

Bird Checklists of the United States

Birds of Glacier Bay National Park and Reserve



Gustavus, Alaska

Give Birds and Wildlife a Helping Hand

Hike and camp only on the mainland or forested islands. Treeless islands attract nesting sea birds from May 1 to September 1.

Be informed of federal regulations closing North and South Marble Islands, Lone Island, Sealer's Island and islets south of Russell Island to foot traffic during the above period.

Navigate boats around flocks of waterbirds. Many species, including loons, scoters, and Canada geese are flightless during moult and vulnerable to predators and human disturbance.

Photograph all wildlife at a distance.

This is a list of the 223 bird species found to date in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The park contains 5130 square miles, including both inland and offshore marine waters, rain forest, muskeg, alder/cottonwood thicket, alpine meadow and glacial barrens.

Each bird species has distinct seasonal patterns, but birds are generally most abundant from May 1 to mid-September. Sea bird colonies hatch young by late June, and are largely vacated by September 1.

Common names and taxonomic order in this booklet follow those established by the American Ornithologist's Union, 1983.

Fifteen Recommended Birding Locations

NEAR PARK HEADQUARTERS: Forest, beach meadow, and tidal flats attract many birds species, particularly during migration. Rain forest species include the three-toed woodpecker, often seen near Blackwater Pond. Shorebirds, waterfowl, and eagles use beaches. Gulls, diving ducks, and alcids feed near shore. BARTLETT COVE, BARTLETT RIVER ESTUARY, GUSTAVUS, BEARDSLEE ISLANDS.

ISLAND AND CLIFF SEABIRD COLONIES: Isolated islands offer refuge from land predators. Large numbers of glaucous-winged gulls nest near tufted and horned puffins, guillemots, and oystercatchers. Since such colonies are sensitive to human disturbance, many are closed to landings. MARBLE, LONE, SOUTH RUSSELL ISLANDS AND CLIFFS SOUTH OF MARGERIE GLACIER.

REMOTE INLETS: Tidal flats and shallow waters in these areas attract a large number and variety of waterfowl. ADAMS INLET, HUGH MILLER INLET, DUNDAS BAY.

MARINE FEEDING SITES: Tidal currents and turbulence at certain locations stir food organisms to the surface for feeding sea birds. POINT CAROLUS, POINT GUSTAVUS, SITAKADAY NARROWS.

Special Glacier Bay Bird Notes

Thousands of Vancouver Canada geese molt in secluded Glacier Bay Inlets. Flightless flocks linger from mid-July through August.

Among North America's most southerly nesting colonies of both the black-legged kittiwake and the Aleutian tern are in the Park.

Tufted and horned puffins are oceanic species that nest in Glacier Bay, but rarely elsewhere in Southeast Alaska's inland marine waters.

Over 50 active bald eagle nest were counted in the Park in 1982.

The most numerous local birds may be the common murre in the winter and the red-necked phalarope in late summer. Over 15,000 of each have been counted in concentrated flocks.

Kittlitz's and marbled murrelets are common summer residents yet no nests in the Park have been found.

A Bird to Watch For

The Kittlitz's murrelet reaches the southern part of its summer range at Glacier Bay. In few other places can this species be seen as easily as here.

Look for it from the Marble Islands northward in Glacier Bay, where it can be told from the similar marbled murrelet by its lighter coloring, white outer tail feathers which are spread when flushing, and tendency to "hop" from the water then skip several times prior to flight. The marbled murrelet instead generally uses a "plow and skip" method for take off.

Key to Bird Status

- a--Abundant
- c--Common
- u--Uncommon
- r--Rare (but regular)
- v--Very rare (few records)
- +--Casual (slightly out of range)
- *--Accidental (far out of range)

Key to Locations

- W.....Gulf of Alaska, Cross Sound, Pacific Coast
- N.....Glacier Bay north of Muir Point plus alpine
- S.....South of Muir Point, including Icy Strait
- E.....Excellent chance to see (90+% of field days)
- G.....Good chance to see (50-89% of field days)
- s.....Some chance to see (10-49% of field days)
- i.....Numbers vary greatly from year to year
- #.....Nests or unfledged young found
- ?.....Nesting suspected

Chance to see percentages are estimated for seasons of greatest species abundance.

W	N	S		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
			Loons														
E	E	E	#	___	Red-throated Loon	r	r	u	u	a	u	u	a	u	u	r	r
E	E	E		___	Pacific Loon	u	u	u	u	a	v	v	a	u	u	u	u
E	E	E	?	___	Common Loon	u	u	u	a	a	c	c	a	u	u	u	u
				___	Yellow-billed Loon	r	r	r	r	v	v	v	r	r	r	r	r
E	E	E		___	Horned Grebe	c	c	c	u	v		v	u	u	c	c	
G	G	G		___	Red-necked Grebe	u	u	u	u	u	v	u	u	u	u	u	u
				___	Western Grebe						+		+				

W	N	S		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			Pelagic Species												
s			___	Black-footed Albatross						v	v				
s			___	Northern Fulmar				v			u	u	u		
s			___	Pink-footed Shearwater			v	v	v	v	v	v			
G	s		___	Sooty Shearwater						r	c	c	r		
			___	Short-tailed Shearwater								+	+		
G	s	#	___	Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	+	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	+		+
			?	___	Leach's Storm-Petrel			+	+						

W N S

Geese		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
G s	___ Double-crested Cormorant	v	v	v	v	u	r	r	u	u	v	v	v
E E E #	___ Pelagic Cormorant	c	c	c	c	a	a	a	a	c	c	c	c
	___ Amercian Bittern							+	+				
s s s #	___ Great Blue Heron	r	r	r	u	u	r	u	u	u	r	r	r
	___ Great Egret							+					
G s s	___ Tundra Swan	v	v	v	v	c			c	c	v	v	v
	___ Trumpeter Swan				v	v			v	v		v	
G s s	___ Greater White-fronted Goose				v	r	r	v	r	r	v		
G s	___ Snow Goose				r	r			v	r	r	r	
	___ Emperor Goose	+						+					
s s	___ Brant			r	r	r	r			v			v
E G E #	___ Canada Goose	u	u	u	u	a	u	u	u	u	u	u	u

W N S Ducks		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E G E #	___ Green-winged Teal	u	u	u	c	a	c	u	c	a	c	u	u
	___ American Black Duck	*		*									*
E E E #	___ Mallard	c	c	c	a	a	c	c	a	a	c	c	c
E E E #	___ Northern Pintail	v	v	v	u	c	u	u	c	c	u	u	v
	___ Blue-winged Teal				v	r	v		v				
	___ Cinnamon Teal					v							
s s s ?	___ Northern Shoveler	v			v	r	r	v	v	r	r	v	v
s	___ Gadwall	v	v	v	v	u		v	v	v	v		v
	___ Eurasian Wigeon	+			+		+				+	+	+
E G E	___ American Wigeon	u	u	u	c	a	u	u	c	a	c	u	u
	___ Canvasback	v			v	r				v	v	v	v
	___ Redhead					+	+				+		
	___ Ring-necked Duck				v	v					v	v	
s s	___ Greater Scaup	v			v	r	r	v			r	r	v
s s s #	___ Lesser Scaup				v	v	r	r			v	v	
#	___ Common Eider					v	v	v	v	v	v		v
	___ King Eider				v	v	v	v					
E G E #	___ Harlequin Duck	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
G E E ?	___ Oldsquaw	a	a	a	c	c	u	u	u	u	a	a	a
s	___ Black Scoter	r	r	r	r	r	r	v	v	v	v	v	r
E E E	___ Surf Scoter	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
E E E	___ White-winged Scoter	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
G s G	___ Common Goldeneye	u	u	u	v	v	v	v			v	v	u
E E E	___ Barrow's Goldeneye	a	a	a	a	a	c	c	u	c	a	a	a
E E E	___ Bufflehead	a	a	a	a	a	u	v	v	v	a	a	a
s #	___ Hooded Merganser	r	r	r	r	v	v	v	v	v	r	r	r
E E E #	___ Common Merganser	u	u	u	u	u	c	a	a	a	u	u	u
E E E #	___ Red-breasted Merganser	c	c	c	c	c	u	u	u	c	c	c	c

W N S Hawks and Eagles		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	___ Osprey			v	v	v			v	v	v		
E E E #	___ Bald Eagle	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
G G G	___ Northern Harrier	v			r	r	v	v	v	v	v	v	v
s s s #	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk			v	v	r	r	v	v	r	r	v	v
s s #	___ Northern Goshawk	r	r	r	r	r	v	v	v	v	r	r	r
	___ Swainson's Hawk		v	v		v			v	v	v		v
s s #	___ Red-tailed Hawk				v	u	u	u	u	v	v		v
	___ Rough-legged Hawk				v	v	v	v	v		v	v	
	___ Golden Eagle		v		v	v	v	v			v		
	___ American Kestrel		v		v	v	v			v			
s s	___ Merlin					r	v	v	r	r	r	v	
s s #	___ Peregrine Falcon	v	v		v	r	v	v	r	v	v	v	v

W N S Grouse		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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E	E #	Blue Grouse	v	v	r	c	c	c	c	r	v	v	v
G	#	Willow Ptarmigan	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r
s	#	Rock Ptarmigan						r	r	r	r	r	r
s	#	White-tailed Ptarmigan	r	r	r	r	r	r	r				r
		American Coot									v	v	
E s G		Sandhill Crane			c	r	v	v		c	r	v	v

W N S

Shorebirds			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
G s G		Black-bellied Plover				r	r	v		r	v	v		
G s G		Lesser Golden-Plover					r			r	r	v	v	
G G G #		Semipalmated Plover				r	u	u	u	u	r			
s s s ?		Killdeer	v		v	r	r	r	r	r	v	v		v
G E G #		American Black Oystercatcher		v	v	c	c	c	c	c	v	v		v
E E E #		Greater Yellowlegs				r	c	u	u	c	r	v		
G s s #		Lesser Yellowlegs				v	r	r	v	r	v			
	#	Solitary Sandpiper					v	v	v	r				
s s s		Wandering Tattler					r	r	r	r	r			
G G G #		Spotted Sandpiper					u	c	c	c	u	r		
		Upland Sandpiper						+	+					
s s		Whimbrel				v	r	v		v				
		Bristle-thighed Curlew					+							
		Hudsonian Godwit					v			v				
		Bar-tailed Godwit						*			*			
		Marbled Godwit					v	v						
s s		Ruddy Turnstone	v			v	v		r	r	v		v	
s s		Black Turnstone				v	v	v	v	v	v	v		
s s		Surfbird				v	r	r	r	r	v	v	v	
		Red Knot					v							
s s		Sanderling	r	r			v		v	r	r	v	r	r
		Semipalmated Sandpiper					v	r	v	v	v			
E E E		Western Sandpiper					v	u	v	u	v			
		Rufous-necked Stint							+					
E E E #		Least Sandpiper					v	u	c	u	c	v		
		Baird's Sandpiper						v		v	v			
s s		Pectoral Sandpiper						r		v	r	v	v	
G s G		Rock Sandpiper	u	u	u	u	u	v	v	v	v	v	v	u
E G E		Dunlin					v	u	v		v	v	v	
		Buff-breasted Sandpiper								+				
G s G		Short-billed Dowitcher					v	u	u		v	v	v	
G s G		Long-billed Dowitcher					v	u	u		v	v	v	
G s G #		Common Snipe	v	v	v	v	v	u	u	u	u	u	v	v
E E E		Red-necked Phalarope				v	v	u	c	c	a	c	u	
		Red Phalarope						+		+	+			
		Pomarine Jaeger								v	v	v	v	
s s G #		Parasitic Jaeger						v	u	u	u	r	v	
		Long-tailed Jaeger							v	v		v		v
		South Polar Skua										*		

W N S

Gulls			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
E E E		Bonaparte's Gull					v	u	c	c	a	a	c	c	v
E E E #		Mew Gull	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
s G s #		Herring Gull	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	
	?	Thayer's Gull	v			v	v	v				v	v	v	
E E E #		Glaucous Winged Gull	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
		Glaucous Gull					v					v			
E E E #		Black-legged Kittiwake				v	u	c	c	c	c	u	r	v	
		Ross' Gull											*		
		Sabine's Gull					v	v	v	v	r	r			
		Ivory Gull								*					

W N S	Sparrows and Allies	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
s E s #	___ Golden-crowned Sparrow				v	a	a	u	u	v	v	v	
	___ White-crowned Sparrow					v			v	v	v		
G s G #	___ Dark-eyed Junco	r	r	r	u	u	u	c	c	u	r	r	r
s s s	___ Lapland Longspur			v	r	r			r	u	r	v	v
	___ Smith's Longspur								+				
G #	___ Snow Bunting	r	r	r	r	u	u	u	u	r	r	r	r
s #	___ Red-winged Blackbird					v	r	r	r	v			
	___ Rusty Blackbird	v	v				r	r	r	v			v
s s s	___ Brown-headed Cowbird					r	v	v	v	r			
s G #	___ Rosy Finch		v	v	u	u	c	c	c	r			
s s s #	___ Pine Grosbeak	r	r	r			r	r	r	r	r	r	r
i i	___ Red Crossbill	r	r	r	r	r		v	v	v	v	r	r
i i	___ White-winged Crossbill	v	v	r	r	r		v	v	r	r	r	v
G #	___ Common Redpoll	r	r	r	r	u	c	c	c	u	u	r	r
	___ Hoary Redpoll						+						
i i i #	___ Pine Siskin	v	v	v	v	r	r	u	a	c	r	v	v

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Please help refine and add to this list by reporting noteworthy observations with details to: Chief Naturalist, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Gustavus, AK 99826

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