

Celebration of Swans
(April 15-23)

Earth Day
(April 22)

National Wildlife Week
(April 9-15)

Watersheds ... more than just water ... explore yours!

April is Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month (YBAM)

Watersheds

Did you know that we all live in a watershed? No matter where you live, work or play, you live in a watershed. Wildlife lives there, too. A watershed is an area of land that water flows across or through on its way to a particular water body, such as a stream, river, wetland, lake or coast. Think of it as the land upon which precipitation (such as rain) falls and flows to a common, watery place.

Yukon has:

► **5000+ insect species!**

► **5 amphibians!**



credit: Yukon Government

Columbia Spotted Frog

Rana luteiventris

In Yukon, the Columbia spotted frog is known to inhabit wetlands on Bennett Lake and in the Hyland River-Iron Creek Lake area. The Columbia spotted frog hibernates under water. This spotted frog prefers permanent ponds up to the tree line and can be seen near pond edges when the snow begins to melt.



credit: Natalie Parenteau

► **27 fish!**

Arctic Grayling *Thymallus arcticus*

The average Yukon grayling is fewer than 51 cm (20 inches) long and weighs less than 907 g (2 pounds). Arctic grayling are known for their large dorsal fin. The adult grayling have dark purplish blue backs and purplish grey sides with scattered black spots. Insects form the larger part of their diet, but they also feed on nymphs, snails, and eggs.



credit: J. Meikle

► **214 birds!**

American Golden-Plover

Pluvialis dominica

The Plover spring migration occurs primarily in May and fall migration begins in late July. Each year they fly over 30,000 km from the Canadian Arctic to the north coast of South America. These fast flyers reach speeds of 160 km/hour and can fly up to 4000 km without stopping! These birds forage for food on tundra, fields, beaches and tidal flats. Plovers feed mainly on insects, crustaceans, berries, seeds and leaves.

White Admiral Butterfly

Limenitis arthemis

This large butterfly (6.2 cm wing span) finds its habitat in open aspen forests and riparian areas. The White Admiral is one of the largest and most strikingly colored butterflies. The adults are commonly seen feeding on old bones, animal dung and fish guts.



credit: J. Meikle

Meadow Jumping Mouse

Zapus hudsonius

Packing a kick that will send it nearly three metres through the air, the jumping mouse could be, for its size, the long-jump champion of Yukon wildlife. Of the four species that live in North America, two are found in Yukon. The meadow jumping mouse is the most common and widespread throughout south-central Yukon.

► **65 mammals!**



credit: Catherine Deer

1200+
plant species!

Mountain Alder *Alnus crispa*

Common throughout Yukon, Mountain Alder is visible in tundra and open woodland, on mountain slopes and along stream sides and bogs. The Alder is a bushy tree and can grow as high as 3 metres (9 feet). Mountain Alder helps to stabilize river banks and soils during seasonal periods of high water run-off. Parts of the tree are a known food source for several animals including birds.



credit: J. Meikle

2006 Calendar of Events :

April 1 Swan Haven Opens: Weekdays 5:00 - 9:00pm and Weekends: Noon - 7:00pm. Meet the interpreter on site.

April 8 Public Biodiversity Forum: Whitehorse. Learn about research on Yukon plants and animals. A series of 15-minute plain language talks and poster presentations for the general public. 9-5pm at the Yukon College.

April 8 Family Fishing Day: Pine Lake. Bring your fishing rod and your lucky hook. Activities organized by the Yukon Fish and Game Association, 10-3pm. Call 667-4263 for details.

April 9-15 National Wildlife Week: "Watersheds...more than just water...explore yours!"

April 12 Explore the Peel Watershed: Whitehorse. Learn more about the unique biodiversity of this area in a multi-media slide show presentation. 7:00pm at Hellaby Hall, free event with snacks.

April 15-16 Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) Visitor Centre: Kluane National Park & Reserve. Open to view wildlife and enjoy the first signs of spring. Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, 10-4pm. Call Anne Chilibeck (867) 634-2329 ext 240 for more information.

April 15-23 A Celebration of Swans: Various locations. Look for the 2006 Calendar of Events in your mailbox. Call Wildlife Viewing at 667-8291 for more details.

April 15 Art Exhibit Opening Ceremony: Whitehorse. Artists examine the National Wildlife Week theme: "Watersheds...more than just water...explore yours!" 108-103 Main Street at the Backerei/Kaffee Haus. 7:30 - 9:30pm, Exhibit runs from April 15 to May 5.

April 22 Earth Day: www.earthday.ca

April 22 Celebration and Barbeque: Whitehorse. Join folks at the Yukon Conservation Society in celebration of Earth Day. 302 Hawkins Street. For more details visit: www.yukonconservation.org

April 22 Family Fishing Day: Lake Laberge. Bring your fishing rods and your lucky hook. Activities organized by the Yukon Fish and Game Association, 10am-3pm. Call 667-4263 for more details.

April 23 Lecture: Birds and the Nostalgic Human Soul: Whitehorse. A Yukon Science Institute lecture by Graeme Gibson will be held at 7:30 pm at the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre.

April 30 Arctic Fundraiser: Whitehorse. Featuring trekker, biologist, award-winning author Karsten Heuer of *Being Caribou*. Talk, readings, images, footage, Q&A, music, auction, local campaigns & film. 7:00pm at the Yukon Arts Centre.

May 5-7 Crane and Sheep Festival: Faro. Enjoy a weekend of Sandhill Cranes and Fannin Sheep watching in Faro. Includes: talks, films, one workshop, wildlife viewing walks, First Nation storytelling, food & music for the whole family. Call Ryn Bunicich (867) 994-2728 for details.

May 13 Bird watching: Swans of Kluane: Burwash Landing. Make it a weekend outing; check out Kluane National Park, Burwash Natural History Museum and Swans of Kluane. Meet at 12:00pm at the Burwash Museum. Call 667-8291 for more details.