

Alaska Sampler

Species List | August 9 – 17, 2024

with Naturalist Journeys



Guides Kelly Vandenheuvel and Bryan Calk with guests Donna, Charles, Herb, Susan, Kay, Ann, Reba, Pam, Gregg, and Lucy

Comprehending the sheer scale of the landscape in Alaska is a challenge, but to do it we took to the land, sea, and even the sky during our time in the southern part of the state. We toured Resurrection Bay in Seward by boat finding whales, orcas, otters, puffins, mountain goats, and more. A bush plane took us to Katmai National Park where we landed on a beach and walked amongst the massive coastal brown bears and picked out some uncommon shorebirds like Pacific Golden-Plover. We walked through the spruce-fir forests of Homer where we found a family of American Goshawks and Boreal Chickadees. Black bears popped out of the bushes along the road, and early morning outings scored moose, Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons, Varied Thrush, and so many more highlights. But perhaps one thing you wouldn't expect on a trip here is the quality of the food and lodging! Fresh caught halibut and salmon were to die for, and having world-class nature-viewing out our doors at all times was pretty unbeatable!

Birds (83): The eBird link below details the 83 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Alaska Sampler | August 9-17, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Mammals (12):

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus* – One seen at Beluga point up on the hillside, and another seen feeding on vegetation along the Skilak Lake Rd.

Coastal Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* – Over a dozen seen grazing in the meadows of Hollo Bay of Katmai National Park

Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina* – Several seen during the bay cruise in Seward resting on the rocks, and a couple seen in the waters around Homer

Steller's Sea Lion *Eumetopias jubatus* – Good numbers loafing on the sea stacks on the bay cruise in Seward

Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris* – Several seen in the marinas and bays around Seward and Homer

Moose *Alces alces* – One standing in the road on the drive back from Homer to Anchorage, and another seen on an early morning excursion to Kinkaid Park in Anchorage

Mountain Goat *Oreamnos americanus* – One seen well on one of the islands in the bay during the cruise out of Seward

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* – A couple seen well from close distances during the cruise out of Seward

Orca *Orcinus orca* – A small pod seen in the rough waters at the mouth of the bay during the cruise in Seward

Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* – One seen briefly during our boat trip out to Halibut Cove in Homer

Hoary Marmot *Marmota caligata* – One seen scampering up the rocks behind some resting harbor seals during the bay cruise in Seward

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Several seen and heard throughout the tour