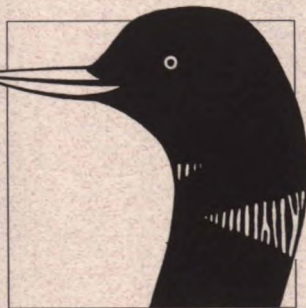
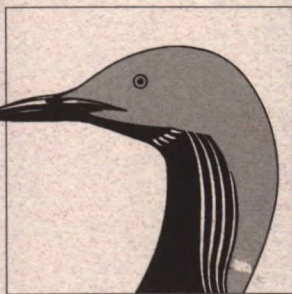


A Miniguide to A Megaterritory  
and A Checklist  
Second Edition  
(1996)



# *The* **Birds** *of the* **Northwest Territories**

Canada



*by Jacques Sirois  
and Doug McRae*

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## **Front Cover**

Heads of Red-throated, Pacific, Common and Yellow-billed loons. These four species breed in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and can be seen at Yellowknife, the capital city, during spring migration.

## **Back Cover**

Heads of Bonaparte's Gulls. This small gull is a common breeder in the forested regions of the NWT.

## **Acknowledgements**

We thank the Northern Affairs Program, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Government of the NWT, for their financial support. Ginette Meunier drew the loon and gull heads, and Autumn Downey drafted the maps.

We are grateful to the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Royal Ontario Museum, and Bathurst Inlet Lodge for making their files available to us. H. Copland provided the NWT records stored in the Prairie Nest Record Scheme located at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. R.S. Ferguson provided results of the Breeding Bird Surveys that he did in the southwestern NWT, in 1989-1991. P. Brousseau and D. Lepage provided their annotated list of the birds of Akpatok and Bylot islands, respectively. Several birdwatchers from Canada and abroad sent us records of their sightings.

This list was reviewed by: S.J. Barry, R.G. Bromley, R.G.B. Brown, A.J. Gaston, M. Gosselin, B. Green, B.W. Johns, E. Kuyt, S.R. Johnson, P.B. Latour, D.N. Nettleship, J. Obst, D.L. Pattie, K.G. Poole, R. Popko, C.C. Shank and D. Wilderspin.

## Purpose

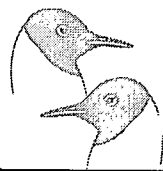
This list was prepared following numerous requests from Canadian and foreign birdwatchers. It was compiled to serve as a guide for birdwatchers and naturalists, and to promote biodiversity and wildlife conservation in the NWT. It contains 317 confirmed species (including numerous vagrants, two species that likely escaped from captivity, and one extinct species) and 16 unconfirmed species reported to us until 29 February 1996. It replaces the first edition of this list which was published in 1994, and which contained 314 confirmed species. All additions made to this second edition are listed on p. 27.

## Limitations

The compilation of this list followed the review of thousands of records, old and new, and over 350 published and unpublished references. However, we undoubtedly missed valuable records and references. There are well over 1,000 titles on the birds of the NWT, making the review of all beyond our means. At least four additional factors rendered this compilation difficult:

- 1) The NWT comprise 3,380,000 km<sup>2</sup>, or one third of Canada. It is the largest Canadian jurisdiction. It is also one of the last large tracts of remote wilderness on Earth, and our knowledge of its avifauna is incomplete.
- 2) There is no central registry of historical and current NWT bird records.
- 3) Countless records have never been published, and countless others have been published in dozens of obscure papers and reports.
- 4) Numerous observers and authors have assessed the status of several species differently.

Despite these limitations, we feel that this list provides a reasonably accurate and comprehensive overview of the NWT avifauna. We hope that feed-back from users will allow us to correct and update it in the future.





## **Diverse Habitats and Birds**

The cordilleran, boreal, subarctic and arctic regions of the NWT feature nearly pristine habitats from the Mackenzie Mountains to Baffin Bay, and from Ellesmere Island to James Bay. They include boreal, subarctic and subalpine forests, arctic and alpine tundra, polar deserts, icefields, rivers and estuaries, wetlands, ponds, lakes, tidal flats, cliffs, coastal and offshore marine waters, sea ice and polynyas.

These habitats support a diversity of species such as Trumpeter Swan, American Dipper, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch near the South Nahanni River; American White Pelican, Whooping Crane and Pileated Woodpecker near the Slave River; Rough-legged Hawk, Semipalmated Plover and Harris' Sparrow along the Thelon River; Snowy Owl, Snow Goose and Thick-billed Murre on Bylot Island; and Black Guillemot, Ivory Gull and Red Knot on Ellesmere Island. Only a few species (e.g. Common Raven, Red-throated Loon, Arctic Tern and Peregrine Falcon) occur throughout the NWT.

## **Migratory and Resident Birds**

Most birds that occur in the NWT are migratory. They are usually present only when snow- and ice-free conditions prevail. These species winter farther south in North America (e.g. Bald Eagle), Central America (Yellow Warbler), and South America (Hudsonian Godwit). Some species move to Pacific (Pacific Loon) and Atlantic (Common Eider) coastal waters, or far offshore (Northern Fulmar). Arctic Terns migrate to waters off South America, Africa and Antarctica. Brant and Common Ringed Plovers that nest in the High-Arctic winter in western Europe and Africa. Northern Wheatears and Yellow Wagtails that nest in and near the Richardson Mountains may winter in China, or elsewhere in southeastern Asia.

Over 30 species may occur year-round where habitat and food resources allow. They include landbirds (e.g. Common Raven, Gray Jay, Gyrfalcon, Three-toed Woodpecker, Rock Ptarmigan) and waterbirds in fresh and marine waters (e.g. Black Guillemot, Common Eider, Ivory Gull, Common Merganser and American Dipper).

## Abundance

Millions of birds breed in the NWT each year. However, little is known about the abundance of non-colonial species that occur in the forest, on the tundra, or among the myriad ponds and lakes. Moreover, the abundance of many species may vary significantly between years. Nonetheless, the size of several colonies of seabirds, geese and ducks is relatively well known.

For example, there are perhaps over 800,000 Thick-billed Murres on Akpatok Island, Ungava Bay, and 200,000 Northern Fulmars at Cape Searle, east of Broughton Island. Approximately 60,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes nest on Coburg Island, east of Grise Fiord, with 320,000 Thick-billed Murres and 6,000 Northern Fulmars.

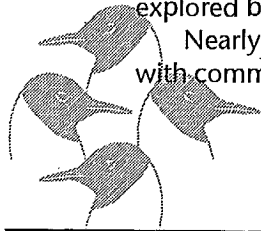
Nearly 500,000 Snow Geese nest in the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak on Baffin Island, and in the McConnell River area on the west coast of Hudson Bay. Approximately 200,000 Snow Geese nest in the Egg River area on Banks Island, and in the Boas River area on Southampton Island. In the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, southeast of Cambridge Bay, there are nearly 60 goose colonies comprising approximately 280,000 Snow Geese and 190,000 Ross' Geese. Over 10,000 Common Eiders breed in northeastern Ungava Bay on the Sleepers Islands in Hudson Bay, and at East Bay on Southampton Island.

## Where to Birdwatch

Numerous sites are readily accessible from all-season roads, but only in the southwestern and northwestern NWT. The best road map available is the Official Explorers' Map published by the Government of the NWT.

In the southern Mackenzie region, the Mackenzie, Hay River, Liard, Fort Smith and Yellowknife highways, and the Ingraham Trail, pass through mid- and high-boreal forests. In the northern Mackenzie region, the Dempster Highway passes through cordilleran-subarctic and high-subarctic forest and tundra. The countless lakes, rivers and wetlands near these roads are best explored by kayak, canoe or small motorboat.

Nearly all communities not connected by road can be reached with commercial, scheduled flights. Birdwatching may be good in





and near these communities, but it is often better to charter a boat, snowmobile or an aircraft and visit nearby wild sites.

As a rule, it is easier, safer, and cheaper to venture out with a group led by a recognized outfitter who specializes in naturalist tours. There are several outfitters and naturalist lodges in the NWT. Each year, the Government of the NWT (address and phone number on p. 27) publishes a list of these operators in its Explorers' Guide.

## Warnings

- 1) Numerous northerners hunt birds and mammals year-round. Make yourself visible, and never assume that you have been seen.
- 2) This is a wilderness area where fuel and help may not be readily available. It is also bear and mosquito country. Be prepared.
- 3) As a rule, northern ecosystems are biologically less productive and diverse than temperate and southern ecosystems. Except during migration, and for some unusually rich marine, estuarine and wetland sites, one should not expect to see large numbers of birds, or a high diversity of species.
- 4) Do not disturb nesting birds. Ravens, gulls, jaegers, foxes, pike and other predators rarely miss an opportunity to capture young birds or take eggs abandoned by adult birds.

## Additions, Amendments, Comments

You can help in two ways.

- 1) Send your records, particularly photos of unusual birds, and confirmed breeding records (nests with eggs or nestlings), with your name(s) and address, date and specific location of sightings to:

NWT Bird List  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 637  
Yellowknife, NT  
Canada X1A 2N5

- 2) Or better, participate in the NWT Checklist Survey, and report the birds that you see and hear during each day that you spend at a given location. Survey forms are available at the address above. The information thus collected will enable us to monitor the abundance and status of numerous species.

## Four Regions

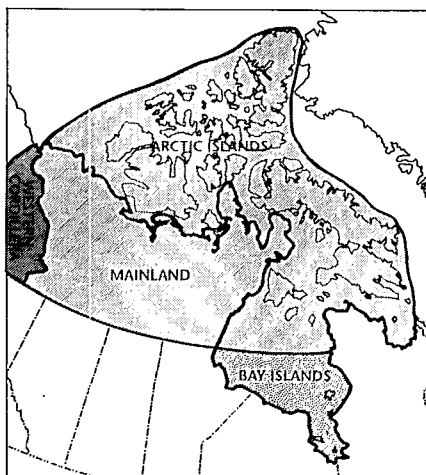
For the purpose of the following list, we recognized four geographical units:

WC = *Western Cordillera*: area west of the Liard and Mackenzie rivers, including the Mackenzie and Richardson mountains. This unit features cordilleran ecosystems comprising low-elevation, subalpine and alpine habitats.

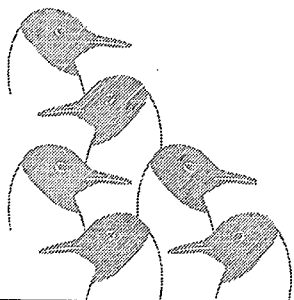
ML = *Mainland*: all mainland area east of the Liard and Mackenzie rivers. This large unit features boreal and subarctic ecosystems south and west of the treeline, where there are also several high, treeless hills. It also features low-arctic and some mid-arctic ecosystems, north and east of the treeline.

AI = *Arctic Islands*: the Arctic Archipelago and surrounding marine waters, and all islands and marine waters in Hudson Bay, north of 60°N, and in Ungava Bay. This large unit features some low-, but mostly mid- and high- arctic ecosystems.

BI = *Bay Islands*: all islands and waters in southern Hudson Bay and James Bay. This unit features boreal, subarctic and some low-arctic ecosystems, south of 60°N, and east of 95°W, near and south of the treeline. Tidal flats below the high-water mark along the Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec coasts were not recognized as part of the NWT for the purpose of this miniguide.



See also map of the NWT on pp. 14-15.







## Status Codes

For the purpose of the following list, we recognized these codes:

- P = *Permanent Resident*: at least part of the population spends the entire year and breeds in the area.
- M = *Migrant*: migrates through the area on a regular basis.
- B = *Breeder*: migrates to and from, and breeds, in the area.
- S = *Summer Resident or Visitor*: non-breeding individuals are present during the summer.
- W = *Winter Resident or Visitor*: spends, attempts to spend, or simply visits the area during the winter on a fairly regular basis.
- G = *Spring Visitor*: occurs regularly in the spring, but is not migrating between wintering and breeding areas.
- V = *Vagrant*: outside its normal range.

Any of the seven codes above in lowercase letter = suspected status, only a few or unclear records available, or unconfirmed in this area if confirmed elsewhere.

- () = code within brackets indicates status in previous century.
- e = probably escaped from captivity.
- X\* = superscript code indicates rare occurrence. For example, American White Pelicans (S<sup>B</sup>) are summer residents on the southern mainland, where they have also nested at least once in the recent past. Common Mergansers (B<sup>P</sup>) are breeders on the southern mainland, where they rarely occur year-round. Rock Doves (V<sup>P</sup>) are vagrants on the mainland but, to our knowledge, there is a small resident population only at Fort Smith.

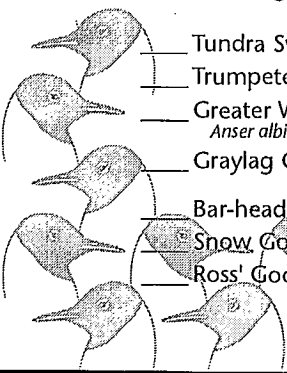
Abundance codes (e.g. common, uncommon, rare) were not assigned to each species because the abundance of many species was either unknown, difficult to assess, or uneven within the recognized geographical units. Vagrants are usually rare.

All species names are from the Check-list of North American Birds (1983), of the American Ornithologists' Union, and subsequent supplements.



## 317 Confirmed Species

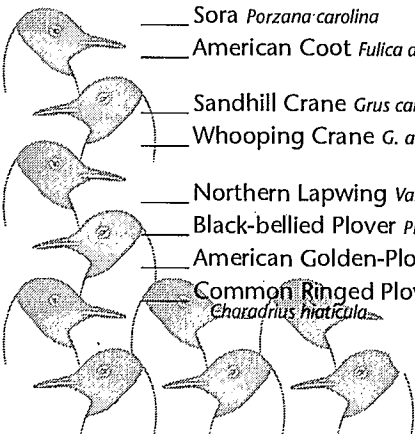
Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Red-throated Loon <i>Gavia stellata</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Pacific Loon <i>G. pacifica</i>	S,b	B	B	B
___ Common Loon <i>G. immer</i>	B	B	M,S	B
___ Yellow-billed Loon <i>G. adamsii</i>	V	B	B	-
___ Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	S,b	B	V	-
___ Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	B	B	-	-
___ Red-necked Grebe <i>P. griseogen</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Eared Grebe <i>P. nigricollis</i>	-	G,S,b	-	-
___ Northern Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	-	-	B	S
___ Greater Shearwater <i>Puffinus gravis</i>	-	-	S	-
___ Sooty Shearwater <i>P. griseus</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Short-tailed Shearwater <i>P. tenuirostris</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Wilson's Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Leach's Storm-Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Northern Gannet <i>Marus bassanus</i>	-	-	V	V
___ American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	-	S <sup>B</sup>	V	V
___ Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	-	V	V	B
___ American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	-	B	-	S,b
___ Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	-	V	V	V
___ Great Egret <i>A. alba</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Tundra Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	B	B	B	M
___ Trumpeter Swan <i>C. buccinator</i>	B	S,b	-	(B)
___ Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	M	B	B	V
___ Graylag Goose <i>A. anser</i>	-	V,e	-	-
___ Bar-headed Goose <i>A. indicus</i>	-	-	V,e	-
___ Snow Goose <i>A. caerulescens</i>	M	B	B	B
___ Ross' Goose <i>A. rossii</i>	-	B	B	B





Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Brant <i>Branta barnicla</i>	-	B	B	M
___ Barnacle Goose <i>B. leucopsis</i>	-	v	V	-
___ Canada Goose <i>B. canadensis</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	B	B	V	B
___ American Black Duck <i>A. rubripes</i>	-	S	V	B
___ Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	B,p	B	V	B
___ Northern Pintail <i>A. acuta</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Blue-winged Teal <i>A. discors</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Cinnamon Teal <i>A. cyanoptera</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Northern Shoveler <i>A. clypeata</i>	M,S,b	B	V	M,S,b
___ Gadwall <i>A. strepera</i>	b	B	-	V
___ Eurasian Wigeon <i>A. penelope</i>	-	V	-	-
___ American Wigeon <i>A. americana</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Canvasback <i>Aythya valisineria</i>	S	B	-	-
___ Redhead <i>A. americana</i>	S,b	B	-	M
___ Ring-necked Duck <i>A. collaris</i>	S	B	V	M
___ Greater Scaup <i>A. marila</i>	S,b	B	-	M,S,b
___ Lesser Scaup <i>A. affinis</i>	B	B	-	B
___ Common Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	-	B	P	P
___ King Eider <i>S. spectabilis</i>	-	B	B,p	B,p
___ Spectacled Eider <i>S. fischeri</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Steller's Eider <i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	B	B	B	m
___ Oldsquaw <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	B	B	B	P
___ Black Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	-	M,S <sup>B</sup>	S	M,S
___ Surf Scoter <i>M. perspicillata</i>	S,b	B	V <sup>B</sup>	B
___ White-winged Scoter <i>M. fusca</i>	S,b	B	V	B
___ Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	B	B <sup>P</sup>	-	M,S,b
___ Barrow's Goldeneye <i>B. islandica</i>	B	S <sup>B</sup>	S	-
___ Bufflehead <i>B. albeola</i>	B	B	-	M
___ Hooded Merganser <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	-	M,S,b	-	M
___ Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i>	B	B <sup>P</sup>	-	M,S,b
___ Red-breasted Merganser <i>M. serrator</i>	M,S,b	B	B	B
___ Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	V	B	-	-

Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	M	B	-	M,S,b
___ Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	B	B	-	M
___ Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Cooper's Hawk <i>A. cooperii</i>	-	S	-	-
___ Northern Goshawk <i>A. gentilis</i>	S,b,p	P	V	M
___ Broad-winged Hawk <i>Buteo platypterus</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Swainson's Hawk <i>B. swainsoni</i>	V	S,b	-	-
___ Red-tailed Hawk <i>B. jamaicensis</i>	B	B	-	M
___ Rough-legged Hawk <i>B. lagopus</i>	M,S	B	B	B
___ Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	P	B,p	V	-
___ American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	B	B	V <sup>s</sup>	M
___ Merlin <i>F. columbarius</i>	S,b	B	V	M
___ Peregrine Falcon <i>F. peregrinus</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Gyrfalcon <i>F. rusticolus</i>	B,p	P	P	M,w
___ Spruce Grouse <i>Dendragapus canadensis</i>	B,p	P	-	-
___ Blue Grouse <i>D. obscurus</i>	b,p	-	-	-
___ Willow Ptarmigan <i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	P	P	P	P
___ Rock Ptarmigan <i>L. mutus</i>	P	P	P	P
___ White-tailed Ptarmigan <i>L. leucurus</i>	P	V	-	-
___ Ruffed Grouse <i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	P	P	-	-
___ Sharp-tailed Grouse <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	P	P	-	-
___ Yellow Rail <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	-	B	-	-
___ Corn Crane <i>Crex crex</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i>	B	B	-	-
___ American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	B	B	B	M,S,b
___ Whooping Crane <i>G. americana</i>	-	B	v	-
___ Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	M	B	B	M
___ American Golden-Plover <i>P. dominicus</i>	B	B	B	M
___ Common Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	-	-	B	-



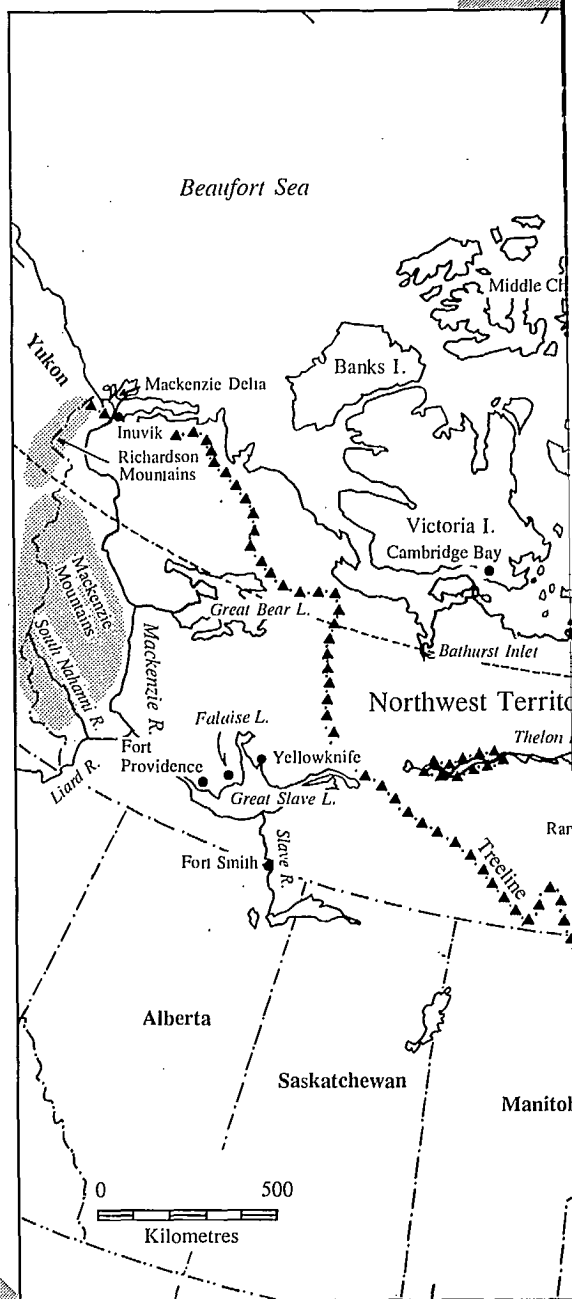
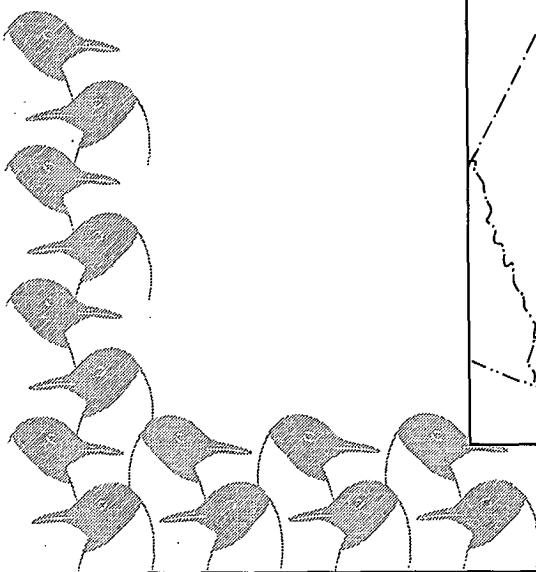


Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML <sub>1</sub>	AI	BI
____ Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	B	B	B	B
____ Killdeer <i>C. vociferus</i>	M	B	V	B
____ American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra bachmani</i>	-	V <sup>B</sup>	-	-
____ Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	M,b	B	V	M
____ Lesser Yellowlegs <i>T. flavipes</i>	B	B	-	M
____ Solitary Sandpiper <i>T. solitaria</i>	S,b	B	-	-
____ Wandering Tattler <i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	B	v	-	-
____ Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	-	V	-	-
____ Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>	B	B	V	B
____ Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	B	B	-	-
____ Eskimo Curlew <i>Numenius borealis</i>	-	S,b,(B)	V	-
____ Whimbrel <i>N. phaeopus</i>	M	B	S,b	M
____ Long-billed Curlew <i>N. americanus</i>	-	V	-	-
____ Hudsonian Godwit <i>Limosa haemastica</i>	-	B	S,b	M
____ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>L. lapponica</i>	-	V	-	-
____ Marbled Godwit <i>L. fedoa</i>	-	V	V	B
____ Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	-	B	B	M
____ Black Turnstone <i>A. melanoccephala</i>	-	V	-	-
____ Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	V	B	B	M
____ Sanderling <i>C. alba</i>	-	B	B	M
____ Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>C. pusilla</i>	M,S	B	B	B
____ Western Sandpiper <i>C. mauri</i>	M	M	-	-
____ Least Sandpiper <i>C. minutilla</i>	B	B	B	B
____ White-rumped Sandpiper <i>C. fuscicollis</i>	M	B	B	M
____ Baird's Sandpiper <i>C. bairdii</i>	B	B	B	M
____ Pectoral Sandpiper <i>C. melanotos</i>	M	B	B	M
____ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>C. acuminata</i>	-	V	-	-
____ Purple Sandpiper <i>C. maritima</i>	-	S,b	B	B
____ Dunlin <i>C. alpina</i>	-	B	B	B
____ Stilt Sandpiper <i>C. himantopus</i>	M	B	B	M
____ Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	-	B	B	-
____ Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	-	B	V	B
____ Long-billed Dowitcher <i>L. scolopaceus</i>	S	B	-	-
____ Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	B	B	V	B
____ Wilson's Phalarope <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	V	G,S <sup>B</sup>	-	-

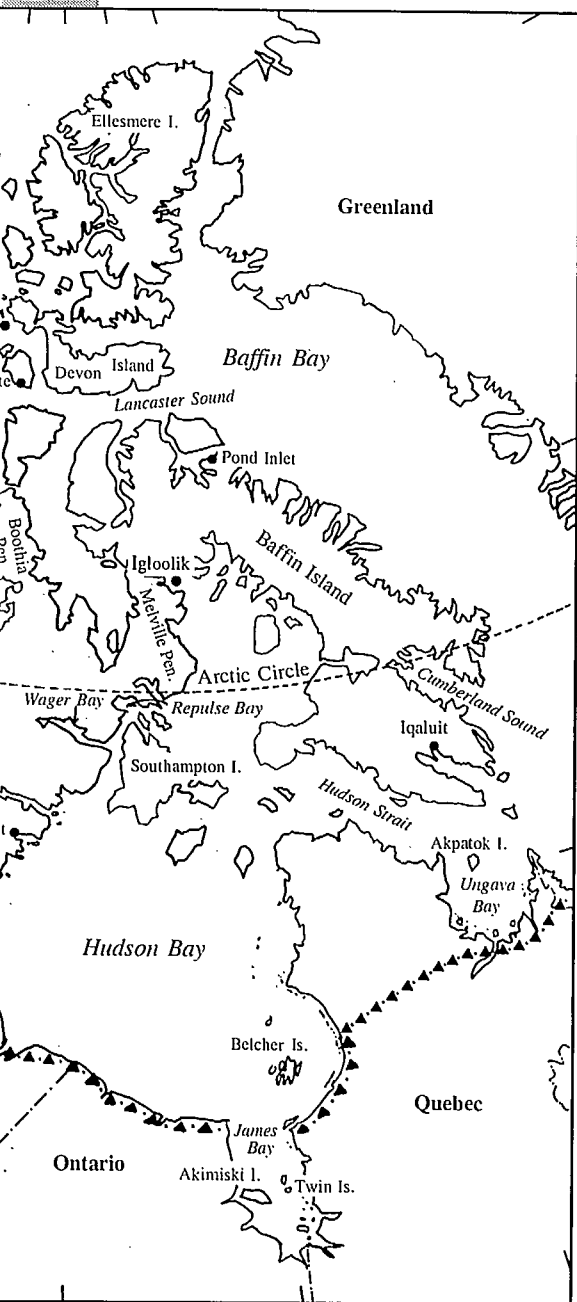
Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Red Phalarope <i>P. fulicaria</i>	-	B	B	M
___ Pomarine Jaeger <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	V	B	B	-
___ Parasitic Jaeger <i>S. parasiticus</i>	-	B	B	M,S
___ Long-tailed Jaeger <i>S. longicaudus</i>	B	B	B	-
___ Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	-	G,b	V	-
___ Little Gull <i>L. minutus</i>	-	-	-	S,b
___ Black-headed Gull <i>L. ridibundus</i>	-	-	V	-
___ Bonaparte's Gull <i>L. philadelphia</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Mew Gull <i>L. canus</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Ring-billed Gull <i>L. delawarensis</i>	-	B	V	B
___ California Gull <i>L. californicus</i>	-	B	-	-
___ Herring Gull <i>L. argentatus</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Thayer's Gull <i>L. thayeri</i>	-	B	B	-
___ Iceland Gull <i>L. glaucoideus</i>	-	S	B	-
___ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>L. fuscus</i>	V	V	V	-
___ Slaty-backed Gull <i>L. schistisagus</i>	-	V	V	-
___ Glaucous Gull <i>L. hyperboreus</i>	-	B	B,p	M,S
___ Great Black-backed Gull <i>L. marinus</i>	-	V	V	-
___ Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	-	-	B	-
___ Ross' Gull <i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	-	M,S,b	B,p	-
___ Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>	-	B	B	M
___ Ivory Gull <i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	-	V	P	V
___ Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	V	B	-	B
___ Common Tern <i>S. hirundo</i>	-	B	-	B
___ Arctic Tern <i>S. paradisaea</i>	B	B	B	B
___ White-winged Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	-	-	-	V
___ Black Tern <i>C. niger</i>	S,b	B	-	M,S <sup>B</sup>
___ Dovekie <i>Alle alle</i>	-	V	S <sup>P</sup>	-
___ Common Murre <i>Uria aalge</i>	-	V	V	-
___ Thick-billed Murre <i>U. lomvia</i>	-	B	P	V
___ Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>	-	-	B	-
___ Black Guillemot <i>Cepphus grylle</i>	-	B	P	P
___ Least Auklet <i>Aethia pusilla</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Atlantic Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	-	-	B	-
___ Horned Puffin <i>F. corniculata</i>	-	V	-	-















Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
_____ Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>	-	V <sup>P</sup>	-	-
_____ Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	V	G,S	-	-
_____ Passenger Pigeon (extinct) <i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	-	(V,s,b)	(V)	-
_____ Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	-	e	-	-
_____ Great Horned Owl <i>Bubo virginianus</i>	P	P	-	V
_____ Snowy Owl <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	p,b	P	B,p	B,p
_____ Northern Hawk Owl <i>Surnia ulula</i>	P	P	-	M,S,b
_____ Barred Owl <i>Strix varia</i>	p	p <sup>B</sup>	-	-
_____ Great Gray Owl <i>S. nebulosa</i>	p	p	-	-
_____ Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	-	B	-	-
_____ Short-eared Owl <i>A. flammeus</i>	M,S,b	B	B	M,S,b
_____ Boreal Owl <i>Aegolius funereus</i>	p	P	-	-
_____ Common Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	B	B	V	-
_____ Black Swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	-	-	V	-
_____ Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	-	V	-	-
_____ Ruby-throated Hummingbird <i>Archilocus colubris</i>	-	V	-	-
_____ Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	v	V	-	-
_____ Belted Kingfisher <i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	S,b	B	-	-
_____ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	B	B	-	-
_____ Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>	B,p	P	-	-
_____ Hairy Woodpecker <i>P. villosus</i>	B,p	P	-	-
_____ Three-toed Woodpecker <i>P. tridactylus</i>	P	P	-	-
_____ Black-backed Woodpecker <i>P. arcticus</i>	P	P	-	-
_____ Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	B	B	-	M,S,b
_____ Pileated Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	S,b,p	P	-	-
_____ Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus borealis</i>	S,b	B	-	-
_____ Western Wood-Pewee <i>C. sordidulus</i>	S,b	S,b	-	-
_____ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher <i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	s or m	S,b	-	-







Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Alder Flycatcher <i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	S,b	B	V	S,b
___ Least Flycatcher <i>E. minimus</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ Hammond's Flycatcher <i>E. hammondi</i>	S,b	-	-	-
___ Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ Say's Phoebe <i>S. saya</i>	B	B	-	-
___ Great Crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Western Kingbird <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	-	V	V	-
___ Eastern Kingbird <i>T. tyrannus</i>	S,b	B	V	V
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher <i>T. forficatus</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	B	B	V	M,S,b
___ Violet-green Swallow <i>T. thalassina</i>	B	-	V	-
___ Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	B	B	-	V
___ Barn Swallow <i>H. rustica</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Gray Jay <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	P	P	-	P
___ Black-billed Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	-	P	V	-
___ American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	V	B	-	S,b
___ Common Raven <i>C. corax</i>	P	P	P	M,S,p

	___ Black-capped Chickadee <i>Parus atricapillus</i>	b,p	P	-	-
	___ Mountain Chickadee <i>P. gambeli</i>	-	V	-	-
	___ Siberian Tit <i>P. cinctus</i>	-	P	-	-
	___ Boreal Chickadee <i>P. hudsonicus</i>	P	P	-	S,b,p
	___ Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta canadensis</i>	B	S,b <sup>w</sup>	-	-
	___ White-breasted Nuthatch <i>S. carolinensis</i>	-	V <sup>w</sup>	-	-
	___ Rock Wren <i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	-	V	-	-
	___ House Wren <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	-	V	-	-
	___ Winter Wren <i>T. troglodytes</i>	-	S,b	-	S,b
	___ Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	-	V <sup>b</sup>	-	-
	___ American Dipper <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	b,p	V,s	-	-
	___ Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	-	-	V	-



Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	S,b	V	-	S,b
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>R. calendula</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	B	B	B	-
___ Mountain Bluebird <i>Sialia currocoides</i>	m	M <sup>B</sup>	V	-
___ Townsend's Solitaire <i>Myadestes townsendii</i>	B	s,b	-	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush <i>Catharus minimus</i>	B	B	-	-
___ Swainson's Thrush <i>C. ustulatus</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Hermit Thrush <i>C. guttatus</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	-	-	V	-
___ American Robin <i>T. migratorius</i>	B	B	V <sup>S</sup>	S,b
___ Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	B	B	V	-
___ Gray Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	-	V	-	V
___ Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	-	V	-	V
___ Brown Thrasher <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	-	V	V	V
___ Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	-	M,S,b	V	-
___ American Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Bohemian Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	B	B <sup>P</sup>	-	V
___ Cedar Waxwing <i>B. cedrorum</i>	V	B	-	M
___ Northern Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	S,b	B	-	M
___ European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	B	P	V	M
___ Solitary Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	-	B	-	-
___ Warbling Vireo <i>V. gilvus</i>	B	B	-	-
___ Philadelphia Vireo <i>V. philadelphicus</i>	S,b	S	-	-
___ Red-eyed Vireo <i>V. olivaceus</i>	B	B	-	-
___ Tennessee Warbler <i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ Orange-crowned Warbler <i>V. celata</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ Nashville Warbler <i>V. ruficapilla</i>	-	V	-	-

Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	B	B	V	B
___ Magnolia Warbler <i>D. magnolia</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Cape May Warbler <i>D. tigrina</i>	-	B	-	-
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler <i>D. caerulescens</i>	-	-	-	V
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>D. coronata</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Townsend's Warbler <i>D. townsendii</i>	V	-	-	-
___ Black-throated Green Warbler <i>D. virens</i>	V	-	-	-
___ Palm Warbler <i>D. palmarum</i>	S,b	B	V	S,b
___ Bay-breasted Warbler <i>D. castanea</i>	S,b	S,b	-	-
___ Blackpoll Warbler <i>D. striata</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	S,b	B	V	-
___ Ovenbird <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ Northern Waterthrush <i>S. noveboracensis</i>	S,b	B	V	-
___ Mourning Warbler <i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	S,b	S,b	-	-
___ MacGillivray's Warbler <i>O. tolmiei</i>	-	V <sup>b</sup>	-	-
___ Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	B	B	-	M
___ Hooded Warbler <i>G. nelsoni</i>	-	-	-	V
___ Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	S,b	B	V	B
___ Canada Warbler <i>W. canadensis</i>	-	V,s	-	-
___ Western Tanager <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	S	B	-	-
___ Lazuli Bunting <i>Passerina amoena</i>	-	V	-	-
___ American Tree Sparrow <i>Spizella arborea</i>	B	B	S,b	B
___ Chipping Sparrow <i>S. passerina</i>	B	B	V	V
___ Clay-colored Sparrow <i>S. pallida</i>	S,b	B	-	-
___ Vesper Sparrow <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	S,b	S,b	-	-
___ Lark Bunting <i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	B	B	B	B
___ LeConte's Sparrow <i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	S,b	B	-	b
___ Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow <i>A. nelsoni</i>	-	B	-	b
___ Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	S,b	B	V	S,b

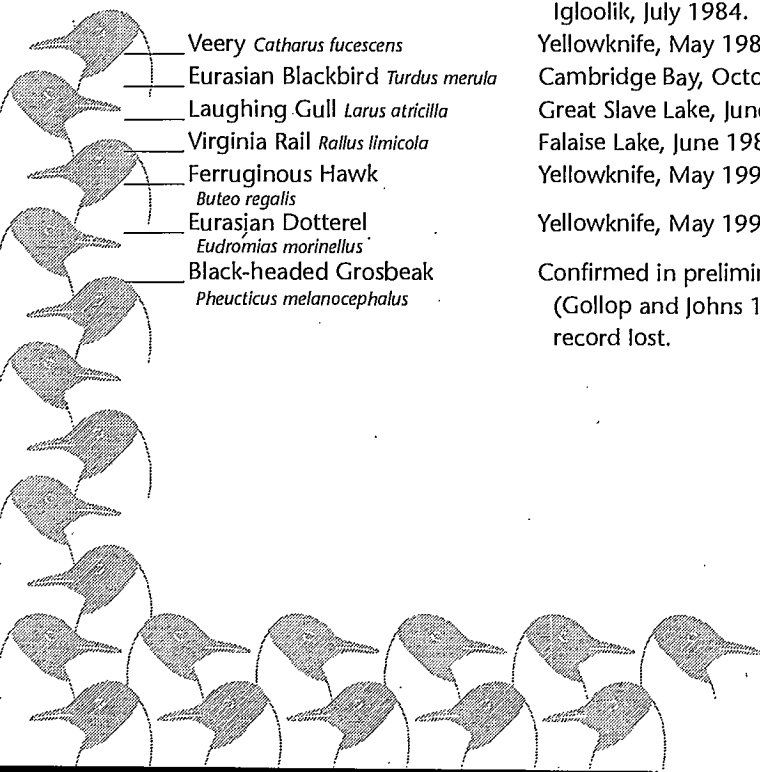


Common and Scientific Names	WC	ML	AI	BI
___ Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	S,b	B	V	M
___ Lincoln's Sparrow <i>M. lincolni</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ Swamp Sparrow <i>M. georgiana</i>	B	B	-	S,b
___ White-throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	B	B	V	B
___ Golden-crowned Sparrow <i>Z. atricapilla</i>	B	V	V	-
___ White-crowned Sparrow <i>Z. leucophrys</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Harris' Sparrow <i>Z. querula</i>	S	B	V	-
___ Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	B	B <sup>p</sup>	V	S,b
___ Lapland Longspur <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	B	B	B	B
___ Smith's Longspur <i>C. pictus</i>	B	B	-	V
___ Chestnut-collared Longspur <i>C. ornatus</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	B	B <sup>p</sup>	B	B
___ Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	-	V	-	V
___ Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Western Meadowlark <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	-	V <sup>b</sup>	v	-
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	v	G	V	V
___ Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	B	B	V	S,b
___ Brewer's Blackbird <i>E. cyanocephalus</i>	V	B	-	-
___ Common Grackle <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	-	B	-	V
___ Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i>	S,b	B	V	-
___ Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch <i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>	B	V <sup>w</sup>	-	-
___ Pine Grosbeak <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	b,p	P	-	S,b
___ Purple Finch <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	B	B	V	M
___ Red Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	-	P	-	-
___ White-winged Crossbill <i>L. leucoptera</i>	P	P	V	M
___ Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	P	P	B	S,b,p
___ Hoary Redpoll <i>C. hornemanni</i>	w,s	P	P	M,w
___ Pine Siskin <i>C. pinus</i>	S,b	B	V	-
___ American Goldfinch <i>C. tristis</i>	-	V	-	-
___ Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	M	P	-	-
___ House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	-	P	-	-

## 16 Unconfirmed Species

Species considered hypothetical by various authors; or unusual species only sighted or heard by one reliable observer or by observers of unknown skill; or lost record.

Common and Scientific Names	Location and Date
____ Glaucous-winged Gull <i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Great Slave Lake, 1860s.
____ White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island, October 1877 and spring 1878.
____ Wood Duck <i>Aix sponsa</i>	Fort Providence, May 1885.
____ Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i>	Belcher Islands, May 1959.
____ Clark's Nutcracker <i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	Nahanni National Park, May 1977.
____ Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Middle Cheyne Island, June 1977.
____ Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Bathurst Inlet, June 1950; Yellowknife, May 1980.
____ Tropicbird sp. <i>Phaethon</i> sp.	Repulse Bay, August 1980.
____ Skua sp. <i>Catharacta</i> sp.	Pond Inlet, June 1978; Igloodlik, July 1984.
____ Veery <i>Catharus fuscens</i>	Yellowknife, May 1985
____ Eurasian Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	Cambridge Bay, October 1987.
____ Laughing Gull <i>Larus atricilla</i>	Great Slave Lake, June 1988.
____ Virginia Rail <i>Rallus limicola</i>	Falaise Lake, June 1989.
____ Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Yellowknife, May 1993.
____ Eurasian Dotterel <i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Yellowknife, May 1994.
____ Black-headed Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Confirmed in preliminary list (Gollop and Johns 1978), but record lost.





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## The Official Bird of the Northwest Territories



The Gyrfalcon was chosen as the official bird of the NWT in 1990. A total of 7,512 NWT residents took part in the selection campaign, and the Gyrfalcon received 2,249 votes. The five other candidates were Snow Bunting (1,682 votes), Pacific Loon (1,187), Snow Goose (800), Tundra Swan (738) and Arctic Tern (695). Gyrfalcons are usually white in the east and gray in the west. Both white and gray birds occur in the central NWT. Illustration by Janet Troje provided by the Department of Renewable Resources, Government of the NWT.

## Additions to the Second Edition

Three new species:

- 1) *Graylag Goose*: vagrant on Kent Peninsula (Mainland), June 1995.
- 2) *White-winged Tern*: vagrant on Hudson Bay (Bay Islands), near Churchill, Manitoba, June 1995.
- 3) *Mountain Chickadee*: vagrant at Yellowknife (Mainland), January 1995.

Status of six species updated:

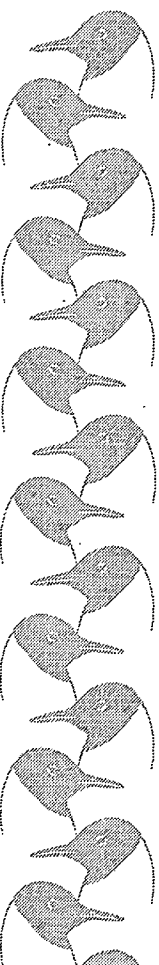
- 1) *Blue-winged Teal*: vagrant at Arctic Bay (Arctic Islands), June 1995.
- 2) *Franklin's Gull*: probable breeder near Great Slave Lake (Mainland), June 1995 and 1989.
- 3) *Lesser Black-backed Gull*: vagrant at Rankin Inlet (Mainland), September 1995.
- 4) *Red-breasted Nuthatch*: winter resident at Hay River (Mainland), December 1994 - March 1995.
- 5) *Bohemian Waxwing*: permanent resident at Yellowknife (Mainland), December 1995 - February 1996.
- 6) *Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch*: winter resident at Yellowknife (Mainland), January - February 1995.

For tourism information on the NWT, your copy of the Explorers' Guide, or a copy of this miniguide, call 1-800-661-0788, or (403) 873-7200, or write to:

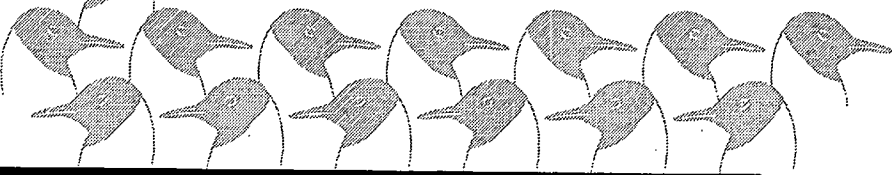
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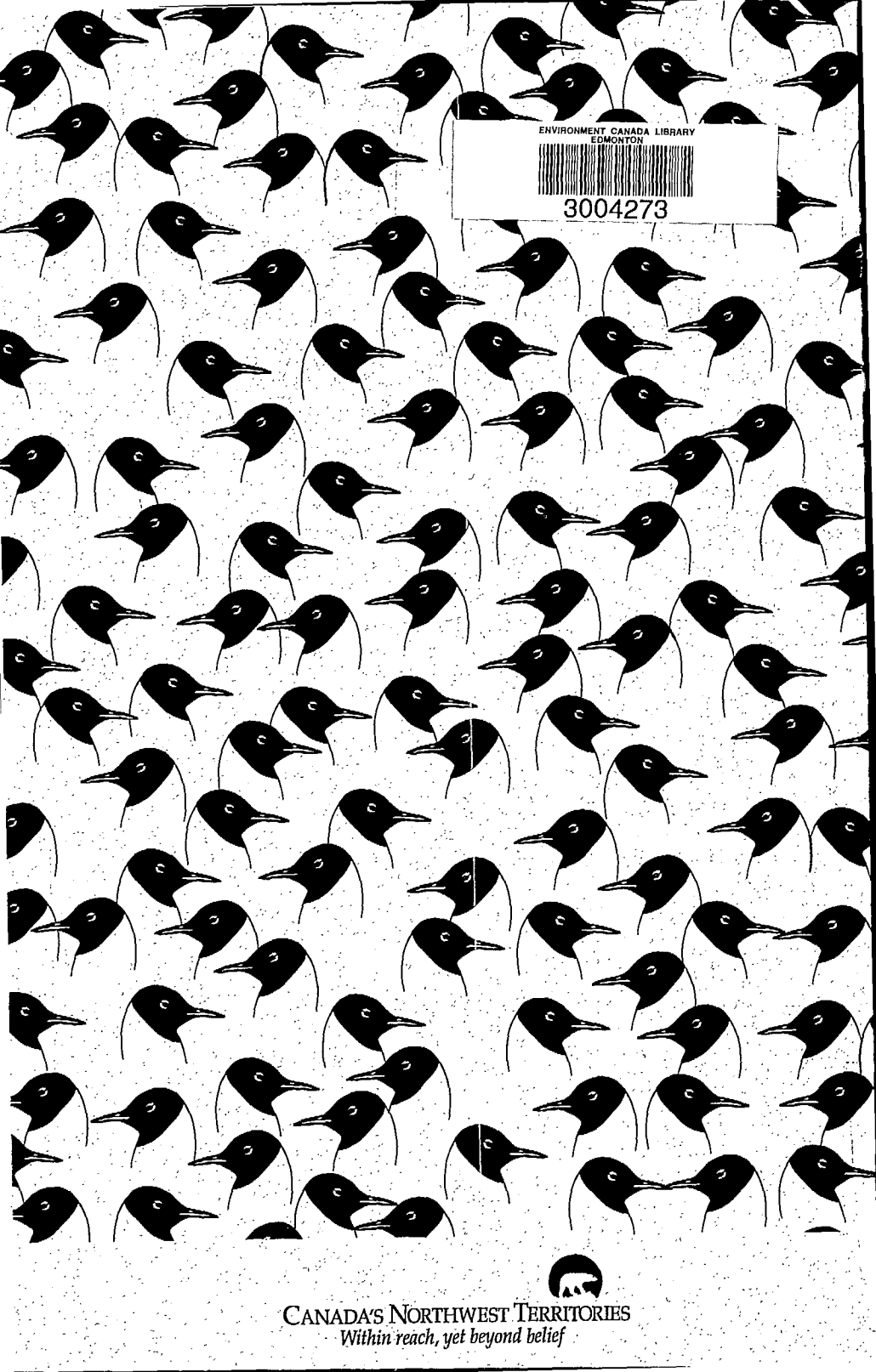
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