

Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR); all are casual offshore. Note that *unalaschcensis*, *sinuosa*, *insularis*, and *zaboria* Fox Sparrows have all been documented by specimen or photos from various Bering Sea islands. Equally unusual off the Mainland and casual in the Aleutians, was a Dark-eyed Junco 9 Oct (CS, MS) at Shemya. Notable late sparrow reports included a casual SC Chipping Sparrow at Seward 26 Nov (RLS, NS, TT), a single Savannah also at Seward 26 Nov (RLS, NS, TT), and 3 White-crowns in Kotzebue 31 Oct (RM). The jewel of this year's sparrow highlights had to be the fresh **Clay-colored Sparrow** that joined juncos at a Ketchikan feeder 7–14 Nov (JFK, AWP, ph. SCH), representing the latest of the two previous autumn records. Even with decent Bering Sea coverage, only a single Rustic Bunting could be found, at Attu 1 Oct (ATTOUR). Juneau birders elevated **Lazuli Bunting** to the Alaska list with excellent documentation of a female-type there 5–11 Oct (ph. PS et al.). Two prior sight records from spring are the Region's only other reports. Alaska's 3rd overall and first autumn **Bobolink** appeared at a Ketchikan feeder 10 Oct (ph. †JFK). Two overshoot reports from Hyder and Barrow are the only prior reports of this species, which breeds in se. British Columbia and occasionally wanders coastally to Vancouver I. Bramblings were unremarkable this season, with a below-average peak of only 11 from Attu 23 Sep (ATTOUR); 2 at Gambell 8–13 Sep (WINGS) were more noteworthy because they are not annual there. Gambell's premier find this season was a female **Common Rosefinch** in the middens 10 Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR), only the Region's 3rd in autumn. Casual in SC and comparatively early was an imm. male Purple Finch described from Soldotna 15 Sep (†BH). Most SC records are from coastal feeders later in the season.

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# Yukon



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**Y**ukoners endured a cool and wet early fall season that moderated toward the end of the season, with temperatures not dipping below minus 20°C in late November. As record high-water conditions prevailed throughout the season, prime shorebird and waterfowl locations, for example the Nisutlin River Delta, were washed-out, leaving Whitehorse birders to settle for the local sewage lagoons. Regular checks there turned up a remarkable 24 species of waterfowl and 25 species of shorebirds.

**Abbreviations:** BC (British Columbia).

## Loons Through Waterfowl

Red-throated Loons moved through the Whitehorse area in moderate numbers, the high count being 8 at L. Laberge 20 Sep (HG). A

remarkable year for Yellow-billed Loons in s Yukon continued, with  $\pm 13$  individuals 21 Sep–24 Nov in the Whitehorse area (BD, CE, HG, JJ, AR). A lone Snow Goose, rare in the area, was seen near Koidern Lodge, sw. Yukon, 9 Oct (HH). A storm from the s. grounded an amazing flock of 1500–2000 Tundra Swans on Marsh L. 2 Oct (DP, DS). A flock of 28 Gadwalls at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons 14 Oct established a record count for the Yukon (CE). A male Eurasian Wigeon at the Whitehorse lagoons 18 Sep provided the Yukon's first fall record (CE). Impressive numbers of waterfowl were observed at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons through the fall, with especially high counts of American Wigeon, with 2000 on 6 Sep (CE, HG), and Northern Shovelers, with 2500 on 6 Aug (CE, HG). A female Harlequin Duck was at Tagish at the late date of 24 Nov (JJ). A movement of Long-tailed Ducks was noted, with counts of 150 at Schwatka L. 13 Oct and 100 at the Whitehorse lagoons 14–18 Oct (CE). Ruddy Duck numbers at the Whitehorse lagoons peaked at 54 on 17 Aug, including a female with 3 small ducklings (CE), establishing the first confirmed breeding record for Whitehorse.

## Raptors Through Gulls

Raptor migration was in full swing in Whitehorse 9 Sep, when a 15-min flight included one Osprey, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 20 Red-tailed Hawks (CE, HG). A migration watch at Schwatka L. in Whitehorse 29–30 Sep turned up good numbers, with a total of 20 Northern Harriers, 6 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 38 Red-tailed Hawks, 60 Rough-legged Hawks, 31 Golden Eagles, 7 American Kestrels, and 2 Short-eared Owls (JJ). The first southbound Rough-legged Hawks were 3 over Whitehorse 29 Sep (PS); a count of 12 migrants was made at Schwatka L. 1 Oct (JJ). Golden Eagle reports included 5 migrants over Schwatka L. 1 Oct; 8 migrants over the Whitehorse lagoons 3 Oct (JJ); a juv. eating an ad. swan at the Whitehorse lagoons 6 Oct (CE, HG); 9 migrants over the Whitehorse lagoons 15 Oct (JJ, AR); and 15 migrants over L. Laberge 17 Oct (JJ, AR). A Peregrine Falcon was a regular fixture at the Whitehorse lagoons through mid-Sep (CE, HG, PS, et al.).

Four White-tailed Ptarmigan at Montana Mt. 8 Oct provided this season's only report (JJ, AR). An unprecedented build-up of American Coots beginning in Aug at the Whitehorse lagoons peaked at 97 birds 19 Sep; 2 lingered until 18 Oct (CE), setting a new record late date for the Yukon (CE). At Nisutlin Delta, 15 American Coots were observed 23 Sep (HG). Regular checks of the Whitehorse sewage lagoons yielded sensational shorebird observations, with the following highlights: Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 18 juv. 18 Sep (CE), with 2 juv. 17 Oct being record-late (HG). Two juv. American Golden-Plovers 12 Oct were record-late (CE, PS, HG, JJ, AR). The Yukon's 2nd and Whitehorse's first documented **Black Turnstone**, a juv., was discovered 25 Aug (CE) and seen again 27 Aug (LC, BD, HG). Sanderlings peaked at 41 juv. 31 Aug (CE). Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at 300 juv. 16 Aug (CE). The seasonal maximum Western Sandpipers was 9 juv. 18 Sep (CE). One hundred juv. Baird's Sandpipers 16 Aug (CE) provided a record high count. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (all juv.) put on their best showing, with singles 25 Aug (CE, PS), 3 Sep (CE), 18–19 Sep (CE, HG), 28 Sep (JJ), 2 on 8–12 Sep (CE), and a record-late bird 12–13 Oct (HG, JJ, AR, CE). A juv. Dunlin 4–11 Oct provided s. Yukon's first fall record (CE, HG, JJ, AR). Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 60 juveniles 27 Aug (CE). A juv. Long-billed Dowitcher 16 Oct was record-late (CE, HG). Fifty Common Snipe 3 Sep provided a high number (CE, PS). Red-necked Phalaropes peaked at 350 juv. 16 Aug (CE). S. Yukon's first

well-documented **Red Phalarope**, a juv., was seen 18 Sep (CE, HG), and 2 juv. molting to winter plumage were observed 11–12 Oct, with one lingering until 15 Oct (HG, CE, PS, JJ, AR). Migrant Upland Sandpipers were noted in Whitehorse, with one 23 Aug (PS, CE), one 24 Aug (HG), and 4 on 25 Aug (PS, CE).

A Parasitic Jaeger, rare in fall in the Region, was seen on Atlin L., BC, 12 Oct (MC). Quite thrilling was a southbound ad. Long-tailed Jaeger over Whitehorse 15 Aug, providing the area's first fall record (CE). A California Gull in Whitehorse 11 Aug provided the season's only report (CE). An ad. Herring Gull at L. Laberge 18 Nov (CE, PS) established a record late date for the territory. The first southbound ad. Thayer's Gull and Glaucous Gull, singles each, were noted in Whitehorse 23 Aug (CE). A wave of migrant Thayer's was observed in Whitehorse 17 Sep, with 200 (150 ad., 50 juv.) at the landfill (CE) and 40 ad. at the sewage lagoons (HG). A juv. Glaucous-winged Gull was in Whitehorse 26 Aug–6 Sep (CE) and an ad. was there 23–24 Sep (CE).

## Doves Through Finches

Single Mourning Doves, rare in the Yukon, were noted at L. Laberge 21 Oct (CE, HG) and in downtown Whitehorse 24 Nov (CE). A Snowy Owl put in a rare appearance at the end of L. Laberge 2 Nov (JJ). A Northern Hawk Owl was near Shallow Bay 4 Nov (CE, PS) and again 25 Nov (JJ, AR); another was just s. of Whitehorse 28 Oct (JS). Single Great Gray Owls were at Finlayson L. the first week of Oct (GF, TF) and on the Yukon R. near Wolf Creek 15 Oct (JS). Short-eared Owls were noted in small numbers, with 2 on 12 Oct at the Whitehorse lagoons (CE, PS, BD, HG), one in Atlin, BC, late Oct–2 Nov (MC); one in Whitehorse 1–5 Nov (CE, PS, JH, JJ); and one at L. Laberge 2–6 Nov (JJ) and 17 Nov (CE). A Boreal Owl put in a brief appearance at Pineridge just s. of Whitehorse 29 Nov (HH).

Northern Shrikes were scarce this fall; an imm. was at Porter Creek, Whitehorse, 6 Oct (CE) and one bird was at Teslin 6 Nov (CA, DH). A count of migrant passerines above tree line in Whitehorse 8 Sep turned up a flock of 10 **Northern Wheatears** (the first report of its kind for the Whitehorse region), 14 American Pipits, and about 150 Lapland Longspurs (MG). Exceptionally late were a Swainson's Thrush at Long L. in Whitehorse 30 Sep (CE, PS), 2 at Porter Creek, Whitehorse 1 Oct (CE), and another along with a Hermit Thrush at L. Laberge 2 Oct (JJ). The Yukon's first **Dusky Thrush**, the 2nd photo-documented record in Canada, in Whitehorse 21–28 Nov (HG, CE,

PS, JJ, AR, m.ob.) caused a sensation for Yukon birders and capped off an exceptional fall. It was of the expected ne. Asian subspecies *T. n. eunomus*, and careful study aged it as first-winter. A stunning rarity was s. Yukon's first documented **Red-throated Pipit**, a juv., which touched down at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons 18 Sep just long enough to be photographed (CE). Single Townsend's Warblers were noted in Whitehorse 24 Aug (HH) and 1 Sep (CE). Impressive was a flock of 75 juv. Chipping Sparrows in Whitehorse 14–15 Aug (CE). A White-throated Sparrow was a rare find in Whitehorse 1 Oct (LC). An Evening Grosbeak in Whitehorse 23 Nov provided the season's only report (CE).

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