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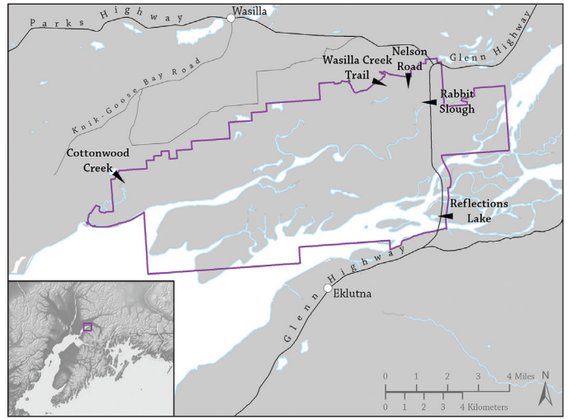
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE



PALMER HAY FLATS REFUGE AND IMPORTANT BIRD AREA ACCESS POINTS

John Schoen

NORTHERN PINTAIL

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

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.

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

Checklist Compiler
Aaron Bowman, Audubon Alaska

Contributors

Audubon ALASKA

Wildlife Viewing Program — Alaska — Department of Fish and Game

Reviewers
Bob Winckler, Dan Crowson, and David Sonneborn

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

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FRONT COVER: NORTHERN HAWK OWL

Palmer Hay Flats

Audubon Important Bird Area and State Game Refuge

BIRD CHECKLIST

www.MiloBurcham.com

REVISED 2017

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

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

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

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 N 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

*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)

OWLS

- Great Horned Owl N
- Northern Hawk Owl
- Great Gray Owl N
- Short-eared Owl N
- Boreal Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

- Rufous Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

- Belted Kingfisher N

WOODPECKERS

- Downy Woodpecker N
- Hairy Woodpecker N
- American Three-toed Woodpecker N
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker

FALCONS

J F M A M J J A S O N D

- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Gyrfalcon
- Peregrine Falcon

FLYCATCHERS

- Olive-sided Flycatcher N W
- Western Wood-Pewee N
- Alder Flycatcher N

SHRIKES

- Northern Shrike N

JAYS, CROWS, RAVENS

- Gray Jay
- Steller's Jay
- Black-billed Magpie N
- Common Raven N

LARKS

J F M A M J J A S O N D

- Horned Lark

SWALLOWS

- Tree Swallow N
- Violet-green Swallow N
- Bank Swallow N
- Cliff Swallow N

CHICKADEES

- Black-capped Chickadee N
- Boreal Chickadee N

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, DIPPERS

J F M A M J J A S O N D

- Red-breasted Nuthatch N
- Brown Creeper N
- American Dipper

KINGLETS

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet N

THRUSHES

- Townsend's Solitaire
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush N
- Hermit Thrush N
- American Robin N
- Varied Thrush N W

STARLINGS

- European Starling

PIPITS

- American Pipit

WAXWINGS

- Bohemian Waxwing

BUNTINGS

- Lapland Longspur
- Snow Bunting

WARBLERS

- Northern Waterthrush N
- Orange-crowned Warbler N
- Yellow Warbler N
- Blackpoll Warbler N W
- Yellow-rumped Warbler N
- Townsend's Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler

SPARROWS

J F M A M J J A S O N D

- American Tree Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow N
- Fox Sparrow N
- Song Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow N
- White-crowned Sparrow N
- Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco N

BLACKBIRDS

- Red-winged Blackbird N
- Rusty Blackbird N W

FINCHES

- Pine Grosbeak
- White-winged Crossbill
- Common Redpoll N
- Hoary Redpoll
- Pine Siskin