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Alaska Bird and Mammal List
Alaska Sampler 4 June – 14 June 2014
With Nome Pre-Extension
30 May – 4 June

Extension: Greg Smith, guide with Rick & Carole, Eddie & Carol
Main Tour: Greg Smith & Kelly Vandenheuvel guides, with participants: Christine & Alex, Stephen & Karen, Ginny & Sandy, Julie & John, Carole & Rick, and Randy

2014 ALASKA BIRD LIST

Greater White-fronted Goose – A good-looking individual on the Denali kettle ponds were the best.

Brant – Late migrants were scattered along Safety Sound out of Nome.

Canada Goose – Ubiquitous anywhere in interior of Alaska with water.

Cackling Canada Goose – A small group of taverneri were on Safety Sound.

Trumpeter Swan – The best views were of nesting birds from the Anchorage-bound train.

Tundra Swan – About 75 of these birds were concentrated along Safety Sound.

Gadwall – Two males and female were feeding in Potter Marsh ANC.

American Wigeon – Not at all common this year, but usually seen in pairs.

Mallard – Not a common bird in AK, but we did find a pair here or there.

Northern Shoveler – The white belly & dark head made for easy identification in Denali

Northern Pintail – Scattered from Nome south to Denali.

Green-winged Teal – Small numbers of this handsome bird were seen in all areas of Alaska.

Greater Scaup – They were scattered all over AK.

Lesser Scaup – Two on Potter and three in the Denali kettle ponds were all we found.

Common Eider – Safety Sound in Nome had scattered pairs of these striking sea ducks..

Harlequin Duck – Fine looks of this handsome bird in Nome & on the Seward shoreline.

Surf Scoter – Three birds on Wonder Lake were our highest count. Flocks in Nome.

Black Scoter – A pair on the Denali kettle ponds gave us great looks.

Long-tailed Duck – Numerous with the best look at a striking male on a Denali kettle pond

Bufflehead – Only one bird for the trip. A male, on a Denali kettle pond.

Barrow's Goldeneye – Common in the waters around Seward and one on Wonder Lake

Red-breasted Merganser – Pairs were observed along rivers and on ponds everywhere.

Willow Ptarmigan – Often seen perched along side all the roads in Nome and in Denali.

Rock Ptarmigan – One was heard calling on a hillside on the Kougarok Road.

Red-throated Loon – Beautiful alternate plumaged adults on small ponds throughout Nome.

Pacific Loon – Alternate plumaged adults were seen along Safety Sound.

Common Loon – An adult in Denali was seen eventually swallowing an Arctic char

Red-necked Grebe – The best view was on Westchester Lagoon of nesting adults!

Double-crested Cormorant – Numerous along Resurrection Bay out of Seward.

Pelagic Cormorant – White-thighed adults were the most common cormorant out of Seward .

Brandt's Cormorant – A few on the rocks along Resurrection Bay.

Red-faced Cormorant – One bird seen flying by the boat in Seward.

Bald Eagle – The common raptor on the trip, but stunning every time we saw one.

Northern Harrier – One dive-bombing a Bald Eagle in Denaliu was very cool.

Red-tailed Hawk – Not common at all, with only three seen on the trip.

Rough-legged Hawk – Long distance look on just one road out of Nome.

Golden Eagle – Not numerous, but seen on all three days in Denali.

Gyrfalcon – The best look was an adult flying less than a 100' over our heads.

Sandhill Crane – Large rust and gray-colored birds were feeding along off of Teller Rd.

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 at Cape Wooley

Semipalmated Plover – Seen in the Nome area and two in ANC.

Black Oystercatcher – From our boat along the shores of Resurrection Bay.

Spotted Sandpiper – Also from our Resurrection Bay boat trip.

Wandering Tattler – Seen courting along the Nome River.

Greater Yellowlegs – Westchester Lagoon had a single bird along the coastal side.

Lesser Yellowlegs – Two were seen on the kettle ponds in Denali.

Whimbrel – Two single individuals in different locations in Nome.

Hudsonian Godwit – Nice flocks along Cook Inlet along the Coastal Trail.

Bar-tailed Godwit – We had three individuals at the Nome River Mouth. .

Black Turnstone – One individual in Nome was all we saw.

Dunlin – This black-bellied sandpiper was on one of the Denali kettle ponds.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – Their aerial displays wowed all of us. The common peep.

Western Sandpiper – We saw their hunch-backed aggressive displays along Safety Sound.

Least Sandpiper – No breeding individuals, but there were scattered groups in Nome.

Short-billed Dowitcher – A few seen at Potter's Marsh.

Long-billed Dowitcher – Great looks at an individual on Westchester Lagoon.

Wilson's Snipe – Their aerial displays in and around Nome & Denali were common.

Red-necked Phalarope – Any appropriate sized pond in Nome and Denali usually had a pair.

Black-legged Kittiwake – Nesting colonies at the entrance to Resurrection Bay were common

Bonaparte's Gull – A few flew along the Bering Sea coast in Nome during our first lunch.

Mew Gull – Common everywhere in Alaska, in the wilds and in cities.

Herring Gull – Individuals scattered around Alaska, mostly in Nome.

Glaucous-winged Gull – Large nesting colonies scattered near kittiwake colonies..

Glaucous Gull – The largest gull and most common gull in Nome.

Arctic Tern – The "common" tern in all of our stops in Alaska.

Parasitic Jaeger – We had a few of this small jaeger in Nome.

Pomarine Jaeger – A nice adult was seen twice along Safety Sound

Long-tailed Jaeger – The most common and agile aerial hunter in Nome and Denali.

Common Murre – The most abundant alcid during our boat trip on Resurrection Bay.

Pigeon Guillemot – Not as common as the murre, but plenty on Resurrection Bay.

Marbled Murrelet – Seen all over Resurrection Bay.

Kittlitz's Murrelet – Just outside the ice floe from the Northwestern Glacier.

Ancient Murrelet – A quick look at a small flock as we left the Holgate Glacier bay.

Rhinoceros Auklet – We had great looks on glassy water in front of Holgate Glacier..

Horned Puffin – We saw some in Resurrection Bay, maybe 50.

Tufted Puffin – More abundant than the Horned and usually in pairs.

Short-eared Owl – We had numerous sightings over some of the Denali kettle ponds

Rock Pigeon – In Homer along the spit.

Belted Kingfisher – We got to see a few of these birds in the Homer area.

Alder Flycatcher – Brief looks at a singing individual in Halibut Cove.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – Seen adjacent to Wonder Lake in Denali.

Gray Jay – Seen at Wonder Lake In Denali NP.

Steller's Jay – Seen in in various location throughout the state.

Black-billed Magpie – Everywhere in the lower part of the state, especially in urban areas.

Northwestern Crow – Seward has a large population for these coastal crows.

Common Raven – An incredibly adaptive bird given that we saw it in almost all habitats.

Tree Swallow – The most common of the swallows in Alaska.

Violet-green Swallow – Only seen in Seward and around Potter Marsh.

Bank Swallow – Seen in the hills above Homer.

Cliff Swallow – Found in Anchorage, Nome and Denali.

Black-capped Chickadee – In the forests and neighborhoods of Anchorage, Seward & Homer.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Not common always found in forested habitats.

Northern Wheatear – We got to see these long-distance migrants in Denali.

Bluethroat – Lots of very good looks on the Kougarak Road.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – Singing in just about all willow filled draws I the Nome area, Denali too.

Swainson's Thrush – Lots of singing birds in the Seward and Homer areas. Seen in Seward.

Hermit Thrush – In both the Chugach Mountains and above Homer.

American Robin – Hard to miss this thrush anywhere in Alaska.

Varied Thrush – We got to see this large North American thrush in the hills above Homer

E. Yellow Wagtail – Seen on the Kougarak Road out of Nome!

American Pipit – Seen in the passes of Denali.

Orange-crowned Warbler – The Alaskan race were singing in almost any willow habitat.

Yellow Warbler – Not as common as in previous years, but we saw lots.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – We only saw Myrtle's on this trip, with great looks at North Face.

Townsend's Warbler – Not common, but we did find them in Homer.

Blackpoll Warbler – Only a few were found this year, with most in Denali.

Northern Waterthrush – The loudest singer of all the birds we saw in Nome-area willows.

Wilson's Warbler – Any willow patch had numerous males setting up territory.

American Tree Sparrow – Very common in the Nome and less so in Denali.

Savannah Sparrow – Most common in Nome, but still a few in Denali.

Fox Sparrow – Bright rufous & gray birds in Nome w/the sooty brown race in Homer.

Song Sparrow – This race was larger & darker than their southern races, seen in Homer

White-crowned Sparrow – The Gambel's race was very common all over the state.

Golden-crowned Sparrow – Stunningly brightly-plumaged individuals were everywhere.

Dark-eyed Junco – Slate-colored individuals were singing around Westchester Lagoon.

Lapland Longspur - Common and striking in their alternate plumage in the Nome & Denali.
Rusty Blackbird - Only one individual for the trip at the Pilgrim Hot Springs.
Brewer's Blackbird – Common all around Anchorage.
Common Redpoll –First seen along Westchester Lagoon, common in Nome.
Hoary Redpoll – We found these guys on the edge of snow banks in Nome.
Pine Siskin - Only one seen with a group of redpolls in Nome.
English House Sparrow- In Anchorage in restaurant parking lots.

TOTAL 124

MAMMALS

Common Muskrat – Seen in one of the Denali kettle ponds.
Arctic Ground Squirrel – The common bear burrito in the Nome and Denali areas.
Vole, sp. – Seen scurrying in the grassy areas of Homer
Lemming – A few just outside of Teller.
Red Squirrel – Common in the forests of Alaska.
Arctic Hare – A few seen along the road in Denali.
Caribou – Seen along the Denali Road in small groups.
Moose – Only saw a half dozen on this trip.
Muskox – Groups were common on the hills in and around Nome.
Mountain Goat – We saw small numbers on the cliffs of Resurrection Bay in Seward. **Dall's**
Sheep – Many small herds on ridge lines in the passes of the Denali Road.
Red Fox – Four different individuals on our trip, two in Nome & two in Denali.
Grizzly Bear – A total of twenty on the Denali Road.
Northern Sea Otter – Common in the Resurrection Bay fjords/bays.
Steller Sea Lion – Large groups of this somewhat rare sea lion along Resurrection Bay.
Harbor Seal A few females with pups on the glacier ice flows at Holgate.
Humpback Whale – Cow/calf pairs were sighted a few of times from the boat.
Dall's Porpoise – Numerous animals left rooster tails around our boat.

TOTAL 18