

YUKON BIRDATHON 2011

FEATURE BIRDER-JUKKA JANTUNEN

Jukka is well-known in the Yukon birdwatching community, and also to those thousands of people who have visited Swan Haven or any of the Yukon bird banding stations. A native of Finland, Jukka started birding at the age of ten and soon became a familiar face in birdathon (or bird races they were called in Finland those days) get-togethers. Over the years he has participated in well over a hundred bird races ranging from “big sits” and small within-a- refuge ones to big ones with tens of teams competing for the Finnish championship of “bird finding”. Most of those were competitive in nature but many raised money for conservation, just as the Yukon Birdathon does. “I must admit, I love the competitive aspect of a bird race from planning the route and schedule, and finally putting yourself in the test in the field” he says. “Other thrill-seeking people mountain bike or paraglide, I bird”.

Jukka first came to Whitehorse in 1999 and has since birded most of Yukon’s southern region. “I have way too many favourite places to bird here, but just to list a few of my very favourites I’ll mention Tagish, M’Clintock Bay and Schwatka Lake for spring waterfowl and shorebirds, Albert Creek and Watson Lake airport from the southeast and the Teslin area for the raptor flights. However, perhaps the most amazing thing for me is to go up on Grey Mountain in the evening and sit next to a booming male Dusky Grouse, sip coffee and enjoy the scenery below – it is so very peaceful!”



Having done the birdathon in Watson Lake area for the two previous years, this year Jukka will join fellow birders, and bird-banders, Ted Murphy-Kelly and Ben Schonewille for one that will start in Whitehorse in the evening and will finish in Watson Lake the next day. “It will be a fun-filled run with two very good friends” he says.

YUKON BIRDATHON 2011 FEATURE BIRDER - JUKKA JANTUNEN -Pledge Form

If you would like to sponsor Jukka, fill out this form and mail it to:
Yukon Bird Club Treasurer, Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4B6.

Name:
Address:

Amount pledged (per species, or flat amount). Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10: