

ALASKA MAINLAND

JUNE 13 – 24, 2010

LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER & BRENNAN MULROONEY

COMPILED BY: BARRY ZIMMER

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
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WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

Alaska Mainland

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“Spruce Grouse!” I yelled, as I simultaneously hit the brakes and steered to the shoulder. This was the one species that had eluded us on our wildly successful 2010 Alaska Mainland tour, and this was the last afternoon of the trip. We were headed back from Denali to Anchorage and were still basking in the afterglow of having just spent 20 minutes with a group of 3 Bohemian Waxwings as close as 40 feet away. The birding was essentially over, and some were dozing off, when I noticed the head and neck of the grouse in some alder stubble on the side of the highway. By the time I was able to stop, the bird had flushed into the forest, and we had gone some distance past the area it had entered. Quickly we emptied the van and began scouring the edge of the forest. A few minutes went by and it looked as though we weren’t going to relocate the bird, when suddenly it burst up off the ground in front of me and into a nearby spruce. Here we enjoyed fairly lengthy views as she nervously watched from about 20 feet up. This was a dramatic and exciting ending to our fantastic trip.

Our superb birding began in Nome, my single favorite North American birding destination. We started on the Teller Road where we were greeted by Pacific and Red-throated loons, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pacific and American golden-plovers, Willow and Rock ptarmigan, Long-tailed and Parasitic jaegers, Yellow Wagtail, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and Hoary and Common redpolls among others. A herd of musk oxen, our first of over 100 individuals, gave us nice views as well. On the Council Road we tallied such highly-sought species as Emperor Goose (rare this late), Spectacled Eider (rare), Arctic Loon (rare but regular the past decade), Gyrfalcon (two different nest sites), a Surfbird from 15 feet (!!!), Aleutian Tern, and Arctic Warbler. A Peregrine Falcon on a nest, several Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagle, Common Eider, Black Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Northern Shrike, and hundreds of Tundra Swans and Brant were the icing on the cake. In addition, we had more herds of musk ox, several moose, a herd of reindeer, and fantastic tundra wildflower displays.

The Kougarak Road supplied its own share of highlights the next day. Topping the list was the absolutely stunning male Bluethroat that sat up in a willow and sang for us for over 20 minutes. We eventually walked away from this little Arctic gem, which would be voted the group’s favorite bird of the tour! Our hike to look for the nearly mythical Bristle-thighed Curlew yielded wonderful views of 4 of these very rare shorebirds, both on the ground and in display flight. On our last morning we took a final run down to Safety Lagoon where we had our only Black Turnstone, and a few had quick views of a White Wagtail.

With the successes of Nome fresh in our minds, we headed back to Anchorage. Here we had great studies of Hudsonian Godwit, a close Trumpeter Swan, stunning breeding-plumaged Horned and Red-necked grebes, and too many Arctic Terns to count. Then it was on to Seward. The scenic drive produced many highlights of its own,

including Dall sheep, mountain goats, a Three-toed Woodpecker, close Varied Thrushes, a family of Dippers, and a gorgeous Pine Grosbeak. In Seward itself, we tallied Marbled Murrelet and Pigeon Guillemot from shore and Northwestern Crows around the city. The next day was our full-day boat trip to Kenai Fjords National Park. Comical sea otters, breaching humpback whales, bow-riding Dall's porpoises, Red-faced Cormorant, Thick-billed and Common murre, Kittlitz's and Ancient murrelets, Rhinoceros and Parakeet auklets, too many Horned and Tufted puffins to count, and a calving tidewater glacier kept us spellbound throughout the day.

The Denali region was our last area to visit. The weather gods cooperated as the skies cleared for the first time in a week and we had Mount McKinley in full view for the entire ride up toward the park. Our shuttle tour the next day yielded Northern Hawk Owl (when none were being seen elsewhere in the area), a Great Horned Owl with a baby, another Gyrfalcon, 3 grizzly bears, and an incredible 6 gray wolves (matching my total from the previous 19 years)!

In addition to all this we enjoyed fabulous salmon, halibut, king crab, and blackberry pie along the way. All in all, a perfect trip to the Last Frontier!

Itinerary:

June 13 - arrival in Anchorage

June 14 - Westchester Lagoon, flight to Nome; Teller Road to MP 34 (61 species; 61 total)

June 15 - Council Road to MP 54 (Skookum Pass) (69 species; 90 total)

June 16 - Kougarak Road to MP 72 (34 species; 98 total)

June 17 - Council Road to MP 22; return to Anchorage (58 species; 100 total)

June 18 - Anchorage to Seward with stops at Potter Marsh, Turnagin Arm, Granite Creek Campground, Summit Lake, Bear Creek (62 species; 127 total)

June 19 - all day boat trip to Kenai Fjords National Park (34 species; 142 total)

June 20 - Nash Woods, Benny Benson Park, Trail River Campground, drive to Anchorage (39 species; 146 total)

June 21 - drive to Denali with some roadside birding, Denali Hwy to MP 123 (53 species; 153 total)

June 22 - bus ride into Denali National Park to Eielson Visitor Center, evening option to Denali Hwy to MP 102 (30 species; 158 total)

June 23 - Denali Hwy to MP 122; return to Anchorage with some roadside birding (33 species; 160 total)

June 24 - departures home or on to Barrow extension (160 total species)

Key:

N = Nome and surrounding Seward Peninsula

A = Anchorage and surrounding areas (Potter Marsh, Turnagin Arm, Girdwood, etc.)

S = Seward, Kenai Fjords, Summit Lake, Granite Creek (Kenai Peninsula)

D = Denali National Park, Denali Hwy, and Parks Hwy north of Wasilla

bold-faced species indicate birds of rare, casual or accidental occurrence

underlined species indicate birds of very uncommon occurrence or species which occur regularly but in such low densities as to be easily missed

- indicates birds seen with babies or on nests

Birds:

Greater White-fronted Goose N---two near the Kuzitrin River; uncommon

Emperor Goose N---two in different parts of Safety Lagoon; rare

Brant N---the western race *nigricans* (a possible future resplit)

Cackling Goose N---although very difficult to separate from *parvipes* type Canadas, all "white-faced" geese on the Seward Peninsula are of the large Cackling Goose group *taverneri*

Canada Goose A---presumed to be of the small "Lesser Canada Goose" group *parvipes*; #

Trumpeter Swan A---nice studies at Potter Marsh

Tundra Swan N,D---up to 350 in one day

Mallard A,S

American Wigeon A,N,D

Northern Shoveler N,A

Northern Pintail N,A,D

Green-winged Teal A,N,D

Ring-necked Duck D---uncommon

Greater Scaup A,N,D

Lesser Scaup A,D

Spectacled Eider N---a female or immature male spotted by Brennan in Safety Lagoon was a real bonus!

Common Eider N---nice studies of v-nigra subspecies along Safety Lagoon

Harlequin Duck N,S---always spectacular; many great views

Surf Scoter S---flock of 12 from boat

White-winged Scoter S---about 30 from boat
Black Scoter N
Long-tailed Duck N
Bufflehead D---uncommon
Common Goldeneye N---ten in Safety Lagoon where uncommon
Barrow's Goldeneye A,S,D---a good showing for this uncommon species with two males our first morning at Westchester, five at Summit Lake, and another near Cantwell
Common Merganser S---including a female with five chicks; #
Red-breasted Merganser N,S
Spruce Grouse D---incredible lucky find was one at midday along the Parks Hwy that perched up in a tree for several minutes; seen on about a third of the trips only; voted the second favorite bird of the tour!
Willow Ptarmigan N---superb studies of nine males & one female; ten total
Rock Ptarmigan N---just one (thanks to Carolyn), but we had great views of a male
Red-throated Loon N---nice breeding-plumaged birds; up to 20 in a day; #
Arctic Loon N---one rather shy bird beyond Safety Sound provided good but quick views; rare US visitor
Pacific Loon N,S---spectacular breeding-plumaged birds
Common Loon S,D
Horned Grebe A,D---one at Potter Marsh was spectacular; uncommon
Red-necked Grebe A,N---fantastic views including birds on nests; #
shearwater species S---two dark shearwaters seen distantly from the boat were either Sooty or Short-tailed
Double-crested Cormorant S
Red-faced Cormorant S---about 40 total including great views at Spire Cove; #
Pelagic Cormorant N,S
Osprey D---very uncommon
Bald Eagle A,S---25 in one day!
Northern Harrier N,D
Sharp-shinned Hawk D---uncommon
Red-tailed Hawk S,D---the "Harlan's" subspecies
Rough-legged Hawk N---six seen
Golden Eagle N,D--- eight total
American Kestrel D---one at Igloo Creek
Merlin N,A,S,D---more widespread than usual with six seen
Gyrfalcon N,D---nice scope study of gray morph adult at nesting cliff; also two babies on another nest, and another adult on Marmot Rock in Denali; #
Peregrine Falcon N---great scope study of adult on nest near Solomon; #
Sandhill Crane N,A
Pacific Golden-Plover N---gorgeous breeding-plumaged birds; three total
American Golden-Plover N---also in stunning breeding plumage
Semipalmated Plover N
Black Oystercatcher S---nice views of four from the boat
Spotted Sandpiper N---only one
Wandering Tattler N
Greater Yellowlegs A,D

Lesser Yellowlegs A,D---some in trees!
 Whimbrel N---only a couple
Bristle-thighed Curlew N---perhaps our best luck ever with four seen, including birds in display flight and on the ground; as an added bonus we only had to walk about halfway to the top this year!!!!; tied for third favorite bird of the tour!
 Hudsonian Godwit A---30 in one group
 Bar-tailed Godwit N---*baueri*; six total
 Ruddy Turnstone N---only one seen
Black Turnstone N---one from Safety Sound our last morning in Nome; uncommon
Surfbird N---fabulous close studies of one on the road; rarely seen here; my favorite bird of the tour!
 Semipalmated Sandpiper N
 Western Sandpiper N---fewer than usual
 Least Sandpiper D---one in flight only near Cantwell
 Dunlin N---just one
 Short-billed Dowitcher A---subspecies *caurinus*
 Wilson's Snipe N,D
 Red-necked Phalarope N,D---beautiful breeding-plumaged birds
 Black-legged Kittiwake N,S---by the thousands in Kenai Fjords
 Bonaparte's Gull A,D
 Mew Gull seen daily in numbers; #
 Herring Gull N,A---"Vega" Gull at Nome (4 total) and "American " Herring Gull (*smithsonianus*) around Anchorage; could be a future split by the AOU
Slaty-backed Gull N---at least one, and probably two, adults at the dump; rare but somewhat regular
 Glaucous-winged Gull A,S
 Glaucous Gull N---very common
 Aleutian Tern N---great studies of about 7 total
 Arctic Tern A,N,S---repeated spectacular views; #
Caspian Tern S---quite rare were two over Seward
 Parasitic Jaeger N
 Long-tailed Jaeger N---one of the more common and conspicuous birds around Nome
 Common Murre S---very common
Thick-billed Murre S--- about fifteen on the Chiswells; nice views
 Pigeon Guillemot S---great studies from shore and on the boat
 Marbled Murrelet S---about 35 from the boat and a few from shore
Kittlitz's Murrelet S---an impressive 25 near Northwest Glacier; several good views of birds in flight and on the water; more conspicuous than usual; Brennan's 700th bird!!!
Ancient Murrelet S---eleven total though only one seen well; always tough and scarce
Parakeet Auklet S---brief but good views of three near Cecil's Cove
 Rhinoceros Auklet S---about 100 seen; great views
 Horned Puffin S---about 400 seen; superb views
 Tufted Puffin S---about 1000 seen; superb views
 Rock Pigeon A,S---increasingly common
 Great Horned Owl D---adult and chick from the shuttle bus; #

Northern Hawk-Owl D---nice views from shuttle bus thanks to Stephanie; can be very hard to find and in fact none were being seen in more regular haunts along the Denali Hwy

Rufous Hummingbird S

Belted Kingfisher A,S,D

Downy Woodpecker A---heard only

American Three-toed Woodpecker S---good views of this uncommon & easily missed species

Northern Flicker D---"Yellow-shafted"; by a few only

Olive-sided Flycatcher D---thanks to Gary; uncommon

Alder Flycatcher A,S,D

Northern Shrike N---only two seen, but one put on a great show near the river mouth

Gray Jay S,D---including interesting juveniles

Steller's Jay S---darker, shorter crested race with dark blue spots on crest

Black-billed Magpie A,S,D

Northwestern Crow S---seen best around Safeway parking lot

Common Raven daily; #

Horned Lark N---uncommon

Tree Swallow A,S,N,D

Violet-green Swallow A,S,D---excellent views of this beauty; #

Bank Swallow A,N

Cliff Swallow N,D

Black-capped Chickadee A---#

Chestnut-backed Chickadee S---the chestnut-sided subspecies *rufescens*

Boreal Chickadee S,D---uncommon

Red-breasted Nuthatch S---only one seen

American Dipper S---great studies of adult with fledged young; #; tied for third favorite bird of the tour!

Golden-crowned Kinglet S---nice study of pair

Ruby-crowned Kinglet S,D

Arctic Warbler N,D---superb views of this specialty; up to 12 in a day

Bluethroat N---gorgeous male performed well on the Kougarak Road; voted the favorite bird of the tour!

Northern Wheatear N---always tough; nice views near Skookum

Gray-cheeked Thrush N,D

Swainson's Thrush D---heard only

Hermit Thrush S,A,D---perhaps the best song in North America

American Robin almost daily; #

Varied Thrush S,A,D---great views; another top song contender

European Starling A---very uncommon, but increasing in Alaska

Eastern Yellow Wagtail N---subspecies *tschutschensis*; several nice views

White Wagtail N---this rarity was unfortunately seen only by a few our last morning in Nome

American Pipit N---uncommon

Bohemian Waxwing D---we had nine total in what was generally perceived to be a bad waxwing year; superb scope studies; our first were spotted by Jerry

Orange-crowned Warbler A,N,S
 Yellow Warbler N,S,A---#
 Yellow-rumped Warbler A,S,D---Myrtle types
 Townsend's Warbler S---superb views of this striking species
 Blackpoll Warbler D---our best views ever
 Northern Waterthrush N,D
 Wilson's Warbler N,A,S,D
 American Tree Sparrow N,D
 Savannah Sparrow N,A,D
 Fox Sparrow N,S,D---"Red" birds (*zaboria*) in Nome & Denali, "Sooty"
 (*unalaschensis*) birds around Seward
 Song Sparrow S---big, dark coastal race *kenaiensis*
 Lincoln's Sparrow S,A,D---#
 White-crowned Sparrow N,A,S,D
 Golden-crowned Sparrow N,S,A
 Dark-eyed Junco A,S,D---Slate-colored types
 Lapland Longspur N---spectacular in breeding plumage
 Snow Bunting N---stunning!
Red-winged Blackbird A---two at Potter Marsh; uncommon & local
Rusty Blackbird N---bad views of two in Nome
 Pine Grosbeak S---wonderful views at Kathy's; can be tough
 Common Redpoll A,N,D
 Hoary Redpoll N---good views of a few; less numerous than usual
 Pine Siskin A,S

total species - **160**

Leader only birds:

Eurasian Wigeon---on late night drive to Safety
 Canvasback
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Brown Creeper

Mammals:

Arctic Ground Squirrel
 Red Squirrel
 Snowshoe Hare---common in the Denali region again this year, but somewhat reduced
 from past two years
Short-tailed Weasel---by some in Brennan's van in Nome
 Common Muskrat---Potter Marsh; we could even see his red teeth
 Beaver---one for the late nighters on the denali Hwy
 Porcupine---one spotted by Lynne on the Denali Hwy

Gray Wolf---incredibly we had six total, including two gray adults and four pups; seen on about 20% of trips only

Mountain Goat---our first spotted by Jerry

Moose---a total of 22 including several cute calves

Caribou---"Barren Ground" Caribou in Denali and "Reindeer" in Nome

Dall's Sheep---ewes along Turnagin Arm; some rams in Denali

Musk Ox---many superb views including babies!; at least 100 seen

Grizzly Bear---three total in the park

Black Bear---one seen by some near Cataract Cove

Dall's Porpoise---speedy "mini-Orcas" bow-riding our boat

Harbor Porpoise---not seen by most

Humpback Whale-----four from the boat including one that repeatedly breached (great show!) thanks to Carolyn!

Gray Whale---an unexpected late migrating individual from the boat

Sea Otter---great views of these cute critters in Kenai Fjords

Steller's Sea Lion---declining at a ridiculous pace

Harbor Seal

total species - 22

Butterflies:

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail---mostly along Parks Hwy

Mustard White---widespread

Palidne Sulphur---Denali

Silvery Blue---Denali

Cranberry Blue---Denali

alpine species---possibly Magdalena

Milbert's Tortoise Shell---at Mary's McKinley View Lodge

White-veined Arctic---Denali

total species - 8 (a tour record!)

Significant others:

king crab & salmon dinners

blackberry & fruits of the forest pie at Summit Lake

the double garbage grinder challenge successfully completed!

sockeye salmon at Bear Lake

Kathy's hospitality at Bear Creek

on time flights with no fog delays!

great wildflowers including the likes of Alpine Azalea, Purple Oxytrope, Mountain Avens,

Woolly Lousewort, Mooseberry, Lapland Rosebay, Lapland Cassiope, Cow Parsnip,

lupines, and many others left unidentified

“precious” birds

“watch out for holes in the tundra”

gathering musk ox fur

no dust in Nome

good-and-plentys

Mount McKinley (Denali) in full view on parts of two days!

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American Wigeon A,N,D

Northern Shoveler N,A

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Green-winged Teal A,N,D

Ring-necked Duck D---uncommon

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 Bonaparte's Gull A,D
 Mew Gull seen daily in numbers; #
 Herring Gull N,A---"Vega" Gull at Nome (4 total) and "American " Herring Gull (*smithsonianus*) around Anchorage; could be a future split by the AOU
Slaty-backed Gull N---at least one, and probably two, adults at the dump; rare but somewhat regular
 Glaucous-winged Gull A,S
 Glaucous Gull N---very common
 Aleutian Tern N---great studies of about 7 total
 Arctic Tern A,N,S---repeated spectacular views; #
Caspian Tern S---quite rare were two over Seward
 Parasitic Jaeger N
 Long-tailed Jaeger N---one of the more common and conspicuous birds around Nome
 Common Murre S---very common
Thick-billed Murre S--- about fifteen on the Chiswells; nice views
 Pigeon Guillemot S---great studies from shore and on the boat
 Marbled Murrelet S---about 35 from the boat and a few from shore
Kittlitz's Murrelet S---an impressive 25 near Northwest Glacier; several good views of birds in flight and on the water; more conspicuous than usual; Brennan's 700th bird!!!
Ancient Murrelet S---eleven total though only one seen well; always tough and scarce
Parakeet Auklet S---brief but good views of three near Cecil's Cove
 Rhinoceros Auklet S---about 100 seen; great views
 Horned Puffin S---about 400 seen; superb views
 Tufted Puffin S---about 1000 seen; superb views
 Rock Pigeon A,S---increasingly common
 Great Horned Owl D---adult and chick from the shuttle bus; #

Northern Hawk-Owl D---nice views from shuttle bus thanks to Stephanie; can be very hard to find and in fact none were being seen in more regular haunts along the Denali Hwy

Rufous Hummingbird S

Belted Kingfisher A,S,D

Downy Woodpecker A---heard only

American Three-toed Woodpecker S---good views of this uncommon & easily missed species

Northern Flicker D---"Yellow-shafted"; by a few only

Olive-sided Flycatcher D---thanks to Gary; uncommon

Alder Flycatcher A,S,D

Northern Shrike N---only two seen, but one put on a great show near the river mouth

Gray Jay S,D---including interesting juveniles

Steller's Jay S---darker, shorter crested race with dark blue spots on crest

Black-billed Magpie A,S,D

Northwestern Crow S---seen best around Safeway parking lot

Common Raven daily; #

Horned Lark N---uncommon

Tree Swallow A,S,N,D

Violet-green Swallow A,S,D---excellent views of this beauty; #

Bank Swallow A,N

Cliff Swallow N,D

Black-capped Chickadee A---#

Chestnut-backed Chickadee S---the chestnut-sided subspecies *rufescens*

Boreal Chickadee S,D---uncommon

Red-breasted Nuthatch S---only one seen

American Dipper S---great studies of adult with fledged young; #; tied for third favorite bird of the tour!

Golden-crowned Kinglet S---nice study of pair

Ruby-crowned Kinglet S,D

Arctic Warbler N,D---superb views of this specialty; up to 12 in a day

Bluethroat N---gorgeous male performed well on the Kougarak Road; voted the favorite bird of the tour!

Northern Wheatear N---always tough; nice views near Skookum

Gray-cheeked Thrush N,D

Swainson's Thrush D---heard only

Hermit Thrush S,A,D---perhaps the best song in North America

American Robin almost daily; #

Varied Thrush S,A,D---great views; another top song contender

European Starling A---very uncommon, but increasing in Alaska

Eastern Yellow Wagtail N---subspecies *tschutschensis*; several nice views

White Wagtail N---this rarity was unfortunately seen only by a few our last morning in Nome

American Pipit N---uncommon

Bohemian Waxwing D---we had nine total in what was generally perceived to be a bad waxwing year; superb scope studies; our first were spotted by Jerry

Orange-crowned Warbler A,N,S
 Yellow Warbler N,S,A---#
 Yellow-rumped Warbler A,S,D---Myrtle types
 Townsend's Warbler S---superb views of this striking species
 Blackpoll Warbler D---our best views ever
 Northern Waterthrush N,D
 Wilson's Warbler N,A,S,D
 American Tree Sparrow N,D
 Savannah Sparrow N,A,D
 Fox Sparrow N,S,D---"Red" birds (*zaboria*) in Nome & Denali, "Sooty"
 (*unalaschensis*) birds around Seward
 Song Sparrow S---big, dark coastal race *kenaiensis*
 Lincoln's Sparrow S,A,D---#
 White-crowned Sparrow N,A,S,D
 Golden-crowned Sparrow N,S,A
 Dark-eyed Junco A,S,D---Slate-colored types
 Lapland Longspur N---spectacular in breeding plumage
 Snow Bunting N---stunning!
Red-winged Blackbird A---two at Potter Marsh; uncommon & local
Rusty Blackbird N---bad views of two in Nome
 Pine Grosbeak S---wonderful views at Kathy's; can be tough
 Common Redpoll A,N,D
 Hoary Redpoll N---good views of a few; less numerous than usual
 Pine Siskin A,S

total species - **160**

Leader only birds:

Eurasian Wigeon---on late night drive to Safety
 Canvasback
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Brown Creeper

Mammals:

Arctic Ground Squirrel
 Red Squirrel
 Snowshoe Hare---common in the Denali region again this year, but somewhat reduced
 from past two years
Short-tailed Weasel---by some in Brennan's van in Nome
 Common Muskrat---Potter Marsh; we could even see his red teeth
 Beaver---one for the late nighters on the denali Hwy
 Porcupine---one spotted by Lynne on the Denali Hwy

Gray Wolf---incredibly we had six total, including two gray adults and four pups; seen on about 20% of trips only

Mountain Goat---our first spotted by Jerry

Moose---a total of 22 including several cute calves

Caribou---"Barren Ground" Caribou in Denali and "Reindeer" in Nome

Dall's Sheep---ewes along Turnagin Arm; some rams in Denali

Musk Ox---many superb views including babies!; at least 100 seen

Grizzly Bear---three total in the park

Black Bear---one seen by some near Cataract Cove

Dall's Porpoise---speedy "mini-Orcas" bow-riding our boat

Harbor Porpoise---not seen by most

Humpback Whale-----four from the boat including one that repeatedly breached (great show!) thanks to Carolyn!

Gray Whale---an unexpected late migrating individual from the boat

Sea Otter---great views of these cute critters in Kenai Fjords

Steller's Sea Lion---declining at a ridiculous pace

Harbor Seal

total species - 22

Butterflies:

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail---mostly along Parks Hwy

Mustard White---widespread

Palidne Sulphur---Denali

Silvery Blue---Denali

Cranberry Blue---Denali

alpine species---possibly Magdalena

Milbert's Tortoise Shell---at Mary's McKinley View Lodge

White-veined Arctic---Denali

total species - 8 (a tour record!)

Significant others:

king crab & salmon dinners

blackberry & fruits of the forest pie at Summit Lake

the double garbage grinder challenge successfully completed!

sockeye salmon at Bear Lake

Kathy's hospitality at Bear Creek

on time flights with no fog delays!

great wildflowers including the likes of Alpine Azalea, Purple Oxytrope, Mountain Avenas,

Woolly Lousewort, Mooseberry, Lapland Rosebay, Lapland Cassiope, Cow Parsnip,

lupines, and many others left unidentified

“precious” birds

“watch out for holes in the tundra”

gathering musk ox fur

no dust in Nome

good-and-plentys

Mount McKinley (Denali) in full view on parts of two days!