds likely move quickly through the NWT to better winter foraging in agricultural areas further south. A concentration of eight birds at the Yellowknife Airport in late fall 2011 was unusual for the southern part of the NWT (Eckert 2012). No subspecies are recognized.

High count: 24 individuals (three nests with adults and young); 18 July 2000; Thomsen R., Aulavik National Park, Banks Island; Rosemary Buck; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.D. 2012. Northern Canada and Greenland. North American Birds 61(1):111

- Hornby, J. 1934. Wild Life of the Thelon River Area, Northwest Territories, Canada. Canadian Field-Naturalist 48:105-111
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.

Northern Hawk Owl

(*Surnia ulula*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Chouette épervière

NHOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon permanent resident in coniferous and mixed forests below the treeline on the mainland, northwards to Inuvik, Colville Lake and the Anderson River Valley (eBird 2021). Diurnal, often seen perched on the top of trees around open areas such as highways, wetlands and burns. Some birds likely move south out of the NWT during winter. The subspecies present in North America, including the NWT, is *S.u. caparoch*.

High count: Four individuals; 18 August 1991; Dempster Highway (Inuvik to Tsiigehtchic); Dennis Forsythe; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Barred Owl

(*Strix varia*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Chouette rayée

BDOW

(TERR)

Uncommon and local breeder in mixed forests in the Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte areas. Casual elsewhere in the NWT (NNPR, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife). Calling birds were heard at Duck Lake near Yellowknife in February 1988, and in Yellowknife in March of 2016 and 2018 suggesting breeding may be possible here. Winter status unknown, may move south out of the NWT. Principal dates are March to late July. The subspecies present is most probably *S. v. varia*.

Early record: February 1988; Duck Lake, J Obst (R.G. Bromley notes); 10 March 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Rhiannon Pankratz; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 2016; one individual; South Nahanni River north of Nahanni Butte; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: two individuals; several dates, Fort Liard area in May-July; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Great Grey Owl

(*Strix nebulosa*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Chouette lapone

GGOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon permanent resident in coniferous forest interspersed with muskeg and wetlands below the treeline on the mainland, northwards along the Mackenzie Valley to Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope. Rarely further north as far as Reindeer Station. Some birds likely move south out of the NWT during winter. The subspecies present in North America, including the NWT, is *S. n. nebulosa*.

High count: ten individuals; 9 April 2020; Highway 3 from Yellowknife to Stagg River; Reid Hildebrandt; Facebook 2020.

Long-eared Owl

(*Asio otus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Hibou moyen-duc

LEOW

S, W (TERR)

Rare migrant and breeder. There are about thirteen records from the NWT, from Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Yellowknife and the Great Bear Lake area. The small number of records may be a result of both the lack of observers in the NWT and the secretive nature of this species. There are old historical records of eggs collected at Fort Simpson and Fort Providence, and one recently confirmed breeding in Fort Simpson. The subspecies present in western North America, including the NWT, is *A. a. tuftsi*. wintering from southern Canada to Mexico.

Occurrences

1. Pre-1861; one individual; Fort Simpson; B.R. Ross; Ross 1861. Specimen reported taken
2. 14 April 1885; one female and two eggs; Ft. Providence; taken by Aboriginal hunter, identified by J.J. Dagleish; Preble 1908
3. 1 May [year unknown, prior to 1908]; one egg; Fort Simpson; Koss; Preble 1908. Egg collected

4. 10 May 1904; one male; Fort Simpson; A.E. Preble; Preble 1908. Specimen taken in a thicket of mixed woods
5. Pre-1981; Yellowknife; Bromley and Trauger 1981
6. During the period 2000-2002; Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site, Great Bear Lake; Moore 2005
7. 26 June 2001; one individual; Fort Liard (near the cemetery); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021 Photographed
8. August 2002; one on Jolliffe Island, Yellowknife, J Mackay (R.G. Bromley notes)
9. 15 May 2004; one individual; Yellowknife area; Anne Gunn; Yellowknife Arrivals Database. (note: during this decade, observed a nest with young on Jolliffe Island (Yellowknife: monitored by J. Obst and photographed by J. Mckay, but no further records could be found)
10. 31 May 2004; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2004a
11. 26-31 June 2004; at least two fledglings; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2004b
12. 22 April 2006; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2006. Heard on nocturnal owl survey route
13. 20 April 2010; one individual; Joachim Obst; Burnt Island, Great Slave Lake; Yellowknife Arrivals Database
14. Summer 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson; seen through the summer; Doug Tate, m. obs.; eBird 2021, Eckert 2013.

References

- Bromley, R.G. and D.L. Trauger. 1981. Birds of Yellowknife: A regional checklist. *Ecology North*. Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. 8pp.
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Short-eared Owl

(*Asio flammeus*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Threatened (COSEWIC 2021)

Special Concern (SARA 2012)

Hibou maître-bois

SEOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon migrant and breeder in open habitats including fields, wetlands, airports, burns, and alpine and Arctic tundra throughout the mainland north to and including the north coast. At least occasionally present further north to Victoria Island and Banks Island (Manning et al 1956, eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the northern hemisphere, including the NWT, is the northern short-eared owl, *A. f. flammeus*, wintering from Canada to Mexico. Principal dates are early May to late October.

Early record: 25 April 2012; three individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 November 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 10 June 2005; Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary; Nathan Senner; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2008. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. vi+24pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.

Boreal Owl

(*Aegolius funereus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Nyctale de Tengmalm

BOOW

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common permanent resident in coniferous forest south of the treeline. Ranging northwards, at least occasionally, to Inuvik, Aklavik (McKeever 1958) and Colville Lake

(eBird 2021). Some likely move southwards out of the NWT during winter. The subspecies present in North America, including the NWT, is the Richardson's Boreal Owl, *A. f. richardsoni*.

High count: eight individuals; 21 April 2004; Fort Simpson (Owl Survey); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
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Northern Saw-whet Owl

(*Aegolius acadicus*)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Petite nyctale

NSWO

Accidental, one confirmed record of a bird heard calling by Allicia Kelly along Highway 5 in Wood Buffalo National Park near the Little Buffalo River, approximately 55 km west of Fort Smith on 2 May, 2012 (CWS, unpubl. data). An audio recording was obtained. There is an additional report of one calling in NNPR during summer 2006 during a bat survey (Lausen 2006), however the description did not eliminate the possibility of Boreal Owl. This species has been recorded as far north in Alberta as Fort McMurray. Further west, it has been recorded annually across the Southern Yukon as far east as Watson Lake in recent years (eBird 2021). The subspecies Northern Saw-whet Owl, *A. a. acadicus*, is the most probably occurring in the NWT.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Lausen, C. 2006. Bat survey of NNPR and surrounding areas, Northwest Territories, July – August 2006. Report prepared for NNPR, Parks Canada, and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, NWT Chapter, Yellowknife. 45pp.
- Canadian Wildlife Service. 2018. Unpublished Data. Audio recording on file with Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, NT.

Coraciiformes

Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher

(Megaceryle alcyon)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique

BEKI-

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common migrant and breeder around ponds, lakes, streams and rivers with earth banks for nesting throughout the southern mainland and along the Mackenzie Valley to the Delta. Also reported from the middle portion of the Anderson River (eBird 2021). No valid subspecies are recognized. Winters in US and Mexico, some on the coasts of Alaska and BC. Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 30 April 2010; two individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 24 September 2013; one individual; Little Doctor Lake, 100 km west of Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 26 September 1987; shore of Mackenzie River between Mills Lake and Bouvier Creek; R.G. Bromley and S. Matthews (R.G. Bromley notes); 31 May 1993; ten individuals; Mackenzie River (Fort McPherson to Aklavik); Andy Stepniewski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Piciformes

Picidae

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

(Sphyrapicus varius)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pic maculé

YBSA

S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in deciduous and mixed forests in the southern mainland, ranging north to Palmer Lake in the northern Mackenzie Mountains, Norman Wells and Yellowknife. Reported without details from Inuvik (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Winters from the south-east US to Central America. Principal dates are early May to mid-September.

Early record: 30 April 2016; two individuals; Fort Liard (Highway 7 at km 10, Hay Lake);
Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 19 October 2016; one juvenile; Fort Simpson (100th Street); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 37 individuals; June 2004; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Downy Woodpecker

(*Dryobates pubescens*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pic mineur

DOWO

S, W (FED)

Uncommon permanent resident in deciduous and mixed forests in the southern mainland north to NNPR, Fort Simpson and Fort Providence. Occurs at least occasionally at Yellowknife and further along the Mackenzie Valley with records on the Carcassou River on the Canol Road west of Norman Wells (Godfrey 1965) and along the Mackenzie River about 80 km south of Fort Good Hope (eBird 2021). The subspecies most probably present in the NWT is the eastern Downy Woodpecker (*D. p. medianus*), with large white spots on wing coverts.

High count: seven individuals; 27 December 1982; Hay River (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.

Hairy Woodpecker**(*Dryobates villosus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Pic chevelu****HAWO****G, S, W (FED)**

Common permanent resident in forests throughout the southern mainland and Mackenzie Mountains, extending north along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells and Délîne. The northernmost record is at Little Chicago, on the Mackenzie River between Fort Good Hope and Tsiiigehtchic (eBird 2021). The subspecies most probably present in the NWT is the eastern Hairy Woodpecker (*D. v. septentrionalis*), with the ventrum and mid-dorsal stripe pure white.

High count: 13 individuals; 21 December 2014; Fort Simpson (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society (2010)

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Jackson, J.A., H.R. Ouellet and B.J. Jackson. 2020. Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (P.G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.haiwoo.01>
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015).

American Three-toed Woodpecker**(*Picoides dorsalis*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Pic à dos rayé****ATTW****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Uncommon permanent resident in mature coniferous forest south of the treeline throughout the NWT, north to Inuvik and Colville Lake. Can be locally common in recently burned areas. The subspecies present in the NWT is the Northwest American Three-toed Woodpecker (*P. d. fasciatus*) with numerous white spots on forehead, clearly defined white eye stripe, the white band on back marked with narrow black bars.

High count: five individuals; 20 October 2001; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Black-backed Woodpecker**(*Picoides arcticus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Pic à dos noir****BBWO****G, S, W (FED)**

Uncommon permanent resident in mature coniferous forest north to Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake. Occurs less frequently in the Mackenzie Mountains than American Three-toed Woodpecker. Can be locally common in recently burned areas. No subspecies are recognized.

High count: 15 individuals; Highway 3 (Behchokǫ to Birch Creek); Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Northern Flicker**(*Colaptes auratus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Pic flamboyant****NOFL****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common migrant and breeder in open forests throughout the mainland, including Colville Lake and the Mackenzie Delta, with extralimital reports north of the treeline from Tuktoyaktuk, Cape Dalhousie, the Anderson River Delta and along the Horton River (Searing et al. 1975, eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is the Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker (*C. a. luteus*). Winters in southern Canada to Mexico. Principal dates are early May to early September.

Early record: 6 April 2012; two individuals; Russel Bay, 40 km northwest of Délıne; Libby Gunn; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 September 2017; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 12 individuals; 7 May 2005; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Searing, G.F., E. Kuyt, W.J. Richardson and T.W. Barry. 1975. Seabirds of the southeastern Beaufort Sea: Aircraft and ground observations in 1972 and 1974. Beaufort Sea Project Technical Report 3b. Department of Environment. 238pp.

Pileated Woodpecker**(*Dryocopus pileatus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Grand Pic****PIWO****S, W (FED)**

Uncommon and local permanent resident in mature forests in the southern mainland, north to Fort Simpson and Yellowknife, with extralimital reports in NNPR (Hell Roaring Creek) and in the Mackenzie Valley between Wrigley and Tulita (eBird 2021). Most common in the more southerly extremes of the NWT at Fort Liard and Fort Smith. The subspecies present in the NWT is *D. p. abiericola*, the largest of the two subspecies.

High count: three individuals; 23 July 2002; Fort Liard (Hay Lake); Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Falconiformes**Falconidae****American Kestrel****(*Falco sparverius*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Crécerelle d'Amérique****I, G, S, W - TERR**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in semi-open habitats with dead trees for nesting throughout the mainland south of the treeline, including the Mackenzie Mountains and the Mackenzie Valley and Delta. Extralimital reports from beyond the treeline on the Horton River and Lac de Gras areas (eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is *F. s. sparverius*, wintering in the US to Central America. Principal dates: seen late April to mid-September. Breeding period: late May to mid-August (Shank and Poole 2016). One individual arrived in Sachs Harbour on Banks Island on May 17, 2023, but froze to death overnight; specimen is with the GNWT.

Early record: 3 April 1997; one individual; Ingraham Trail (Prelude Lake); Leslie Wakelyn; eBird 2021

Late records: 29 September 2012; two individuals; Highway 3 (Yellowknife to Boundary Creek); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

1 November 2017; one individual; Yellowknife; Graham Sorenson; eBird 2021
Photographed.

High count: 14 individuals; 11 May 2008; Pine Point area; Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Merlin

(*Falco columbarius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Faucon émerillon

MERL

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in wooded areas adjacent to openings such as rivers, lakes and wetlands throughout the NWT, including north of the treeline on the mainland (Thelon River, Lac de Gras, Anderson, Horton and Hornaday rivers). Extralimital report from Sachs Harbour on Banks Island (eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is the Taiga Merlin (*F. c. columbarius*), with black tail marked by two to three narrow bluish-gray bands. Winters from the US to South America. Principal dates: seen in late April to late September. Breeding period: mid-May to late July (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 11 April 2001; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 October 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: eight individuals; 18 July 1987; Anderson River (middle part); Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

Gyrfalcon**(*Falco rusticolus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Faucon gerfaut****GYRF****I, G, S, W (TERR)**

Uncommon permanent resident, nesting on cliff ledges in alpine and Arctic tundra habitats. Its breeding range in the NWT includes Banks and Victoria Islands, along the north coast, the lower Coppermine, Horton and Hornaday Rivers, the northern Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains, and along the Thelon River, especially near the confluence of the Hanbury and Clarke rivers (Kuyt 1980, Kelsall 1970). Moves southwards into the southern mainland (Délîne, Norman Wells, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Enterprise) in winter (National Audubon Society 2010), but some may remain quite far north – there are winter records from Inuvik (Shepard 1999) and Artillery Lake (Hornby 1934). No subspecies are recognized. Breeding period: mid-April to early August (Shank and Poole 2016).

High count: eight individuals; 26 June 1987; lower Horton River; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Hornby, J. 1934. Wild Life in the Thelon River Area, Northwest Territories, Canada. Canadian Field-Naturalist 48:105-111.
- Kelsall, J.P. 1970. Some breeding records for birds on the central Coppermine River. Canadian Field-Naturalist 84:306-307.
- Kuyt, E. 1980. Distribution and breeding biology of raptors in the Thelon River area. Northwest Territories, 1957-1969. Canadian Field-Naturalist 94(2): 121-130.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015.)
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf
- Shepard, M.G. 1999. British Columbia-Yukon. North American Birds 53(2):92-93.

Peregrine Falcon

(Falco peregrinus)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Not at Risk (COSEWIC 2017)

Special Concern (SARA 2012)

Not at Risk (SARC 2022)

Faucon pèrelin

PEFA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Uncommon migrant and local breeder on cliffs and steep embankments. Breeds throughout the NWT from the Arctic islands (Prince Patrick, Melville, Banks, Victoria) south throughout the mainland, where suitable habitat is present. Principal dates: seen in the NWT from late April to late September. One winter record from the Norman Wells CBC in 2001. The subspecies complex *F. p. anatum/tundrius* is present in the NWT. Winters in the US to South America. Breeding period: mid-May to late August (Shank and Poole 2016).

Early record: 29 March 1998; one individual; Carcajou River, 35 km southwest of Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 January 1997, Norman Wells, Lower Quarry Rd, A. Veitch. (R.G. Bromley notes); c. 30 December 2001; one individual; Norman Wells (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010. 9 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 14 individuals; 18 July 1987; Anderson River; Joachim Obst; eBird 2021

References

- Bromley, R.G., (R.G. Bromley notes), 1997, Fax from A. Veitch, Renewable Resources, Norman Wells to R.G. Bromley to Wildlife Management Division, 30 Jan 1997.
- COSEWIC. 2017. COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus pealei* subspecies – *Falco peregrinus pealei anatum/tundrius* – *Falco peregrinus anatum/tundrius* in Canada. Ottawa, ON. xvii+108pp. (Species at Risk public registry.)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015).
- Shank, C.C. and K.G. Poole. 2016. Critical breeding periods for raptor species of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT. 29pp. www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/raptor_species_breeding_periods.pdf

- Species at Risk Committee. 2022. Species Status Report for Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in the Northwest Territories. Species at Risk Committee, Yellowknife, NT 83pp.

Passeriformes

Tyrannidae

Olive-sided Flycatcher

(*Contopus cooperi*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2018)

Threatened (SARA 2010)

Moucherolle à côtés olives

OSFL

G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon and local breeder in coniferous forests, often near forest openings or forest edges, such as burns, borrow pits and wetlands. Found throughout the southern mainland, north to Colville Lake and Big Stone (eBird 2021) and Travaillant Lakes (Martell et al. 1984). Often seen perched or flycatching from the tops of dead trees. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in South America. Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 13 May 2015; one individual; Highway 3 (Yellowknife to Edzo); Vicki St. Germaine; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 August 2014; one individual; NNPR (Moore's Hot Springs); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: Eight individuals; 29 May 1972; Mackenzie River (Little Chicago); Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2018. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. ix+52pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211B-1)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Western Wood-Pewee**(*Contopus sordidulus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Pioui de l'Ouest****WEWP****S, W (FED)**

Uncommon and local breeder in deciduous and mixed forests throughout the southern mainland north to Yellowknife and Whatì and northwards along the Mackenzie Valley as far as Fort Good Hope (Roe 1975, eBird 2021). Shows a preference for mature trembling aspen stands in some areas. The subspecies most probably present in the NWT is *C. s. veliei*, with grey overall including crown and mostly missing the yellow on underparts. Probably winters in western South America. Principal dates are late May to early August.

Early record: 28 May 2011; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Patti Vicky; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 September 2003; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: Five individuals; 26 July 2015; Highway 3 (Birch Creek to Fort Providence); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Roe, N.A. 1975. New records of birds in west-central Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 89: 135-142.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**(*Empidonax flaviventris*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Moucherolle à ventre jaune****YBFL****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Uncommon and local breeder in cool, moist coniferous forest, bogs and muskeg throughout the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie Valley as far as Inuvik (Godfrey 1965, eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in Central America. Principal dates are early June to mid-August.

Early record: 1 June 2003; one individual; Petitot River canyon; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late record: 14 August 1977; Wood Buffalo National Park (Nyarling River); Wayne Neily; eBird 2021

High count: 16 individuals; June 2012; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.

Alder Flycatcher

(*Empidonax alnorum*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Moucherolle des aulnes

ALFL

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in open shrubby and brushy wetlands and alder thickets. Widespread throughout the treed parts of the mainland, with occasional records as far north as the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktut Nogait National Park (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in South America. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 24 May 2015; one individual; Highway 3 at Caen Lake; Reid Hildebrandt, Vicki St. Germaine; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (Riverbank Trail); Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 65 individuals; June 2004; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Least Flycatcher**(*Empidonax minimus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Moucherolle tchébec****LEFL****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in deciduous and mixed forests often associated with trembling aspen stands. Found throughout the southern mainland north to Yellowknife and north along the Mackenzie Valley as far as Fort Good Hope, exceptionally as far north as Fort McPherson (eBird 2021) and Inuvik (Cecile 2002). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in Central America. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 1 May 1981; Cameron River across from Cassidy Point, L Allen CWS, R.G. Bromley notes); 18 May 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton & Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 September 2001; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 30 individuals; June 2002; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- Cecile D.G. 2002. British Columbia-Yukon. North American Birds 56(4):474-475.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Hammond's Flycatcher**(*Empidonax hammondi*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Moucherolle de Hammond****HAFL****(FED)**

Uncommon breeder in coniferous forests in the southern Mackenzie Mountains as far north as the Gate in NNPR, as well as in adjacent lowlands, east to Lindberg's Landing and the Fort Liard area. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in the south-western US to Central America. Principal dates mid-May to mid-July.

Early record: 9 May 2017; one individual; Fort Liard (Muskeg River); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 21 July 2013; one individual; Nahanni NPR (Deadmen Valley); Doug Tate, eBird 2021

High count: five individuals; 14 June 2003; Liard Highway (km 50); Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Dusky Flycatcher

(*Empidonax oberholseri*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Moucherolle sombre

DUFL

(FED)

Status uncertain. On 6 July 2013, Doug Tate recorded a singing Dusky Flycatcher adjacent to the Howard's Pass Access Road in NNPR, not far from the Yukon border (eBird 2021). In 1998 Eckert (1998) found a Dusky Flycatcher in the Kotaneelee Range in the Yukon immediately adjacent to the NWT boundary west of Fort Liard. It may be that this species is a regular breeder in the remote mountainous regions along the Yukon-NWT border in the southwestern corner of the NWT. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in the southwestern US to Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.D. 1998. Known range of dusky flycatcher extended northeast to the Kotaneelee Range, Yukon. *Birders Journal* 7(4):205-207.

Eastern Phoebe

(*Sayornis phoebe*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Moucherolle phébi

EAPH

S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder along forest edges and within communities, often nesting on human-built structures such as buildings, bridges and towers. Found in the southern mainland north to Yellowknife and Fort Simpson, rarely northwards in the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells and the Mountain River (eBird 2021). No subspecies are recognized. Winters in the south-eastern US to Central America. Principal dates are early May to late August.

Early record: 28 April 1998; eight individuals; Fort Liard (townsite); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

Late record: 17 September 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake); Bob Saunders; eBird 2021

High count: eight individuals; 28 April 1998; Fort Liard (townsite); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Say's Phoebe

(*Sayornis saya*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Moucherolle à ventre roux

SAPH

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in open, sparsely treed habitats in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains, and in the northern portions of the Mackenzie, Anderson, Horton and Hornaday river valleys, including the deltas (Stevens and Höhn 1958, eBird 2021). Our most northerly nesting flycatcher, it may nest on human-built structures, where available. Uncommon spring migrant in Fort Liard and Fort Simpson, rare spring migrant further east at Fort Providence, Hay River and Yellowknife. Subspecies present in the NWT is *S. s. saya*. Winters in the western US and Mexico. Principal dates are early May to early August. Rarely seen in the south in fall migration.

Early record: 30 April 2016; two individuals; Fort Liard (Hay Lake & airport); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 16 September 2015; one individual; Nááts'lhch'oh National Park Reserve (Howard's Pass Access Rd.); Doug Tate, eBird 2021

High count: 13 individuals; 15 May 2002; Fort Liard (townsite); Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Stevens, W.E. and E.O. Höhn. 1958. Some Additions to the List of Birds of the Mackenzie Delta, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 72:168-170.

Ash-throated Flycatcher**(*Myiarchus cinerascens*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)**

Accidental. One record of a bird observed and well-described by Doug Tate near the corner of 96th Street and 102nd Avenue in Fort Simpson on 1 September 2009 (Eckert 2010, eBird 2021). The subspecies was probably *M. c cinerascens*. Usual breeding range is western US and Mexico. Winters in the southwestern US to western Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert C.E. 2010. Northern Canada & Greenland. North American Birds 64(1):101-103.

Great Crested Flycatcher**(*Myiarchus crinitus*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Tyran à gorge cendrée****ATFL****(FED)**

Casual visitor. The first record was of a bird photographed by Dave Wilderspin at Norman Wells on 3 October 2012 (Eckert 2013). The second record was a bird photographed at Kam Lake in Yellowknife by Marcus Jackson on 20 September 2020 and the third photographed in Hay River by Gary Vizniowski on 12 & 15 October 2021 (eBird 2021). Interestingly all three of these records have been quite late in fall migration. No subspecies recognized. Usually, the breeding range is in southeastern Canada and the US. Winters in the Caribbean and Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2013. Northern Canada and Greenland; North American Birds 67(1):100-101.

Western Kingbird
(*Tyrannus verticalis*)
Vagrant (SGR 2021)

Tyran de l'Ouest
WEKI
(FED)

Casual visitor. There are three records: the first and most remarkable was a well-described individual seen at Cape Dalhousie at the north tip of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula by Ernie Kuyt and other observers on 15 June 1972 (Kuyt 1973). Other records are one reported at Mill's Lake on the Mackenzie River downstream from Fort Providence in late May or early June 2003 (Anonymous 2005) and one seen and photographed at Fort Liard by Craig Machtans on 4-5 June 2005 (Eckert 2005). This species breeds no closer to our region than the southern Prairie provinces but has a tendency to wander regularly. No subspecies recognized. Winters on the Pacific Coast of Mexico to Central America.

References

- Anonymous. 2005a. Ecological assessment of the Edéhzhíe Candidate Protected Area. Report prepared by EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. and Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. 85pp.
- Eckert, C.E. 2005. Northern Canada. North American Birds 59(4):611-615.
- Kuyt, E. 1973. Western Kingbird on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 87: 467.

Eastern Kingbird
(*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Tyran tritri
EAKI
S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in open habitats with adjacent trees, including large wetland complexes. Found in the southern mainland as far north as NNPR, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife and northwards along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells and Chick Lake (Godfrey 1965, Eckert 2005, eBird 2021). Sometimes appears in small flocks in migration in the south in mid- to late August. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in South America. Principal dates are late May to early September.

Early record: 22 May 2015; one individual; Highway 3 (Kakisa to Yellowknife); Steve Moore; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 26 individuals; 26 August 2004; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2005

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert C.E. 2005. Northern Canada. North American Birds 59(1):95-97.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.

Vireonidae

Blue-headed Vireo

(*Vireo solitarius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Viréo à tête bleue

BHVI

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in mixed and coniferous forests. Its regular breeding range extends as far north as NNPR (Deadmen Valley), Wrigley and Yellowknife, rarely down the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. The subspecies present in the NWT is *V. s. solitarius*. Winters from the south-eastern US to Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to late July.

Early record: 17 May 2000; one individual; Fort Liard (Hay Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 September 2020; one individual; Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: nine individuals; June 2003; Checkpoint (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Philadelphia Vireo

(*Vireo philadelphicus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Viréo de Philadelphie

PHVI

W (FED)

Rare breeder in mature trembling aspen stands. Occurs most regularly in the Fort Liard and Fort Smith areas, rarely north to Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. There is one extralimital record from Tulita on 24 July 2011. The similarity of this species' song to that of the more

common Red-eyed Vireo may lead to it being overlooked. No subspecies are recognized. Winters in Central America. Principal dates are early June to late August.

Early record: 29 May 2021; one individual; Hay River (1.5 kms East on Hwy 5); Henry Boden; eBird 2021

Late record: 1 September 2020; one individual; Hay River (West Channel); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: seven individuals; June 2000; Fort Smith (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Warbling Vireo

(*Vireo gilvus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Viréo mélodieux

WAVI

S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in mature deciduous forest, often close to water. Found in the southern mainland from NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake) east to Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River and Fort Smith, as well as northward in the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. Not a regular occurrence in Yellowknife. The most probable subspecies present in the NWT is the western Warbling Vireo (*V. g. swainsoni*), although there is very little to differentiate it with the eastern Warbling Vireo (*V. g. gilvus*). Winters in Mexico and Central America. Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 30 April 2016; one individual; Hwy 7 (km 10); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 7 August 2003; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 28 individuals; June 2009; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Red-eyed Vireo

(Vireo olivaceus)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Common migrant and breeder in deciduous and mixed forests. Found throughout the southern mainland north to Yellowknife and northwards in the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. The subspecies present in the NWT is *C. o. olivaceus*. Winters in South America. Principal dates are late May to early September.

Early record: 21 May 2017; one individual; Ingraham Trail (Bighill Lake); Rhiannon Pankratz; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 September 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 43 individuals; June 2001; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

Viréo aux yeux rouges

REVI

S, W (FED)

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Laniidae

Northern Shrike

(Lanius borealis)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Uncommon breeder in open areas interspersed with trees and shrubs. Most breeding season records from the NWT are from the northern portions of the mainland (northern Mackenzie Mountains, Great Bear Lake and Lac de Gras) but there are scattered summer records in the south as well. Most birds apparently leave the NWT in the winter, but there are a handful of sightings through the winter period. Most evident in the south during migration periods from mid-March to early May and from mid-September to late October.

Pie-grièche migratrice

NSHR

I, G, S, W (FED)

The subspecies present in the NWT is the American northern shrike (*L. b. borealis*). Most winter in southern Canada and northern US.

High count: five individuals; 15 July 2010; southeast Great Bear Lake; Bob Saunders; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Corvidae

Canada Jay

(*Perisoreus canadensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Mésangeai du Canada

CAJA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Common permanent resident in coniferous and mixed forests throughout the NWT south of the treeline, including the treed portions of the Mackenzie Delta and the Anderson, Horton and Hornaday River valleys. Although the subspecies concept for Canada Jay is under review, our birds generally are recognized as part of the boreal Canada Jay group (*P. c. canadensis/albescens*).

High count: 48 individuals; 27 December 1987; Yellowknife (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

Blue Jay

(*Cyanocitta cristata*)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Geai bleu

BLJA

Casual visitor. There is one well-documented account of a bird first photographed at Fort Smith (Thebacha Campsite) by Gaby Koehler on 31 October 2017 (pers. comm.), with a bird returning every winter since, being joined in 2020 by a second bird that subsequently perished. Other reports include one heard calling at Fort Smith on 31 May 2011 (Eckert 2012) and second-hand reports at Lindberg Landing and Trout Lake (D. Tate, personal communication), in the southwestern part of the NWT. The subspecies seen in the NWT is most probably *C. c. bromia*, found from eastern BC to Newfoundland. Winters in southern Canada to the US.

References

- Eckert, C.D. 2012. Northern Canada & Greenland. North American Birds 65(4):647-649.

Black-billed Magpie

(*Pica hudsonia*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Pie d'Amérique

BBMA

S, W (TERR)

Locally common permanent resident in Yellowknife, Whatì, Fort Providence, Hay River and Enterprise. Present in small numbers (two to three pairs) in Fort Simpson, rare and occasional in Fort Smith, Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard and Norman Wells. Undocumented sightings as far north as Inuvik. Rarely seen any distance from the communities. First noted in the NWT as a migrant in the Fort Resolution area in 1949 (Höhn and Robinson 1951). Our birds are members of the North American subspecies: *P. p. hudsonia*.

High count: 80 individuals; 30 December 2012; Yellowknife (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- Höhn, E.O. and D.L. Robinson. 1951. Some supplementary bird notes from the general area of the Mackenzie Delta and Great Slave Lake. Canadian Field-Naturalist 65:115-118.

American Crow

(*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Corneille d'Amérique

AMCR

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Locally common migrant and breeder in and around the communities of Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith, Behchokò and Yellowknife; as a new species beginning to breed there and overwinter in 1984 and 1984/1985 respectively (R.G. Bromley notes). Tends to assemble in flocks in fall migration from mid-August to mid-September. Recorded sporadically elsewhere in the NWT including NNPR, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Lac de Gras. Our birds are most probably members of the subspecies *C. b. batchyrhynchos*, the most common in eastern Canada and the US. Principal dates are late March to early October. In winter, one bird lingered in Yellowknife in 2012-2013 and another was seen there on the Christmas Bird Count in 2021.

Early record: 26 March 2012; one individual; Yellowknife; Adrian D'Hont; eBird 2021

Late records: 30 Dec. 2012 - 17 February 2013 (possibly survived winter); Yellowknife (Gitzel Street); Reid Hildebrandt, eBird 2021

High count: 175 individuals; 4 September 2019; Hay River (West Channel); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Common Raven

(*Corvus corax*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Grand Corbeau

CORA

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Common permanent resident in a variety of habitats throughout the NWT including the Arctic islands (Victoria, Banks, Melville, Prince Patrick). The most widespread passerine in the NWT. Reaches its largest numbers in communities, where it has access to anthropogenic food sources in dumpsters and landfills. Our birds are members of the subspecies *C. c. principalis*, one of largest sized subspecies in North America, found from Alaska to Greenland. The most massive ravens are *C. c. kamtschaticus*, found in Siberia and also seen in Alaska.

High count: 3,093 individuals; 2 January 2021; Yellowknife (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (Online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee

(*Poecile atricapillus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Mésange à tête noire

BCCH

W (FED)

Fairly common resident in deciduous and mixed forests in the southern mainland, north to NNPR, Wrigley and Yellowknife. Can be common in communities, less so outside of them where coniferous forest predominates, and Boreal Chickadee is more common. Also recorded from Norman Wells and the Tsiigehtchic-Fort McPherson area of the Mackenzie Valley. Plumage colour variations occur and subspecies delineation is dated (Duval 1945)

and needs review (Foote et al. 2020). The subspecies occurring in the NWT are unclear: by convention they are considered the pale Alaskan *P. a. turneri*, although many of our birds show darker or intermediate colouring like *P. a. atricapillus* (central to eastern NA) and *P. a. septentrionalis* (southern Yukon and northern BC).

High count: 61 individuals; 16 December 2012; Hay River (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- Duvall, A.J. 1945. Distribution and taxonomy of the Black-capped Chickadees of North America. *Auk* 62:49-69.
- Foote, J.R., D.J. Mennill, L.M. Ratcliffe and S.M. Smith. 2020. Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.bkcchi.01>
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (Online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Boreal Chickadee

(*Poecile hudsonicus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Mésange à tête brune

BOCH

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common resident in coniferous forests south of the treeline, north to Colville Lake and the treed portion of the Mackenzie Delta. Usually less frequent than Black-capped Chickadee in the communities. Size and plumage colour variations occur and subspecies delineation is dated (Godfrey 1995) and needs review. The subspecies occurring in the NWT could be *P. h. hudsonicus* (grey, brown-backed) and *P. h. farleyi* (pale, brown-backed) in southern NWT and the *P. h. stoneyi* (as *P. h. evura*, grey, olive-backed) in northern NWT.

High count: 63 individuals; 28 December 1997; Yellowknife (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. The Birds of Canada. Revised edition. National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. 595pp.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (Online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Gray-headed Chickadee**(*Poecile cinctus*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Mésange lapone****GHCH****I (FED)**

Rare resident around the treeline in the Mackenzie Delta and northern Richardson Mountains associated with spruce and willows. Distribution in the NWT is not well understood. Macfarlane (1891) reported a nest with seven eggs and a female collected on 1 June 1864 near Fort Anderson. This was reportedly the first specimen of this species taken in North America. A specimen was taken by Charles Clarke at Aklavik on 19 September 1942 (CMNAV 29406) and it was described as equally as common as boreal chickadee at the time in this location (Porsild 1943). Two specimens were collected by Charles MacDonald on 22 August 1958 at Mount Goodenough in the Richardson Mountains 35 km southwest of Aklavik (CMNAV 44821, 44822). Another was reported without details from the Richardson Mountains in summer of 1980 (Grunberg 1980). Martell et al. (1984) described it as “uncommon to rare resident of the forested parts of the Mackenzie Delta but has been observed only rarely above the treeline”. Reported repeatedly at Reindeer Station north of Inuvik in the 1980s and 1990s, but no recent reports from that location (eBird 2021). In the NWT, this species is at the eastern extremity of its range that include northern Europe, Siberia, and northwest North America. Our birds are of the North American subspecies *P. c lathami*, occurring in Alaska, Yukon and the NWT.

High count: four individuals; 14 August 1989; Reindeer Station, about 40 km north of Inuvik; Dennis Forsythe; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Grunberg, H. 1980. Northwestern Canada Region. American Birds 34(6):910-911.
- Macfarlane, R.R. 1891. Notes and list of birds and eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-1866. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 14:413-446.
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- Porsild, A.E. 1943. Birds of the Mackenzie Delta. Canadian Field-Naturalist 57:20-35.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>. (CMNAV 29406, CMNAV 44821, 44822)

Alaudidae

Horned Lark

(*Eremophila alpestris*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Alouette hausse-col

HOLA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder on alpine tundra in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains and on Arctic tundra above the treeline on the mainland barrens, north coast and Arctic islands (Victoria, Banks, Melville). Fairly common migrant in the southern mainland, with birds found in open habitats such as fields, roadsides and airports, sometimes associating with flocks of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. In the south, spring migration occurs mainly in May and fall migration mainly in September. Size and plumage colour variations occur, matching soil coloration, and subspecies delineation is complex, dated and needs review (in Beason 2020). Our Arctic tundra birds are mostly from the eastern dark group (*E. a. hoyti*), wintering in the northern US. Our alpine birds may be from the western pale group (*E. a. arcticola*), a large bird wintering in western US.

Early record: 13 April 2016; one individual; Nahanni Butte; H. Tsetso, NNPR staff; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 October 2017; one individual; Ingraham Trail (Prosperous Lake boat launch); Steve Moore; eBird 2021

High count: 140 individuals; 13 May 1972; Norman Wells; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- Beason, R.C. 2020. Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.horlar.01>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Hirundinidae

Tree Swallow

(*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Hirondelle bicolore

TRES

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in fields, marshes, shorelines, and wooded swamps with standing dead trees. Nests in tree cavities or in nest boxes, where provided around human habitation. Found throughout the mainland, including to the north coast in locations where suitable

nest sites can be found (e.g. treed portions of river deltas (Arner et al. 1985, Martell et al. 1984)). No subspecies recognized. Winters southern US to Central America. Principal dates are early May to early August.

Early record: 24 April 2004; one individual; Checkpoint; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 September 2012; Prelude Lake, 25 km northeast of Yellowknife; Brad Heath, Leslie Wakelyn; eBird 2021

High count: 154 individuals; 29 May 2003; Fort Liard (Hay Lake); Greg Kubica; eBird 2021

References

- Arner, B.D., D.L. Dickson and G. Verreault. 1985. Bird observations from Atkinson Point, Northwest Territories, 1984. Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, unpublished paper.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Violet-green Swallow

(*Tachycineta thalassina*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Hirondelle à face blanche

VGSW

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in the southern Mackenzie Mountains, where it likely nests on cliffs. Almost all records are from NNPR in the vicinity of the South Nahanni and Flat Rivers (Scotter et al. 1985, eBird 2021). There are a few records of spring strays to areas immediately east of the mountains (Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Lindberg's Landing). A number of northern sightings on the Dempster Highway, and at Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk lack supporting documentation, although the species has been recorded at similar latitudes in the Yukon and Alaska (eBird 2021). The subspecies *T. t. thalassina* is present in the NWT. Winters in western Mexico to western Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to early August.

Early record: 15 May 2000; one individual; NNPR (Wildmint Hot Springs); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 9 August 2003; 15 individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 100 individuals; 11 June 2003; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- Brown, C.R., A.M. Knott and E.J. Damrose. 2020. Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.vigswa.01>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Bank Swallow

(*Riparia riparia*)

At Risk (GSR 2021)

Threatened (COSEWIC 2013)

Threatened (SARA 2017)

Hirondelle de rivage

BANS

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder, nesting in colonies in the sandy banks of lakes, rivers and creeks and occasionally in borrow pits. Found widely throughout the mainland, including as far north as the Mackenzie and Anderson deltas. Subspecies present in the NWT is *R. r. riparia*. Winters in South America. Principal dates mid-May to early August.

Early record: 9 May 2006; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 2001; two individuals; Fort Simpson (Airport); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 500 individuals; 12 July 2006; Fort Simpson (Mackenzie River bank); Rod Higbie; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2013. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* in Canada. Committee of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. ix+48pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Barn Swallow**(*Hirundo rustica*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Special Concern (COSEWIC 2021)****Threatened (SARA 2017)****Hirondelle rustique****BARS****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common in various open habitats that include protected vertical or horizontal surfaces for nesting, often uses human-constructed structures like buildings and bridges. Found widely throughout the southern mainland, but only sporadically further north, although there are a number of records from Norman Wells and Inuvik and wanderers that have reached the north coast at Kendall Island, Tuktoyaktuk, Atkinson Bay, the Anderson River Delta and Paulatuk (Martell et al. 1984, Arner et al. 1985, eBird 2021). Subspecies present in the NWT is the American Barn Swallow (*H. r. erythrogaster*). Winters from western Mexico to South America. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 5 May 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Brad Heath and Leslie Wakelyn; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 September 2020; three individuals; Yellowknife (Jackfish Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 43 individuals; 16 June 2021; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021

References

- Arner, B.D., D.L. Dickson and G. Verreault. 1985. Bird observations from Atkinson Point, Northwest Territories, 1984. Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, unpublished paper.
- COSEWIC 2021. Assessment and Status Report on the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 60pp. (Species at risk public registry)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Cliff Swallow

(*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Hirondelle à front blanc

CLSW

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder, nesting in colonies on vertical faces of cliffs, escarpments and riverbanks, as well as on human-built structures such as buildings and bridges (COSEWIC 2021). Found widely throughout the mainland, including as far north as the Mackenzie and Anderson deltas. The subspecies found in the NWT is *P. p. pyrrhonota*. Winters in South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid August.

Early record: 10 May 2018; four individuals; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 10 September 2001; five individuals; Fort Simpson (Airport); Doug Tate, eBird 2021

High count: 380 individuals; 28 June 2001; Muskeg River Bridge, 10 km north of Fort Liard; Sandra Kinsey; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2021. COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* in Canada. Ottawa. xii+60pp. (Species at Risk public registry)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Phylloscopidae

Kamchatka Leaf Warbler

(*Phylloscopus examinandus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Pouillot de Kamchatka

KLWA

Accidental. On 21 July 1949, a male *Phylloscopus* Warbler was collected at Mould Bay on Prince Patrick Island by Stewart MacDonald (Godfrey 1995). Identified as an Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*), the specimen was placed in the collection of the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAV 35173). In 2014, Arctic Warbler was split into three species by the American Ornithologists Union (Chessler et al. 2014). Withrow et al. (2016) re-examined the specimen using morphological and genetic markers and determined that this individual belonged to the new species Kamchatka Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus examinandus*), making this individual the first and only record for Canada. This species' breeding range extends from northern Japan to the Kamchatka Peninsula and it is a casual stray to the western Aleutian Islands in Alaska. No subspecies recognized.

References

- Chesser; R.T., R.C. Banks, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, A.G. Navarro-Sigüenza, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz and K. Winker. 2014. Fifty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists Union Check-list of North American Birds; The Auk 131(4):Csi-Csxv.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. The Birds of Canada: revised edition. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]. (CMNAV 35173)
- Withrow, J.J., D.D. Gibson, Y. Gerasimov, N. Gerasimov, A. Shestopalov and K. Winker. 2016. Occurrence and taxonomy of Arctic warblers (*Phylloscopus borealis*) *sensu lato* in North America. The Wilson Journal of Ornithology 128(2):268–277.

Regulidae

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

(*Corthylio calendula*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Roitelet à couronne rubis

RCKI

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in mixed and coniferous forests south of the treeline, as far north as Aklavik, Reindeer Station and Colville Lake (Godfrey 1965, Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is the *C. c. calendula*. Winters from Mexico to Guatemala. Principal dates are early May to late September. There is one winter record from the Norman Wells CBC in 2006.

Early record: 19 April 1997; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

Late records: 10 October 2016; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
Photographed

23 December 2006; one individual; Norman Wells; National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 49 individuals; June 2006; Ingraham Trail

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.

- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

(*Regulus satrapa*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Roitelet à couronne dorée

GCKI

W (FED)

Uncommon in the Fort Liard area, where it likely breeds in coniferous forest. Rare straggler elsewhere in the southern mainland including NNPR (Hole in the Wall Lake), Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. An observation of an adult with fledged young on an island in Great Slave Lake in July 2015 (eBird 2021) may be the only confirmed breeding record for the NWT. Plumage colour variations are complex and subspecies delineation is complex and needs review. The subspecies occurring in the NWT is unclear: our birds could be *R. s. satrapa* in southeastern NWT and *R. s. amoenus* in southwestern NWT. Winters in south-western Canada and the US. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-July.

Early record: 14 May 2015; one individual; Fort Smith (townsite); David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 14-15 July 2015; four individuals; Great Slave Lake (West Union Island); Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

High count: Four individuals; 29 May 2007; Fort Simpson; Paul Allen Smith; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing

(*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Jaseur boréal

BOWA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in open coniferous and mixed forests throughout the treed part of the NWT. Observed most frequently in the south during migration periods (late March to early

May, late October to late November). Most birds depart the NWT during winter, but a small number stay in residential areas where fruit plantings occur (eBird 2021). Our birds are members of the North American subspecies *B. g. pallidiceps*. Winters in southern Canada and the US. Principal dates are late March to late November.

High count: 400 individuals; 26 April 1996; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Cedar Waxwing

(*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Jaseur d'Amérique

CEDW

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in open deciduous forests including within communities. Found in the southern mainland, north to NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake), Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. Reported exceptionally north to Norman Wells (eBird 2021). Principal dates mid-June to mid-September. Generally absent in winter, but reported in two years on the Hay River CBC. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the southern US to Central America.

Early record: 30 May 2002; one individual; Fort Liard; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

Late records: 30 December 1978; five individuals; Hay River (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010. (also recently: 17 December 2006; two individuals; Hay River (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 40 individuals; 7 September 2010; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Sittidae

Red-breasted Nuthatch

(*Sitta canadensis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Sittelle à poitrine rousse

RBNU

W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous forests in the southern mainland, including in the Fort Liard, Hay River and Fort Smith areas. Some individuals likely retreat from the NWT in winter, but there are records from almost every month, including from a number of CBCs, particularly in Hay River and Fort Smith. Occurs rarely north to NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake), Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. No subspecies recognized.

High count: 11 individuals; 3 January 1998; Hay River (CBC); multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (Online). Available www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 5 December 2015).

Certhiidae

Brown Creeper

(*Certhia americana*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Grimpereau brun

BRCR

(FED)

Rare breeder in coniferous and mixed forest in the Fort Liard area where this species reaches the extreme northwestern limit of its breeding range (Poulin et al. 2020). Breeding was first confirmed here in 2008 when two nest sites were found near the Liard Trail approximately 20 km north of Fort Liard (Olson et al. 2009). The only sightings outside this immediate area are of two birds seen by Doug Tate on the Nahanni Butte access road on 11 September 2016 (eBird 2021) and one bird reported by Kathryn Walpole at Fort Simpson on 3 November 2020. Subspecies seen in the NWT are uncertain. Principal dates are mid-June to mid-September.

Early record: 15 June 2008; five individuals (family group); Fort Liard area; Corey Olson; eBird 2021

Late record: 3 November 2020; one individual; Fort Simpson; Kathryn Walpole; eBird 2021

High count: five individuals (family group); 15 June 2008; Fort Liard area; Corey Olson; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Olson, C.R., K.C. Hannah and C. Gray. 2009. First Confirmed Record of Breeding Brown Creepers in the Northwest Territories, Canada. *Northwestern Naturalist* 90(2):156-159.
- Poulin, J., É. D'Astous, M. Villard, S.J. Hejl, K.R. Newlon, M.E. McFadzen, J.S. Young and C.K. Ghalambor. 2020. Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.brncre.01>

Troglodytidae

Rock Wren

(*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Troglodyte des rochers

ROWR

FED

Accidental. Höhn (1959) described the observation of a singing Rock Wren in a rocky coastal area near the mouth of the Anderson River on the north coast on 14 July 1995. While this is quite distant from this species closest breeding range in the southern Prairie provinces, there are summer records of rock wrens that have wandered long distances, including to Churchill, MB and Port-Aux-Basques, NL (eBird 2021). The subspecies most probably seen in the NWT is the northern Rock Wren (*S. o. obsoletus*), breeding from BC to Central Mexico. In winter, northern birds retreat to the southern part of the breeding range.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Höhn, E.O. 1959. Birds of the mouth of the Anderson River and Liverpool Bay, Northwest Territories. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 73: 93-114.

Winter Wren

(*Troglodytes hiemalis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Troglodyte de forêts

WIWR

W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous and mixed forests in the Fort Liard area where it reaches the northwestern limit of its range. Singing males are occasionally found in mature white spruce and tangles elsewhere in South and North Slave regions in summer, suggesting the

species may be expanding and attempting to breed north of known range. The subspecies present in the NWT is *T. h. hiemalis*, wintering in south-eastern Canada to eastern US. Principal dates are mid-May to early August.

Early record: 13 May 2003; one individual; Muskeg River, 10 km north of Fort Liard; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late record: 8 September 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (island in Yellowknife Bay); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: four individuals; 21 May 2002; Fort Liard; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Marsh Wren

(*Cistothorus palustris*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Troglodyte des marais

MAWR

W (FED)

Uncommon and very local breeder in wetlands with emergent vegetation, particularly cattails and bulrushes, in the extreme southern mainland. There are persistent breeding colonies in several locations in the NWT including Hay Lake at Fort Liard, Yohin Lake in NNPR, the Hay River area and the Fox Holes near Fort Smith. Occasional prospecting birds have been found further north to Fort Simpson, Yellowknife and the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is probably of the *plesius* group: *C. p. laingi*. Winters in southern US and Mexico. Principal dates are mid-May to late August.

Early record: 30 April 2017; one individual; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 1 September 2020; one individual; Hay River (Sewage Lagoon); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 24 individuals; 14 July 2014; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; David Britton; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Mimidae

Gray Catbird

(Dumetella carolinensis)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Moqueur chat

GRCA

(FED)

Casual visitor. There are ten records from: NNPR, Fort Simpson, Hay River and Yellowknife. Most records are from May to August; a bird seen in late October in Fort Simpson was unusually late. Of note, what was presumably the same bird returned to a location just south of Hay River on three consecutive years 2015-2017. Colour variation occurs and subspecies need to be reviewed, but our birds are probably the western, paler, tinged with red, *D. c. ruficrissa*. Usual breeding range includes south central British Columbia and Alberta to southern US (eBird 2021). Winters in Cuba

Occurrences

1. 14 July 2002; one individual; NNPR (Kraus Hot Springs); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
2. 7 July 2003; one individual; Highway 3 at Stagg River; Richard Knapton; eBird 2021
3. 23 August 2007; one individual; Yellowknife (Rat Lake); David Livingstone; Eckert 2007. Photographed
4. 1 July 2008; one individual; Ingraham Trail (Dettah turnoff); Richard Knapton, mult. obs.; eBird 2021
5. 24 May 2013; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Flats); David Britton; eBird 2021
6. 4 June 2015; one individual; Hay River (Highway 5, 2.5 km south of town); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
7. 24 October 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Flats); Doug Tate; eBird 2021
8. 27 May and 18 June 2016; one individual; Hay River (Highway 5, 2.5 km south of town); Gary Vizniowski, eBird 2021 Photographed
9. 28 May 2017; one individual; Hay River (Highway 5, 2.5 km south of town); Gary Vizniowski, eBird 2021 Photographed
10. 18 August 2017; one individual; Hay River (Town); Logan Bradley; eBird 2021
11. 19 July 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Bigelow Crescent); Marcus Jackson; eBird 2021 Photographed

12. 21 August to 23 October 2020; 1 individual; Hay River (Ptarmigan Crescent);
Jaimie Graham, Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2007. Northern Canada. North American Birds 62(1):95-96.

Brown Thrasher

(*Toxostoma rufum*)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Moqueur roux

BRTH

(FED)

Casual visitor, two records. Trauger and Bromley (1976) described an individual on the two easternmost islets in the West Mirage Islands in Great Slave Lake on 23 June 1971; Norment et al. (1999) reported a weakened individual at Warden's Grove on the Thelon River on 27 May 1989. The nearest subspecies is *T. r. longicauda*, breeding in the Prairies in southern Canada to the US, winters in mid to southern US.

References

- Trauger, D.L. and R.G. Bromley. 1976. Additional bird observations on the West Mirage Islands, Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 90(2): 144-148.
- Norment, C.J., A. Hall and P. Hendricks. 1999. Important bird and mammal records in the Thelon River Valley, Northwest Territories: Range expansions and possible causes. Canadian Field-Naturalist 113(3): 375-385.

Northern Mockingbird

(*Mimus polyglottos*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Moqueur polyglotte

NOMO- FED

Casual visitor. Three records from the southwestern part of the NWT at Fort Liard and Fort Simpson. Usually breeding range reaches from southern Canada (where it is rare) to the US. The western subspecies, with buffy grey chest, *M. p. leucopterus* is most likely seen in the NWT. The species has a tendency to wander widely to northern areas (eBird 2021).

Occurrences

1. During the period 1997-2000; one individual; Fort Liard; Craig Machtans; Machtans 2000

2. 21-29 June 2004; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate, Heather Passmore, Gerry Wright; Eckert 2004. Videotaped
3. 27-28 June 2006; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2007. Photographed

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2004. Northern Canada. North American Birds 58(4):548-549.
- Eckert C.E. 2007. Northern Canada. North American Birds 60(4):540-541.
- Machtans, C.S. 2000. Extralimital observations of Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, and other bird observations from the Liard Valley, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 114: 671-679.

Sturnidae

European Starling

(*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Alien (GSR 2021)

Introduced. Uncommon breeder where open areas for foraging and cavities for nesting are available. Observed most frequently in the communities in the south (Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard), with a few scattered records outside of these settlements. Casual visitor further north with records from Norman Wells, Inuvik, Kendall Island, Paulatuk and the Anderson River Delta (eBird 2021, Anonymous 1970). The first record for the NWT was a bird found dead near the Salt Plains in Wood Buffalo National Park on 27 April 1954 (Fuller 1955). Principal dates late April to early October. Later lingering birds occasionally recorded to early January in Hay River and Yellowknife, where they try to exploit food sources at fruit trees or at landfills. The subspecies introduced to North America is usually presumed to be *S. v. vulgaris*, originating from England.

Early record: 8 April 2014; two individuals, Fort Smith; Jason Straka; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 January 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Dump); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 40 individuals; 1 July 2014; Hay River (Airport); Reid Hildebrandt, Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Étourneau sansonnet

EUST

References

- Anonymous. 1970. Collection of four reports for a proposed national park at Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT. Canadian Wildlife Service unpublished report.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Fuller, W.A. 1955. First record of the Starling in the Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 69:27.

Cinclidae

American Dipper

(*Cinclus mexicanus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Cinclus d'Amérique

AMDI

S (FED)

Uncommon and local resident in fast-moving mountain streams with riffles and waterfalls in the Mackenzie Mountains, possibly the Richardson Mountains (there is one record from James Creek), and the Taiga Shield (there was a pair at Greenstockings Lake, 16 August 1988, seen by R Hurst and D Livingstone (R.G. Bromley notes). Some individuals may move to lower elevations in winter, as evidenced by sightings at Norman Wells in the Mackenzie Valley, about 40 km east of the Mackenzie Mountains. A report of this species by Soper (1942) on the Buffalo River a few miles south of Great Slave Lake on 8 July 1932 constitutes a very unusual location and time of year for this species. The subspecies present in the NWT is the northern American Dipper (*C. m. unicolor*).

High count: eight individuals; 15 March 2007; Doris Creek; 60 km west of Norman Wells; Glen Guthrie; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

- Soper, J.D. 1942. The birds of Wood Buffalo National Park and vicinity, northern Alberta and District of Mackenzie. Transaction of the Royal Canadian Institute 24(1):19-97.

Turdidae

Mountain Bluebird

(*Sialia currucoides*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Merlebleu azuré

MOBL

S, W (FED)

Spring migrant and exceptional breeder. This species is an extremely early migrant, with most birds passing through the NWT from mid-April to early May, well before most other

migrant passerines have returned. Birds are most often seen in open areas such as along roadsides, in fields and clearings and along the edges of airstrips. Records span much of the southern half of the NWT, including Hay River, Fort Providence, Highway 3, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, NNPR and Norman Wells. Late spring migrants have been recorded as late as late June. There are few breeding records: a nesting pair in a home-made birdhouse in Behchokǫ, observed by Jerry Donikee on 28 June 1995 (R.G. Bromley notes) and a family group observed by Richard Popko in the Mackenzie Mountains west of Norman Wells on 22 July 1997. No subspecies recognized. Winters in southwestern US and Mexico. Exceptionally rare in fall, there are two fall migration records: the first at Fort Simpson on 25-26 September 2003, and the second of 15 birds at Highway 5, Km 158 on 2 September 2019 (eBird 2021).

Early record: 2 April 1984; 20 km north of Fort Providence, R. Case (R.G. Bromley notes); 4 April 2005; seven individuals; Highway 1 (km 240); Greg Kubica; eBird 2021

Late record: 25-26 September 2003; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 19 individuals; 24 April 1996; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Townsend's Solitaire

(*Myadestes townsendi*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Solitaire de Townsend

TOSO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous forests on mountain slopes in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountain ranges. Occasionally wanders east of the mountains (Norman Wells, Tulita), and even as far as Yellowknife, Hay River and the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (eBird 2021). Reports of small flocks along Campbell Lake south of Inuvik raise the possibility of this species breeding near Inuvik (McKeever 1958). In 2015, two singing males were recorded over multiple days in mid-June between Behchokǫ and Fort Providence, suggesting that this species may occasionally breed this far east, at least occasionally (Lamont and Knaggs 2016). The subspecies present in the NWT is *M. t. townsendi*, wintering in southwestern Canada to Mexico. Principal dates are early May to early September.

Early record: 25 April 2010; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 6 September 1999; NNPR (Hole in the Wall Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: nine individuals; 16 June 2004; Katherine Lake, 45 km southwest of Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Lamont, M.M. and M. Knaggs. 2016. New Northern Records for Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 130(3):207-211.
- McKeever, J.L. 1958. Some Additions to the Bird List of the Mackenzie Delta, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 72: 168-170.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

(*Catharus minimus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Grive à joues grises

GCTH

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous woods with shrub understory. Occurs most frequently as a breeder in the northern treed portions of NWT approaching the treeline (Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Great Bear Lake, Lac de Gras, Thelon and Dubawnt drainages, also in the Mackenzie Mountains). Further south, migrants are observed from late May to early June and late August to early September. Most frequently detected by nocturnal flight calls in fall migration. The subspecies present in the NWT is *C. m. aliciae*. Winters in northern South America.

Early record: 10 May 2006; one individual; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 17 September 2012; one individual; Yellowknife; Lucas Berrigan; eBird 2021

High count: 45 individuals; 9 June 2006; south of Tweed Lake, 25 km south of Colville Lake; Olivier Barden; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Swainson's Thrush**(*Catharus ustulatus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Common breeder in coniferous and mixed forests throughout the treed part of the NWT, north to Inuvik and Colville Lake. One of the most numerous forest songbirds in the southern part of the NWT. The subspecies present in the NWT is the Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush (*C. u. swainsoni/iancanus*). Winters in western South America. Principal dates mid-May to early September.

Early record: 1 May 1999; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 September 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 79 individuals; June 2011; Ingraham Trail (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/.

Hermit Thrush**(*Catharus guttatus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Fairly common breeder in all types of forests; in the south can be numerous in mature aspen stands. Occurs regularly north to Norman Wells and Great Bear Lake and rarely further north along the Mackenzie Valley as far as Inuvik, Aklavik and Reindeer Station (Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). One at Toker Point on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in summer 1985 is the only report from above the treeline (Sirois and Dickson 1989). Our birds are referred to the Northern Group, subspecies *C.g. faxoni*, with mantle reddish and tawny flanks. Winters in the US and Mexico. Principal dates late April to early October.

Early record: 28 April 2000; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Grive à dos olive**SWTH****I, G, S, W (FED)****Grive solitaire****HETH****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Late record: 9 November 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 75 individuals; June 2005; Tulita (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
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- Sirois, J. and L. Dickson 1989. The avifauna of Toker Point, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT, 1985-1987. Canadian Wildlife Service Technical Report Series No. 57. Environment Canada.

American Robin

(*Turdus migratorius*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Merle d'Amérique

AMRO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in all types of forest and open treed habitats, including within townsites. Found throughout the treed parts of the NWT, including the treed portions of river valleys and deltas all the way to the north coast. Birds will occasionally linger later into fall and early winter in communities, if sufficient berry crops are available. There are a number of winter records, including from Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. Our birds are members of the grey-brown mantled group, *T. m. migratorius*. Winters in the US and Mexico. Principal dates late April to early October.

Early record: 17 March 1999; one individual; Checkpoint; Gerry Wright; eBird 2021

Late record: 17 January 2010; one individual; Fort Smith; Wayne Starling; eBird 2021

High count: 200 individuals; 20 May 2014; Mackenzie Highway (Fort Providence to Hay River); Steve Moore; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Varied Thrush**(*Ixoreus naevius*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Grive à collier****VATH****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common breeder in coniferous forest in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains, eastwards to Tsuigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. Wanders east to Norman Wells, Tulita and Fort Simpson with some regularity and exceptionally as far east as Yellowknife (eBird 2021). Our birds are subspecies *I. n. meruloides*. Winters in BC to the US. Principal dates are late April to early September.

Early record: 25 April 2000; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 22 October 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson; Roger Pilling; eBird 2021

High count: 25 individuals; 31 May 1993; Mackenzie River (Fort McPherson to Aklavik); Andy Stepniewski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Muscicapidae**Northern Wheatear****(*Oenanthe oenanthe*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Traquet motteux****NOWH****I, G (FED)**

Rare breeder, nesting in crevices and rock piles on mountain slopes, barren hilltops and tundra. Recorded in the northern Mackenzie Mountains (Canol Trail area) and the Richardson Mountains (Dempster Highway near the Yukon border, also west of Aklavik) (McKeever 1958, eBird 2021). A family group of five seen 23 July 1971 on a ridge above Cache Creek about 45 km northwest of Aklavik may be the only breeding record for the NWT (Salter et al 1980). The few records east of the mountains include a spring migrant at Norman Wells on 31 May 1997, two summer records from the canyons of the Hornaday River in Tuktut Nogait National Park (eBird 2021) and a report with no details from the Anderson River Delta (Anonymous 1970). The subspecies found in the NWT is *O. o oenanthe*, with cream-coloured back and belly, and smaller than other subspecies. Its breeding range is northern Europe, Siberia to Alaska, Yukon and northwestern NWT. Winters in Africa. Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 31 May 1997; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 21 August 2018; one individual; Dempster Highway between Tsuigehtchic and Fort McPherson; Carla Springinotic; eBird 2021

High count: five individuals (family group); 23 July 1971; Cache Creek, 45 km northwest of Aklavik; eBird 2021

References

- Anonymous. 1970. Collection of four reports for a proposed national park at Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT. Canadian Wildlife Service unpublished report.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- McKeever, J.L. 1958. Some Additions to the Bird List of the Mackenzie Delta, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 72:168-170.
- Salter, R.E., M.A. Gollop, S.R. Johnson, W.R. Koski and C.E. Tull. 1980. Distribution and abundance of birds on the Arctic coastal plain of northern Yukon and adjacent Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 94:219-238.

Passeridae

House Sparrow

(Passer domesticus)

Alien (GSR 2021)

Moineau domestique

HOSP

Introduced. Locally common permanent resident in certain communities. Populations of house sparrows are well-established in the NWT at Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River and Yellowknife. Also reported sporadically from Fort Liard, Fort Smith and Enterprise. Original introductions of this Eurasian species occurred in the US in the 1850s through 1870s. It was reported near Fort Simpson as early as 1921 (Williams 1922) and was described as common at Fort Smith in 1929 (Fairbarn 1931). The subspecies introduced to North America is *P. d. domesticus*, originating from England.

High count: 426 individuals; 2 January 1995; Yellowknife; multiple observers; National Audubon Society

References

- Fairbarn, H.W. 1931. Notes on mammals and birds from Great Slave Lake. Canadian Field-Naturalist 45:158-162.
- National Audubon Society (2010). The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 16 October 2016).
- Williams, M.Y. 1922. Biological notes along fourteen hundred miles of the Mackenzie River system. Canadian Field-Naturalist 36: 61-66.

Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail
(*Motacilla tschutschensis*)
Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Bergeronnette de Béringie
EYWA
I (FED)

Rare breeder. This species breeding range includes the western and northern coastal regions of Alaska, into the Yukon coastal plains at least as far east as the Running River. This breeding range apparently extends, at least occasionally, further east into the NWT as suggested by the observation of fledged young at Cache Creek, just east of the Yukon border in 1971 (Salter et al. 1980) and the observation of a pair carrying food at Richards Island in the Mackenzie Delta in 1979 (Fraker and Fraker 1980). Other extralimital reports of this species in the NWT come from Inuvik and Toker Point, near Tuktoyaktuk, both in the summer of 1987. The subspecies found in the NWT is *M. t. tschutschensis*. Winters in China and south-east Asia.

Occurrences

1. 23 July 1971; three or four immatures; Cache Creek, 45 km northeast of Aklavik; Salter et al. 1980
2. 23 June - 26 July 1979; two adults; Mackenzie Delta (Tununuk Point, Richards Island); Fraker & Fraker 1980
3. June 1987; one individual; Inuvik; *fide* H.L. Dickson; Dickson et al. 1987, Sirois & Dickson 1989
4. 14 August 1987; one individual; Toker Point, 30 km north of Tuktoyaktuk; Jacques Sirois, Loney Dickson; Sirois & Dickson 1989

References

- Dickson, L., W.G. Johnston and C. McEwen. 1987. Northwestern Canada region. American Birds 41: 1,462-1,463.
- Fraker, M.A. and R.N. Fraker. 1980. Yellow Wagtail east of the Mackenzie Delta. Canadian Field-Naturalist 94:465-466.
- Salter, R.E., M.A. Gollop, S.R. Johnson, W.R. Koski and C.E. Tull. 1980. Distribution and abundance of birds on the Arctic coastal plain of northern Yukon and adjacent Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 94:219-238.
- Sirois, J. and L. Dickson 1989. The avifauna of Toker Point, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT, 1985-1987. Canadian Wildlife Service Technical Report Series No. 57. Environment Canada.

Gray Wagtail**(*Motacilla cinerea*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Bergeronnette des ruisseaux****GRAW**

Accidental. A gray wagtail came aboard a ship in NWT waters about 370 km northwest of Prince Patrick Island on 4-5 September 2009, where it was photographed (Ekert pers. comm., Howell et al. 2014). This is one of very few Canadian records of this Eurasian species. The subspecies was not recorded, but *M. c. cinerea*, with a widespread breeding range from Europe to eastern Siberia is the most plausible. Winters from Africa to southern Asia (Tyler 2020).

References

- Eckert, C.E., personal communication
- Howell, S.N.G., I. Lewington and W. Russell. 2014. Rare Birds of North America. University of Princeton Press. 428pp.
- Tyler, S. 2020. Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D.A. Christie and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.grywag.01>

American Pipit**(*Anthus rubescens*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Pipit d'Amérique****AMPI****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Breeds on tundra above the treeline throughout the NWT, including north onto the Arctic islands (Banks, Victoria, at least once on Prince Patrick), as well as above the treeline in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. Common migrant in the southern part of the NWT, often detected calling overhead in flight or feeding on the ground in open areas. Spring migrants occur throughout May and fall migrants from late August through to late September. Subspecies present in the NWT is *A. r. rubescens*. Winters in Central to South America.

Early record: 19 April 2018; one individual; Fort Providence; Jeremy Kennedy; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 October 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 312 individuals; 13 May 2003; Muskeg River, 10 km north of Fort Liard; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Fringillidae

Brambling

(*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Accidental. Around 11 May 1986, an adult male brambling appeared at the feeders of Joan and John Goldi on Gitzel Street in Yellowknife, where it remained for at least five days (Muirhead 1986). It was seen by a number of observers and photographed. This attractive finch breeds in the forests of northern Europe and Asia but is a rare wanderer to North America. No subspecies recognized. Winters in southern Europe and east Asia.

References

- Muirhead, D. 1986. Personal communication. Written correspondence and photograph on file with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, NWT.

Evening Grosbeak

(*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2016)

Special Concern (SARA 2019)

Pinson du Nord

BRAM

EVGR

W (FED)

Uncommon permanent resident in the southern part of the NWT (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith); rarely north to Yellowknife (where one was photographed in late November 2002 by K Kennedy; R.G. Bromley notes). It is irruptive and its numbers vary from year to year. Most regular in Fort Liard and Fort Smith areas. Subspecies most probably present in the NWT is *C. v. versperinus*, breeding in central Canada to the northeast US. Winters in central and eastern US.

High count: 207 individuals; 5 January 2012; Fort Smith; multiple observers; National Audubon Society.

References

- COSEWIC. 2016. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xi+64pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211B-1)
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org (Accessed 16 October 2016)

Pine Grosbeak

(*Pinicola enucleator*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Durbec des sapins

PIGR

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common permanent resident in the treed portion of the NWT, north to Inuvik and Colville Lake. May withdraw from the extreme north in the winter but can be present at least as far north as Norman Wells in this season. Often localized in communities around feeders in winter. Breeds in open coniferous forests but becomes somewhat inconspicuous during the breeding season. Subspecies found in the NWT is the Taiga Pine Grosbeak (*T. e. leucura*).

High count: 175 individuals; 19 December 2008; Fort Smith CBC; multiple observers; National Audubon Society (2010)

References

- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org (accessed 16 October 2016)

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

(*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Roselin à tête grise

GCRF

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in alpine tundra and rock fields above the treeline in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. Casual in winter at feeders in communities east of the mountains: there are records from Fort Simpson, Whatì, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. Our birds are the "interior" subspecies (*L. t. tephrocotis*), with a grey hood not extending under the eye. Winters in south-western Canada and western US.

High count: 50 individuals; 22 July 1997; Rouge Mountain River headwaters, 65 km southeast of Tulita; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

Occurrences east of the Mackenzie Mountains

1. Prior to 1908; one individual; Fort Resolution; specimen identified by A.E. Preble in HBC collection at Fort Simpson, Preble 1908
2. 5 February - 16 March 2000; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021
3. 10-17 April 2012; one individual; Yellowknife; Suzanne Carriere; eBird 2021 Photographed
4. 28 March 2012; one individual; Fort Smith; Sharon Irwin; eBird 2021 Photographed
5. 14 December 2014-22 March 2015; one individual; Hay River (Vale Island); Kate Latour; eBird 2021
6. 13 March 2021; one individual, Whatì; Ali Meteer; eBird 2021
7. 27 November 2021; one individual; Yellowknife (Hall Crescent); LeAnna Carson; eBird 2021 Photographed.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.

House Finch

(*Haemorhous mexicanus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Roselin familier

HOFI

(FED)

Casual visitor, three records, all from Fort Simpson. A specimen was reported taken by B.R. Ross in the 1800s and is mentioned in the Smithsonian Institute collection (catalogue #33942); a male was observed there on 25 October 1999 by Doug Tate (eBird 2021); and another male was photographed by Tate on 8 July 2008 (eBird 2021). This species' closest populations to the NWT are located in Edmonton (AB) and Prince George (BC), of the subspecies *H. m. frontalis*. The birds seen in the NWT are probably of this subspecies. Badyaev et al. (2020) noted a significant range expansion in recent decades from the western part of the range, as well as from eastern North America where these normally western birds were introduced in 1939.

References

- Badyaev, A.V., V. Belloni and G.E. Hill. 2020. House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.houfin.01>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Natural History, Division of Birds Collection; <https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/birds/>. (catalogue #33942)

Purple Finch
(*Haemorhous purpureus*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Roselin pourpré
PUFI
S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in coniferous and mixed forests. Found mainly in the southern part of the NWT (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith), as well as north along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. Rare at Yellowknife. The subspecies present in the NWT is eastern Purple Finch (*H. p. purpureus*). Winters in the southeastern US. Principal dates are mid-April to mid-August.

Early record: 10 April 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 2-3 October 2014; one male; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 24 individuals; 9 May 2001; Fort Simpson; Roger Pilling; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Common Redpoll
(*Acanthis flammea*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Sizerin flamme
CORE
I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in open coniferous forest and scrub from Yellowknife and Norman Wells north to the north coast. Also reported from Aulavik National Park on Banks Island. In winter it withdraws from the northern portions of its range, occurring throughout the southern part of the mainland, at least as far north as Yellowknife and Norman Wells. The subspecies present in the NWT is *A. f. flammea*.

High count: 600 individuals; 6 May 2012; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Hoary Redpoll

(*Acanthis hornemannii*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Breeds in open scrubby forest at treeline on the north coast. Also reported from Ulukhaktok on Banks Island. In winter it moves southwards into the southern mainland where it may be locally common. In mid-winter at Yellowknife and Fort Simpson this species typically outnumbers Common Redpoll and large numbers have been recorded at Nahanni Butte in January. The subspecies present in mainland NWT is *A. h. exilipes*. The other subspecies (*H. h. hornemannii*), larger, brighter and paler, may be found on our northernmost islands.

High count: 367 individuals; 3 January 2015; Nahanni Butte (CBC); Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Red Crossbill

(*Loxia curvirostra*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Rare and irregular in the south-eastern portion of the mainland. Recorded from Fort Smith and Highway 5 through Wood Buffalo National Park, Hay River, Highway 3 between Fort Providence and Behchokǫ and the Yellowknife area. Feeds on the seeds of spruces and pines. In 2015 there were numbers in recently burned stands of jack pine near the Nyarling River in Wood Buffalo National Park. Breeding has not been confirmed but is possible. There is an old sight record from Fort Anderson near the north coast from June 1862 (Martell et al. 1984). In North America, the species has multiple subspecies and call types. Each is specialised in feeding on seeds from geographically-defined conifer assemblages, and will move out (irrupt) from their core zones, sometimes travelling large distances and across the continent to find alternative seed sources when seed production in their core zone fails. In any given year, and region, our birds could be members of one or more subspecies or call types (Benkman and Young 2020).

Sizerin blanchâtre

HORE

I, G, S, W (FED)

Bec-croisé des sapins

RECR

W (FED)

Early record: 13 February 1993; Grayling Lake, 30 kms north of Yellowknife; Jacques Sirois; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 December 1995; eight individuals; Hay River; National Audubon Society

High count: 25 individuals; 8 July 2015; Wood Buffalo National Park (Highway 5 at Nyarling River); David Britton; eBird 2021

References

- Benkman, C.W. and M.A. Young. 2020. Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S.M. Billerman, B.K. Keeney, P.G. Rodewald and T.S. Schulenberg, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.redcro.01>
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org (accessed 16 October 2016)

White-winged Crossbill

(*Loxia leucoptera*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bec-croisé bifascié

WWCR

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common permanent resident in coniferous forest throughout the treed portion of the NWT north to the Mackenzie Delta. Feeds on spruce and tamarack seeds. Due to the irruptive nature of their food source, this species can be abundant in an area one year and absent in the next. The subspecies present in the NWT is *L. l. leucoptera*.

High count: 125 individuals; 2 May 2002; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Pine Siskin**(*Spinus pinus*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Tarin des pins****PISI****G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in open coniferous forest throughout the southern mainland, north to Yellowknife and the Mackenzie Valley to near Fort Good Hope. Occasionally north to Inuvik. Principal dates mid-May to mid-September but reported exceptionally on CBCs in Hay River (c. 2 December 1990) and Yellowknife (2 January 1995). The subspecies present in the NWT is *S. p. pinus*.

Early record: 30 April 2014; one individual; Hay River (Chicken Dump); Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 January 1995; two individuals; Yellowknife CBC; National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 82 individuals; 29 August 2001; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org (accessed 16 October 2016)

American Goldfinch**(*Spinus tristis*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Chardonneret jaune****AMGO****(FED)**

Casual visitor. There are six records ranging from April to September, all from the southern part of the NWT. This species' regular range reaches as far north as Fort St. John in British Columbia and Fort McMurray in Alberta. The subspecies seen in the NWT is *S. t. pallidus*, large, pale-yellow bird with extensive white marking on wings. Winters in California to Mexico.

Occurrences

1. 13 July 1988; one male; NNPR (Kraus Hot Springs); George Scotter; Tate & Scotter 2016

2. 30 June 2012; one female; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021; Tate & Scotter 2016. Photographed
3. 31 May 2013; one individual; Enterprise (dump); Tom Hince, Paul Pratt; Tate & Scotter 2016
4. c.10-19 September 2013; one male; Fort Smith; Sara-Anne Peterson; Tate & Scotter 2016
5. 5-6 April 2015; one moulting male; Hay River; Ruth Arychuk Lafferty; Tate & Scotter 2016. Photographed
6. 5 June 2021; one female; Fort Smith, at feeders; Sharon Irwin; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Tate, D.P and G.W. Scotter. 2016. Range expansion of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) in North America. *Nature Alberta*, Summer 2016:26-31.

Calcariidae

Lapland Longspur

(*Calcarius lapponicus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Plectrophane lapone

LALO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds on tundra in both wet hummocky meadows and drier slopes on the Arctic islands (Banks, Victoria, Melville, Prince Patrick) on the north coast and mainland barrens. Fairly common migrant in the southern part of the NWT, often detected calling overhead in flight or feeding on the ground in open areas. Spring migrants occur mainly from late April to early June and fall migrants from late August through to early October. Two subspecies are present in the NWT: *C. l. alascensis* is paler, breeds west of the Mackenzie River and winters in western US, *C. l. lapponicus* breeds on the barrens east of the Mackenzie River and across the Arctic Islands, winters in eastern US.

Early record: 3 April 2004; two individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2004

Late record: 07 November 2011; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Flats); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 600 individuals; 22 May 2013; Highway 3 (Yellowknife to Edzo); Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2004. Northern Canada. North American Birds 58(3):387-388.

Smith's Longspur

(*Calcarius pictus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Plectrophane de Smith

SMLO

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in the forest-tundra transition zone at the edge of the treeline across the NWT (Artillery Lake, Lac de Gras, Bekere Lake (Blanchet 1925)), becoming rarer westwards towards the Mackenzie Delta, although nesting was reported on Richards Island there in 1974 (Martell et al. 1984). Also found around the treeline in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains (Tlogotsho Plateau in NNPR, Dechenla Lodge (Scotter et al. 1985)). Rare as a spring migrant in the southern mainland (Fort Smith, Hay River Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson) from mid-May to early June and in fall from late August to early September. Most frequently detected by call note in fall migration. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the central US. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 12 May 1908; one individual; Hay River; H. Jones; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 September 2020; one individual; Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 30 individuals; 19 May 2014; Fort Simpson (Island Airstrip); David Britton, Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- Blanchet, G.H. 1925. An exploration into the northern plains north and east of Great Slave Lake, including the source of the Coppermine River. Canadian Field-Naturalist 39: 52-54.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Snow Bunting

(*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Plectrophane des neiges

SNBU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in rocky patches surrounded by vegetated tundra on the Arctic islands (Banks, Victoria, Melville, Prince Patrick), on the north coast and mainland barrens. Common migrant in the south with birds often detected calling overhead in flight or feeding in open areas, especially along roadsides. Spring migration occurs in the south from late March to mid-May, fall migration from late September to mid-November. Most birds leave the NWT in winter, but there are scattered records from December through March, including a number of CBC records from Hay River, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Norman Wells. The subspecies present in the NWT is *P. n. nivalis*. Winters in southern Canada and US.

High count: 1,000 individuals; 7 October 2004; Déligne, Sam de Beer; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Passerellidae

Lark Sparrow

(*Chondestes grammacus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Bruant à joues marron

LARS

(FED)

Casual visitor. This distinctive sparrow is a specialist of the shortgrass prairies of central North America and its normal breeding range comes no closer to the NWT than southeastern Alberta (subspecies *C. g. strigatus*). Nevertheless, it is prone to wander widely and there are three records for the NWT: an adult seen by Craig Machtans on a roadside pullout on the Liard Trail about 50 km north of Fort Liard 2 June 2002 (eBird 2021); one quite far north at Colville Lake seen by Olivier Barden and Samuel Denault on 29 June 2006 (eBird 2021); and one seen by Doug Tate at Fort Simpson on 4 June 2009. All three involved adult birds and were photographed. Usually breeds in southern Canada and central US. Winters in southern US and Mexico.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Chipping Sparrow**(*Spizella passerina*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Bruant familier****CHSP****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common breeder in open coniferous and aspen forests throughout the treed portion of the NWT, north to Great Bear Lake, Colville Lake and Inuvik. Exceptionally north to Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary, Tuktoyaktuk, Toker Point and the Horton River (Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). The subspecies present in the NWT is *S. p. arizona*. Winters in southwestern US. Principal dates are early May to mid-September. One winter record from the Hay River CBC.

Early record: 1 May 1999; two individuals; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late records: 26 September 2018; one individual; Yellowknife (Gitzel Street); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

c. 22 December 1990; one individual; Hay River (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010

High count: 87 individuals; June 2000; Yellowknife (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015)

Clay-colored Sparrow**(*Spizella pallida*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Bruant des plaines****CCSP****S, W (FED)**

Uncommon breeder in open shrubby habitats, including overgrown fields, burns, roadsides and wetlands. Found in the southern mainland, north to NNPR (Yohin Lake), Fort Simpson and Yellowknife and along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico. Principal dates late May to late August.

Early record: 17 May 2010; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 18 September 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (old cemetery); David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 15 individuals; 4 June 2004; Vermillion Creek, 20 km southeast of Norman Wells; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Fox Sparrow

(*Passerella iliaca*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bruant fauve

FOSP

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in alder and willow thickets in spruce forest. Found throughout the treed portion of the mainland north to the Mackenzie Delta, Colville Lake and the Horton River. The subspecies present in the NWT is the Red Fox Sparrow (*P. i. zaboria*). Winters in the central US. Principal dates are late April to mid-October. Occasionally lingers at feeders into mid-November. One winter record from the Hay River CBC.

Early record: 19 April 2010; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late records: 17 December 2006; one individual; Hay River (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010. 13 November 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd Street); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 125 individuals; 22 May 1972; Norman Wells; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015)

American Tree Sparrow

(*Spizelloides arborea*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bruant hudsonien

ATSP

I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds near treeline in Arctic tundra on the north coast and mainland barrens, as well as on alpine tundra in the north Mackenzie and Richardson mountains. Occasionally north to

Banks Island (Manning et al. 1956). Fairly common migrant in the southern mainland south of the breeding range, with most migrants passing through in late April to mid-May in spring and from mid-September to late October in fall. One winter record from the Fort Simpson CBC. Two subspecies are present in the NWT. Although the exact breeding range delineation in NWT is unclear, in general *S. a. arborea* (dark crown and broad streaked mantle) breeds east of the Mackenzie Mountains, winters in eastern US. The *S. a. ochracea* (paler cinnamon crown, narrow streaked mantle) breeds west in the Mackenzie Mountains, winters in BC to southwestern US.

Early record: 3 April 2004; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Sharon Hayes; eBird 2021

Late records: 15 December 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson (CBC); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

1 November 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd Street); Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 200 individuals; 5 May 2007; Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.

Dark-eyed Junco

(*Junco hyemalis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Junco ardoisé

DEJU

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in mixed and coniferous forest throughout the treed part of the mainland. Occasionally north to the coast (Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk), exceptionally to Banks Island: E.O Höhn collected two on 23 and 30 May 1953 at Sachs Harbour (CMNAV 39779, 39780). The subspecies found in the NWT is the slate-colored dark-eyed junco (*J. h. hyemalis*). Winters in southern Canada and the US. Generally, this species begins arriving in mid-April and departs by late October, but there are scattered records from every month from October to March, often involving birds lingering at feeders.

High count: 160 individuals; 29 April 1999; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 39779, 39780)

White-crowned Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Bruant à couronne blanche
WCSP
I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in a variety of wooded habitats throughout the mainland, to the north coast. Also reported from Ulukhaktok on Victoria Island and Sachs Harbour on Banks Island (eBird 2021). Subspecies present in the NWT is Gambel's white-crowned sparrow (*Z. l. gambelli*), with an orange-pink bill, and white lores. Winters in southwestern Canada to Mexico. Principal dates are early May to late October. Occasionally lingers later into fall and winter at feeders – there are winter records from Fort Simpson, Yellowknife and Hay River.

Early record: 28 April 2000; two individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 November 2011 until 23 March 2012 (overwintered); one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 800 individuals; 23 May 1972; Fort Good Hope; Michael Shepard; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Harris's Sparrow
(*Zonotrichia querula*)
Sensitive (GSR 2021)
Special Concern (COSEWIC 2017)

Bruant à face noire
HASP
I, G, S, W (FED)

Breeds in patches of spruce, tamarack, willow and tundra along the treeline from the barrenlands east of Great Slave Lake, northwestwards towards the Mackenzie Delta, but becoming less frequent further west and it is not a regular breeder in the latter location.

Likewise, a fairly common migrant in the eastern parts of the southern mainland (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife), becoming rare westwards to Fort Simpson. Principal dates mid-May to early October, but there are a number of December and January records of birds lingering at feeders including in Yellowknife, Hay River, Norman Wells, Fort Smith and Enterprise (eBird 2021). No subspecies recognized. Winters in the central US.

Early record: 7 May 2012; one individual; Yellowknife; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

Late record: 15 January 2014; one individual; Enterprise; Stu Poirier; eBird 2021

High count: 106 individuals; 10 May 2006; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2017. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x+36pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211B-1)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

White-throated Sparrow

(*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bruant à gorge blanche

WTSP

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in forests, especially around edges and where openings are available. Found throughout the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie River to Norman Wells, scattered reports further north to Colville Lake and Inuvik and, exceptionally, as far north as Tuktoyaktuk, the Anderson River Delta and Tuktut Nogait National Park. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the US. Principal dates are mid-May to early October. Has been recorded frequenting feeders in winter multiple times including at Hay River (several CBC records), Yellowknife, Fort Simpson (one overwintered in 2016-2017), and Lindberg's Landing.

Early record: 1 May 1999; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: until 12 February 2017; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 63 individuals; June 1999; Yellowknife (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Vesper Sparrow

(*Pooecetes gramineus*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Bruant vésperal

VESP

(FED)

Rare, may have bred historically. Some historical records dating back to the first half of the 20th century suggest that it may have been a local breeder in prairie-like meadows in the Fort Smith area (Preble 1908, Stewart 1966), although there is only one recent record from this area. Most of the remaining reports are from Fort Simpson, where it has been observed many times. It was reported in the 1970s from the alluvial fan at Prairie Creek in NNPR, although more recent surveys have not found it at this location. Records further north are a report by Williams (1933) of two individuals nesting along the Mackenzie River south of Norman Wells (although no further details are provided) and a report of one at Moose Channel in the Mackenzie Delta in summer 1972. The subspecies found in the NWT is probably *P. g. confinis*, large, long tailed, and slender billed. Winters in western US.

Occurrences

1. 21 June 1901; several individuals; prairie-like tracts a few miles w. of Fort Smith; E.A. Preble; Preble 1908. Male collected
2. 18 May 1933; one singing male; Fort Smith; J.D. Soper; Soper 1942
3. 28 June 1922; two individuals; Mackenzie R. below Norman [Wells]; M.Y. Williams; Williams 1933. Described as "nesting"
4. 18 June 1955; five territorial males or pairs; Grand Detour Portage, 40 mi. northwest of Fort Smith; R.E. Stewart, Stewart 1966
5. 6 June 1958; one male; Fort Simpson; W.E. Godfrey S.D. MacDonald; Godfrey 1965. Specimen collected (CMNAV 45060)
6. 26-27 May 1972; up to two individuals; Fort Simpson; Salter et al. 1974a
7. August 1972, Moose Channel, Mackenzie Delta; reported without details; Martell et al. 1984

8. 17 May 1973; one individual; Fort Simpson; Salter et al. 1974
9. 7 July 1974; one individual; NNPR (Prairie Creek alluvial fan); Pitt-Brookes; Scotter et al. 1985
10. 29 April 1977; one individual; NNPR (Prairie Creek alluvial fan); H.M and L.J. Kershaw; Scotter et al. 1985
11. 18 May 2004; one individual; southwest of Checkpoint; Todd Heakes, Dan Kemble; Eckert 2004
12. 25-29 May 2004; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2004
13. 16 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021
Photographed
14. 19 May 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021
15. 19 June 2015; one individual; Highway 3 (north of Chan Lake); CWS survey; Pankratz 2015. Audio recording
16. 10 September 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021
17. 27 May 2018; Highway 5 west of Fort Smith; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
Photographed

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert, C.E. 2004. Northern Canada. *North American Birds* 58(3):387-388.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 79:34-38.
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. *Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region*. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- Pankratz, R. 2015. Personal communication. Email to Doug Tate with audio file, 16 September 2015.
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. *North American Fauna*, No. 27. 574pp.
- Salter, R.E., W.J. Richardson and C. Holdsworth. 1974. Spring migration of birds through the Mackenzie Valley, NWT, April-May 1973. Chapter II in Gunn, W.W.H., Richardson, W.J., Schweinsburg, R.E. and T.D. Wright (Editors), *Ornithological studies in the Mackenzie Valley, 1973*. Arctic Gas Biological Report Series Volume 28, Canadian Arctic Gas Study Ltd. 168pp.

- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily, and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.
- Soper, J.D. 1942. The birds of Wood Buffalo National Park and vicinity, northern Alberta and District of Mackenzie. Transaction of the Royal Canadian Institute 24(1):19-97.
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 45060)
- Stewart, R.E. 1966. Notes on birds and other animals in the Slave River – Little Buffalo River area, N.W.T. Blue Jay 24: 22-32.
- Williams, M.Y. 1933. Biological note, covering parts of the Peace, Liard, Mackenzie and Great Bear River basins. Canadian Field-Naturalist 47:23-41.

LeConte's Sparrow

(Ammospiza leconteii)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Bruant de Le Conte

LCSP

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in wet sedge meadows and open shrubby wetlands. Range in the NWT includes Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson and Fort Liard. Rare and local in the Mackenzie Mountains (Yohin Lake in NNPR, Palmer and Godwin Lakes in the north Mackenzie Mountains), and rare northwards in the Mackenzie Valley to the Norman Wells area. No subspecies recognized. Winters in south-central US. Principal dates late May to mid-August.

Early record: 7 May 2020; one individual; Yellowknife (Con Mine); Victoria Johnson; Facebook 2020

Late record: 14 September 2019; one individual; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: ten individuals; 21 June 2014; NNPR (Yohin Lake); David Britton; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Nelson's Sparrow**(*Ammospiza nelsoni*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Bruant de Nelson****NESP****(FED)**

Rare and local in wetland areas, breeding probable, but not yet documented. Repeated observations at the Fox Holes near Fort Smith and in the vicinity of Fort Providence, especially at Mills Lake. Other isolated observations in the Fort Liard, Jean Marie River and Hay River areas. The subspecies present in the NWT is the Interior Nelson's Sparrow (*A. n. nelsoni*). Winters on Pacific coasts of US and Mexico. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 28 May 2015; one individual; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 29 August 2018; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021. Photographed

High count: two individuals; 19 July 2014; Fort Providence (ice crossing); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 High counts also recorded at Mills Lake on surveys done in Edéhzhé National Wildlife Area (CWS, unpublished data)

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Savannah Sparrow**(*Passerculus sandwichensis*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Bruant des prés****SAVS****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common breeder in open habitat, including fields, wetlands and both alpine and Arctic tundra. Found throughout the mainland in appropriate habitat. Reported exceptionally from Ulukhaktok and Aulavik National Park. Subspecies present in the NWT is *P. s. anthinus*. Winters in California and northwestern Mexico. Principal dates are early May to mid-September.

Early record: 28 April 2000; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 17-18 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 100 individuals; 15 June 2013; Niglintgak Island, Mackenzie Delta; Alvan Buckley; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Song Sparrow

(*Melospiza melodia*)

Undetermined (GSR 2021)

Bruant chanteur

SOSP

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in shrubby areas adjacent to water. Found in the southern mainland north to Fort Simpson and Yellowknife and the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells. Exceptionally north to Banks Island: T.H. Manning collected one at De Salis Bay on 4 June 1952 (CMNAV 39356). Subspecies present in the NWT are unclear, but the widespread eastern *M. m. melodia* is the most probable. Winters in the southeast US. Principal dates are mid-May to early September. There are winter records from Fort Simpson and Hay River.

Early record: 5 May 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late records: 13 September 2004; one individual; Délîne; Sam de Beer; eBird 2021

c.22 December 1990; one individual; Hay River (CBC); National Audubon Society 2010.

19 October 2010 - 3 March 2011 (overwintered); Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: ten individuals; 13 September 2004; Délîne; Sam de Beer; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online). Available: www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015)

Lincoln's Sparrow**(*Melospiza lincolni*ii)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Fairly common breeder in shrubby habitats, often around wetlands. Found throughout the treed portion of the NWT north to Inuvik and Colville Lake, occasionally to the north coast (Kendall Island, Taglu Island, Anderson River Delta). Subspecies present in the NWT is *M. l. lincolni*ii. Winters in the US and Mexico. Principal dates are early May to early October.

Early record: 30 April 2018; one individual; Fort Liard; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 21 October 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); David Britton, Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 70 individuals; 4 June 2004; Vermillion Creek, 20 km southeast of Norman Wells; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Swamp Sparrow**(*Melospiza georgiana*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Uncommon breeder in wetlands. Found throughout the southern mainland and north along the Mackenzie River to Norman Wells, scattered reports further north to Colville Lake and Inuvik. Subspecies present in the NWT is *M. g. ericrypta*. Winters in eastern US and Mexico. Principal dates are mid-May to late September

Early record: 30 April 2010; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 20 October 2016; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 28 individuals; 21 June 2015; NNPR (Yohin Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Bruant de Lincoln**LISP****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Icteridae

Yellow-headed Blackbird

(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor. Now occurs nearly annually, especially in the Fort Liard and Fort Simpson areas in the southwest. Also reported at Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Łutsel K'e, Wrigley, and Norman Wells. Almost all records are from May and June. A bird present in Yellowknife from late December 1999 to early January 2000 was a very unusual winter record (eBird 2021); one male wintered in Les Rocher's Yellowknife barn-garage (seen 6 February 2000; R.G. Bromley notes, photo from S Fleck). No subspecies recognized. Usually breeds on the prairies in Canada and the US. Winters in southwestern US and Mexico.

Occurrences

1. Pre-1862; one individual; Fort Simpson; B.R. Ross, B.R. Ross 1862
2. Pre-1908; one female; Hay River; *fide* H.W. Jones; Preble 1908
3. Summer 1965; one individual; Godlin Lake in the Keel River drainage; Edith Burrell; Stelfox 1969
4. 31 May 1983; Rat Lake, J Goldi (R.G. Bromley notes); Male Niven Lake 28 May 1989; P. Baldwin and N. Chaparral (R.G. Bromley notes)
5. 9 June 1996; one individual; Fort Smith; Wayne Starling; eBird 2021
6. 20 Dec. 1999 - 4 January 2000; one individual; Yellowknife (Old Town); R.G. Bromley notes; eBird 2021 Photographed. 30 January 2000; male, Yellowknife, Bryson Dr. wintering at Les Rocher's shed, photo by S Fleck
7. 27 May 1998; one individual; Yellowknife; Mike Fournier; eBird 2021
8. 19-21 May 2001; one male; Fort Simpson; Steve Catto, Doug Tate; eBird 2021; confirmed on 28 May 2001, three individuals; Fort Simpson; Roger Pilling NWT Checklist ID 6334, eBird 2021
9. 28 May 2002; one individual; Fort Simpson; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021*
10. 22 June 2002; one individual; Fort Liard area; eBird 2021
11. 30 May 2002; one individual; Fort Liard; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021*
12. 24-28 May 2004; up to two individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate, Heather Passmore; Eckert 2004

Carouge à tête jaune

YHBL

13. 19-21 May 2005; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin, Richard Popko; Eckert 2005
14. 16 May 2005; one male; Fort Simpson, present for two weeks; Roger Pilling, Doug Tate, m. obs.; eBird 2021, Eckert 2005
15. Late May 2005; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Patricia Duncan; Eckert 2005
16. June 2006; one individual; north of Wrigley; NWT-NU Checklist 2007
17. 7 May 2011; one individual; Cameron Falls, east of Yellowknife; Kevin Kardynal; eBird 2021
18. 11-28 May 2011; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); RG Bromley, Vicki St. Germaine, m. obs.; eBird 2021
19. 24 May 2011; one male, one female; Fort Liard, Ainsley Latwaitis; eBird 2021
20. 23-24 May 2013; one female; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate, David Britton; eBird 2021 Photographed
21. 20-24 May 2014; one male; Fort Simpson; David Britton, Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
22. 17 May 2015; one male; Fort Simpson; Dani Thompson, Jackie Zinger; eBird 2021 Photographed
23. 18 May 2015; one immature male; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed.
24. 6 May 2016; one male; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021 Photographed
25. 27 May 2018; one female; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021 Photographed
26. 26 May 2019; one individual; Hay River; Jerry Hordal; eBird 2021
27. 7 June 2019; one individual; Łutsel K'e; Shonto Noeldeke-Catholique; eBird 2021
28. 3 May 2020; one individual; Highway 5 west of Fort Smith; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
29. 8 May 2021; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
30. 23-25 May 2021; one male; Yellowknife (Willow Flats); Amanda Mallon; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

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- Stelfox, J.G. 1969. The flora and fauna of the upper Keele Drainage, NWT. September 1967. Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada unpublished report. 20pp.

Bobolink

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Threatened (COSEWIC 2010)

Goglu des prés

BOBO

(FED)

Accidental. A male was photographed at Fort Liard by Ainsley Latwaitis on 24 May 2011 (eBird 2021). This species' regular breeding range approaches this area only as close as central Alberta. No subspecies recognized. Winters in central South America.

References

- COSEWIC. 2010. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xi+42pp. (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>)
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Western Meadowlark

(*Sturnella neglecta*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Sturnelle de l'Ouest

WEME

(FED)

Casual visitor. This species has occurred about thirteen times mostly in spring and early summer. The Fort Simpson area has the majority of the records, with other records coming from Fort Liard and near Fort Smith. A record from Paulatuk on the north coast is exceptionally far north. In the NWT Western Meadowlarks are typically discovered in open

areas including fields, clearings, airports and roadsides. The most northerly subspecies *S. n. confluenta*, with a vibrant yellow belly and barring on wings sometimes merging (confluent), is most likely found here. A grassland bird, usually breeds in southern Canada and northern US. Winters from southern Canada to California.

Occurrences

1. 20 May 1904; one male; Fort Simpson (field behind the trading post); A.E. Preble; Preble 1908, Smithsonian Cat #195186
2. Prior to 1921; one individual; Fort Simpson; Captain Mills, *fide* M.Y. Williams; Williams 1922
3. 17 June 1921; one individual; Two Islands Indian Village, 30 miles below Fort Simpson; M.Y. Williams; Williams 1922
4. 28 May 2002; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Flats); Craig Machtans; eBird 2021
5. 10 June 2005; one individual; Fort Liard (Airport); Todd Heakes, G. Kubica; eBird 2021 Photographed and audiotaped
6. Prior to 2009, exact date unknown; Dechela Lodge; Barichello 2009
7. 12 May 2009; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; Eckert 2009. Photographed
8. 8 June 2013; one individual; Fort Liard (antenna clearing); David Britton; eBird 2021 Photographed
9. 18 April 2014; one individual; Mackenzie Hwy, 40 km south of Fort Simpson; David Britton; eBird 2021 Photographed
10. 18 May 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (Airport); Doug Tate; eBird 2021 Photographed
11. 2 June 2016; one individual; Highway 5, 40 km west of Fort Smith; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021 Photographed
12. 8 June 2017; one individual; Paulatuk; Alvin Buckley; eBird 2021 Photographed
13. 21 May 2018; one individual; Hay River; Anne and Henry Boden; Facebook 2020. Photographed.
14. 24 April 2019; one individual; Yellowknife; Leonard Smith; eBird 2021 Photographed

References

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- Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Natural History, Division of Birds Collection; <https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/birds/>
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Baltimore Oriole

(Icterus galbula)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Oriole de Baltimore

BAOR

(FED)

Casual visitor, two records. On 20 June 2002, Jason Duxbury observed a male Baltimore Oriole on the Liard Trail south of Fort Liard (eBird 2021). On 13 June 2021, Gary Vizniowski photographed a male in Hay River. This species' regular range approaches this location as closely as the Fort St. John area in the Peace Valley of British Columbia. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico to South America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Red-winged Blackbird

(Agelaius phoeniceus)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Carouge à épaulettes

RWBL

I, G, S, W (TERR)

Fairly common breeder in wetlands, usually with emergent vegetation, ranging as far north as Norman Wells and Great Bear Lake. Occasionally further north, with reports from Colville Lake, Travallant Lake, Inuvik and Richards Island in the Mackenzie Delta (Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). Principal dates early May to mid-August. One overwintering record in Yellowknife in 2021/22 (eBird 2021).

Early record: 27 April 2015; NWT Checklist (anonymous), Yellowknife, eBird 2021: 28 April 1998; one individual; Fort Liard; Craig Machtans; eBird 2021

Late record: 11 September 1976; one individual; NNPR (Yohin Lake); Wayne Neily; eBird 2021

High count: 75 individuals; 9 May 2019; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Brown-headed Cowbird

(*Molothrus ater*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Vacher à tête brune

BHCO

S, W (TERR)

Rare breeder (brood parasite) in open wooded areas with scattered trees, most often within communities (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith). Rare in the Mackenzie Mountains (NNPR – Rabbitkettle Lake, Palmer Lake), Yellowknife, and north along the Mackenzie Valley to Tulita, Norman Wells and Chick Lake (Höhn 1956, Godfrey 1965). Subspecies most probably in the NWT is *M. a. artemisiae*. Winters in Mexico. Principal dates are mid-May to late July.

Early record: 2 May 2002; one individual; Norman Wells; Dave Wilderspin; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 July 2007; one individual; Fort Simpson; Randy Schietzelt; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 30 May 2002; Fort Liard; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.
- Höhn, E.O. 1956. Some ornithological records for Wood Buffalo Park and the Mackenzie District, NWT. Canadian Field-Naturalist 70:144.

Rusty Blackbird**(*Euphagus carolinus*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Special Concern (COSEWIC 2017)****Special Concern (SARA 2009)****Quiscale rouilleux****RUBL****I, G, S, W (TERR)**

Uncommon breeder in wet coniferous forests, especially around wetlands throughout the mainland portion of the NWT. Reported exceptionally from Sachs Harbour (eBird 2021). Fairly common migrant throughout the southern part of the NWT from late April through May and from September to mid-October. There are two winter records from Hay River CBCs. Subspecies present in the NWT is *E. c. carolinus*. Winters in the eastern US. Principal dates late April to mid-October.

Early record: 3 April 2004; three individuals; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Sharon Hayes; eBird 2021

Late records: 20 October 2001; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

27 December 1979; one individual; Hay River (CBC); Bruce Green; eBird 2021

High count: 300 individuals; 8 May 2001; Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

References

- COSEWIC. 2017. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* in Canada. Ottawa, ON. xi+64pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=24F7211)
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Brewer's Blackbird**(*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)****Sensitive (GSR 2021)****Quiscale de Brewer****BRBL****(TERR)**

Rare and local breeder in open habitats such as brushy clearings, fields and airports. First recorded in the NWT when a female was collected in Fort Simpson in spring of 1958 (Godfrey 1965). Was regular in Fort Simpson in the late 1990s and early 2000s, occasionally in flocks in the fall, but has become rare and irregular there of late. Has also been recorded from time to time at Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. A female at Dechenla Lodge in the northern Mackenzie Mountains on 17 July 1987 (eBird 2021) was considerably out of range, as was one east of Fort McPherson in June 1971 (Martell et al.

1984). Another female photographed at Nahanni Butte on 2 January 2016 is the only winter record. No subspecies recognized. Winters from south-western Canada to Mexico. Principal dates are late May to early October.

Early record: 25 April 2003; two individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late records: 8 October 1999; 20 individuals; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

2 January 2016; one female; Nahanni Butte (CBC); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 50 individuals; 10 and 22 August 1999; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79: 34-38.
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Common Grackle

(*Quiscalus quiscula*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Quiscale bronzé

COGR

S, W (TERR)

Uncommon breeder in open wooded areas with scattered trees in the southern portion of the NWT (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife). Exceptionally north to Norman Wells. Principal dates early May to early October. There is a small number of winter records from CBCs from Yellowknife (four years), Fort Smith (two years) and Hay River (two years). The subspecies present in the NWT is the Bronzed Common Grackle (*Q. q. versicolor*). Winters in the southeastern US.

Early record: 15 April 2016; one individual; Fort Smith (Winter St.); David Britton; eBird 2021

Late records: 3 January 1997 and again 24 February 1997, Yellowknife, R. Fiel (R.G. Bromley notes); 9 October 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Niven Lake); Lucas Berrigan; eBird 2021; 15 December 1991; one individual; Yellowknife (CBC) (National Audubon Society 2010); R.G. Bromley; eBird 2021

High count: 50 individuals; 1 July 2018; Highway 3 (Caen Lake); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- National Audubon Society. 2010. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results (online) www.christmasbirdcount.org. (Accessed 5 December 2015)

Parulidae

Ovenbird

(Seiurus aurocapilla)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline couronnée

OVEN

S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in mature deciduous and mixed forests in the southern part of the NWT: Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, NNPR (Deadmen Valley), Fort Liard and northward along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells, but rare at Yellowknife. Subspecies present in the NWT is S. a. aurocapilla. Winters in the southern US to Central America. Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 17 May 2003; one individual; Muskeg River, 10 km north of Fort Liard; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late record: 26 August 2019; one individual; Fort Smith; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 57 individuals; June 2014; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Northern Waterthrush

(Parkesia noveboracensis)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline des ruisseaux

NOWA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Fairly common breeder in wooded swamps or riparian thickets along the edges of water bodies. Found throughout the forested parts of the NWT, north to Great Bear Lake, Colville Lake and the Mackenzie Delta. There are extralimital records from Tuktoyaktuk where one was seen by Cora Louise Kevan on 12 August 1970 (Anonymous 1970); and from Banks

Island (Manning et al. 1956), where a specimen was collected by George Wilkins at Cape Kellett on 11 September 1914 (CMNAV 10147). No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central to northern South America. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 12 May 2001; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 2 October 2015; one individual; Flat Lakes, 15 km north of Tungsten; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 34 individuals; June 2013; Tsigehtchic (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- Anonymous. 1970. Collection of four reports for a proposed national park at Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT. Canadian Wildlife Service unpublished report.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/
- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]). (CMNAV 10147)

Black-and-white Warbler

(*Mniotilla varia*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline noir et blanc

BAWW

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in deciduous and mixed forests in the southern part of the NWT: Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, NNPR (Deadmen Valley), Fort Liard and northward along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells, but rare at Yellowknife. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the southern US to northern South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-August.

Early record: 15 May 2012; one individual; Fort Simpson (The Snye); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 4 September 2019; one individual; Hay River (beach); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 18 individuals; June 2003; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Tennessee Warbler

(*Leiothlypis peregrina*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline obscure

TEWA

I, G, S, W (FED)

Common migrant and breeder in a wide range of forest types throughout much of the NWT, north to Gamètì, Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope, and from there sparsely northward along the Mackenzie Valley towards Inuvik (Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). One of the most numerous forest songbirds in the southern part of the NWT. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the southern US to northern South America. Principal dates are late May to early September.

Early record: 17 May 2002; one individual; Fort Liard; Carl Savignac; eBird 2021

Late record: 24 October 2020; one individual; Hay River; Jaimie Graham; eBird 2021
Photographed

High count: 156 individuals; June 2002; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Orange-crowned Warbler**(*Leiothlypis celata*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Paruline verdâtre****OCWA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Fairly common migrant and breeder in brushy areas, shrubby thickets and along forest edges where low growth is present. Found throughout the mainland, north to Colville Lake and the Mackenzie Delta, most abundant in the shrubby forests of the Canadian Shield. The subspecies present in the NWT is the boreal dweller *L. c. celata*. Winters in the southern US to Central America. Principal dates are early May to late September.

Early record: 1 May 1999; one individual; Yellowknife (Frame Lake); Mike Beauregard; eBird 2021

Late record: 8 October 1999; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 85 individuals; June 1998; Ingraham Trail (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Nashville Warbler**(*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*)****Not Ranked (GSR 2021)****Paruline à joues grises****NAWA****(FED)**

Accidental visitor, one record. An individual was photographed by Gary Vizniowski in Hay River on 28 September 2020 (eBird 2021). This species' closest breeding range (subspecies *L. r. ruficapilla*) is in central Saskatchewan and extreme east-central Alberta. Winters in Mexico.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Connecticut Warbler**(*Oporornis agilis*)****Undetermined (GSR 2021)****Paruline à gorge grise****CONW****(FED)**

Rare and local in the Fort Liard area, where singing males have been observed on a number of occasions (Machtans 2000). Breeding has yet to be confirmed and the sightings may be of prospecting males beyond the northern edge of their usual breeding range. Habitat types used have included spruce forest, mature mixed forest and mature aspen stands. Other extralimital records in the NWT come from near Checkpoint, Highway 5 through Wood Buffalo National Park and the Fox Holes near Fort Smith (eBird 2021). No subspecies recognized. Winters in South America. Principal dates are late May to late June.

Early record: 30-31 May 2013; one male; Fox Holes Road, 35 km west of Fort Smith; Tom Hince, Paul Pratt; Hince 2013

Late record: 17 June 1999; one male; Fort Liard Breeding Bird Survey Route; Craig Machtans; Machtans 2000

High count: All records have been of single singing males

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Hince, P. 2013. Northwest Territories, Canada - Big Day May 31, 2013 PART 1. Tom Hince – Adventures with birds & other stuff. Blog posting 2 June 2013. <http://tomhince.blogspot.ca/2013/06/northwest-territories-canada-big-day.html>
- Machtans, C.S. 2000. Extra-limital observations of Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, and other bird observations from the Liard Valley, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 114: 671-679.

Mourning Warbler**(*Geothlypis philadelphica*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Paruline triste****MOWA****(FED)**

Uncommon breeder in open areas with thick deciduous shrub cover including roadsides, clear cuts, wetlands and forest edges. Most records are from the Fort Liard area in the southwestern corner of the NWT but it has also been recorded at Fort Smith. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central to northern South America. Principal dates early June to mid-July.

Early record: 30 May 2007; one individual; Muskeg River, 10 km north of Fort Liard; Lindsay Armer; eBird 2021

Late record: 24 August 2019; one individual; Fort Smith; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 15 individuals; June 2003; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Common Yellowthroat

(*Geothlypis trichas*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline masquée

COYE

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in dense low undergrowth, mainly in wet areas, but occasionally in drier situations as well. Found throughout the southern mainland, north to NNPR (Howard's Pass Access Road), Wrigley, Yellowknife and the Thelon River, as well as along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells, Inuvik and Colville Lake. Subspecies present in the NWT is *G. t. campicola*. Winters in southwestern US and Mexico. Principal dates late May to early September.

Early record: 14 May 2015; one individual; Yellowknife (Kam Lake); Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 September 2008; one individual; NNPR (Kraus Hot Springs); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

High count: 20 individuals; 21 June 2015; NNPR (Yohin Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

American Redstart**(*Setophaga ruticilla*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Fairly common breeder in deciduous forests in the southern part of the NWT, north to Hay River, Fort Providence, and along the Mackenzie Valley to Fort Good Hope. Rare at Yellowknife (several records) and in the Mackenzie Mountains (one record from Yohin Lake in NNPR). Exceptionally north to Banks Island, where T.H. Manning collected a juvenile at Sachs Harbour on 19 September 1952 (CMNAV 39454), coincidentally the latest fall record for the NWT. Subspecies *S.r. tricolora* is found in the NWT. Winters in central to northern South America. Principal dates late May to late August.

Early record: 14 May 2004; one individual; Enterprise; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

Late records: 12 September 2014; one male, one female; Fort Simpson (Territorial Campground); David Britton; eBird 2021

19 September 1952; one juvenile; Banks Island (Sachs Harbour); Manning; Manning et al 1956

High count: 38 individuals; June 2000; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.
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- Specimen data provided by the Canadian Museum of Nature. (Accessed through the Canadian Museum of Nature website: <http://nature.ca/collections-online>, [Accessed 25 August 2016]. (CMNAV 39454)

Cape May Warbler**(*Setophaga tigrina*)****Secure (GSR 2021)**

Uncommon breeder in coniferous forest north to Wrigley and Yellowknife and exceptionally further north along the Mackenzie Valley to the Norman Wells area. Not

Paruline flamboyante**AMRE****I, G, S, W (FED)**

recorded in the Mackenzie Mountains. No subspecies recognized. Winters in the Caribbean. Principal dates are late May to mid-August.

Early record: 17 May 2019; one individual; Hay River (Highways 2 and 5 Junction); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 28 September 2020, one individual, Hay River, Gary Vizniowski, eBird 2021

High count: ten individuals; 26 July 2015; Fort Providence (Territorial Campground); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Magnolia Warbler

(*Setophaga magnolia*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline à tête cendrée

MAWA

S, W (FED)

Common breeder in coniferous and mixed forests north to NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake), north along the Mackenzie Valley to Norman Wells, and east to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake. Occurs rarely at Yellowknife. Scattered reports further north to the Colville Lake and Fort McPherson areas. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central America. Principal dates late May to early August.

Early record: 14 May 1997; one individual; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); eBird 2021

Late record: 31 August 2019; two individuals; Fort Smith (River); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: 55 individuals; June 2002; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Bay-breasted Warbler
(*Setophaga castanea*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline à poitrine baie
BBWA
(FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous and mixed forests in the Fort Liard area, becoming rare further north and east to NNPR (Deadmen Valley), Fort Simpson and Wrigley (Williams 1933, Godfrey 1965, eBird 2021). Only scattered records elsewhere (Lady Evelyn Falls, Highway 3 south of Behchokǫ, Yellowknife, Fort Smith). More than any other warbler, highly dependent on spruce budworm infestations. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central America and northern South America. Principal dates late May to late August.

Early record: 21 May 2016; one individual; Lady Evelyn Falls Territorial Park; Alex Stone; eBird 2021

Late record: 23 September 2012; one individual; Highway 3 (Edzo to Birch Creek); Vicki and Warren St. Germaine; eBird 2021

High count: 17 individuals; 14 June 2003; Fort Liard area; Todd Heakes; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Godfrey, W.E. 1965. Range extensions of some birds in western Mackenzie. Canadian Field-Naturalist 79:34-38.
- Williams, M.Y. 1933. Biological note, covering parts of the Peace, Liard, Mackenzie and Great Bear River basins. Canadian Field-Naturalist 47:23-41.

Yellow Warbler
(*Setophaga petechia*)
Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline jaune
YWAR
I, G, S, W (FED)

Common breeder in wet shrubby thickets, often adjacent to water bodies. One of the most northerly ranging warblers in the NWT, it is found throughout the forested portion of the NWT including along and in appropriate habitat along the Thelon, Horton and Anderson Rivers, throughout the Mackenzie Delta (eBird 2021) and at Tuktoyaktuk and Toker Point (Anonymous 1970). Our birds certainly are members of the northern Yellow Warbler (*aestica* group), probably *S. p. amnicola* but subspecies determination remains uncertain. Winters in northern South America. Principal dates are mid-May to mid-September.

Early record: 7 May 2000; one individual; Norman Wells; Richard Popko; eBird 2021

Late record: 24 October 2020; one individual; Hay River; Jaimie Graham; eBird 2021.
Photographed

High count: 100 individuals; 14 August 1997; Inuvik; Cameron Eckert, Pam Sinclair; eBird 2021

References

- Anonymous. 1970. Collection of four reports for a proposed national park at Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, NWT. Canadian Wildlife Service unpublished report.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Blackpoll Warbler

(*Setophaga striata*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Paruline rayée

BLPW

I, G, S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in coniferous forest and shrubby thickets in riparian areas. Found throughout the forested portion of the NWT, north to Colville Lake and the Mackenzie Delta. No subspecies recognized. Winters in northern South America. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 10 May 2005; four individuals; Lynx Lake in the Thelon River drainage, Susan Bryan; eBird 2021

Late record: 19 September 2015; one individual; Yellowknife (Range Lake); Josh Sullivan; eBird 2021

High count: 48 individuals; June 2008; Tsiigehtchic (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Palm Warbler**(*Setophaga palmarum*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Paruline à couronne rousse****PAWA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Uncommon breeder in coniferous bogs or open coniferous woodlands. Found throughout the southern mainland north to Yellowknife and the Mackenzie River to Fort Good Hope. There are also scattered sightings further north to Colville Lake, Aklavik and Inuvik (Martell et al. 1984, eBird 2021). Not recorded in the Mackenzie Mountains. The subspecies present in the NWT is the western palm warbler (*S. p. palmarum*). Winters in the Caribbean. Principal dates are mid-May to late September.

Early record: 11 May 2012; one individual; Yellowknife (Magnum Crescent); Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 03 October 2020; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021

High count: 55 individuals; 13 August 2021; Highway 3, Km. 202; Marcus Jackson and Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., Dickinson, D.M. and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Yellow-rumped Warbler**(*Setophaga coronata*)****Secure (GSR 2021)****Paruline à croupion jaune****YRWA****I, G, S, W (FED)**

Common migrant and breeder in coniferous and mixed forests. Found throughout the forested parts of the NWT, north to the Mackenzie Delta, Colville Lake and the Horton River valley. Usually, the earliest warbler species to arrive in the NWT in spring and the last to leave in fall. The subspecies present in the NWT is the Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler (*S. c. coronata*). Winters in the southeastern US to Central America. Principal dates are late April to late September.

Early record: 21 April 2010; one individual; Fort Simpson; Doug Tate; eBird 2021

Late record: 13 October 2015; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); Doug Tate; eBird 2021; 15 October 1903, Fort Smith, from Chapman, F.M. 1907. The Warblers of

North America. D. Appleton & Co., 306pp. Uploaded by Dan Scheiman, eBird (2022)

High count: 135 individuals; 12 May 2006; NNPR (Rabbitkettle Lake); Doug Tate; eBird 2021

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Townsend's Warbler

(*Setophaga townsendi*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Paruline de Townsend

TOWA

S (FED)

Casual visitor. One was observed on a hillside east of the Liard River near Fort Liard by Craig Machtans on 16 June 1998 and a recording of its song was obtained (Machtans 2000; CWS unpub. Data). On 13 June 2002, Doug Tate observed a Townsend's warbler in NNPR, along the South Nahanni River near Moore's Hot Springs. What was believed to be a second bird was heard singing a few kilometres downstream the next day. This species occurs in forested mountain slopes as close to the NWT as the Northern Rockies of British Columbia and in the Yukon (eBird 2021). Machtans (2000) speculated that it could occur regularly in the mountains on the west side of the Liard River across from Fort Liard. No subspecies recognized. Winters California to western Mexico.

References

- Canadian Wildlife Service. 2018. Unpublished Data., email on file, data retrieved from the NWT/NU Checklist Survey.
- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Machtans, C.S. 2000. Extra-limital observations of Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, and other bird observations from the Liard Valley, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 114(4): 671-679.

Black-throated Green Warbler

(*Setophaga virens*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Paruline à gorge noire

BTNW

(FED)

Casual visitor: two records. Eaton (1948) reported five Black-throated Green Warblers on a trip along the Slave River on 1-8 July 1940 between Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta and Grand

Detour, NWT; David Henry reported a Black-throated Green Warbler just west of Sheaf Creek in Deadmen Valley in NNPR on 29 June and 2 July 1976. The bird's song was recorded and comparisons to other recordings supported the identification (Scotter et al. 1985). It is very possible that this species is present in the NWT, near Fort Smith and even further north, but has remained undetected. No subspecies recognized. Usual breeding range is from northern Alberta, including Wood Buffalo National Park, to eastern US. Winters in Central America to northern South America.

References

- Eaton, E.A. 1948. Bird distribution along the Peace, Slave and Little Buffalo Rivers of Canada. *Auk* 65: 345-352.
- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories.

Canada Warbler

(*Cardellina canadensis*)

Sensitive (GSR 2021)

Special Concern (COSEWIC 2020)

Threatened (SARA 2010)

Paruline du Canada

CAWA

(FED)

Uncommon breeder in deciduous and mixed forests with well-developed understory, often near water, in the Fort Liard area. Scattered additional sightings from near Checkpoint, Fort Providence and Fort Smith. Surveys in the Cameron Hills, about 50 km southeast of Enterprise, in June 2011 detected several individuals including a pair, suggesting there may be a disjunct breeding population in this area. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Central America to northern South America. Principal dates are early June to late August.

Early record: 29 May 2008; one individual; Fort Liard (Hay Lake); Lindsay Armer; eBird 2021

Late record: 30 August 2019; one individual; Fort Smith; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

High count: seven individuals; June 2002; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- COSEWIC. 2020. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xi+54pp. (www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html)

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Wilson's Warbler

(Cardellina pusilla)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Uncommon breeder throughout our forested regions north to the Mackenzie Delta and Colville Lake in shrub thickets, usually adjacent to lakes, ponds, wetlands or clear-cuts. In areas with extensive shrubby areas it can be the most abundant warbler; particularly noticeable in the Sahtu region. Subspecies present in the NWT is *C. p. pusilla*. Winters in Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to early September.

Early record: 30 April 2018; one male; Fort Liard; Reid Hildebrandt; eBird 2021

Late record: 26 October 2020; one individual; Hay River; Gary Vizniowski; eBird 2021
Photographed

High count: 27 individuals; June 2008; Tsigehtchic (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Cardinalidae

Western Tanager

(Piranga ludoviciana)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Piranga à tête rouge

WETA

S, W (FED)

Fairly common migrant and breeder in open coniferous and mixed forests throughout the southern mainland and the Mackenzie Valley to the vicinity of Norman Wells. Scarce but annual around Yellowknife. There is an extralimital report from the East Channel of the

Mackenzie Delta (eBird 2021). No subspecies recognized. Winters on Pacific sides of Mexico and Central America. Principal dates are mid-May to late August.

Early record: 12 May 2013; five individuals; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); David Britton; eBird 2021

Late record: 12 September 2014; one individual; Fort Simpson (102nd St.); David Britton; eBird 2021

High count: 22 individuals; June 2001; Checkpoint (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

Secure (GSR 2021)

Cardinal à poitrine rose

RBGR

S, W (FED)

Uncommon breeder in deciduous forest in the southern portion of the NWT (Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith). Occasionally north to Yellowknife (at Goldi's feeder in mid-May 1986; R.G. Bromley notes) and exceptionally to Norman Wells. No subspecies recognized. Winters from Mexico Pacific Coast to northern South America. Principal dates are late May to late July.

Early record: 21 April 1998; Yellowknife Bird Arrivals; R.G. Bromley; 17 May 2011; five individuals; Wood Buffalo National Park (Highway 5, km 204); Sharon Irwin; eBird 2021

Late record: 8 August 2017; two individuals; Highway 7 (Muskeg River); Anonymous eBirder; eBird 2021 Photographed

High count: 18 individuals; June 2002; Fort Liard (Breeding Bird Survey); Pardieck et al. 2015

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

- Pardieck, K.L., D.J. Ziolkowski Jr. and M.-A.R. Hudson. 2015. North American Breeding Bird Survey Dataset 1966-2014, version 2014.0. US Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/RawData/

Blue Grosbeak
(*Passerina caerulea*)
Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Accidental. An adult male photographed in Inuvik in mid-July 2010 by Ron B. Lalonde, Ron A. Lalonde and Helen Lalonde (Eckert 2011). The regular breeding range of this species is no closer to the NWT than South Dakota, however some birds have also been observed in the Alaskan panhandle (eBird 2021). The subspecies seen was not recorded. Winters in Mexico and Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Eckert C.E. 2011. Northern Canada and Greenland. North American Birds 64(4):610-612.

Lazuli Bunting
(*Passerina amoena*)
Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor, two records. Preble (1908) and Merrit Carrey collected a singing male at Fort Providence on 4 July 1903 that is in the Smithsonian Institute collection (catalogue #187900). A singing male Lazuli Bunting was found in a clearing along the Great Bear River near Tulita and well-described by Dave Widerspin in July 1997 (NWT-NU Checklist Survey 1998). This is quite distant from this species' closest regular breeding range in southern British Columbia. No subspecies recognized. Winters in western Mexico.

References

- NWT-NU Checklist Survey. 1998. 1998 Newsletter. Canadian Wildlife Survey. Yellowknife.
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.
- Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Natural History, Division of Birds Collection; <https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/birds/> (catalogue #187900)

Guairaca bleu
BLGR

Passerin azuré
LAZB
(FED)

Indigo Bunting
(*Passerina cyanea*)
Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Casual visitor, four records. A recently deceased Indigo Bunting was found in the townsite at Fort Simpson in early November 1999 by Steve Rowan and identified by Doug Tate (D. Tate, personal communication). The specimen was sent to the Royal Alberta Museum. Tate photographed another juvenile Indigo Bunting at Fort Simpson on 20 October 2015 (eBird 2021). An adult male appeared at the feeders of Richard Popko in Norman Wells on 31 May to 5 June 2017 (eBird 2021). Another male was photographed at feeders at Sandy Lake between Hay River and Fort Smith on 9 October 2020. The NWT is quite distant from this species' closest regular breeding range in southern Manitoba. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico and Central America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Dickcissel
(*Spiza americana*)
Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Accidental visitor, one record. An adult male Dickcissel was photographed by Jerry Hordal at his feeders in Hay River on 26 May 2019 (eBird 2021). Its breeding range comes as close as southeast Saskatchewan. No subspecies recognized. Winters in Mexico to northern South America.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org

Passerin indigo
INBU
(FED)

Dickcissel d'Amérique
DICK
(FED)

APPENDIX A - UNSUBSTANTIATED SPECIES LIST

Species on this list have substantive references in the literature (generally including a location, date and observer), but do not fully meet the documentation criteria described in the methodology section as they are lacking a photograph, audio or video recording, or detailed description that supports a conclusive identification. Their inclusion in this appendix is not meant to suggest that the identification was not correct, only that the level of documentation available did not meet the criteria for inclusion on our NWT checklist.

Anseriformes

Anatidae

Wood Duck

(Aix sponsa)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Canard branchu

WODU

(FED)

One adult male Wood Duck reported banded at Mills Lake on the Mackenzie River in August of 1966 (Newell and Cooch 1980, Anonymous 2005). Two other possible occurrences at Trout Lake (Anonymous 2005) and Yellowknife (Checklist Survey) with no details. A report of a nest found in a dry spruce near Fort Providence on 15 May 1885 is believed to be an erroneous reference to Bufflehead, which was known locally as "Wood Duck" (Soper 1957). No subspecies recognized. Breeding range in southern Canada and northern US. Winters in the US to Mexico.

References

- Anonymous. 2005. Sambaa K'e Candidate Protected Area: NWT Protected Areas Strategy Step 2. Report prepared by Crosscurrent Associates Ltd. and Crosscurrent Environmental Services Ltd. for the Sambaa K'e Dene Band, under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.
- eBird, NWT/NU Bird Checklist Survey "orphan" record.
- Newell, K.L. and F.G. Cooch. 1980. A summary of waterfowl banding accomplishments in Canada, 1918-1978. Canadian Wildlife Service Progress Note No. 106. Environment Canada. 38pp.
- Soper, J.D. 1957. Notes on the wildfowl of the Slave River Delta and vicinity, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 71:74-81.

Steller's Eider**(*Polysticta stelleri*)****Not Ranked (GSR 2021)****Eider de Steller****STEI**

Second hand report of a specimen taken at Cape Bathurst several years before 1912 (Anderson 1913). No further information regarding this specimen could be found. This record is included in the *Birds of Canada* (Godfrey 1966, 1995). No subspecies recognized. Nearest breeding range is in northern Alaska. Nearest wintering areas are at sea off the coast of Alaska.

References

- Anderson, R.M. 1913. Report on the natural history collections of the expedition (1908-1912). Page 514 in Stefansson, V., My life with the Eskimo. MacMillan Co., New York. 538pp.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1966. The Birds of Canada. National Museums of Canada. 596pp.
- Godfrey, W.E. 1995. The Birds of Canada: revised edition. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.

Spectacled Eider**(*Somateria fischeri*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Eider à lunettes****SPEI**

One sight record of a male with King Eiders on the Sachs River, Banks Island, on 20 June 1952 (Manning et al. 1956). This record is included in *Birds of Canada* (1986). No subspecies recognized. Nearest breeding range is in western Alaska. Winters on the Bering Sea.

References

- Godfrey, W.E. 1986. The Birds of Canada: revised edition. National Museums of Canada. 595pp.
- Manning, T.H., E.O. Höhn and A.H. Macpherson. 1956. The birds of Banks Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 143.

Gruiformes

Rallidae

Virginia Rail

(Rallus limicola)

Not Raked (GSR 2021)

Râle de Virginie

VIRA

(FED)

Two reports: from Falaise Lake (on the west side of Great Slave Lake) in June 1989, described as unconfirmed by Sirois and McRae (1996); and a bird heard calling along the Ingraham Trail 20 km east of Yellowknife on 4 July 2010 by Martine Dufresene and Blake Maybank (Eckert 2011). The subspecies nearest the NWT is *R. l. limicola*. Breeding range is southern Canada and northern US. Winters in southern US and Mexico.

References

- Eckert, C.D. 2011. Northern Canada and Greenland. North American Birds 64(4):610-612.
- Sirois, J. and D. McRae. 1996. A Miniguide to a Megaterritory and a Checklist: The Birds of the Northwest Territories, Canada. Second Edition. Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Charadriiformes

Scolopacidae

Bar-tailed Godwit

(Limosa lapponica)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Barge rousse

BTGO

A male and female were reported from Ekka Island in northwestern Great Bear Lake by Steve Moore on 24-25 June 2001 (eBird 2021). There is also a sight report from the Anderson River Delta with no date or details (Martell et al. 1984). The nearest subspecies to the NWT is *L. l. baueri*, breeding in Chukotka and Alaska, and wintering in China to New Zealand.

References

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance (web application). eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. www.ebird.org
- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Marbled Godwit**(*Limosa fedoa*)****Not Ranked (GSR 2021)****Barge marbrée****MAGO****(FED)**

Two reports: one seen at Norman Wells on May 21, 1991 by Dave Wilderspin (NWT Species Infobase); and one seen at Yellowknife on 2 June 2004 by Marianne Bromley (Eckert 2004). The subspecies *L. f. fedoa* breeds nearest to the NWT, in the Prairies (Canada and US) and winters from California to South America. The other subspecies, *L. f. beringiae* breeds in Alaska and winters on the US Westcoast.

References

- WGGSNS. 2022. NWT Species Infobase. www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/biodiversity/nwt-species-infobase

Black Turnstone**(*Arenaria melanocephala*)****Vagrant (GSR 2021)****Tournepierre noir****BLTU**

One reported near Tununuk Point in the Mackenzie Delta on 3 August 1970 (Martell et al. 1984). Reported on Banks Island, one near Lennie River on 2 June 1989, and one near Kellet River on 2 June 1988 (R.G. Bromley notes). No subspecies recognized. Nearest breeding range is in western Alaska. Winters on the west coast from Alaska to Mexico.

References

- Martell, A.M., D.M. Dickinson and L.M. Casselman. 1984. Wildlife of the Mackenzie Delta Region. Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, Occasional Publication No. 15. Edmonton, AB.

Ruff**(*Calidris pugnax*)****Not Ranked (GSR 2021)****Combattant varié****RUFF**

One reported at Yellowknife on 11 May 1980 by Robert Gallipeau (CWS unpublished data, Sirois and McRae 1996). No subspecies recognized. Breeding range is in Europe to Siberia. Winters from Africa to Southeast Asia.

References

- Sirois, J. and D. McRae. 1996. A Miniguide to a Megaterritory and a Checklist: The Birds of the Northwest Territories, Canada. Second Edition. Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service.

- Van Gils, J., P. Wiersma and G.M. Kirwan. 2020. Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D.A. Christie and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.ruff.01>

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
(*Calidris acuminata*)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Bécasseau à queue pointue

SPTS

Reported from Moose Channel on 6 (two individuals) and 28 (one individual) August 1972 (Campbell 1972, Searing et al. 1976) and Taglu-Richards Island (Slaney 1973) also in fall migration in 1972. Both locations are in the Mackenzie Delta. No subspecies recognized. Breeding range is in Siberia. Winters in Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

References

- Campbell, R.W. 1972. First draft of annotated list of birds of the Mackenzie District. I.D.S. Ltd. 28pp.
- Searing, G.F., E. Kuyt, W.J. Richardson and T.W. Barry. 1976. A study of seabirds in the coastal Beaufort Sea area, 1972 and 1974. Beaufort Sea Project, Technical Report No. 3. 256pp.
- Slaney, F.F. 1973. Interim 1972 Environmental field program Taglu-Richards Island, Mackenzie Delta. Part 3: Wildlife. Report prepared by F.F. Slaney and Co. Ltd. for Imperial Oil Ltd.

Alcidae

Common Murre

(*Uria aalge*)

Vagrant (GSR 2021)

Guillemot de marmette

COMU

Two were reported at the Thick-billed Murre colony at Police Point on Cape Parry during a boat survey on 2 August 1979 (Johnson and Ward 1985). Four subspecies are recognized. The subspecies was not detailed in Johnson and Ward (1985), it appears they assumed the birds were from the Pacific. The nearest Pacific subspecies, *U. a. inornata*, breeds from Alaska (Cape Lisburne) to Japan. Winters in the North Pacific. The nearest Atlantic subspecies, *U. a. aalge*, breeds from Greenland to the Baltic. Winters at sea in the North Atlantic. The report of 200 Common Murres at Cape Parry in Taylor et al. 2012 (table 1: citing Johnson and Ward 1985) is an error (misquote).

References

- Johnson, S.R. and J.G. Ward. 1985. Observations of Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) and other seabirds at Cape Parry, Amundsen Gulf, NWT. Arctic 38: 112-115.
- Taylor, S.A., A. Patirana, T. Birt and V. Friesen. 2012. Cryptic introgression between murre sister species (*Uria* sp.) in the Pacific low Arctic: frequency, cause, and implication. Polar Biol. 35:931-940.

Pelecaniformes

Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>(Nycticorax nycticorax)</i>	Bihoreau gris
Not Ranked (GSR 2021)	BCNH
	(FED)

One report of a single bird seen at Hay River by Rand Rudland on 18 June 2005 (CWS unpublished data; NWT Species Infobase). The nearest subspecies is *N. n. hoactli*, with normal range from southern Canada to the US.

References

- WGGSNS. 2022. NWT Species Infobase.
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/biodiversity/nwt-species-infobase

Passeriformes

Corvidae

Clark's Nutcracker <i>(Nucifraga columbiana)</i>	Cassenoix d'Amérique
Not Ranked (GSR 2021)	CLNU

Several Clark's nutcrackers were reported in alpine areas of NNPR by Lou Comin during a helicopter survey of ungulates on 17 May 1977 (Scotter et al. 1995). No subspecies recognized. Usual range is central BC to southwestern US. Mostly resident in its range.

References

- Scotter, G.W., L.N. Carbyn, W.P. Neily and J.D. Henry. 1985. Birds of Nahanni National Park, Northwest Territories. Special Publication No. 15 of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society.

Hirundinidae

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

(Stelgidopteryx serripennis)

Not Ranked (GST 2021)

Hirondelle à ailes hérissées

NRWS

(FED)

One report of a single bird seen at Fort Smith on 10 July 2005 by Rand Rudland (Eckert 2005). Subspecies nearest to the NWT is *S. s. serripennis*, breeding in Alaska, southern Canada to southern US, wintering in Mexico and Central America.

References

- Eckert C.E. 2005. Northern Canada. North American Birds 59(1):95-97.

Troglodytidae

House Wren

(Troglodytes aedon)

Vagrant (GRS 2021)

Troglodyte familier

HOWR

(FED)

Two reports. Preble (1908) reported seeing one near the trading post clearing at Fort Simpson on 20 May 1901, but failed to secure a specimen; Alex Hall reported a House Wren singing in a spruce grove near Warden's Grove on the Thelon River on 21 June 1978 (Norment et al. 1999). The nearest subspecies is the Northern House Wren (*T. a. parkmanii*: western member of the *aedon* group), breeding from southwestern Canada to the western US, and wintering in southwestern US.

References

- Norment, C.J., A. Hall and P. Hendricks. 1999. Important bird and mammal records in the Thelon River Valley, Northwest Territories: Range expansions and possible causes. Canadian Field-Naturalist 113(3): 375-385.
- Preble, A.E. 1908. A biological investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie region. North American Fauna, No. 27. 574pp.

Parulidae

MacGillivray's Warbler

(Geothlypis tolmiei)

Not Ranked (GSR 2021)

Paruline des buissons

MGWA

(FED)

Two reports, both from the Fort Liard breeding bird survey route. The first observation was made by R. Ferguson on 14 June 1991 on the Liard Highway north of the Muskeg River. The second record came during the period between 1991 and 2000, when a possible

MacGillivray's Warbler was taped in the same general area as the first sighting. However, review of the recording by experts indicated that the identification was not conclusive (Machtans 2000). The nearest subspecies is *G. t. tolmiei*, breeding near the Pacific coast, from Alaska, southern Yukon to California, wintering in western Mexico to Panama. Reported as present in the NWT in Pitocchelli (2020), but we could not find substantiated evidence for this.

References

- Machtans, C.S. 2000. Extra-limital observations of Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*, and other bird observations from the Liard Valley, Northwest Territories. Canadian Field-Naturalist 114(4): 671-679.
- Pitocchelli, J. 2020. MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.macwar.01>

APPENDIX B - EXCLUDED SPECIES LIST

We excluded the following species from our NWT Checklist. The following species were included in Sirois and McRae (1996) as breeding in the Arctic Islands region. There are no known records from the current boundaries of the NWT, and so these are presumed to refer to the occurrence of these species in NU.

- Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hyaticula*)
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*)
- Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

The following species have been described in various publications as having occurred in the NWT but no substantiating information including, in many cases, date and observer could be found by the authors. In some cases, the reports were described as “unconfirmed”.

- Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) – Paulatuk (Clarke 1944)
- Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) – NNPR (Parks Canada, unpublished report)
- Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) – Yellowknife (Anonymous 2007)
- Ross’s Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) - Taglu and Niglintgak, Mackenzie Delta (COSEWIC 2007)
- Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricillus*) – North Arm of Great Slave Lake, June 1988 (Sirois et al. 1995)
- Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) - Mapping as a rare location in the NWT (Sibley 2000) and cited in Godfrey (1995) on Komakuk Beach DEW site (YT) near the Beaufort Sea (NT)
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) – Yellowknife, May 1993 (Sirois and McRae 1996)
- Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) – Yellowknife, January 1995 (Sirois and McRae 1996)
- Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) (Sibley 2000)
- White-breasted Nuthatch – Hay River, December 1992 (National Audubon Society 2010)
- Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) – Yellowknife, May 1985 (Sirois and McRae 1996); Yohin Lake, NNPR (Parks Canada, unpublished report)
- Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) (NWT Infobase)
- White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) – Canoe Lake, Richardson Mountains (Campbell 1972)
- Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) (Chown 2007)
- Sprague’s Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) – Horton River, summer 2002 (Chown 2007)
- Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) (Sirois and McRae 1996)
- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (Sirois and McRae 1996)
- Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) – Fort Simpson, near Great Slave Lake (Chown 2007)

- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (Gollop and Johns, 1978; Sirois and McRae 1996)

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