

Alaska: Seward, Nome and Denali National Park

Wednesday June 9 to Sunday June 20

Pre-Tour extension to Pribilof Islands

Sunday June 6 to Wednesday June 9

Guided by Gary Rosenberg

Price: Main Tour \$4600

Price: Pribilof Extension \$2400

Twelve day tour that concentrates on Seward, Nome and Denali National Park. Tour begins with two nights in Seward, and a boat trip to the Kenai Fjords National Park for nesting seabirds, Kittlitz's Murrelet, and views of a tidewater glacier. We'll have three nights and four days of birding at Nome. Wonderful arctic birding with nesting shorebirds including Bristle-thighed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, and both American and Pacific Golden-Plovers. Other Nome highlights include Arctic and Pacific Loons, Gyrfalcon, both Rock and Willow Ptarmigan, Aleutian Tern, Northern Wheatear, Bluethroat, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, and Hoary Redpoll. The tour will then visit wonderful Denali National Park. Full day shuttle trip into the park for scenery and mammals, including Grizzly Bear. Day of birding on the Denali Highway in search of Trumpeter Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Hawk-Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, and White-winged Crossbill. Tour can be combined with the Alaska: Pribilof Islands and Seward tour.

There are few birding locations in North America as exciting as Alaska. The state is huge and diverse, with wonderful coastal tundra on the Bering Sea, vast mountainous tundra on the Seward Peninsular, extensive boreal forest through the interior, wonderful Denali National Park, with its large mammals and unsurpassed scenery, and the coastal wonders around Seward on the Kenai Peninsular with scenic Kenai Fjords National Park. The twelve day tour begins in Anchorage, and travels first Seward on the Kenai Peninsular, where the main attraction will be a full day boat trip to the Kenai Fjords National Park. Our goal will be to find the local Kittlitz's Murrelet, but the teeming seabird colonies on the Chiswell Islands, and the chance for both Humpbacked and Killer Whales will add excitement to the trip. Land-birding on the Kenai is also fun, with a number of specialties such as Varied Thrush and Chestnut-backed Chickadee just a couple of the birds we'll look for. It is then off to Nome on the Bering sea on the south coast of the spectacular Seward Peninsular. The tundra birding here is both fun and productive, and we'll visit great birding localities such as Safety Lagoon, Teller, and the Kougarok Road. We'll have four days to bird Nome and look for its many specialties, including Arctic and Pacific Loons, Gyrfalcon, Rock and Willow Ptarmigans, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pacific Golden-Plover, Aleutian Tern, Northern Wheatear, Bluethroat, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, and Hoary Redpoll. Migration will still be

occurring, and there is always a chance for rarities in Nome such as Emperor Goose or Spectacled Eider. The third portion of the tour will visit wonderful Denali National Park. The contrast will be evident as we travel from Anchorage into the forested interior in search of warblers and thrushes, as well as specialties such as Trumpeter Swan, Northern Hawk-Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Arctic Warbler, Common Redpoll, and White-winged Crossbill. The highlight will be a full day trip into the wilds of Denali National Park, and the hope of seeing majestic Mount McKinley, and large mammals including the amazing Grizzly Bear.

There will be a pre-tour extension to wonderful Saint Paul Island, part of the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, which are famous for nesting seabird colonies on the cliffs, where we'll see nesting Horned and Tufted Puffins, Least, Crested, and Parakeet Auklets, and both Common and Thick-billed Murres. In addition to the incredible spectacle of the nesting *alcids*, we'll also experience nesting Red-legged Kittiwakes, Saint Paul Island being the only accessible nesting colony for this species away from the central Aleutians, as well as nesting Red-faced Cormorant and Northern Fulmar. The island is incredibly scenic and also offers the chance for an Asian stray. The first half of June is an excellent time for a rarity, and we'll check the many ponds and lakes for an unusual shorebird or duck, or the rocky tundra for a rare land bird. The possibilities are many. Just a few of the many Asian strays that have occurred in early June include Common Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Gray-tailed Tattler, Slaty-backed Gull, Common Cuckoo, Eyebrowed Thrush, Siberian Rubythroat, Olive-backed Pipit, and Common Rosefinch, or even rarer strays such as Rufous-tailed Robin. The combination of seabird watching and looking for rarities makes a visit to the Pribis memorable.

Day by Day Itinerary

EXT Day 1: The tour begins this evening in Anchorage. There will be a short introductory meeting followed by dinner. **Night in Anchorage.**

EXT Days 2-3: This morning we'll begin with a short walk out from the hotel to the edge of Lake Spenard. Some of the common species will include both American Wigeon, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Red-necked Grebe, Mew Gull, and Red-necked Phalarope, as well as a few common land birds such as Downy Woodpecker, Black-billed Magpie, Violet-green Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Redpoll. In the mid morning we'll transfer to the airport for our late morning flight to Saint Paul Island. Our flight usually stops at Dillingham located on the southwest coast before heading out over the Bering Sea to the Pribilof Islands. We'll arrive in the late afternoon and will check into our rooms before heading out birding. Our schedule at Saint Paul will include birding outings after dinner, as well as in the morning and afternoon. We'll have the opportunity to check and re-check several of the best birding locations on the island. If there is a rarity present, the local guides will know and I am sure we will head out looking for it as soon as possible.

Saint Paul Island is a wind swept, grass-covered island with numerous lakes and ponds, and several nice rocky cliffs, which are excellent for nesting seabirds. We'll have ample

time to leisurely visit the cliffs, and watch, as well as photograph the numerous nesting seabirds. These cliffs here on Saint Paul, and nearby Saint George Island are the main nesting habitat for the local Red-legged Kittiwake. Another specialty species is the Red-faced Cormorant, which is a common breeder here at Saint Paul. The common *alcids* that nest here include Parakeet, Least, and Crested Auklets, both Horned and Tufted Puffins, and both Common and Thick-billed Murres. All these species will be present on the cliffs and offer excellent opportunities for photography. The nominate race of Rock Sandpiper is also a common breeder, as is the Pribilof race of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Lapland Longspur is also a common breeding land bird, and it is fun to watch them skylarking in full song display. On the numerous lakes and ponds, Long-tailed Duck is always present, as is the “Eurasian” form of Green-winged Teal. Off shore we will see thousands of all the common breeding species, and hope for an interesting gull or loon. Both Yellow-billed and Arctic Loons have been seen here in June. The main shorebird habitat is the “Salt Lagoon” where both Black-legged and Red-legged Kittiwakes come to bathe and roost. The extensive mudflats sometimes attract unusual shorebirds and gulls, including occasionally a Ross’s or Black-headed. Interesting shorebirds can show up at any time at the Salt Lagoon, or at the edge of any of the numerous ponds. Gray-tailed Tattler, Common and Wood Sandpipers are all regular vagrants from Asia, and other rarities that have occurred here in June include Red-necked, Temminck’s, Long-toed, and Little Stints, as well as Black-tailed Godwit. We’ll also have the chance to check a number of interesting land bird areas, such as Hutchinson Hill, or around the crab pots stacked on the edge of town. Essentially any land bird other than the three nesting species is interesting. Over the years we have seen numerous rarities, although nothing is guaranteed. Some of the more interesting Asian species that have occurred in June include Common Cuckoo, Eyebrowed and Dusky Thrushes, Siberian Rubythroat, Rufous-tailed Robin, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Taiga Flycatcher, Olive-backed Pipit, and Common Rosefinch. Although we certainly hope for a rarity, the main attraction of the Pribis are the nesting seabirds, which are all but guaranteed. **Nights at Saint Paul Island.**

EXT Day 4 (Main tour Day 1): We’ll have all morning and the early afternoon to check areas at Saint Paul Island before boarding our mid-afternoon flight back to Anchorage. Our flight will get us back into Anchorage in time for dinner. After dinner there will be an optional excursion out to Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage. Here we can expect close-up views of Red-necked Grebe, as well as a variety of ducks. Mew gulls and Arctic Terns are common here, and if the tides are correct there is the chance for a variety of waders, including Hudsonian Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, and perhaps Surf-bird. **Night in Anchorage.**

Day 2: This morning we’ll spend our time birding locally in Anchorage. There are numerous parks with extensive trails, and we’ll search for a number of land birds possible here, including Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Gray Jay, Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Swainson’s and Hermit Thrushes, Orange-crowned and Townsend’s Warblers, and both Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows. Sometimes there are White-winged Crossbills around town. At Potter’s Marsh we’ll likely see Canvasback, and we’ll have point blank looks at Arctic Terns. In the late morning we’ll head south toward the

Kenai Peninsular and out lunch stop at Summit Lake. The afternoon we'll poke our way to Seward stopping at lakes to look for Common Loon and Barrow's Goldeneye. Closer to Seward we'll look for American Dipper, and there is a chance for Spruce Grouse. Outside of Seward the Sitka Spruce forest comes down to the coast, and we'll search a beautiful neighborhood for Steller's Jay, Varied and Hermit Thrushes, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Warbler, and the Sooty form of Fox Sparrow. **Night at Seward.**

Day 3: Today will be one of the highlights of the tour as we take a full day boat excursion in Resurrection Bay, and out to the Chiswell Islands and one of the several tidewater glaciers accessible in the Kenai Fjords National Park. Our boat trip will be an excellent compliment to our *alcid* experience at Saint Paul Island. Close to the tidewater glacier we'll have an excellent opportunity for both Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets, as well as both Ancient Murrelet and Rhinoceros Auklet. Along the shoreline we'll see numerous Pigeon Guillemots, and at the Chiswell Islands we'll see thousands of Tufted and Horned Puffins, and both Common and Thick-billed Murres. Black-legged Kittiwakes will be nesting by the thousands, as well as both Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Harlequin ducks will be common along the shorelines, and June is still an active migration period for both loons and scoters. We'll search the rocky outcrops for Black Oystercatcher. The bay is also a great spot for mammals, and we'll hope for either Humpbacked or Killer Whales, or both, as well as Sea Otters. Occasionally we see Mountain Goat up on the rocky slopes along the edge of the bay. The highlight of the day will be the wonderful seafood dinner at the end of the day! **Night in Seward.**

Day 4: We'll have the morning to leisurely bird around Seward looking for any of the inland species we may still be missing. Sometimes there are Red Crossbills around, and we'll search for these in the Sitka Spruce. Along the coast we'll also try and get better views of both Harlequin Ducks and Marbled Murrelets from shore. After lunch we'll work our way back to Anchorage arriving in time to check Potter's Marsh, and perhaps Westchester Lagoon, depending on the tides. Back at our Anchorage hotel in the late afternoon, we'll have time to clean up and have a wonderful dinner. **Night in Anchorage.**

Days 5-7: We'll depart the hotel very early the morning of Day 6 to catch the first flight to Nome, arriving there mid-morning. This will give us the better part of four full days of birding at one of the most-exciting birding locations in North America. Nome has a lot to offer, from coastal birding along the edge of the Bering Sea, to wonderful Safety Lagoon to the rolling mountainous tundra in the interior of the Seward Peninsular. We'll have the opportunity to check Safety Lagoon a number of times, and we're likely to see new birds there on each visit. The lagoon is famous for its nesting colonies of Aleutian Terns, but the diversity of water birds there is often impressive. The common species will be large numbers of Arctic Terns and Glaucous Gulls, and smaller numbers of fun arctic species such as Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Common Eiders, Tundra Swans, both Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers, and a variety of shorebirds including Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Bar-tailed Godwit, and both Ruddy and Black Turnstones. Migration will still be going on, and there will be the opportunity for late migrants such

as scoters, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Some of the interesting species we have seen in mid-June include Yellow-billed and Arctic Loons, Emperor Goose, King Eider, Eurasian Wigeon, Sabine's and Slaty-backed Gulls, Pomarine Jaeger, and true rarities for Nome such as Spectacled and Steller's Eiders, and Red-necked Stint. Nome never knows what to expect out at Safety Lagoon!

The interior of the Seward Peninsular is another wonderful area to bird at Nome. We'll spend at least one full day birding along the Kougarok Road. Our main target bird will be to see one of the accessible Bristle-thighed Curlews, but the trip out the Kougarok is always exciting. Early in the morning we'll watch for both Rock and Willow Ptarmigans, which often can be seen along the edges of the road. This is also an excellent time for seeing Grizzly Bear, Moose, or a group of Muskox, which have been re-introduced on the peninsular. The scenery is fantastic, and we're likely to see a very nice assortment of birds, including Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, American Golden-Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Long-tailed Jaeger, Northern Shrike, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Northern Wheatear, Bluethroat, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Tree Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Hoary Redpoll.

The third of the three major roads at Nome travels through rolling, rocky tundra, and along the coastal plain to the coastal village of Teller. We'll stop at Wooley Lagoon in search of nesting Black-bellied and Pacific Golden-Plovers, and the trip is excellent for Northern Wheatears and Rock Ptarmigan. This is also the best road for seeing Muskox. Teller is a native village set on the shore of the Bering Sea, and there is always the chance for something interesting, such as Pigeon Guillemots, or a Yellow-billed Loon. In recent years, this has been the most reliable location for White Wagtail. **Nights at Nome.**

Day 8: We'll have one last day at Nome where we'll have ample time to re-check many of the best birding locations along the coast, such as Safety Lagoon. Mid-June is still the migratory season, and there is always nice turnover every day. We'll return to Nome in the late afternoon to check in for our evening flight and have dinner. After dinner there will be time set aside for some gift shopping – Nome has several nice gift shops that specialize in local native handicrafts. Our flight arrives back in Anchorage at about 11:00 pm. **Night in Anchorage.**

Day 9: This morning we'll check a couple of birding areas around Anchorage, in particular Westchester Lagoon along the edge of Cook Inlet, where we'll look for both Hudsonian Godwit and Short-billed Dowitcher. In the mid-morning we'll head north toward Denali National Park. Our drive takes us around Cook Inlet to the Wasilla area, where we'll stop for lunch, and then continue north to the park. As we get closer to Denali, we'll have our first opportunity to see the magnificent Mount McKinley, and the highway passes through beautiful black Spruce forest. We'll check a number of lakes and ponds in search of both Trumpeter Swan and Barrow's Goldeneye, as well as a number of other ducks, including both Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Surf and White-winged Scoters. In the spruce forest we'll hope for specialties such as Bohemian Waxwing and White-winged Crossbill, and a number of songbirds including Swainson's

Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler, as well as Common Redpoll will be common. Time permitting we'll bird the beginning of the Denali Highway in search of Northern Hawk-Owl, and Arctic Warbler. Our lodging is at the entrance to Denali National Park. **Night at Denali National Park.**

Day 10: Today we'll spend most of the day inside Denali National Park. We'll take advantage of the park shuttle system and travel about 70 miles into the park to the Eielson Visitor Center. The scenery along this trip is really impressive, and we'll hope for a clear day so we can enjoy Mount McKinley. Even if the mountain is hidden, the trip is still great for experiencing the wild vast openness of the park, as well as seeing some of the large mammals protected within the park, including Grizzly Bear, Moose, Caribou, and Dall Sheep. Some of the birds we can expect to see include Golden Eagle, Willow Ptarmigan, and possible Gyrfalcon. We'll return to our hotel for a late afternoon break, dinner, and an optional evening outing to the Denali Highway in search of Northern Hawk-Owl. **Night at Denali National Park.**

Day 11: We'll have the entire day to work our way back to Anchorage. The morning will be spent along the first portion of the Denali Highway again, which is a combination of willow-lined streams, rolling tundra, and spruce-lined lakes. We'll search again for any of the target species we are missing, which might include Northern Hawk-Owl, Trumpeter Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bohemian Waxwing, or White-winged Crossbill. The birding along the road is fun, and good for species such as Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush, Gray Jay, Arctic Warbler, Blackpoll, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers, Lincoln's White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Common Redpoll, to name a few. After lunch we'll head south toward Anchorage. Time permitting we'll make a diversion over Hatcher Pass above Palmer in search of White-tailed Ptarmigan. We'll be back in Anchorage at dinner time, where we'll have a nice farewell dinner close to our hotel. **Night in Anchorage.**

Day 12: The trip ends in Anchorage this morning. There are no birding activities planned.

Maximum size of group: The maximum group size for our Arizona tour is nine.

Tour Leader for your Arizona Tour: Gary Rosenberg

Gary Rosenberg lives in Tucson, where he has designed and led about 50 birding tours to Alaska during the past 25 years. He has been birding since early childhood, studied Ornithology for a Master's degree at Louisiana State University, and is the author or co-author of numerous scientific and popular articles on bird identification and behavior. Gary is also a passionate photographer, and has had numerous bird photos published in magazines and books. He is currently the secretary of the Arizona Bird Committee, which evaluates rare bird reports within Arizona. His current areas of expertise, apart from Alaska, include most areas in North America, in particular Florida and Arizona, as well as Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador and Peru.

Pace of the tour: The pace of this tour is Easy to Moderate. Most of the birding will be done along roads, or on reasonably level tundra. At Saint Paul Island, The birding will be easy, with some tundra walking, but nothing too strenuous. The Seward portion will also be easy. Birding in Alaska can be exhausting, given that it never really gets dark!

Therefore we will pace ourselves. In general the starts will not be super early, although the day we fly to Nome requires leaving the hotel very early around 4:30 am, and we'll depart relatively early for our day on the Kougarok Road. On one or two evenings, particularly at the Pribilofs, we will offer optional evening birding until 10:00 or 11:00 pm. On one day we plan on slightly more difficult hike, when we search for Bristle-thighed Curlew out of Nome. This hike will, of course, be optional, and the rest of our birding on the Kougarok Road will be fantastic. On one or two evenings in Nome we will offer optional evening birding until 10:00 or 11:00 pm.

Tour Price: \$4600 for the main tour. \$2400 for the Pribilof Extension. The cost of the tour includes all accommodations, food, within-tour transportation, including a round-trip flight to and from Nome, baggage handling (when needed), entrance fees, water during the day's tour activities, and guide services, as indicated by the itinerary. In general the hotels and lodges we use on the tours are nice and comfortable, and often the best-available in the more remote areas we visit. In the cities we stay in above average (but not necessarily the most expensive) hotels. Meals are typically taken in local restaurants near the hotels and lodges.

The following items are not included in the tour price: travel to and from the location the tour begins and ends, laundry, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement \$ 1000 for main tour. Single supplement for Pribilof Extension \$200

Deposit policy: At the time of booking a tour, a \$300 deposit is required to secure a space on the tour. This deposit is refundable or transferable up until 120 days prior to the departure date of the tour. The deposit must be received within 14 days of booking, or the reserved space will be released. Up to the 120 day prior to departure date, a deposit may be transferred to another Avian Journeys tour without penalty. Between 119 and 90 days prior to tour departure, cancellation of a reservation will result in forfeit of 50% of the \$300 deposit. Cancellation of a reservation within 90 days of the tour departure date will result in forfeit of the deposit.

Tour Registration: To register for this Alaska tour, please first contact Avian Journeys by email or phone to check on availability. Once we have confirmed that there is space on the tour, please fill out the registration form, which is available on the "Register for a tour" page, and mail it to Avian Journeys. It is very important that you read all the information in this document, and then make sure you sign and date the waiver at the end of the registration form. A \$300 deposit is necessary to secure a space on the trip. Full

payment for the tour will be invoiced 100 days prior to the departure date, and must be received within 90 days of departure.

Cancellation policy: Cancellation by a tour participant greater than or equal to 90 days prior to the departure date will result in full refund of payments to Avian Journeys (minus 50% of the deposit if the cancellation occurs between 119 and 90 days prior to the tour departure). Cancellation by a tour participant within 90 days of a tour will result in a refund of amounts we are able to recover from our hotels and ground agents. Fixed cost amounts can not be refunded. In general, the amount we can potentially refund may be as low as 50% or 25% of the cost of the tour.

Trip insurance. At the time of payment for the tour, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. The following companies offer trip insurance, and/or emergency medical insurance: <http://www.travelinsured.com>, <http://www.accessamerica.com>, www.aaa.com. One never knows when personal illness, or an illness in the family is going to strike. Given that a cancellation by a participant within 90 days of departure might result in a loss of most, if not all of the cost of a tour, trip insurance is a good idea. Furthermore, insurance is recommended in case of an illness on a tour, and in a worse case scenario, the need for an emergency medical evacuation, which can be prohibitively expensive. Purchasing insurance is a personal choice, and Avian Journeys does not recommend one company over another.

Travel to Alaska: The tour begins and ends in Anchorage, Alaska. If you are flying in to Anchorage, you should plan on arriving before 6:00 pm, the time of our introductory meeting on Day 1. Anchorage is served by most of the major air carriers, and have direct connections from Seattle, Dallas, Minneapolis, and other cities, depending on the carrier. We can advise you on your travel plans to Anchorage, but we suggest using one of the online travel booking sites, such as Orbitz or Travelocity. It is also easy to book flights online through all of the individual airline web sites.

Baggage suggestions: We suggest limiting your baggage as much as possible, and trying to bring one piece of luggage, and one carry-on (such as a small backpack). While we will have plenty of room in the van, traveling as light as possible makes everyone's life more simpler. Airlines are also starting to charge for additional luggage, so limiting yourself to one piece can be cost effective. Please note that the luggage should not weigh a ton. You should be prepared to be able to lift and/or carry your own luggage at hotels. Most hotels have luggage carts, and the leader will try and help you, but please don't expect the leader to be able to lift and carry over-heavy bags.

Climate in Alaska: The weather in Alaska in June can vary. Some years it is already "Summer" in mid-June, while other years it may be significantly cooler. Anchorage can be very nice at this season, with temperatures in the 50's and 60's. Saint Paul Island is located out in the middle of the Bering Sea, and the climate there can be expected to be cool and wet, with temperatures in the low to mid-40's. Rain is always a possibility, and one should be well prepared. Alternatively, it can be sunny and "relatively warm" at Anchorage and the interior of the Kenai Peninsular. One should also expect it to be cold

and wet on the boat trip out of Seward. Nome is typically cooler, and one should expect temperatures in the 40's and 50's. The interior near Denali National Park is usually warmer, similar to Anchorage weather. Rain is always a possibility, and one should be well prepared. Alternatively, it can be sunny and "relatively warm" at all locations. In general, it is very difficult to predict Alaska weather!

What to Bring

Clothes – Over the years we have discovered that "everyone" has their own tastes regarding cloths. We will suggest that you consider quick-drying pants and shirts, particularly if you plan on doing your own laundry. Many of the higher quality field cloths available from companies such as "Ex Oficio" or "REI" also offer protection from UV rays, which can be important in Alaska. We also recommend cloths with "neutral" colors, such as browns, tans, and greens that blend with the natural environment, which is less threatening to forest and tundra birds. Bright reds and pinks should please be avoided! We do suggest at least one pair of relatively warm pants (such as jeans). Also a set of thermal underwear may come in handy if we experience cold weather at Nome.

Footwear – Comfortable footwear is perhaps the most important item to consider, as we are on our feet most of the day, every day! We suggest lightweight hiking boots that are waterproof (Goretex). While we bird mostly from the roads, we do occasionally walk across spongy tundra, and if it has been raining, having waterproof boots is important.

The following items are important:

- Binoculars
- Camera (optional)
- Hat (ESSENTIAL!)
- Rain Jacket (Goretex)
- Alarm Clock
- Insect Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Water Bottle
- Small backpack
- Ear Plugs (optional)

General health issues: Alaska poses little health risks. The most important health issues are the cold and rain, and sometimes the sun and dehydration. Being prepared for inclement weather, AND wearing a hat, putting on sunscreen, and drinking lots of water will insure a safer experience. Biting insects (Mosquitoes) are typically not a major problem, despite the almost mythical reputation they have in Alaska! Applying insect repellent should help in this situation.

Photography: Our leaders are typically very interested in photography, in particular "digiscoping", and within the context of the tour, photography is encouraged. Certain sensible guidelines will be adhered to, such as not approaching a bird for photos until all

in the group has had a satisfying look, and we will avoid unnecessary disturbance of a bird, particularly if it is nesting. At the end of the tour the leader will share his or her photo highlights, making them available on CD, or downloadable from a social network web site.

Field Guides. All books listed below are available from **Amazon.com**.

Kaufman, Kenn. 2000. *Birds of North America*. Houghton Mifflin, New York.

National Geographic Society. 2002. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fourth Edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, DC.

Sibley, David Allen. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Sibley, David Allen. 2003. *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Additional Reading and References: If you are interested in other critters other than birds, you may consider some of the following.

Brock, Jim, P. and Kenn Kaufman. 2003. *Butterflies of North America*. Houghton Mifflin, New York.

Glassberg, Jeffrey. 2001. *Butterflies Through Binoculars: The West*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Kays, Roland W., and Don E. Wilson. 2002. *Mammals of North America*. Princeton University Press.

Paulson, Dennis. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*. Princeton University Press.

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No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect August 2009 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. Prior to acceptance on any tour, the participant must read and sign a liability waiver included in the registration form.