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2012 ALASKA BIRD LIST

Gr White-fronted Goose	A scattering of individuals throughout Creamer's wetlands.
Canada Goose	Ubiquitous anywhere in interior of Alaska with farmed fields & water.
Cackling Canada Goose	Small groups of taverneri on Safety Sound.
Brant	Late migrants were scattered along Safety Sound out of Nome.
Trumpeter Swan	The best views were of nesting birds from the Anchorage-bound train.
Tundra Swan	About 200 of these birds were concentrated along Safety Sound.
Gadwall	A male and female were feeding in Potter Marsh ANC.
American Wigeon	Probably the second most common waterfowl in our travels.
Mallard	Certainly not a common bird on this trip, with five being the high count.
N. Shoveler	The white belly & dark head made for easy identification.
N. Pintail	First one was at Potter Marsh in ANC.
Green-winged Teal	Small numbers of this handsome bird were seen in all areas of Alaska.
Ring-necked Duck	A few of these birds were spotted on Smith Lake at UAF.
Greater Scaup	The "common" scaup for our trip. In most freshwater ponds.
Lesser Scaup	A few individuals of this "peaked" species. Best looks in FAI.
Common Eider	Safety Sound had scattered pairs of the subtle female & gaudy male.
Harlequin Duck	Fine looks at this striking bird in Nome & along the Seward shoreline.
Surf Scoter	Our boat trip produced lingering two of these sea duck pairs.
White-winged Scoter	A small flock flew by offshore by the quarry east of Nome.
Black Scoter	A flock at the Nome harbor gave us great looks at the Velvet Scoter.
Long-tailed Duck	Numerous with the best look at a striking male on a Denali kettle pond.
Bufflehead	A pair on the Peat Ponds in Fai were all we saw.
Common Goldeneye	A gorgeous male seen along the docks of Seward.
Barrow's Goldeneye	Common in the waters around Seward.
Red-breasted Merg	Pairs were observed along rivers and on ponds everywhere.
Willow Ptarmigan	Often seen perched along side all the roads in Nome.
Rock Ptarmigan	One was heard calling on a hillside outing above Cape Woolly.
Red-throated Loon	Beautiful alternate plumaged adults on small ponds throughout Nome.
Pacific Loon	Alternate plumaged adults on Safety Sound.
Common Loon	A stunning adult was on Westchester Lagoon
Yellow-billed Loon	A quick but gorgeous look at a flyover
Horned Grebe	A male on the Peat Ponds was stunning!
Red-necked Grebe	The best view was on Westchester Lagoon of nesting adults!

N. Fulmar	One dark phase seen by a few feeding with BLKi around the Chiswells.
Sooty Shearwater	A few passed by our boat out of Seward
Double-crested Corm	Numerous on Resurrection Bay out of Seward.
Pelagic Cormorant	White-thighed adults were the most common cormorant in SE Alaska.
Brandt's Cormorant	A few on the rocks along Resurrection Bay.
Red-faced Cormorant	Vibrant birds off of the Chiswell Islands out of Seward!
Osprey	Two were seen: one over Tern Lake the other over Cook Inlet
Bald Eagle	The common raptor on the trip, but stunning every time we saw one.
Northern Harrier	More common than you would think in AK, especially Denali
Red-tailed Hawk	Most common in the Fairbanks area.
Rough-legged Hawk	Seen on all three roads out of Nome.
Golden Eagle	A solo bird soaring over Camp Denali was fairly low.
N. Goshawk	One was seen by a couple of folks racing through Camp Denali
Merlin	A single individual blasted by us on the road out of Denali..
Peregrine	A gorgeous adult female of the <i>tundrius</i> race on the Council Road
Gyr Falcon	The best look at this striking falcon was in Denali at Eilson.
Sandhill Crane	Large rust and gray-colored birds were feeding at Creamer's Field.
Ruffed Grouse	One was drumming as we walked towards Smith Lake in FAI.
Black-bellied Plover	Stunning alternate plumaged birds along the road to Cape Wooley.
Am. Golden Plover	Seemed to be mostly on nearly level slopes in Nome. Gorgeous!
Pacific Golden Plover	Not as common as the above, but in the same habitat.
Semipalmated Plover	First ones seen were on Turnagain Arm in ANC.
Killdeer	A single individual on one of the kettle ponds in Denali was unexpected
Black Oystercatcher	From our boat along the Seward Peninsula.
Spotted Sandpiper	Along Safety Sound in the Nome area.
Solitary Sandpiper	A solitary individual gave us looks along side a LeYe in Denali..
Wandering Tattler	Seen by some along Betty's Brook in Denali
Greater Yellowlegs	Westchester Lagoon had a single bird along the coastal side.
Lesser Yellowlegs	First seen on Westchester Lagoon.
Whimbrel	A pair chasing a jaeger were along a dome on the Council Road in Nome
Hudsonian Godwit	Nice flocks along Turnagain Arm.
Bar-tailed Godwit	The Situk River had a solitary individual.
Black Turnstone	Best looks were on the Safety Sound.
Red Knot	A wonderful adult female in alternate plumage in the hills above Wooly.
Dunlin	This black-bellied sandpiper was on the Cape Wooley Road flying.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Their aerial displays wowed all of us. What stamina!
Western Sandpiper	Their hunch-backed territorial displays in Nome were easily recognized
Least Sandpiper	No breeding individuals, but scattered groups in Nome were present.
Red-necked Stint	Brief looks at an individual along Safety Sound.
Short-billed Dowitcher	A few seen at Potter's Marsh.
Long-billed Dowitcher	Great looks at an individual along Cook's Inlet.
Wilson's Snipe	Their aerial displays in and around Nome brought all eyes skyward.
Red-necked Phalarope	The appropriate sized pond in Nome and Denali usually had a pair.
Black-legged Kittiwake	Nesting colonies at the outlet of Resurrection Bay were a treat!

Bonaparte's Gull	On Smith Lake at UAF.
Mew Gull	Common everywhere in Alaska. The loud call resonated everywhere!
Slaty-backed Gull	A nice adult was foraging at the Nome landfill.
Herring Gull	Individuals scattered around Alaska.
Glaucous-winged Gull	Nesting colonies out on the Chiswell Islands.
Glaucous Gull	The big gull in Nome!!!
Aleutian Tern	The colony at the Bonanza bridge were back!
Arctic Tern	The "common" tern in most of our stops in Alaska.
Parasitic Jaeger	A pair were on a nest along Cape Woolly Road.
Pomeraine Jaeger	A nice adult was seen on the way to Safety Sound
Long-tailed Jaeger	The most common and agile aerial hunter in areas around Nome.
Common Murre	The "common" alcid on our boat trip thru Resurrection Bay.
Pigeon Guillemot	Not as common as the murre, but plenty of pairs on the boat trip.
Marbled Murrelet	Seen from shore in Seward quite close to shore. Great looks!
Kittlitz's Murrelet	Just outside the ice floe from the Northwestern Glacier.
Ancient Murrelet	There were a few small flocks out in the Chiswells.
Cassin's Auklet	A few flybys by the Fin Whales.
Rhinoceros Auklet	We saw them from the boat, but mostly from the back as they flew.
Horned Puffin	Abundant out by the Chiswell Islands.
Tufted Puffin	More abundant than the Horned and usually in pairs.
Rock Pigeon	In Anchorage and Fairbanks.
Belted Kingfisher	A pair of birds by the River's Edge Resort.
Downy Woodpecker	A female gathering food at Creamer's Field was one of two
N. Flicker	We had one bird calling at the Peat Ponds in FAI.
Alder Flycatcher	Calling in ANC and FAI and a few in Nome.
Say's Phoebe	Interesting to see this desert dweller along the Denali Road.
Gray Jay	Camp robbers were all around Camp Denali.
Steller's Jay	Along the roadside between Seward and Anchorage.
Black-billed Magpie	Everywhere in the lower part of the state, especially in urban areas
Northwestern Crow	Seward had their fair share of these coastal crows.
Common Raven	An incredibly adaptive bird given that it was in all habitats.
Tree Swallow	The most common of the swallows, especially in Fairbanks.
Violet-green Swallow	Loosely associated with Tree Swallow flocks in migration north.
Bank Swallow	On the Kougarok Road near Salmon Lake.
Cliff Swallow	Common in Anchorage and other areas of the state.
Barn Swallow	A few individuals as far north as Nome.
Black-capped Chickadee	In the forests of Fairbanks and Seward.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	A pair were seen by a few at Alyeska Resort.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common singers in Anchorage and Fairbanks woodlands.
Arctic Warbler	First seen in Denali , common in Nome.
N. Wheatear	Good looks at a pair on Council Road as they foraged together.
Bluethroat	Very good looks at Salmon Lake on the Kougarok Road.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Singing in most willow filled draws I the Nome area.
Swainson's Thrush	Singing birds in the woodland behind our Fairbanks hotel.
Hermit Thrush	In the Chugach National Forest campgrounds between Seward & ANC.

American Robin	Hard to miss this red-breasted singer anywhere there were fields.
Varied Thrush	Great looks in the Chugach National Forest.
European Starling	In Anchorage, Seward and Fairbanks.
E. Yellow Wagtail	Seen on all three roads out of Nome!
American Pipit	Along side the Teller Road in the Nome area.
Bohemian Waxwing	Great looks at a small flock at Smith Lake on UAF.
Orange-crowned Warbler	Bright Alaska males were singing their hearts out.
Yellow Warbler	Common where trees were available for singing.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	We only saw Myrtle's on this trip, and the males were stunning.
Townsend's Warbler	A singing male in the woodlands behind the Alyeska was all we had.
Blackpoll Warbler	Scattered here and there were these long distance migrants!
N. Waterthrush	The most robust singer of all the birds we saw in Nome area creeks.
Wilson's Warbler	Along side most creeks and rivers in Alaska, it was not uncommon.
American Tree Sparrow	Very common in the Nome area sitting atop a perch and singing.
Savannah Sparrow	Grassy fields in Alaska always had a pair for us to view.
Fox Sparrow	Bright rufous and gray birds were not shy about belting out their song
Lincoln's Sparrow	Along water courses at Creamer's Field.
Song Sparrow	This race was larger and darker than their southern races.
White-crowned Sparrow	The Gambel's race of this species was very common – everywhere.
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Stunningly bright headed individuals were everywhere in Nome.
Dark-eyed Junco	Slate-colored individuals were in woodland understory in ANC & FBK.
Lapland Longspur	Common and striking in their alternate plumage in the Nome area.
Red-winged Blackbird	A few were seen around the peat ponds in Fairbanks
Rusty Blackbird	Individuals in the Creamer's Fields in FAI was the only one we saw.
Brewer's Blackbird	Common all around Anchorage.
Common Redpoll	First seen along Turnagain Arm in ANC.
Hoary Redpoll	We found these guys on the edge of snow on Teller Road.
Pine Siskin	All over the Alyeska grounds.
English House Sparrow	In Anchorage along Cook Inlet and Westchester Lagoon.

151 TOTAL

MAMMALS

Common Muskrat	Seen building a nest along Westchester Lagoon
Beaver	A great sighting on the inlet to Wonder Lake.
Arctic Ground Squirrel	Everywhere in Nome and Denali. Essentially a bear and fox burrito.
Vole	Seen trying to cross the Teller Road.
Red Squirrel	Common around the forests of Alaska.
Arctic Hare	Along the edge of the road in Denali.
Caribou	Along the Denali Road in small herds.
Moose	The individuals we saw in Alaska were primarily in Denali NP.
Musk Ox	Groups were common in the hills in and around Nome.
Mountain Goat	We saw small numbers on the cliffs of Resurrection Bay in Seward.
Dall's Bighorn Sheep	Always on Turnagain and many herds in Denali.

Red Fox	Three different individuals on our trip.
Black Bear	Mostly on the Resurrection Bay boat trip.
Grizzly Bear	A total of seven on the Denali Road.
Gray Wolf	Near the bus leaving Denali.
N. Sea Otter	Common in Resurrection Bay fjords as we boated various inlets.
Steller Sea Lion	Large groups of this somewhat rare sea lion were hauled out on rocks.
Harbor Seal	Lots of females with pups on the glacier ice floes.
Killer Whale	Resurrection Bay had two pods of these charismatic predators.
Humpback Whale	Cow/calf pairs & bulls were sighted a number of times from the boat.
Fin Whale	One individual in Resurrection Bay.
Dall's Porpoise	Numerous animals left rooster tails around our boat.

22 TOTAL