

ALASKA ONE

June 3, 2010 to June 21, 2010

Guided by
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The 2010 Alaska tour started off with some leisurely birding near our hotel in Anchorage. Duck numbers seemed down a bit, but we were able to get nice comparative views of Greater and Lesser scaups and enjoy our first breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebes. Then we headed to the airport for the flight to Saint Paul Island. Thankfully things went smoothly for us and we arrived with all of our belongings to the island. On our way to dinner we stopped briefly at Salt Lagoon to enjoy nine wonderfully close Bar-tailed Godwits and a scattering of Rock Sandpipers. This was followed by another short diversion to study several female Steller's Eiders that were hanging out at the harbor area with small numbers of Harlequin Ducks. Then it was on to a tasty dinner at Trident. After dinner, we headed to the northeast part of the island for some birding at Webster Lake. We saw a few different ducks and tracked down a Common Snipe that had been found the day before in the area. Unfortunately, lighting conditions were poor, though we relocate the bird in question.

Our second morning got off to a good start. We paid a visit to Antone Slough and relocated a cooperative Wood Sandpiper that had been found the night before. A look over the lake nearby yielded a Red-breasted Merganser and a couple of Common Goldeneyes. Then we headed to Ridge Wall, where we had a fantastic morning with a wide variety of species under calm conditions. We also spotted a pod of Killer Whales working just offshore that included at least a dozen animals. A quick visit to Southwest Point gave us our best Red-legged Kittiwake views thus far. On the way back, we were distracted by several large Gray Whales that were feeding just off the beach adjacent to Antone Lake. One even spied for us, revealing its massive head to us. Then it was on to Trident for lunch. After lunch, we headed north to Marunich (North Point). Sea watching here produced a pair of Yellow-billed Loons, a number of Pigeon Guillemots, and a calling Wandering Tattler. A Dark-eyed Junco that Al spotted upon our arrival was unusual. A couple of Steller's Sea lions showed for us as well. After dinner, we paid a visit to the crab pots where we saw a couple of interesting passerines. First, a gigantic Aleutian type Song Sparrow, and then a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow. We then headed to the quarry where we saw some lovely Snow Buntings.

Our next morning of birding began with a brief sea watch near Trident where we saw a raft of a dozen of so King Eiders, mostly females with a few young males. From here, we headed over to Reef Rockery where we tracked down a singing Winter Wren (of the subspecies *alascensis*, which is to be placed in the new species Pacific Wren with the break up of the traditional Winter Wren species. We also had some fantastic views of Northern Fur Seals here. We then headed up to Webster Lake to try and relocate the Common Snipe for better views. We did see a pair of Eurasian Wigeons that showed well in the now sunny conditions. The rest of the day included checking a few additional spots for shorebirds, and a trek into the lava fields near Southwest Point in the hopes of a rare McKay's Bunting. A final check of crab pots revealed Hoary Redpoll and White-crowned Sparrow.

Our final morning on St. Paul began with another visit to the harbor for an Ancient Murrelet check paid off when Stephen spotted two birds close in that provided some great viewing for us. We then headed off to Tolstoi Point to visit a bird colony there. In addition to another Winter Wren, there were some great views of Red-faced Cormorant to be had and lots of really close alcids, including some wonderful Crested Auklets. We then said goodbye to those and headed off to do some sea watching. Then it was

back to the hotel to catch our flight back to Anchorage for the night. Once back in Anchorage, some folks headed over to the lake to view a handsome breeding plumaged Pacific Loon seen on the ride in.

The next morning we headed over to Westchester Lagoon and mudflats for an enjoyable morning of birding. A nesting pair of Arctic Terns among a bunch of Mew Gulls provided some enjoyment, not to mention the nearby Red-necked Grebes. A male Surf Scoter was also noteworthy. At one point, a large flock of Hudsonian Godwits flew past and circled the lagoon a number of times. We also had some outstanding views of an Alder Flycatcher while there. Then we headed north to Denali, stopping for a picnic lunch and some birding along the way and obtaining great views of Northern Waterthrush and Blackpoll Warbler. Later on we added Boreal Chickadee to the list.

The following morning we headed out along the Denali Highway east of Cantwell. The weather improved steadily through the morning and ended up being a fine day. Birding highlights included a small group of Bohemian Waxwings flycatching at the edge of a small lake, a number of sparrows (including Red Fox, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and American Tree), lots of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, a close Olive-sided Flycatcher, a winnowing Wilson's Snipe, and close Golden and Bald eagles. Non-avian highlights included a Grizzly Bear and a Moose with calf. On our way back to the Parks Highway, we even managed a view of the elusive mount McKinley, surprising considering the amount of cloud cover in the area. The next day was our day in Denali National Park on the shuttle bus. The weather continued to clear and we were treated to a couple of splendid views of the mountain, obscured only at its base. The wildlife started off slowly, but by the time we were done, we had seen at least sixteen Toklat Grizzlies, Dall's Sheep, Caribou, Moose, Red Fox, Arctic Ground-Squirrel, Hoary Marmot, AND a fantastic Gray Wolf! The wolf put on quite a show for us, rolling around on its back in delight, and walking us at least two miles down the road. The birds were good too, with a handsome Gyrfalcon being the biggest highlight. There was also a good Rock Ptarmigan out by Eielson. The combination of wildlife and scenery here is hard to beat. The following day found us back out on the Denali Highway hoping to pick up on a few additional species. Then it was on to Anchorage for the night. One of the highlights was a breeding plumaged Bonaparte's Gull that appeared in front of us during a rest stop. And so concluded Part One of the trip.

The next day we were off to Nome, Alaska, one of the most scenic and interesting spots on the tour. Conditions were rather foggy when we landed (in fact we were a little surprised that we made it in. However, we did. As soon as possible, we headed out along the Teller Road northwest of Nome. Several stunning Rough-legged Hawks were seen shortly into our journey along with a couple of colorful Eastern Yellow Wagtails. Then we started encountering small numbers of Willow Ptarmigans along the roadsides. We heard and then saw our first Arctic Warblers of the second part as well. We also came upon a Gyrfalcon perched on a small mound close to the side of road only to realize that it was in fact, two birds that had just completed mating. Further out along the Teller, we hit a side road that took us up into some premier rocky habitat. We were soon treated to several wonderful Rock Ptarmigan, beginning with a female that Barbara spotted. The same area also produced a male Northern Wheatear, nesting Horned Larks, and at least three splendid Red Knots. Then it was back to Nome for the night.

The next day we headed out the famous Kougarak Road, one of the finest birding roads around. Early on, we found an adult Vega Herring Gull at the town dump. Arctic Warblers seemed to be everywhere this day. But there was also lots of Hoary Redpolls, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Red Fox Sparrows and more. We managed to see several Bluethroats, but none would stay up for any length of time, indicating that they already begun to shut down on their territorial displays for the year. A pair of Northern Shrikes that Rick found was also a real treat. Then was off to search for Bristle-thighed Curlew. After hearing some calls and seeing quite a few Whimbrel chasing after hawks and jaegers, we did manage to track down the species, ultimately getting fantastic views of three or four birds. A great encounter with one of the rarest species out there. Mammal highlights included a Moose and big numbers of Musk Ox.

Our final day in Nome was spent along the coast and the Counsel Road. The weather was the pits, but the birding was good none the less. Another trip to the dump yielded an adult Slaty-backed Gull (a

species scarce this spring in the eastern Bering Sea region). We later had a second cycle bird along the beach east of the Nome River mouth. We saw lots of swans along the way, and we managed to track down a pair of Arctic Loons that showed wonderfully well, as well as various Pacific and Red-throated loons to compare with. Shorebird highlights included Black Turnstone. Surprisingly, we saw only a single Aleutian Tern during our visit, quite a scary turnout. Eventually, we headed back to Nome to prepare for the flight back to Anchorage for the night.

This morning, we paid a quick visit to Westchester Lagoon again. Hudsonian Godwits were showing well on the small island, along with comparative views of Greater and Lesser scaup. An adult Bald Eagle came in to terrorize the nesting gulls on several occasions. The mudflats had both yellowlegs and a few more Boneyes. Then we started down to Seward. Great views of Dall's Sheep entertained us briefly along the way. Later, we had more distant Mountain Goats. Because of the rain, the birding was somewhat slow. We did see, however, an adult Dipper bringing food to a recently fledged juvenile. While cruising the campgrounds for grouse, we did have a lovely pair of Pine Grosbeaks feeding on some dandelions. Then it was on to Seward for some delicious food.

Our next morning found us setting off aboard the *Mariah* to visit the waters of the Kenai Fjords National Park. The clouds hugged the mountains for most of the day and there was steady light rain for much of the time, but despite this, we managed to see some wonderful sites. Things started off with a shy Sea Otter and some Marbled Murrelets as we headed south through the bay. Further south we studied some Steller's Sea Lions hauled out on some rocks. Heading out into open water yielded a small number of Sooty Shearwaters and a cooperative pod of Dall's Porpoises. We bumped our way over to Aialik Bay and headed north to Aialik Glacier. The sea conditions were good on the east side of the bay and we were able to get rather close to the glacier. Along the way, we had some fantastic views of Kittlitz's Murrelets (more than 30 in total). Then we paused to enjoy some of the best glacier calving that I have seen in years. A couple of curious Harbor Seals came in close to inspect us. Then it was off to the Chiswell's with Ancient Murrelet, Rhinocero's Auklet, and eventually Parakeet Auklet added to the growing list of the day's alcids. Linda spotted our first Humpback Whale of the day, though it proved very shy. Later, we had another shy Humpback and at least three Killer Whales on our way back to Seward.

The following morning we returned to the Bear Lake area to pick up a few more species after breakfast. We had a couple of nice encounters with Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglet, a couple of Sooty Fox Sparrows singing nicely for us. Varied Thrushes were on the ground collecting grubs for their nestlings. A couple of Downy Woodpeckers showed well, but not the Three-toed we were hoping for. Steller's Jays were being rather quiet, but we did eventually track down a few. Townsend's Warblers were singing in several places, and one was relentlessly pursued by an overzealous Orange-crowned Warbler. One yard had quite a few Pine Siskins visiting a feeder. Nash Road had a few Lincoln's Sparrows foraging along the edge of a marsh. The Dippers at the salmon weir were collecting plant material to refurbish their nest. We eventually started heading toward Anchorage, with some unproductive searches for grouse and woodpecker. A brief stop at Tern Lake yielded some Arctic Terns, but a sweep for grouse came up empty. After a big spruce tree die off in recent years, deciduous trees have filled in much of the habitats, and spruce specialists like American Three-toed Woodpecker and Spruce Grouse are becoming increasingly hard to find.

It was an early morning departure for our milk run up to Barrow. Our first stop was in Fairbanks, then on to Deadhorse and Barrow. Fog had its grip on these last two spots, so we felt somewhat fortunate to get on the ground. After settling in and having lunch, it was off to check Freshwater Lake. Only to our surprise, the road out to it was still largely under ice and snow, making it impassible to us. So we headed off to Cakeeater and Gaswell roads. The birding was quite good all things considered. Red Phalaropes were one of our first sights, and soon, a nearby Snowy Owl put on a great show for us. Moments later, Robin spotted a male Steller's Eider diving with a couple of Long-tailed Ducks on a big pond, allowing us able time to study this beauty. Then we headed a bit further down the road where we found a male and female Spectacled Eider hauled out at the edge of a big pond. Not nearly as close, but a nice view. Then we explored the Dump Road where we came across two drake King Eiders. Quite dapper indeed. Parasitic Jaegers were the most evident here, but Rick did spot a couple of

Pomarine Jaeger crossing the road ahead of us. All this good fun was capped with a Yellow-billed Loon who flew right past the bus to the delight of all. Pectoral Sandpipers seemed to be doing the best, with lots of birds holding territories out on the tundra.

Our second day in Barrow had a few surprises along with some additional viewing opportunities. While birding along the Dump Road, Rick spotted "a blue bird, a Mountain Bluebird." Sure enough, there before our eyes was a splendid male in glowing sky-blue color. Shortly thereafter, a female Varied Thrush showed up along the Gaswell Road. Both of these were examples of spring overshoots. We had some better views of King Eider today, though the closest was also the most tragic - one that had apparently struck a power line in the fog and lay moribund near the side of the road. Steller's Eiders were plentiful, with nearly a dozen seen in total. We had a quick, close flyover of several Spectacled Eiders, and another close flyover Yellow-billed Loon. Several more Yellow-billed Loons were seen distantly at the base of the spit. We had a couple more distant Snowy Owls. New shorebirds for the day included Ruddy Turnstone and Western Sandpiper. After dinner, most folks went out to the tip of Pt. Barrow where fortune shined upon us and produced a wonderful Polar Bear as well as close Snowy Owl and Sabine's Gulls. To top it off, there was some wonderful midnight sun.

Our final day was a travel day, arriving in Anchorage midday with time of a brief visit to Hillside Park. While crossbills and grouse were absent, we did track down a wonderful American Three-toed Woodpecker nest with both parents attending. Equally remarkable was the fantastic weather that had finally arrived in Alaska. After a delicious final dinner and some recapping of events, we said our farewells.

There was a wide selection of favorite birds offered up for this year's tour. The runaway winner was the Bristle-thighed Curlew, thanks to our magical encounter with this species on the hill across from Coffee Dome. Spectacled Eider, Tufted Puffin, and Snow Bunting tied for the second slot. Red Phalarope, Steller's Eider, Horned Puffin, Red-faced Cormorant, and Snowy Owl each got a couple of votes, and finally, American Dipper, Crested Auklet, Parakeet Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Willow Ptarmigan, Slaty-backed Gull, Vega Gull, Gyrfalcon, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Pacific Golden-Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Tern, Loons, and Mountain Bluebird.

We'd especially like to thank all of you for coming along and making the trip such a success for Megan and me. We enjoyed your company and we look forward to seeing you again in the future. Good birding!

List total: 176 bird taxa and 28 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

Triplist file: aka110-CB

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

BRANT (BLACK) (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

CAKCLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*)

TUNDRA SWAN (WHISTLING) (*Cygnus columbianus columbianus*)

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

A pair on St. Paul and another at Nome.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (AMERICAN) (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*)

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)

LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*)

STELLER'S EIDER (*Polysticta stelleri*)

Several females were seen at St. Paul where tardy. Robin spotted our first male bird at Barrow, one of several seen during our time there.

SPECTACLED EIDER (*Somateria fischeri*)

Somewhat scarce this year, we had scope views of a pair of birds along the Gaswell Road and another close flyby of several birds.

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*)

A few handsome males seen in Barrow, and tragically, one recently deceased bird that appeared to have hit a power line.

COMMON EIDER (PACIFIC) (*Somateria mollissima v-nigra*)

Birds here have bright orange bills.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (NORTH AMERICAN) (*Melanitta fusca deglandi*)

BLACK SCOTER (AMERICAN) (*Melanitta nigra americana*)

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)

BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*)

COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*)

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*)

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

WILLOW PTARMIGAN (*Lagopus lagopus*)

ROCK PTARMIGAN (*Lagopus muta*)

One seen in Denali NP. The loop road out along the Teller Road was a haven for these marvelous birds. Kudos to Barbara for spotted the well camouflaged female.

Gaviidae (Loons)

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*)

ARCTIC LOON (*Gavia arctica*)

Fantastic views of a pair of birds along the Counsel Road east of Nome, a traditional site for this mostly Old World species.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*)

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*)

YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*Gavia adamsii*)

Some great flybys at Barrow this year, and a distant pair on St. Paul too.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)

NORTHERN FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

RED-FACED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax urile*)

PELAGIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*)

RED-TAILED HAWK (HARLAN'S) (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*Buteo lagopus*)

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*)

Seen in Denali. Also, really memorable views of a pair of birds alongside the Teller Road near Nome.

Gruidae (Cranes)

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*)

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus bachmani*)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

WANDERING TATTLER (*Tringa incana*)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

Good studies of this species at Antone Slough on St. Paul.

WHIMBREL (AMERICAN) (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*)

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW (*Numenius tahitiensis*)

No doubt the bird of the trip, we had a fantastic time with this species on the hill across from Coffee Dome. By the end of our time here, we had tracked down three individuals and had witnessed some wonderful flight displays too.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

BLACK TURNSTONE (*Arenaria melanocephala*)

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*)
WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*)
LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*)
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*)
PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)
ROCK SANDPIPER (*Calidris ptilocnemis*)
DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*)
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)
WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*)
COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Hanging out along the edge of Webster Lake on St. Paul.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)
RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa brevirostris*)
SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*)
BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)
MEW GULL (AMERICAN) (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)
HERRING GULL (AMERICAN) (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*)
HERRING GULL (VEGA) (*Larus argentatus vegae*)
SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*)
GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (*Larus glaucescens*)
GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*)
ALEUTIAN TERN (*Onychoprion aleuticus*)
Somewhat distressing was seeing just a single bird during our time in Nome this year.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)

POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
Rick spotted the only pair of birds we saw during our entire visit in the Nome area. Not a banner year for them.

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)
LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)
A stunning bird indeed, well seen in Nome.

Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins)

COMMON MURRE (*Uria aalge*)
THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*)
PIGEON GUILLEMOT (*Cephus columba*)
MARBLED MURRELET (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
KITTLITZ'S MURRELET (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*)
It was a banner year for this species near Aialik Glacier where we saw at least 30 birds in total. Wow!
ANCIENT MURRELET (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)
PARAKEET AUKLET (*Aethia psittacula*)
LEAST AUKLET (*Aethia pusilla*)
CRESTED AUKLET (*Aethia cristatella*)
RHINOCEROS AUKLET (*Cerorhinca monocerata*)
HORNED PUFFIN (*Fratercula corniculata*)

TUFTED PUFFIN (*Fratercula cirrhata*)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Strigidae (Owls)

SNOWY OWL (*Bubo scandiacus*)

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*)

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*)

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*)

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Picoides dorsalis*)

One of the last new birds of the trip, we had a nice pair of birds attending a nest at Hillside Park.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*)

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*)

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*)

Laniidae (Shrikes)

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

Rick spotted a pair of birds along the Kougarak Road that seemed likely to be nesting in a willow thicket.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

GRAY JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*)

STELLER'S JAY (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica hudsonia*)

NORTHWESTERN CROW (*Corvus caurinus*)

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

Many seen including Lonesome Paul out on St. Paul.

Alaudidae (Larks)

HORNED LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*)

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*)

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE (*Poecile rufescens*)

BOREAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile hudsonicus*)

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)

Certhiidae (Creepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*)

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

WINTER WREN (ALASKAN ISLANDS) (*Troglodytes troglodytes alascensis*)

This form is to become part of the new species Pacific Wren once the split becomes official this summer.

Cinclidae (Dippers)

AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus*)

Regulidae (Kinglets)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*)

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*)

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

ARCTIC WARBLER (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

BLUETHROAT (*Luscinia svecica*)

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*)

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*)

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*)

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*)

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*)

Sturnidae (Starlings)

I EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla tschutschensis*)

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*)

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*)

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica townsendi*)

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Dendroica striata*)

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies)

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizella arborea*)

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

FOX SPARROW (SOOTY) (*Passerella iliaca sinuosa*)

FOX SPARROW (RED) (*Passerella iliaca zaboria*)

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*)

We saw one of the huge Aleutian birds out on St. Paul.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (GAMBEL'S) (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

DARK-EYED JUNCO (SLATE-COLORED) (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*)

LAPLAND LONGSPUR (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH (PRIBILOF IS.) (*Leucosticte tephrocotis umbrina*)

PINE GROSBEAK (*Pinicola enucleator*)

COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

HOARY REDPOLL (*Acanthis hornemanni*)

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*)

Mammals

SNOWSHOE HARE (*Lepus americanus*)

ALASKAN HARE (*Lepus othus*)

HOARY MARMOT (*Marmota caligata*)

ARCTIC GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus parryii*)

RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethica*)

BROWN LEMMING (*Lemmus sibiricus*)

NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

ORCA (*Orcinus orca*)

We had some at St. Paul off of Ridgewall and then some were seen on the Seward boat trip.

HARBOR PORPOISE (*Phocoena phocoena*)

DALL'S PORPOISE (*Phocoenoides dalli*)

These charismatic animals did some bowriding for us on the Kenai Fjords trip.

GRAY WHALE (*Eschrichtius robustus*)

Great views of this species inshore at St. Paul. At one point, one did some spyhopping (i.e. sticking its head above the surface of the water to survey its surroundings).

HUMPBACK WHALE (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*)

ARCTIC FOX (*Alopex lagopus*)

GRAY WOLF (*Canis lupus*)

Wow! What a fantastic encounter with this species in Denali National Park. We watched her rolling around on her back in delight, saw her scent mark the park road, and proceed to walk along with us for over two miles.

BROWN (INCL. GRIZZLY) BEAR (*Ursus arctos*)

We had one on the Denali Highway and then 16 the following morning in the park. What an impressive species.

POLAR BEAR (*Ursus maritimus*)

Wow, a wonderful encounter with one that came from way out on the ice to some of the whale bones near the tip at Pt. Barrow.

SEA OTTER (*Enhydra lutris*)

STELLER'S SEA LION (*Eumetopias jubatus*)

NORTHERN FUR SEAL (*Callorhinus ursinus*)

HARBOR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina*)

RINGED SEAL (*Phoca hispida*)

MOOSE (*Alces alces*)

CARIBOU (*Rangifer caribou*)

MOUNTAIN GOAT (*Oreamnos americanus*)

MUSKOX (*Ovibos moschatus*)

These terrific animals showed well for us in the greater Nome area. There were quite a few young ones seen too.

These animals were introduced here in the 1930s from Greenland.

DALL'S SHEEP (*Ovis dalli*)