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Spring in the Yukon began with a bitter cold snap in Mar, with temperatures plunging to -35°C . Strong southwesterly winds in April may have pushed the Tundra Swan migration off its normal route through southern Yukon. In Northwest Territories, while winter temperatures were above average overall, the season was reluctant to release its grip: from March into April, the skies stayed overcast, with temperatures several degrees cooler than the monthly normals. A fairly heavy snowpack accumulated, especially in the western mountains, resulting in heavy spring runoffs. Ice breakup on the Mackenzie River was exceptionally early at Norman Wells.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The first Canada Geese of spring at Redknife R., NWT were noted 16 Apr (RN). Ross's Goose is rare in the Sahtu region, NWT; one was confirmed by a specimen from Willow L. 19 May (RD, RP). Early migrant waterfowl, including Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and swans, staged in unusually high numbers at Willow L. in late May (RP). In Northwest Territories, an unusual shift in the staging area of migrant geese on the n. coast—from the Anderson R. & Cape Bathurst area to Paulatuk proximity—was noted this spring (JN). Trumpeter Swan migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 23 Apr with a count of 897 (JJ). Tundra Swan migration through s. Yukon was well off its regular track this year; M'Clintock Bay near Whitehorse had a high count of just 106 on 28 Apr (JJ), while 1237 were tallied flying over Albert Cr. near Watson L., se. Yukon (hereafter, Albert Cr.) 28 Apr (TMK); strong southwesterly winds through late Apr apparently pushed the migration e. from the Yukon R. valley to the

Liard Basin. A peak count of 836 Northern Pintails was recorded at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 25 Apr (JJ). A male Common Goldeneye \times Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was at M'Clintock Bay 16 Apr, and another was at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 18 Apr (JJ).

Dusky Grouse reports, all from s. Yukon, included 5 along the Annie Lake Rd. 22 Apr (HG), 6 at Montana Mt. 27 Apr (DK, YBC), and 4 on Grey Mt. 1-2 May (CE; BD, HG, CO, PS). A flock of 30 Sharp-tailed Grouse was observed in the headwaters of the Nisling R., sw. Yukon 14 Mar (MW). A breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe, rare in the Yukon, was a nice find in Whitehorse on the 26 May Yukon Birdathon (ph. MB, KM, WB); it was seen being courted by 2 Horned Grebes 28 May (HG, BSu). Bald Eagles returned to Trout L., NWT at the beginning of Mar (DD). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Arviat, Nunavut 15 May (ph. JS, LJS) was well beyond its range. A Golden Eagle was noted 4 Apr near Cache L., NWT in the mts. w. of Norman Wells (AV). The Tintina Trench is a major flyway for Sandhill Cranes across the Yukon to their breeding grounds in nw. Alaska; counts this year in the Faro-Ross R. area included 2995

on 9 May and 3025 on 10 May (PS). A Black-bellied Plover at Norman Wells, NWT 24 May (ph. DW) was a rare find in the Mackenzie Valley in spring. A flock of 116 American Golden-Plovers was recorded at Hay River, NWT 23 May (GV). A male Pacific Golden-Plover was right on cue for a group of birders on an outing along the Yukon R. in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 10 May (ph. CE, YBC); other reports included a male at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 12 May (ph. CE), a female at Horse Cr., s. Yukon 14-15 May (ph. CE), and a male there in mid-May (JJ). A single

Killdeer was reported at Trout L., NWT during a snowstorm 11 Apr (DD). An impressive shorebird fallout at M'Clintock Bay, s. Yukon 12 May produced 300 Semipalmated Plovers, 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 100 Least Sandpipers, 40 Baird's Sandpipers, and 2000 Pectoral Sandpipers (CE). A flock of 17 Whimbrels first seen at M'Clintock Bay 12 May (CE) remained in the area for a week or so. A notable shorebird migration was observed in the Faro area, s. Yukon 16 May 1450 shorebirds heading to the west-northwest in flocks of 60 to 200, were mostly (or all) Long-billed Dowitchers and Pectoral Sandpipers; another 295 of the same species was recorded early on 17 May (PS). A total of 28 Solitary Sandpipers, mostly migrants, was recorded during surveys of 67 wetlands in Faro/Ross R. area 16-17 May (PS). A Wandering Tattler at Albert Cr. 18 May (TMK) provided one of very few records for se. Yukon. Two Upland Sandpipers were seen along the Aishihik Rd., sw. Yukon 18 May (RRH). Whimbrel numbers peaked at 12 at Norman Wells, NWT 21 May (DW). Hudsonian Godwits are scarce in sw. Yukon; 4 were seen at Dezadeash L. 18 May (EK). A Red Knot, very rare in s. Yukon, was at Judas Cr. 23-27 May (ph. CE, PS). A White-rumped Sandpiper touched down at Herschel I., n. Yukon 30 May (AK, DR, EM). Single Short-billed Dow-



This Eared Grebe was first discovered 26 May 2007 in Whitehorse during the Yukon Birdathon; it was observed 28 May (here) being courted by two Horned Grebes. Photograph by Helmut Grünberg.

itchers were displaying at Coffee L. near Ross R., s. Yukon 25 May and w. of Coffee L. 30 May (PS).

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GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

Wetland surveys in s. Yukon recorded a few concentrations of migrant Bonaparte's Gulls, including 115 at Johnson's L. near Faro 16 May and 128 at Jackfish L. near Ross R. 25 May (PS). A count of 100 Mew Gulls was made at Little Salmon L., s. Yukon 17 May (PS). Ring-billed Gull is rare in the Yukon; reports this year included a third-cycle bird at

Wye L. in Watson Lake 17 May, an ad. there 18 May (JJ), and an ad. in Mayo, cen. Yukon 19 May (ph. MOD). Herring Gull migration peaked at M'Clintock Bay with a count of 1250 on 22 Apr (JJ). The first Herring Gulls (6) arrived at Arviat, Nunavut 5 May (LJS). Seven Glaucous-winged Gulls (all first-cycle birds) were tallied during a scan of 250 Herring Gulls on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 1 May (CE).

A Great Gray Owl nesting at Swan L., near Whitehorse, s. Yukon 2 May (BD, HG, YS) was using a nest occupied by a Great Horned Owl in 2006 and a Harlan's Hawk in 2004 (*vide* HG). A cooperative Northern Pygmy-Owl, the Yukon's 3rd, was discovered calling on territory on Grey Mt. in Whitehorse 1 May (ph. CE); it stayed long enough for birders to enjoy a view the following day

(PS, BD, HG, CO). The Ft. Simpson, NWT owl survey 20 Apr recorded 10 Boreal Owls (DT, SC), the highest number since its inception in 2003; there was a slight increase noted in the regional small mammal trapping this year (DA), which may help to explain owl abundance. A male Rufous Hummingbird was netted and released unbanded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 13 May (ph. BSc). A Red-shafted Flicker × Yellow-shafted Flicker intergrade was identified at a nest cavity at Carcross, s. Yukon 5 May (ph. AC); on 12 May, photographs of the bird showed the red malar stripes of the Red-shafted group, the red nape patch of the Yellow-shafted group, and reddish-yellow underwings (ph. CE). These are typical plumage features of coastal Red-shafteds at the n. edge of their range in se. Alaska (*vide* SH). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, rare in the Yukon, was banded at Teslin L. 28 May (BSc). A record-early Hammond's Flycatcher was at Carcross, s. Yukon 21 Apr (ph. BD). Single Dusky Flycatchers, rarely seen in s. Yukon lowlands, were banded at Teslin L. 21 & 28 May (ph. BSc). Heavy snow conditions in alpine areas of s. Yukon likely accounted for sightings of Dusky Flycatchers singing in lowland areas, including one at Jackfish Bay 25 May (HG), one at Marsh L. 27 May (CE, PS), and 2 on the lower slopes of Mt. McIntyre 31 May (SF, HG et al.).

A single Blue-headed Vireo was at Norman Wells, NWT 29 May (DW). At least a few



This cooperative Northern Pygmy-Owl, the Yukon's third, was discovered 1 May 2007 calling on territory at Grey Mountain in Whitehorse. It was easy to find on subsequent evenings, much to the delight of local birders. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.

Steller's Jays survived the winter in the Yukon Southern Lakes area, as birds were reported from various locations from Mar through mid-May (m.ob.). The initiation of nesting by Common Ravens was unusually late in the Yellowknife area, NWT for unknown reasons (RB). A Black-billed Magpie, scarce in the area, was reported in Ft. Simpson, NWT 19 Apr (KL). A remarkable gathering of at least 10 American Dippers was recorded at the outflow of Doris L., w. of Norman Wells, NWT 21 Mar (ph. GG).

The first migrating Mountain Bluebirds were noted at Hay River, NWT 28 Mar (BL). Swainson's Thrushes returned early to s. Yukon this year; 6 were seen in the Faro area 10 May (PS), and one was banded along with a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Albert Cr. 11 May (TMK). A Cape May Warbler first heard singing at Albert Cr. 26 May was banded 31 May (JJ, TMK); another singing at Jackfish L. 30 May (PS) established the first record of the species for the Ross R. area, s. Yukon. A male Black-and-white Warbler, very rare but apparently now more regular, was recaptured at Albert Cr. 19 May (ph. JJ, TMK); it was originally banded there 21 May 2006 (TMK). Another Black-and-white was banded at Albert Cr. 20 May (JJ, TMK). Record-early warblers banded at Albert Cr. included a Northern Waterthrush 5 May and 2 Common Yellowthroats 11 May (TMK). A male Western Tanager, w. of its range, was seen at Teslin, s.

Yukon 29 May–1 Jun (ph. BSc). It was a banner year for sparrows at Albert Cr., with record-high numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (339) and of American Tree (345), Lincoln's (120), and Savannah Sparrows (70), and near-record numbers of White-crowned (219) and Fox (60) Sparrows (TMK). Likewise, the Teslin L., s. Yukon banding station netted an amazing 579 White-crowned Sparrows, which accounted for 46% of the birds banded this spring (JJ, BSc). A White-throated Sparrow, n. of its range, was at Arviat, Nunavut 8 May (JS, LJS); another was banded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 26 May (ph. BSc). Oregon Juncos are very rare in s. Yukon; a female was at Carcross 12 May (ph. CE); another was banded at Albert Cr. 15 May (JJ, TMK). Two Smith's Longspurs were seen at Herschel I., n. Yukon 29 May (AK). Snow Buntings

were reported n. to Inuvik, NWT on about 13 Apr (CB). A late report of a blackbird photographed 18 Feb (MC) at a Ft. Simpson, NWT feeder was an unusual winter record; the photographs did not allow confirmation of species. A patrol on Mt. Logan, sw. Yukon reported 2 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches 28 May–1 Jun (LF). A female Evening Grosbeak at Canyon 30 May (ph. RRH) established the first record for sw. Yukon.

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