

Wildlife Iceland

Birding tours

Iceland Trip Report

22th May to 5th June 2018 (15 days)



Trip report compiled by tour guide Gaukur Hjartarson

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Tour Summary

May 22: The tour guide picked up all eight participants at Keflavík International Airport at 6:30 am. Even though the weather was very unfavourable, we scanned the Reykjanes peninsula before we headed to our first hotel at Borgarfjörður (W). At the first stop, at Keflavík, we picked up two local rarities, namely a drake **Ring-necked Duck** and a **Canada Goose**, as well as some of the birds we would see repeatedly the next few days, including **Iceland Gulls** and **Brent Geese**. We tried for **Manx Shearwater** at the pier of Garður, but without success. We then tried for the Shearwaters at the lighthouse of Garðskagi and there some of the group managed to see a few distant Shearwaters. Driving south from Garðskagi through town of Sandgerði we added several species to our list, including four **Rock Ptarmigans** and good numbers of **Brent Geese**.

We then continued birding along the road to our first accommodation at Borgarnes. After finishing dinner at our hotel we made an evening tour to search for **Eurasian Woodcocks**. On the way to the site we saw a distant adult **White-tailed Eagle** and many **Common Shelducks**. We then managed to find three Woodcocks at the expected site despite somewhat cold weather. On the first day we saw a total of 45 species of birds.

May 23: On the second day we started at our hotel near Borgarnes and drove to the Snæfellsnes peninsula. Again it was so windy that the waterfalls at Snæfellsnes went upwards instead of going the usual way down. Despite the heavy wind we managed to add some new species to our trip list. Scarcest of those was a flock of eight **Canada Geese** and single male **Northern Shoveler**. We visited a small birdcliff on the way where we managed to find several **Razorbills** and **Common Guillemots**. The second night was spent at the town of Stykkishólmur. This second day of the trip yielded 48 species of birds.

May 24: In the morning of the third day we started by driving around in the neighborhood of Stykkishólmur in the hope of finding **White-tailed Eagles**. And what a success. We managed to find two adults and one younger bird. A quick stop in a small tree plantation near Stykkishólmur we managed to find four **Goldcrests**. In the afternoon we took the ferry from Stykkishólmur to Brjánslækur and then drove to the village of Patreksfjörður. From the ferry we saw several dozen distant **Atlantic Puffins**, some **European Shags** and several other seabirds. This third day of the trip yielded 44 species of birds.

May 25: We started the day by driving from hotel at Patreksfjörður to Látrabjarg. Despite rather bad weather at the cliffs, even by Icelandic standards, it cleared up enough at Látrabjarg to get good views of all the expected auk species, including the **Brünnich's Guillemots**. Unfortunately the Puffins were not as many and as close as expected, but the reason became obvious when we saw an **Arctic Fox** scanning the cliff edges for Puffins. From Látrabjarg we took the long drive to Hrítafjörður. Not much birding on the way, but we managed to see our fifth **White-tailed Eagle** of the trip, feeding on a Whooper Swan carcass. A stunning drake **Ring-necked Duck** near Hólmavík was the surprise of the day. All in all we managed to find 56 species in the day.



Photo 1. Puffins, Látrabjarg May 25, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

May 26: The fifth day included a drive from our hotel in Hrótafjörður to our hotel at Rauðaskriða in Aðaldalur. Several stops on the way added the first **Pink-footed Geese**, **Gadwalls**, **Common Scoters**, **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, **Great Northern Loon**, two **Merlins**, and a **Eurasian Wren**. After quite an effort we managed to find 10 **Fieldfares** at Akureyri. All in all 51 species during the day and the total trip list was up to 69 species of birds.



Photo 2. Merlin, Goðafoss May 26, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

May 27: The sixth day was relaxing in terms of driving, but rewarding in terms of birds. Birding was in Aðaldalur followed by roundtrip at lake Mývatn. The highlights of the day include first sighting of a **Gyr Falcon** and a nice drake **American Wigeon** at lake Mývatn. **Northern Pintails** were added to the trip list and no fewer than six **Northern Shovelers** were seen. All in all 42 species during the day and the total trip list was up to 75 species of birds.

May 28: The seventh day started with birdwatching in the vicinity of Húsavík and then we drove again to lake Mývatn. At Húsavík we saw a **Northern Lapwing** chick from a scarce breeding attempt. At the harbour we managed to compare all species of Icelandic gulls, including **Iceland Gulls**. In the park at Húsavík we added **European Blackbirds** to our trip list. At Mývatn we saw again the drake **American**

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Wigeon. On our way from lake Mývatn towards our hotel we managed to see the first two **Short-eared Owls** of the trip. All in all 56 species during the day and the total trip list was up to 78 species of birds.

May 29: From Rauðaskriða hotel we drove toward the small town of Raufarhöfn via Melrakkaslétta. This drive includes many of the best birding areas Iceland has to offer. We started well with a stop by the **Northern Lapwing** breeding site at Húsavík where we now saw a splendid adult. At a stop at the northernmost tip of Tjörnes we managed to see some few **Great Skuas**. In Kelduhverfi we visited an Arctic Tern colony where a single **Black Tern** has joined the Arctic Terns for three consecutive summers. A drake **Common Pochard** was added to the trip list at northern part of Melrakkaslétta. Highlights of the day were three **Red Phalaropes** near Raufarhöfn. A total of 61 species were seen this day and the triplist was up to 82.



Photo 3. All but one participants at the northernmost sign on mainland Iceland, May 29, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

May 30: From Raufarhöfn, we started by visiting the **Red Phalarope** site from the day before and now saw two birds. We then headed to the mighty bird-cliffs of Langanes. At Langanes we got excellent views of all the auks again as well as the only land-based **Northern Gannet** colony in Iceland. From Langanes, we drove back to our hotel at Rauðaskriða. A total of 50 species were seen this day, but included no new species for the trip.



Photo 4. Participants at Langanes, May 30, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

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May 31: This day we birded our way to Húsavík and then in the afternoon we went for a superb boat trip from Húsavík to Flatey island. The boat trip included excellent whale watching with good views of at least five **Humpback Whales** and ten **White-beaked Dolphins**. Flatey is a beautiful destination for birders as the island is simply teeming with birdlife. We had nice encounters with the local population of **Puffins** and huge colony of **Arctic Terns**. At the harbour we were greeted by a splendid female **Red Phalarope** as well as many **Red-necked Phalaropes**. A total of 47 species were seen this day, but included no new species for the trip.



Photo 5. Humpback Whale, Skjálfandi bay May 31, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

June 1: The sixth day included a drive from Rauðaskriða to Egilsstaðir in the east. Not much birding on the way, but good stops for photographing **Long-tailed Ducks** and **Pink-footed Geese**. At the end of the day, we visited the largest forest of Iceland at Hallormsstaður near Egilsstaðir. There we were lucky enough to add three species to our trip list, namely 2 singing **Chiffchaffs**, a stunning male **Brambling** and finally a small group of **European Siskins**. The day only yielded 32 species and our triplist was up to 85.



Photo 6. Frank resting when crossing the highlands, June 1, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

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June 2: From Egilsstaðir we drove to the south-east. We stopped at several places on our way but did not add anything particular on our list until we stopped at the town of Höfn where Björn, Iceland's top birdwatcher, showed us the first **Reindeer** of our trip, a handsome male that had been seen at Höfn for quite some time. A search at a farm west Höfn of yielded the first wild **Rock Pigeon** of the trip. On a small lake little further west we saw the third drake **Ring-necked Duck** of the trip as well as a very brief sighting of a drake North American **Green-winged Teal**. Finally, at our hotel at Hali in Suðursveit we saw many **Barnacle Geese** that nest in the area. The day yielded 41 species of birds.

June 3: We started the morning at Hali photographing **Barnacle Geese** and then drove towards the magnificent Glacial Lagoon. At the Glacial Lagoon the breeding Barnacle Geese are easy to approach and the Arctic Terns are both close and aggressive. Much to our disappointment there were no close Great Skuas in this area, but the population of Great Skuas in the south-east is down to only 20% of former population. From the Glacial Lagoon we drove the long road along the scenic south coast to our hotel at Hella. In all we only saw 32 species this day.



Photo 8. Barnacle Geese and Arctic Terns at Glacial Lagoon, June 3. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

June 4: From our hotel at Hella we started the day by visiting friendly birdwatchers, Örn and Kristín, at Selfoss. They showed us the birds that come to their garden for feeding, including a female **Common Rosefinch** and few **Common Crossbills**. From Selfoss we drove to the Geysir area where we saw the geyser Strokkur erupt several times, then we went to the famous waterfall Gullfoss and finally we visited the site of the ancient parliament at Þingvellir. Return to the hotel at Hella. The day's list ended being 27 species.



Photo 9. Gullfoss, June 4, 2018: Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

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June 5: The final day included a drive from the hotel at Hella to the international airport at Keflavík. We managed to get some nice birdwatching at Reykjanes peninsula on our way. After a thorough search with the help of Eyjólfur, a local birdwatcher, we finally found a female **King Eider** at Grindavík. We ended the birdwatching with a search for birds at Garðskagi where we had somewhat more luck with the **Manx Shearwaters** than on the first day.

In fifteen days the group managed to find 90 species of birds and five species of mammals.

Good luck with birds, fascinating scenery, good roads, comfortable accommodation, excellent food and an excellent group of participants made this Icelandic trip a very successful one. The group experienced in general nice weather by Icelandic standards even though the first two days were actually quite nasty.

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Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List. Approximate site of observation frequently given as SW for south-western part of the country, W for the western part, NE for the northeastern part etc.

Total species recorded: 90

DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS - Anatidae

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Greylag Geese are very common in Iceland and were seen every day in good numbers.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Pink-footed Geese were seen in small numbers most days in the north from May 26 through June 2.

Brant Goose *Branta bernicla*

Brent Geese were seen widely in the west from May 27 through May 29 in good numbers.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A single vagrant Canada Goose was seen at Keflavík (SW) on the first day. A flock of 8 Canada Geese was seen at Snæfellsnes (W) on May 23 did not impress the Canadian birdwatchers in the group too much but the Icelandic guide was thrilled to discover the second largest flock of Canada Geese ever reported in Iceland. Finally a flock of 7 Canada Geese was seen at Garðskagi on the last day.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Good numbers of Barnacle Geese were seen at Hali (SE) on June 2 and June 3 and at the Glacial Lagoon (SE) on June 3. Barnacle Geese started nesting in the south-east recently and are becoming numerous in that region.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Whooper Swans are very common and easy to see and they were seen in good numbers every day of the trip.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Common Shelducks were seen in good numbers (approx. 150), but in bad light at Borgarfjörður (W) on May 22. A few more individuals were seen on four different days.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Gadwalls were seen in some numbers every day in the north-east, mostly at lake Mývatn and at Aðaldalur (NE).

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Eurasian Wigeons were seen in good numbers most days of the trip and they are very common in the NE.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

A splendid drake American Wigeon was seen at lake Mývatn (NE) on May 27 and May 28.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Mallard are widespread in Iceland and were seen every day in small numbers.

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Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A drake Northern Shoveler was seen at Snæfellsnes (W) on May 23 and six birds at lake Mývatn (NE) on May 27.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

A few Northern Pintails were seen in the northeast and 2 in the southeast on June 2, an estimated total of 20 birds.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Some few Eurasian Teals were seen most days, in total a few dozen birds.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

One North American Green-winged Teal was briefly seen at a small lake west of Höfn (SE) on June 3.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

A vagrant drake Common Pochard was at Melrakkaslétta (NE) on May 29.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Tufted Duck is the common *Aythya* of Iceland. They were seen every day and often in good numbers.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Three adult drakes Ring-necked Ducks were seen in the trip. First was a drake in Njarðvík (SW) at the very beginning of the trip on May 22, the second bird was near Hólmavík (NW) on May 25 and finally a fine drake was seen west of Höfn (SE) on June 2. Ring-necked Ducks are scarce vagrants in Iceland.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Greater Scaups are much less common than Tufted Ducks. We managed to see them on eight out of fifteen days, mostly in small numbers, even though many were seen in the Mývatn (NE) area.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Common Eiders are very common at the coastline and on breeding grounds close to sea. They were seen in good numbers every day, except when we didn't visit the coast.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

King Eiders are scarce visitors to Iceland, most common in winter and spring but some do spend the summer here. A female was at Grindavík on June 5.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

Harlequin Ducks were seen on nine of the fifteen days, mostly in small numbers. Particularly close views were had at Laxá river near Mývatn.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common Scoters were seen in small numbers on three consecutive days in the north east which is their only breeding area in Iceland.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Long-tailed Ducks were only seen in the northeast and at Egilsstaðir from May 25 through June 2.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*

Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen every day in the northeast, mostly at lake Mývatn and at Aðaldalur. Close views in some cases.

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Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

Common Mergansers were seen on five different occasions, in total 11 birds, mostly in the NW and NE from May 23 through May 26.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Red-breasted Mergansers were seen almost every day of the trip, although in small numbers.

PHEASANTS & ALLIES - Phasianidae

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*

Ptarmigans were seen on ten out of fifteen days, mostly in the northeast. In total a few dozen birds.

LOONS - Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

Some few Red-throated Loons were seen most days.

Great Northern Loon/Common Loon *Gavia immer*

Great Northern Loons were seen most days in the northeast. One was seen at Reykjanes on the last day.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Slavonian Grebe/Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

12 Slavonian Grebes were seen on Snæfellsnes on May 23. All other Slavonian Grebes were seen in the northeast where they are abundant breeding birds.

PETRELS & SHEARWATERS - Procellariidae

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Being one of the most numerous birds in Iceland, it was easy to find in good numbers almost everywhere along the shoreline.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

About six distant Manx Shearwater were seen from the lighthouse at Garðskagi on the first day in a horrible weather. Not all participants made it to see them then, but better views were from the pier of Garður town on the very last day when approximately 10 birds were seen.

GANNETS & BOOBIES - Sulidae

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

A few were at Reykjanes and Snæfellsnes on the first two days and a few more in the north. A small, but nice, colony was visited at Langanes (NE) on May 30 where some 100 birds were seen very nicely.



Photo 10. Northern Gannets, Langanes, May 30, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

CORMORANTS & SHAGS - Phalacrocoracidae

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

European Shag is strictly confined to the west coast of Iceland. Three birds were seen on the first day at Reykjanes peninsula and then decent numbers in Breiðafjörður area on May 23-May 25.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Many were seen in the first few days along the west coast. They are obviously scarcer in the north, but some were seen most days when driving along the coast.

KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES - Accipitridae

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

In total five White-tailed Eagles were seen. The first was an adult near Borgarnes (SW) on May 22, then two adults and an immature bird near Stykkishólmur on May 24 and finally an immature bird at Barðaströnd on May 25.

OYSTERCATCHERS - Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Oystercatchers are common along the coastline and were seen on most days in good numbers.

PLOVERS - Charadriidae

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

European Golden Plovers are very common breeders in Iceland and were seen in some numbers every day of trip.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A pair of Northern Lapwings successfully bred at Húsavík this summer and birds were seen at a nesting site on May 28 and May 29. There are only about 10 breeding records for this species in Iceland.



Photo 11. Female Northern Lapwing, Húsavík May 29, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Common Ringed Plovers are common breeding birds in Iceland and some were seen every day of the trip.

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SANDPIPERS & SNIPES - Scolopacidae

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopac rusticola*

Roding males Eurasian Woodcocks were seen three times during half an hour of waiting at a known breeding site in the west at around 11 PM on the first day of the trip.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common Snipes are very common in most of Iceland and were seen most days.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Black-tailed Godwits are rather common breeders in Iceland and some birds were seen every day.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Whimbrels are common breeders in Iceland and some birds were seen every day.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Common Redshanks are common breeders in Iceland and some birds were seen every day.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ruddy Turnstones do not breed in Iceland but are common on migration towards more northerly breeding grounds in May and early June. Turnstones were seen most days along the coastline in the west and the north and sometimes in good numbers.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Red Knots do not breed in Iceland but are common on migration towards more northerly breeding grounds in May and early June. Knots were seen most days along the coastline in the west and the north and sometimes in good numbers.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Sanderlings do not breed in Iceland but are common on migration towards more northerly breeding grounds in late May and early June. Sanderlings were seen most days along the coastline in the west and the north and sometimes in good numbers.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Purple Sandpipers were seen eight days of the trip, but always in small numbers.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Dunlins are common breeding birds in Iceland and many birds also visit on migration towards more northerly breeding grounds in May and early June. Dunlins were seen most days along the coastline and sometimes in good numbers.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Red-necked Phalaropes are common breeding birds in Iceland some were seen most days of the trip with good numbers at lake Mývatn (NE).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

The group saw three beautifully plumaged Red Phalaropes at a decent range on Melrakkaslétta on May 29-30 and then one excellent female near Húsavík (NE) on May 31.

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GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Black-legged Kittiwakes are very numerous breeders in Iceland and some birds were seen most days of the trip.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Black-headed Gulls are common breeders in Iceland and some birds were seen all days of the trip.

Mew Gull *Larus canus*

Mew Gulls are rather uncommon breeders in Iceland. They were only seen in the north and the southeast and always in small numbers.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Even though Great Black-backed Gulls are declining in numbers in Iceland, they are still common and easy to find. They were seen on every day of the trip.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Glaucous Gulls are rather common breeding birds in the west and were seen in good numbers at Snæfellsnes. They were also seen in small numbers elsewhere on most days.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Iceland Gulls are mostly winter visitors in Iceland, but immature birds linger well into June in some numbers. Some few Iceland Gulls were seen most days in the west and north, sometimes giving good comparison with its larger lookalike, Glaucous Gull.

European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

European Herring Gulls are the common large gulls in northern and eastern Iceland. Herring Gulls were seen on most days of the trip.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Lesser Black-backed Gulls are common breeders in Iceland, particularly in the SW. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen most days of the trip.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisea*

Arctic Terns are one of these common breeding birds of Iceland that are hard to miss. They were seen in good numbers every day of the trip.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A (European) Black Tern has been staying in a small Arctic Tern colony in Kelduhverfi (NE) the last few summers. This bird was seen briefly on May 29.

SKUAS - Stercorariidae

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Five Great Skuas were seen in the northeast on May 29 and five were also seen in breeding area in the southeast on June 3. Numbers of Great Skuas have been rapidly declining in Iceland.



Photo 12. Great Skua, Tjörnes, May 29, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Parasitic Jaegers were seen most days of the trip, but always in small numbers. Both all dark birds and pale birds were seen.

AUKS - Alcidae

Brünnich's Guillemot/Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*

Three Thick-billed Murres were seen at Látrabjarg (NW) on May 25 and then a few dozen on Langanes (NE) on May 30.

Common Guillemot/Common Murre *Uria aalge*

Common Murres were seen on six days out of the fifteen. First in a small colony at Snæfellsnes on May 23, then from the ferry in Breiðafjörður on May 24 and of course in good numbers at Látrabjarg on May 25. Good numbers and views are offered at Langanes (NE) on May 30 and then a few were seen from the whalewatching boat at Skjálfandi on May 31.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Razorbills were seen on six days out of the fifteen, mostly at same locations as the Common Murres.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Black Guillemots were seen on eight out of fifteen days, always in small numbers.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Atlantic Puffins were seen seven out of fifteen days. Most days only in small numbers, except at breeding grounds in Flatey in Skjálfandi on May 31 where they are numerous.

PIGEONS, DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

One wild Rock Pigeon was seen at a farm in SE in June 2 and then three at hotel in Hali on morning June 3. Wild populations of Rock Pigeons seems to be increasing in numbers in the south and the east and hence it came as a surprise how few were seen in this trip.

OWLS - Strigidae

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Short-eared Owls were seen five times, all in the northeast between May 28 and May 31

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CARACARAS, FALCONS - Falconidae

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A pair of Merlins seen a nesting site near Goðafoss (NE) on May 26 were the only Merlins seen in the trip.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*

We only had three encounters with Gyrfalcons, all in the NE.

CROWS, JAYS - Corvidae

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Ravens were seen everyday of the trip in small numbers.

WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Chiffchaffs are rather common vagrants in Iceland. Two singing birds were seen at Hallormsstaðaskógur (E) on June 1 and one was seen at Höfn on June 3.

GOLDCRESTS, KINGLETS - Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Goldcrests were seen on five different days, in Stykkishólmur (W) on May 24, repeatedly in the north and then three in Hallormsstaðaskógur (E) on June 1. Goldcrests were probably in record numbers in Iceland this summer.

WRENS - Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Wrens were noted on five days with different quality of observations.

STARLINGS, RHABDORNIS - Sturnidae

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common Starlings were seen all days in the W with some observations also in the north.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Even though Common Blackbirds are becoming quite common in towns in Iceland, especially in the SW, they were only seen three times. First at Húsavík (NE) on May 28, then at Hallormsstaður (E) on June 1 finally at Selfoss (S) on June 4.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Redwing is the common thrush of Iceland and they were seen every day of the trip.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Fieldfares are only known to breed regularly at one site in Iceland, i.e. at Akureyri (N). A visit to that site on May 26 yielded about 10 birds, including both adults and juveniles.

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CHATS, OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Northern Wheatears were seen most days, but only in small numbers.

WAGTAILS, PIPITS - Motacillidae

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

White Wagtails are widespread and common birds in Iceland. They were seen every day of the trip except the last day.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Meadow Pipit is the only pipit known to breed regularly in Iceland and it is very common. Meadow Pipits were seen every day of the trip.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS - Fringillidae

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Common Redpolls were seen most days, but most often rather poorly. Best observation was of a nice flock at feeders in Húsavík on May 28.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Eurasian Siskins are rather common vagrants in Iceland with several breeding records. A “family” of at least three Eurasian Siskins was seen at Hallormsstaðaskógur on June 1, indicating a successful breeding record. One Siskin was seen at Kirkjubæjarsklaustur (S) on June 3.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A singing male Brambling was seen at Hallormsstaðaskógur (E) on June 1. Bramblings are common vagrant in Iceland with several breeding records.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Common Rosefinch is a scarce vagrant in Iceland, mostly seen in autumn. A female was seen at a birdfeeder in a garden in Selfoss (S) on June 4.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Red Crossbills were seen at Selfoss (S) on June 4. Red Crossbills are scarce breeding birds in Iceland.

LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS - Calcariidae

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Snow Buntings were seen in seven different days, always in small numbers

Annotated List of Mammals Recorded

WOLVES, COYOTE, FOXES, JACKALS - Canidae

Arctic Fox *Alopex lagopus*

One was seen very well at Látrabjarg (NW) on May 25 and another one on the drive away from the cliffs.



Photo 13. Arctic Fox, Látrabjarg, May 24, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

DEERS - Cervidae

Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*

Reindeers were only seen in the southeast on June 2 and June 3. In total about 16 animals.



Photo 14. Reindeers, Glacial Lagoon, June 3, 2018. Photo: Gaukur Hjartarson.

SEALS - Phocidae

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

A Grey Seal was seen at Flatey island (NE) on May 31.

Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Harbour Seals were only seen at the Glacial Lagoon (SE) on June 3.

RORQUALS - Balaenopteridae

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

At least five different animals were seen from the whale watching boat at Skjálfandi bay (NE). Some observations were of very close animals.

White-beaked Dolphins *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*

At least 10 were seen in one group from the whale-watching boat at Skjálfandi bay (NE).