

# BIRD TREKS

## ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA For Whiskered Auklet & Asian Strays!

Sunday, 13 May through Sunday, 20 May 2012  
Sunday, 20 May through Sunday, 27 May 2012  
Sunday, 27 May through Sunday, 3 June 2012



All tours are 7 days & 7 nights, or longer if you wish.

You can go to **Adak** for one week, or **save money** and **increase your chances** of seeing more **Asian strays** and other great birds by staying for **two or three weeks**. Or arrange a **10-day adventure** by using the Thursday flight from Anchorage. Inquire for details.

At certain times it is possible to obtain reduced airfare to Anchorage and Adak, either through an Internet special or by using frequent flyer miles. Please contact the Bird Treks office for the latest information on these savings and how to take advantage of them. Note that these tickets are non-refundable.

We'll visit **Adak Island** in the central **Aleutians**, 1200 miles southwest of Anchorage, the westernmost portion of North America that is accessible by commercial airline.

### Target species include . . .

Cackling Goose  
Eurasian Wigeon  
Tufted Duck  
Common Eider  
\* Rock Ptarmigan  
Laysan Albatross  
Northern Fulmar  
Short-tailed Shearwater  
Pelagic Cormorant  
Red-faced Cormorant  
Black Oystercatcher  
Pacific Golden-Plover  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
\* Rock Sandpiper  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Parasitic Jaeger  
\* = Aleutian subspecies  
\*\* Aleutian Terns typically arrive fairly late in May



**Whiskered Auklet - - WOW!**  
- - *John Puschock, tour leader*

Glaucous-winged Gull  
Aleutian Tern \*\*  
Common Murre  
\* Pigeon Guillemot  
Marbled Murrelet  
Kittlitz's Murrelet  
Ancient Murrelet  
Parakeet Auklet  
Whiskered Auklet  
Horned Puffin  
Tufted Puffin  
\* Common Raven  
\* Winter Wren  
\* Song Sparrow  
Lapland Longspur  
\* Snow Bunting  
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

*[Rarities and Day 1 are on page 2]*

Some rarities & vagrants that we have seen, or are likely to be seen, include . . .

Taiga Bean Goose  
Tundra Bean Goose  
Emperor Goose  
Spot-billed Duck  
Garganey  
Smew  
Arctic Loon  
Gyr Falcon  
Common Snipe

Black-tailed Godwit  
Wood Sandpiper  
Common Sandpiper  
Gray-tailed Tattler  
Common Greenshank  
Red-necked Stint  
Slaty-backed Gull  
Black-headed Gull  
Long-billed Murrelet

Sky Lark  
Eastern Yellow Wagtail  
Olive-backed Pipit  
Eyebrowed Thrush  
Gray-streaked Flycatcher  
Siberian Rubythroat  
Rustic Bunting  
Brambling  
Hawfinch

Previous trip lists are available upon request and on our website.

Mammals may include Sea Otter, Harbor Seal, Orca, Sperm Whale, and Caribou.

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## ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA

13-20 May, 20-27 May, & 27 May - 3 Jun 2012

Adak is a 280-square mile island in the Aleutians. It is located 1200 miles southwest of Anchorage and 400 miles east of Attu. Until recently, Adak was the site of a naval base, and access was highly restricted. The Navy has since departed, opening the island to birders and leaving behind an infrastructure and modern facilities not found in other western Alaska birding hotspots. Please consider exploring Adak Island with us.



Bar-tailed Godwit - - beautiful!

- - John Puschock, tour leader

Click here for a **birding map of Adak, from Anchorage:**

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.000460612139a4fed172a&z=5>

### Day   Agenda

- 1 You will fly from Anchorage to Adak on a Sunday or Thursday. From the Adak Airport we'll make the short drive to our lodging facilities, comfortable houses that formerly were housing for naval officers when the base was active. They are all well equipped and furnished. As soon as everyone has moved in, we'll begin birding. Our first stop is an overlook of Kulik Bay to look for **alcids** and **cormorants**. From there, we'll continue to Clam Lagoon, THE hotspot on Adak - this location has yielded THREE of North America's few **Spot-billed Ducks**. Recently we have found **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Smew**, **Brambling**, and other good birds at the lagoon.

*[Days 2 through 7 are on page 3]*

2-7 We'll spend most of our days looking for shorebirds, Asian vagrants, other migrants, and all of the island's resident species such as Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. We'll check Clam Lagoon at least twice each day, plus other areas including the old Loran station at the north end of the island to look for seabirds that may include Laysan and Black-footed Albatross and Short-tailed Shearwater. We'll visit Lake Andrew where we saw Common Greenshank and Eastern Yellow Wagtail on a past tour, and the town itself where the few ornamental spruce trees are prime habitat for a vagrant songbird. Part of the excitement of birding on the Aleutians is that you never know what we may find.

We are planning an offshore boat trip to look for Whiskered Auklet and other seabirds such as albatrosses, Short-tailed Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, and a variety of alcids. We will make every effort to take the boat trip. If for any reason it does not go, you will receive a refund for the boat trip portion of the tour fee. We have conducted all of our scheduled boat trips since 2005.

8 We'll take one more look at Clam Lagoon and perhaps a few other sites, then return to town to prepare for the return flight to Anchorage. Or, if you are staying for another week, we'll do it all over again, looking for new migrants and vagrants every day!

\* \* \* \* \*

It is quite possible for you to save money on your airfare if you book it all at one time, home to Adak. In 2007 and again in 2008, I flew from Baltimore to Anchorage to Adak and home again using frequent flyer miles. It cost me 25,000 miles and \$25 on American Airlines. Also, Alaska Air sometimes has a sale on their tickets to Adak, another way to save money. The tour fee is \$3795 for a week, the same as in 2011, with you paying for all of your air travel from home to Adak. **Lori Heathcote**, Bird Treks travel agent, will assist you with your air travel upon request. We feel that you will be able to save money with this pricing arrangement, and perhaps use the savings to spend additional time on Adak.

We find **Wood Sandpiper** fairly regularly in spring, sometimes in large numbers.

- - John Puschock



*[Important details on page 4]*

**Leader** This tour will be led by **John Puschock** and/or **Bob Schutsky**. John is author of the Adak chapter of the ABA/Lane Birder's Guide to Alaska. He operated four bird banding stations in northwestern Alaska. John has conducted thirteen very successful tours to Adak, a total of 16 weeks on this exciting Aleutian outpost. Bob has spent six weeks leading tours on Adak during recent years.

**Price** \$3795 per person for one week. The price may go up or down slightly due to factors beyond our control. We will do our best to hold to the quoted price. If you stay on Adak for longer than one week, the fee for the extra days will be pro-rated accordingly. Also, dependent upon rooming arrangements, we may be able to offer a discount for any couple sharing a bed.

**Includes** Expert guide service, lodging for seven nights, **ALL meals** upon arrival on Adak, entrance fees and permits, one boat trip, and all ground transportation on Adak. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything extra that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s) and boat captain.

Does not include cost of airfare to and from Anchorage and Adak. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you obtain the best airfare. You are responsible for any costs during your layover in Anchorage. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

**Deposit** A \$900 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable three months prior to the start of your tour. Adak is a spectacular birding destination that has only recently become accessible to the birding public. John Puschock and Bird Treks are leading the way on Adak. Please send your deposit soon to insure your reservation and to obtain the best possible airfare to Adak.

**Extra Services** We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry. Contact her at **1-800-224-5399**, or e-mail Lori at [lori@baileytravel.com](mailto:lori@baileytravel.com). By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free phone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.

**Refund and Cancellation Policy** With written notice more than 90 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$100 service fee. With 30-90 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once a tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at [www.allianztravelinsurance.com](http://www.allianztravelinsurance.com) or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.



Clam Lagoon, the Adak Island HOTSPOT!

- - John Puschock