

BIRD TREKS

ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA for Asian Strays !

Chose one, two, or all three weeks for LOTS of incredible birding.

Sunday, 12 September through Sunday, 19 September 2010

Sunday, 19 September through Sunday, 26 September 2010

Sunday, 26 September through Sunday, 3 October 2010

We'll visit **Adak Island** in the central **Aleutians**, 1200 miles southwest of Anchorage, the western-most outpost of North America that is accessible by commercial airline. The flights from Anchorage are on Sundays and Thursdays, so you can go to Adak for a week, 10 days, or longer. You will **save money** and **increase your chances** of seeing more **Asian strays** and other **great birds** by staying for one and a half weeks, two weeks, or even the full three weeks. Your odds of finding additional rarities increase 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
* = *Aleutian subspecies*



Common Greenshank (top left), two Marsh Sandpipers (top right), and a Garganey (below) coming in for a landing.

- - John Puschock, Clam Lagoon, Sep 2007

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



Rarities and vagrants found on previous September tours . . .

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

Additional possibilities include . . .

Red-necked Stint	Black-headed Gull	Red-throated Pipit
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Most likely mammals are . . .

Sea Otter	Harbor Seal	Orca	Minke Whale	Caribou
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A list of **birds and mammals** seen on previous tours is available upon request, and can also be seen on our web site.

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ADAK ISLAND, ALASKA

12 - 19 Sep, 19 - 26 Sep, and 26 Sep - 3 Oct 2010

Flights to and from 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 very 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 **John Puschock**, your highly experienced leader.

DAY AGENDA

- 1 You’ll depart Anchorage and arrive in Adak, with some pretty impressive scenery along the way. From the airport we’ll make the short drive to our lodging facilities, comfortable two-bedroom apartments 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 North America’s first **Spot-billed Duck** and **Broad-billed Sandpiper**. On recent fall tours we have found **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Temminck’s Stint**, **Little Stint**, **Lesser Sand-Plover**, **Gray Wagtail**, and other great birds at the lagoon.

[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 once or twice daily, 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**. We'll visit Lake Andrew where we saw **Gray-streaked Flycatcher** on a past tour, and the town itself where we 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.

An offshore boat trip is a possibility, depending upon the interest of the participants, the weather, and availability of the boat. We will discuss the pelagic options and price with each individual upon registration and as we gather additional information. If the boat goes out we will be in search of **Whiskered Auklet** and other seabirds such as **albatrosses, Short-tailed Shearwater, Northern Fulmar**, and a variety of **alcids**. The status of **Whiskered Auklet** in the fall near Adak is relatively unknown. We will make every reasonable attempt to find this rarity using all of the information at hand, including the experience of our local boat captains. We will attempt to schedule this trip early in the week so that we have a back-up date in case of bad weather.

8 We'll take one more look at Clam Lagoon and perhaps a few other sites, then return to town to prepare for the flight to Anchorage.

Click here for a **map of Adak**:

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



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

[Important details on page 4]

Leader This tour will be led by **John Puschock**, author of two chapters in the newly revised 'Birder's Guide to Alaska', including the chapter on Adak Island. John formerly operated four banding stations in the northwestern portion of Alaska. He has conducted numerous, highly successful tours to Adak and other parts of our 49th state.



Price \$3595 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 **STRONGLY ADVISE**, 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, lodging for seven nights on Adak, **ALL meals**, 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) and boat captain.

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 the boat trip, alcoholic beverages, and items of a personal nature.

Deposit A \$900 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 12 June 2010. Adak is a spectacular birding destination that has only recently become accessible to the birding public. We expect these tours to fill quickly. Send your deposit soon to insure your reservation on the tour and to obtain the best possible airfare to Anchorage.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 24 years of experience in the travel industry. Contact her toll-free at Bailey Travel, **1-800-224-5399**, or e-mail **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 & 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 Access America toll-free at **1-800-284-8300** for this important coverage and mention **BIRD TREKS (ACCAM # F021096)**. You can apply by phone or via the Internet. Simply click on **www.accessamerica.com**.

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