

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alaska Peninsula and Becharof

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Bird List



Covering approximately 4.6 million acres (larger than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined), the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge includes an immense variety of

habitats and is home to more than 200 species of birds. Established in 1980, the Refuge conserves fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity.



Peregrine Falcon
©Rod Cyr



Introduction

The Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge is a long, thin refuge; reaching from the Gulf of Alaska coast, over the Aleutian Mountains and a number of large inland lakes, to the middle of the Bristol Bay Coastal Plain. The Refuge stretches from the Katmai National Park's southern boundary to American Bay on the Gulf of Alaska and Port Moller on the Bristol Bay coast, and is interrupted by Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. Becharof Lake, completely within Becharof NWR, is the largest lake in the wildlife refuge system. The landscape is shaped by the Pacific Ocean, active volcanoes and glaciers, meandering rivers and sub-arctic weather cells. Habitats include near-shore marine, coastal shores and cliffs, alpine tundra, forest, shrub and a mostly treeless tundra/shrubland/wetland complex at lower elevations.

This diversity of the Refuge's landforms and habitats contributes to a diverse avifauna. Starting at the Gulf of Alaska, coastal waters support a variety of seabirds, other cliff dependent species, and wintering waterfowl. The land rises sharply to the Aleutian Mountains, where alpine species of landbirds, shorebirds, cliff nesting raptors, and the elusive Kittlitz's Murrelet find homes. The mountains fall to shrub covered hills and large glacially formed lakes, surrounded by shrub and cottonwood forest in the south and spruce/birch forest in the north. These provide habitat for another suite of waterbirds, landbirds, and raptors. The boreal species associated with spruce forests are found mostly north of the Becharof boundary. The land gradually falls to the Bristol

Bay lowlands; which are covered in wetlands, meadows, and dwarf shrub and crossed by meandering rivers. These provide nesting grounds for waterfowl, waterbirds, cranes, shorebirds, landbirds, and some raptors. An isolated population of Marbled Godwit nests in and near the Ugashik River drainage. Continuing northeast to the Bering Sea coast, huge tides build large tidal flats that are visited by migrating birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds, in spring and fall.

Another contributor to high species diversity is the fact that the Alaska Peninsula is a crossroads for both North America and Pacific migrations. While many species come here to breed, others move here for the winter. Sometimes accidentals from Asia or southern North America may also be encountered by the astute birder.

Bird Viewing

Wildlife viewers benefit from patience, skill, a good pair of binoculars or spotting scope, a notebook, and bird book. Make observations first, and then check the book or bird list. While songbirds are best detected in the morning in spring, other species may be viewed throughout the day. Shorebird abundance on the marine coast is often dictated by tide level. To assist the bird viewer, the likely region/habitat where species are most commonly found is noted. The Refuge covers a vast area with few modern conveniences such as roads, and birding on the Alaska Peninsula can be challenging because of the difficult access to areas outside the village road corridors and the limited window of timing of some species. Advanced planning is needed, especially for targeted species. To better plan your trip a general idea of abundance is given by season.

Brown bears may be found anywhere in this area during spring, summer and fall. Read brochures on bear safety, get tips from the Visitor Centers, or talk to knowledgeable staff about how to stay safe. Travel in groups of more than two if possible, and let people know where you are headed.

Unusual Sightings

Because this is such a huge area and has only been a refuge since 1980, information for some regions, and especially for the winter months, is very spotty. Please report sightings of species not on the list (including a photo if possible) to the Refuge Manager (address on back cover). Please report nests or recently fledged young for species not marked as breeders. Also report species observed outside of a marked season. Reports should include location, date, notes, and observer's name and contact information.

*Gray-crowned
Rosy-finch*

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Dewhurst



KEY

- denotes a species that is known to breed in this area
- c common—species occurs regularly in suitable habitat and often in large numbers
- u uncommon—species occurs fairly regularly in suitable habitat, but in small numbers or distribution is irregular
- r rare—species occurs regularly, but in very small numbers and not often seen
- a accidental—species occurs a few times every 50 years
- i irruptive—species cyclic and dependent on a specific resource
- d domestic flocks

Abundance

Key source: Incidental Bird Records - Alaska Peninsula, Rare Bird Reports - Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR; Ruthrauff et al. 2007: Katmai Inventory.

KEY cont.

- Habitats/Regions**
- G Gulf of Alaska - waters within 1/2 mile of shore, shores and rocky cliffs
 - M Mountains - elevations above 1000' often dominated by dwarf shrub
 - F Boreal Forest Region (Katmai, King Salmon)
 - L Low elevation tundra, wetland and shrub including Bristol Bay Coastal Plain, rivers, and freshwater lakes south of Katmai
 - B Bering Sea Coast (Bristol Bay), shore-line and bluffs
- Seasons**
- Sp Spring (mid March - May)
 - S Summer (June - mid August)
 - F Fall (mid August - October)
 - W Winter (November - Mid March)

Birds of Alaska Peninsula/ Becharof NWR

COMMON NAME	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Waterfowl					
Bean Goose	B		a		
Greater White-fronted Goose•	B,L,F,G	c	u	c	
Emperor Goose	G,B	c		c	u
Snow Goose	B	r		r	
Brant	G,B,L	u	c		
Cackling Goose•?	B,L,F,G	u	u	c	
Canada Goose (Lesser)	B,L,G	u		c	
Trumpeter Swan•?	F	u	r	r	r
Tundra Swan•	F,L	c	c	u	r
Gadwall•	L,F,B,G	u	u	u	
Eurasian Wigeon	L,F	u		r	
American Wigeon•	L,F,B,G	c	c	c	
Mallard•	L,F,B,G	c	c	c	r
Blue-winged Teal•	G,F	r	r	r	
Cinnamon Teal	F	a			
Northern Shoveler•	F,L,B	c	u	u	
Northern Pintail•	F,L,B,G	c	c	c	
Garganey	L	a			
Baikal Teal	F	a			
Green-winged Teal•	F,L,B,G	c	c	c	

Waterfowl, continued after map

Togiak NWR

Kukaklek Lake

KATMAI
NATIONAL PARK
AND PRESERVE

Naknek
South Naknek
King Salmon

Egegik

Becharof
NWR

Pilot
Point

Ugashik

Alaska
Peninsula
NWR

Kodiak NWR

State Critical
Habitat Areas

Port
Heiden

ANIAKCHAK
NATIONAL
MONUMENT
AND PRESERVE

Gulf of Alaska

Port
Moller

Alaska
Peninsula
NWR

Chignik
Lake

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik
Bay

Ivanof
Bay Perryville

Alaska Peninsula/ Becharof *National Wildlife Refuge*

Legend

- National Wildlife Refuges (USFWS)
- Becharof Wilderness
- National Parks, Monuments, and Preserves (NPS)
- State Conservation Areas
- Private Lands within Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR
- Other State, Borough and Private Lands
- Refuges Headquarters

Fairbanks

Anchorage

Juneau

Steller's Eiders



COMMON NAME

Waterfowl, continued

	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Canvasback	F,L,B	r		r	
Redhead	F,B	r		r	
Ring-necked Duck •	F	r	r	r	
Tufted Duck	F	a			
Greater Scaup •	B,G,L,F	c	c	c	u
Lesser Scaup	B	a			
Steller's Eider	B,G,L	c		c	c
Spectacled Eider	B	r		r	
King Eider	B,G	u		u	u
Common Eider •?	B	u	r	u	r
Harlequin Duck •	ALL	u	u	u	u
Surf Scoter	G,B,L	u	r	c	u
White-winged Scoter •?	B,G,L,F	c	u	c	u
Black Scoter •	B,G,L,F	c	c	c	c
Long-tailed Duck •	B,G,L	c	r	u	c
Bufflehead	G,B,F,L	r		r	r
Common Goldeneye •	F,L,B,G	c	r	u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye	L,B,F	r	r	r	r
Hooded Merganser	F	a			
Common Merganser •	F,L,B,G	c	r	u	c
Red-breasted Merganser •	B,G,L,F	c	c	c	r

Game Birds

Spruce Grouse •	F	u	u	u	u
Willow Ptarmigan •	L,M	c	c	c	u
Rock Ptarmigan •	M	u	u	u	u
White-tailed Ptarmigan •	M	r	r	r	r

Loons and Grebes

Red-throated Loon •	F,L,B,G	u	u	r	r
Arctic Loon	B		a		
Pacific Loon •	G,B,L,F	r	u	u	r
Common Loon •	G,L,F,B	c	c	u	r
Yellow-billed Loon	L,F,G			r	r
Horned Grebe	L,F,G,B	u	u	u	r
Red-necked Grebe •	G,L,F,B	u	u	u	r



*Willow
Ptarmigan*

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COMMON NAME

Tube-nose (Seabirds)/ Other Waterbirds

	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Northern Fulmar	G,B	r	r	u	
Sooty Shearwater	G,B	r	r	u	
Short-tailed Shearwater	G,B	r	u	u	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	G,B	r	r	u	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	G,B	r	r	r	
Double-crested Cormorant •	G,B,L,F	u	c	u	r
Red-faced Cormorant •	G,B	u	c	u	r
Pelagic Cormorant •	G,B	u	c	u	r
Great Egret	L		a		

Hawks, Eagles, Falcons

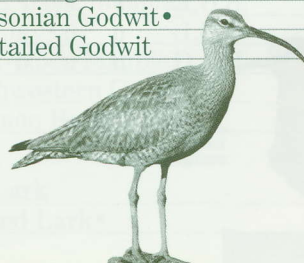
Osprey •	F,L	u	u	u	
Bald Eagle •	ALL	c	c	c	c
Northern Harrier •	L,F,G,B	u	u	u	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	F,L,G	r	r	r	r
Northern Goshawk •	F,L	r	r	r	r
Red-tailed Hawk	F,L	a		a	
Rough-legged Hawk •	M,L,G	u	u	u	
Golden Eagle •	M,G	u	u	r	r
American Kestrel	F	a			
Merlin •	F,L,B,G	u	u	u	r
Gyr Falcon •	G,B,M	r	r	r	r
Peregrine Falcon •	ALL	r	r	r	r

Cranes and Allies

American Coot	F			a	
Sandhill Crane •	L,F,B	c	c	c	

Shorebirds

Black-bellied Plover •	B,M,L	c	u	c	
American Golden-Plover •	M,B	u	u	u	
Pacific Golden-Plover •	B,L,G	u	u	u	
Lesser Sand-plover	B			a	
Semipalmated Plover •	L,F,G,B	u	u	u	
Black Oystercatcher •	G	u	u	u	u
Spotted Sandpiper •	F,L	r	u	r	
Solitary Sandpiper •	F	r			
Wandering Tattler •	M,G,L	u	u	u	
Greater Yellowlegs •	F,L,G	c	c	u	
Lesser Yellowlegs •	F	u	u	r	
Wood Sandpiper	B		a		
Whimbrel •	M,B,G	u	c	c	
Bristle-thighed Curlew	B	r		r	
Hudsonian Godwit •	F,B	u	u	u	
Bar-tailed Godwit	B	u		u	



Whimbrel
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Shorebirds, continued next page

COMMON NAME	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Shorebirds, continued					
Marbled Godwit•	B,L	u	u	u	
Ruddy Turnstone	B	u	r	u	
Black Turnstone•	B,L,G	u	r	u	
Surfbird•	M,G,B,L	r	r	r	
Red Knot	B,L	r		r	
Sanderling	G,B,L	r		r	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	B,G,L,M	r		r	
Western Sandpiper•	B,G,L	c	u	c	
Red-necked Stint	B		a		
Least Sandpiper•	L,G,B	c	c	u	
Baird's Sandpiper•	M,B,G	u	u	r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	B,G		r	r	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	B			r	
Rock Sandpiper•	B,G,L,M	u	u	u	u
Dunlin•	B,L,G	c	c	c	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	B,G	r		r	
Short-billed Dowitcher•	B,L,F	c	c	c	
Long-billed Dowitcher	B	r		r	
Wilson's Snipe•	L,F	c	c	u	
Wilson's Phalarope	L			a	
Red-necked Phalarope•	L,F,B,G	u	c	r	
Red Phalarope	B	a		a	

Gulls and Terns

Black-legged Kittiwake•	G,B,L	c	c	u	r
Red-legged Kittiwake	G,B		a		
Sabine's Gull•	B,L	u	u	u	
Bonaparte's Gull•	B,F,L,G	u	c	c	
Black-headed Gull	B	r	r	r	
Black-tailed Gull	G		a		
Mew Gull•	B,L,G,F	c	c	c	u
Ring-billed Gull	B	a			
Western Gull	B	a	a		
Herring Gull	G,L,B	r		r	r
Slaty-backed Gull	G,L,B		r	r	
Glaucous-winged Gull•	G,B,L	c	c	c	c
Glaucous Gull	G,B	u		u	r
Aleutian Tern•	B,L	u	u	u	
Caspian Tern	L		a		
Common Tern				a	
Arctic Tern•	B,L,F,G	c	c	u	

Jaegers

Pomarine Jaeger	B,G,L	r	r	r	
Parasitic Jaeger•	B,G,L	u	u	u	
Long-tailed Jaeger•	B,L,G	u	u	u	

Aleutian Tern
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seeingbirds.com

COMMON NAME	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Alcids					
Common Murre•	G,B	c	c	c	u
Thick-billed Murre•	G	u	u	u	u
Pigeon Guillemot•	G	u	u	u	u
Marbled Murrelet•	G,M,L,F	u	u	u	u
Kittlitz's Murrelet•	G,B,M	u	u	u	u
Ancient Murrelet•?	G,L		r	r	
Cassin's Auklet	G			r	
Parakeet Auklet	G		r		
Horned Puffin•	G,B	u	c	u	u
Tufted Puffin•	G,B	u	c	u	u

Tufted Puffin
©Donna Dewhurst



Pigeons & Cuckoos

Rock Pigeon	L	d	d	d	d
Common Cuckoo	L		a		

Owls

Great Horned Owl•	F,L	u	u	u	u
Snowy Owl	L	r	r	r	r
Northern Hawk Owl•	F	r	r	r	u
Short-eared Owl•	L,B,G	u	u	u	
Boreal Owl•	F	u	u	u	r
Northern Saw-whet Owl•	F,L	r	r	r	r

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers

Rufous Hummingbird	L		a	a	
Belted Kingfisher•	FL	u	u	u	r
Downy Woodpecker•	FL	r	u	u	r
Hairy Woodpecker	L			a	
American Three-toed Woodpecker•	F	r	u	u	r
Northern Flicker•	F,M,B		a	a	

Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher	F		a		
Western Wood-Pewee	L			a	
Alder Flycatcher•	FL		u		
Say's Phoebe	FL		r	r	

Shrikes

Northern Shrike•	F,L	u	u	u	u
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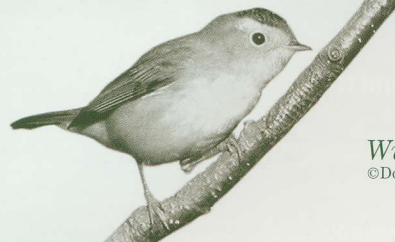
Crows, Jays, Magpies

Gray Jay•	F	u	u	u	u
Black-billed Magpie•	FL	c	c	c	c
Northwestern Crow•	G	r	r	r	r
Common Raven•	all	c	c	c	c

Larks

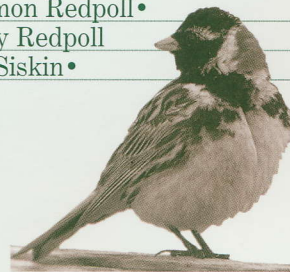
Sky Lark	M		a		
Horned Lark•	M,G,L	u	u	r	

COMMON NAME	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Swallows					
Tree Swallow•	F,L	c	c		
Violet-green Swallow•	F,L	u	u		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	G		r		
Bank Swallow•	F,L	c	c		
Cliff Swallow•	F,L	r	r		
Barn Swallow•	F,L	r	r		
Chickadees and Nuthatches					
Black-capped Chickadee•	F,L,M	c	c	c	c
Boreal Chickadee•	F	u	u	u	u
Red-breasted Nuthatch•	F	r		r	r
Creepers, Wrens, Dippers					
Brown Creeper•	F	r		r	r
Winter Wren•	G,B,F			r	
American Dipper•	M,F,L	u	u	u	r
Kinglets					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	F	r	r	r	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet•	F	u	u	r	
Old World Warblers, and Thrushes					
Arctic Warbler•?	F	r	r		
Townsend's Solitaire	L			a	
Gray-cheeked Thrush•	F,L	c	c	u	
Swainson's Thrush•	F	c	c	u	
Hermit Thrush•	F,L	c	c	u	
American Robin•	F,L	c	c	c	
Varied Thrush•	F	u	u	r	
Starlings					
European Starling	F			a	
Wagtails, Pipits and Waxwings					
Eastern Yellow Wagtail•	B	u	u	r	
White Wagtail	F		a		
Olive-backed Pipit	L		a		
American Pipit•	L,M,G	u	c	c	
Bohemian Waxwing•	F	r	r	r	
Wood Warblers					
Tennessee Warbler	L			a	
Orange-crowned Warbler•	L,F	u	c	r	
Yellow Warbler•	L,F	r	c	r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler•	F	u	c	r	
Townsend's Warbler	L			a	
Blackpoll Warbler•	F	u	c	r	
Northern Waterthrush•	F	r	u	r	
Wilson's Warbler•	L,F	u	c	r	



Wilson's Warbler
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COMMON NAME	Habitat	Sp	S	F	W
Sparrows					
American Tree Sparrow•	L,F	c	c	c	
Chipping Sparrow	L			a	
Savannah Sparrow•	L,F,M	u	c	u	
Fox Sparrow•	L,F	c	c	c	
Song Sparrow•	G	r	u	u	r
Lincoln's Sparrow•	F	r	u	r	
White-crowned Sparrow•	L,F	c	c	u	r
Golden-crowned Sparrow•	L,F	c	c	u	r
Dark-eyed Junco•	F	u	u	u	r
Longspurs and Buntings					
Lapland Longspur•	L,M	c	c	u	
Snow Bunting•	M,L,F	c	c	u	u
McKay's Bunting	L				u
Blackbirds					
Rusty Blackbird•	F	r	u	r	
Brewer's Blackbird	F			a	
Brown-headed Cowbird	F			a	
Brambling	L		a		
Finches					
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch•	M	u	c	c	r
Pine Grosbeak•	F,L	u	u	u	u
White-winged Crossbill•	F	i	i	i	i
Common Redpoll•	L,F,M	c	c	c	c
Hoary Redpoll	L, F	r	r	r	r
Pine Siskin•	F	r	r	r	r



Lapland Longspur
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Species names and taxonomic order follow the *Seventh American Ornithologist's Union, 1998. Checklist of North American Birds, 2009. 50th Supplement (2009).*

Acknowledgements

We thank the many professional ornithologists and amateur observers who have contributed information for this list. This list is a work in progress and we hope observers continue to contribute information to improve the accuracy of the list.

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Department of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
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**Front Cover: in Alaska
the Marbled Godwit
nests only from Ugashik
to Cinder River.**

Dan Ruthrauff/USGS