

Low-budget bird trip to

# Alaska

Incl. the Pribilofs, St. Lawrence Island and Prudhoe Bay

From 5 June to 28 June 1991

Participants:

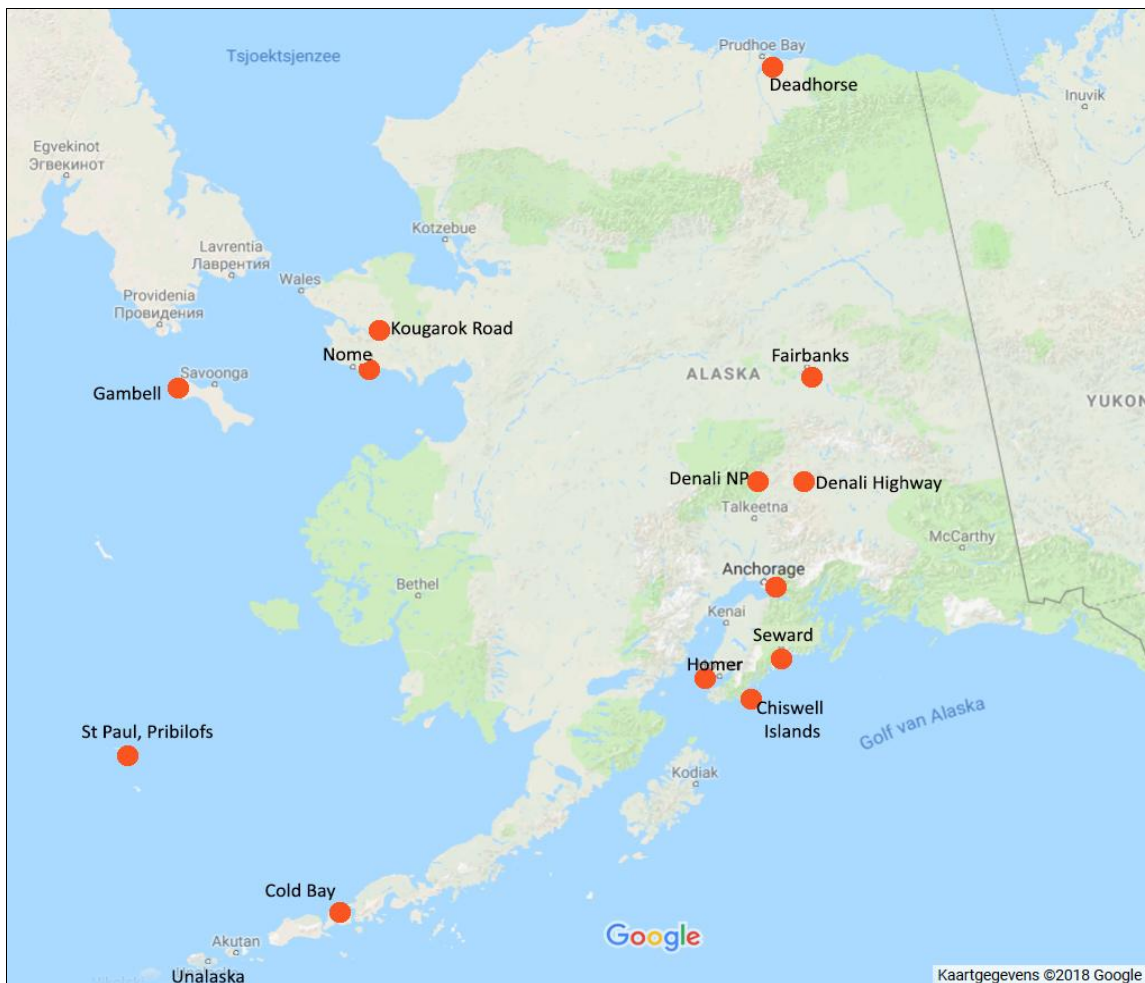
Arnold Meijer & Jan van der Laan



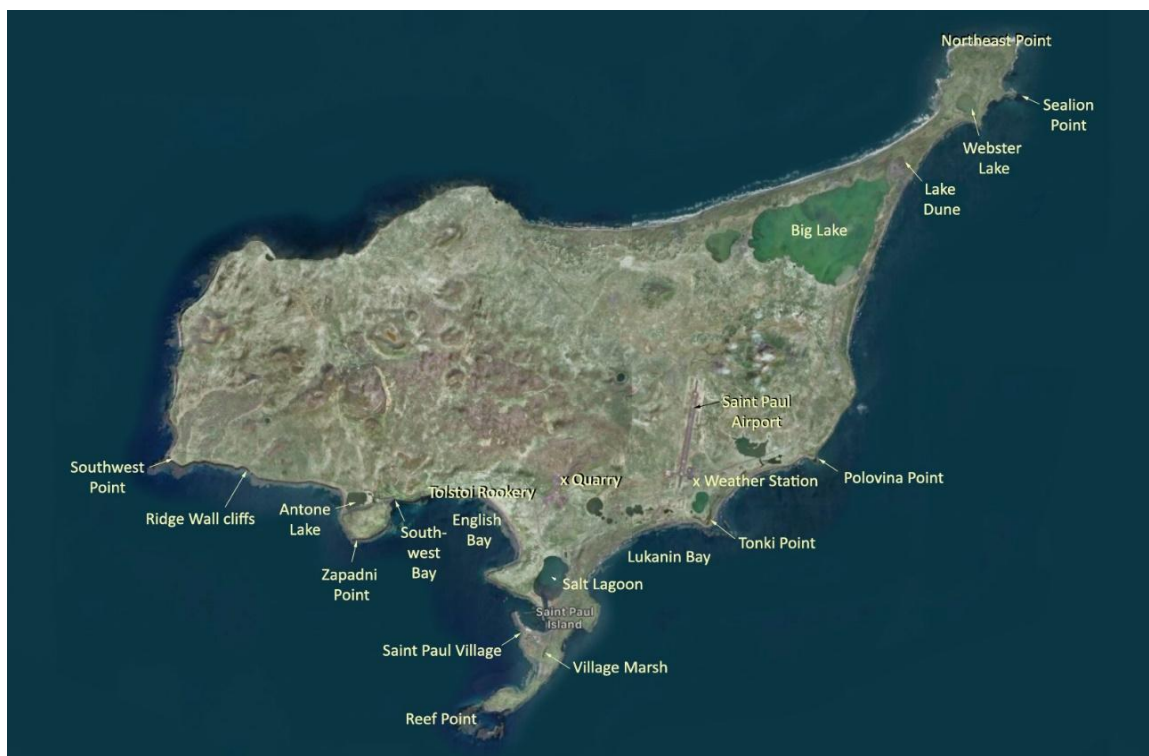
*A pair of Spectacled Eiders at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay on 21 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*



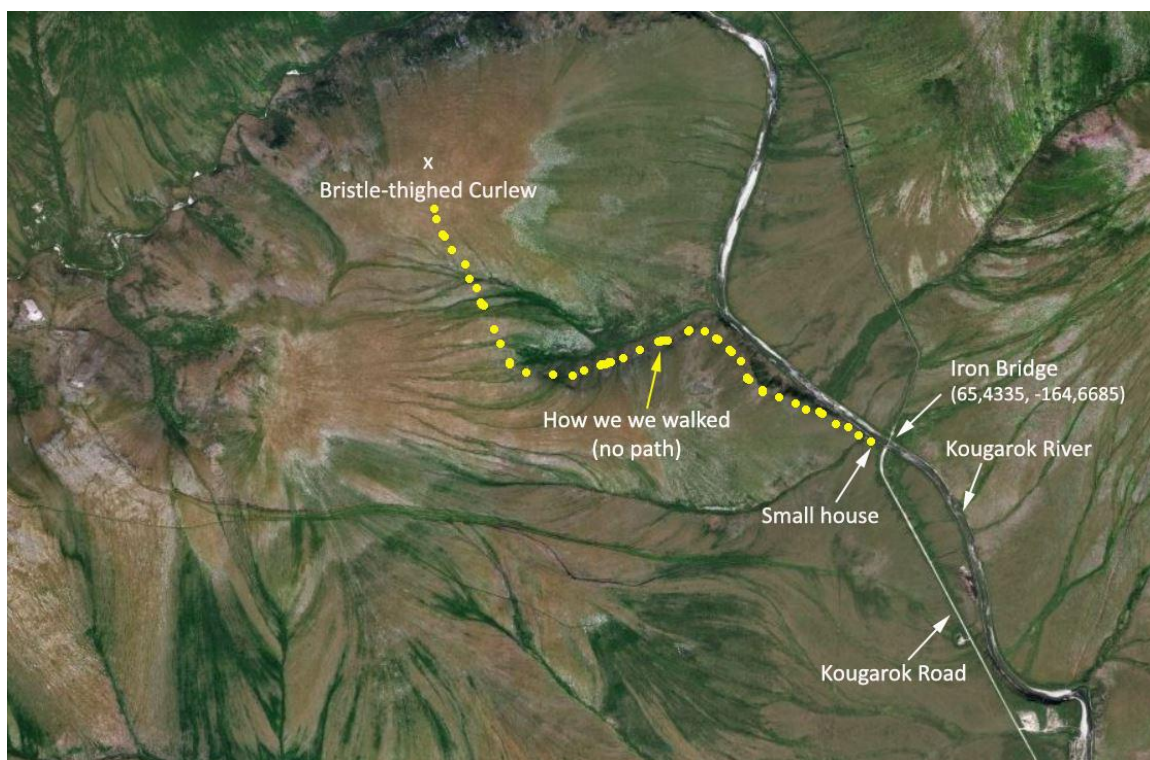
### Maps



Map 1: Places we visited.



Map 2: St Paul Island, Pribilofs



Map 3: location of the Bristle-thighed Curlew along the Kougarok Road, north of Nome.

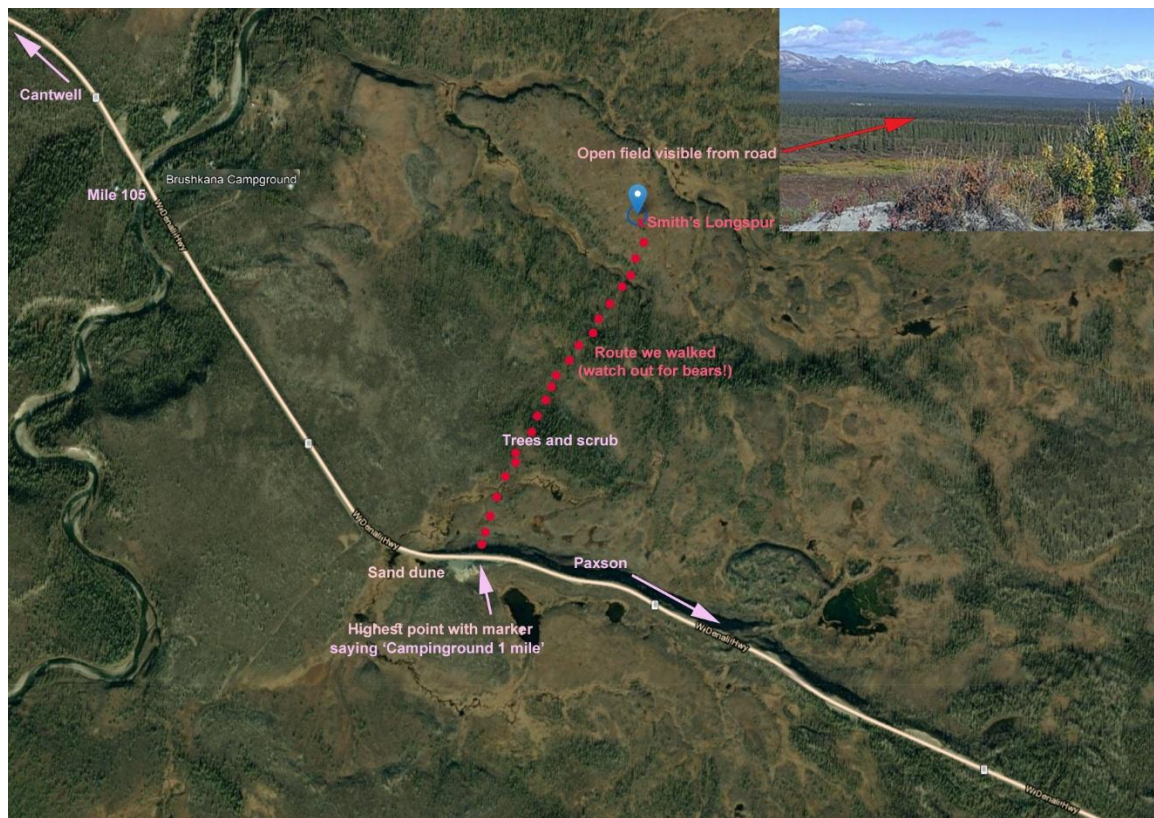


Map 4: Gambell, St Lawrence Island.





Map 5: Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay.



Map 6: Smith's Longspur location along the Denali Highway. "Watch out for bears!" wrote Kevin Zimmer to us.

## Introduction

As early as 1981 I had the idea to visit Alaska, due to an inspiring visit to the high arctic in Fenno-Scandinavia and an article by Thede Tobish in [Dutch Birding 3, 125-139, 1981](#). In the autumn of 1990 I was asked by Arnold Meijer and Leo Heemskerk if I was interested to go to Alaska in the next summer. After inquiring on prices, Leo gave up, so Arnold and I were the men to do the job: to visit as much places as possible and to see most of the Bering Sea endemics.

## Itinerary

- 5 June** Departure at 13:05 from Amsterdam to **Boston** with Northwest Airlines. At Boston we took a plane to **Detroit** and from there we had our flight to **Anchorage** where we arrived at 22:00 hour local time. We were picked up by Margriet Edvall from Earth Tours Inc. and owner of the 6 Bar E Ranch, a very good place to start an Alaska birding trip. Furthermore she can help you with all sort of things concerning travel in Alaska. First bird species were American Robin, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dark-eyed Junco and Violet-green Swallow. Overnight in the 6 Bar E Ranch.
- 6 June** In the morning we did some birding behind the **6 Bar E Ranch** where we observed Alder Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Lincoln Sparrow and Pine Siskin. Later in the morning we collected our tickets for the Pribilofs at the Gray Line Office in downtown **Anchorage**. We did some shopping in a huge super market and with a taxi we went to the airport. At 12:00 hours we departed in a Lockheed L-188 Electra of Reeve Aleutian Airways. The plane was filled with drunken pirates and fishermen all on their way to Cold Bay. At Cold Bay we had to wait for a while because it was too foggy on St Paul. Birds observed in **Cold Bay** were Tree Swallow, Bald Eagle, Semipalmated Plover and Lapland Longspur. After a long hour wait we finally departed to **St Paul Island**, where we landed at 17:00 hours after circling quite some time to find a gap in the fog. At the airport we met Laurie Philemonoff. I had written her in advance asking for information on the whereabouts of the McKay's Bunting. She told us we would go the McKay's Bunting after dinner. We checked in at the **King Eider Hotel**. There a letter from Jans and Trudi Sikkens (from Groningen, Netherlands) was given to me with very useful information. They had seen an Emperor Goose, McKay's Bunting and a Black-tailed Godwit. Before the excursion to the McKay's Bunting, Arnold and I went to the cliffs behind the village, the harbour and the small marsh beneath the village. We found Red-faced Cormorant, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Red-legged Kittiwake, Least and Parakeet Auklets and Horned and Tufted Puffins. After a quick dinner (bread with salami in our hotel room) we went north of the village to the so called **Quarry** where a pair of McKay's Buntings was seen, for the first time in several years! We quickly found the birds and had good looks of them. Furthermore, we found Rock Sandpiper, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and a Tufted Duck. At around 22:30 hours we went to sleep.
- 7 June** In the morning the tour bus took us to **Zapadni Point** and the cliffs south of **Ridge Wall**. There we had close views of all Pribilof specialties including Red-legged Kittiwake and Crested Auklet. On our way back to the village we managed to see the lone Emperor Goose at the western corner of **Southwest Bay** (east of Zapadni Point). In the afternoon we went to **Northeast Point** and did a short seavatch at **Sealion Point**. We saw literally tens of thousands of Least Auklet, hundreds of Parakeet Auklets and a single Pigeon Guillemot. After dinner we paid a short visit to **Southwest Point** where we had good views of a pair of resting Red-legged Kittiwakes. Finally we visited **Village Marsh**, which produced Eastern Yellow Wagtail and a Least Sandpiper.
- 8 June** A short visit to **Reef Point** produced good numbers of Crested Auklet. We also visited the **St Paul Weather Station**. Finally we visited the cliffs behind the village. Departure was scheduled at 15:00

and when the plane arrived, we met Jon Dunn, who came out of the plane with c 40 birders. We quickly exchanged some information (they had seen Long-toed Stint at Gambell) before the plane departed to **Cold Bay**. After a stop of c 1 hour the plane departed for **Anchorage**, where we arrived at 17:30 hours. We immediately went to Avis to pick up our car (Toyota Tercell) and went straight to the **Westchester Lagoon**, had dinner at a Taco's Bell and overnight again at the **6 Bar E Ranch**.

- 9 June** In the morning we visited **Potter Marsh**, but the only new bird for us was a Song Sparrow. Next stop was Portage Glacier where we saw a pair of Rufous Hummingbirds at a feeder. After that we went to **Resurrection Trail**, halfway between **Cooper Landing** and **Sterling**. There we observed American Three-toed Woodpecker, Varied Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. Finally we went to **Kenai**, where we saw Least Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, Rusty Blackbird and our main quarry, the Aleutian Tern. We spent the night at a camping at **Cooper Landing**, where we had close views of Harlequin Ducks in the stream behind our tent, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Merganser and Grey Jay.
- 10 June** We hiked a few miles along the **Resurrection Trail**. This walking produced Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Northern Goshawk and Pine Grosbeak. Next we went to **Seward** where we saw Double-crested Cormorant, Surf Scoters, American Scoter, Wandering Tattler and Marbled Murrelet. Finally we returned to **Anchorage** and from a phone booth we called several Anchorage birders, from who we got good information and in the evening we put up our tent at the **Centennial Campground** in **Anchorage** and went to sleep.
- 11 June** In the morning we hiked into the mountains of the **Arctic Valley Ski Resort** in hope to find White-tailed Ptarmigan. We had good views of Rock Ptarmigan (but no White-tailed), Buff-bellied Pipit, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Northern Harrier and Sooty Fox Sparrow. In the afternoon we met Dave Sonneborne who gave us useful information about birding in Nome, showed us some birds at the **Westchester Lagoon** in **Anchorage** and gave us a good stake-out for American Dipper. Best birds we saw were Canvasback, Redhead and Ring-neck Duck. Later in the evening we picked up Wim and Raymond van Splunder plus Kees, their uncle from the airport. Overnight at the **6 Bar E Ranch** where we celebrated Raymond's birthday.
- 12 June** In the morning we went to **Indian Creek** for the American Dipper, which was quickly found. Next was to obtain tickets for the ferry to Dutch Harbor, but we were told the ferry Tustumena was still in Seattle for repair and would not go as early as August. This was a great disappointment as one of our main targets, the Whiskered Auklet was now impossible. In the afternoon we brought back the car without any problems, checked-in for Nome and departed on time at 15:00 hours to **Nome** with Alaska Airlines. We arrived on time at 15:30 hours. We phoned Stampede Car Rentals and we were picked up by both our car (a large Ford Pick-up) and a taxi, caused by some misunderstanding. We immediately went to the **Safety Lagoon**, 15 miles east of Nome to search for a Great Knot that was reported here, but the bird was gone. Birds we observed were Pacific Loon, Pelagic Cormorant, Whooper Swan (rare in the USA), Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, good numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers, Sabine's Gull, Glaucous Gull, a possible Slaty-backed Gull and several Vega Gulls. After this visit we drove north to the place where the Bristle-thighed Curlew should be around. We drove the 85 mile long stretch along the **Nome-Taylor road**, a gravel road which gave us one flat tyre at mile 65. The scenery was spectacular and around midnight – still in daylight – we arrived at the iron bridge over the **Kougarok River**. Too tired to do any birding we put our tent up and went to sleep.
- 13 June** Although the distance was maybe one mile, the hike to the top of the hill was very tiring as the ground was very soft. After three hours we reached the spot which was supposedly the best and indeed, the first curlew we saw called unlike a Whimbrel. We found at least six Bristle-thighed Curlews and Arnold was able to take several good photographs. I was attacked by a Long-tailed



Jaeger. Other birds in the vicinity were Belted Kingfisher, American Tree Sparrow, Bluethroat and Arctic Redpoll. We returned to **Nome** in the afternoon. Because of the pouring rain, we booked a room in the **Polaris Hotel**, where the van Splunders also stayed. In the evening we soaked up some atmosphere of the infamous Nome Nightlife.

- 14 June** Another visit to the **Safety Lagoon** produced nothing of interest. We brought the car back without any problems. Tuna, one of the employees of Stampede was so kind to bring us to the airport where we planned to take the flight to Gambell, St Lawrence Island. At the airport we were told that no plane had landed at Gambell for four days in succession due to foggy conditions. We were told to go back to downtown Nome and wait for a phone call. After two hours we were informed the plane would leave, nearly without us, because the new shift was not told we were waiting for a go. Again, Tuna brought us to the airport. In the meantime it became too foggy again at Gambell, so the flight was cancelled again and we had to return to downtown Nome again. We booked again a room at the **Polaris Hotel** and again we were forced to be engulfed in the nightlife of Nome.
- 15 June** Finally we made it to Gambell, St Lawrence Island. After a spectacular flight with lots of pack ice in the sea we landed on **Gambell**. Gambell proved to be a very special place with very kind people. We heard some villagers saying to each other "here comes the money". We were brought to our house by four-wheels Honda motorbikes and we had to pay \$50 each for a permit to leave town. After these formalities we did a short seawatch which produced thousands of Crested Auklets, Least Auklets and good numbers of Pigeon Guillemots. After the seawatch the van Splunders went to the **Sevuokok Mountain** and the **bone yards**, while Arnold and me tried to walk along the beach to reach the southern shore of **Troutman Lake**. We learned that walking was very tough since the soil consists of small pebbles and every step seemed tiresome. We made it to the end of the landing strip, but did not see any interesting birds. The van Splunders had more luck as they saw several Red-throated Pipits and a possible McKay's Bunting. After dinner we did a seawatch and this produced ten thousands of Crested and Least Auklets, several Parakeet Auklets, Horned and Tufted Puffins, all four species of eiders (including 9 Spectacled Eiders!) and a group of 28 Emperor Geese all flying north. We went to bed far after midnight.
- 16 June** One way or another we overslept and woke up as late as 9:30 hours! The van Splunders went hiking along the lake, while Arnold and I went in the direction of **Sevuokok Mountain**. Arnold managed to find a Red-throated Pipit and a Grey Wagtail, a very rare bird in the USA. The van Splunders saw two female Spectacled Eiders close-by, two Arctic Warblers and a Bluethroat in the **Boneyards**. After a short seawatch with 47 King Eiders we went to the runway where the plane was already waiting for us. We departed at 17:15 hours with short stop at **Savoonga**. We arrived at **Nome** at 19:00 hours. Overnight in the **Polaris Hotel** in Nome.
- 17 June** In the morning we did some sight-seeing in **Nome** and surroundings. In the afternoon we took the 13:00 hour's flight to **Anchorage**, where we arrived at 14:30 hours. Immediately we went to Affordable Car Rental to pick up a car and drove north to the **Denali Highway**, a gravel road between **Cantwell** and **Paxson**. We saw six Trumpeter Swans, Blackpoll Warbler and a Hermit Thrush. Overnight at the **Brushkana Campground** at mile 104.
- 18 June** In the morning we searched in vain for Smith's Longspur at **milepost 103**. After this deception we drove to **Fairbanks** and phoned Dan Gibson, who gave us useful information about several species. Overnight at the **Chena State Campground** in **Fairbanks**.
- 19 June** We drove to **Circle** on the **Steese Highway**, another gravel road. At about mile 65 at **Sardough Creek**, we saw a pair of Say's Phoebes. Back in **Fairbanks** we saw Hammond's Flycatcher and did a search (in vain) for the Ruffed Grouse (very secretive this time of year). In the evening we phoned Brian Lawhead, who gave us useful information about Prudhoe Bay. Overnight again at the **Chena State Campground** in Fairbanks.

- 20 June** We took the morning flight at 8:15 with Mark Air to **Deadhorse**. On arrival it turned out to be very hot and since we had to cover as much ground as possible, we decided to hire a car at a rate of \$100. The car was a very good GMC Jimmy 4x4. We immediately drove north to go to Prudhoe Bay, but at a checkpoint they would not get us through, so we couldn't cover the bay itself. We went to the **North Star Inn**, a hotel for the oilfield employees. There the people of the hotel were very willing to arrange a permit for us to get to Prudhoe Bay, but the only person who we needed to make the contact just had left. So we went birding till late evening and to our great joy we found four Spectacled Eiders just southwest of **Colleen Lake**. Other birds were Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Tundra Swan, King Eider, American Golden Plover and Pacific Loon. We had an excellent dinner at the **North Star Inn**, an all you can eat buffet with large New York steaks. We slept in the car, while the sun was shining all night.
- 21 June** In the morning we encountered a pair of Spectacled Eiders along the road in a small canal west of **Colleen Lake**. Arnold could make several photographs at close range. Now there was no real need to obtain a permit to enter Prudhoe Bay itself. Yet we tried to obtain the permit at the ARCO Office in Anchorage, but we found out that the person responsible for this had a day off. So we decided to take the flight to Fairbanks at 14:00 hours. But first we took an all-you-can-bunker lunch at the **North Star Inn**. The flight was uneventful, but on arrival at **Fairbanks** it proved to be 95°F! We went to a laundromat to wash some clothes and after this washing we drove south. Overnight at **Delta Junction**.
- 22 June** In the morning we looked for Sharp-tailed Sandgrouse at the **Buffalo Drop Zone**, south of **Delta Junction**, but no grouse was found. The summer is probably not the best season to look for any grouse. After this dip we drove to **Paxson** and next on the **Denali Highway** again. We observed several Trumpeter Swans and a beaver. We also met the van Splunders again and together with them we searched (in vain) for the Smith's Longspur. Overnight at the **Brushkana Campground**.
- 23 June** In the morning we looked in vain for the Smith's Longspur at **milepost 103** along the **Denali Highway**. When returning to our car, we met a nice American family (Gordon and Peggy Tams plus their children). They told us the longspurs were present further away (half a mile) from the road. We walked to the open area they had pinpointed to us and after a short search we found three birds! Another new bird was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at the **Brushkana Campground**. At **milepost 130** we found a shy Upland Sandpiper. A little bit worried that we would dip on the Grizzly Bear we decided to take an excursion in the **Denali National Park**. The transport was with a yellow American school bus. We had good views of several Caribou, Moose, Grizzly Bear, Dall Sheep and a Red Fox. Finally we drove back to **Anchorage** in one long drive and we arrived past midnight at the **6 Bar E Ranch** where we put up our tent and had a very good sleep.
- 24 June** After breakfast, we went to **Homer**, with a sort stop at **Potter Marsh**, where we observed our only Red-winged Blackbird. On the **Homer Spit** we observed Common Loon, Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets, Western, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, Aleutian Tern, Hermit Thrush and lots of Bald Eagles. Overnight at a camping in **Homer** under heavy rainfall.
- 25 June** Because of the pouring rain and the low number of shorebirds, we decided to leave **Homer** and head for **Seward**. A short stop at **Kenai** resulted in Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper and a Harlan's Hawk. In **Seward** we found a male Eurasian Wigeon in the harbour. Overnight at a camping in **Seward**.
- 26 June** We took a cruise to the **Kenai Reserve** and the **Chiswell Islands**. We saw several Sea Otters, two Humpback Whales, two Dall Porpoises, Steller's Sea Lions, Harbour Seals and Mountain Goats. The most interesting birds were Horned and Tufted Puffins, hundreds of Rhinoceros Auklet, Black Oystercatchers, several Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets and two unidentified shearwaters, most



probably Short-tailed Shearwaters. In the evening we both ate two portions of King Salmon in a nice restaurant in **Seward**. Overnight at a camping in **Seward**.

**27 June** A short birdwatch at **Seward** produced nothing interesting. Next we drove back to **Anchorage** and went to the **Fish and Wildlife Service** at Tudor Road. There we met Bob Stahn, who showed us skins of Bristle-thighed Curlew, Spectacled Eiders and several auklets including Whiskered Auklet. After this visit we went to **Westchester Lagoon** where we saw hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers and again met Dave Sonneborne with whom we searched until late evening for Surfbirds. At his home Dave showed us some interesting pictures of Alaskan Birds, including some of birding on Attu Island and Shemya. Overnight at the **6 Bar E Ranch**.

**28 June** In the morning we searched in vain for the Surfbird in the **Westchester Lagoon**. Apparently we missed this species due to overestimation and bad luck at Homer. We met an American couple who had seen hundreds of them at Homer in the same period as our stay there. We checked in for the flight to Minneapolis and Amsterdam, brought back the car and boarded on time, with departure at 9:00 hours. We arrived in **Minneapolis** at 17:00 hours (15:00 hours Alaska Time) and next our plane to Amsterdam departed at 20:30 hours.

**29 June** After an uneventful (= perfect) flight, we arrived at 11:20 hours at **Schiphol Airport**, Amsterdam.



*Happy hour at Gambell, 15 June 1991; from left to right: Oom Kees, Raymond, Arnold, Jan and Wim.*



## Costs

Alaska provides good birding, nice people and spectacular scenery. Unfortunately, Alaska is also very expensive, especially if you want to see all Bering Sea endemics. What follows is a summary of all our costs

Return flight Anchorage – Amsterdam	€ 935
3-days Pribilof Tour	\$ 720
Return Anchorage – Nome	\$ 364
Return Nome - Gambell	\$ 230
Return Fairbanks – Deadhorse	\$ 496
Hotel plus permit on Gambell one day	\$ 100
Cruise to the Chiswell Islands	\$ 95
Car Rental (in total, each person)	\$ 501
Gasoil (each)	\$ 77
Food, hotels, campings (each person)	\$ 605

## Other Destinations

Other interesting destinations are Barrow, Hooper Bay, St George or Dutch Harbor. If you want to go to Dutch Harbor, the cheapest way is by ferry from Homer and costs \$ 240 one way and takes three days. The best area for the Whiskered Auklet is between Unimak Pass and Dutch Harbor, but the ferry passes there at night, so it is better to add a Dutch Harbor – Cold Bay ride (\$ 60). If you do not want to stay that long on a ship, you could take the plane from Cold Bay to Anchorage (\$ 387). Flying to Dutch Harbor costs \$ 536 with Peninsula Airways, but flying from Dutch Harbor to Anchorage is \$ 325. In Dutch Harbor you need to arrange a boat charter to get to Akutan Pass or Unalga Pass, which seem to be the best places to see Whiskered Auklets (Dale Herter pers. comm.). Note: this are 1991 figures and in 2018 there seem to be more packages, dedicated to see Whiskered Auklet.

## The Species Accounts

Order and nomenclature follows [www.worldbirdnames.org](http://www.worldbirdnames.org), version 11.2. Bering Sea endemic species or Alaskan specialties are in LARGE CAPITALS.

## Recommended Literature

As a field guide we used the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America, second printing (1985). The Sibley was not available in 1991.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following persons: Godelieve Berends and Stichting Omega for providing the tent, Pieter Bison, Karel Bijleveld, Cross Atlantic Travel, Margriet Edvall, Dan Gibson, Bob McGill, Dale Herter, Brian Lawhead, Gerald Oreel, Rini van Meurs, R. J. Mellis, Dirk de Moes, Laurie Philemonoff, Daan Sandee, Buzz Scher, Jans and Trudi Sikkens, Dave Sonneborne, Ray & Wim, aka The Van Splunder Brothers, all the employees from the Stampede in Nome, Bob Stahn, George and Peggy Tams, Thede Tobish, Kevin Zimmer and all the birders we met and were very helpful.

Arnold Meijer, Katwijk aan Zee, June-July 1991,

[Jan van der Laan](#), Alkmaar June-July 1991 (re-release 2018).



*Embarking again in Cold Bay, with Lockheed Electra of Reeve Aleutian Airways, 6 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*



*The village of St Paul, Pribilofs, seen from Reef Point, 8 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*

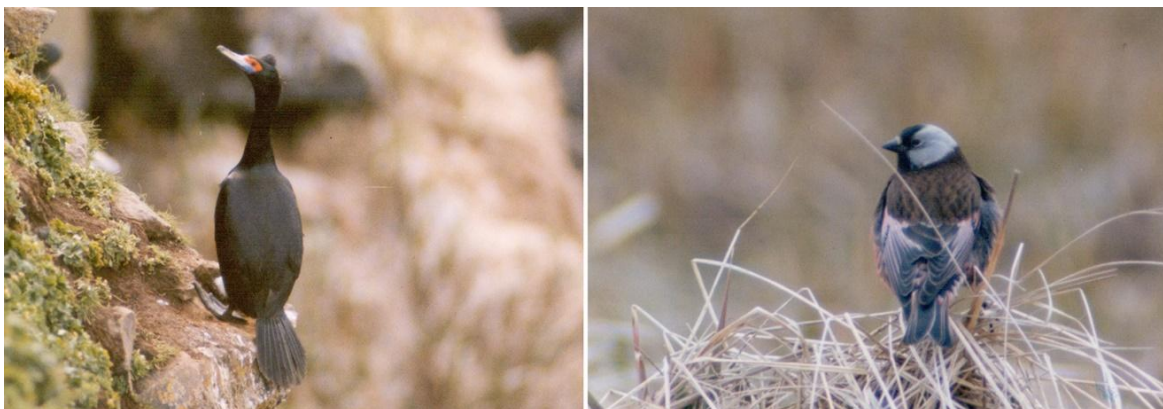




Male (left) and female (right) McKay's Buntings on 6 June 1991 near the Quarry, St Paul, Pribilofs; © R. J. Mellis. The male is a pure McKay's older than two years, with no black on the scapulars, black restricted to the outer primaries, a subterminal spot on t1 and two (upper) tertials. A good identification article can be found in the [Birding of November/December 2005](#). This female, however, shows too few details to exclude Snow Bunting safely.



Left: Horned Puffin; right: Tufted Puffin, both on 7 June 1991, St Paul, Pribilofs; © R. J. Mellis.



Left: Red-faced Cormorant; right: Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch, both on 7 June 1991, St Paul, Pribilofs; © R. J. Mellis.





Left: Red-legged Kittiwake; right: Thick-billed and Common Murres, both on 7 June 1991, St Paul Pribilofs; © Arnold Meijer.



Left: Parakeet Auklet; right: Crested Auklet, both on 7 June 1991, St Paul Pribilofs; © Arnold Meijer.



Left: Pribilof Rock Sandpiper; right: the lone Emperor Goose at Southwest Bay, both on 7 June 1991, St Paul, Pribilofs; © R. J. Mellis.





*Least Auklets, 7 June 1991, St Paul, Pribilofs; © R. J. Mellis.*



*Harlequin Ducks, 10 June 1991, Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula; © Arnold Meijer.*



*Rock Ptarmigan, 11 June 1991, Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage; © Arnold Meijer.*





*Flat Tyre half-way the Nomer-Taylor Road, 12 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*



*Left: Nome-Taylor Road; right: Iron Bridge over the Kougarok River, with our tent at the right; 12 June 1991; Arnold Meijer.*



*Bristle-thighed Curlew, 13 June 1991, hills west of Kougarok River, Nome-Taylor Road, 85 miles north of Nome; © Arnold Meijer.*





*Piper PA-31-350, the plane that brought us from Nome to Gambell and back, 15 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*



*Left: Gambell and the Bering Sea seen from the plane; right: Gambell, 15 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.*



*The men who did the job: left: Arnold Meijer, right: Jan van der Laan, both on 15 June 1991, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.*





Left: our house on Gambell; right: Walrus head on the beach; both on 15 June 1991, Gambell, St Lawrence Island. © Arnold Meijer.



Seawatch at Gambell, note the pebbles, making the ground very soft, 15 June 1991, Gambell, St Lawrence Island. © Arnold Meijer.

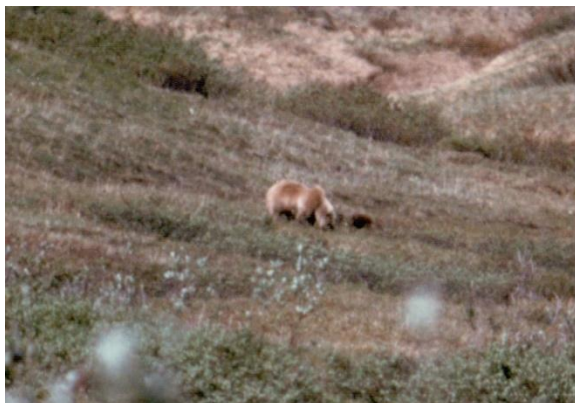


Left: icebergs at Gambell, St Lawrence Island, 16 June 1991; right: main street in Nome, 17 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.

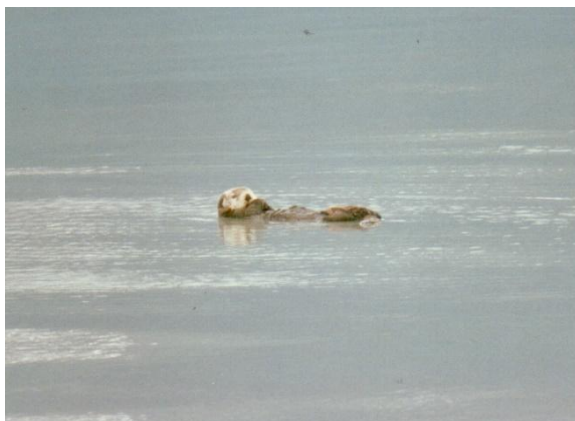




Left: Caribou at Deadhorse; right: the rental car at Deadhorse (picture taken around midnight) 20-06-1991; © Arnold Meijer.



Left: Grizzly Bear with cub at Denali NP, 23 June 1991; right: Mountain Goat, Chiswell Islands, 26 June 1991; © Arnold Meijer.



Left: Sea Otter, right: Humpback Whale, both on 26 June 1991 at the Chiswell Islands; © Arnold Meijer.



Left: Tufted Puffins, right: Steller's Sea Lions, both on 26 June 1991 at the Chiswell Islands; © Arnold Meijer.

001. **Brant Goose** - *Branta bernicla nigricans*

12-06	c 20	between Nome and the Safety Lagoon.
13-06	c 25	Safety Lagoon, Nome.
16-06	3	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
24-06	6	Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	c 10	Homer Spit, Homer.

002. **Canada Goose** - *Branta canadensis*

Common, seen almost daily, except on St Paul, Pribilofs. At Nome most probably Cackling Geese were seen of the subspecies *taverneri*, but nothing could be found in our (paper) notebooks.

003. **EMPEROR GOOSE** - *Anser canagicus*

07-06	1	Southwest Bay (western part of English Bay), St Paul, Pribilofs.
15-06	28	(in one group!) migrating north, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.

004. **Greater White-fronted Goose** - *Anser albifrons*

12-06	1	(ssp <i>sponsa</i> ) along Taylor Road, north of Nome.
20-06	c 5	(ssp <i>gambelli</i> ) Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; also on 21-06.

005. **TRUMPETER SWAN** - *Cygnus buccinator*

17-06	6	flying west above a gas station at Cantwell.
22-06	4	Denali Highway.

006. **Tundra Swan** - *Cygnus columbianus columbianus*

12-06	c 50	Safety Lagoon, Nome; also on 14-06.
20-06	2	Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; also on 21-06.
22-06	1	Denali Highway.

007. **Whooper Swan** - *Cygnus cygnus*

12-06	1	Safety Lagoon, Nome; also on 14-06.
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008. **Blue-winged Teal** - *Spatula discors*

09-06	2	Potter Marsh.
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009. **Northern Shoveler** - *Spatula clypeata*

With Pintail and Mallard the most common duck. None seen on St Paul or on St Lawrence Island.

010. **Gadwall** - *Mareca strepera*

06-06	2	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; also on 27-06.
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011. **Eurasian Wigeon** - *Mareca penelope*

26-06	1	(male) Seward harbour; also on 27-06.
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012. **American Wigeon** - *Mareca americana*

Fairly common, seen almost daily, except on St Paul, St Lawrence or at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay.

013. **Mallard** - *Anas platyrhynchos*

Fairly common, seen almost daily and everywhere, except on St Paul or St Lawrence Island.



014. **Northern Pintail** - *Anas acuta*  
Fairly common, being the most widespread duck. None seen at Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
015. **Eurasian Teal** - *Anas crecca*  
07-06                    1    (male) Antone Lake, St Paul, Pribilofs. Spp *nimia* is included in *A. crecca*.
016. **Green-winged Teal** - *Anas carolinensis*  
Fairly common, seen almost daily and everywhere, except on St Lawrence Island and at Deadhorse.
017. **Canvasback** - *Aythya valisineria*  
11-06                    1    (male) easternmost lake of the Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
018. **Redhead** - *Aythya americana*  
11-06                    8    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
12-06                    3    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
019. **Ring-necked Duck** - *Aythya collaris*  
10-06                    2    (males) Seward Harbour.  
11-06                    2    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
22-06                    3    Denali Highway.
020. **Tufted Duck** - *Aythya fuligula*  
06-06                    1    (male) in a small pond north of Salt Lagoon, St Paul, Pribilofs.
021. **Greater Scaup** - *Aythya marila nearctica*  
06-06                    4    in a small pond north of Salt Lagoon, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
07-06                    2    Webster Lake, Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
08-06                    1    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
10-06                    c 10 Seward Harbour.  
11-06                    3    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; also on 12-06.
022. **Lesser Scaup** - *Aythya affinis*  
Fairly common, seen almost daily (including at Deadhorse); none seen on St Paul or St Lawrence Island.
023. **Steller's Eider** - *Polysticta stelleri*  
15-06                    2    (both males) migrating north, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
16-06                    3    (1 male, 2 females) migrating north, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
024. **SPECTACLED EIDER** - *Somateria fischeri*  
15-06                    9    (3 males, 6 females) migrating north, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
20-06                    4    (1 male, 3 females) Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay (see map 5).  
21-06                    2    (1 male, 1 female) Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay (see front cover).  
With McKay's Bunting the best bird of the holiday. The birds at Gambell were far away and we want to have better views of this spectacular duck, so we bought an expensive ticket to Deadhorse. No regrets!
025. **King Eider** - *Somateria spectabilis*  
06-06                    5    in the harbour of St Paul, Pribilofs.  
07-06                    5    Sealion Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.

15-06	8	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
16-06	47	(with 46 in one flock) Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
20-06	6	Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; also on 21-06.

026. **Common Eider** - *Somateria mollissima v-nigrum*

06-06	c 5	in the harbour of St Paul, Pribilofs.
12-06	c 10	Safety Lagoon, Nome; also on 13-06.
15-06	c 10	Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.
24-06	2	Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	4	Homer Spit, Homer.

027. **Harlequin Duck** - *Histrionicus histrionicus*

06-06	c 60	behind the village, St Paul, Pribilofs.
07-06	c 50	Ridge Wall cliffs, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	c 50	Southwest Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
08-06	c 30	behind the village, St Paul, Pribilofs.
09-06	1	Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula.
10-06	4	Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula.
15-06	4	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
16-06	4	(other birds than 15-06) Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
25-06	7	Seward.

028. **Surf Scoter** - *Melanitta perspicillata*

10-06	5	Seward Harbour, Seward.
25-06	4	Seward Harbour, Seward.
27-06	3	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.

029. **White-winged Scoter** - *Melanitta deglandi*

12-06	c 10	flying east, between Nome and the mouth of the River Nome.
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030. **Black Scoter** - *Melanitta americana*

10-06	4	Seward Harbour, Seward.
11-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
13-06	6	Safety Lagoon, Nome.
24-06	c 10	Homer Spit, Homer; also on 25-06.

031. **Long-tailed Duck** - *Clangula hyemalis*

Seen regularly in small ponds and at sea at St Paul, Pribilofs, Nome, Deadhorse, along the Denali Highway and on the Kenai Peninsula.

032. **Bufflehead** - *Bucephala albeola*

06-06	2	(females) Webster Lake, Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
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033. **Common Goldeneye** - *Bucephala clangula americana*

06-06	3	Webster Lake, Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
13-06	2	Safety Lagoon, Nome.

We observed several unidentified female goldeneyes along the Denali Highway and on the Kenai Peninsula.



034. **Barrow's Goldeneye** - *Bucephala islandica*  
 09-06                    3    (2 males, 1 female) Cooper Creek, Kenai Peninsula.  
 10-06                    1    (male) Seward Harbour, Seward.
035. **Common Merganser** - *Mergus merganser americanus*  
 09-06                    1    Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula.  
 26-06                    1    Seward Harbour, Seward.
036. **Red-breasted Merganser** - *Mergus serrator*  
 09-06                    1    Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula.  
 12-06                    5    Nome; also on 13-06.  
 25-06                    1    Homer Spit, Homer.  
 26-06                    2    Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.
037. **Rock Ptarmigan** - *Lagopus muta nelsoni*  
 11-06                    6    Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage.
038. **Spruce Grouse** - *Canachites canadensis atratus*  
 10-06                    1    (female) along the Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
039. **Chimney Swift** - *Chaetura pelagica*  
 05-06                    1    Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit.
040. **Rufous Hummingbird** - *Selasphorus rufus*  
 09-06                    3    at a feeder of a restaurant at Portage Glacier.
041. **Rock Dove** - *Columba livia*  
 Some were observed in Anchorage.
042. **Sandhill Crane** - *Antigone canadensis canadensis*  
 09-06                    2    mouth of the Kenai River, Kenai.  
 12-06                    13   Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 14-06                    c 10   Safety Sound, Nome.
043. **Red-necked Grebe** - *Podiceps grisegena holbollii*  
 09-06                    2    Portage Glacier.  
 11-06                    c 25   Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
 24-06                    2    Potter Marsh.  
 27-06                    c 10   Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
044. **Horned Grebe** - *Podiceps auritus cornutus*  
 10-06                    1    Grayling Lake Trail, Kenai Peninsula.  
 17-06                    1    Denali Highway.
045. **Black Oystercatcher** - *Haematopus bachmani*  
 26-06                    4    Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.

046. **American Golden Plover** - *Pluvialis dominica*  
 12-06                    3    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 20-06                    3    at the start of the Dalton Highway, Deadhorse.  
 21-06                    1    west of Colleen Lake, Deadhorse.
047. **Semipalmated Plover** - *Charadrius semipalmatus*  
 First seen at Cold Bay (one life bird and 1 dead). Regularly seen on St Paul, Pribilofs, Nome, the Kenai Peninsula and at Anchorage.
048. **Upland Sandpiper** - *Bartramia longicauda*  
 23-06                    1    Milepost 130, Denali Highway.
049. **BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW** - *Numenius tahitiensis*  
 13-06                    6    hills west of the Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome (see map 3).
050. **Hudsonian Whimbrel** - *Numenius hudsonicus rufiventris*  
 13-06                    c 20    hills west of the Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.  
 14-06                    c 10    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 24-06                    c 15    Homer Spit, Homer.  
 25-06                    6    Homer Spit, Homer.
051. **Bar-tailed Godwit** - *Limosa lapponica baueri*  
 07-06                    3    Salt Lagoon, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 12-06                    c 10    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 13-06                    c 5    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 14-06                    c 10    Safety Lagoon, Nome.
052. **Hudsonian Godwit** - *Limosa haemastica beringiae*  
 09-06                    5    Kenai Harbour, Kenai.  
 11-06                    c 25    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
 12-06                    c 30    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.  
 27-06                    c 200    Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; also on 28-06.
053. **Ruddy Turnstone** - *Arenaria interpres interpres*  
 07-06                    1    on the path to Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 16-06                    1    Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
054. **Black Turnstone** - *Arenaria melanocephala*  
 12-06                    1    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 14-06                    1    (same bird?) Safety Lagoon, Nome.
055. **Dunlin** - *Calidris alpina pacifica*  
 09-06                    3    Kenai Harbour, Kenai.  
 12-06                    1    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 13-06                    c 10    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
 16-06                    2    Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
056. **ROCK SANDPIPER** - *Calidris ptilocnemis ptilocnemis*  
 06-06                    c 20    St Paul, Pribilofs, spread all over the island, in the tundra and ponds.



07-06	c 20	St Paul, Pribilofs.
08-06	c 5	St Paul, Pribilofs.

057. **Baird's Sandpiper** - *Calidris bairdii*

21-06	6	at the western shore of the Sagavanirktok River, Deadhorse (see map 5).
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058. **Least Sandpiper** - *Calidris minutilla*

07-06	1	Village Marsh, St Paul, Pribilofs.
09-06	3	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
	c 10	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.
18-06	3	Milepost 103, Denali Highway.
24-06	1	Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	1	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.

059. **Pectoral Sandpiper** - *Calidris melanotos*

20-06	c 15	(including displaying birds) Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay.
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060. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - *Calidris pusilla*

12-06	c 20	between Nome and the Safety Lagoon.
	c 100	Safety Lagoon, Nome; same numbers on 13-06.
15-06	3	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
20-06	c 50	Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; same numbers on 21-06.
24-06	2	Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	1	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.
27-06	c 50	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; same numbers on 28-06.
28-06	c 100	mudflats west of Anchorage Airport, Anchorage.

061. **Western Sandpiper** - *Calidris mauri*

12-06	c 5	mouth of the Nome River, c 10 miles east of Nome.
	c 40	Safety Lagoon, Nome.
13-06	c 70	Safety Lagoon, Nome; same numbers on 14-06.
24-06	c 30	Homer Spit, Homer.
27-06	c 50	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; same numbers on 28-06.
28-06	c 100	mudflats west of Anchorage Airport, Anchorage.

062. **Short-billed Dowitcher** - *Limnodromus griseus caurinus*

09-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
	1	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.
10-06	1	Potter Marsh.
11-06	5	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
25-06	1	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.
27-06	c 1000	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
28-06	c 300	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.

063. **Wilson's Snipe** - *Gallinago delicata*

Seen almost daily on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage and the Interior, exclusively displaying birds at dawn and dusk.

**064. Red-necked Phalarope** - *Phalaropus lobatus*

Seen in good numbers (10-20 birds) at every visited location. On 22 June 46 birds were seen in one small pond along the Denali Highway.

**065. Red Phalarope** - *Phalaropus fulicarius*

06-06	1	(female) Village Marsh, St Paul, Pribilofs; same bird on 8-06.
12-06	8	Safety Lagoon, Nome.
14-06	4	Safety Sound, Nome.
15-06	7	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.

**066. Spotted Sandpiper** - *Actitis macularius*

08-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
09-06	1	Cooper Creek Campground, Kenai Peninsula; same bird on 10-06.
11-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
16-06	1	along the Denali Highway.
19-06	1	Chena River Campground, Fairbanks.
23-06	3	along the Denali Highway.
26-06	2	southern part of Seward.
27-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.

**067. Wandering Tattler** - *Tringa incana*

10-06	1	Seward Harbour, Seward.
24-06	2	Seward Harbour, Seward.
	1	southern part of Seward.

**068. Lesser Yellowlegs** - *Tringa flavipes*

Common, seen almost daily with daily totals of up to birds, mainly in Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and the Interior.

**069. Greater Yellowlegs** - *Tringa melanoleuca*

24-06	3	near Homer Airport, Homer.
25-06	1	Kenai Harbour, Kenai.
27-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage; same bird on 28-06.

**070. Black-legged Kittiwake** - *Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*

Common to very common on St Paul, Pribilofs, at Gambell, the Homer spit and at the Chiswell Islands.

**071. RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** - *Rissa brevirostris*

06-06	2	in the harbour, St Paul, Pribilofs.
07-06	1	Antone Lake, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	5	(nesting) Ridge Wall cliffs, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	2	(nesting) Southwest Point, near shipwreck 'Terminator', St Paul, Pribilofs.
	1	(first summer) Salt Lagoon, St Paul, Pribilofs.

**072. Sabine's Gull** - *Xema sabini*

12-06	2	(adult in summer plumage) Safety Sound, Nome.
13-06	1	(adult in summer plumage) Safety Sound, Nome.



073. **Bonaparte's Gull** - *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*  
Seen regularly at Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and in the Interior.
074. **Black-headed Gull** - *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
07-06                    1    (adult summer) Polovina Point, St Paul, Pribilofs; still present on 8-06.
075. **Short-billed Gull** - *Larus brachyrhynchus*  
Common at Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, Nome and the Interior.
076. **Ring-billed Gull** - *Larus delawarensis*  
05-06                    c 10    Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit.
077. **Great Black-backed Gull** - *Larus marinus*  
05-06                    1    Boston Logan International Airport, Boston.
078. **Glaucous-winged Gull** - *Larus glaucescens*  
Common on St Paul, Pribilofs, at Homer and Seward.
079. **Glaucous Gull** - *Larus hyperboreus barrovianus*  
07-06                    1    Polovina Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
                                  3    Lake Dune, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
12-06                    c 100    Safety Sound, Nome; also on 13-06.  
13-06                    c 500    (in total) Safety Sound and Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
15-06                    c 10    Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.  
20-06                    c 10    Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; also on 21-06.
080. **American Herring Gull** - *Larus smithsonianus*  
Fairly common in Anchorage and surroundings, the Kenai Peninsula, in the interior. One bird was seen at the Polovina Point, St Paul and one at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay.
081. **Vega Gull** - *Larus vegae vegae*  
12-06                    2-3    Safety Sound, Nome.  
15-06                    c 10    Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.
082. **ALEUTIAN TERN** - *Onychoprion aleuticus*  
09-06                    1    Kenai Harbour, Kenai.  
12-06                    1    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
24-06                    c 10    Homer Spit, Homer.  
25-06                    4    Homer Spit, Homer.
083. **Arctic Tern** - *Sterna paradisaea*  
Common at Nome, Potter Marsh, Denali Highway and the Kenai Peninsula.
084. **Parasitic Jaeger** - *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
12-06                    3    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
13-06                    6    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
14-06                    5    Safety Lagoon, Nome.  
16-06                    2    Gambell, St Lawrence Island.

- |       |   |                         |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 17-06 | 1 | Nome.                   |
| 20-06 | 1 | Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay. |
| 21-06 | 1 | Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay. |
085. **Long-tailed Jaeger** - *Stercorarius longicaudus pallescens*
- |       |      |   |
|-------|------|---|
| 07-06 | 1    | Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.                                      |
|       | 2    | Zapadni Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  |
| 09-06 | 1    | (possible dark phase) Kenai Harbour, Kenai.                               |
| 12-06 | c 50 | between Nome and the Safety Lagoon, with one flock of 30 birds.           |
| 13-06 | 1    | (attacking Jan) hills west of the Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome. |
|       | c 50 | between Nome and the Safety Lagoon; also on 14-06.                        |
| 16-06 | 1    | Nome.   |
| 22-06 | 1    | Denali Highway.   |
| 23-06 | 2    | Denali National Park.   |
086. **Thick-billed Murre** - *Uria lomvia arra*  
Common to abundant on St Paul, Pribilofs (hundreds) and at Gambell, St Lawrence Island (thousands).
087. **Common Murre** - *Uria aalge inornata*  
Common on St Paul, Pribilofs, St Lawrence Island, the Homer Spit and the Chiswell Islands.
088. **PIGEON GUILLEMOT** - *Cephus columba columba/adiantus*
- |       |      |   |
|-------|------|---|
| 07-06 | 1    | Sealion Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.                  |
| 15-06 | c 30 | Gambell, St Lawrence Island; same numbers on 16-06. |
| 26-06 | c 25 | Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.                |
089. **MARBLED MURRELET** - *Brachyramphus marmoratus*
- |       |      |                                      |
|-------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 10-06 | c 20 | Seward Harbour                       |
| 24-06 | c 10 | Homer Spit, Homer.                   |
| 25-06 | 1    | Seward.                              |
| 26-06 | c 10 | Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour. |
090. **KITTLITZ'S MURRELET** - *Brachyramphus brevirostris*
- |       |   |                                      |
|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 24-06 | 2 | Homer Spit, Homer.                   |
| 26-06 | 4 | Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour. |
091. **PARAKEET AUKLET** - *Aethia psittacula*
- |       |      |                                     |
|-------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 06-06 | 2    | St Paul harbour, St Paul, Pribilofs |
| 07-06 | 100s | St Paul, Pribilofs; also on 8-06.   |
| 12-06 | 2    | Nome.                               |
| 15-06 | c 15 | Gambell, St Lawrence Island.        |
| 16-06 | c 5  | Gambell, St Lawrence Island.        |
092. **LEAST AUKLET** - *Aethia pusilla*
- |       |         |   |
|-------|---------|---|
| 06-06 | 5       | St Paul harbour, St Paul, Pribilofs.  |
| 07-06 | 10.000s | Ridge Wall cliffs, Zapadni Point, Sealion and Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs. |
| 08-06 | 1000s   | Reef Point and the cliffs behind the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.           |
| 15-06 | 1000s   | Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.                                   |



**093. CRESTED AUKLET** - *Aethia cristatella*

7-06	5	Ridge Wall cliffs, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	3	Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	c 10	Sealion Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
8-06	15	Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	25	cliffs behind the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.
15-06	10.000s	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
16-06	1000s	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.

**094. Rhinoceros Auklet** - *Cerorhinca monocerata*

26-06	c 10	Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.
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**095. HORNED PUFFIN** - *Fratercula corniculata*

06-06	2	St Paul harbour, St Paul, Pribilofs.
07-06	2	Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	4	Southwest Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
08-06	2	Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
	4	cliffs behind the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.
12-06	2	Nome.
15-06	c 30	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
26-06	c 200	Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.

**096. TUFTED PUFFIN** - *Fratercula cirrhata*

06-06	c 40	behind the village and in the harbour of St Paul, Pribilofs.
07-06	c 60	(in total) Reef Point and Northeast Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
08-06	c 30	Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.
15-06	c 30	Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.
26-06	c 400	Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.

**097. Red-throated Loon** - *Gavia stellata*

12-06	1	Nome.
14-06	2	west of the Safety Lagoon, Nome.

**098. Pacific Loon** - *Gavia pacifica*

12-06	c 10	Nome.
13-06	c 15	along the coast just south of the Safety Lagoon, Nome; also on 14-06.
15-06	c 5	Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
20-06	c 20	Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay; also on 21-06.
24-06	c 20	Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	2	Homer Spit, Homer.

**099. Common Loon** - *Gavia immer*

10-06	2	Tern Lake, Kenai Peninsula.
24-06	6	Homer Spit, Homer.
26-06	1	Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.
27-06	2	Tern Lake, Kenai Peninsula.

Unfortunately no White-billed Diver was seen by us during our stay at Nome.

100. **Northern Fulmar** - *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*  
 07-06 c 50 Ridge Wall cliffs, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
           c 20 Southwest Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 15-06 c 30 Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
 16-06 c 100 Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
 Rodger's/Pacific Fulmar is a candidate split from Northern Fulmar ([Kerr & Dove 2013](#)).
101. Sooty Shearwater / Short-tailed Shearwater – *Ardenna grisea* / *Ardenna tenuirostris*  
 26-06 2 (unidentified *ardenna* shearwaters) Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.
102. **RED-FACED CORMORANT** - *Urile urile*  
 06-06 c 15 behind the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 07-06 c 50 (in total) Ridge Wall cliffs, Sealion Point and Southwest Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 08-06 c 20 (in total) at Reef Point and behind the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.
103. **PELAGIC CORMORANT** - *Urile pelagicus*  
 12-06 2 Cape Nome, Nome.  
 14-06 4 Nome.  
 15-06 c 10 Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
 16-06 4 Gambell, St Lawrence Island.  
 24-06 c 10 Homer Spit, Homer.  
 26-06 c 20 Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.
104. **Double-crested Cormorant** - *Nannopterum auritum cinctus*  
 10-06 c 25 Seward Harbour, Seward.  
 25-06 c 10 Seward Harbour, Seward; also on 26-06
105. **Golden Eagle** - *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*  
 09-06 1 (probably this species), Girdwood.  
 23-06 1 or 2 Polychrome Pass, Denali NP.
106. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** - *Accipiter striatus velox*  
 23-06 1 Brushkana Campground, Denali Highway.
107. **Northern Goshawk** - *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*  
 10-06 1 (imm.) along the Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
108. **Northern Harrier** - *Circus hudsonius*  
 10-06 1 Portage Glacier.  
 11-06 1 Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage.  
 12-06 2 along the Nome-Taylor Road (north of Nome).  
 13-06 2 (other birds than on 12-06) along the Nome-Taylor Road (north of Nome).  
 17-06 1 Denali Highway.  
 18-06 1 entrance of the Denali NP, south of Healy.  
 20-06 1 Deadhorse.  
 23-06 2 or 3 during the Yellow School bus excursion in Denali NP.  
 Previously considered to be a subspecies of Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*.



**109. Bald Eagle** - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus washingtoniensis*

06-06	2	Cold Bay.
09-06	8	Girdwood.
	1	Kenai.
10-06	3	Seward.
	14	Girdwood.
24-06	18	between Girdwood and Sterling.
	c 10	(in total) Homer Harbour and Homer Spit, Homer.
25-06	c 10	Homer Spit, Homer.
	c 5	Seward.
26-06	5	Chiswell Islands-Kenai Glacier tour.

**110. Red-tailed Hawk** - *Buteo jamaicensis harlani*

09-06	1	(dark morph) Girdwood.
19-06	1	(dark morph) Sourdough Creek, Steese Highway, north of Fairbanks.
24-06	1	(dark morph) between Sterling and Soldotna; also on 25-06.

**111. Short-eared Owl** - *Asio flammeus flammeus*

12-06	4	Nome-Taylor Road, north of Nome. One was attacking a Red Fox.
13-06	2	Safety Lagoon, Nome.
14-06	2	between Nome and the Safety Lagoon.

**112. Belted Kingfisher** - *Megasceryle alcyon*

13-06	1	Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.
19-06	1	Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage.
27-06	1	Chena River State Campground, Fairbanks.

**113. American Three-toed Woodpecker** - *Picoides dorsalis fasciatus*

09-06	1	Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
10-06	2	Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.

**114. American Kestrel** - *Falco sparverius sparverius*

18-06	2	c 20 miles south of Fairbanks.
22-06	1	Denali Highway.
23-06	1	Denali Highway.
24-06	1	Sterling.

**115. Say's Phoebe** - *Sayornis saya saya*

19-06	2	Sourdough Creek, north of Fairbanks.
23-06	1	Eielson Visitor Center, Denali National Park.

**116. Alder Flycatcher** - *Empidonax alnorum*

Seen regularly in Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula and the interior.

**117. Hammond's Flycatcher** - *Empidonax hammondii*

19-06	1	Chena River State Campground, Fairbanks.
	1	Ester, 10 miles west of Fairbanks.

118. **Northern Shrike** - *Lanius borealis borealis*  
17-06                    2    Denali Highway.
119. **Grey Jay** - *Perisoreus canadensis pacificus*  
06-06                    c 10    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.  
09-06                    c 5    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.  
10-06                    c 5    Seward.
120. **Black-billed Magpie** - *Pica hudsonia*  
Common, seen almost daily at Anchorage, on the Kenai Peninsula and in the interior.
121. **American Crow** - *Corvus brachyrhynchos caurinus*  
Regularly seen at Anchorage and on the Kenai Peninsula.
122. **Northern Raven** - *Corvus corax principalis*  
Fairly common, seen almost daily in the surroundings of Nome, on St Lawrence Island, the Kenai Peninsula, near Anchorage, in the Interior and at Deadhorse.
123. **Black-capped Chickadee** - *Poecile atricapillus turneri*  
06-06                    3    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.  
09-06                    1    Totem Road, Anchorage.  
10-06                    2    Seward.  
12-06                    2    Totem Road, Anchorage.  
25-06                    3    on the camping of Seward; also there on 26-06.
124. **Boreal Chickadee** - *Poecile hudsonicus columbianus*  
06-06                    1    Totem Road, Anchorage.  
09-06                    3    Baronik Street, Anchorage.
125. **Horned Lark** - *Eremophila alpestris arctica*  
11-06                    3    Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage.
126. **Sand Martin** - *Riparia riparia riparia*  
During our stay on St Paul, Pribilofs four birds were present at Village Marsh. During the rest of our stay in Alaska we observed them regularly at Anchorage, the interior and finally at the Kenai Peninsula.
127. **Tree Swallow** - *Tachycineta bicolor*  
First seen at Cold Bay (2 birds). Later regularly seen at Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.
128. **Violet-green Swallow** - *Tachycineta thalassina thalassina*  
Common at Anchorage, the interior and the Kenai Peninsula.
129. **American Cliff Swallow** - *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota*  
Fairly common at Anchorage, the interior and the Kenai Peninsula. A few birds were present at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay.
130. **Arctic Warbler** - *Phylloscopus borealis*  
13-06                    1    Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.

17-06	1	Nome Airport.
18-06	3	along the Denali Highway.
22-06	1	along the Denali Highway.
23-06	4	along the Denali Highway.

The ssp *kennicotti* is included in *arctica*. Birds at Gambell could very well be *P. examinandus*.

131. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - *Corthylio calendula*

06-06	2	behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.
09-06	1	behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.
10-06	1	Grayling Trail Lake, Kenai Peninsula.

132. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** - *Regulus satrapa apache*

09-06	1	Seward.
24-06	2	Homer Airport.

133. **Pacific Wren** - *Troglodytes pacificus alascensis*

07-06	1	Tolstoi Rookery, St Paul, Pribilofs.
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134. **Common Starling** - *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common at Boston Airport and later on at Detroit Airport.

135. **Varied Thrush** - *Ixoreus naevius meruloides*

09-06	1	Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
10-06	2	Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.

136. **Swainson's Thrush** - *Catharus ustulatus incanus*

09-06	1	Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
10-06	2	Grayling Trail Lake, Kenai Peninsula.
26-06	1	Seward Campground.

137. **Hermit Thrush** - *Catharus guttatus guttatus*

17-06	1	along the Denali Highway.
23-06	2	along the Denali Highway.
24-06	1	Homer Airport.

138. **Grey-cheeked Thrush** - *Catharus minimus aliciae*

12-06	4	along the road between Nome and Taylor at mile 64.
13-06	2	along the road between Taylor and Nome.

139. **American Robin** - *Turdus migratorius migratorius*

Common, seen daily at Anchorage, Nome, the Kenai Peninsula and the Interior.

140. **Bluethroat** - *Luscinia svecica svecica*

11-06	1	halfway the road between Nome and Taylor.
13-06	1	Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.

141. **American Dipper** - *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*

07-06	4	(1 adult, 3 juveniles) under a bridge over Indian Creek, south of Anchorage.
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142. **House Sparrow** - *Passer domesticus*  
Common at Boston Airport and later on at Detroit Airport.
143. **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** - *Motacilla tschutschensis*  
07-06            1    (*ssp simillima?*) Village Marsh, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
12-06            c 20    (*ssp tschutschensis*) Safety Lagoon, Nome; also there on 13-06 and 14-06.  
13-06            c 5    (*ssp tschutschensis*) Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.  
24-06            1    (*ssp tschutschensis*) Homer Spit, Homer.
144. **Grey Wagtail** - *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*  
15-06            1    (imm. male, only seen by Arnold) in the easternmost boneyard, Gambell, St Lawrence Island. The original description was lost during migration of Jan.
145. **White Wagtail** - *Motacilla alba ocularis*  
15-06            3    Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.
146. **Red-throated Pipit** - *Anthus cervinus*  
15-06            1    (by Arnold only) in the easternmost boneyard, Gambell, St Lawrence Island.
147. **Buff-bellied Pipit** - *Anthus rubescens pacificus*  
11-06            2    Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage.
148. **Pine Grosbeak** - *Pinicola enucleator flammula*  
10-06            1    (male) along the Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.
149. **GREY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH** - *Leucosticte tephrocotis umbrina*  
06-06            c 10    in the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.  
                      c 5    1 mile west of the Quarry, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
07-06            c 20    in total at Ridge Wall cliffs, Northeast Point and Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
08-06            c 5    in the village of St Paul, Pribilofs.
150. **Common Redpoll** - *Acanthis flammea*  
Seen regularly at Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula and the Denali Highway, with daily totals of up to 20 birds.
151. **Arctic Redpoll** - *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*  
13-06            1    Kougarok River, 85 miles north of Nome.
152. **Two-barred Crossbill** - *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*  
23-06            1    (female) at the first bus stop, Denali National Park.
153. **Pine Siskin** - *Spinus pinus pinus*  
06-06            c 10    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage  
09-06            c 5    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage  
10-06            c 5    Seward.
154. **Lapland Longspur** - *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*  
First seen at Cold Bay on 6 June (1 male). Commonly observed on St Paul, Pribilofs, at Nome, at Gambell, St Lawrence Island and at Deadhorse.

155. **Smith's Longspur** - *Calcarius pictus*  
 23-06                    3    (2 males & 1 female) Denali Highway [near milepost 103](#) (see map 6).
156. **Snow Bunting** - *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
 06-06                    2    (*ssp townsendi*) 1 mile west of the Quarry, St Paul Village, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 08-06                    1    (*ssp townsendi*) Reef Point, St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 15-06                    c 20 (*ssp townsendi* or *vlasowae*) Gambell, St Lawrence Island; also on 16-06.  
 20-06                    c 10 (*ssp nivalis*) Deadhorse; also on 21-06.
157. **MCKAY'S BUNTING** - *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*  
 06-06                    2    (male & female) [c 500-1000 m north or west of the Quarry](#), St Paul, Pribilofs.  
 Together with Spectacled Eider the best bird of the holiday. The male was a typical old white bird, with only black on T1, the tips of the primaries and the upper two tertials.
158. **SOOTY FOX SPARROW** - *Passerella unalaschcensis unalaschcensis*  
 11-06                    1    c 5 miles south of the Arctic Valley Ski Resort, north of Anchorage.  
 26-06                    2    Seward Harbour, Seward.
159. **Red Fox Sparrow** - *Passerella iliaca zaboria*  
 18-06                    1    Brushkana Campground, Denali Highway.  
 22-06                    1    Brushkana Campground, Denali Highway; also on 23-06.  
 The Fox Sparrow complex is now split into four separate species. Based on location we can make the safe conclusion we must have seen both Red Fox Sparrow and Sooty Fox Sparrow.
160. **American Tree Sparrow** - *Spizelloides arborea ochracea*  
 13-06                    2    Kougarak Road, 85 miles north of Nome.  
 17-06                    2    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.  
 18-06                    3    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.  
 22-06                    1    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.  
 23-06                    1    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.
161. **Dark-eyed Junco** - *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*  
 Common, seen almost daily in Anchorage, on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Interior.
162. **White-crowned Sparrow** - *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*  
 Common, up to 10 birds in Anchorage, on the Kenai Peninsula, Nome and in the Interior.
163. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** - *Zonotrichia atricapilla*  
 First seen at cold bay. Regularly seen near Anchorage, on the Kenai Peninsula, Nome and in the Interior.
164. **Savannah Sparrow** - *Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus*  
 The most common sparrow, seen daily except on St Paul and St Lawrence Island.
165. **Song Sparrow** - *Melospiza melodia kenaiensis*  
 09-06                    1    Potter Marsh.
166. **Lincoln's Sparrow** - *Melospiza lincolnii gracilis*  
 06-06                    1    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.

167. **Red-winged Blackbird** - *Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus*  
 24-06                    1    (immature male) Potter Marsh.
168. **Rusty Blackbird** - *Euphagus carolinus carolinus*  
 09-06                    2    Kenai.  
 12-06                    2    Potter Marsh.  
 19-06                    2    Captain Creek, Steese Highway, north of Fairbanks.  
 24-06                    2    Potter Marsh.
169. **Orange-crowned Warbler** - *Leiothlypis celata celata*  
 Fairly common, with daily totals of up to 10 at Anchorage, on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Interior.
170. **American Yellow Warbler** - *Setophaga aestival rubiginosa/banksi*  
 Fairly common, with daily totals of up to 10 on the Kenai Peninsula, along the Nome-Taylor Road and in the Interior. Previously, the scientific name used to be *Dendroica petechia*.
171. **Blackpoll Warbler** - *Setophaga striata*  
 10-06                    1    on the Camping in Seward.  
 17-06                    1    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.  
 18-06                    2    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson.  
 22-06                    c 5    Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson; also on 23-06.
172. **Myrtle Warbler** - *Setophaga coronata hooveri*  
 Common, with daily totals of up to 15 birds, at Anchorage, the interior and the Kenai Peninsula.
173. **Townsend's Warbler** - *Setophaga townsendi*  
 06-06                    2    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.  
 09-06                    2    along the Resurrection Trail, between Sterling and Cooper Landing.  
 10-06                    2    Grayling Trail Lake, Kenai Peninsula.  
 26-06                    2    on the Camping in Seward.
174. **Wilson's Warbler** - *Cardellina pusilla pileolata*  
 06-06                    2    behind the 6 Bar E Ranch, Totem Road, Anchorage.  
 10-06                    4    Grayling Trail Lake, Kenai Peninsula.  
 23-06                    3    Denali Highway  
 24-06                    2    Homer  
 25-06                    2    Seward  
 26-06                    2    on the Camping in Seward.