

**Gustavus/Glacier Bay Bird Sightings**  
**August - November 2013**  
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Bruce Paige was in Gustavus until 12 September. Nat Drumheller continued traveling into Glacier Bay's west arm aboard cruise ships as a marine mammal observer for Glacier Bay National Park until 26 September.

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

**Brant**

4 on 1 August near the town dock. -NKD

1 from 12-15 October with Cackling Geese on the golf course. -NKD

**Cackling Goose**

1 on 13 August east of town. -BBP

15 on 27 September and 4 on 29 September west of the Salmon River. -NKD

14 from 9-15 October on the golf course. -NKD, JFS

**Blue-winged Teal**

1 on 3 November at Bartlett Cove. -JFS

Blue-winged Teal is rare in fall, and this is likely a new late date. The latest record I know of is 13 October 2006. -NKD



This juvenile Pied-billed Grebe at the Gravel Pits on 27 September was having no trouble catching small fish. Photo Nat Drumheller

**Canvasback**

1 from 28 September-5 October on Lake Gustavus. -NKD

1 on 7 October off Dude Creek. -NKD

**Pied-billed Grebe**

1 juvenile on 27 September at the Gravel Pits. -NKD

This is the second record for the area. The first was on 24 November 2010 at Bartlett Cove.

**Western Grebe**

1 on 6 November off the mouth of the Good River. -NKD

Western Grebe is considered very rare in fall, but has been increasing in recent years.

**Osprey**

Single Ospreys were observed in town from 2 September-18 October. -NKD, HPL, JFS

1 on 17 September was in Tarr Inlet, Glacier Bay. -NKD

**American Coot**

One was at the gravel pits from 12 October-13 November when the ponds froze over. -NKD, JFS

**Sandhill Crane**

On about 21 September, a lame Sandhill Crane showed up at the Gustavus Inn looking for handouts. Owners Dave and JoAnn Lesh fed it. A few days later, a second lame crane was with the first one. Both were fed. Eventually the first crane left, leaving only the second bird. Dave continued to feed it, and it showed signs of improvement. On 11 October, a third (!) lame crane joined the second bird. This new arrival was missing a foot, but appeared to get around o.k. Eventually all the cranes moved on after fattening up at the Inn.

**American Golden-Plover**

2 on 28 September with 1 at the airport and 1 on the beach at Rink Creek. -NKD

4 on 7 October at Dude Creek. -NKD

1 on 10 October west of the Salmon River. -NKD

**Pacific Golden-Plover**

5 on 16 August near the town dock were the first reported. -BBP

Pacific Golden-Plovers were then seen in small numbers along Gustavus beaches until 7 October with high counts of 19 on 10 September and 14 on 29 September at Dude Creek. -NKD

**Unidentified Golden-Plover**

1 on 1 October near the Salmon River. -NKD

**Solitary Sandpiper**

1 on 14 August east of town at Falls Creek. -BBP

1 on 29 August on the Salmon River. -BBP

**Hudsonian Godwit**

1 on 28 September near the town dock. -NKD

Hudsonian Godwit is very rare in fall. The previous late date, to my knowledge, was 25 August 2009. -NKD



A very late Hudsonian Godwit near the town dock on 28 September.  
Photo Nat Drumheller.

### **Red Knot**

1 on 10 September at Dude Creek. -NKD

1 on 23 September west of the Salmon River. -NKD

### **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

1 on 23 September west of the Salmon River. -NKD

1 on 28 September east of town near Rink Creek. -NKD

1 on 2 October at Bartlett Cove. -NKD

### **Dunlin**

One of about 1200 Dunlin west of town on 6 November had been “banded by Stephen Yezerinac after he found its nest at the Manokinak camp on the Yukon Delta NWR (N 61.18399, W165.09352) on 12 June 2011.” Information from Richard Lanctot, FWS; sighting NKD.

This adds to an impressive number of Dunlin banded on the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta that have been observed at Gustavus since December 2005.

### **Stilt Sandpiper**

1 on 29 and 31 August at the Salmon River. -NKD, BBP

### **Red Phalarope**

1 on 31 August in Glacier Bay. -SM from eBird with photo

Red Phalarope is considered casual in Glacier Bay, but may well be more numerous than thought in fall given the difficulty of telling it apart from the ubiquitous Red-necked Phalarope.



Since the first record in 2007, Stilt Sandpiper has become almost expected in fall. This bird was photographed on 29 August in the Salmon River by Bruce Paige.

#### **Ring-billed Gull**

1 on 7 August and 5 October at the mouth of the Salmon River. -NKD

#### **California Gull**

1 to 3 were seen on beaches near town from 2 August-14 September. -BBP, NKD

#### **Glaucous Gull**

1 to 2 immature Glaucous Gulls were at Gustavus from 17 August-14 September. Two different birds, based on differences in bill markings and plumage, were present in late August and early September. -BBP, NKD

#### **Caspian Tern**

Caspian Terns were present on Gustavus beaches in good numbers through August, often with juveniles. A small number of Caspian Terns, including juveniles, continued through early September. -BBP, NKD

The first juvenile was with 8 adults on 4 August at the Salmon River. -BBP

5 juveniles and 40 adults on 7 August were at the Salmon River. -NKD

**23 juveniles and 69 adults** on 20 August were at the Salmon River.-BBP This is a new high count for juveniles and a new high count for Caspian Terns at one location.

1 adult on 12 September at the Salmon River was the last of the season. -NKD

A handful of banded adult Caspian Terns were seen during the period including birds banded as chicks on the Columbia river in Washington/Oregon, at least one bird banded as a chick at the Copper River delta in Alaska, and at least one bird banded as a chick at Bellingham in Washington. Banding information from Yasuko Suzuki, OSU.



Glaucous Gull 12 September at the town dock. Photo Nat Drumheller.

### **Arctic Tern**

1 juvenile and 1 adult in the west arm and 1 adult in the lower bay on 24 September. -NKD

1 juvenile on 26 September in Tarr Inlet. -NKD

Arctic Tern is unexpected after August, and these are new personal late dates by several weeks. -NKD

### **Long-tailed Jaeger**

1 on 10 August above Willoughby Island, Glacier Bay. -NKD

1 on 25 August in Sitakaday Narrows, Glacier Bay. -NKD

1 on 13 September in Johns Hopkins inlet, Glacier Bay. -NKD

### **Horned Puffin**

Small numbers were seen in Glacier Bay through August to mid September. The high count was 8 on 15 August with 3 off Drake Island and 5 near cliffs at the mouth of Tarr Inlet where a group of 5 was seen on several dates and where 7 were on 30 August. -NKD

A minimum of 5 on 2 September were at Point Carolus at the mouth of Glacier Bay with many Tufted Puffins. -JN

### **Eurasian Collared-Doves**

Several people reported 1-3 Eurasian Collared-Doves through mid August from the center of town to neighborhoods in the west of town. -DL, CR, JeJ, and others

Two homes near the golf course had up to 5 collared-doves at their feeders through the entire period. -JV, MJS, GS

Bruce Paige encountered 1-2 through August to 10 September and 4 on 19 August in town.

### **Mourning Dove**

1 juvenile on 10 September in town. -BBP

### **Great Horned Owl**

1 to 2 were heard in town occasionally from early September-2 November. -JFS, NKD, RFWY, MB, BBP

### **Northern Pygmy-Owl**

1 on 2 October at Bartlett Cove. -NKD

Singles in and near town on 5, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19 October. -NKD, SLN

### **Barred Owl**

Barred Owls were heard in town on 6 August, on 4 dates in September, regularly during the first two weeks of October, and on 1 November. -NKD, RFWY, JD, JFS, PB

### **Short-eared Owl**

1 on 12 October and 24 November at the golf course. -NKD

### **Black Swift**

8 on 8 September east of town. -BBP

This is the first record for the area.

### **Vaux's Swift**

3 on 7 August at Lake Gustavus. -NKD

2 on 21 August over the Salmon River. -BBP

### **Anna's Hummingbird**

1 on 23 September at the Gustavus Inn. -NKD

1 on 11 and 12 October at the Gustavus Inn. -NKD

### **Downy Woodpecker**

1 on 1 August in town. -BBP

1 on 30 September at my feeder in town. -NKD

1 on 3 November in town. -JFS

1 on 5 November at the Duck Pond. -NKD

1 on 24 November near the Salmon River bridge. -NKD

### **Northern Flicker**

2 on 15 September in town, thought to have been red-shafted. -KN, WH

### **Peregrine Falcon**

Single Peregrine Falcons were seen near town from 25 August through the end of the period with 3 on 29 August and on 21 and 22 September and 2 on 27 September. - BBP, NKD

1 on 31 August in Glacier Bay. -SM from eBird with photo

2 on 7 September in lower Glacier Bay. -NKD

2 on 26 September at Margerie Glacier, Glacier Bay. -NKD



Anna's Hummingbird at the Gustavus Inn on 11 October. Photo Nat Drumheller.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

- 1 on 2 August north of town. -NKD
- 1 on 14 August east of town at Falls Creek. -BBP
- 1 on 28 August east of the town dock. -BBP

**Western Wood Pewee**

- 1 on 8 September east of town. -BBP This is likely a new late date by a few days.

**Horned Lark**

- 1 on 10 and 11 October near the Good River. -NKD

**European Starling**

- 1 on 3 October with American Robins at the Gustavus Inn. -NKD

**Red-throated Pipit**

- 1 on 10 October in intertidal sedges west of the Salmon River. -NKD
- The only other records are from the fall of 2008 when multiple birds were found at several locations including this same sedge patch.

**Cedar Waxwing**

- 1 on 19 August in town. -BBP
- 1 juvenile on 27 September in town. -NKD This is likely a new late date by a couple days.

**Northern Waterthrush**

On the night of 8-9 September, the Diamond Princess was coming down the outer coast from Seward in rough weather when migrating songbirds began landing on the ship and crashing into the windows. It is not known how many birds were on the ship, but I was told that at least 150 were found dead. On 9 September, I was on the ship in Glacier Bay and found 20-30 birds

trapped inside the ship. These included Savannah, Lincoln's, Song, Fox, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Lapland Longspurs, Orange-crowned Warblers, and a **Northern Waterthrush**. I convinced the ship's crew to open the massive sun roof in the area with the birds, and most of them flew out. -NKD



A Northern Waterthrush on board the Diamond Princess on 9 September that was released at the top of Glacier Bay. Photo Nat Drumheller

#### **White-throated Sparrow**

1 from 28-30 October in the Good River neighborhood. -JiJ

1, probably the same bird, from 9-15 November at a feeder near the Good River neighborhood. - RFWY, JD, NKD

#### **Western Tanager**

1 from 1-3 October at the Gustavus Inn. -NKD, SAL

This is likely the first fall record, although there may be one previous fall record that Bruce Paige is keeping secret.

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

1 juvenile on 7 August was on a small cruise ship in Glacier Bay's west arm. -EHJ

Another National Park Service ranger thought there was also a juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird on a large cruise ship in Glacier Bay about 5 August. It is becoming a trend to see young cowbirds on cruise ships in Glacier Bay in August.

It was a slow season for finches. Small flocks of **Red Crossbills** were near town on a few dates in September and November. A few **White-winged Crossbills** were in town on 2 and 7 August. About 50 birds, believed to have been **Common Redpolls**, were in town on 7 November.

**Pine Siskins** were seen fairly regularly during August, on a few dates in September, and on 7 October. -NKD



This Western Tanager was around the Gustavus Inn for three days. Photographed here on 1 October by Nat Drumheller.



Bonus Photo- A female American Kestrel photographed in Gustavus by Jacob Ohlson on 23 September 2013.