

Gustavus/Glacier Bay Bird Sightings
August - November 2012
Nat Drumheller, natdrumheller@hotmail.com

Contributors: Paul Barnes (PB), Nate Borson (NB), Nat Drumheller (NKD), Cam Cacioppo (CC), Emma Johnson (EHJ), Dave Lesh (DL), Jeff Lesh (JL), Sally McLaughlin (SAL), Craig Murdoch (CM), Janet Neilson (JN), Bruce Paige (BBP), Laurie Ross (LMR), Jim Saracco (JFS), Karen Taylor (KT), Phoebe Vanselow (PBSV), Rusty Yerxa (RFWY). Bruce Paige was in Gustavus until mid 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.

Brant

Twenty-four on 24 August west of town. -EHJ

Cackling Goose

Small numbers were seen from mid September to mid October with a high count of twenty-four on 14 October. Two on 22 November at Bartlett Cove were late. -NKD

Western Grebe

Two on 14 October and one on 22 November off the town dock. -NKD

Great Blue Heron

Unusually large groups of Great Blue Herons were in Bartlett Cove this fall.

Seventeen on 29 October on the fuel dock in Bartlett Cove. -JN

Fourteen on 25 November in Bartlett Cove with nine on the fuel dock. -NKD

Osprey

One on 10 September in Tarr Inlet in Glacier Bay. -NKD

One on 11 September in lower Glacier Bay. -NKD

One on 10 September and two on 11 September east of town. -BBP

One on 12 September on the Bartlett River. -CM

Two on 12 September near the airport. -NKD

One on 19 September east of town. -BBP

One on 21 September on the Salmon River. -NKD

One on 2 October on the Bartlett River. -CM

Gyrfalcon

One on 30 November along the park road northwest of town. -NKD

Peregrine Falcon

Peregrine Falcons were seen regularly from mid August to mid October around Gustavus and in Glacier Bay. -BBP, NKD, PBSV

The high count was three on 13 September on the beach east of Gustavus. -BBP

American Coot

Two on 6 and 7 October on a pond near the airport, and one there on 11 and 15 October. -NKD

Sandhill Crane

Two to six cranes were seen in and around town through August including two juveniles. -BBP, misc. observers. On 13 August three were on the golf course and three were east of town. -LMR
It is thought that two pairs of cranes nested in the area this summer, although we really do not know.

American Golden-Plover

One on 14 August east of town. -BBP
Two on 1 September near the Salmon River. -BBP
One on 9 September west of town. -NKD
One on 15 September east of town. -BBP
One on 19 September west of town. -NKD

Pacific Golden-Plover

One on 22 and 25 August at the golf course. -NKD
Two on 1 September near the Salmon River. -BBP
One on 15 September and two on 21 September west of town. -NKD
Eleven on 27 September near the Salmon River. -NKD
One unidentified golden-plover on 14 October west of town. -NKD

Solitary Sandpiper

One on 6 and 14 August east of town. -BBP

Red Knot

One on 6 October west of town. -NKD
There are a handful of fall records for Red Knot. The previous late date was 29 September 2009.

Western Sandpiper

Two Western Sandpipers were west of town on 17 October and one was there on 20 October. These birds were with Dunlin, Rock Sandpipers, and Sanderlings. -NKD
The previous late dates for Western Sandpiper were 17 October 2011 and 18 October 2008.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Single birds on 9 and 11 October were east of town. -NKD
Two on 20 October were west of town. -NKD

Stilt Sandpiper

Two on 18 August east of town. -BBP

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One on 15 September near the town dock. -BBP, NKD

California Gull

Single birds were seen on 5 dates in August along Gustavus beaches. -BBP, NKD

Glaucous Gull

One on 4 August west of town. -NKD

One on 5 August and 23 August east of town. -BBP

One on 17 September in Tarr Inlet in Glacier Bay. -NKD

Caspian Tern

Small numbers were seen through August along Gustavus beaches and at Bartlett Cove. -BBP, NKD The high count was 12 on 8 August. -BBP

One juvenile with one adult were at the Salmon River 27 to 29 September. -NKD

This was the only juvenile Caspian Tern seen this year. The previous late date for Caspian Tern was 11 September, 2007.

Long-tailed Jaeger

Four on 7 August were unusual in that they were over the beach east of town. -BBP



This Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was east of town near Rink Creek on 11 October.

Photo by Nat Drumheller.



Another Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that was west of the Salmon River on 20 October.
Photo by Nat Drumheller.



Two Stilt Sandpipers (foreground) and a Greater Yellowlegs in the airport ditch on 18 August.
Photo by Bruce Paige.



A Buff-breasted Sandpiper near the town dock on 15 September.
Photo by Bruce Paige.

Kittlitz's Murrelet

Small numbers of Kittlitz's Murrelets remained in Glacier Bay through August. Two were in Tarr Inlet on 14 September. -NKD

Horned Puffin

Small numbers of Horned Puffins continued to be seen in Glacier Bay through mid September with high counts of five on 19 August and 11 September. -NKD

Eurasian Collared-Doves

There were a few reports of Eurasian Collared-Doves around Gustavus through October, but no details were provided other than the following:

Single birds on two dates in August and on 1 September. -BBP

One on 23 September. -DL

One on 19 November. -NKD

Great Horned Owl

Two on 5 September locked together in battle near the town dock. -BBP

One on 23 September, one on 1 and 2 October, two on 26 October, and one on 27 November in town. -NKD

One in early October in the Good River neighborhood. -NB

Northern Pygmy-Owl

One on 21 and 30 August in north Gustavus. -BBP

One on 5 September east of town. -BBP

One on 6, 8, and 10 October in town. -NKD

One on 9 October east of town. -NKD

One on 3 and 7 October and on 24 November in west Gustavus. -PB

Barred Owl

One on 23 September and 27 November in town. Interestingly, both these Barred Owls were heard immediately after hearing Great Horned Owls at the same location. -NKD

One on 7 October in west Gustavus. -KT

One on 14 October in town. -SAL

Short-eared Owl

One on about 10 November near town. -PB

One on 22 November and two on 24 November in town. -NKD

One on 25 November in town. -SAL

Northern Saw-whet Owl

One on 5 October in town. -SAL

Anna's Hummingbird

One from 23 to 30 September at the Gustavus Inn in town. -JL, NKD, JN

One for several days in early October at a residence in town. -CC

Downy Woodpecker

Single birds were seen on two dates in October and two dates in November around town. These were likely three different birds. -NKD, JFS

American Three-toed Woodpecker

One on about 28 October in town. -RFWY

Hammond's Flycatcher

One on 13 August near the airport. -BBP

This is the first fall record and one of only a few records for the area.

Horned Lark

One on 20 October and 23 November west of town. -NKD

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Gone from the area since February 2012, Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived in force on 18 August and were present around town and in Bartlett Cove through the rest of the period. -NKD

European Starling

Three from 4 August to 29 September near the Salmon River and east of town. -BBP, NKD, JFS

Cedar Waxwing

Up to three were seen through 25 August along the park road northwest of town. -NKD

Two were seen through 22 August at a pond near the airport. -NKD, BBP

Fourteen on 30 August including 4 juveniles were in north Gustavus. -BBP

Smith's Longspur

One on 10 September east of town is the second record for the area. -BBP

MacGillivray's Warbler

One on 15 August near the airport. -BBP

One on 16 September east of town. -BBP

MacGillivray's Warbler is very rare in the area and there were only one or two previous fall records.

American Tree Sparrow

American Tree Sparrows began arriving along Gustavus beaches in mid October. Numbers gradually increased through November with over fifty on 29 November at seed I was putting out near the town dock. -NKD

Fox Sparrow

One Red Fox Sparrow 31 August to 3 September at my feeder in town. -NKD

One partially white Fox Sparrow missing pigment in many of its feathers on 12 September near the airport. -NKD



An unusual Fox Sparrow at Lake Gustavus on 12 September.

Photo by Nat Drumheller.

Brown-headed Cowbird

One on 9 August was on a cruise ship in upper Glacier Bay. -NKD (Cowbirds have also been observed on Cruise Ships in upper Glacier Bay on 26 August and 7 September 2009 and on 8 and 28 August 2011.)

One on 11 August near town. -BBP

One on 17 August east of town. -BBP

One on 18 August along the Salmon River. -NKD

Red Crossbill

Small numbers were seen or heard on occasion through the period. -NKD, JFS

White-winged Crossbills

Present around town and Bartlett Cove through the period, numbers increased through September and October. They were common and widespread in November. -NKD

Common Redpoll

Small numbers began showing up around town in October. They were seen regularly in small flocks through November. -NKD

Pine Siskin

Small numbers were seen regularly August through October. Their numbers dwindled during November. -NKD