

Kamchatka, Commander Islands, Kuril Islands and Sachalin Island

27 May-8 June 2016



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First morning in Petropavlovsk area, looking out to Avacha Bay in the Pacific Ocean

Diary

Oversight maps on page 19.

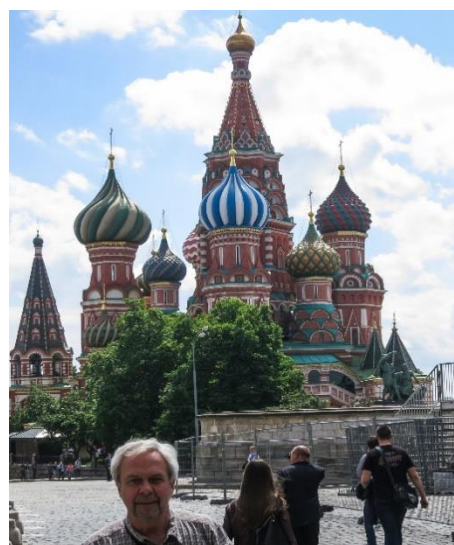
Detailed handwritten Kuril island map on page 10.

Russia's Ring of Fire

Booked through Birdquest and operated by Heritage Expeditions. Our vessel is the Professor Khromov aka Spirit of Enderby.

Russian Far East! This is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular and dramatic parts on our planet. The landscape is the result from the Pacific plate subducting under the North American Plate, creating volcanic and geothermal activity.

The deep trenches, often not far from the coastline, secures perfect conditions for seabirds and cetaceans. We have the chance for some 14 species of Auks, the incredible Steller's Sea Eagle and plenty of other, very range-limited birds.



Roger in Moscow

We start our trip by me getting up to Arlanda on 25 May, meeting up with

Roger for our first, short, leg. A Flight to Moscow and a night at an airport hotel. Some adventurous sightseeing in Moscow centre, including taking our chances in the Moscow Metro.

26/5 To Kamchatka



© Roger Holmberg

And then on with excellent Aeroflot to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka, where our expedition starts. The flight is just under eight hours, and the time difference is nine hours, so we land earlier than we start. Very time efficient!



© Roger Holmberg

"Kamchatka starts here"

27/5 Petropavlovsk area and disembark

We spend one day in and around Petropavlovsk with some coastal birding. We had some Harlequin Ducks, Black-backed Wagtail (*M.a.lugens*) and Common Tern of the ssp *longipennis*. Slaty-backed Gull is the only Gull in the harbor and a bit outside the coastline we have our first auks. Some Pigeon Guillemots and Ancient Murrelets. A short walk in the Taiga is dominated by Olive-backed Pipit and Rustic Bunting.

Boarding time is 15:30 but we are not allowed to leave harbour until four hours after scheduled departure, due to administrative struggle.



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Our ship MV Professor Khromov/ Spirit of Enderby
We install ourselves in our cabin (we share a three-bed cabin, so we have enough space) and head for deck. Before sun set, we get our first Tufted Puffin.



© Roger Holmberg

The bridge on the Professor Khromov
Our ship accommodates 50 passengers.



© Roger Holmberg

Kristian gets ready
Roger and I had one three-bed port-hole cabins, quite comfortable.



© Roger Holmberg
Leaving Petropavlovsk for Commander Islands



KRISTIAN STAHL PHOTO
Laysan Albatross

28/5 Sailing to Commander Islands

Open sea on our way to the largest of the two Commander Islands, Bering Island.



© Roger Holmberg
Birding from deck

Bering named both the Commander Islands, and the largest of the Islands. Vitus Bering, Danish explorer, discovered the islands on his expedition, sailing between Asia and North America.



© Roger Holmberg
Replica of Vitus Bering's ship

During the day, we have some auks including Horned and Tufted Puffins, some Laysan Albatross and Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, but the highlights are the whale observations. 4 Blue Whales, 1 Sperm Whale and 4 Fin Whales.



© Roger Holmberg
Fin whales

9/5 Bering Island



© Roger Holmberg
Nikol'skoye, Bering island, Commander Islands

Sailing slowly alongside Bering Island, we anchor at Nikolskoye, using zodiacs. The village holds a museum. In the museum is a complete skeleton of a Steller's Sea Cow, a species that was hunted to extinction in just a time period of some forty years after the discovery by the botanist Steller, participating on the Bering expedition. This is the downside of the exploration of new territory!



*Rock Sandpiper and Grey-tailed Tattler,
Nikol'skoye, Bering Island (Commander Islands)*



Mongolian Plover, Nikol'skoye, Bering Island
Some rain and wind makes it a bit difficult but we start at the shore line and we get some Grey-tailed Tattler, Dunlin and Mongolian (Lesser Sand) Plover. It doesn't take long before we have a group of Rock Sandpiper. Very good views of this superb bird!



Bering Island (Commander Islands)
But, we need to focus on yet another pearl, the Pechora Pipit. So we head out on the grassy areas outside the village, and we don't need to struggle for very long before we see two individuals. Very distinctive and easy to identify even though they are

mostly silent. In the bay we get a rather rare view of a Grey Whale.



Landing on North-west Cape, Bering Island
In the afternoon we do a second landing on the island, at North-west Cape. A very wet landing.....



Northern Fur Seal, North-west Cape, Bering Island



Shooting time for Kristian, North-west Cape



Red-faced Cormorant, North-west Cape
We visited a colony of some 500 Red-faced Cormorants and a colony of Northern Fur Seals and Steller's Sea Lion.



Breeding colonies of Red- and Black-legged Kittiwake, Arij Karmen island, Bering island

Also the first encounter with the Red-legged Kittiwake on the Arij Karmen Islet. Apart from this, all is cold and wet! Sailing towards Medney, the second of the Commander Islands.



Celebrating Kristian's birthday

30/5 Medney Island, sailing back to Kamchatka



Peschanaya Bay, Medney island

Landing at Peschanaya Bay, Medney, early morning. As most of the days, temperature is around +5 and whether or not we freeze it is mostly a matter of wind and rain.



Peschanaya Bay, Medney

Today we have a fine and calm morning and Medney proves to be a fantastic island. We do a walk in grassy area with a small pond.



Grey-crowned Rosy-finch, Peschanaya Bay

Our target is the Grey-crowned Rosy Finch and we get it fairly quickly. We also enjoy our first view of the beautiful Siberian Rubythroat and another pair of Red-necked Stint.



© Roger Holmberg

Zodiac cruise, Peschanaya Bay, Medney island

We have good numbers of Pigeon Guillemot, Horned- and Tufted Puffin, Whiskered-, Crested- and some Parakeet Auklet. The cliff also holds good numbers of Red-legged Kittiwake.



© Roger Holmberg

Red-necked Stint, Peschanaya Bay

After this, we do a Zodiac Cruise among thousands of auks and we get good photo opportunities of several species.



© Roger Holmberg

Horned Puffin, Peschanaya Bay, Medney island



© Roger Holmberg



KRISTIAN STAHL PHOTO

Parakeet Auklet, Peschanaya Bay, Medney island



© Roger Holmberg

Leaving Medney island

This is it, as far as the Commanders are concerned. Now we head back to Kamchatka and our destination is Zhupanova River.

31/5 Zhupanova River, Kamchatka



© Roger Holmberg

The mouth of Zhupanova river, Kamchatka
Arriving at Zhupanova River at noon, we spend the rest of the day in Zodiacs.



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Northern Fulmar dark morph, at sea Commander islands-Kamchatka



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Northern Fulmar light morph, at sea Commander islands-Kamchatka



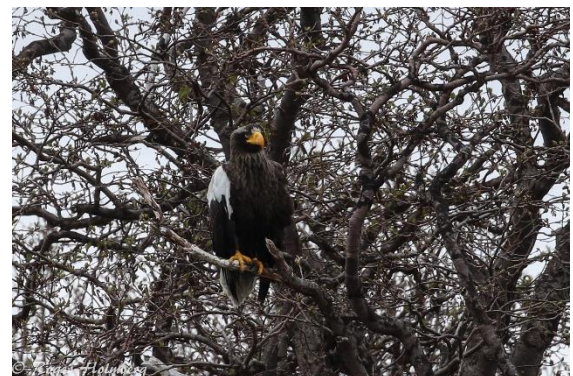
KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Commander Rodney



© Roger Holmberg

Going up the Zhupanova river, Kamchatka
The gem is Steller's Sea Eagle and we pass three nests with birds in them. The nests are really impressive and the birds tend to disappear inside as we approach them. Nevertheless we had fine views of seven birds.



Steller's Sea-eagle, Zhupanova river, Kamchatka
A Far Eastern Curlew pass us a couple of times and Red-throated Diver are numerous, around 80 individuals.



Aleutian Tern, Zhupanova river, Kamchatka
 Going in, we are extremely fortunate, as 14 Aleutian Tern rest on a mudflat. On our return three hours later, they are all gone! A very good day to be followed by a tasty dinner, as proves to be the case during the whole trip!



© Roger Holmberg
Siberian Rubythroat, Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Bears are quite common here, but we are not fortunate (?) enough to see any. Bird wise it is pleasant, with species like Brown-headed Thrush and Japanese Grey Bunting.

1/6 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



© Roger Holmberg
Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka
 We anchor at Bukhta Russkaya, where we will have a walk in the Taiga. Before we leave our vessel, we see 2 Kittlitz's Murrelet, a very good one to be able to add to our list.



© Roger Holmberg
Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

After this, we do a Zodiac cruise outside the Fjord, searching for Orcas. None of them are around, but we have 4 Steller's Sea Eagle and a good variety of Auks. Good photo opportunities especially of the Tufted Puffin.



© Roger Holmberg
Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

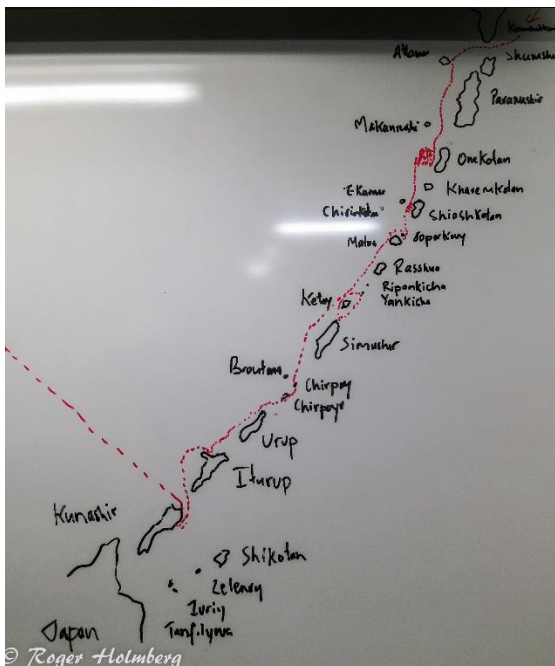


KRISTIAN STÄHLI PHOTO
Tufted Puffin, Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



© Roger Holmberg

Steller's Sea Lion Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka
This concludes Kamchatka and we will be heading for the Kurils.



© Roger Holmberg

The Kuril Islands

In the middle of nowhere, it feels, and yet of significant geopolitical value. As it is right now, the Japanese claim the right to the two southernmost islands, but all the islands are currently under Russia. The indigenous people, Aino, have suffered badly and only a very small population still exist in Japan. On the Kurils themselves, there are no Ainos anymore. They were all deported to Russia and Japan. The remainder in Japan is estimated to around 200 persons.

2/6 Atlasova and Onkotan Islands. Cyclone!



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Atlasova island

At 05:30 we anchor off Atlasova and we go ashore there. Atlasova, with the highest volcano of the Kurils, 2340 meters above sea level.



© Roger Holmberg

Atlasova vulcano



© Roger Holmberg

Atlasova island



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

Dark-sided Flycatcher, Atlasova island

After the walk we head for Onekotan. During this stretch, we have good views of Orcas, lots and lots of Fulmars and good numbers of Tufted puffins.



Orca close to Onekotan island

Wind increases and it is impossible to land, so we just cruise to and fro. At 8 PM the wind is at 90 knots (46 m/s). IT makes you feel very, very small! Still, some good birds are seen, such as Leach's Storm-petrels and Short-tailed Albatross. During the night the ship took shelter behind Onekotan island as indicated on the map.



Outside Onekotan island, 90 knots, 46 m/s



But still cosy in the saloon

3/6 At sea off Shishikotan



Slaty-backed Gull during chumming

Today it is not possible to get into Zodiacs, so we just cruise. In the afternoon, we try chumming and the result is good.



Short-tailed Albatross, immature

Thousands of Fulmars dominate, and 10-12 Laysans follow us. We count 6 different Short-tailed -and one Black-footed Albatross. Not exactly following us, but showing some interest at a distance.



Black-footed Albatross



KRISTIAN STAHL PHOTO
Short-tailed Shearwater, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Fulmar, en route Simushir and Yankicha islands was seen around this fishing ship.

4/6 Yankicha Island



© Roger Holmberg
The entrance to the Caldera at Yankicha

The plan is to take the Zodiacs to Simuchir. The swelling is tough and our first attempt to get into the Zodiacs is aborted. A second attempt is successful and roughly half the group takes the opportunity to take a walk on the island. Black-headed Bunting is singing and some eight individuals are noted.

After this somewhat wet experience (for those who participated), we sail back north to Yankicha with the hope to be able to reach into a caldera where extreme numbers of Crested- and Whiskered Auklet are supposed to breed. The description of how amazing this location is, makes our expectation high!



© Roger Holmberg
Crested and Whiskered Auklets in millions



© Roger Holmberg
Whiskered Auklets, Yankicha



KRISTIAN STAHL PHOTO
Crested Auklets, Yankicha

At 6PM, we are on our way in and already outside the Caldera, we see hundreds of thousands of Auklets!! In the beginning mostly Whiskered but as we approach the Caldera, Crested takes over the show. And what a show!! Literally millions of birds fly in, to either sit on the water or fly to the cliffs. This is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular moments that a birder can hope for on planet Earth.



Inside the Caldera

In fact, you don't need to be a birder to appreciate this as unique.



Thermal activity



One of those moments in life never to forget!

Water in the Caldera is totally calm and we just sit and listen to the call of maybe 2-2.5 millions of Auks.



Crested Auklets, Yankicha



Whiskered Auklets, Yankicha



Harlequin Duck, Yankicha



Auklet dinner for the 'Blue' Arctic Fox, Yankicha

We stay until dark and head back to our vessel. This is a serene experience! It is fantastic to realize that man hasn't been able to destroy everything.



© Roger Holmberg
Goodby Yankicha!



KRISTIAN STÄHL|PHOTO
Rhinoceros Auklet, Chirpoy island

5/6 Chirpoy and Urup Islands



© Roger Holmberg
Chirpoy island

In the morning we are sailing off Chirpoy, we anchor and go for a Zodiac cruise along its coastline. The volcano is active and smoke is coming up everywhere. Now and then rocks tumble into the sea. It is surreal and once again you feel rather small and insignificant watching nature totally untamed.



© Roger Holmberg
Ancient Auklet, Chirpoy island



© Roger Holmberg
Chirpoy island



Steller's Sea Eagle is sitting on the rocks and as we are making our way back, we have some Ancient Murrelet, Spectacled Auklet and Rhinoceros Auklet.



© Roger Holmberg
The very light subspc of White-tailed Sea-eagle
After this, we sail to Urup Island. Four hours later, we land on a nice beach and take a walk a little bit inland.



Birding Urup island

It is very green here, in a way that we haven't seen so far. Japanese Bush-warbler is fairly common as is the Japanese Robin. The latter proves totally unwilling to show itself and after well over an hour focusing on getting one of all the singing ones to come out in the open, we have to give up for the day.



Japanese Bush-warbler, Urup island

Other birds here are Long-tailed Rosefinch, Black-faced Bunting, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler and Oriental Cuckoo. We also have our first Large-billed Crow.



Urup island

At 9 PM, we sail further south for Iturup Island, where we expect to land sometime in the morning.

6/6 Iturup Island



We approach Iturup. Plan for today is a truck drive up the mountains to get a bit of a feeling of how it looks when we are not in the coastal region. Due to the wind coming from the west, we want to land at another place than originally planned and this means getting clearance from the Coastguards and getting the truck drivers to move the vehicles.



As we probably are the only ship coming here with foreigners, we must expect that the procedures before we are free to drive, will take its time.

Well, no big problems and we are on our way relatively quickly. We head inland and up to volcano area. On Iturup there are three settlements. The largest one, Kurilsk, holds about 7000 inhabitants.



Kurilsk village, Iturup island

The landscape is fascinating, with high, snowy volcano peaks as well as deep, green valleys. Birdwise not so successful. The Robin wouldn't show itself and neither did the Japanese Accentor. We heard them sing but didn't get them out. Latham's Snipe was in a good spirit and several showed us his display flight.



KRISTIAN STÄHL PHOTO

On the way back, we get some Pacific Swifts along with some House Martins—sometimes split into Asian House Martin, *Delichon dasypus*. Also the Buzzard that we see soaring is according to some a good species, Eastern Buzzard, *B.japonicus*. Back on the vessel at around 3 PM and we now sail towards Kunashir, the southernmost of the Kuril Islands.

7/6 Kunashir Island

When opening our eyes off Kunashir, we can only smile! No wind, no clouds and the most magnificent volcano! We enter our Zodiacs at 5:45 and are met by rangers.



Sunset over Kunashir island



© Roger Holmberg

Our ranger in front of the researcher's cottage

We will go birding in a nature reserve and we are not allowed to go without a ranger. Our rangers are carrying rifles, since Kunashir holds a very high density of Brown Bears.



© Roger Holmberg

At the river on Kunashir

We have some 4.5 hours and head for a forested area, ending our trail at a riverside and go back the same trail.



KRISTIAN STÅHL PHOTO

Narcissus Flycatcher, Kunashir island

It is a fairly old forest with understory and looks very promising. Very good birding with a fantastic male Narcissus Flycatcher, Crested Kingfisher and Japanese Pygmy Flycatcher.

evening we all do a recap of this amazing and unique trip.



© Roger Holmberg

Dinner last evening on Professor Khromov



© Roger Holmberg

At last, the black thing is the back of a Brown Bear. But above all, a bear. At a distance, feeding among the green understory. When sailing, we are accompanied by a dozen Pacific Loon, and hundreds of Rhinoceros Auklet spread all over the water surface.

8/6 Reaching Sachalin and back home



© Roger Holmberg

Reaching Korsakov harbor on Sachalin island

When anchored at Korsakov, we can add some Black-tailed Gulls to our list and our very last new species is an Eastern Great Tit in the park just adjacent to Mega Palace Hotel in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Roger and myself now travel to Moscow where we spend the night, and then directly home in the morning. Now, the work on editing pictures will start.....



KRISTIAN STÅHL PHOTO

Short-tailed Shearwaters when leaving Kunashir

We now sail to Sachalin in beautifully calm sea and sunshine. We run into some rafts of Short-tailed Shearwaters. In the

Summary

This really is THE trip to make if you want to experience how nature really is, when unspoiled by man. Of course, hunters up at the Commander Islands did slaughter a substantial part of the Sea Otters, and put the Steller's Sea Cow to extinction. But with the Auk blast in Yankicha in mind (forever) this remote area is still the proof of what nature once looked like.



More photos

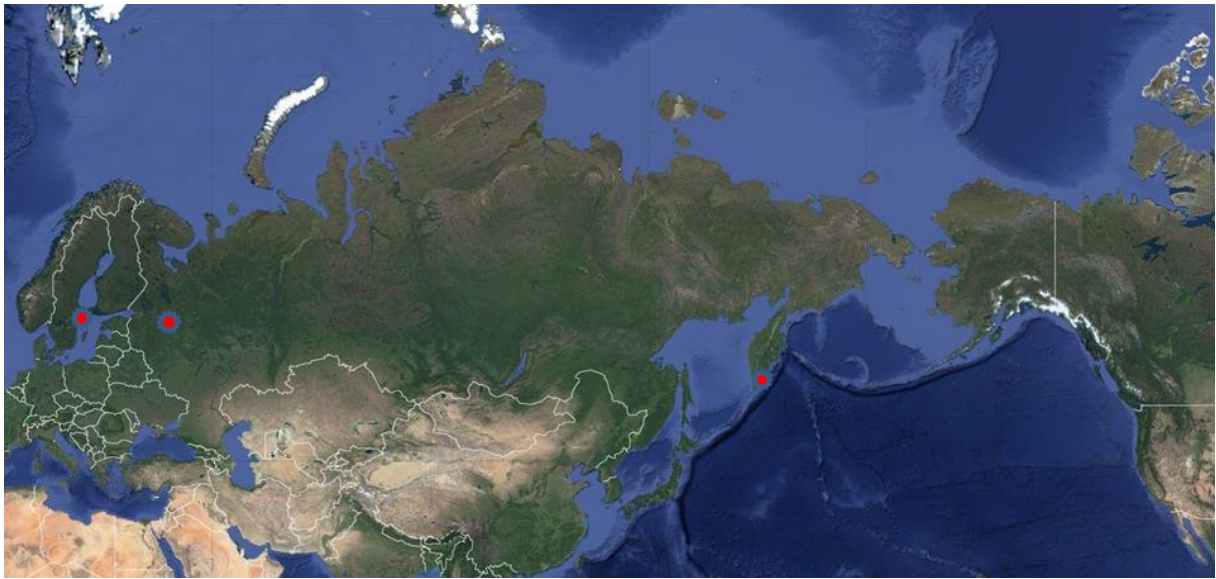
There are quite a few photos in the following sections Bird and Mammal lists. Even more photos from Kristian can be found on www.pbase.com/kstahl

Info about Heritage Expeditions's tours

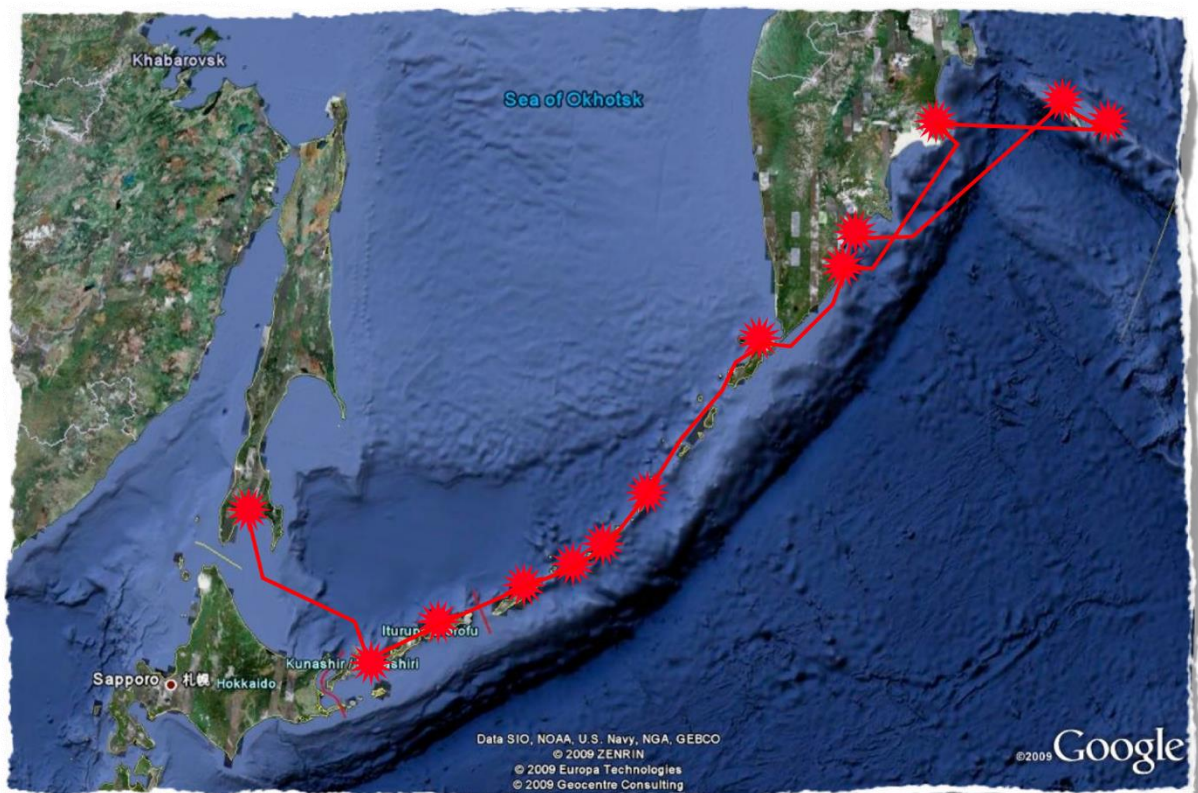


More info about this and other tours arranged by Heritage Expeditions can be found on www.heritage-expeditions.com

Maps



Flight overview map. From Stockholm in west to Moscow and then to Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka peninsula



Sailing overview map. From Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka north-east to the both Commander islands. Then west to Zhupanova river on Kamchatka. Going south to Bukhta Russkaya (south of Petropavlovsk). Then south-west through the Kuril island. From the southernmost island Kunashir, very close to Japanese island Hokkaido we sailed north-west to Korsakov on the southern tip of Sachalin island. Flight from Yuzhno on Sachalin back to Moscow and Stockholm.

The second map is from Heritage Expedition's documentation.

BIRD LIST

Kamchatka, Commander-, Kuril- and Sachalin Islands

27 May – 8 June 2016

In the bird species list we have followed the systematics and nomenclature of Cornell Labs/Clements version 6.9.

Ducks, Swans and Waterfowl (*Anatidae*)

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

27.5 1 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 2.6 6 Atlasova island

Mallard (Northern) (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

27.5 4 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 2.6 4 Atlasova island

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Common Teal (Eurasian) (*Anas crecca*)

29.5 2 Bering island, 31.5 3 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 2.6 1 Atlasova island

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

27.5 10 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 2.6 10 Atlasova island

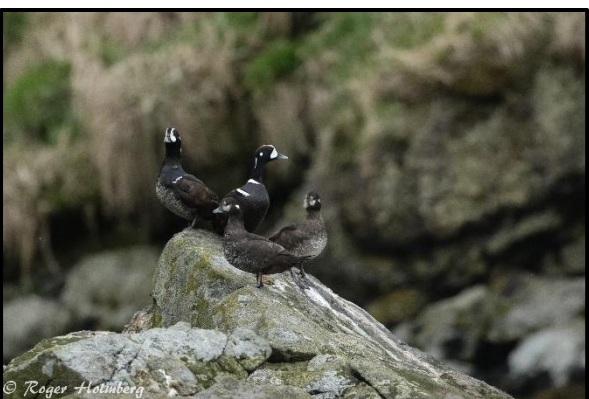
Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

27.5 60 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 2.6 40 Atlasova island ,



Common Eider (Pacific) (*Somateria mollissima v-nigrum*)

30.5 20 Medney island



Harlequin Duck [*pacificus*] (*Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus*)

27.5 8 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 29.5 6 Bering island, 30.5 20 Medney island

White-winged Scoter (Siberian) (*Melanitta fusca stejnegeri*)

27.5 3 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 2.6 18 Atlasova island, 5.6 20 Chirpoy island

Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*)

31.5 6 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

31.5 4 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

31.5 6 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Pheasants, Grouse and Allies (*Phasianidae*)



Willow Ptarmigan [*kamtschatkensis*] (*Lagopus lagopus kamtschatkensis*)

31.5 1 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Rock Ptarmigan [*ridgwayi*] (*Lagopus muta ridgwayi*)

30.5 1h Medney island

Divers/Loons (*Gaviidae*)



Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

31.5 80 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Green-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica viridigularis*)

1.6 1 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 7.6 2 Kunashir island

Pacific Diver (*Gavia pacifica*)

7.6 25 at sea Kunashir island - Korsakov, Sachalin

Grebes (*Podicipedidae*)

American Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena holbollii*)

27.5 6 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka

Albatrosses(*Diomedidae*)



Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*)

28.5 30 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30.5 8 open sea Medney island
- Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 31.5 4 open sea Zhupanova river - Bukhta Russkaya,
Kamchatka, 2.6 6 Atlasova island - Onekotan island, 3.6 30 at sea off Shiashkotan



Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*)

3.6 1 at sea off Shiashkotan



Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*)

3.6 2 2nd summer at sea off Shiashkotan (right photo), 4.6 1 4th summer and 3 2nd summer at sea outside Simushir (left photo)

Petrels, Shearwaters(*Procellariidae*)



Northern Fulmar (Pacific) (*Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii*)

28.5 800 of both dark and light morphs at open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 29.5 10 at sea towards Bering island, 30.5 10000 Medney island, 2-5.6 very common Atlasova - Onkotan and along Kuril islands, 7.6 500 at sea Kunashir – Korsakov, Sachalin



Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)

3.6 10 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 7-8.6 50000 Kunashir - Korsakov, Sachalin

Storm-Petrels(*Hydrobatidae*)



Fork-tailed Storm Petrel [*furcata*] (*Oceanodroma furcata furcata*)

28.5 60 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 31.5 4 open sea Medney – Kamchatka, 3.6 20 along Kuril islands



Leach's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*)

2.6 1 Atlasova – Onkotan, 3.6 15 along Kuril islands

Cormorants, Shags(*Phalacrocoracidae*)

Japanese Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax capillatus*)

5.6 1 2nd summer at Urup 6.6, 1 at Iturup, 7.6 4 at Kunashir (synonym with Temminck's Cormorant)



Red-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax urile*)

29.5 1 at sea towards Bering islands, 29.5 700 breeding colony northern Bering island, 30.5 2000 Medney island, 5.6 20 Chirpoy island

Pelagic Cormorant [*pelagicus*] (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus*)

27.5 60 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 5.6 100 Chirpoy island

Osprey (*Pandionidae*)

Osprey (Eurasian) (*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*)

1.6 1 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Hawks, Eagles and Kites (*Accipitridae*)

Black Kite (Black-eared) [*lineatus*] (*Milvus migrans lineatus*)

6.6 1 Iturup island



White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

5.6 8 Urup island, 6.6 4 Iturup



Steller's Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*)

31.5 5 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 1.6 4 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 5.6 2 Urup island



Common Buzzard [*japonicus*] (*Buteo buteo japonicus*)

6.6 1 Iturup island (synonym with Eastern and Japanese Buzzard)

Snipes, Sandpipers and Phalaropes (*Scolopacidae*)



Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian) [*stegmanni*] (*Charadrius mongolus stegmanni*)

29.5 6 Nikolskoye, Bering island

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

2.6 1 Atlasova island





Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*)

29.5 5 Nikolskoye, Bering island

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

31.5 1 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka



Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Bar-tailed Godwit (Siberian) [*baueri*] (*Limosa lapponica baueri*)

31.5 3 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

31.5 3 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka



Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

29.5 3 Nikolskoye, Bering island 30.5 1 pair Medney island

Dunlin (Northeast Asian) [*sakhulina*] (*Calidris alpina sakhulina*)

29.5 6 Nikolskoye, Bering island



Rock Sandpiper (Bering Strait) (*Calidris ptilocnemis tschuktschorum*)

29.5 8 Nikolskoye, Bering island

Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

6.6 4 Iturup island

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*)

27.5 3 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka



Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

29.5 20 en route Kamchatka – Bering islands, 30.5 50 Medney - Kamchatka, 31.5 12 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 1.6 600 Bukhta Russkaya – Kuril islands, 3.6 1 at sea off Shiashkotan, 4.6 1 Simushir island

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

28.5 40 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30.5 60 open sea Medney island – Kamchatka, 1.6 20 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 6.6 10 Iturup island

Skuas and Jaegers (*Stercorariidae*)



Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

30-31.5 14 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka



Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

28.5 2 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30-31.5 13 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka

American Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus pallescens*)

28.5 15 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 31.5 1 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka

Auks, Murres and Puffins (*Alcidae*)



Common Guillemot [*inornata*] (*Uria aalge inornata*)

27-28.5 1200 Kamchatka - Commander islands, 29.5 1000 Bering island, 30.5 very common Medney island, 30.5 common open sea Medny island – Kamchatka, 1.6 common Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 5.6 50 Chirpoy island, 7.6 3 Kunashir island - Korsakov, Sachalin



Brunnich's Guillemot [*arra*] (*Uria lomvia arra*)

28.5 3 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30.5 500 Medney island, 30.5 10 open sea Medney island – Kamchatka, 5.6 500 Chirpoy island



Pigeon Guillemot (Snow's/Kuril) (*Cepphus columba snowi*)

1.6 5 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 3.6 2 along northern Kuril islands, 5.6 10 Chirpoy island



Pigeon Guillemot (American) [*columba*] (*Cepphus columba columba*)

27.5 7 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 27-29.5 5 Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30.5 100 Medney island, 1.6 150 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



Spectacled Guillemot (*Cepphus carbo*)

5.6 2 Chirpoy island

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*)

31.5 4 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 1.6 2 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*)

1.6 2 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



Ancient Murrelet [*antiquus*] (*Synthliboramphus antiquus antiquus*)

27.5 20 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 28.5 6 at sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 1.6 2 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 5.6 3 Chirpoy island



Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*)

30.5 60 Medney island, Commander islands, 7.6 1 at sea Kunashir - Korsakov, Kamchatka

Least Auklet (*Aethia pusilla*)

30.5 2 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka



Whiskered Auklet (*Aethia pygmaea*) 30.5 2 open sea Medney island, 30-31.5 200 open sea Medney island – Kamchatka, 2.5 5 Atlasova – Onkotan islands, 4.6 several millions Yankicha island, 5.6 50 Chirpoy island



Crested Auklet (*Aethia cristatella*)

28.5 3 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 31.5 15 open sea Medney island – Kamchatka, 3.6 1000 open sea Shiashkotan, 4.6 several millions Yankicha island



Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*)

3.6 1 along Shiashkotan, 5.6 1 Chirpoy island, 6.6 4 at sea Iturup – Kunashir, 7.6 at sea Kunashir – Korsakov, Sachalin



Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*)

28.5 3 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 29.5 2 outside Bering island, 30.6 100 nesting outside Medney island, 30.5 2 open sea Medney – Kamchatka, 2.6 1 Atlasova – Onkotan islands, 5.6 20 outside Chirpoy island



Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*)

27-28.5 40 at sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 29.5 300 towards Bering island, 30.5 50 Medney island, 30-31.5 50 open sea Medney – Kamchatka, 1.6 300 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 2-5.6 common along Kuril islands Atlasova - Chirpoy

Gulls and Terns(*Laridae*)



Black-legged Kittiwake (Pacific) (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*)

27.5 250 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 27-29.5 several hundreds at sea Kamchatka - Bering island, 29.5 250 Nikolskoye, Bering island, 29.5 500 nesting Arij Karmen island, Bering island, 30.5 1000 Medney island, 30.5 10 open sea Medney island – Kamchatka, 31.5 common open sea Medney – Kamchatka, 1.6 10 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 2.6 1 Atlasova – Onekotan, 5.6 500 Chirpoy island, 7.6 common open sea Kunashir - Korsakov, Sachalin



Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*)

29.5 150 nesting Arij Karmen islet, Bering island, 30.5 75 nesting Medney island

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

27.5 1000 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 28.5 10 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 7.6 20 open sea Kunashir - Korsakov, Sachalin

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)

7.6 2 Korsakov harbour, Sachalin

Kamchatka Gull (*Larus canus kamtschatschensis*)

27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka



Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

27.5 150 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka 28-29.5, 30-31,5 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 1.5 common Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 5.6 20 Chirpoy island, 7.6 common open sea Kunashir - Korsakov, Sachalin



Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

28-29.5 26 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 29.5 common Bering island, 30-31.5 common open sea Medney - Kamchatka

Glaucous Gull [*pallidissimus*] (*Larus hyperboreus pallidissimus*)

30.5 1 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka



Aleutian Tern (*Onychoprion aleuticus*)
31.5 14 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka



Common Tern (Siberian) (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*)
27.5 25 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 28.5 10 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 31.5 20 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
28.5 3 open sea Kamchatka - Commander islands, 30.5 2 open sea Medney island - Kamchatka

Doves and Pigeons (*Columbidae*)

Oriental Turtle Dove [*orientalis*] (*Streptopelia orientalis orientalis*)
7.6 1 Kunashir island

Cuckoos (*Cuculidae*)

Common Cuckoo [*canorus*] (*Cuculus canorus canorus*)
5.6 2 Urup island

Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*)
5.6 8h Urup island, 7.6 1 Kunashir island

Swifts (*Apodidae*)



Pacific Swift [*pacificus*] (*Apus pacificus pacificus*)

6.6 2 Iturup island, 7.6 6 Kunashir island

Kingfishers (*Alcedinidae*)

Crested Kingfisher [*pallida*] (*Megaceryle lugubris pallida*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Woodpeckers (*Picidae*)

Pygmy Woodpecker [*ijimae*] (*Dendrocopos kizuki ijimae*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Great Spotted Woodpecker [*kamtschaticus*] (*Dendrocopos major kamtschaticus*)

27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka

Caracaras, Falcons (*Falconidae*)



Peregrine Falcon (Peale's) (*Falco peregrinus pealei*)

1.6 1 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 4.6 1 Yankicha island

Crows and Jays (*Furnariidae*)

Eurasian Magpie (Kamchatkan) (*Pica pica camtschatica*)

27.5 3 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka

Eurasian Nutcracker (Northern) [*japonica*] (*Nucifraga caryocatactes japonica*)

5.6 1 Urup island



Oriental Crow (*Corvus corone orientalis*)
27.5 70 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka



Large-billed Crow [*japonensis*] (*Corvus macrorhynchos japonensis*)
5.6 6 Urup island, 6.6 20 Iturup island
Common Raven [*kamtschaticus*] (*Corvus corax kamtschaticus*)
27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 5.6 8 Urup island

Larks (*Alaudidae*)

Sky Lark (Asian) [*pekinensis*] (*Alauda arvensis pekinensis*)
31.5 5 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Swallows and Martins (*Hirundinidae*)

Barn Swallow (Buff-bellied) [*gutturalis*] (*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*)
6.6 2 Iturup island
Common House Martin [*lagopodum*] (*Delichon urbicum lagopodum*)
6.6 2 Iturup island

Tits and Chickadees (*Paridae*)

Willow Tit (Willow) [*sachalinensis*] (*Poecile montanus sachalinensis*)
7.6 3 Kunashir island
Coal Tit (Continental) [*insularis*] (*Periparus ater insularis*)
7.6 5 Kunashir island
Japanese Tit [*minor*] (*Parus minor minor*)
8.6 1 Yuzhno, Sachalin

Long-tailed Tits (*Aegithalidae*)

Long-tailed Tit (Northern) (*Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Nuthatches (*Sittidae*)

Eurasian Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

7.6 4 Kunashir island (HBW: S.e.clara)

Treecreepers (*Certhiidae*)

Eurasian Treecreeper [*orientalis*] (*Certhia familiaris orientalis*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Wrens (*Troglodytidae*)

Eurasian Wren [*fumigatus*] (*Troglodytes troglodytes fumigatus*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Kinglets (*Regulidae*)

Goldcrest [*japonensis*] (*Regulus regulus japonensis*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Bush-Warblers and Allies (*Cettiidae*)



Japanese Bush Warbler [*viridis*] (*Horornis diphone viridis*)

5.6 1s4h Urup island, 6.6 3h Iturup island, 7.6 common heard Kunashir island

Leaf Warblers and Allies (*Phylloscopidae*)



Kamchatka Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus examinandus*)

2.6 1 Atlasova island

Grassbirds and Allies (*Locustellidae*)

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella ochotensis*)

5.6 1 Urup island

Old World Flycatchers (*Muscicapidae*)



Siberian Flycatcher (Dark-sided) (*Muscicapa sibirica sibirica*)

2.6 4 Atlasova island, 7.6 2 Kunashir island



Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris latirostris*)

7.6 2 Kunashir island

Rufous-tailed Robin (*Larvivora sibilans*)

1.6 1h Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Japanese Robin [akahige] (*Larvivora akahige akahige*)

5.6 1s5h Urup island



Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*)

30.5 1 Medney island 1.6 10 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 2.6 8 Atlasova island

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

7.6 1h Kunashir island

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*)

27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 1.6 1 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina narcissina*)

7.6 2 Kunashir island

Siberian Stonechat (Stejneger's) (*Saxicola maurus stejnegeri*)

7.6 2 Kunashir island

Thrushes (*Turdidae*)

Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)

1.6 10 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Brown-headed Thrush [orii] (*Turdus chrysolaus orii*)

1.6 3 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 2.6 4 Atlasova island

Starlings (*Sturnidae*)



Red-billed Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

2.6 1 Atlasova island. (may be a first for Russia. Some 3,600km outside of its normal range)

Accentors (*Prunellidae*)

Japanese Accentor [rubida] (*Prunella rubida rubida*)

6.6 2h Iturup island

Pipits and Wagtails(*Motacillidae*)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Kamchatka Eastern) [*simillima*] (*Motacilla tschutschensis simillima*)

27.5 1 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Alaska Eastern) [*tschutschensis*] (*Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis*)

31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 1.6 6 Bukhta Russkaya

Grey Wagtail [*cinerea*] (*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*)

2.6 5 Atlasova island

White Wagtail [*ocularis*] (*Motacilla alba ocularis*)

5.6 2 Urup island (aka Eye-striped Wagtail)



White Wagtail (Black-backed) (*Motacilla alba lugens*)

27.5 20 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 1.6 3 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka, 2.6 5 Atlasova island



Olive-backed Pipit [*yunnanensis*] (*Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*)

27.5 10 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 31.5 1 resting on the vessel in open sea
Medney - Kamchatka



Pechora Pipit (Pechora) [stejnegeri] (*Anthus gustavi stejnegeri*)

29.5 2 Nikolskoye, Bering island

Buff-bellied Pipit (Siberian) (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*)

2.6 2 Atlasova island

Longspurs and Snow Buntings (*Calcariidae*)

Lapland Longspur [coloratus] (*Calcarius lapponicus coloratus*)

29.5 15 Nikolskoye, Bering island, 30.5 4 Medney island



Snow Bunting [townsendi] (*Plectrophenax nivalis townsendi*)

30.5 Medney island

Buntings and New World Sparrows (*Emberizidae*)



Rustic Bunting [latifascia] (*Emberiza rustica latifascia*)

27.5 7 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka, 1.6 3 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka

Black-faced Bunting [*personata*] (*Emberiza spodocephala personata*)

5.6 Urup island 7.6 2 Kunashir island

Grey Bunting (*Emberiza variabilis*)

1.6 1 Bukhta Russkaya, Kamchatka



Reed Bunting [*pyrrhulina*] (*Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina*)

27.5 5 Petropavlovsk area, Kamchatka, 31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Siskins, Crossbills and Allies (*Fringillidae*)

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

31.5 1 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka



Grey-crowned Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis griseonucha*)

30.5 2 Medney island

Grey-bellied Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula griseiventris*)

6.6 2 Iturup island, 7.6 2 Kunashir island

Common Rosefinch [*grebnitskii*] (*Carpodacus erythrinus grebnitskii*)

2.6 1 Atlasova island

Long-tailed Rosefinch [*sanguinolentus*] (*Uragus sibiricus sanguinolentus*)

5.6 2 Urup island 7.6 1 Kunashir island

Oriental Greenfinch [*kawarahiba*] (*Chloris sinica kawarahiba*)

5.6 4 Urup island, 6.6 2 Iturup island

Common Redpoll (Mealy) (*Acanthis flammea flammea*)

31.5 2 Zhupanova river, Kamchatka

Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island

Old World Sparrows (*Passeridae*)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

29.5 20 Nikolskoye, Bering island

MAMMAL LIST

Kamchatka, Commander-, Kuril- and Sachalin Islands

27 May – 8 June 2016

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

31.5 1 Zhupanova river



Arctic Fox (*Alopex lagopus*)

29.5 2 North-west Cape, Bering island, 4.6 5 Yankicha. All showing the 'Blue' morph.



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

27.5 2 Petropavlovsk area, 7.6 1 Kunashir island

Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

7.6 1 Kunashir island



Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*)

Seen with 2-20 individuals 29.5-7.6 off Commander and Kuril islands. Many with pups.

Harbor Seal (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

Seen with 1-10 individuals 29.5-8.6 off Commander and Kuril islands.

Spotted (Largha) Seal (*Phoca larga*)

31.5 5 Zhupanova river



Steller's (Northern) Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)

Seen daily with 1-30 individuals 29.5-6.6 on Commander Islands, Kamchatka, Kuril islands. Most seen on North-west Cape on Bering island and outside Bukhta Russkaya.

Northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*)

29.5 100 North-west Cape Bering island



Orca (Killer Whale) (*Orcinus Orca*)

Seen daily with 1-20 individuals 31-7.6 off Kamchatka, Kuril islands.

Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

7.6 10 Kunashir

Dall's Porpoise (*Phocoenides dalli*)

Seen daily with 1-20 individuals 31.5-7.6 off Kamchatka and Kuril islands.

Stejneger's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon stejnegeri*)

7.6 3 at sea Kunashir- Sachalin islands



Sperm Whale (*Physter macrocephalus*)

5.6 1 at sea Chirpoy-Urup, 7.6 1 at sea Iturup-Kunashir. A total of another 11 were seen by others.

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

28.5 2 at sea Katchatka-Commander islands, 1.6 at sea Kamchatka-Kuril islands.



Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

28.5 3 at sea Kamchatka-Commander islands, 7.6 2 at sea Kunashir-Sachalin islands.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

7.6 3 at sea Kunashir-Sachalin islands.

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

30.6 1 at sea Medney island- Kamchatka, 31.5 1 along the coast of Kamchatka.



Grey Whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)

29.5 1 seen close from land Nikol'skoye, Bering island .