

## ALASKA in June

'We began with a pre-tour extension to Saint Paul Island in the famous Pribilof Islands. A visit to Saint Paul is always fun, even if there are no rarities around. We visited the seabird cliffs along Ridge Wall, where we encountered all the nesting alcids such as Horned and Tufted Puffins, Crested, Least, and Parakeet Auklets, and Common and Thick-billed Murres, as well as Red-legged Kittiwake and Red-faced Cormorant. Some of the better rarities that were present during our stay included a beautiful Snowy Owl, an alternate-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon, a high total of more than 30 Ancient Murrelets, and both Common Snipe and a *variegatus* Whimbrel from Asia. Without a doubt, though, the rarest bird was a Rufous-tailed Robin that we were lucky enough to have remain long enough for the group to see - a first for Saint Paul, and only the second or third record for North America!

The main portion of the tour began with a visit to Nome on the Bering Sea. Nome has always been my favourite location on the tour, and it was very productive as usual. Nome has a lot to offer, and we were successful in finding virtually all of the expected specialties. Our trip out the Kougarok Road for Bristle-thighed Curlew could not have been better: we had glorious weather, and our views of Bristle-thighed with a stunning backdrop of snow-covered peaks were magical. Along with the curlew, we saw other incredible birds including several Willow Ptarmigans, Gyrfalcon on a nest, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, both Pacific and American Golden-Plovers, a Northern Goshawk nest, a Northern Shrike, Golden Eagle, and several Grizzly Bears to round out a fantastic day.

Safety Lagoon is always a lot of fun as well. Aleutian Terns were present in excellent numbers this year, and we were successful in finding Arctic Loon. Safety Lagoon also produced Red-throated and Pacific Loons, Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers, Common Eider, Tundra Swan, hundreds of Brant, Sabine's and Slaty-backed Gulls, Black Turnstone, Bar-tailed Godwit, and a Red Knot. Our trek out the Teller Road was also productive, turning up Rock Ptarmigan, American Dipper, Wandering Tattler, and some very close Muskoxen. We just kept on gathering some very fond memories of Nome until the fog rolled in: in 23 years of leading tours to Alaska, I had never experienced fog and canceled flights to the extent that we did this year. Pretty unbelievable!

We finally escaped Nome, and spent much of a day driving to the Talkeetna area for views of Mount McKinley. The mountain was visible, and we managed to see a few fun birds such as Solitary Sandpiper, Alder Flycatcher, and Blackpoll Warbler. Around Anchorage we saw an active American Three-toed Woodpecker nest, along with Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees, Western Wood-Pewee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. We then drove to Seward for a two-night stay. Our main activity in Seward was an all-day boat trip to the Kenai Fjords National Park and Chiswell Islands. The trip was very good, and we saw all of the birds we were seeking, including Horned and Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatcher, and Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets. Along with the fantastic birds, we saw several Humpback Whales and Steller's Sea Lions, and our views of Aialik Glacier were incredible. Perhaps the best part of visiting Seward were the two wonderful dinners: King Crab and fresh Halibut went a long ways towards erasing the memories of fog in Nome!' *by Gary Rosenberg.*

### **Bird List**

Column A = number of tours on which this species has been recorded

Column B = number of days this species was seen on the last tour

Column C = maximum daily count for this species on the last tour

Column D= P= Pribilofs Only, (I) = Introduced

\*No Prib's extension for one of the years. 2008 was the first year for Barrow Extension.

**ALASKA: Bird List...2**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	
4 Greater White-fronted Goose	2	40		<i>Anser albifrons</i>
3 Emperor Goose	1	3		<i>Chen canagica</i>
3 Snow Goose	1	1		<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
9 Brant	6	1000		<i>Branta bernicla nigricans</i>
9 Canada Goose	6	10		<i>Branta canadensis</i>
6 Cackling Goose	1	2		<i>Branta hutchinsii taverni</i>
4 Cackling Goose	1	1	P	<i>Branta hutchinsii leucopareia</i>
2 Cackling Goose	1	1	P	<i>Branta hutchinsii minima</i>
9 Trumpeter Swan	1	2		<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>
9 Tundra Swan	7	100		<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
1 Tundra (Bewick's) Swan				<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
6 Gadwall	2	3		<i>Anas strepera</i>
7 Eurasian Wigeon	1	1		<i>Anas penelope</i>
9 American Wigeon	9	20		<i>Anas americana</i>
9 Mallard	4	20		<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
1 Blue-winged Teal				<i>Anas discors</i>
9 Northern Shoveler	5	4		<i>Anas clypeata</i>
9 Northern Pintail	10	300		<i>Anas acuta</i>
9 Green-winged Teal	6	6		<i>Anas crecca carolinensis</i>
8 Eurasian Green-winged Teal	3	8	P	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>
9 Canvasback	2	5		<i>Aythya valisineria</i>
3 Redhead				<i>Aythya americana</i>
8 Ring-necked Duck	3	3		<i>Aythya collaris</i>
3 Tufted Duck				<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
9 Greater Scaup	12	100		<i>Aythya marila</i>
8 Lesser Scaup				<i>Aythya affinis</i>
4 Steller's Eider	2	12	B	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>
2 Spectacled Eider	1	1	B	<i>Somateria fischeri</i>
8 King Eider	2	12	PB	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>
9 Common Eider	5	200		<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
9 Harlequin Duck	4	200		<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>
8 Surf Scoter	1	20		<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>
9 White-winged Scoter	2	6		<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
9 Black Scoter	4	15		<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
9 Long-tailed Duck	10	30		<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
8 Bufflehead				<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
3 Common Goldeneye	1	2	P	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
9 Barrow's Goldeneye	1	5		<i>Bucephala islandica</i>
1 Smew				<i>Mergellus albellus</i>
8 Common Merganser	1	30		<i>Mergus merganser</i>
9 Red-breasted Merganser	7	50		<i>Mergus serrator</i>
5 Spruce Grouse	2	2		<i>Falcipecten canadensis</i>
9 Willow Ptarmigan	1	7		<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>
8 Rock Ptarmigan	1	3		<i>Lagopus muta</i>
9 Red-throated Loon	7	30		<i>Gavia stellata</i>
6 Arctic Loon	4	3		<i>Gavia arctica</i>
9 Pacific Loon	6	12		<i>Gavia pacifica</i>
9 Common Loon	4	3		<i>Gavia immer</i>
4 Yellow-billed Loon	1	1	P	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>
5 Horned grebe				<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
9 Red-necked Grebe	4	20		<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
8 Northern Fulmar	1	20	P	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>

**ALASKA: Bird List...3**

2	Sooty Shearwater				<i>Puffinus griseus</i>
4	Short-tailed Shearwater				<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
1	Leach's Storm-Petrel				<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>
9	Double-crested Cormorant	2	6		<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
9	Red-faced Cormorant	4	40		<i>Phalacrocorax urile</i>
9	Pelagic Cormorant	2	15		<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>
1	Great Egret	1	1	B	<i>Egretta alba</i>
2	Osprey				<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
9	Bald Eagle	5	25		<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
8	Northern Harrier	2	1		<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
2	Sharp-shinned Hawk				<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
3	Northern Goshawk	1	1		<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
8	Red-tailed Hawk	1	1		<i>Buteo jamaicensis harlani</i>
1	Swainson's Hawk	1	1	B	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
8	Rough-legged Hawk	2	2		<i>Buteo lagopus</i>
9	Golden Eagle	2	3		<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
2	American Kestrel				<i>Falco sparverius</i>
8	Merlin				<i>Falco columbarius</i>
9	Gyrfalcon	1	1		<i>Falco rusticolus</i>
5	Peregrine Falcon	2	3		<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
9	Sandhill Crane	4	20		<i>Grus canadensis</i>
8	Black-bellied Plover	1	1		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
9	American Golden-Plover	2	12		<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>
9	Pacific Golden-Plover	3	1		<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
2	Lesser Sand-Plover				<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
9	Semipalmated Plover	6	3		<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
2	Killdeer	1	1	B	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
9	Black Oystercatcher	1	1		<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>
1	Common Sandpiper				<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
9	Spotted Sandpiper	3	1		<i>Actitis macularius</i>
3	Solitary Sandpiper	1	3		<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
1	Gray-tailed Tattler				<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
8	Wandering Tattler	1	1		<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>
7	Greater Yellowlegs	1	1		<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
9	Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1		<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
3	Wood Sandpiper				<i>Tringa glareola</i>
3	Upland Sandpiper				<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
9	Whimbrel	2	3		<i>Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus</i>
1	Whimbrel (Eurasian)	1	1	P	<i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i>
8	Bristle-thighed Curlew	1	1		<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>
9	Hudsonian Godwit	1	30		<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
9	Bar-tailed Godwit	2	20		<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
9	Ruddy Turnstone	3	3		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
7	Black Turnstone	3	4		<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>
1	Surfbird				<i>Aphriza virgata</i>
4	Red Knot	1	1		<i>Calidris canutus</i>
9	Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	20		<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
9	Western Sandpiper	4	100		<i>Calidris mauri</i>
1	Red-necked Stint				<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
8	Least Sandpiper	1	1	P	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
2	Baird's Sandpiper	1	4	B	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
2	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	30	B	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
8	Rock Sandpiper	3	60	P	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis ptilocnemis</i>
9	Dunlin	4	30		<i>Calidris alpina</i>

**ALASKA: Bird List...4**

1	Ruff				<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
9	Short-billed Dowitcher	1	1		<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
3	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	15	B	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
9	Wilson's Snipe	6	2		<i>Gallinago delicata</i>
3	Common Snipe	1	1		<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
9	Red-necked Phalarope	10	40		<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
5	Red Phalarope	2	50	PB	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>
3	Black-headed Gull				<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
9	Bonaparte's Gull	1	20		<i>Larus philadelphia</i>
9	Mew Gull	11	100		<i>Larus canus</i>
7	Herring Gull	1	25		<i>Larus argentatus smithsonianus</i>
9	'Vega' Herring Gull	6	2		<i>Larus argentatus vegae</i>
8	Slaty-backed Gull	3	1		<i>Larus schistisagus</i>
9	Glaucous-winged Gull	7	100's		<i>Larus glaucescens</i>
9	Glaucous Gull	9	200		<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
6	Sabine's Gull	2	15		<i>Xema sabini</i>
9	Black-legged Kittiwake	8	1000's		<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
8	Red-legged Kittiwake	3	75	P	<i>Rissa brevirostris</i>
9	Aleutian Tern	5	25		<i>Onychoprion aleuticus</i>
1	Caspian Tern				<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
9	Arctic Tern	12	100's		<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
5	Pomarine Jaeger	1	50	B	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>
9	Parasitic Jaeger	6	4		<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
9	Long-tailed Jaeger	6	12		<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
9	Common Murre	4	100's		<i>Uria aalge</i>
9	Thick-billed Murre	4	100's		<i>Uria lomvia</i>
3	Black Guillemot	1	1	B	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>
9	Pigeon Guillemot	4	20		<i>Cepphus columba</i>
9	Marbled Murrelet	1	30		<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>
9	Kittlitz's Murrelet	1	10		<i>Brachyramphus brevirostris</i>
9	Ancient Murrelet	2	34		<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>
9	Parakeet Auklet	3	200		<i>Aethia psittacula</i>
8	Least Auklet	3	200	P	<i>Aethia pusilla</i>
8	Crested Auklet	2	10		<i>Aethia cristatella</i>
9	Rhinoceros Auklet	1	40		<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>
9	Horned Puffin	5	100's		<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>
9	Tufted Puffin	4	1000		<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>
4	Rock Pigeon	1	10		<i>Columba livia</i>
1	Common Cuckoo				<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
3	Great Horned Owl				<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
3	Snowy Owl	2	10	PB	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>
5	Northern Hawk Owl				<i>Surnia ulula</i>
1	Great Gray Owl				<i>Strix nebulosa</i>
7	Short-eared Owl	3	2		<i>Asio flammeus</i>
8	Rufous Hummingbird	1	1		<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>
8	Belted Kingfisher	1	1		<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
4	Downy Woodpecker	2	2		<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
3	Hairy Woodpecker				<i>Picoides villosus</i>
7	American Three-toed Woodpecker	1	1		<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>
2	Black-backed Woodpecker				<i>Picoides arcticus</i>
5	Northern Flicker				<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
5	Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	2		<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
3	Western Wood-Pewee	1	1		<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
9	Alder Flycatcher	4	3		<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>

**ALASKA: Bird List...5**

6	Say's Phoebe	1	1		<i>Sayornis saya</i>
6	Northern Shrike	1	1		<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
1	Cassin's Vireo				<i>Vireo cassinii</i>
8	Gray Jay				<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>
9	Steller's Jay	2	3		<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
9	Black-billed Magpie	4	15		<i>Pica hudsonia</i>
9	Northwestern Crow	2	2		<i>Corvus caurinus</i>
9	Common Raven	9	100		<i>Corvus corax</i>
6	Horned Lark				<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
9	Tree Swallow	7	10		<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
9	Violet-green Swallow	4	20		<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>
9	Bank Swallow	4	6		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
9	Cliff Swallow	1	12		<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
9	Black-capped Chickadee	1	1		<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
9	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	1	3		<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
9	Boreal Chickadee	2	3		<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>
9	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1		<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
3	Brown Creeper				<i>Certhia americana</i>
7	Winter Wren	1	1	P	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
5	American Dipper	2	2		<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>
7	Golden-crowned Kinglet				<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
9	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	1		<i>Regulus calendula</i>
9	Arctic Warbler	1	5		<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
2	Siberian Rubythroat				<i>Luscinia calliope</i>
9	Bluethroat	1	1		<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
1	Rufous-tailed Robin	1	1	P	<i>Luscinia sibilans</i>
9	Northern Wheatear	3	1		<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
9	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	10		<i>Catharus minimus</i>
9	Swainson's Thrush	1	2		<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
9	Hermit Thrush	3	1		<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
2	Eyebrowed Thrush				<i>Turdus obscurus</i>
9	American Robin	7	20		<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
9	Varied Thrush	2	3		<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>
9	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	4	4		<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>
8	American Pipit				<i>Anthus rubescens</i>
7	Bohemian Waxwing				<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>
9	Orange-crowned Warbler	6	4		<i>Vermivora celata</i>
9	Yellow Warbler	5	6		<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
9	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	2		<i>Dendroica coronata</i>
9	Townsend's Warbler	2	4		<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>
9	Blackpoll Warbler	1	1		<i>Dendroica striata</i>
9	Northern Waterthrush	2	2		<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
9	Wilson's Warbler	5	4		<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
9	American Tree Sparrow	2	4		<i>Spizella arborea</i>
9	Savannah Sparrow	9	12		<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
9	Red Fox Sparrow	5	6		<i>Passerella iliaca zaboria</i>
9	Sooty Fox Sparrow	3	2		<i>Passerella iliaca unalaschensis</i>
8	Song Sparrow	1	1		<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
9	Lincoln's Sparrow	3	2		<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
9	White-crowned Sparrow	8	10		<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
9	Golden-crowned Sparrow	5	4		<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>
9	Dark-eyed Junco	4	6		<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
9	Lapland Longspur	10	50		<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
5	Smith's Longspur				<i>Calcarius pictus</i>

## ALASKA: Bird List...6

8	Snow Bunting	3	40	PB	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
2	McKay's Bunting				<i>Plectrophenax hyperboreus</i>
7	Red-winged Blackbird	1	2		<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
7	Rusty Blackbird	1	2		<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>
8	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	3	25	P	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis umbrina</i>
7	Pine Grosbeak	2	2		<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>
1	Common Rosefinch				<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
3	Red Crossbill				<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
5	White-winged Crossbill	1	8		<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>
9	Common Redpoll	2	4		<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
9	Hoary Redpoll	6	12		<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>
9	Pine Siskin	2	10		<i>Carduelis pinus</i>

## Mammal List

8	Snowshoe Hare	1			<i>Lepus americanus</i>
5	Alaskan Hare	1			<i>Lepus arcticus</i>
1	Tundra (Arctic) Hare				<i>Lepus othus</i>
9	Arctic Ground-Squirrel	1			<i>Spermophilus parryii</i>
9	Red Squirrel	1			<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
4	Hoary Marmot				<i>Marmota caligata</i>
4	American Beaver				<i>Castor canadensis</i>
4	Common Muskrat				<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>
5	North American Porcupine				<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
8	Arctic Fox (Pribilofs)	1		P	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>
9	Red Fox	1			<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
2	Gray Wolf				<i>Canis lupis</i>
9	Sea Otter	1			<i>Enhydra lutris</i>
3	American Mink				<i>Mustela vison</i>
1	Short-tailed Weasel				<i>Mustela erminea</i>
1	Least Weasel				<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
8	Northern Fur Seal (Pribilofs)	1		P	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>
9	Steller's Sea Lion	1			<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>
9	Harbor Seal	1			<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
2	Spotted Seal				<i>Phoca largha</i>
2	Black Bear				<i>Ursus americanus</i>
9	Grizzly Bear	1			<i>Ursus arctos</i>
9	Muskox	1			<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>
9	Moose	1			<i>Alces alces</i>
8	Caribou				<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
6	Reindeer	1			<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>
9	Dall Sheep	1			<i>Ovis dalli</i>
7	Mountain Goat	1			<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>
9	Humpback Whale	1			<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
2	Minke Whale				<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>
1	Beluga				<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>
4	Orca (Killer Whale)				<i>Orcinus orca</i>
6	Dall Porpoise	1			<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>
3	Harbor Porpoise				<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>