



BIRDS OF THE KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE



#114

The Kenai National Moose Range was established in 1941 to ensure the continued existence of this great animal and its habitat. This 1,730,000-acre range is located in the northwest corner of the Kenai Peninsula in south-central Alaska and is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Department of the Interior. Headquarters are in the city of Kenai.

The Moose Range extends from Turnagain Arm on the north to the Caribou Hills and Sheep Creek on the south, and from the Kenai Mountains and Chugach National Forest boundary on the east to the homestead area bordering Cook Inlet and the Kenai River.

The area possesses two distinct physiographic features--the Kenai Mountains and the Kenai lowland. The lowland portion, comprising three-fourths of the refuge, was once covered by a large valley glacier, leaving a myriad of lakes in the wake of its retreat. The area is drained by four principal rivers, the Chickaloon, Swanson, Kenai, and Kasilof, the last having its origin in the glaciers of the Harding Ice Field.

Vegetative cover varies in the lowlands from muskeg swamp to a white spruce climax on the drier sites. Stands of birch, aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder, and black and white spruce occur in pure stands and mixtures. The understory is composed of sedges, grasses, lichens, shrubs, mosses, and herbaceous plants. A considerable amount of alpine tundra exists above timberline.

Thousands of waterfowl use the rivers, lakes, muskegs, and mud flats as resting and feeding places in their migration, with twelve species nesting in the area. Large numbers of shorebirds and countless land birds also breed in the area. The rare trumpeter swan, a bird requiring wilderness isolation, nests on the interior lakes.

In addition to the giant Kenai moose, bands of white or Dall sheep and mountain goats may be found in the mountains, with limited numbers of big brown bear and the more abundant black bear distributed throughout the area. Fur animals include the beaver, land otter, lynx, coyote, mink, weasel, wolverine, hoary marmot, red squirrel, and remnant populations of marten, fox and wolf. Small game includes three species of ptarmigan, spruce grouse and snowshoe hare.

All five species of Pacific salmon spawn within the Moose Range, making its waters of great economic importance. Sport fish include rainbow trout, steel-head, Dolly Varden, lake trout, silver, king, and red salmon.

Located near Alaskan population centers, the Moose Range provides a much used public area for outdoor recreation. Over 125 lakes are suitable for float-plane operations. Places along lakes and streams near the road system have been developed to provide recreational use by highway travelers. Fishing, hunting, camping and photography are the main forms of recreation.

Special acknowledgment is given Mrs. Mary A. Smith, Coho, Alaska, for the use of her very complete, almost daily records from 1955 through 1962. Much assistance was given by Peter E. Isleib, Anchorage, Alaska, in the form of field work and compiling the list. Critical review was generously performed by Francis S. L. Williamson, Arctic Health Research Center, Anchorage, Alaska. Steven R. Smith, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Kenai, Alaska, compiled the list.

The list contains 146 regular and 22 accidental or casual species listed separately. Species names are used in accordance with the Fifth (1957) A.O.U. Check-list. Those for which definite breeding records have been obtained are marked with an asterisk. Season and abundance symbols with their definitions as used herein follow:

<u>Season</u>	<u>Abundance</u>
S - Spring - April-May	a - abundant
S - Summer - June-July	c - common
F - Fall - August-October	u - uncommon
W - Winter - November-March	o - occasional
	r - rare
	i - irregular

	<u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>F</u> <u>W</u>		<u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>F</u> <u>W</u>
*Common Loon	c c c	Common Eider	r
*Arctic Loon	c c u	White-winged Scoter	r u u i
Red-throated Loon	u u r	Surf Scoter	r r r
*Red-necked Grebe	u c c	Common Scoter	r r r
*Horned Grebe	u c c	*Common Merganser	u u c u
*Double-crested Cormorant	u u u	*Red-breasted Merganser	-u u u
Whistling Swan	c u	*Goshawk	c c c c
*Trumpeter Swan	c c c r	*Sharp-shinned Hawk	u u u
*Canada Goose	c r c	*Red-tailed Hawk	r r r
Black Brant	r i r	*Harlan's Hawk	u u u
White-fronted Goose	u u	Rough-legged Hawk	r r r
Snow Goose	c r	*Golden Eagle	u u u
*Mallard	c u c r	*Bald Eagle	c c c u
Gadwall	r r r	*Marsh Hawk	u u u
*Pintail	a c c	*Osprey	r r r
*Green-winged Teal	c c c	Gyr Falcon	r r r r
*American Widgeon	u u u	*Peregrine Falcon	u r r i
*Shoveler	u r r	*Pigeon Hawk	u u u
Canvasback	r r	*Spruce Grouse	c c c c
*Greater Scaup	u u u r	*Willow Ptarmigan	c c c c
Common Goldeneye	c c u	*Rock Ptarmigan	u u u u
*Barrow's Goldeneye	c c c	*White-tailed Ptarmigan	c c c c
Bufflehead	u u i	*Sandhill Crane	c u c
Oldsquaw	r u i	*Semipalmated Plover	u u u
*Harlequin Duck	u u u i	Killdeer	r

	<u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>F</u> <u>W</u>		<u>S</u> <u>S</u> <u>F</u> <u>W</u>
American Golden Plover	u u	*Traill's Flycatcher	c a a
Black-bellied Plover	u r	*Western Wood Pewee	r r r
Surf Bird	r r r	*Olive-sided Flycatcher	r u r
Ruddy Turnstone	r r	*Horned Lark	u u u
Black Turnstone	r r r	*Violet-green Swallow	c c
*Common Snipe	c c c	*Tree Swallow	c a
Whimbrel	u r u	*Bank Swallow	c a c
*Spotted Sandpiper	c c c	*Cliff Swallow	r u
*Solitary Sandpiper	u u u	*Gray Jay	c c c c
*Wandering Tattler	u u u	Steller's Jay	r
*Greater Yellowlegs	a a a	*Black-billed Magpie	c c c c
*Lesser Yellowlegs	c c c	*Common Raven	c c c c
Pectoral Sandpiper	c c	*Black-capped Chickadee	u u u r
Baird's Sandpiper	r r	*Boreal Chickadee	c c c u
*Least Sandpiper	c c u	*Brown Creeper	u r u r
Dunlin	u r	Dipper	u u u u
*Short-billed Dowitcher	c c c	*Robin	c c c
Long-billed Dowitcher	r	*Varied Thrush	c c c
Semipalmated Sandpiper	r	*Hermit Thrush	c c u
*Western Sandpiper	c r u	*Swainson's Thrush	c c u
*Hudsonian Godwit	r r r	*Gray-cheeked Thrush	u c u
Sanderling	r r r	*Golden-crowned Kinglet	u u u r
*Northern Phalarope	c c u	*Ruby-crowned Kinglet	a a c
Parasitic Jaeger	u u r	*Water Pipit	c c c
*Long-tailed Jaeger	u r r	*Bohemian Waxwing	c c c r
Glaucous Gull	r r r	Northern Shrike	u u u r
*Glaucous-winged Gull	c c c r	*Orange-crowned warbler	c c u
*Herring Gull	c c c	*Yellow Warbler	u u r
*Mew Gull	a a c	*Myrtle Warbler	a a c
*Bonaparte's Gull	u u u	Townsend's Warbler	r r r
Black-legged Kittiwake	r r r	*Blackpoll Warbler	r u r
*Arctic Tern	a a u	*Northern Waterthrush	c c u
Aleutian Tern	r r r	*Wilson's Warbler	u c u
*Great Horned Owl	c c c c	*Rusty Blackbird	u u u i
Snowy Owl	r	*Pine Grosbeak	u u u r
Hawk-Owl	u u u u	*Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	u u u
Great Gray Owl	r r r r	*Common Redpoll	c c c c
*Short-eared Owl	u u u r	*Pine Siskin	r r r i
Boreal Owl	u u u u	White-winged Crossbill	u u u u
Saw-whet Owl	r r r r	*Savannah Sparrow	c a a
*Belted Kingfisher	u u u i	*Slate-colored Junco	c a c
*Yellow-shafted Flicker	r r r	*Tree Sparrow	u u r
*Hairy Woodpecker	u u u r	*White-crowned Sparrow	c c c
*Downy Woodpecker	u u u r	*Golden-crowned Sparrow	c c u
Black-backed Three-toed		*Fox Sparrow	c c u
Woodpecker	r r r r	*Lincoln's Sparrow	u u r
*Northern Three-toed		*Song Sparrow	r r r
Woodpecker	u u u u	Lapland Longspur	c u
*Say's Phoebe	r r r	*Snow Bunting	u u u u

Listed below are 22 species that are considered to be of casual or accidental occurrence. These birds have been seen one or more times on the Moose Range or on closely adjacent areas.

	<u>No. of Observations</u>	<u>Season</u>
Great Blue Heron	6	Spring & Fall
Emperor Goose	3	Spring
Blue-winged Teal	1	Fall
European Widgeon	2	Spring
Ring-necked Duck ^{1/}	1	6/11/40
Lesser Scaup	1	Spring
King Eider	1	4/23/61
Sparrow Hawk	2	Spring & Fall
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	Fall
Black Oystercatcher	4	Summer
Bristle-thighed Curlew ^{2/}	1	5/18/1869
Knot	5	Fall
Rock Sandpiper	4	Summer & Fall
Red Phalarope	2	Fall
Pomarine Jaeger	3	Spring & Summer
Mourning Dove	3	10/24/61
Rufous Hummingbird	2	Spring & Summer
Red-breasted Nuthatch ^{3/}	8	Spring, Summer & Fall
Winter Wren	2	Fall
Wheatear	2	Spring & Summer
Red Crossbill	2	Winter & Spring
Harris' Sparrow	1	10/24 & 25/60

^{1/} Gabrielson and Lincoln, 1959. Birds of Alaska, The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. pp. 178

^{2/} Gabrielson and Lincoln, 1959. Birds of Alaska, The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. pp. 348 (Bischoff)

^{3/} Six of the eight observations were made in 1961.

*See Exhibit
2/10/61 - 10/24/61
Red Crossbill - 10/24/61*

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