



Dákeyi Kwätsūą

Our Country's Birds

Chughala/ Lorraine Allen

A decorative feather graphic with a gradient of blue, green, and yellow, positioned to the left of the text.

Chughala / Lorraine Allen



Chughala uyè. Ägunda ích'e, Äsheyi kwäch'än ích'e. Ämä uyinzhi Äshenja ùúye na, ätä uyinzhi Äjukwänjja ùúye na. Äsheyi Kwädän ích'e.

I am of the Wolf clan, from Äsheyi. My mother was called Äshenja and my father was called Äjukwänjja. I am an Äsheyi person.

Ts'etlāw dän k'è dän kenídän. Kwädāy ch'āw kets'ädän kù yū ndasídlā, dän k'è dunena kenídän. Äk'ān k'è Shadhēl yè Äsheyi kwädän ghā ndasídlā "Dän Nākwàkhèl" kwāyè.

I'm always teaching Dän k'è. In the past, I worked for the schools teaching dän k'è. Today I am working for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation with the language intensive program.

"Äla Ändatà, Sam Williams chàt uyinzhi kenshändän. Äla Ändatà chàt ts'etlāw káiya. Ämä Bessie Allen, ujüa Lily Williams äch'e na. Ämä tsūq uyinzhi



kenshändän shų. Dazhän tsūą k'uk utsi
níthän, anätay kutth'ät äyet kwäka.

“My Uncle Sam Williams taught me
about ducks. Sam Williams was a duck
hunter. My mom’s younger sister was
Lily Williams (who was married to Sam).
My mother taught me about birds as
well. I am going to make this book
before I forget, that’s why.”

“I’m going to forget pretty soon, and
people don’t have the knowledge
anymore about these birds. To preserve
the names for the future generations.
That’s why I want to do it right now.”



Diana Lynn R

Photography

I have been in the Photography world for only the past 4 years. I picked up a camera after a tragic loss in my life, I needed to look at the world in a new and exciting way. I have always been a nature lover so Birds, animals and Landscapes came natural to me. I believe I have come strides in the last few years with awards from NYC, published in three magazines and have had my photography in over 50 gallery showings worldwide. That is not to say I am well known here in the Yukon, but I am proud to have lived here since 1976. I love making our beautiful territory known to others.

You can see my work here:

Facebook.com/dianaspics

Instagram-dianarothgeb

And my website dianalrothgeb.com



Valerie Miller

Hobbyist Photography



I originally arrived in the Yukon in 1976, left in 1985 and returned in 1993.

Photography was always something I enjoyed – capturing family gatherings, holiday photos and, of course, the family pets.

After 20 years of using my Sony Cyber-shot I upgraded to the Sony ax 6000, which opened a whole new world of possibilities. I love photographing flowers, they are my favorite, but anything that has to do with the beauty of nature I find fascinating.

The birds soon became a challenge to conquer – they move so fast. Last year was a definite, “bird season” in our yard allowing me more opportunities to photograph them.

Elsabé Kloppers

Wildlife Biologist



Elsabé Kloppers works at Yukon University in Dakwākāda. Her background is as a wildlife biologist, and she previously taught bird identification and did bird field survey work in Yukon and Alberta.

Christopher Cox

Linguist



Christopher Cox is a linguist and Associate Professor in the School of Linguistics and Language Studies at Carleton University, where his work focuses on Indigenous and minority language documentation, education, and revitalization. For the past twenty years, he has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work together with friends and colleagues in the Yukon and elsewhere on language projects and programs, including with Chughala and Khâsha in helping put this book together.

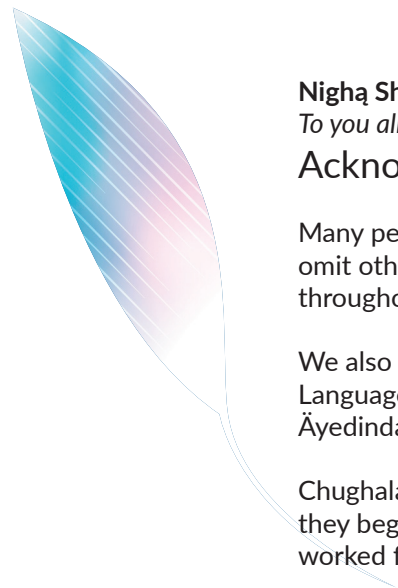


Khâsha

Language Instructor

Khâsha is a Dän K'e language instructor. He developed and started the CAFN Adult Language Intensive Program. He works closely with respected elders, Chughala and Khut'äla.





Nighā Shāwnīthān
To you all, I am grateful
Acknowledgements

Many people over the years worked to bring this booklet to completion. In mentioning some people, we hope not to omit others. If we have, we apologize. First, we say nighā shāwnīthān to Chughala, Lorraine Allen for taking the time throughout her life to listen to her elders and commit to memory all of these birds!

We also acknowledge Äyedindaya, Margaret Workman for her work on documenting birds with the Yukon Native Language Center. Often Chughala and I would double check using Äyedindaya's documented birds. Nighā shāwnīthān Äyedindaya!

Chughala started this journey with Linguist and Associate Professor, Christopher Cox so many years ago. Together they began the huge effort of compiling the birds of the Yukon into a manageable document. At the time Christopher worked for Yukon Education, Department of First Nation Programs and Partnerships. Nighā shāwnīthān Christopher!

In 2019, Chughala asked if I would assist her in completing the booklet, and with Champagne & Aishihik First Nation's full support, we began the work to finish the booklet. We would like to sincerely thank Champagne & Aishihik's Department of Language & Culture, headed by Krista Reid for pushing this forward. Nighā shāwnīthān Krista!

We would also like to acknowledge the bird expertise of Elsabé Kloppeers, for ensuring our information was as accurate as possible. Nighā shāwnīthān Elsabé!

For further information about this booklet please contact Champagne & Aishihik's Department of Language and Culture:

<https://cafn.ca/government/departments/language-culture-heritage/>

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Chapter 1



Jays, Magpies,
and Ravens



Ts'ek'i

Raven

Also called Ts'ürk'i
Ts'ek'i is a trickster and a creator. Ts'ek'i stories, have many cautionary teachings of how not to act. He created day, brought water and fish to the land, and tried to trick Tágà kwächät to get her colours, but ended up with plain black feathers himself.

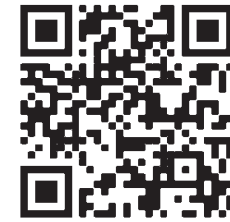


Ts'ùk'ay

Gray Jay
“Camp-robber”,
“Canada Jay”,
“Whiskey Jack”

Also called,
Ts'ùkw'ay, Ts'ùnk'ay





Ts'ùk'ay
Zhı
Shiny Ts'ùk'ay

Black-billed Magpie

Also called,
Ts'ùk'ay Dezhı
(I.A., L.J.)

Chapter 2



Ducks, Grebes, and Loons

CHAPTER 2 Ducks, Grebes, and Loons



Chât

Duck (any)



Chät Shäw *Big Duck*

Mallard



Chàt
Shāw
Ts'ān
*Big Duck's
Wife*

Mallard



Chàt Zhäda

Green-winged Teal

Also called, Chàt Sèla,
Chàt Tsèla

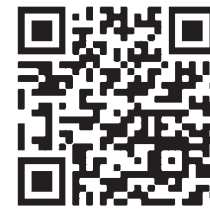


Chàt
Zhì
Shiny Duck

American Wigeon

Also called, Tàshì (C.K.)





À'òni

Long-tailed Duck

They are called, 'Áoni' because this is what they say as they fly overhead.



Ätthèk'i

Common Goldeneye



Chänjü

Northern Pintail

Also called, Tàshj Zenjü



Ätthek'i
Shäw

Barrow's Goldeneye



Chúshät

Canvasback



Lu Chät
Tthäw
*Brown Fish
Duck*

Common Merganser



Chùtsay

Cries On The Water

Common Loon

Also called, Chùsay
When they are flying and they make a call, it means the wind is going to blow. When they call on the lake, it means they see something, they can see long ways.



Tth'èmbe

Red-throated Loon

Also called, Tth'èmè,
Tth'imbe

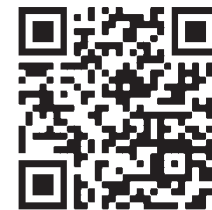
Long ago people eat this in
the spring time



Dàt
Ghra
Little Dàt

Horned Grebe

Also called, Dàta Utthì
Dàthhäwa



Dät Shäw

Red-necked Grebe

Also called, Däta Däl
This Grebe is edible.

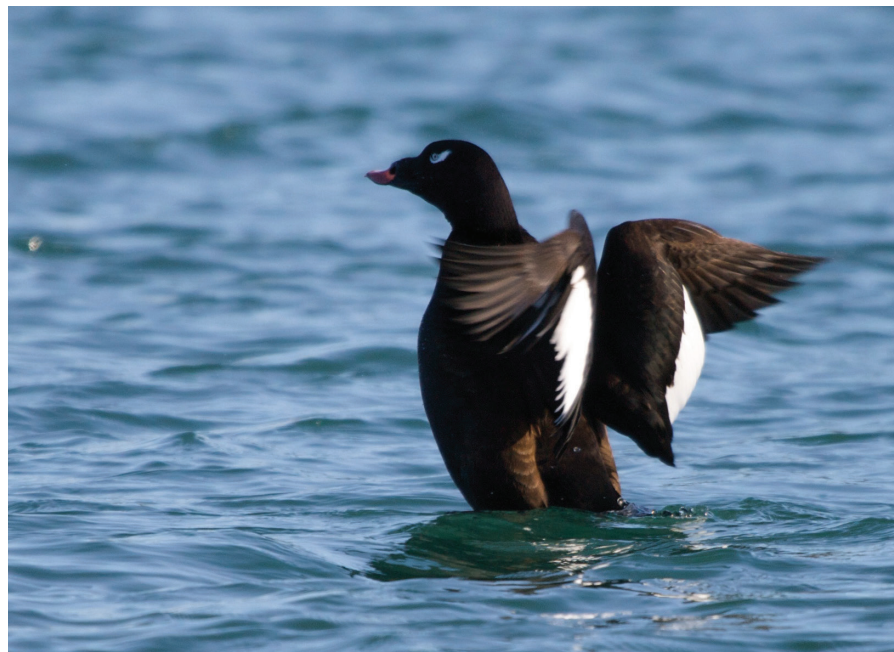
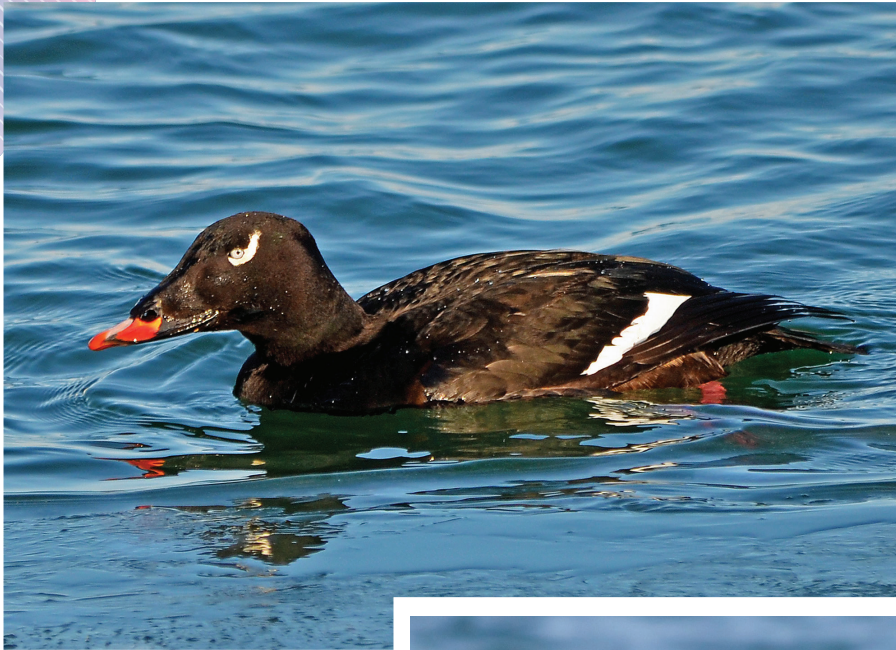


Łu Chăt

Fish Duck

**Merganser (any);
Red-breasted**

When this duck flies,
its wings makes a
whistling sound.



Ndàl

White-winged
Scoter



Tatsàn'àwl

Surf Scoter

Also called, Sasān'awl
(M.J.)



Tágà
Kwächàt
*River Area
Duck*

Harlequin Duck



Tänjü Kwächät

Gadwall

Also called, Tändür
Kwächät



Ts'ürk'i
Mbeą
*Raven's
Mother's
Sister*

Bufflehead



Yòok

**American Coot
“Mud Hen”**

Also called, Tànju Ghra,
Kekay Nàghür.



Udà Dakāt Shāw

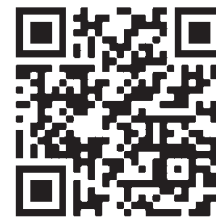
Northern Shoveler

Also called
Tàtāt, Dätlāk, Łàk

Chapter 3



Geese and
Swans



Dägäy
Off White

Swans (general)
continued on pg 38

Swans (general)

continued from pg 30



Dägäy

Swans (general)

“Däkea ye kwintän nū”

Probably holds on with his little feet. Little birds have been seen holding onto swans, catching a ride. They probably go underneath their feathers to stay warm.

-Bessie Allen



Dägäy
Shäw
Swan Big

Trumpeter Swan



Kha

Goose (any)



Kha Gay

Off White Goose

Snow Goose

Also called, Kha Ts'anjī, &
Kha Dāk'äl



**Kha
Tsèla**
Small Goose

Brant



Kha
Umbät
Däk'äl
*White
Stomach Goose*

**Greater White-fronted
Goose**

“Speckle Belly”



Chapter 4



Shorebirds



Dakwäk'àda
Fly up high

Arctic Tern

Also called, Takwäk'ēta



Diana Lynn R
Photography



Mbürk'ày

Gull (any);
Mew Gull



Mbürk'ày Zhı

Bonaparte's Gull

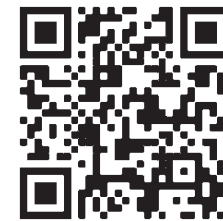
Also called, Mbürk'ày Utthi
Jenàch'ür



Nts'ilūra

Whimbrel

Also called, Gəyā
Tadūra poked a hole in the
stomach of Nts'ilūra in the
Ätsuya and the Giant Bear
Kwändür.



Tàch'äl

Belted Kingfisher

Also called, Tàch'äl (M.S.)
The 'Tà-' indicates shore, as these
birds are found along shores.



*Greater
Yellowlegs;*

*Lesser
Yellowlegs;*



Tàdùra

This bird has a call that sounds like, “Dür dür dür”. They are tattletales. Soon as they see you they say that, “dür dür dür”



Tàłeda

Semipalmated Sandpiper

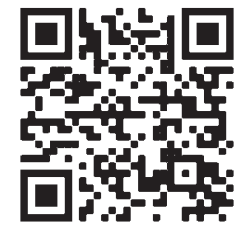
Also called, Tthän Ts'äda



Tàmbüra

Semipalmated Plover

When it's in danger it acts like it has a broken wing, so the predator will follow it and leave the nest alone. This bird has a call that sounds like, "Guyäda, guyäda, guyäda" or Beads, beads, beads.



Tàtl'ùra

Red-winged Blackbird



Tl'äw
Güraq
Grass Colour

Killdeer



Tà'āna

American Dipper

Chapter 5



Eagles and Hawks



Chunay

*Looks
Through The
Water*

Bald Eagle



Thay

Eagle (any);
Golden Eagle



Ädäts'al

Peregrine Falcon

Also called, Sälsı (B.J.), T'üsel,
Ät'üts'el (Ta'an), Ät'üch'äl



Nàts'ùtl'eda

**American Kestrel
"Sparrow Hawk"**

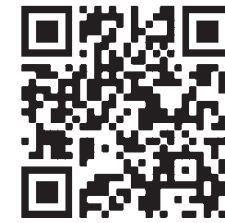
Also Called, Yasùtl'et, Yasàn Utl'eta
Known to dive at fires.



Ўzhē

Hawk (any)

Also called, Nūzhe



Gá Shayela

*Packing
Rabbits*

**Northern Harrier
“Marsh Hawk”**

Also called, Gá Nagèl (I.M.)



K'ān

Red-tailed Hawk



Tl'äw Kay Shänächea

*Glides Over
Meadows*

Northern Goshawk

Also called, Ts'uk'ay Shäw (S.W.), Tl'äw Kay
Shänächj



Ts'ädhela

*Whistling high
pitch sound*

Common Nighthawk

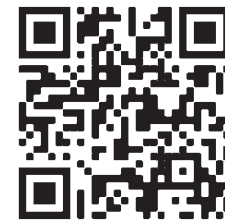
Also called, Yädhèl (L.J., I.M.),
Tth'èdhela (I.M., M.J., B.J.),
Udzi Chedhāw

Makes a dhela sound, a whistle at night

Chapter 6



Owls



Máddhı

**Owl (any);
Great Horned Owl**

Also called, Márdhı (P.J.), Médhı



Änäts'ú'ja

Boreal Owl

Also called, Nàdayts'ù'ja (R.W.),
Nats'ú'ja (M.J.), Äthèzūra
“Good luck Owl”



Ätthèlia

Northern Hawk Owl

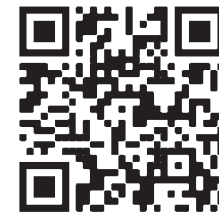
Also called, Äthelè (M.J.), Äthìle. "Njü adäl daatq?" - Where's the blood bag? Ätthèlia turns his head where there's moose.



Máddhı Däk'äl *White Owl*

Snowy Owl

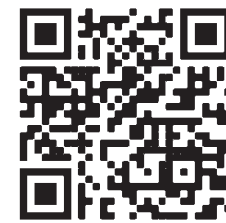
Also called, Márdhı Däk'äl (P.J.)



Máddhı Gay *Off-white Owl*

Great Gray Owl

Also called, Máddhı Gäy (P.J.)



Máddhj Shäw

Big Owl

Great Horned Owl

Also called, Márdhj Shäw (P.J.)

Chapter 7



Grouse and Ptarmigans

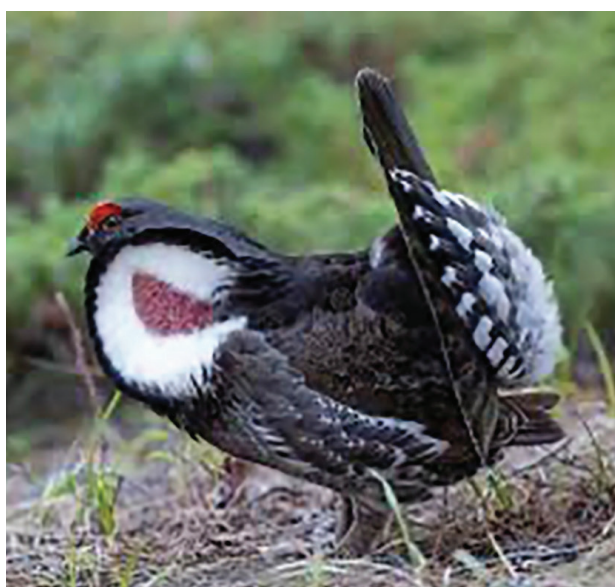


Ji

Grouse (any);
Spruce Grouse



Female



Male



Ji Shāw *Big Grouse*

Dusky Grouse “Blue Grouse”

Also called, Khashü



Ntth'ù

Ruffed (Willow) Grouse

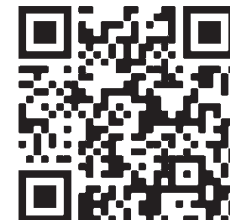
Also called, Ätth'ù (M.J.)



Ńtűr
*Spear shaped
tail*

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Also called, Átür (M.J.)



K'àmba

Willow Ptarmigan



Tsɨdāl

Rock Ptarmigan

Also called, Ätthi däl, Dhäl
Ts'ugän & Dhäl Thängän

Chapter 8



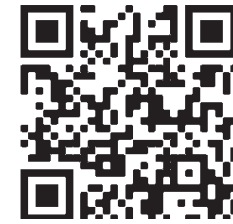
Small Birds



Ätsäna

**American Three-toed
Woodpecker**

Also called, Äsäna

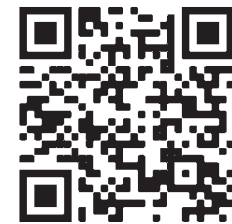


Tsür Khèlà *Chop Wood*

Downy Woodpecker

Also called, Năn Kay Ts'ekwitheda,
Sür Khèlà

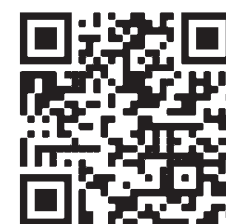
This is the bird that wakes up the
land in the spring time.



Chùtsi

American Robin

Also called, Kursi (P.J.),
Chùsi (L.J., M.S.), Shùtsi



Gyū Tsūā

Worm Bird

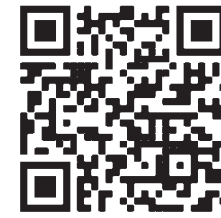
Small Bird (any)

Also called, Nt'āya Tsūā



Nts'ik'ù
Dlią
*North Wind
Puppy*

Red Crossbill



Tàchālà

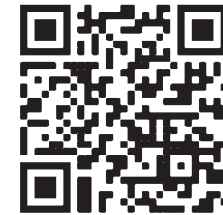
Bohemian Waxwing

Also called, Tàch'āl (M.S.)



Tree Swallow

Barn Swallow



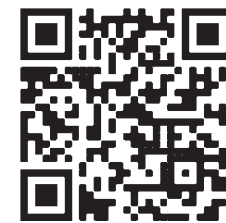
Thàkàda

Swallow (any)

Also called, Thànàkada (M.J.),
Thedèkàada (I.A)



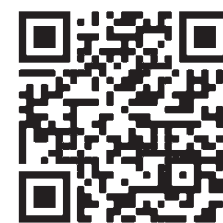
Cliff Swallow



Thəwk'aya

Snow Bunting
"Snow Bird"

Also called, Yăw Dīja, Thelk'aya,
(I.A.), Thuk'àya (M.J.)



Ts'egègia

Chickadee (any)

Also called, Tsq Shăw
This bird has a call that sounds like, "ts'egegi gi gi, ts'egegi gi gi, ts'egegi gi gi."



Tsūą Chäntthäwa

Yellow Warbler



Tsūḷ
Dätthäwa
Yellow Bird

Yellow Wagtail



Tsūą
Jēntl'ąra
Blue Bird

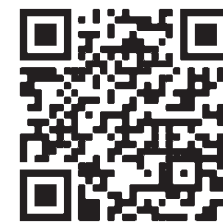
Mountain Bluebird

Also called, Tsūą Detl'ür (D.B.)

Chapter 9



Other



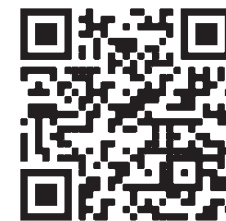
Chatsàn'äwl

Double-Crested
Cormorant



Dátele

Red Throated
Hummingbird



Jèl

Sandhill Crane

Also called, Jul (I.M.)



Tsūą

Bird (any)

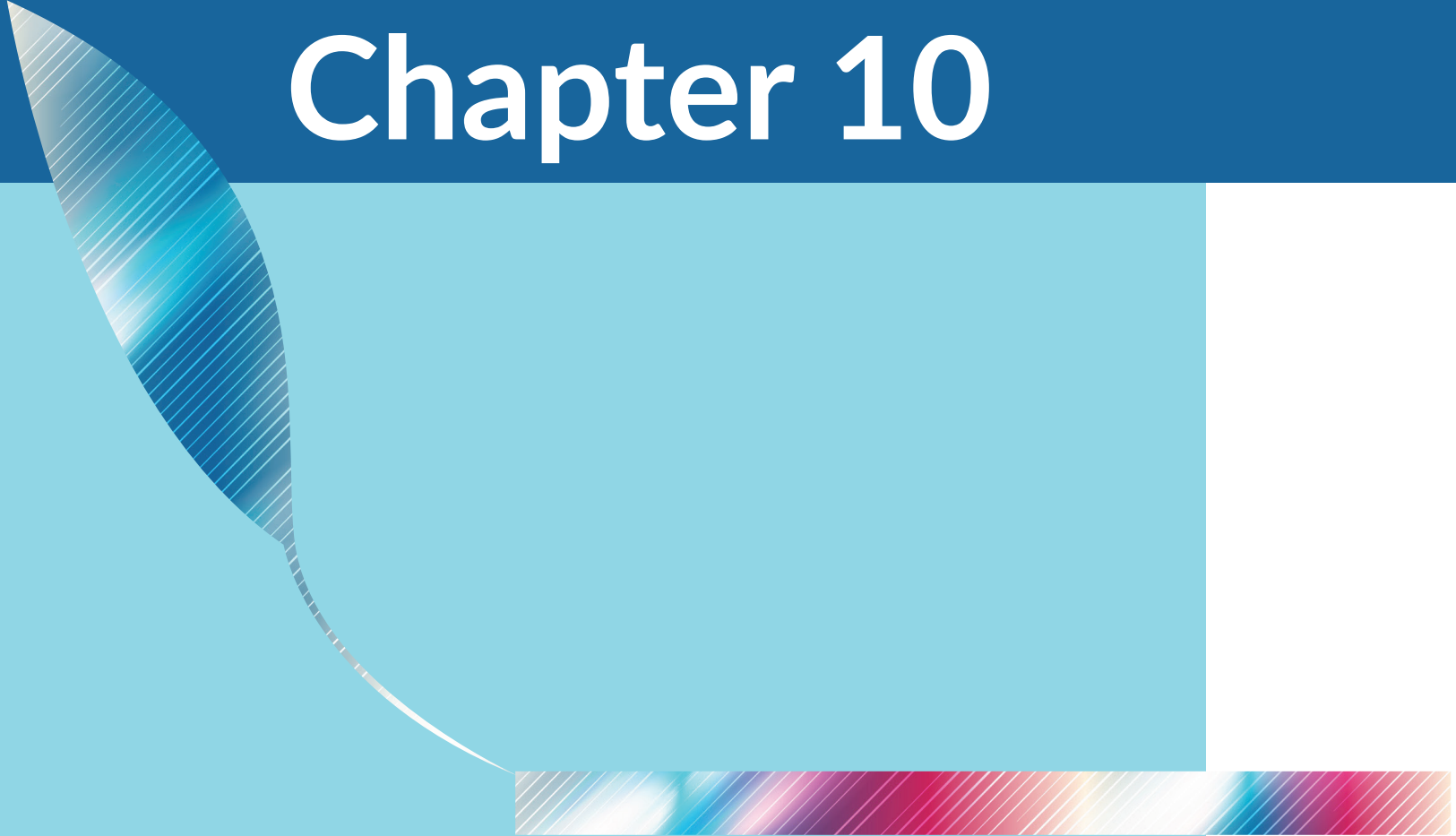


Khāla

Bat

Also called, Ätth'āw (R.W)

Chapter 10

A decorative graphic element consisting of a curved, leaf-like shape on the left, filled with a blue and white striped pattern. A thin, curved line extends from the bottom of this shape towards a horizontal bar on the right. The bar is filled with a multi-colored striped pattern, including shades of blue, purple, red, and yellow.

Other
Vocabulary



Tsūą
T'āw

Bird Nest



Tsūḡa
Ghär

Bird egg



“Nàlàt ntsi,
nàlàt ntsi,
nàlàt ntsi”

Make a boat

V-formation saying

Then the geese, or swans make a formation. This helps them. When one get tired someone from behind takes a turn at the front, just like breaking trail with snowshoes.





Tsūq̄ Nāch̄q̄

Tsūq̄ uydà

Tsūq̄ undāy

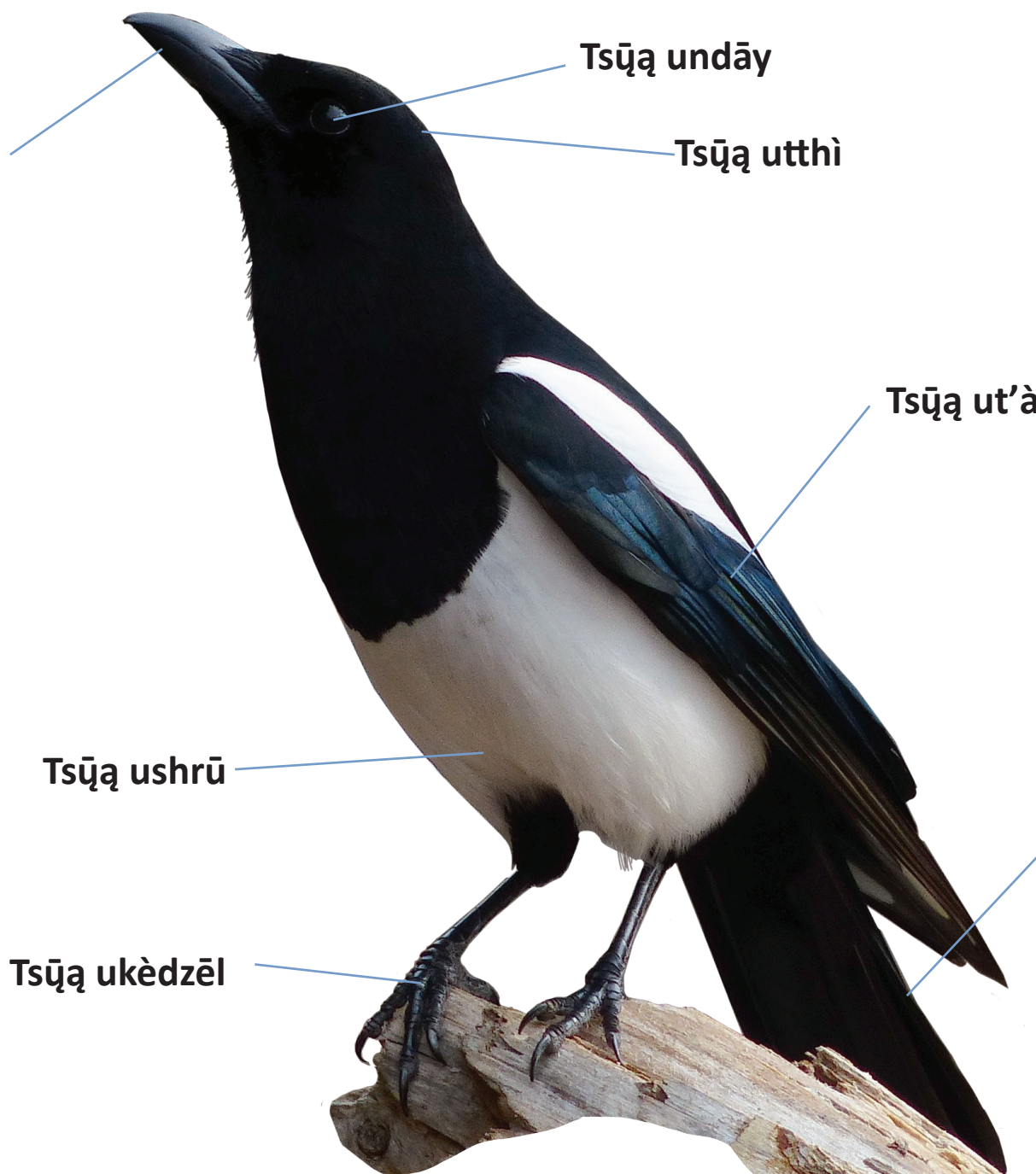
Tsūq̄ utthì

Tsūq̄ ut'à

Tsūq̄ ushrū

Tsūq̄ ukèdzēl

Tsūq̄ ushè





*Attach “ts’ān”
to any bird to
indicate the
female.*

Example:

**Chät Shäw
Ts’ān**

Mallard



Dialect References

I.A. - Irene Adamson

L.J. - Lena Johnson

M.J. - Marge Jackson

S.W. - Sam Williams

R.W. - Rosalie Washington

P.J. - Paddy Jim

M.S. - Mary Shadow

Glossary

À'òni - Long-Tailed Duck
Ädäts'äl (Sälsu, T'üsel, At'üts'el, Ät'üch'äl) - Peregrine Falcon
Änäts'ü'ia (Nàdayts'ü'ia, Nats'u'ia, Äthèzūra) Boreal Owl
Ätsäna (Äsäna) - Brown-Spotted Woodpecker
Ätthidäl (Dhāl Ts'ugän, Dhāl Thängän) - Rock Ptarmigan
Ätthèk'i - Goldeneye Duck
Ätthèk'i Shäw - Barrow's Goldeneye Duck
Ätthèlia (Äthelè, Äthile) - Northern Hawk Owl
Chänjü (Tàshj, Zenjü) - Northern Pintail Duck
Chät - Duck (any)
Chät Jenäch'ür (Ndäl)- White-winged Scoter Duck
Chatsän'awl - Double-Crested Cormorant
Chät Shäw - Mallard Duck
Chät Tsèla (Chät Sèla, Chät Zhäda) - Green-Winged Teal Duck
Chät Zhj (Tàshj) - American Wigeon Duck
Chünday - Bald Eagle
Chúshät (Ndäl Thäwà) - Canvas Back Duck
Chùtsi (Kursi, Chùsi, Shùtsi) - American Robin
Chùtsay (Chùsay) - Common Loon
Dägäy - Swan (general)
Dagäy Shäw - Trumpeter Swan
Dakwäk'àda (Takwäk'ēta) Arctic Tern
Dälèla - Red Throated Hummingbird
Dät Ghra (Däta Utthi Dätthäwa) - Horned Grebe
Dät Shäw (Däta Däl) - Red-Necked Grebe
Däta (Düda) Common Merganser; Red-Breasted Merganser
Gá Shayela (Gá Nagèl) - Northern Harrier
Gyü Tsūa (Nt'aya Tsūa) - Small Bird (any)
Jèl (Jul) - Sandhill Crane

Ji - Grouse (any); Spruce Grouse
Ji Näda - Dusky Grouse
Ji Shäw (Khashü) - Blue Grouse
K'ān - Red-Tailed Hawk
Kha - Goose
Kha Gay (Kha Ts'änjī, Kha Däk'äl) - Snow Goose
Kha Tsèla - Brant
Kha Umbät Däk'äl - Great White-Fronted Goose
Łu Chät Tthäw - Common Merganser Łu Chät - Meganser
K'àmba - Willow Ptarmigan
Mäddhı (Märdhı, Mēdhı) Owl (any); Great Horned Owl
Mäddhı Däk'äl (Märdhı Däk'äl) Snowy Owl
Mäddhı Gäy (Märdhı Gäy) - Great Gray Owl
Mäddhı Shäw (Märdhı Shäw) - Great Horned Owl
Mbürk'äy - Gull (any); Mew Gull
Mbürk'äy Zhı (Mbürk'äy Utthı Jenäch'ür) Bonaparte's Gull
Ntth'ù (Ätth'ù) - Ruffled (willow) Grouse
Ntùr (Ätùr) - Sharp-Tailed Grouse
Nts'ilıra (Gaya) - Whimbrel
Nts'ik'ù Dlıa - Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill
Nàts'ı tlı'eda (Yası tlı'et, Yasàn Utl'eta) - Sparrow Hawk
Ndäl - White-Winged Scoter
Tà'āna - American Dipper
Tächäla (Täch'äl) - Bohemian Waxwing
Täch'äl (Täch'āl) - Belted Kingfisher
Tàdūra - Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs
Tágà Kwächät - Harlequin Duck
Tàleda (Tthän Ts'āda) - Semipalmated Sandpiper
Tàmbūra - Semipalmated Plover
Tanjü Kwächät (Tändür Kwächät) - Long-Tailed Duck
Tatsàn'awl (Sasän'awl) - Surf Scoter

Tàtl'ùra - Red-Winged Blackbird
Tth'èmbe (Tth'èmè, Tth'imbè) - Red-Throated Loon
Thäy - Golden Eagle (or eagle)
Tl'äw Kay Shänächea (Ts'uk'ay Shäw, Tl'äw Kay Shänächì) - Northern Goshawk
Thàkàda (Thànàkàda, Thedèkàada) - Swallow (any)
Thäwk'aya (Yäw Dliä, Thelk'aya, Thuk'aya) - Snow Bunting
Ts'ädhela (Yädhèl, Tth'èdhela, Udzi Chedhäw) - Common Nighthawk
Ts'egègia (Tsü Shäw) - Chickadee (any)
Tsüä Chäntthäwa - Yellow Warbler
Tsüä Dätthäwa - Yellow Wagtail
Tsüä Jēntl'āra (Tsüä Detl'ür)- Mountain Bluebird
Tsür Khèla (Nän Kay Ts'ekwìtheda, Sür Khèla) - Downy Woodpecker
Tl'äw Gùrā - Meadow Lark
Tsüä - Bird (any)
Ts'ek'i (ts'ük'i) - Raven
Ts'ük'ay (ts'ükw'ay, ts'ünk'ay) - Gray Jay
Ts'ük'ay Zhì (Tsük'ay Dezhì) - Black-Billed Magpie
Ts'ürk'i Mbèä - Bufflehead
Yòok (Tänjü Ghra, Kekay Nàghür) American Coot
Udà Dakàt Shäw (Tàlàt, Dätlāk, Lāk) - Northern Shoveler
Üzhe (Nüzhe) Hawk (any)

