

## Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Bring your telephoto lens, binoculars and/or a spotting scope to get a closer look without disturbing the animals.
- Know the species you wish to see. Find out which habitat type it prefers, when it is active and where it is most likely to be found.
- Spend time quietly observing. Animals that have hidden themselves from view may reveal themselves once they sense no danger.
- If you find what appears to be an “orphaned” bird or animal, please leave it alone. Its parents are most certainly nearby, waiting for you to move away before coming back to retrieve their offspring.
- Never allow your pet to run at large. Wildlife need to feed undisturbed.
- Wildlife tend to be more active in early morning and evening. Take a walk before breakfast or after dinner. And remember, in summer, the Arctic evening lasts all night.



Nodding Beggar-ticks (YG – B. Bennett)

## Where Wye Lake got its name

Originally, the town of Watson Lake grew around the airstrip. During construction of the Alaska Highway, a sideroad linked the airstrip to the highway. Increasing highway traffic resulted in services moving to the Y-shaped junction, referred to as Watson Lake “Y” (Wye). As the town grew, this nearby lake took on the name Wye Lake.



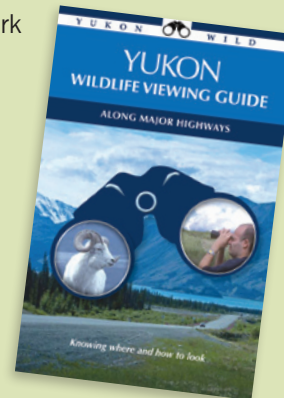
Common Muskrat (C. Ecker)

Muskrats also make Wye Lake their home. To tell them apart from beavers look at their tails. Beaver tails are large, flat and paddle shaped; muskrat tails are longer than they are wide and taper to a point. Also, the hind feet of a muskrat are not webbed like a beaver’s.

### LUCKY LAKE: another great wildlife viewing opportunity

You can find another great nature trail just 10 km southeast from Watson Lake. Follow the Alaska Highway southeast towards the BC border and look for the sign to Lucky Lake. There, an interpreted trail takes you to a viewing deck overlooking the Liard River.

Lucky Lake and Wye Lake Park are two of many leisure and wildlife viewing attractions in this area. To find out more, get a copy of the *Yukon’s Wildlife Viewing Guide* or contact us:



**Watson Lake Visitor Information Centre**  
Phone: (867) 536-7469  
Open May - September

**Town of Watson Lake Recreation Office**  
Phone: (867) 536-8020  
Open year-round

**Wildlife Viewing Program**  
Phone: (867) 667-8291  
Toll free in Yukon:  
1-800-661-0408, ext. 8291



[www.yukonwild.ca](http://www.yukonwild.ca)

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YUKON



WILD

# Viewing Wildlife at Wye Lake



Hudsonian Whiteface Dragonflies on front and back covers (YG – B. Bennett)



**Yukon**  
Environment



(YG Photo)

In the heart of the Town of Watson Lake, Wye Lake Park offers a downtown refuge for plants and animals of over 26 hectares. The 2.5 km interpreted trail takes you around the lake. Numerous panels inform you about the park's biodiversity.

Wye Lake is a dragonfly paradise. The young live in the water for up to five years. As adults they become the elegant and colourful insects some call "mosquito hawks". One dragonfly can eat more than 50 mosquitos or horseflies in a day.

You can find 14 kinds of dragonfly and four kinds of damselfly around the lake. Habitats like Wye Lake are important for these insects. Because it is located on a major bird migration route, many bird species fly over or stop in at Wye Lake in April-May and September-October.

**DRAGONFLY  
OR  
DAMSELFLY?**

Dragonflies and damselflies are closely related and sometimes all are called dragonflies.

Dragonflies cannot fold their wings along their back, but damselflies can.

Other bird species, such as the Red-necked Grebe are resident year-round. Grebes are excellent swimmers and divers and will pursue their fish prey under water. It is fun to watch them raise their young here throughout the summer.



Rednecked Grebe (YG - B. Bennett)

