

Classic Alaska: Birding and Wildlife Species List | June 4 – 13, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guides Dan Donaldson and Mason Flint and participants Marilyn, Norma, John and Elizabeth, Wayne, Steven and Mary, Ann, Randy and Peggy, Christine and Richard, and Yvonne

Tour Summary: Classic Alaska! This tour visited three classic locations in the central region of Alaska – Anchorage, Nome, and Seward. In Anchorage we hiked the Coastal Trail along Cooks Inlet to the famous Westchester lagoons where Loons, Arctic Terns, and Red-necked Grebes nest in plain view and made several trips to Potter Marsh. In nearby Eagle River, we experienced the amazingly beautiful Eagle River Valley where we explored the temperate rain forest for birds (crossbills, woodpeckers, and more), megafauna such as moose, Dall sheep and scanned the mountain sides for Grizzly.

In Nome we spent 3 days exploring this gold-rush town and its three classic birding routes – Council, Teller, and Kougarak Roads with habitats ranging from low coastal plains to the snow-capped Kigluaik mountain range. We had incredible birding experiences at Safety Sound, Railroad to Nowhere, Coffee Dome, and we easily observed breeding behaviors of numerous sandpipers and plovers, Blue-throats, Wagtails, Dippers, along with daily run-ins with Muskox and Moose.

Seward is in the land of glaciers and the Kenai Fjords National Park. Here we boarded the Viewfinder for a day long excursion out through the Chiswell Islands to the beautiful Northwestern Fjord and glacier. Orca, Humpbacks, seals, sea otters, Dall's Porpoise were all easily seen and photographed here along with Horned and Tufted Puffins, auklets, eagles and falcons as we made our way through the fjords to the stunning Northwestern Glacier. We visited the Alaska Sealife Center, local birding hotspots Ava's feeders, the Seward Airport mudflats and Bear Creek Weir.

BIRDS: 128 species were recorded

The eBird link below details the 126 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.

[Classic Alaska: Birding and Wildlife | June 4-13, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS

MAMMALS (16):

Short-tailed Weasel *Mustela richardsonii*

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Ringed Seal *Pusia hispida*

Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Steller's Sea Lion *Eumetopias jubatus*
Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris*
Moose *Alces alces*
Mountain Goat *Oreamnos americanus*
Dall Sheep *Ovis dallii*
Muskox *Ovibos moschatus*
Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*
Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*
Dall's Porpoise *Phocoenoides dalli*
Snowshoe Hare *Lepus americanus*
Arctic Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus parryii*
Beaver *Castor canadensis*
Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*