

## Birding Alaska June 2007



*Scenic view from Seward Hwy, at the end of Turnagain Arm*

### **Participants**

Martin Resare, Rönninge, Sweden  
Ulf Hagström, Nyköping, Sweden

## **Itinerary**

30 May: Sweden – Reykjavik – Minneapolis – Seattle  
31 May: Seattle (Tiger Mountain State Forest – Lake Sammamish SP) – Anchorage  
1 June: Anchorage (Westchester Lagoon – Potter Marsh) – St Paul  
2 June: St Paul  
3 June: St Paul  
4 June: St Paul – Anchorage - Moose Pass  
5 June: Moose Pass – Seward – “Pelagic” – Exit Glacier – Anchorage  
6 June: Anchorage (Hillside Park) – Glennallen – Tolsona Campground – Paxson  
7 June: Paxson – Richardson Hwy – Denali Hwy - Paxson  
8 June: Paxson – Denali Hwy – Anchorage  
9 June: Anchorage (Kincaid SP) – Nome – Gambell  
10 June: Gambell  
11 June: Gambell – Nome – Safety Sound - Nome  
12 June: Nome – Teller Rd – Nome  
13 June: Nome – Kougarok Rd – Safety Sound – Nome  
14 June: Nome (Anvil Mtn) – Kotzebue – Anchorage – Soldotna  
15 June: Soldotna – Homer Spit – Carl E. Wynn NC – Anchorage  
16/17 June: Anchorage (Westchester Lagoon – Bicentennial Park) – Seattle – Copenhagen – Sweden

### ***Stockholm – Seattle – Anchorage (30 May – 1 June)***

# Baggage was our destiny on this trip and it started off from the very first moment. SAS have never been our favourites and now we got grist to the mill. An official announcement blaming the radar system was hard to believe when only SAS aircrafts were delayed from Arlanda, Stockholm. Instead of flying over Copenhagen we were transferred to a new route over Reykjavik and Minneapolis – with an assurance that we shouldn't worry about the electronically re-tagging of our baggage. Of course it didn't work out - no bags in Minneapolis! Delays of the next leg to Seattle didn't make things better. Instead of being ready for the first birds in Alaska we were stranded in Seattle after 27 hours without sleep – what a start!



*Westchester lagoon, Anchorage*

# We finally got to Anchorage, late the second day of our trip (one day delayed) – with the bags in our hands! While we were booked for a 3-night stay at St Paul, departing on our third day, it would have been a total disaster to go out there without scopes and warm clothes. So vulnerable you can be as a birder! At Westchester Lagoon, not far from the central parts of Anchorage, we saw our first Alaska targets and before the PenAir plane departed from Anchorage we also had time for a quick spell at Potter Marsh – a bird rich marsh area some five miles south of downtown.

### *St Paul (1 June – 4 June)*

# Well in advance we booked a 4-day tour-package from St Paul Island Tours for 1600USD. After a short stopover for fuelling in Dillingham we left land and after 1.5 hours over Bering Sea the 30 seated aircraft finally reached the Pribilof islands. Upon arrival at St Paul – THE Pribilof island for birders – Gavin Bieber met up with us, submitting the sad message; “Most rarities seems to be gone by now”. By that time I couldn’t dream about how wrong he should be when we summarized the bird list a few days later!



*A marsh at St Paul*

# Having the lush, green pictures from the internet sites in our minds it was a bit of a shock looking out over the landscape. We couldn’t find a single green straw wherever we looked, it was all grey and it wasn’t because of the heavy wet fog. Temperatures were far from double digits (°C) and patches of snow lighted up the hill sides. Like hell for the normal tourist, but after the first tour it was all heaven for a keen birder when we found one of “the gone rarities” – a smashing *Bristle-thighed Curlew* resting in a narrow marsh area. What a start!

# Finding all the common breeding birds (apart from the likely breeder McKay’s Bunting), we primarily went to St Paul for, was a piece of cake and all spectacular views of *Least Auklet*, *Parakeet Auklet*, *Crested Auklet*, *Horned Puffin*, *Tufted Puffin*, *Ancient Murrelet*, *Thick-billed Murre*, the pale rufous Pribilof subspecies of *Rock Sandpiper* (common everywhere!) and the giant Bering Sea subspecies of *Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch* will stay in our memories for ever.



*Lunch time at New King Eider Hotel*

# We said before leaving Sweden that you can’t get fed up with fresh fish and Alaska must simply be the best place in USA to eat the likes of salmon and halibut. Therefore it was a bit of a disappointment not to get fish on any plates for 4 days. The food was OK, particularly the delicious piece of meat that Friday (cost 4USD extra), but one or two fish meals instead of “typical lower 48’s food” wouldn’t have hurt anybody.



*Blue Martin with Tufted Duck*

# Being a crazy ABA-birder gave Martin brilliant opportunities to joke about my sought-after species like White and Yellow Wagtail on the plane to US – “I won’t help you looking for those scrappy Swedish species”! A few days later he was rushing in the front-line at Salt Lagoon and nobody could be mistaken about his excitement when he had a... *Tufted Duck* (!) in his scope. Another crazy ABA-birder was born!

# We could write long stories about mouth-watering ABA-species like *Bean Goose*, *Smew* (not even thought about for the Target List), *Common Snipe* (what a splendid evening show!), *Brambling* etc, but when we discovered the *Terek Sandpiper* on the northern shores I felt directly this IS SOMETHING EXTRA and we had barely finished our news message back home before Dylan tore off!



*Our group at St Paul*



*New King Eider Hotel and airport terminal*

# We were really overwhelmed about the birding at St Paul, not just for the outstanding birds we saw but also for how things were organised. It was like a mixture of the army and “Week 42 at Öland” (the best spot in Sweden for fall migration), i.e. accommodation in New King Eider Hotel with type of barrack rooms and common bath rooms, fixed time schedules for all three meals and 110% birding in between those – from morning to late evening. All our credits to “Sergeants” Gavin, Jake and Dylan (all from AZ!), they worked really hard in the field and showed excellent skills in terms of bird finding and leadership. I think all in our small group – Paul & Mary Mayer, Bob & Kathy Andrini and Barbara – can underline those words, we simply had some unforgettable days at St Paul.

# Luggage problems wasn’t over (see first day) when we said goodbye to the excellent tour leaders. “Due to over weight we had to off-load A FEW BAGS – in total 750lb”, we were told at the gate. Then I started to calculate; ...750lb x 0,453 = some 350kg, 30 persons...well, that must be equal to MOST bags!!! Unfortunately I was right, only a couple of handbags came out on the belt in Anchorage. “But don’t worry, the bags will be here tomorrow morning, the PenAir official said. While we were booked on a pelagic tour from Seward the next morning we had to leave immediately. Coincidentally I was dressed in my complete field clothes, including rain gear, but Martin was worse off. We managed to make the trip, but the bags didn’t show up until the day after!



*Anchorage – Seward back and forth (4 June – 5 June)*



*South on Seward Hwy*



*Trail Lake Lodge in Moose Pass*

# We felt pretty naked leaving Anchorage with neither scopes nor clothes in our rental car, but what do you do with a tight schedule? The scenery along the 210km Seward Hwy was magnificent. Just after Turnagain Arm we slammed on the brakes and were soon thereafter rewarded with a couple of *Trumpeter Swans*. From sunny weather and very pleasant +20°C it suddenly got worse, strong winds and heavy rain were soon over us. At Moose Pass, some 40 km north of Seward, tiredness got nearly painful and we took in at Trail Lake Lodge.

# Strong winds were still blowing in the early morning when we entered the nice city of Seward, well ahead of the “Captain’s Choice Tour” (a special tour in a small boat for birders!) departure with Mariah Tours at 08.30. Then our worst scenario turned out to be true when we came to the front desk; “We tried to call you yesterday evening on your cell phones (WHICH DON’T WORK IN ENTIRE ALASKA!) to tell you that your trip is CANCELLED due to severe weather conditions”!! How fun was that? It felt like a tolling upper-cut! We were totally devastated. I mean, can it be severe weather for a birder on a pelagic trip? No, the rougher the better. But unfortunately that wasn’t to be the captain’s story.

After regaining consciousness we were able to book another tour, to North Western Glacier – a slightly longer (9,5 hrs) trip with a LARGE boat, “no problems with weather conditions in that type of vessel”. After an excellent breakfast with freshly baked bagels (my first ever in US - on my 26<sup>th</sup> trip!) at a café (strongly recommended) across the street, we were ready for the pelagic birds.



*On Resurrection Bay*



*Exit Glacier*

# When we came out of Resurrection Bay on open sea the Skipper took (for us) the fatal decision to turn around. Ohhh, NO! Not again! The sea was rough and with keen birders in minority the seasick passengers were decisive. BUT before that, not far out from Seward on Resurrection Bay, the Skipper shouted; *Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel* two o’clock! Seconds later we got splendid views of the one and only Storm-Petrel on the entire trip. This was one of the Key Targets for this trip, so we felt we had value for money and therefore we couldn’t blame the Skipper too much for his sad decision. Missing out Northwestern Glacier was somewhat compensated by a refund of 40USD (from 170USD) each and a short visit to Exit Glacier by car, only some 20km from Seward.

*Glenn Hwy – Richardson’s Hwy – Denali Hwy – Park’s Hwy (6 June – 8 June)*

# Amazingly a pair of Great-Grey Owls have been breeding close to remote Tolsona Campsite, just before Glennallen on Glenn Hwy. No problems to find the campsite and the easy accessible breeding tree, but not the owls. “They haven’t been seen this year, but probably next year while they seem to be breeding every second year” (!?), we were told by the owners. Two unlucky Swedes left site with ice creams in their hands.

# After a quick stop at an excellent supermarket in Glennallen, where we were able to fill our empty rucksacks with all kinds of fruits, we started to look for Northern Hawk-Owls along Richardson’s Hwy. No luck. But Martin was lucky at “the *Pacific Loon* dam” (Mile 151), 3 new ABA-species (apart from the pair of loons also *Rusty Blackbird* and *Bohemian Waxwing*) in 5 minutes!



*Denali Hwy Cabins*

# We had booked our accommodation at Denali Hwy Cabins. When we saw the sign for Paxson along Richardson’s Hwy, Martin hadn’t looked up from the guide book before we were out of town! This tiny village is basically one old shabby hotel called Paxson Inn & Lodge. However, our cabin at Denali Hwy Cabins, just behind this lodge, was something quite different and we got a warm welcome from Audie and Jennie. Barbecued Hot Dogs with a couple of Canadian Moose Beer on the cabin veranda was a worthy finish of a day full of scenic pictures and quite a few good birds.

# We slept really well in the cabin and maybe it was because of the typical smell of wood (fir) we are used to back home in Sweden. For breakfast we bought a couple of boiled eggs from the hosts. These eggs from their free walking hens were the best we’ve ever had – absolutely marvellous, couldn’t believe eggs could be that different.



*Endless freedom along Denali Hwy*

# It was very windy the entire day after we arrived and birding was consequently rather poor. Martin stayed around the cabins while I went back south on Richardson's Hwy, where our only *Blackpoll Warbler* was seen at a road-stop. But no Hawk-Owls. Martin was slightly luckier, scoring *Northern Waterthrush*, *Varied Thrush* and *Gray Jay*. In the afternoon we saw one of the oddest nesting spots you could think of. At Gulkana Fish Hatchery, just north of Paxson, a pair of *American Dippers* were nesting ON TOP of a nesting box for Tree Swallows!!! After a delicious Red Salmon, cooked in an aluminium foil on our barbecue, we took a short evening walk around Mile 13 on Denali Hwy, one of the best places in US to find Smith's Longspur. But it was too windy to hear the fine song, so we felt it wasn't worth an extensive try. We simply had to stake everything on one card tomorrow morning.



*Mission possible*

# The air was full of expectations when we jumped out of the cars in the eastern part of Denali Hwy this last morning – the one and only chance for Smith's Longspur. Wind was gone and crystal clear skies surrounded the beautiful mountain tops, weather just couldn't be better. Audie hadn't seen them the week before and said it may be a little bit too early, but "they could arrive any day by now". We didn't get anything for free, but hard work in the tussock fields and careful listening were rewarded in the end. After Audie and I heard the first one, the time until we finally got one stunning male in our scopes felt like an eternity. The bird of the trip was there and before we left we had seen no less than 2 females and 3 males of *Smith's Longspur*. All gravel road for the remaining part of Denali Hwy westwards, but who cared? We didn't even bother about missing the Northern Hawk Owl despite looking at some 50,000 spruce tops.

## *Gambell (9 June – 11 June)*



*Gambell, St Lawrence Island*

# Flying out from Nome with Hageland Air to Gambell – a tiny Inuit (northern Eskimo, 300 inhabitants) village on the northern tip of remote St Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea – was one of the absolute highlights in the planning stage, but due to various reasons we were not able to schedule our arrival before June 9 and by then the peak of migrating passerines (and rarities!) is gone.



*Shopping in Gambell*



*Relaxing at Sivuqaq Hotel*

# Regarding accommodation at Gambell there is only one place to stay – Sivuqaq “Hotel”. Well, for this pretty basic, youth hostel style type accommodation, you will be charged 160 USD for a double room. Compared to US typical standards the corresponding rate would be 30-35 USD, but bear in mind the season here is extremely short and competition is zero. There are no restaurants in the village, so you have to prepare all meals by yourself – good facilities in the hotel kitchen though. The two stores were better well-stocked (apart from fruits and vegetables – but excellent fresh bread!) than we thought, so there is no problem to find supplies for a couple of days, though everything is much more expensive than in Nome.

# We were lucky(?) with the weather at Gambell, the fog around the village lifted well before noon and we had mostly a crystal clear sky before the fog came in again in the evening. It was a special feeling getting spectacular views of the Russian mountain peaks rising in the horizon. The spring was very late this year and Troutman Lake, the large lake beside the runway, was still covered with ice. The entire village is set on “beach gravel”. This gravel is like giant marbles which you walk on to go anywhere, but we didn’t believe it should be that tiresome as we had heard about. After the first day we decided to rent an ATV for 80 USD from a local – well worth every cent!





*Howard, Steve and myself at The Point*



*Impressive flow of seabirds*

# The flow (very few birds were migrating) of seabirds around The Point at Gambell was absolutely amazing. Together with Howard Smith and Steve Gross from Houston (the only birders on the island apart from us!) we estimated the average number of birds, primarily alcids, to 10,000 per hour (!!!), flying by the Point – clockwise in the morning and counter-clockwise in the afternoon, back and forth from feeding grounds! The fog didn't hurt us too much, because when visibility got worse the birds came closer to shore and vice versa.



*Martin didn't shoot this Polar Bear, now over the Boneyard / A heaven for rats*



# It was very few birds around on the island, though we were a bit fortunate to find *Gray-tailed Tattler* and *Red-necked Stint* (many thanks to Howard and Steve). In fact rats were more numerous than birds on the famous bone yards. The Village Dump would be a more appropriate name and it was really sad to see the variation of thrash spread out there, hard to understand this place is designated a protected area (you can't take away a single little whale bone from there!).

# When our birding pals Steve and Howard were scheduled for departure on our third day, we thought .... well, maybe we should do the same, Nome seemed to be more prosperous. Thanks to the helpful lady at Hageland Air we managed to get on the first flight – two hours later(!) and one day ahead of schedule. By that time Martin was far out with the ATV, looking for the nesting *Dovekies* on the cliffs and we just made to get all his belongings wrapped up before the plane took off.

*Nome (11 June – 14 June)*



*One way from Alaska Cab Garage, Nome*



*Poor Swedes picked up on Front Street*

# We jumped on the Hageland Air shuttle bus from the airport and got off at the Alaska Cab Garage. This is one of only two car rental companies in Nome! We had booked a van over the phone for 100USD/day (incl. everything), several months ahead. Upon arrival the circus starts! I just stared at the Chevy van.... Is this the car we have booked? A wreck from the early 90's!! I had warmed up the boss with a couple of awkward questions and when Martin came back after a quick inspection telling him the windscreen was broken he got absolutely furious and tore our contract apart!! I felt immediately this man is no one to trust, what would happen if we get stuck in the middle of nowhere for instance? We left the garage by foot. I guess we looked a bit odd, dragging all our bags along the dirt main street (= Front Street) in this look alike Western town and it didn't last long before we got a lift with a lady.

# As I understand most birders stay at Aurora Inn and we had a room reserved there for the next two nights – but not the first night, so we were in big need of both a car and a room. The people at the front desk were not too cooperative and with a clear and definitive NO they closed the door for both our needs. A couple of minutes later we had solved the first issue when the last room at Nugget Inn was booked. Car was undoubtedly a greater problem, because there are no other options – taking a taxi for a full day would cost a fortune and you don't see many of the specialties around town. We felt quite a bit of despair strolling down towards the Visitor Center on Front Street with our bags once again. Asked a couple of guys on the street about car rental opportunities – we were really desperate by that time. But it is always darkest before dawn and the light turned out to be THE LADY at the Visitor Center! After some “negotiations” she agreed to let us have her Ford V8 Pick-up for 100USD a day. ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC!!! We smiled all the way down to Safety Sound that afternoon – what a RELIEF! This was also a Lessons Learned – Don't even think of going to Nome in summer time without reservations of accommodation and car.

# Life felt immediately easier after finding the much sought-after *Emperor Goose* at Safety Lagoon, not as easy as it used to be. We were really tired getting back to Nugget Inn after this psychological stressful day. I was longing after my bed when I heard a birder shouting from the bar. Who can say no to Jon Holmes, the doctor AND barrister AND birder from Wales, UK. Martin went up to bed, but I really needed a Doc and a Moose beer after such a day!



*Teller Road*

# After a traditional US breakfast at Fat Freddy's (!) the first morning, we met Steve and Howard in town and they decided to come with us along Teller Road, one of the three roads – all dirt roads in good conditions – going out from Nome. Our fear for being too early for the *Arctic Warbler* turned out to be excessive – you could hear them more or less in every dense willow thicket along Teller Rd! *Northern Wheatear* was on the other hand more difficult than expected and the female we found at Mile 39 turned out to be the single observation. We hadn't seen any Ptarmigans before Nome, so that was a target family for this trip. Therefore we were very pleased when a couple of *Rock Ptarmigans* stood on the roadside, long enough for letting us get good pictures. *Northern Shrike* was also added to our list, but surprisingly we didn't see any Willow Ptarmigans. However, the observation of the day was definitively the magnificent *Grey Wolf* we saw on a hillside some 300m away around Mile 55. This species is extremely rare in Sweden and the ones we had seen before (in Zoos) were like Tom Thumb compared to this one. The muscles on the back legs were more like belonging to a horse! After 110km we hit the finy village of Teller. Only a small basic store, but we were able to heat some water up for our freeze-dried food – brought all the way from Sweden!



*Kougarok Road*



# Kougarok Road is probably the most famous dirt road of the three and in case you have only one full day in Nome this will be your likely choice. Together with Steve and Howard we started the 2-3 hours journey to Mile 72, where the *Bristle-thighed Curlews* are displaying, at 05.30 from Aurora Inn. Through thick fog we could only imagine how the landscape looked like. But we managed to get superb views of and good shots of quite a few *Willow Ptarmigans* around the turnoffs to Salmon Lake (Mile 38). The fog lifted somewhat around Mile 60 and the magnificent scenery showed up. Just after eight o'clock we parked our cars on the roadside and started the climb up hill. Half way up we met a couple of satisfied birders coming back down, telling us the curlews had been very cooperative. Reaching the plateau on top of the mountain at 08.30 was a bit late and we only got distant observations of this mouth-watering species. Though we heard them numerous times thereafter we missed the big show, so be there around seven o'clock would be our advice. I found a full can of pepper-spray in



the grass and fortunately we didn't have to use it, but this area is full of grizzlies – so stay alert. High tussocks is tough, I think everybody underlined that statement coming back to the cars, dripping with perspiration after the 3-hour walk.



*Bluethroats at lunchtime*

# Just a few miles further on Kougarok Rd (Mile 75) we had an excellent field lunch, bought in the well-assorted supermarket in Nome the day before. No less than 3 *Bluethroats* joined us with a splendid show, so we were full-up with both birds and food when we left.

Jon Holmes gave me some very accurate information about a breeding pair of *Gyr Falcons* and we didn't have much of a problem to find the right cliff where one of the adults (dark form) was laying.

# Milano's Pizza doesn't sound very exotic, however I think it is probably the best place for dinner in Nome, but competition is not very hard. A large variation of food, from pizzas to ordinary food (the Halibut is strongly recommended) to Japanese dishes are served there. There are also a few places with good seabird viewing opportunities, right at the water front, such as Fat Freddy's and Subway. But no one goes to Nome for food.

# During the last morning at Nome we tried for Red-throated Pipit at Anvil Mountain, some years a reliable spot just north of town. Howard tried his tape, but we didn't have any luck in the heavy fog. We were not as lucky as the "Three Lucky Swedes" who in 1898 found gold below "a mountain with a tall rock in the shape of an anvil". This was the start of the gold rush and you can still find remnants from the Alaskan Gold Epoch around Nome.

After that Steve and Howard gave us a lift to the airport and we had come to an end (this time) of a fruitful and most enjoyable teamwork.



*Nome – Kotzebue – Anchorage – Homer – Anchorage (14 June – 16 June)*

# We flew over Kotzebue (not allowed to get off) on the way back to Anchorage and the most memorable thing was perhaps a prisoner(!) boarding the plane together with a couple of policemen. Homer, on one of the many capes on Kenai peninsula, is 280km from Anchorage. The Sterling Hwy is in good condition, except for a few curvy stretches around Cooper Landing and not as scenic as Seward Hwy though. Very few tourists come here for birding, instead salmon fishing is their prime hobby.



*Homer Spit and Kachemak Bay*

# Homer Spit was a bit special, enormous areas with excellent habitat for shorebirds mixed up with blooming commercial activities in numerous small shops along the road to Land's End, where new fashionable flats were under construction. We relaxed in the sun, looking at all people catching halibuts as easy as picking worms from the compost in the backyard. The most spectacular bird we had in Homer was probably a singing *Red-eyed Vireo*, on the hillside just north of town.

# Carl E. Wynn Nature Center, on the outskirts of Homer (NE along East Skyline) – just mentioned briefly in the Birder's Guide to Alaska (G. West)!? – hadn't opened yet, but we were allowed to get in. Being there during the worst birding hours, in the middle of the afternoon a warm day, was surprisingly rewarding. Excellent views of *Gray Jay*, *Boreal Chickadee*, *Varied Thrush*, *Sooty Fox Sparrow*, *Orange-crowned*, *Yellow-rumped* and *Townsend's Warbler*, *Red-breasted Nuthatch*, *Olive-sided* and *Alder Flycatcher* in this beautiful and well-managed park with an extensive network of trails through diverse upland habitats, typical for the transitional forest zone at the southern edge of the boreal forest, makes this a highly recommended birding spot.



*THE bolt*

# Just before Turnagain Arm on the way back to Anchorage the time was in for a flat tire! I felt directly the right wheel hit something on the road and it was REALLY something – a 10mm bolt! The air had almost left before we reached a spot to stop at. Luckily our car had a spare tire (you never know) and after half an hour we were back on the road again.

*Anchorage – Seattle – Copenhagen – Stockholm (16 June – 17 June)*



*Stay Alert!*

# A last morning tour to Westchester lagoon and Bicentennial Park in Anchorage added *Lincoln Sparrow* and *Black-capped Chickadee*(!) to our list as well as a tame pair of the giant Alaskan Moose, but (luckily) no bears – just fresh foot prints on the ground!!!

# No delays, we arrived back home on schedule with more new ABA-birds than we expected – 40 for myself and 110 for Martin!!!

## List of Birds

Species with additional value (= new ABA-species) in **bold** letters

1. Red-throated Loon 20
2. Pacific Loon 15
3. **Arctic Loon** 1 Gambell + 2 Safety Lagoon
4. Common Loon 15
5. Horned Grebe 1 on a small pond just S Potter Marsh
6. Red-necked Grebe 20
7. Short-tailed Shearwater 2 St Paul + 1 Homer Spit
8. **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** 1 Resurrection Bay
9. Pelagic Cormorant 5



*Red-faced Cormorant*

10. **Red-faced Cormorant** 100, most numerous St Paul
11. Double-crested Cormorant 20
12. Tundra Swan 150 Safety Lagoon + 10 misc. spots
13. **Trumpeter Swan** 2 Turnagain Arm + 5 on Denali Hwy loop
14. Greater White-fronted Goose 3 St Paul + 1 Safety Lagoon
15. **Bean Goose** 1 St Paul
16. **Emperor Goose** 1 Safety Lagoon
17. Snow Goose 2 St Paul
18. Canada Goose 10
19. **Cackling Goose** 10 St Paul + 10 misc. spots
20. Brant 150
21. Mallard 50
22. Northern Pintail 300(!)
23. American Wigeon 100
24. Eurasian Wigeon 5 St Paul
25. Gadwell 1 male Potter Marsh
26. Northern Shoveler 5 St Paul + 2 Nome
27. American Green-winged Teal 50
28. Common Teal 2 St Paul + 1 Gambell
29. Lesser Scaup 10
30. Greater Scaup 100
31. **Tufted Duck** 1 male St Paul
32. Ring-necked Duck 1 male Potter Marsh
33. **Smew** 1 male St Paul
34. Canvasback 9 males Potter Marsh

35. Redhead 1 male Potter Marsh
36. Harlequin Duck 500 (!)
37. Long-tailed Duck 100
38. King Eider 10 St Paul + "50" Gambell ("50" <=> 50 seen, but much fewer individuals)
39. Common Eider 50
40. **Steller's Eider** 10 St Paul + "30" Gambell
41. Surf Scoter 100, most numerous Homer Spit
42. White-winged Scoter 30, most numerous Gambell
43. Common Goldeneye 2 females Lower Summit Lake
44. Barrow's Goldeneye 10 Denali Hwy loop
45. Bufflehead 3 St Paul + 3 from roadsides
46. Common Merganser 10
47. Red-breasted Merganser 30
48. Northern Harrier 3 males
49. Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan's form) 3 Glenn Hwy
50. Rough-legged Hawk 1 Gambell + 1 Kougatok Rd
51. Golden Eagle 1 Denali Hwy + 2 Kougatok Rd
52. Bald Eagle 30
53. Merlin 1 pair Paxson
54. Peregrine Falcon 1 Gambell
55. **Gyr Falcon** 1 Kougatok Rd
56. **Rock Ptarmigan** 3 males Teller Rd + 1 male Kougatok Rd
57. **Willow Ptarmigan** 6 males Kougatok Rd
58. Sandhill Crane 3 on ocean shore outside Potter Marsh + 2 Kougatok Rd



*American Golden-Plover*

59. American Golden-Plover 2 Denali Hwy + 5 Kougatok Rd
60. **Pacific Golden-Plover** 1 St Paul + 1 Kougatok Rd
61. Semipalmated Plover 20
62. Black Oystercatcher 5
63. Greater Yellowlegs 5
64. Lesser Yellowlegs 20
65. Spotted Sandpiper 15
66. Whimbrel 2 Denali Hwy + 10 Kougatok Rd
67. **Bristle-thighed Curlew** 1 St Paul + 3 Kougatok Rd
68. **Bar-tailed Godwit** 4 St Paul
69. Hudsonian Godwit 80 Westchester Lagoon
70. Wandering Tattler 1 St Paul





*Gray-tailed Tattler*

- 71. **Gray-tailed Tattler** 1 Gambell
- 72. Surfbird 4 on ocean shore outside Potter Marsh
- 73. Ruddy Turnstone 3 St Paul + 4 from roadsides



*Rock Sandpiper*

- 74. **Rock Sandpiper** 80 St Paul
- 75. Dunlin 50
- 76. Semipalmated Sandpiper 3 Nome



*Western Sandpiper*

- 77. Western Sandpiper 500
- 78. Least Sandpiper 3 St Paul
- 79. **Red-necked Stint** 1 Gambell + 1 Nome
- 80. Short-billed Dowitcher 20 Westchester Lagoon



*Terek Sandpiper*

- 81. **Terek Sandpiper** 1 St Paul
- 82. Wilson's Snipe 20



*Common Snipe*

- 83. **Common Snipe** 5 St Paul
- 84. Red-necked Phalarope 500
- 85. Red Phalarope 2 St Paul + 4 Gambell
- 86. Long-tailed Jaeger 5 Denali Hwy + 10 Teller/Kougarok Rd
- 87. Parasitic Jaeger 8
- 88. Pomarine Jaeger 1 Gambell
- 89. Black-legged Kittiwake 500 St Paul + "5000" Gambell



*Red-legged Kittiwake*

- 90. **Red-legged Kittiwake** 50 St Paul
- 91. Black-headed Gull 1+1 St Paul
- 92. (Vega Gull) 2 St Paul
- 93. Herring Gull 100
- 94. Glaucous Gull 200
- 95. Glaucous-winged Gull 300
- 96. **Slaty-backed Gull** 3 St Paul
- 97. **Arctic Tern** 200
- 98. **Aleutian Tern** 20 Safety Lagoon
- 99. Common Murre 100 St Paul + “2000” Gambell



*Tufted Puffin / Crested Auklet / Horned Puffin*

- 100. **Thick-billed Murre** 500 St Paul + “10000” Gambell
- 101. **Dovekie** 1 the Point + 5 on breeding cliffs, Gambell
- 102. Pigeon Guillemot 30
- 103. Black Guillemot 10 Gambell
- 104. Marbled Murrelet 10 Resurrection Bay



*Ancient Murrelet*

- 105. Ancient Murrelet 3+4 St Paul
- 106. **Crested Auklet** 20 St Paul + “10000” Gambell



*Least Auklet*

- 107. **Least Auklet** 1000 St Paul + “30000” Gambell + 100 Homer Spit
- 108. **Parakeet Auklet** 100 St Paul + “5000” Gambell
- 109. **Rhinoceros Auklet** 2 St Paul
- 110. **Tufted Puffin** 50 St Paul + “200” Gambell
- 111. **Horned Puffin** 100 St Paul + “500” Gambell
- 112. **Rock Dove** 10
- 113. **Short-eared Owl** 5 St Paul



*Snowy Owl*

- 114. **Snowy Owl** 3 St Paul
- 115. **Belted Kingfisher** 1 Paxson
- 116. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 2 Kenai peninsula
- 117. **Western Wood-Pewee** 1 Kincaid SP
- 118. **Alder Flycatcher** 20
- 119. **Say’s Phoebe** 1 Denali Hwy
- 120. **Northern Shrike** 3 Kougarak Rd
- 121. **Red-eyed Vireo** 1 Homer
- 122. **Steller’s Jay** 2 Seward
- 123. **Gray Jay** 5 Carl E. Wynn NC
- 124. **Black-billed Magpie** 50
- 125. **Northwestern Crow** 100
- 126. **Common Raven** 30
- 127. **Tree Swallow** 100
- 128. **Violet-green Swallow** 50
- 129. **Bank Swallow** 10
- 130. **Cliff Swallow** 50
- 131. **Black-capped Chickadee** 1 Bicentennial SP
- 132. **Boreal Chickadee** 1 Paxson + 2 Carl E. Wynn NC
- 133. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 2 Carl E. Wynn NC
- 134. **Brown Creeper** 2



- 135. **American Dipper** 2 Gulkana Fish Hatchery, just N Paxson
- 136. Ruby-crowned Kinglet 15
- 137. **Arctic Warbler** 10 Teller Rd + 5 Kougatok Rd + 2 Kenai peninsula
- 138. **Bluethroat** 5 Kougatok Rd
- 139. **Northern Wheatear** 1 female Teller Rd
- 140. American Robin 100
- 141. Varied Thrush 5 Exit Glacier + 1 Paxson + 2 Carl E. Wynn NC
- 142. Gray-cheeked Thrush 80
- 143. Swainson's Thrush 10



*Yellow Wagtail / American Tree Sparrow*

- 144. **Yellow Wagtail** 4 Nome + 3 Gambell
- 145. Bohemian Waxwing 1 Richardson Hwy
- 146. European Starling 10 Anchorage
- 147. Orange-crowned Warbler 50
- 148. Yellow Warbler 50
- 149. Townsend's Warbler 2 Seward + 1 Carl E. Wynn NC + 1 Bicentennial Park
- 150. Yellow-rumped Warbler 10
- 151. Blackpoll Warbler 1 male Richardson Hwy
- 152. Northern Waterthrush 1 Paxson
- 153. Wilson's Warbler 80
- 154. American Tree Sparrow 20
- 155. Savannah Sparrow 30
- 156. Red Fox Sparrow 2 Paxson + 3 in the interior parts



*Sooty Fox Sparrow*

- 157. **Sooty Fox Sparrow** 10 in coastal areas, most numerous on Kenai peninsula
- 158. Lincoln's Sparrow 2 Bicentennial Park
- 159. Song Sparrow 5

- 160. Dark-eyed Junco 50
- 161. White-crowned Sparrow (Gambell's) 50



*Golden-crowned Sparrow*

- 162. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** 50
- 163. Lapland Longspur 500(!)



*Lapland Longspur / Smith's Longspur / Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch*

- 164. **Smith's Longspur** 3 males + 2 females east Denali Hwy
- 165. Hybrid McKay's / Snow Bunting 1 St Paul
- 166. Snow Bunting 200
- 167. Rusty Blackbird 1 male Richardson Hwy
- 168. **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** 50 St Paul
- 169. White-winged Crossbill 2 pairs Richardson Hwy
- 170. Pine Grosbeak 1 pair Lower Summit Lake
- 171. **Brambling** 1 male St Paul
- 172. Pine Siskin 2 Cooper Landing
- 173. Common Redpoll 50
- 174. Hoary Redpoll 1 pair St Paul

## List of Mammals

- Snowshoe Hare: 3 Richardson Highway
- Artic Ground Squirrel: 5 Denali Highway
- Northern Red-backed Vole: 20 Gambell
- Common Porcupine: 1 Denali Highway
- Artic Fox: 30 St Paul
- Gray Wolf: 1 Teller Road, Nome
- Black Bear: 1 Parks Highway
- Caribou: 300 St Paul (introduced) + 500 Nome
- Dall Sheep: 15 Glenn Hwy
- Moose: 10
- Muskox: 1 Teller Road, Nome
- Sea Otter: 1 Seward Harbour
- Northern Fur Seal: 200 St Paul
- Harbor Seal: 10 St Paul + 50 Resurrection Bay
- Steller's Sea Lion: 20 St Paul and 100 Resurrection Bay
- Dall's Porpoise: 4 Resurrection Bay
- Humpback Whale: 3 Gambell

*Pictures from Ulf Hagström and Martin Resare*

Behind the pen  
Ulf Hagström

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