

BIRD TREKS

ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA For Tufted Puffins & Asian Strays and Many More Exciting Birds!!!

Sunday, 14 May through Sunday, 21 May 2017



Steller's Sea Lions

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.

The more time that you spend on Adak, the more potential for great birds! This tour is planned for **8 days & 7 nights**. We will be able to schedule additional days if you desire. Flights between Anchorage and Adak are scheduled for Sundays and Thursdays. 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.

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



Whiskered Auklet is possible!
- - *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
Pacific 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 quite likely, 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 by clicking on:

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

> > > < < <

ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA

14 - 21 May 2017

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:**

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=zDJlwFKF8JcU.klOlj6j8_WNA

Day Agenda

- 1 You will fly from Anchorage to Adak on Sunday, 14 May 2017. From the Adak Airport we'll make the short drive to our lodging facilities, comfortable town houses that formerly housed naval officers and their families when the base was active. They are all well equipped, including a washer and dryer. 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**. On previous tours we have found **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Smew**, **Brambling**, and other good birds at the lagoon.

[Days 2 through 8 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 once daily, 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.** This is also a good spot for **Orcas.** 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,** perhaps a **Hawfinch.** Part of the excitement of birding on Adak Island is that you never know what we may find, or where it may be.
- 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, the end of our Adak Adventure! Or, if you are staying for additional time, 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 by booking it all at one time, home to Adak and back again. In three consecutive years, I flew from Baltimore to Anchorage to Adak and home again, using frequent flyer miles. Each flight cost 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 \$3955 for a week, 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*



[More details on page 4]

Leader This tour will be led by **Bob Schutsky**. Bob has spent many wonderful, exciting weeks leading tours on Adak during recent years.

Price \$3955 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, 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).

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.

Group Size A minimum of three participants is required to confirm the tour. A second guide/driver will be added for groups larger than six participants.

Deposit A \$900 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable two months prior to the start of your tour. Adak is a spectacular birding destination that has only recently become accessible to the birding public. 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 32 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel / Travel Time at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small 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** and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # FO21096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.



Clam Lagoon, the Adak Island HOTSPOT!
- - John Puschock