



### **Monitoring Birds in Denali: why, how, where, and recent discoveries**

Denali National Park and Preserve

June 13 - 15, 2025

#### **Course Description**

Denali National Park and Preserve is home to some of the longest running monitoring programs for birds in Alaska and in the US National Park Service system. These long-term data streams are essential for identifying trends in the abundance and distribution of birds and the factors driving those trends. The species included in these monitoring efforts include those that migrate at hemispheric scales such as the Arctic Warbler, Swainson's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler to those that stay in the Denali area their entire lives such as the Boreal Chickadee and Canada Jay. Join Denali wildlife biologist Carol McIntyre, who has been studying birds in this area for decades, on daily hikes into areas to search for these and other species and to learn more about why these monitoring programs were established, how they are implemented, and how she and other scientists are using the information generated by them to better understand the dynamic nature of Denali's bird communities.

#### **Hiking Distances and Physical Fitness**

Field courses are active learning experiences and take place off trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking will be moderately strenuous over uneven tundra, forest, and river bar terrain, covering distances of up to 3 - 5 miles round trip with as much as 1,500 feet of elevation gain. We will likely encounter wet tundra / forest conditions and minor stream crossings. **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 meet at the Murie Science and Learning Center, located at mile 1 of the Denali Park Road. Check-in starts at 6:00pm on Friday. The course begins at 6:30pm and will return to the park entrance area around 4pm on Sunday.

#### **Lodging and Meals**

This course is based out of the Murie Science and Learning Center Field Camp, located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic tent cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

#### **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](mailto:courses@akgeo.org) or by calling (907) 683-9632.

