

Gustavus Bird Sightings

June-July 2011

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Birds indicated as "rare" in summer on the southeast Alaska bird checklist were included here, even if they are not considered rare in summer for this area.

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A hard frost on 12 June killed new growth on some plants in exposed areas and created ice on car windows. The high temperature for the period at my cabin in town was 70 degrees.

Greater White-fronted Goose

One on 1 and 14 June with Canada Geese along the Salmon River in town. -NKD

Brant

Fourteen on 2 June with eleven, two, and one at three locations in Glacier Bay. -NKD
In the west arm of Glacier Bay (all NKD):

One hundred twenty on 4 June.

Fifty on 5 June with thirty and twenty at two locations.

Ten on 6 June.

Fifty-nine on 9 June with eighteen, forty, and one at three locations.

Forty-three on 10 June with forty and three at two locations.

Eight on 12 June.

Six on 30 June.

Eight on 15 June east of town. -NKD

Bruce Paige had sightings near town on four dates from 17-23 June with a maximum of six birds.

Twenty-seven on 25 June west of town. -NKD

Three on 9 July in the east arm of Glacier Bay. -Katie Unertl

Gadwall

Two on 4 and 10 June east of the town dock. -BBP

Ring-necked Duck

Two on 10 June with one near the airport and one east of the town dock . -BBP

Lesser Scaup

One on 27 June east of the town dock. -BBP

Long-tailed Duck

Two on 2 June, four on 4 June, one on 9, 19 and 26 June in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -NKD

Three on 17 June in lower Glacier Bay. -NKD

One on 15 July near Gustavus. -BBP

Four on 20 July in the east arm of Glacier Bay. -Katie Unertl

Red-throated Loon

A high number on 30 June with approximately thirty together in Tarr Inlet plus singles and pairs in lower parts of Glacier Bay. -NKD

Yellow-billed Loon

Two on 2 June, one on 5 and 24 June, one on 1 and 20 July in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -NKD

Four on 25 June in lower Glacier Bay. -Katie Unertl, TKM

One on 12 and 18 July east of the town dock. -BBP

One on 20 July west of the town dock. -BBP

Red-necked Grebe

One on 15 July near Gustavus. -BBP

Double-crested Cormorant

One on 12 July in Cross Sound. -Patty Rose

Osprey

One on 6 June in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -TDV, Jeff Pietka

Northern Harrier

Northern Harriers were seen regularly from 1-28 July around town, usually east of the town dock where they were likely nesting. On 21 July a male was carrying prey over the golf course flying east. -BBP, NKD

(Note: on 11 August a crying juvenile was following an adult male near the golf course. -NKD)

Red-tailed Hawks

Red-tailed Hawks were seen on occasion through the period with two being seen on some dates. -BBP, NKD, and others.

A juvenile was seen along the park road east of Bartlett Cove on several dates from mid-June through mid-July. -NKD and park employees

Red-tailed Hawks were apparently nesting near a residence in town during the second half of July at a location where they have nested in the past. -Jim Mackovjak

One light Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was in town on 29 July. -BBP

Rough-legged Hawk

One on 6 June in the west arm of Glacier Bay.-TDV, Jeff Pietka

Merlin

One on 14 June in town. -BBP

One was seen regularly in early July hunting swallows in town along the Salmon River. -
Kim Ney

One on 13 July in Bartlett Cove. -NKD

One on 25, 27, and 30 July in town. -BBP

Two calling on 29 and 30 July in town. -Rusty Yerxa, NKD

One on 30 July near the airport. -NKD

(There were at least three on 30 July.)

Peregrine Falcon

One on 15 June in the Rink Creek area east of town. -NKD

Sandhill Crane

For at least the third summer in a row, Sandhill Cranes were heard occasionally through
the period east of town in a wet meadow area. -Tania Lewis and others

It seems likely they were nesting there. On 11 August, Bruce Paige saw a juvenile and an
adult above the beach in that area.

Shorebirds

Small numbers were moving along the beaches through July.

Black-bellied Plover

One on 5 July, four on 8 July, and one on 27 July east of the town dock. -BBP

Three on 15 July near town. -BBP

Seven on 20 July west of town. -BBP

Whimbrel

Twenty on 3 June on the beach west of town. -NKD

One on 4 June in Glacier Bay's west arm. -NKD

Twenty-six on 5 June along the Salmon River. -BBP

Twenty-three on 8 June flying near the town dock. -BBP

One on five dates in June and on 21 and 28 July along Gustavus beaches. -BBP, NKD

Black Turnstone

Twenty-seven on 18 July near town. -BBP

One on 28 July west of town. -NKD

Surfbird

Two to six on five dates from 8 to 28 July near Gustavus. -BBP, NKD

Sanderling

Four on 8 June and eight on 12 June near Gustavus. -BBP

Sixty-five on 20 July west of town. -BBP

Semipalmated Sandpiper

One on 5, 6, and 12 July east of the town dock. -BBP

Pectoral Sandpiper

One to six birds on five dates from 8 June to 30 July near town. -BBP

Dunlin

One on 12 June near Gustavus. -BBP

Long-billed Dowitcher

Two to sixteen birds on fourteen dates from 2 to 29 July on Gustavus beaches. -BBP, NKD

Sabine's Gull

One juvenile on 31 July in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -NKD

California Gull

One on four dates from 21 June to 15 July near town. -BBP, NKD

Thayer's Gull

Two on 21 and 22 June near the town dock. -BBP

Four on 24 June east of the town dock. -BBP

One on 15 and 18 July near town. -BBP

Iceland Gull

One on 22 June east of the town dock. -BBP

Glaucous Gull

One on 23 June east of the town dock. -BBP

Aleutian Tern

One on 17 June and on 29 July near the entrance to the west arm of Glacier Bay. -NKD

Caspian Tern

Small numbers of Caspian Terns were seen regularly through the period along Gustavus beaches. Numbers increased gradually in July and peaked in mid-July. -BBP, NKD

Forty-one on 15 July near the mouth of the Salmon River was a new high count for adults. -BBP

Caspian Terns were also seen and heard in Glacier Bay on a number of dates through the period, although evidence of nesting has still not been found. Most of the sightings were in July. -TKM, NKD, and others

Ten on 1 July off Reid Inlet in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -TKM

At least twenty on 21 July at the Russell Cut outwash in the west arm of Glacier Bay. -David Sholar

Two Caspian Terns with colored leg bands were seen on Gustavus beaches. Both were from the Columbia River and were banded by Oregon State University researchers.

Caspian Terns from this project have been re-sighted in Gustavus and other parts of Alaska in recent years.

-One of twenty-six on 13 July was banded but was too far to get details. -NKD

-One of sixteen on 28 July was banded on East Sand Island in 2006 as a chick. -NKD
Banding information from Yasuko Suzuki.

Horned Puffin

One or two were seen regularly through the period in Glacier Bay with my maximum being five on 20 June. I saw Horned Puffins only a few times at the cliffs near the Margerie Glacier which is normally a reliable spot for them. The most I saw there during the period was four on 8 July. -NKD

Seven on 6 July were near the Marble Islands in lower Glacier Bay. -TKM

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen through the period.

The maximum was six on 23 June at Laurie Ross's house which was the only location where they were seen consistently through the period. Laurie's house is also where doves were seen through the previous winter and spring. Laurie usually saw only one or two doves during the period and sometimes up to five. -LMR

Two doves were seen at Bartlett Cove almost daily from 1-9 June. -TDV and others

One was at Bartlett Cove on about 15 June. -Wayne Clark

One was east of town in the Rink Creek area in early June. -Wayne Clark

Two were in the Beardslee Islands north of Bartlett Cove on one date in the first week of June. -Linda Lieberman

There were regular sightings of one to three doves in town at various locations through the period. -BBP, Paul Berry, and others

Great Horned Owl

Two fledglings on 23 June in the Rink Creek area. -TJ Farrell, BBP

An adult and the same two young owls were seen in the Rink Creek area from 23 June through the end of July. -TJ Farrell, Wayne Clark

Northern Pygmy-Owl

One on 19 June at the base of Excursion Ridge east of town. -BBP

Northern Saw-whet Owl

The young owls in the nest box in town fledged in early June. -NKD (See Spring Report)

On 1 June there were four chicks in the box.

The first fledged on 3 or 4 June.

A second fledged on the night of 6-7 June.

A third fledged on the night of 7-8 June.

The fourth fledged on 8 June in the evening.

One Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard on about 17 June in Fingers Cove in lower Glacier Bay. -TDV

Vaux's Swift

Two on 3 June near the airport. -BBP

Three on 30 July near the airport. -NKD

American Three-toed Woodpecker

Seen on several dates in June both in town and in Bartlett Cove. -MDS

One on 25 June in town. -BBP

Olive-sided Flycatcher

One on 10 June along the park road east of Bartlett Cove. -NKD

One on 15 June at the base of Excursion Ridge east of town. -NKD

One on 21 July near the airport. -BBP

Alder Flycatcher

One on 12 June was the first for the season, which was late. -NKD

Willow Flycatcher

One from 28 June to 1 July in the Good River neighborhood in town. -NKD, PBSV, MDS, Jim Saracco, BBP. This is the first record for the area.

Common Yellowthroat

One on 14 June was the first for the season, which was late. -BBP

Red Crossbill

Small groups heard frequently in town through the period. Juveniles heard regularly through June. -NKD

White-winged Crossbill

Seen regularly until mid-June in town. Juveniles seen in early June. -NKD

Pine Siskin

Continued to be abundant through June and into July. Juveniles seen through June.

Regular, but fewer from mid to late July. -NKD