Feeding the Flyways
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl banded on the Yukon Flats Refuge have been recovered in 11 foreign countries, 8 Canadian provinces, and 43 of the 50 United States. The refuge hosts more than one million ducks annually from all four North American flyways and supports the highest breeding densities of lesser scaup and canvasback ducks in Alaska.

The Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge is a remote 8.63 million acre wetland complex nestled between the White Mountains and Brooks Range in Interior Alaska. The landscape is dominated by water, bisected by the Yukon River and dotted with over 30,000 lakes, ponds, and streams that provide essential breeding habitat for millions of waterfowl each summer.

In the spring and summer, 147 species of birds populate the ponds and lakes of the Yukon Flats. The Refuge encompasses essential breeding habitat for a variety of birds including ducks, loons, geese, swans, and shorebirds.

A History of Conservation

During the late 1950s, a major hydroelectric dam project was proposed for the Yukon River at Rampart Canyon, about 85 miles downriver from the refuge. That dam, if constructed, would have flooded the entire Yukon Flats. In response to concerns about the dam, biologists conducted extensive waterfowl banding efforts. The results of these efforts showed that birds breeding on the Yukon Flats overwintered throughout the entire United States. As a result, official protection of the Yukon Flats by the federal government began in 1978 with the designation of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Monument.

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge:

Sustaining the wildness of Alaska's largest boreal wetland basin

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge
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● Yukon Flats Refuge
● Band Recoveries

Yukon Flats Refuge

Lesser Scaup   *Canvasback*   *Widgeon*   *White-Winged Scoter*