

Palmer Hay Flats

Audubon Important Bird Area and State Game Refuge

BIRD CHECKLIST



CHECKLIST KEY

- **Very Common:** Easily found in the right habitat and season
- **Common:** Found in the right habitat and season
- **Uncommon:** Found, with persistence, every year in the right habitat and season
- **Rare:** Seen in most years, but in small numbers
- **Casual:** Occasionally seen, but not every year
- N Documented nesting
- W Listed on the Audubon Alaska WatchList of declining or threatened species

WATERFOWL

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Greater White-fronted Goose W *												
Snow Goose												
Cackling Goose												
Canada Goose N												
Trumpeter Swan N												
Tundra Swan												
Gadwall N												
Eurasian Wigeon												
American Wigeon N												
Mallard N												
Northern Shoveler N												
Northern Pintail N												
Green-winged Teal N												
Canvasback N												
Redhead N												
Ring-necked Duck N												
Greater Scaup N												
Lesser Scaup												
Harlequin Duck												
Bufflehead												
Common Goldeneye												
Barrow's Goldeneye												
Hooded Merganser												
Common Merganser												
Red-breasted Merganser												

GROUSE

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ruffed Grouse N												
Spruce Grouse N												
Willow Ptarmigan												

LOONS AND GREBES

Red-throated Loon N W												
Pacific Loon N												
Common Loon												
Horned Grebe N												
Red-necked Grebe N												

HERONS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Great Blue Heron												

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Osprey N												
Golden Eagle												
Northern Harrier N												
Sharp-shinned Hawk												
Northern Goshawk												
Bald Eagle N												
Red-tailed Hawk* N												
Rough-legged Hawk												

CRANES

Sandhill Crane N												
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PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover												
American Golden-Plover W												
Semipalmated Plover N												
Killdeer												

SANDPIPERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spotted Sandpiper N												
Solitary Sandpiper W												
Wandering Tattler W												
Greater Yellowlegs												
Lesser Yellowlegs N W												
Whimbrel W												
Hudsonian Godwit W												
Ruddy Turnstone												
Sanderling												
Semipalmated Sandpiper												
Western Sandpiper												
Least Sandpiper N												
Baird's Sandpiper												
Pectoral Sandpiper												
Dunlin N												
Short-billed Dowitcher N W												
Long-billed Dowitcher												
Wilson's Snipe N												
Red-necked Phalarope N												

GULLS, TERNS,

JAEGERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bonaparte's Gull												
Mew Gull N												
Herring Gull N												
Glaucous-winged Gull N												
Glaucous Gull												
Arctic Tern N												
Parasitic Jaeger												
Long-tailed Jaeger												

*Tule subspecies is on the WatchList, other subspecies are not.

*Most Red-tailed Hawks are Harlan's subspecies in this range.

PIGEONS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Rock Pigeon (Introduced)	[Red bar]											

OWLS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Great Horned Owl ^N	[Orange bar]											
Northern Hawk Owl	[Orange bar]											
Great Gray Owl ^N	[Yellow bar]											
Short-eared Owl ^N	[Orange bar]											
Boreal Owl	[Yellow bar]											
Northern Saw-whet Owl	[Yellow bar]											

HUMMINGBIRDS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Rufous Hummingbird	[Yellow bar]											

KINGFISHERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Belted Kingfisher ^N	[Orange bar]											

WOODPECKERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Downy Woodpecker ^N	[Red bar]											
Hairy Woodpecker ^N	[Orange bar]											
American Three-toed Woodpecker ^N	[Yellow bar]											
Black-backed Woodpecker	[Yellow bar]											
Northern Flicker	[Orange bar]											

FALCONS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
American Kestrel	[Yellow bar]											
Merlin	[Orange bar]											
Gyr Falcon	[Yellow bar]											
Peregrine Falcon	[Orange bar]											

FLYCATCHERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Olive-sided Flycatcher ^{N W}	[Orange bar]											
Western Wood-Pewee ^N	[Orange bar]											
Alder Flycatcher ^N	[Red bar]											

SHRIKES

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Northern Shrike ^N	[Orange bar]											

JAYS, CROWS, RAVENS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gray Jay	[Orange bar]											
Steller's Jay	[Yellow bar]											
Black-billed Magpie ^N	[Red bar]											
Common Raven ^N	[Red bar]											

LARKS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Horned Lark	[Yellow bar]											

SWALLOWS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tree Swallow ^N	[Red bar]											
Violet-green Swallow ^N	[Red bar]											
Bank Swallow ^N	[Red bar]											
Cliff Swallow ^N	[Orange bar]											

CHICKADEES

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black-capped Chickadee ^N	[Red bar]											
Boreal Chickadee ^N	[Orange bar]											

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, DIPPERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Red-breasted Nuthatch ^N	[Red bar]											
Brown Creeper ^N	[Orange bar]											
American Dipper	[Orange bar]											

KINGLETS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ruby-crowned Kinglet ^N	[Red bar]											

THRUSHES

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Townsend's Solitaire	[Yellow bar]											
Gray-cheeked Thrush	[Orange bar]											
Swainson's Thrush ^N	[Orange bar]											
Hermit Thrush ^N	[Red bar]											
American Robin ^N	[Red bar]											
Varied Thrush ^{N W}	[Orange bar]											

STARLINGS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
European Starling	[Orange bar]											

PIPITS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
American Pipit	[Red bar]											

WAXWINGS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bohemian Waxwing	[Orange bar]											

BUNTINGS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lapland Longspur	[Red bar]											
Snow Bunting	[Orange bar]											

WARBLERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Northern Waterthrush ^N	[Red bar]											
Orange-crowned Warbler ^N	[Red bar]											
Yellow Warbler ^N	[Red bar]											
Blackpoll Warbler ^{N W}	[Orange bar]											
Yellow-rumped Warbler ^N	[Red bar]											
Townsend's Warbler	[Orange bar]											
Wilson's Warbler	[Red bar]											

SPARROWS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
American Tree Sparrow	[Orange bar]											
Savannah Sparrow ^N	[Red bar]											
Fox Sparrow ^N	[Red bar]											
Song Sparrow	[Yellow bar]											
Lincoln's Sparrow ^N	[Red bar]											
White-crowned Sparrow ^N	[Yellow bar]											
Golden-crowned Sparrow	[Yellow bar]											
Dark-eyed Junco ^N	[Red bar]											

BLACKBIRDS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Red-winged Blackbird ^N	[Orange bar]											
Rusty Blackbird ^{N W}	[Orange bar]											

FINCHES

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Pine Grosbeak	[Orange bar]											
White-winged Crossbill	[Yellow bar]											
Common Redpoll ^N	[Red bar]											
Hoary Redpoll	[Yellow bar]											
Pine Siskin	[Orange bar]											



GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

ACCIDENTAL, CASUAL, UNSUBSTANTIATED KEY

- **Casual:** Occasionally seen, but not every year
- **Accidental:** Only one or two ever seen here
- x** **Unsubstantiated:** no photographic or sample evidence to support sighting
- w** Listed on the Audubon Alaska WatchList of declining or threatened species

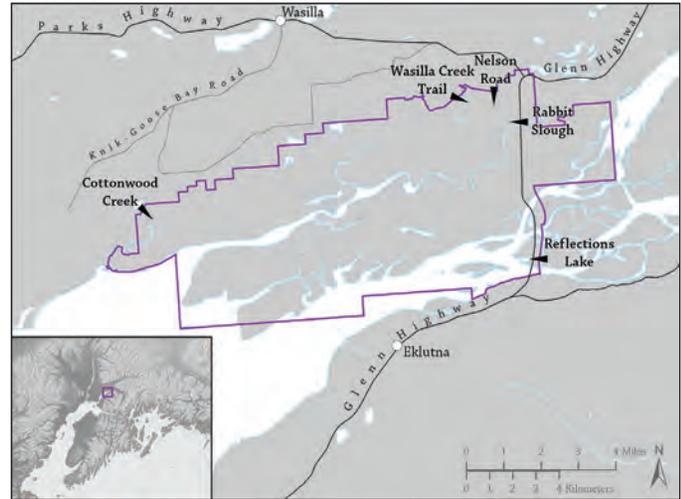
SPECIES	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Brant w				
Blue-winged Teal				
Cinnamon Teal				
Surf Scoter				
White-winged Scoter				
Black Scoter				
Long-tailed Duck				
Rock Ptarmigan				
Sora				
American Coot				
Pacific Golden-Plover				
Upland Sandpiper				
Red Phalarope				
Common Murre				
Black-legged Kittiwake				
Mourning Dove				
Snowy Owl				
Red-eyed Vireo				
Pacific Wren				
Marsh Wren				
Brown-headed Cowbird				
Red Crossbill				

Spring: March 16–May 31

Summer: June 1–July 31

Fall: August 1–November 30

Winter: December 1–March 15

PALMER HAY FLATS REFUGE AND
IMPORTANT BIRD AREA ACCESS POINTS

The Palmer Hay Flats encompass a rich estuary of about 45,000 acres. This mosaic of freshwater streams, silty glacial rivers, saltwater, lakes, ponds, marshes, bogs, mudflats exposed by forty-foot tides, and upland birch forests draws tens of thousands of ducks, geese, swans, shorebirds, and other birds when they stop to refuel during migration to and from northern nesting grounds. Many species of birds also stay to nest and raise young here.

About three-quarters of this area is protected within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages the refuge, created in 1975, to protect wildlife habitat and allows compatible public uses. Palmer Hay Flats is one of Southcentral Alaska's most popular birding locations. The fall waterfowl hunting season is open from September through mid-December, so take note if you are birding then. Visit www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov for more information on the refuge.

The refuge is designated an Important Bird Area for the thousands of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and Tundra Swans that rely on these wetlands during migration. Visit www.AudubonAlaska.org for more information about Important Bird Areas. Audubon Alaska uses science to identify and conserve important habitat for birds across Alaska, emphasizing public lands and waters.



NORTHERN PINTAIL

For more information on Alaska bird festivals and birding maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak, contact Audubon Alaska at www.AudubonAlaska.org or 907-276-7034.

For more information on birding in Alaska, visit www.birding.alaska.gov

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For a full list of data sources, visit www.AudubonAlaska.org

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FRONT COVER: NORTHERN HAWK OWL