

Yukon

Biodiversity

Which animals
and plants
do you see?



C. Craigwell / 2004

Did you find the following species?

1. Dragonflies - There are 41 species of dragonflies and damselflies in Yukon. These colourful fliers are a thrill to watch, and eat mosquitos, too.

2. Wood Bison - Wood bison were brought back to Yukon in 1986 to help save them from extinction.

3. Spotted Frog - One of Yukon's four frog species. Only the wood frog is common.

4. Siberian Polypody - This fern can be found in rocks and cliffs in boreal forests around the world.

5. Yellow Wagtail - The Canadian breeding range of this Old World songbird is limited to Yukon's coastal plain. It winters in Southeast Asia.

6. Cat-tail - Though common in most of Canada, in Yukon cat-tails are found in only a few ponds, some as far north as Dawson City.

7. Crocodile - Though crocodiles are not known from Yukon, the climate is changing...

8. Tiger Swallow-tail - Two types of swallow-tail butterflies live in Yukon. The tiger swallow-tail feeds on willows and poplars.

9. Butterflies - 91 species of butterflies make their home in Yukon. Several are not found elsewhere in Canada.

10. White-tailed Deer - A relative newcomer to Yukon, the white-tailed deer is still rare in the territory. Its cousin the mule deer is much more widespread.

11. Beach-head Iris - This beautiful though rare wild iris lived with the mammoths in Beringia. It is still found on the Yukon River and in Beaver Creek.

12. Elk Thistle - Not all thistles are from Europe. Our largest thistle is native to Yukon.

13. Bluethroat - This migratory song bird nests in northern Yukon, but winters in North Africa and India. It gets its name from its brilliant iridescent blue throat.

14. Muskox - They lived in Yukon for 150,000 years before being hunted out. In 1984 they returned from introduced Alaskan populations.

15. Caribou - Barren-ground and woodland caribou are two different types that live in Yukon.

16. Eskimo Curlew - Once known to breed on the tundra from Alaska through Canada's western arctic, this bird may now be extinct.

17. Peregrine Falcon - Yukon was once the last stronghold of this species whose come-back from the edge of extinction is a conservation success story.

18. Polar Bear - Yukon is home to three species of bears. The polar bear is found on the Arctic Coast and Herschel Island.

19. Cougar - First reported in the 1940's, the cougar is spreading its range in Yukon, yet these elusive cats have yet to be clearly photographed in the territory.

20. Short-eared Owl - One of seven regularly occurring owls, this is the only one presently of concern to conservations.

21. Red Fox - One of four wild members of the dog family found in Yukon. They have recently expanded their range to the North Coast and Herschel Island.

22. White-footed Deer Mouse - There are 15 members of the mice family in Yukon, including voles, lemmings, muskrats and woodrats.

23. Beaver - The largest member of the rodent family, beavers are found as far north as the treeline. There are 25 rodent species in Yukon.

24. Green Spleenwort - The rarest member of the fern family in Yukon. It is known from two places in the Ogilvie Mountains.

25. Yukon Goldenweed - One of five plant species found in Yukon and nowhere else on earth.

26. Pileated Woodpecker - The largest of Yukon's eight woodpeckers is found in the lush forests of southeast Yukon.

27. Woolly Mammoth - While most of Canada was buried under ice, Yukon was mainly ice-free and home to many plants and animals.

28. Slender Rock-brake - This fern is one of 21 species of native ferns found in Yukon.

29. Aliens (introduced plants and animals) - Yukon is now home to over 150 alien plants, three alien birds and two alien species of fish.

