

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF KITTLITZ'S MURRELETS ON LAKE NERKA AND LAKE ALKENAGIK, ALASKA

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This project determined the distribution and estimated the abundance of Kittlitz's murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) on Lake Aleknagik and Lake Nerka in July 2015. The use of freshwater lakes during the breeding season has been documented for the congener species, marbled murrelet (*B. marmoratus*). Kittlitz's murrelets have been documented using Lakes Aleknagik and Nerka during migration, but documentation of use during the breeding season is new. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge staff surveyed Kittlitz's murrelets on Lake Aleknagik during breeding seasons in 2013 and 2014; this was the first study to use standardized distance sampling on Lake Nerka during the breeding season. In July 2015, we also used distance sampling to survey Lake Aleknagik to document distribution and estimate abundance. We also conducted 3 surveys on Lake Nerka to document distribution, estimate abundance, and estimate detectability for Kittlitz's murrelet. Results of these surveys will be presented as will potential for future research and monitoring opportunities on these lakes. (Poster)



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Abstract Book

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