



Monitoring Birds in Denali



Dates

June 19-21, 2026



Difficulty

Level 4



Elevation Gain

Up to 1500 feet



Hiking Distance

Up to 5 miles per day

Course Description

Denali National Park and Preserve is home to some of the longest running bird monitoring programs in Alaska and in the US National Park Service system. The monitoring programs provide information on a diversity of species ranging from 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 wildlife biologist Carol McIntyre, who has studied birds in Denali for nearly 40 years, on daily hikes to search for these and other species, and to learn more about why these monitoring programs were established, how they are conducted, and how she and other scientists are using the information generated by them to better understand the dynamic nature of Denali's bird communities.

Difficulty Level 4

Field courses explore off-trail in Denali's wilderness. Hiking on this course is 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 stream crossings with water levels up to knee deep. 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 cabins and outhouses. Meals are simple and healthy.

Professional Development Credit

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? Email courses@akgeo.org or call 907-771-8485