

Birds of Wonder Lake

Denali National Park and Preserve

June 7 - 10, 2025

Course Description

Spring is a great pivot point of the year for birds as they endure another epic journey of migration. Journey west with us to Kantishna to enjoy the arrival of Denali's first spring migrants who come to rub shoulders with hardy winter residents. We'll learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, and explore kettle ponds to search for waterfowl in vibrant full-breeding plumage. We'll also discuss avian behavior, habitat selection, food habits and of course migration. This course is based out of the beautiful Kantishna Roadhouse and will require a flight in and out. Food, lodging, and flights are included in the course price.

Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness

Field courses are active learning experiences and take place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be off trail over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrains, covering distances of approximately 3-5 miles round trip with as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet tundra / forest conditions and stream crossings with water levels that are above hiking boots. **Participants must be in good physical condition.** If you are uncertain about your physical ability for this course, please contact us for more information.

Times and Location

Participants will meet at Denali Air, located at mile 229.5 George Parks Highway, at 10:30 am. Course will conclude after breakfast in Kantishna on June 10. Participants will then start to fly back to Denali Air four at a time. Exact time depends on weather and flight manifests.

Lodging and Meals

This course is based out of the Kantishna Roadhouse, located at mile 92 of the Denali Park Road. Two - three participants will share a cabin with two beds, a pullout, and a bathroom. Meals at the Roadhouse will begin with dinner on June 7 and conclude with breakfast on June 10.

Accreditation

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) offers one professional development credit (level 500) for an additional \$79 fee. You must register for the credit directly with UAA. Please see our website for registration directions.

Questions?

More detailed information about this course can be found by opening the other documents in the "course details" tab on the website. If you have other questions, please contact the Murie Science and Learning Center by email courses@akgeo.org or by calling (907) 683-9632.