

**ALASKA**  
**Holiday Highlights**  
**14 June – 2 July 2014**

Leaders: David Wimpfheimer and Darren Rees

Guests: Sue & Terry Lee, Maureen & Ted Cawley, Lyn & Dave Maslin, Sue Ripley and Val Hole.

**Day 1: The Long Journey There**

We meet at Heathrow for our flight across the Atlantic to Seattle. There's lots of time to read up on the delights of Alaska that awaits! At Seattle we meet briefly with David who is travelling ahead of us on an earlier flight. We stay awhile and even have time to watch the first half of a footie match! Finally we descend into Anchorage with views over the snow-capped mountains and networks of inlets. Then, it's a short transfer to the Alex Hotel and some well earned sleep.

**Day 2: Anchorage and Some New Birds**

Some folk take an early morning walk to scan nearby Spenard Lake which is busy with ducks and boat planes – we learn there are more boat planes here than anywhere else in the world! Ducks and other birds include Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Mallard with young, Tree Swallow, Redpoll, Black-capped Chickadee and American Robin, the list is up and running.

We have breakfast then take a short walk to Subway to get our lunches for the day. It's only a short drive to Westchester Lagoon where we do some suburban birding, Alaskan style. On the island in the lagoon are a couple of Red-necked Grebe nests and Arctic Terns with chicks. There are also shorebirds roosting as its high tide at the nearby bay. Lots of colourful Hudsonian Godwits and Short-billed Dowitchers are on the gravel island. Ducks include American Wigeon, Gadwall, Greater Scaup and Mallard. Across the lake in one of the tall pine trees is a large Bald Eagle nest with an adult and large chick present. At one stage it takes to the air and flies across the lake putting everything into a panic. The adult Red-necked Grebe gets up from incubating then covers the eggs with the nest material before sloping off into the water. All the terns, gulls and shorebirds get up to mob the eagle.

Further along our walk we see Alder Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler and Black-capped Chickadees. We can scan the open water of Cook Inlet and see a fantastic Harlequin male! More godwits and dowitchers are on the mud, as well as nice group of yellowlegs - both Greater and Lesser are side by side for comparison. David sees a salmon running in the shallows attracting gulls including two Bonaparte's Gulls.

Before leaving Anchorage we check the river mouth at Ship Creek which is busy with weekend anglers. We see our first Glaucous-winged Gull along with several Bonaparte's and Herring Gulls. There is a male Savannah Sparrow in full song as well as Mew Gulls with chicks and a smart Red-necked Grebe.

Leaving the city we drive to spectacular Eagle River Valley and the neat visitor centre for lunch. It's a beautiful setting and we can walk through mixed woods with stunning views to the Chugach Mountains. The path leads through the woods to a boardwalk and a platform overlooking a black spruce bog with views to mighty mountains beyond. Two Mountain Goats are sat amongst rocks on one high summit and along another ridge soar three Bald Eagles. In the marsh are Greater Yellowlegs displaying and landing on a stump and Wilson's Snipe calling from a bare tree and then bathing in front. There are also close Lincoln's Sparrow and a fly by from a Belted Kingfisher. Back in the forest are Myrtle Warblers, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee and we hear Hairy Woodpecker and Varied Thrush.

Returning to Anchorage we take a short detour to Arctic Valley where we can get a view over the city and Cook Inlet. It proves a good choice as on top of a tree next to the track is a fantastic Varied Thrush – a new bird for one of the leaders!

Our evening meal is at the delightful Snow Goose Restaurant and Brewery. Fish 'n' Chips, good beer and much discussion on the nice quilts!

### **Day 3: The Road to Denali**

After breakfast we leave Anchorage heading north out of the city. Along the road, before Palmer, are huge expansive views across the head of the inlet to mountains beyond – an awesome panorama. We drive through endless mixed forest and decide to break our journey at Big Lake. There are a few birds on the water: Red-necked Grebe, Greater Yellowlegs and an Osprey flying around a distant nest. At the nearby marina there are lots more Red-necked Grebes and Great Northern Divers or Common Loon, looking fine in their summer plumage.

We still have a long distance to drive so push further north breaking the journey at Petersville Road. It's our first look at the black spruce boreal forest or muskeg. On one of the roadside pools is a superb pair of immaculate Pacific Loons; on another is a pair of White-fronted Geese and we see our first breeding Greater Yellowlegs – the adult birds are ushering us away from a small chick in the road. Around another corner are two Pine Grosbeaks in the gravel road and we get great looks at these difficult to see birds. We have lunch in a large clearing and then wander around nearby. There is a flurry of activity at the bridge over a small creek with several Common Redpolls, a Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow Warbler and a singing Northern Waterthrush.

We'd like to investigate further but time is not with us so we continue the road north to Denali. The weather deteriorates and as we approach the first viewpoint along the highway, Denali, or the Great One, is not visible in the low cloud. The nearer mountains continue to impress and as the road rises we know we are in a northern wilderness. Through Broad Pass we see a nice Spruce Grouse which is new for everyone and as we near the end of our drive we see moose close to the Nenana River, including two young animals. Finally we arrive at our base for the next three nights, McKinley Creekside Cabins and a welcome evening meal.

#### **Day 4: The Denali Grand Slam**

Breakfast is early at 6.00am, then it's a short drive to the National Park gates where we transfer to one of the park shuttle buses that takes visitors into the vast wilderness that is Denali National Park. We board the bus with other visitors and start the slow winding journey that terminates at the Eielson Visitor Centre. We are hopeful for a wildlife experience as we climb through the forest; particularly as we listen to the narration from our driver whose name is Bear!

Our first stop is at a lookout at Teklanika River where we see a couple of Gray Jays. Shortly after we enter more open country at Sable Pass and we see our first Grizzly Bears – a family grouping of a female with two cubs. This is shortly followed by a sighting of a group of Caribou high on the tundra slopes on the right. We look at them with binoculars and notice they are acting very nervously.... scanning further we can see why - a large wolf is walking nearby. Fantastic! We watch for a short while, enjoying the stand off between the two though we fancy that on its own the wolf will be no threat to the Caribou.

Further along the road we see another small group of Caribou enjoying the morning sun and at the Toklat River rest area we can see a group of Dall's Sheep on the hillside. Resuming the journey to Eielson we see a Moose amongst the taller willows along a river hollow and David finds a Willow Ptarmigan with chicks. Shortly afterwards, at Highway Pass we see a single Grizzly working away along a stream course and the strong sun is picking out the pale fringing on his thick fur – a handsome beast!

At Thorofare Pass we can see the road ahead and the view to Denali that rises high above the surrounding peaks – we are lucky as the cloud often obscures views to the summit. With bear, wolf, sheep, caribou and Mt McKinley it's the Denali Grand Slam as our driver points out.

Nearing Eielson Visitor Centre we see a fantastic Red Fox hunting along the road and at the centre building there are more cute critters with confiding Arctic Ground Squirrels. After taking our picnic lunch (and admiring the exhibits that include another splendid quilt!) we take a walk east along the road where we are told there may be a chance of Gyrfalcon. Alongside the road in willow thickets are Wilson's Warbler and White-crowned Sparrow. Over

the ridge soars a superb pair of Golden Eagles and we soon discover what we suspect is the eyrie high in a ravine. We walk further on and at our furthest point Dave finds another fantastic Grizzly Bear!

We hitch a lift back on one of the shuttle buses, then re-unite with Val at Eielson Centre. Then it's a more ordered return on one of the buses organised by the dispatch office (very official!) We start the journey back at 3.20pm and it's not long before we are stopping for another Grizzly, this time sleeping on a snow patch and keeping cool in the afternoon sun. That's bear number six for the day!

At Sable Pass Sue spots an animal on another snow patch – blimey, it's a wolf! Somehow we manage to get a scope trained on the animal from within the bus and there's an orderly queue to view down the aisle! What a fitting finale for a great day in Denali National Park.

## Day 5: **More Bears**

What's this? We wake and there's no electricity! This means no breakfast at the cafe so we load the bus and drive to Denali Park for a breakfast buffet at the large lodge – very nice too! Next, is a bus at 8.30am and we are soon entering the park. It's more overcast than the day before but the signs are good when we enter park and driving through the spruces we see a smart Merlin on top of one tree. At the Teklanika rest stop we see our first Red-necked Phalarope spinning in a roadside pool.

Through Sable Pass we see another trio of Grizzly Bears – it could be the same mum and cubs on the hill. There are more Caribou and a smart Golden Eagle perched at Polychrome lookout. We also see another Grizzly rooting around in a hollow before Stony Hill.

Not long after, we decide to take a walk into the tundra and disembark from the bus. It's much cooler than before and we put our waterproofs on as the clouds are threatening. We stride off across the tundra noting lots of beautiful flowers – there will be many to identify! A Tree Sparrow gives us glimpses, as do White-crowned Sparrows. The ominous clouds take their toll and the rain starts, at times turning to hail. Sadly, there is a lack of birds in the cold, so we return to the road and get the next bus heading east. At Toklat rest area we witness a fantastic aerial battle when a tiny Merlin harasses a big Golden Eagle. Back at Polychrome mountain we decide to take a second walk – well, we still have all our wet weather gear on. We scan the rocky slopes hoping for a glimpse of a Hoary Marmot or Collared Pika but they are tucked up under a rock sheltering from the rain – can't blame them really. We board the next bus and return to base. Driving to the cabins a Goshawk flies across the road and it's being mobbed by a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk.

We end the day with a fantastic meal at the 229 restaurant where the crab cakes and ribs are huge hits.

## Day 6: The Denali Highway to Tangle River

After breakfast we leave the McKinley Cabins and drive south along the main highway, pausing briefly to watch two Trumpeter Swans along the river. After topping up the fuel at Cantwell we take the gravel road that cuts east through the wilderness – the famed Denali Highway. The road passes through vast stands of black spruce and we stop at a few points to scan where we know Northern Hawk Owls have occurred – no owls today but we do see some White-winged Crossbills. Sadly, the temperatures drop and it starts to drizzle making scanning difficult so we continue to move east.

Our first stop after the rain ceases is where the spruce muskeg forest is broken by open bogs both sides of the road. A Least Sandpiper is holding territory, going through its display flight and chasing off an American Robin - we also get looks at Gray-cheeked Thrush and White-crowned Sparrow. Further along, the road is elevated with fine views over a braided river system to the snow marked mountains beyond. There's another swan and we get scope views of a Varied Thrush singing from atop a spruce.

We drive further through endless forest until we reach the Brushkanna Campground next to the river with the same name. Here we can walk a few trails before our picnic lunch, and there are Fox Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a superb Blackpoll Warbler singing from a tree top.

Some miles east, the forest peters out as the road climbs higher entering the willow scrub zone. More pools by the road hold ducks like Scaup, Goldeneye and Teal. On one barren slope on the right is a Red Fox running around and when we get the telescopes out we can see an anxious Willow Ptarmigan protesting. Further along, two Lesser Yellowlegs drop onto the road in-front of the vehicle trying to lure us away from chicks with a distraction display.

Later we cross the broad Susitna River and stop to take in the grand surroundings. A pool next to the road has a few Red-necked Phalaropes and high over the nearest mountain a Bald Eagle soars. Two Waxwings fly over and we comment that all we really need is a good mammal... within seconds a fine female moose appears with a calf!

Further east, there's more open willow scrub and a smart male Northern Harrier is perched up. It's still cool and when we reach the Maclaren River we can't resist stopping at the only café for miles for coffee and hot chocolate. Nice Cliff Swallows too! On the final leg along the road the drizzle turns to sleet before dropping into the Tangle Lakes area and the Tangle River Inn.

## Day 7: Long tails and Long spurs

It's a gloriously clear morning and we can see the amazing scenery that was obscured yesterday – huge white peaks surround us in a vast natural basin. For our pre-breakfast excursion we drive east along the Denali Highway to an area

known as Hungry Hollow. The road reaches a high point here with views south over a huge tundra plain (Hungry Hollow) with views to the distant Wrangell St Elias Range, dominated by the volcanic conical form of Mount Sanford. We park and walk north along a rough path lined with willow scrub. Soon we find a Rock Ptarmigan that allows us to get very close. As the path rises the willow scrub peters out, giving way to shorter rocky tundra vegetation with many small colourful flowers. Then the bird of our dream appears - a rakish Long-tailed Jaeger. We watch it fly back and forth with buoyant wing beats interspersed with bouts of hovering as it searches for lemmings. When it alights on a mound it looks so elegant. Wonderful!

Around us is bird song and the light delivery reminds us of a mix of Skylarks and wind chimes. Above, with parachuting display flight, is the bird responsible, a superb Lapland Longspur male. An American Golden Plover also displays nearby, this time a distraction as we must be close to a nest or chicks amongst the tundra and rocks. With Redpolls, Savannah and Tree Sparrows it's been a perfect start to the day.

After breakfast we drive west and stop in an area where David has Arctic Warblers before. We park and listen and sure enough their distinctive trills are emanating from the willows - two birds are perched up and we get good looks. Another new bird for all of us!

Next we stop at some scree slopes that look ideal habitat for marmots and pikas. We scan around and listen for their calls but see very little so soon move on. At a second site we can walk through the dwarf willows to the base of another rocky slope in the hope of seeing critters. There are Arctic Ground Squirrels scampering around and we see Wilson's Warblers and Redpolls in the bushes. Sadly no marmots or pikas.

Lunch is at the Maclaren River where we can eat our sandwiches in the sun admiring the fine views and Cliff Swallows. Afterwards we retrace our steps and as we are driving something walks across the road and into the bushes - it's an American Porcupine! We stop and get really close views as it sits under the cover of some willows. Fantastic! We drive back to Tangle River stopping for scans and photos here and there and see our first Long-tailed Ducks - three chocolate males.

After our evening meal we explore the pools east of the hotel where we've noted several Beaver lodges. At one there is a Beaver swimming up and down 'doing lengths' and occasionally diving to retrieve some underwater titbits. A Long-tailed Jaeger flies over the same pool too! Further along at Hungry Hollow we watch more Caribou and a smart Long-tailed Jaeger pair whilst listening to Whimbrels and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. What a lovely end to a great day.

## Day 8: Roadside Birding on the way to Sheep Mountain

We awake to a wet scene with low cloud obscuring the mountain peaks. After breakfast we say our goodbyes to Violet (and her pancakes) and head east along the Denali Highway for our long day on the road. We stop at a few places but the light rain is problematic. At one large lake we get scopes out to watch a Common Loon and a Trumpeter Swan before driving on to Paxson where we watch a Dipper pair going back and forth to a nest under a bridge where they are raising three young. Waxwings and Arctic Terns are present too.

Next, we drive along the Gulkana River to Summit Lake where we find some new ducks: Surf Scoters are amongst the Red-breasted Mergansers, Scaup and Long-tailed Ducks. North, near Fielding Lake, Lynn finds a large Moose close to the road and it allows us to get very close views – great for the photographers. Returning south we stop when we notice divers close to the road – three Red-throated Loons. More importantly, the sun comes out which is most welcome! We continue adding more roadside birds: Common Mergansers, Yellow Warbler, Bald Eagle, Gray Jay, Varied Thrush and also stop to photograph the Trans Alaska pipeline that follows the same course as the road for some way.

After lunch there are other profitable roadside stops. First, David spots two loons in a small pool as we pass, so we circle back to get telescopes out. As so often there are more things on offer: as well as a pair of fine Pacific Loons there are Ring-necked Duck and Shoveler; Maureen finds a group of Bohemian Waxwings and Sue spots a delightful orchid. Next, we stop at Sourdough Campground adjacent to the highway where we see Solitary Sandpiper, Northern Flicker and five Bald Eagles overhead.

By now the skies are largely clear and we can enjoy fine views across vast forests in all directions and in the south the snow-capped mountains of the Wrangell- Saint Elias Range. After a brief stop at Glenallan we head due west and the final leg towards Sheep Mountain. There are lots of black spruce trees to keep our eyes on and somehow Sue can multi-task. Not only does she keep us entertained with some historical facts and notes but she also adds there's a large bird. We stop and drive back and there is the roadside bird to top all roadside birds: a superb Northern Hawk Owl is sat on top of a spruce close to the road and doesn't seem to mind us approaching with scopes and cameras. A truly magnificent bird and a candidate for bird of the trip.

We arrive at the delightful Sheep Mountain Lodge a little later than planned and still it's not over for owls: the owner tells us about a Boreal Owl pair that has used a nest box on the property and we decide to spend the summer solstice watching to see if the parent birds are feeding the young. Sadly, we only hear the chicks but then there's always tomorrow.

## Day 9: Knob Lakes and the Matanuska Glacier

After a late night before, we opt for a more relaxing day with breakfast at 8.00am. After sourdough pancakes and the like, we are off exploring the immediate spectacular countryside. A short distance drive takes us to the Knob Lakes region where we start things off with an easy stroll. The road is a slight descent into a large hollow dotted with pools and lakes surrounded by a forest of dwarf willow. As the land slopes up, spruces stretch to the higher elevations with strands of snow on rocky peaks. Beyond are the huge Chugach Mountains with their ice and snow fields emphasising the wildness of this wonderful place. Birds are singing: most obvious are Orange-crowned Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows. We also get great views of Alder Flycatcher and smart Blackpoll Warblers on top of spruces delivering their songs.

Further along we scan one of the many lakes that are a photographers' delight as the lofty peaks are casting beautiful reflections. At one we see a single Pacific Loon, Greater Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull, Wilson's Snipe and Maureen finds some Red-necked Phalaropes. Next is a look at a boulder field close to the track and though we look and look we cant find the elusive Collared Pikas that are calling.

The road ascends to a telecoms aerial, with fantastic views all around and there is much taking of photographs.

After lunch we decide to take a second look at the nearby Hawk Owl. It takes some scanning but Dave comes up trumps and finds it just below the top of a tall spruce. It soon flies across the road to perch in full view and in great light for the photographers. We attract some passers by and share the scopes – what a star bird. After fifteen minutes or so it flies off, deep into the forest.

We drive west to view the impressive Matanuska Glacier that creeps down the northern slopes of the Chugach Mountains. From the State Park we get amazing views of the river of ice that ends abruptly with a series of moraines. The glacier has been static for many years and the deposits are now covered in forest which makes for a very special landscape of ice, spruce and aspens.

We walk around the easy interpretive trail learning more of the area's geography as well as adding a few birds. Black-capped and Boreal Chickadee are side by side for comparison and further along we get nice looks at a pair of Brown Creepers that are feeding young in a nest wedged into a crevice behind some peeling bark.

After another delicious evening meal (Ted does superbly when confronted with a mountain of ice-cream) we wonder are there any takers for a nest box vigil? There are a few but these turn in for the night before midnight and the parent bird shows up at 12.10am. It swoops up to the nest box perching at a snag with its booty, a small vole. After the briefest pause it goes head first into the hole to deposit the prey with the chicks. Then it's out and away – the whole thing takes less twenty seconds.



## Day 10: **The Road to Kenai and Turnagain Arm**

After breakfast we say goodbye to the folk at Sheep Mountain Lodge and start the long but scenic drive south. Everywhere in Alaska qualifies as scenic and there are several photo stops along the way – the first at the Matanuska River where we can look from the sandy cliff over the Bank Swallows and braided system of channels and gravel islands to the huge mountains beyond. At Palmer we enter Alaska's small agricultural belt with fields in the valley floor, before approaching Anchorage. South of the city is the delightful reserve of Potter's Marsh where a boardwalk takes us around the perimeter and we can scan the wetland. Lincoln's Sparrows, Redpolls and Alder Flycatchers are calling and delightful iridescent Tree Swallows are alighting on branches at eye level. In the channels of water and mud are Green-winged Teal, Arctic Terns and Canada Geese and we get a sensational fly over by two Bald Eagles, mobbed by Black-billed Magpies. At the far end of the reserve we get close views of the nesting terns that dive bomb us when we walk away from the vehicle! Mew Gulls are less worried as we photograph their endearing chicks. Red-necked Grebes are also rearing young and carrying chicks on their back.

Leaving the marsh we drive along the shores of Turnagain Arm, a huge fjord that Captain Cook travelled along in search of the Northwest Passage only to find a dead end, where he ordered the ship to Turnagain. We stop at Beluga Point where there is a nice eagle on the mud but sadly its all a bit windy and are chances of spotting any belugas is small.

We move to a less windy spot at Bird Point where we can have lunch with a view. Our visit is well timed as the incoming tide pushes a 'bore' along the fjord and others have gathered to witness the phenomenon. From here we travel through the high pass towards Seward and we stop at a few places to scan the slopes and pools. At the first vantage point we see Mountain Goats and Terry finds a mystery black lump. Through the telescope it looks like a sleeping Black Bear though some folk need convincing. At the second spot we see Common Loon, Wilson's Warbler and a single Yellowlegs that tests our id skills. The third stop is at dramatic Tern Lake, a large body of water with reedy islands at the base of huge rocky slopes. There are lots of Arctic Terns and a Common Loon pair with young hitching a ride on one parent bird. Two Bald Eagles glide across the high cliffs and one gets mobbed by an adult Golden Eagle – fantastic! Finally we arrive at the superb Windsong Lodge our base for the next three nights.

## Day 11: **Cruising Kenai Fjords National Park**

After an early breakfast we drive to the harbour at Seward for our adventure on the water. We are introduced to Captain John and his boat the Emerald Fjord as well as meeting our local guide Jo Staab. The weather is perfect with a slight breeze and clear skies and we leave the quay shortly after 8.00am. The bird list has already started with Northwest Crow around the car park and we are soon adding Glaucous-winged Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwake and Red-breasted Merganser. Towards the mouth of Resurrection Bay we pause at one

cliff where David has spotted a Peregrine – our first for the trip. There is also our first Horned Puffin on the water.

Reaching more open water we are soon joined by a group of playful Dall's Porpoise that start to ride the bow wave - we get great looks at these boisterous black and white marvels and all the while the sun is shining and there is the most incredible views back to the islands, mountains and glaciers. Wow!

In an effort to see some special species the captain takes us close through channels between some of the many islands that dot the coastline. On the low rocks of one we see a Black Oystercatcher and both Double-crested and scrawny Pelagic Cormorants, all new for the trip. We continue along the coast to the mouth of the Northwest Fjord and into calm water. We notice lots of curious looking (and named) Rhinoceros Auklets and we can approach quite close with the boat.

Ahead in the water we catch sight of a much sought after animal and something of a flagship species for the wild Pacific Northwest. A Sea Otter is relaxing in the water, lying on its back with front paws resting together on its chest. Is there a more endearing sight? We make a couple of passes by the animal but it keeps its distance so we move deeper into the fjord, drawn to the two huge glaciers that are emptying ice into the waters. We are looking for two birds that like the cooler water and are known to haunt the Northwest Fjord. Marbled and scarcer Kittlitz's Murrelet are both here and we start seeing small birds in the water. Browner Marbled are showing a capped appearance and we can make out greyer, paler Kittlitz Murrelets too.

Ahead is the largest of the glaciers that empty into the fjord – the Northwest Glacier. As we approach we notice lots of brown blobs on the floating ice - these are Harbor Seals and they must be in their hundreds. It is a fantastic sight and the captain chooses to cut the engine and break out the packed lunch - the sun is shining and we can't think of a more ideal place to eat. What's more, without the noise of the boat we can hear the noise of the glacier. A number of times huge sections of ice crumble into the water accompanied by the sound of thunder that rolls towards the boat some time after we see the falling action of the ice. To round off the scene a Bald Eagle flaps across the cliff face that houses a large Glaucous-winged Gull colony causing some avian mayhem.

We start our journey back down the fjord mindful that Sue had spotted a whale blow earlier in the day. We haven't been sailing long when we see the culprits... two Humpback Whales are in the water very close to shore. They are taking shallow dives without showing their tail flukes and surfacing regularly. What a picture with the dramatic walls of the fjord as backdrop. We spend some time with the whales, and then pass further to the mouth of the fjord to open water. The return route takes us through different islands and we see a smattering of birds and otters before arriving at an area where there have been reports of more whales, Killer Whales. We notice that there is another

boat in the area checking out the reports too and we all double our efforts to scan the water.

There they are! Four or five black fins appear in the water, two of them the huge dorsal fins of male whales - one of the most thrilling sights in the natural world. We watch the whales surfacing and travelling along the shore gradually getting closer and closer views, their black and white markings clearly visible. Then, as mysteriously as they appear, they disappear.

The final section of the journey takes us under the cliffs of Bardwell Island at the mouth of Resurrection Bay. The water is covered with birds with lots of Black-legged Kittiwakes fishing and large slicks of Common Murres. The cliffs are stuffed with both species and the sound of the many nesting kittiwakes is particularly familiar to the British birder. What is different is the presence of a huge Bald Eagle on one of the rocks – imagine that on Handa!

We enter Resurrection Bay and can see Seward in the distance. We reflect on what's been a full and varied day on the water - whales, birds and fantastic scenery. And just to round off the day a Sea Otter pops up in the water in front of the boat. We pause and get close to the animal - the perfect photographer's model and the perfect way to end the day.

## **Day 12: Dalls' Sheep and Kenai**

The weather is a marked change from yesterday's clear skies and there's a spots of rain as we board the van after breakfast. We drive to Tern Lake and keep to the trees where there is some protection from the drizzle. We walk an easy trail into the forest and there are birds in the near trees and with some perseverance we see Brown Creepers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warblers and smart Townsend's Warbler. We walk further and see a nest box close to the track but it seems to be unused this year – shame as David watched a Saw-whet Owl there last year.

The drive west proves the right tactic for the day as when we leave the mountains the weather starts to improve. After picking up sandwiches at Sterling we drive to the visitor centre at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. There is a trail through the woods to a platform that overlooks a large lake. From here we can see a pair of Common Loons – one is in the water, the other on a nest. Bonaparte's Gulls are also nesting and one bird is chasing off Glaucous-winged Gulls. Arctic Terns are passing back and forth and we are aware for Aleutian Terns that are in the area but we can't manage to find one. Other birds include a Northern Goshawk that is calling from the trees around us and a White-winged Crossbill is sat on top of one giving us great views in the scope.

From the refuge, we drive to the shore close to the mouth of the Kenai River where we can have lunch with a superb view across Cook Inlet to the conical peaks of Mounts Redoubt and Iliamna. After eating we scan the mouth of the

river from a couple of viewpoints. We see Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Mergansers and Red-throated Loons from the first and then move to another where we enjoy a fine session watching birds from an elevated platform. There are lots of terns, gulls and a Semi-palmated Plover on the shore but David is looking across the marsh at bigger things.. Fifteen superb Sandhill Cranes are walking in the short reeds. Other birds include Short-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, some flying peeps and a Bald Eagle that soars across for good measure!

We've had reports of Three-toed Woodpecker nearby at Kenai Golf Club so decide to check it out... perhaps we have the wrong directions or perhaps we are unlucky for although we scout around trees between the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole and the 4<sup>th</sup> tee we are unsuccessful... we don't get our birdie.

We also check another area where a bigger bird hangs out - around a series of clearings around Sterling we look for Great Gray Owl but again we draw a blank. We do have some fantastic moose sightings however. First a female is close to the road but in thick cover with a calf, then another female has two calves and its out in the open on the road verge – perfect models for the camera.

We take the less travelled road back that winds its way through the forest and lakes but the weather deteriorates as we get nearer the mountains. We stop briefly to photograph other enthusiasts oblivious to the rain – a large number of anglers are 'combat fishing' for salmon which is quite a sight. Clearly there are lots of fish to be had as Glaucous-winged Gulls are lined up too, feeding on discarded catch.

We eat at the Kenai Grill at Cooper Landing (great pizzas) and arrive back at Seward after another full day.

### Day 13: **Back to Anchorage**

After a relaxing breakfast we leave the Windsong Lodge for a look at the nearby Exit Glacier and we arrive soon at the visitor centre a mile or so from the base of a huge glacier. Walking through the woods we hear the now familiar songs of Varied Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco and Orange-crowned Warbler. The trail slowly ascends to a more open shoulder with great views all around and at its highest point we look over the mucky pointed snout of the giant glacier. David picks out a group of sixteen or so Mountain Goats with kids high on a hillside.

From Exit Glacier we drive to a well known local birding spot close to Seward: Ava's feeders. We meet the friendly lady known to everyone in Seward with a pair of binoculars. Around the front deck of her house are several feeders with suet, seeds and sweet water proving irresistible to the local birdlife. Lots of Pine Siskins are lined up for the seeds and a wonderful Downy Woodpecker attacks the suet feeder. Ava then whistles and gets an immediate response

from two Pine Grosbeaks. They sit on top of a nearby tree then come into the feeders right in front – fantastic views. There is also a show from a female Rufous Hummingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker and Violet-crowned Swallow. After twenty minutes or so Ava has to leave but she invites us to stay as long as we like. Then a curious thing happens: as soon as Ava shuts her car door and pulls away the birds leave!

Back at Seward, the road south hugs the water and is a good place to scan the bay. We get fantastic looks at a close Marbled Murrelet, and a group of a dozen drake Harlequins are at the mouth of a small stream with Mew Gulls and a Kittiwake. We have our lunch at the monument to Seward fishermen with similar views across the water and we see a Sea Otter fishing in the shallows.

Driving north the highway climbs through Turnagain Pass and David notices some distinct flowers in the alpine meadows next to the road. We park and stroll through the rich grass that is spotted with coloured Violets, Lupins and Yellow Paintbrush flowers. The distinctive dark flowers are Chocolate Lilies. As so often, when you stop to look at one thing, other things appear. A Varied Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler and Savannah Sparrow make an appearance. Then, high above on one slope something moves, catching the eye. It's a Black Bear and cubs! They work in an out of sight through bushes before entering into the open and walking across a scree slope and to the far ridge – brilliant!

The drive along Turnagain Arm is as dramatic as expected and our eyes are peeled for any movements in the calm water. As we progress north along the shore the wind picks up and it is cool scanning at Beluga Point in a last attempt to see elusive white whales. The kite surfers are enjoying the conditions though! We drive past Potter Marsh in the light rain and soon arrive at the Alex Hotel in Anchorage in the continuing drizzle. We check in and prepare for our evening meal at the popular Snow Goose.

#### **Day 14: Floating in the Bering Sea**

We wake and it's still drizzle! However, we are all excited as we make our way to the airport for our transfer to the Pribilofs. We have a treat in store as the flight is scheduled to stop at both Dillingham on the west coast and the other Pribilof island of St George, before arriving at St Paul.

We take off shortly before noon and climb into the low cloud. This is patchy in places and allows us some views of snow capped peaks west of the city. Eventually the skies clear over the vast coastal plain in the far west and we can look down on a landscape of rocky tundra, patchy boreal forest and kettle holes. In places meandering rivers twist across the land before descending into sunny Dillingham.

Refuelled, we set off along the coast before taking the direct line across the Bering Sea. Cloud starts to build up though when we descend into St George

there are breaks and we land to a sunny scene. It's all very informal when we taxi to the hut that is the terminal. One passenger gets off and two get on. Then it's a short hop for fifteen minutes before landing at St Paul. We made it!

We walk from the plane to the terminal building where we are met by Scott and Glen, our guides from TDX. They get us checked into the King Eider Hotel that is part of the airport complex. Then it's a quick turnaround before we head out to explore. We drive towards the only settlement, the city of St Paul – city being an exaggeration! On the outskirts is the Salt Lagoon where we stop for a scan. Red-legged Kittiwakes are roosting with Black-legged Kittiwakes in the middle and delightful Lapland Longspurs are displaying all around. Dave spots a dark Arctic Fox trotting across the mud – the first of many.

Then it's off to the fish processing factory where we park and scan a small cliff face. Auks are flying back and forth and landing on rocks and we get our first good looks of cute Least Auklets, bizarre Parakeet Auklets and dandy Crested Auklets. Tufted Puffins are wheeling around too and in the water are our first Northern Fur Seals. Fantastic!

As well as all the bird activity there is an adult Arctic Fox in the boulders – Glen informs us that it has cubs nearby. What a start to our stay – all this before dinner! Talking of which.... our evening meal (and all our meals) is taken in the canteen of the fish factory – the largest employer on the island and the only place to eat. Yet the food is fantastic, in a little strange surroundings.

Afterwards we drive across the island towards Northeast Point. Stopping first at Cup and Saucer pools, with a short walk to Pumphouse pool, where we see a nice cross-section of birds: Pintail, Green-winged and Common Teal, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Phalarope and an unusual Red Phalarope. We see our first Rock Sandpiper – destined to be a common feature over the next couple of days.

Back near the airport we see our first Gray-crowned Rosy Finches – a family group with adults and young. Further along at Big Lake we see more kittiwakes and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Glen also points out some distant swans – these are Tundra Swans with both Whistling forms and more unusual Bewick's Swans.

At the furthest spot we can look over the Northern Fur Seal colony at Northeast Point. Animals stretch along the shore with hundreds on show. There is a group of Steller's Sea Lions on the far right for comparison. Lapland Longspurs are constantly singing, sounding like a mix of Skylarks and wind chimes. A male lands amongst a sea of blue lupins – there's a picture. Then Glen shouts 'Orcas' and there in the water beyond the seals are tall dorsal fins breaking the surface – wow!

We watch spell bound at the whole scene – a fox scuttles past too and we can't believe we are seeing all this after only being on the island a few hours – what a place!

## Day 15: Seabird Cities

We meet with our guide for the day, Scott, at 7.50am and he drives us to the village for breakfast at the canteen. Afterwards we drive to Southwest Point where we can watch the seabirds passing back and forth to the cliffs to our right. Puffins, murrelets and auklets hurry past with rapid wing beats whilst Northern Fulmars, both pale and dark form birds, glide by on stiff wings. Our first Red-faced Cormorants flap along and there are Harlequins in the water below. All the while Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Rock Sandpipers distract us from the colourful mix of lupins and rocks behind us.

From the headland we walk along the cliff to the area of activity to get better looks at the seabirds. It's our first opportunity to set telescopes on, and photograph, Horned and Tufted Puffins – remarkable birds. A couple of Red-faced Cormorants are on the cliffs too and we get great looks at these.

After lunch we head for the north coast and some sheltered water at Marunnich. The fog is forming and the wind and moisture is making viewing far from ideal but there are new birds here. Amongst the many Rock Sandpipers that are working the masses of stranded seaweed on the shore are both Least Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. In the water are several Harlequins and Long-tailed Ducks, and on the far finger of rocks is a smart dark form Parasitic Jaeger. Scott finds some Surf Scoters in the water and he is very pleased as these are unusual on the Pribilofs. By now it's getting cool with the wind chill so we head for the bus for shelter. We drive to the southernmost point on the island and the cliffs at Reef. There is a nice selection of alcids there and we get great looks and great photo opportunities. Tufted Puffins are most noticeable on the highest wall face, sharing space with Thick-billed Murres. Below are Crested, Least and Parakeet Auklets all jostling for positions on the terraces. What fantastic birds!

From our viewpoint it is a short walk to one of the blinds constructed to overlook the Fur Seal beaches and we wander to take a look. Lots of younger males are hanging out before us and we can examine them at leisure. Many are carrying the scars of skirmishes that seem to be part of everyday life for fur seals and we watch them squabble and posture, braying all the while.

It's starting to get very cool and damp so we head for the shelter of the St Paul Museum which gives us an insight of the history of this wild place. With exhibits charting the annual harvesting of the fur seals there is plenty of food for thought..

After dinner some of us can't resist another look at Northeast Point although the fog is still persisting. Sadly the orcas are long gone but we do climb to Hutchinson Hill for a view over the impressive fur seal beaches. On the way back we see a Rock Sandpiper chick in the road and follow it as it crosses back and forth in-front of the van. At one point it is caught by a gust of wind and rolls over!

## Day 16: **Rarities**

We meet Glen at 7.50am and drive to breakfast. As we are close to the harbour we check to see if we can find a murrelet or two but we see the now familiar cross-section of auks, auklets, and kittiwakes - Glen points out a Red-breasted Merganser too and then his phone springs to life with news that a rarity is on the island. A Eurasian Hawfinch has been seen five minutes ago! We drive to the highest point in the village and scan the buildings, posts and antennae where it had been seen. We can't manage to find the bird, only numerous Gray-crowned Rosy Finches but it is nice to walk round the streets of St Paul getting more of an idea of what local life is like.

At one point we are near the town beach that has a huge collection of fur seals hauled out. There is a statue to Ellison, who documented the early harvesting of seals and we realise how interlinked the cultural history of the Pribilof Aleuts and these abundant animals are.

Leaving the village we move east to Antoine Lake and wetland. A walk around the marsh fails to produce a snipe but we see Pintail, Teal, Long-tailed Duck and Tundra Swans, both Whistling and Bewick's. Afterwards we drive the short distance to the boulder beach which acts as a breeding site for Least Auklets. We sit patiently and can hear some birds calling from within the cavities between the stones. After a while birds start landing on rocks giving us good looks.

After lunch we drive to another seabird colony at Tolstoi Cliffs. It's a short walk through the colourful flowers to the cliff edge where we can peer down to birds on ledges and a rusting ship wreck on the beach. Within minutes a target bird, a Pacific Wren sings, sounding just like our wren at home! We fail to locate the bird but then we are spoilt for choice to know what to look at with so many birds milling around. Red-faced Cormorants are on ledges with drooped wings to protect chicks and Horned Puffins are taking naps on the ledges. More vocal are the Least and Crested Auklets that are constantly chuckling away. Tufted Puffins fly back and forth and there is plenty to photograph and study as we while away forty five minutes or so.

Next, we choose to check the larger Pumphouse pool that lies behind Cup and Saucer pools. We walk to the bank that overlooks the water and we immediately notice that the Tundra Swans have moved here from their morning haunt. There are lots of shorebirds with numerous Red-necked Phalaropes, Semi-palmated Plover, Rock Sandpiper, two Least Sandpiper and



two Short-billed Dowitchers. Ducks include Long-tailed, Teal and Pintail, and then David finds a star bird - a Yellow Wagtail on the mud fringe. It flies to longer grass and proves elusive at first but we track it down again and can get our telescopes on it. There is much debate as to the race of the bird as it has a blue-grey head with dark ear coverts, a yellow throat fringed with white and no supercilium... answers on a postcard. Darren goes for *thunbergi* from Northern Scandinavia but he might have to phone a friend! It's not the only bird from Asia here as Sue, Dave and Ted hear a Common Cuckoo!

After our evening meal some of us continue birding, taking the road across the island for a second look at Marunnich on the North Coast, this time in more favourable weather. As we arrive we can see much further out over a calm sea. On a far finger of rocks are two King Eiders that move quickly into the water. Behind these are the three Surf Scoters that we saw yesterday, as well as Long-tailed Ducks and Harlequin. Again the beach is alive with Rock Sandpipers and an Arctic Fox runs along the length of it in a hasty retreat as we scan with our telescopes. Out at sea is a steady passage of kittiwakes, auks, auklets and cormorants as well as Harbor Seal and Northern Fur Seal. At a second view point are more Rock Sandpipers and Lynn finds one bird in winter plumage looking a lot like our Purple Sandpiper. It's a nice way to end another bird-filled day on St Paul.

#### Day 17: **Another Foggy Morning**

We are ready at 7.50am for our minibus ride to breakfast and surprise, surprise it's foggy! After breakfast there is the customary look over the harbour to see if we can see the elusive Ancient Murrelet but we only see the birds we've been seeing on previous days: Thick-billed and Common Murres, Crested, Parakeet and Least Auklets, Puffins and Harlequins. We show our guide Cory the St Paul Moose that raises a smile. We plan the morning itinerary and decide to start at Pumphouse Pool to check the shorebirds and ducks – there seems to be a daily change of species and today is no exception. There are lots of Red-necked Phalaropes, Rock Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, Pintail, Teal and Long-tailed Duck. On the far right is a lovely female Red Phalarope so we walk closer getting great looks through telescopes. Cory has found two peeps that warrant closer inspection so we walk to the other side of the pool. These are two Western Sandpipers and they are foraging with more dowitchers and a breeding plumage Dunlin (looking a lot like a Rock Sandpiper!)

From Pumphouse we drive to the southwest point to take one last look at the high cliffs. Lots of birds are flying back and forth and we relax taking our pick at what to look at. A Pelagic Cormorant is perched side-by-side with a Red-faced cormorant and we can see the feet of the Red-legged Kittiwakes that are nesting on ledges. It's still a bit foggy though.

Driving back to the village we notice a huge Bald Eagle sat on a telegraph pole – evidently it's been on the island for a week or so – an unusual record so far

from the mainland. After lunch we are delighted when we see all five fox cubs out frolicking in the open. We watch a while but need to get back to the hotel for some last minute packing. We soon check our backs in and still have an hour free so opt for the short visit to the one inspiring building in St Paul, the Russian Orthodox Church. We are escorted inside by an Aleut caretaker who tells us a little bit about its history. The glittering gold icons and artefacts are so refreshing amidst the unkempt nature of the rest of the village. What's more, there's the eagle on the spire! While we are sampling the cultural spots of St Paul we can't resist a peek at the one store on the island – surprisingly well stocked!

And so to the airport and the wait for the incoming flight that arrives a little later than scheduled – but we are pleased to see it nevertheless. The flight back to Anchorage is direct and the cloud breaks over the southwest mainland with fine views over the sprawling tundra. The last half an hour or so is truly special with views over the Lake Hood National Park with its mighty peaks and glaciers. To the south is the conical peak of Mt Redoubt and in the far north is Denali, before we finally descend over CookInlet and land in Anchorage.

There's a quick turnaround at the hotel and short walk to the Millenium restaurant for a final meal and a look at the fantastic stuffed animal exhibits, shame they've all been shot!

#### **Day 18: The Last Leg**

Breakfast is early then we transfer to Anchorage airport for the flight to Seattle. There we say our goodbyes to David who has shown us so many wonders of Alaska. Our sincere thanks. Next it's the wait for the transatlantic flight to Heathrow which takes off at 7.45pm. The flight heads north and we never loose the sun as we are passing through the Arctic! The view below over the tundra pools and pack ice of Northern Canada is amazing. Finally we arrive n London on day 19. Phew!

Thanks to all for making our first trip to Alaska so memorable, with special thanks to David for making it possible. Also, a big thank you to Sue for keeping the enclosed plant list going!

## SPECIES LIST

### Birds

Common Loon  
Red-throated Loon  
Pacific Loon  
Red-necked Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Red-faced Cormorant  
Pelagic Cormorant  
Trumpeter Swan  
Whistling Tundra Swan  
Bewick's Tundra Swan  
Canada Goose  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Mallard  
Northern Pintail  
Gadwall  
Eurasian Teal  
American Green-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
American Wigeon  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Ring-necked Duck  
Harlequin Duck  
Long-tailed Duck  
King Eider  
Surf Scoter  
Common Goldeneye  
Barrow's Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk  
Osprey  
Golden Eagle  
Bald Eagle  
Peregrine Falcon  
Merlin  
Spruce Grouse  
Rock Ptarmigan  
Willow Ptarmigan  
Sandhill Crane  
American Golden-Plover  
Semi-palmated Plover  
Black Oystercatcher  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Hudsonian Whimbrel  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Wandering Tattler  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Dunlin  
Rock Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Red Phalarope  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Herring Gull  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
Mew Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Red-legged Kittiwake  
Arctic Tern  
Common Murre  
Thick-billed Murre  
Pigeon Guillemot  
Marbled Murrelet  
Kittlitz's Murrelet  
Crested Auklet  
Least Auklet  
Parakeet Auklet  
Rhinoceros Auklet  
Tufted Puffin  
Horned Puffin  
Feral Pigeon  
Northern Hawk Owl  
Boreal Owl (DR!)  
Belted Kingfisher  
Eurasian Cuckoo (h)  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Northern Flicker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Alder Flycatcher  
Tree Swallow  
Violet-green Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Gray Jay  
Northwest Crow  
Common Raven  
Boreal Chickadee  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Pacific Wren (h)  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Varied Thrush  
American Robin  
Yellow Wagtail  
Bohemian Waxwing  
Arctic Warbler

Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow Warbler  
Townsend's Warbler  
Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Northern Waterthrush  
Wilson's Warbler  
Red Fox Sparrow  
Sooty Fox Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow (h)  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Lapland Longspur  
Snow Bunting  
Rusty Blackbird  
European Starling  
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch  
White-winged Crossbill  
Pine Siskin  
Common Redpoll  
Pine Grosbeak

## **Mammals**

Snowshoe Hare  
Collared Pika (Terry)  
Red Squirrel  
Arctic Ground Squirrel  
Beaver  
Porcupine  
Gray Wolf  
Arctic Fox  
Red Fox  
Grizzly Bear  
Black Bear  
Sea Otter  
Moose  
Caribou  
Mountain Goat  
Dall's Sheep  
Northern Fur Seal  
Steller's Sea Lion  
Harbor Seal  
Humpback Whale  
Killer Whale  
Dall's Porpoise

## Plant list (Mainly those in flower)

Bluebells	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>
Iris	<i>Iris setosa</i>
Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>
Prickly Rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>
Alaskan Spirea	<i>Spirea beauverdiana</i>
Arctic Lupine	<i>Lupinus arcticus</i>
Dwarf Dogwood/Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>
Devil's Club	<i>Echinopanax horridus</i>
Bogbean / Buckbean	<i>Meryanthes trifoliata</i>
Cotton grass	<i>Eriophorum sp.</i>
Wild Geranium / Cranesbill	<i>Geranium erianthum</i>
Alaska poppy *	<i>Papaver radicum ssp. alaskanum</i>
Yellow Pond lily	<i>Nuphar polysepalum</i>
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium augustifolia</i>
Northern Yarrow	<i>Achillea borealis</i>
Western Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Round leaved Orchid	<i>Orchis rotundifolia</i>
Yellow Violet	<i>Violet glabella</i>
Frigid / Arctic Shooting Star	<i>Dodecatheon frigidum</i>
Alpine Forget-me-not	<i>Myostis algestris</i>
Moss Heather	<i>Cassiope stellariana</i>
Alpine Azalea	<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>
Lapland Rosebay	<i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i>
Yellow Lousewort / Oeder's lousewort	<i>Pedicularis oederi</i>
Siberian Aster	<i>Aster sibericus</i>
Large leaf Avens	<i>Geum macrophyllum ssp macrophyllum</i>
Parry's Wallflower	<i>Parrya nudicaulis</i>
Roseroot	<i>Sedum roseum</i>
Eskimo Potato	<i>Hedysarum alpinum</i>
Dwarf fireweed/River Beauty	<i>Chamerion latifolium</i>
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis ssp longiflora</i>
Star flowered / False Solomon's Seal	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
Capitate Valerian *	<i>Valeriana capitata</i>
Beautiful Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium pulcherrimum</i>
Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
Goat's Beard	<i>Aruncus sylvester</i>
Yellow Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja ssp</i>
Common Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Nagoonberry *	<i>Rubus arcticus</i>
Moss Champion	<i>Silene acualis</i>
Single Delight/One-flowered wintergreen	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>
Chocolate Lily / Kamachatka Fritillary	<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>
Woolly Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis kanei</i>
Wintergreens (various)	<i>Pyrola sp</i>
Yellow spotted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga bronchialis</i>
Kamchatka rockcress	<i>Arabis lyrata</i>
Narcissus flowered Anemone	<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
Alpine Heuchera	<i>Heuchera glabra</i>
Watermelonberry / Wild Cucumber	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>
Sheep sorrel *	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Parsley Fern	<i>Crytogramma crispa</i>
Arctic Willow *	<i>Salix arctica</i>
Round Leaved Willow *	<i>Salix rotunifolia</i>
'Rain' Orchid	<i>? Platanthera obtusata</i>

## Flowering Plants on St Paul, Pribilof Islands

(see also items marked \* in list above)

Nootka Lupine	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>
Alaska Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia sarmentosa</i>
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Scurvy Grass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis ssp oblongifolia c. groenlandica</i>
Aleutian Violet	<i>Viola langsдорffii</i>
Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus ssp. maritimus</i>
Weasel Snout	<i>Lagotis glauca</i>
Coastal Fleabane	<i>Erigeron peregrinus ssp. peregrinus</i>
Saltmarsh Starwort	<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>
Bering Sea Chickweed	<i>Cerastium beeringianum ssp beeringianum var. grandiflora</i>
Snow Pearlwort	<i>Sagina nivalis</i>
Arctic Sandwort	<i>Minuartia arctica</i>
Few flowered Corydalis	<i>Corydalis pauciflora</i>
Villous Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla villosa</i>
Arctic Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i>
Northern Whitlow Grass	<i>Draba borealis</i>
Bering Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hornemnnii ssp. beeringianum</i>
Wild Celery	<i>Angelica lucida</i>
Thrift	<i>Armeria maitima ssp. sibirica</i>
Tall Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i>
Northern Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium boreale ssp. macranthum</i>
Northern Wormwood	<i>Artemisia tilesii ssp tilesii</i>
Beach Sunflower	<i>Senecio pseudo-arnica</i>
Rock Jasmine	<i>Androsace chamaejasme ssp. lehmanniana</i>
Fern Leaved Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sudetica ssp. pacifica</i>
Whorled Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis verticillata</i>
Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>