

## ATHABASCAN

word of the week

# Nok'enaat'ukk – The birds have returned

<b>Tobaa</b>	swans
<b>Dets'ene</b>	geese
<b>Nendaale</b>	ducks
<b>Delk'ehu</b>	robin

### Bird names in place names:

**Dolbaatno'**  
“gosling river,” a tributary of  
Koyukuk River. Common name is  
Dulbi.

**Saanhggaagge dot'aanh?**  
What is the bird doing?

**Saanhggaagge not'ühtl.**  
The bird is flying.

**Kk'edne' dedenee.**  
The baby bird is making noise.

**Tokkaa'e dednee.**  
Red necked grebe is calling.

**Dodzen dednee.**  
The loon is calling.

**Dets'en delghus.**  
The geese are calling.

**Taaneeyo.**  
(One) bird dove into the water.

**Tobaa k'edelee eetlek.**  
I hear a swan singing.

**Delk'ehoo kk'odehun' don  
k'edelee.**  
The robin is singing early in the  
morning.

**Nendaal kk'o'eedebaayh.**  
A duck is swimming around.



The Athabascan Word of the Week appears every Saturday on page A3 of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. The words are provided by Susan “K’etsoo” Paskvan of Yukon-Koyukuk School District. She is originally from the village of Koyukuk on the Yukon River in Interior Alaska. She is Tleeyegge Hut’aane, which is Koyukon Athabascan. She seeks stories and phrases from both Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan) and Denak’a (Lower Tanana Athabascan), which are languages spoken in the Yukon-Koyukuk School District region. Yukon-Koyukuk School District serves the villages of Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Ruby, Manley Hot Springs and Minto. The Board of Education places a priority on teaching the Native languages within the district.