

BIRD TREKS *Birding Tours*

ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA *for Asian Strays and Interesting Resident Species!*

Sunday, 10 September through Sunday, 17 September 2017: 8 days & 7 nights

Chose one, one and a half, or two weeks for LOTS of incredible birding. We suggest the extra birding time to increase your possibility of seeing rarities. We may be able to arrange a third week for you, given enough notice. There are round trip flights between Anchorage and Adak twice each week, on Sundays and Thursdays.

We'll visit Adak Island in the central Aleutians, 1200 miles southwest of Anchorage. This is the westernmost outpost of North America that is accessible by commercial jet airline. The round trip flights from Anchorage are on Sundays and Thursdays, so you can go to Adak for a week, 10 days, two weeks, or longer. You will **save money** and **increase your chances** of seeing more **Asian strays** and other **great birds** by staying for an additional amount of time. Your chance of finding rarities increases directly with the length of time that we spend searching for them.

Target species include . . .

Emperor Goose
'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal
Eurasian Wigeon
Tufted Duck
Common Eider
* Rock Ptarmigan
Laysan Albatross
Black-footed Albatross
Northern Fulmar
Short-tailed Shearwater
Pelagic Cormorant
Red-faced Cormorant
Gyr Falcon
Black Oystercatcher
Pacific Golden-Plover
Baird's Sandpiper
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
* Rock Sandpiper
Parasitic Jaeger
Glaucous-winged Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Common Murre

* = Aleutian subspecies



Common Greenshank (top left), two MARSH SANDPIPERS (top right), and a Garganey (below) coming in for a landing. Three great species!

- - John Puschock, Clam Lagoon, Sep 2007

Pigeon Guillemot
Marbled Murrelet
Ancient Murrelet
Horned Puffin
Tufted Puffin
* Pacific Wren
* Song Sparrow
Lapland Longspur
* Snow Bunting
* Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch



Rarities and vagrants found on previous September tours include . . .

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Garganey | Little Stint | Common Cuckoo |
| Baikal Teal | Temminck's Stint | Fork-tailed Swift |
| Arctic Loon | Ruff | Gray-streaked Flycatcher |
| Yellow-billed Loon | Common Snipe | Siberian Rubythroat |
| Eurasian Kestrel | Slaty-backed Gull | Eyebrowed Thrush |
| Lesser Sand-Plover | Least Auklet | Gray Wagtail |
| Common Greenshank | Crested Auklet | Olive-backed Pipit |
| Marsh Sandpiper | Kittlitz's Murrelet | Brambling |
| Gray-tailed Tattler | Common Tern (east Siberian subsp.) | Oriental Greenfinch |
| Red-necked Stint | | |

Most likely mammals are . . .

Sea Otter Harbor Seal Orca Minke Whale Caribou

A **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** was seen and photographed on Adak by two of my good friends in September 2016, the first North American record! What a find!!!

A list of **birds and mammals** observed on previous tours can be seen on our web site at <http://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/AKADF.pdf>

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ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA

11 - 18 Sep 2016

Two flights per week between Anchorage and Adak Island are on Sundays and Thursdays.

Adak is a 280-square mile island in the Aleutians, 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. Now the Navy is no longer present, **opening the island to birders**, and leaving an **infrastructure and modern facilities** not found at other western Alaska birding hotspots. Please consider exploring and birding Adak Island with **Bob Schutsky**, your highly experienced leader.

DAY AGENDA

- 1 You will depart Anchorage and arrive in Adak, with some pretty impressive scenery along the way. From the Adak Airport we'll make the short drive to our lodging facilities, comfortable town houses that formerly housed naval officers when the base was active. They are well-equipped for your comfort. As soon as everyone is settled, 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 **Eastern Spot-billed Ducks** and North America's first **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. On previous fall tours we have found **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Little Stint**, **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Gray Wagtail**, and other great birds at the lagoon. And you will enjoy the **Sea Otters**, guaranteed!

[Days 2-8 are on page 3]

- 2-7 We'll make the rounds of the island, looking for **seabirds, shorebirds, Asian vagrants, other migrants,** and some of the island's **resident species** such as **Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.** We'll check Clam Lagoon at least once every day, plus other areas such as the old Loran Station at the north end of the island to look for **seabirds** that may include **Black-footed** and **Laysan Albatrosses,** and perhaps a pod of **Orcas!** We'll visit Lake Andrew where we saw **Gray-streaked Flycatcher** on a past tour, and the town itself where we once found a **Common Cuckoo.** Part of the excitement of birding on Adak Island is that you never know what we may find, sometimes in a totally unexpected location.
- 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. Hopefully you will choose to stay on Adak for some extra time, for more exciting adventures.

Click here for a **map of Adak** and its **birding locations:**

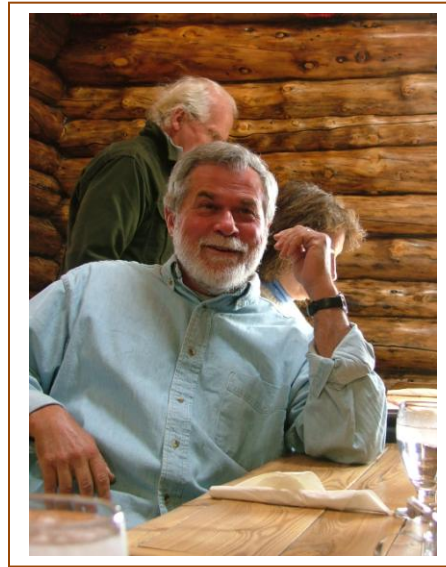
https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=zDJlwFKF8JcU.kiOlj6j8_WNA



Clam Lagoon is THE prime birding location on Adak Island. - - *John Puschock*

[Important details on page 4]

Leader This tour will be led by **Bob Schutsky**. Bob has led numerous tours to Adak Island, and assisted with several others. Bob will insure that your time on Adak Island is productive and enjoyable. If the number of participants warrants, a second guide will assist with the tour. A minimum of three participants is needed to conduct the tour at the price stated below. The maximum number of participants is eight.



Bob Schutsky, tour leader

Price \$3955 per person for one week. 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 additional time past one week, *which we suggest*, the fee for the extra days will be pro-rated accordingly. Also, dependent upon the room arrangements, we may be able to offer a discount for any couple sharing a bed.

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

The price does not include the cost of airfare to and from Anchorage and Adak. **BIRD TREKS** will, upon request, help you obtain the best airfare. 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 11 July 2017. Adak Island is a spectacular birding destination that first became accessible to the birding public little more than a decade ago. Send your deposit soon to insure your reservation on the tour and to obtain the best possible airfare to Anchorage.

[Final details on page 5]

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive **BIRD TREKS** travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 32 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Lori can be reached through **Travel Time** at **717-854-5511 x564** or **717-855-2128**, or via e-mail at lori@trvltime.com. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. Please note, as with most agencies, there is an additional service fee on top of the airline cost. The current service fee is \$35.00 per ticket.

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 the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at www.allianztravelinsurance.com or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.

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