

Fall Gustavus and Glacier Bay Bird Sightings

August - November 2014

Nat Drumheller, natdrumheller@hotmail.com

Contributors: Paul Barnes (PB), Elyse Derbes (ED), Janene Driscoll (JD), Nat Drumheller (NKD), Julie Howell (JYH), Jeff Jarvis (JJ), Dave Lesh (DL), Bruce Paige (BBP), Jim Saracco (JFS), Lewis Sharman (LS), Chuck Susie (CPS), Phoebe Vanselow (PBSV), Julie Vathke (JV)

Bruce Paige left Gustavus on about September 8. Nat Drumheller returned to Gustavus on 22 September.

Lake Gustavus, the Duck Pond, and the Gravel Pits are small ponds near the airport.

Cackling Goose

Eight were present from 12 September to 10 November, usually around the golf course and often with four Greater White-fronted Geese. -BBP, NKD

Nine were west of Dude Creek on 6 October. -NKD

Eurasian Wigeon

One on 3 and 4 November on the Salmon and Good rivers. -NKD

One on 7 and 10 November on the Duck Pond. -NKD

Two on 8 November at the mouth of the airport ditch east of town. -NKD

One on 24 and 25 November at Lake Gustavus. -NKD, JYH

Always rare, Eurasian Wigeon is usually seen in spring, so this was a lot of sightings for fall.

Blue-winged Teal

Two on the Duck Pond 22-30 September. -NKD

Cinnamon Teal

Three on 24 August on the Duck Pond. -BBP

Ring-necked Duck

Seventy were on Bartlett Lake from 6-20 November, and thirty-nine were still there on 28 November when the lake was 90% frozen over. -NKD

Long-tailed Duck

At least six thousand on 11 and 12 November were in a long, noisy line below South Marble and Leland islands in Glacier Bay. -NKD

Hooded Merganser

Three on 6 November on Bartlett Lake. -NKD

Three on 14 November on a lake north of Hutchins Bay, Beardslee Islands. -NKD

Red-throated Loon

Eighty on 11 November were spread along several miles of coast on the Beardslee Islands' west side, and fifty on 12 November were visible from White Crow Island (east of Strawberry Island) along the Beardslee Entrance. -NKD These are new high counts.

Pied-billed Grebe

Two on 20 November on Bartlett Lake in a mixed flock were the third local record and a new high count. -NKD



One of two Pied-billed Grebes on Bartlett Lake, 20 November 2014. Photo Nat Drumheller

Horned Grebe

Three hundred were visible from White Crow Island, in the Beardslee Islands, on 12 November with two hundred in one group. -NKD

Western Grebe

One on 2 October in Bartlett Cove. -NKD

Great Blue Heron

Twenty-four on the fuel dock at Bartlett Cove on 24 November was a new high count and a surprising number for one location. -NKD

Osprey

One from 22 September through 6 October west of town. -NKD

Northern Harrier

Three juveniles on 30 November along the beach in town was a good number for so late. -JFS

Rough-legged Hawk

Three on 8 November along the beach near Rink Creek. -NKD

Sora

Continuing from the summer, one was at the Duck Pond on 7 August for a first fall record. -BBP

American Coot

One on 3 October at the Gravel Pits. -NKD

Three from 6-20 November on Bartlett Lake with two there on 28 November when the lake was 90% frozen over. -NKD

American Golden-Plover

Three on 30 August near the Salmon River. -BBP

Pacific Golden-Plover

Up to six were in the vicinity of the Salmon River from 22-25 September. -NKD

Upland Sandpiper

One on 21 August along the Salmon River. -BBP There are fewer than ten records, most from fall.

Hudsonian Godwit

One on 1 August east of the town dock. -BBP There are not many fall records, with this being about the 7th.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Two on 25 September, singles on 28 September and 1 October, and at least two on 4 October were near the Salmon River or west of there. -NKD, JFS

Stilt Sandpiper

One on 22 August at the mouth of Rink Creek. -BBP

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One on 25 and 27 August near the town dock. -BBP

Ring-billed Gull

One on 11 August at the mouth of the Salmon River. -BBP

California Gull

One on 3 August east of the town dock. -BBP

Glaucous Gull

One at the town dock continued from summer until 24 September. -BBP, NKD

Caspian Tern

Up to three were noted on Gustavus beaches through August. -BBP

Eurasian Collared-Doves

Present through the period in town in higher numbers than past years. -BBP, NKD, et al.
The current high count is twenty-six on 29 November. -NKD



Eurasian Collared-Doves in town on 29 November 2014. Photo Nat Drumheller

Great Horned Owl

One at Bartlett Cove on 22 September hooting from Lagoon Island and on 14 November hooting from Lester Island. -PBSV, NKD Lagoon Island is one of the most reliable places to hear Great Horned Owls.

One hooting all night on 11 November in the northern Beardslee Islands. -NKD

Northern Pygmy-Owl

One on 9 and 30 November in the Crane Flats. -NKD

One on 12 November in the northern Beardslee Islands. -NKD

One on about 27 November in the Good River neighborhood. -PB



Northern Pygmy-Owl, Beardslee Islands, 12 November 2014. Photo Nat Drumheller

Barred Owl

One on 24 August in north Gustavus. -BBP

One photographed on 13 October east of town along the beach. -JJ

Heard on seven occasions from 23 September through 25 November, with two on 23 September, in town at a location where Barred Owls nested in 2014 fledging at least two young. -NKD

Heard in the Good River area through the period. -LS (Less than 1 mile from NKD's location.)

Short-eared Owl

One on 1 August along the beach east of town where Short-eared Owls nested in the past. -BBP

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Heard on seven dates from 22 September through 7 November at my home in town where saw-whet owls nested in 2014 and in previous years. -NKD

One on 11 November in the Same Old Road neighborhood. -PBSV

Anna's Hummingbird

One on 12 August in a yard along Same Old Road. -JFS

One from about 20 August at the Gustavus Inn (DL, BBP), with **three** there on 23 August (CPS), and two through 10 November (DL, NKD, BBP).

One continued through the end of November. -NKD

This is the first record of more than one Anna's Hummingbirds at one time.



One of two Anna's Hummingbirds at the Gustavus Inn, 29 September 2014.

Photo Nat Drumheller

Downy Woodpecker

One to two were seen on ten dates from 23 September through the end of November over a large area. -NKD

American Three-toed Woodpecker

One on 16 August east of town on the Falls Creek road. -BBP

One on 25 September west of the Salmon River. -NKD

One on 1 October near the Gustavus Inn. -NKD

One on 14 November in the northern Beardslee Islands. -NKD

Northern Flicker

Up to three were present in the Glen's Ditch neighborhood from mid-October through November. -JFS, JV

Gyrfalcon

1 on 25 September on the beach west of town was the earliest of a handful of fall records. -NKD

Peregrine Falcon

Singles were present from 19 August to 22 November (NKD, BBP), and four were west of town on 28 September. -NKD

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

One on 23 September at Lake Gustavus was very late, and the first I have seen beyond the end of August. -NKD

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Two on 25 August east of the town dock. -BBP This is only the second fall record.

Swallows

Late swallows in town were five unidentified swallows on 27 September, one **Barn Swallow** with three unidentified swallows on 29 September, and five **Bank Swallows** on 2 October. -NKD

Mountain Bluebird

One on 9 November was on the beach west of the Good River. -NKD

Red-throated Pipit

One on 23 September was on the beach east of the airport ditch adding to a handful of records, all from fall. -NKD

Cedar Waxwing

Two on 10 August in north Gustavus. -BBP

One on 7 October with American Robins at berry trees in town was a new late record. -NKD

Smith's Longspur

Five on 4 September on the beach east of town with Lapland Longspurs is the third record, all from fall. -BBP

MacGillivray's Warbler

One on 23 August east of town. -BBP

Fox Sparrow (red)

One on 2 October along the shore of Bartlett Cove one mile south of the dock. -NKD

Swamp Sparrow

One on 7 November at Lake Gustavus. -NKD This adds to a handful of records since 2007.

Rustic Bunting

One from 23 November through the end of the month at my feeder in town was a first local record. -NKD, JYH, JFS



Rustic Bunting, 24 November 2014. Photo Nat Drumheller

Brown-headed Cowbird

A juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird was on the cruise ship Seabird off Tlinget Point in Glacier Bay on 21 August 2014. -JD, ED

Juvenile cowbirds have been on cruise ships in the west arm of Glacier Bay in August of 2009, 2011, 2012, two ships in 2013, and once in September of 2009. There is also an eBird report of a juvenile cowbird on a cruise ship in Glacier Bay on 8 August of 1992.

A juvenile cowbird on 23 August 2014 at the town dock was following people. -JFS

Red Crossbills were present through August and early September (BBP) and common from 23 September through the rest of the period. -NKD

White-winged Crossbills were common from 6 November on, outnumbering Red Crossbills by the end of the month. -NKD

Small numbers of **Common Redpolls** were around from 11 November on. -NKD

Pine Siskins were common through the period (BBP, NKD), becoming abundant in November. -NKD



A juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird on board the Seabird in Glacier Bay, 21 August 2014.
Photo Elyse Derbes