Kamchatka & Chukotka - Russia's **Ring of Fire**

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 June - 7 July 2014



Walrus

Report & images compiled by Tim Melling



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Day 1

Monday 23rd June

For such a large group, everything ran smoothly. We all met up prior to the flight and the Aeroflot flight to Moscow ran to time. Passport control at Moscow took quite a long time but we eventually got through and gathered in reception. Dave Mallon spoke fluent Russian and contacted the hotel who then sent a coach for us. We were all checked in at the hotel by 22:30 and ready for bed, even though in Britain it was only 19:30.

Day 2

Tuesday 24th June

Everybody seemed to sleep well, despite the time difference of 3 hours. A number went out early and found some good birds close to the hotel; Blyth's Reed Warblers, Red-backed Shrikes and Neil even saw a Black Woodpecker. At 9am our coach arrived and we drove the short distance to a local area of habitat. We were amazed by the number of Whinchats, and Blyth's Reed Warblers too, though more elusive. Whitethroats were also common but much more sought after was a singing River Warbler. Thrush Nightingales were also around, though a little elusive. Quite surprising were two Corncrakes calling, though we didn't see them. Other birds of interest were Golden Oriole and Scarlet Rosefinch, and we heard Barred Warbler but it refused to show. We then walked to an area of pools and scrub where we had amazing views of Bluethroats and Citrine Wagtails plus Booted Warblers. John also found some moose footprints, which amazed everyone, with no dissenters, in such a busy human environment. We returned to the hotel, which had let us store our bags until 1pm, then we made our way to the airport for the long flight to Petropavlovsk. Everything ran more smoothly than a normal airport and we were all checked-in and through security in no time.

Day 3

Wednesday 25th June

Everything ran to schedule and we arrived about 9:30am at Petropavlosk where Anna and Chris were waiting for us with three small coaches. Chris knew of a good birding spot called the Blue Lagoon about forty minutes away. Within seconds of arriving we started to see good birds; Black-backed Wagtail, Eye-browed Thrush and Oriental Greenfinch. A warbler was singing and Chris told us this was Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, recently split from Arctic Warbler. We managed to get reasonable views of several birds. We walked around the lagoon and saw Scarlet Rosefinches, Rustic Buntings and Cuckoos. We also heard an Oriental Cuckoo but didn't see one with certainty (i.e. one that we saw calling). We found a couple of pairs of Olive-backed Pipit plus a reasonably obliging Taiga Flycatcher. There were quite a few Swallowtail butterflies and literally hundreds of Argent and Sable moths, which are rare and declining in Britain. The botanists were happy too with Arctic Bramble, May Lily, Chickweed Wintergreen and a lucky few saw Spotted Lady's Slipper Orchids. We arrived back at the coaches for lunch when a call went up for a Three-toed Woodpecker, which was amazingly obliging. Then Steven spotted a male Siberian Rubythroat which showed well to the keen birders who braved the rain. Eyebrowed Thrushes also showed well during our lunch break. That was some lunch break! En route to the ship we saw a Rough-legged Buzzard plus a few Slaty-backed Gulls. We arrived at the Spirit of Enderby at 16:30 and sailed at 18:00 following a safety lecture and introduction to the crew.

Soon after we set off we started to see interesting birds; Glaucous-winged Gulls, Pelagic Cormorant, Guillemots plus a few Red-faced Cormorants. As we progressed further towards the mouth of the harbour we saw many Tufted Puffins and Pigeon Guillemots. In the distance we saw a perched Steller's Sea-Eagle, and a probable Larga Seal was spotted, but too distant to clinch. Merv also saw a Steller's Sea-lion. Then someone spotted a couple of Spectacled Guillemots, which is right at the northern limit of its restricted world range, and the only chance we had of seeing it. We also saw all-black Kuril Guillemots that are a potential taxonomic split from Pigeon Guillemot. Among the many Guillemots we managed to spot a few Brunnich's, and then as we exited the harbour, Ancient Murrelets appeared in plenty. We didn't know where to look at times with Horned Puffins, Short-tailed Shearwaters and Fulmars zooming around. With our two difficult target species safely on most people's lists (Spectacled Guillemot and Ancient Murrelet), they decided it was time for dinner and then a belated lifeboat drill.

Day 4

Thursday 26th June

We cruised north through the night to the mouth of the Zhupanova River. Early morning a few people managed to see 20 Orcas, including three adult males, though distant. A distant sea-otter was also seen. We managed to add a few new birds to the list too, all pre-breakfast; Crested Auklets, Long-billed Murrelets, Black and White-winged Scoters. Tufted Puffins seemed to be the commonest species though, with a few Horned Puffins for good measure. We also managed to spot a few Long-billed Murrelets from the deck and a few even saw a Bear!

After breakfast we had our Zodiac briefing, and then we were ready for our trip up the Zhupanova River in five Zodiacs. As we entered the estuary we started to see Larhga Seals with pale bodies and fine spotting over the body. A large array of common ducks was seen plus a few Far-eastern Curlews that had a bubbling call remarkably similar to our British Curlew.

We could see a few Terns which were mainly the longipennis race of Common Tern but we spotted an Aleutian Tern among them, distinguished by the dark trailing edge to the underwing. After a short time we noticed several more Aleutian Terns, which gave a remarkably un-tern-like call, sounding more like passerines than terns. We also saw Long-tailed and Arctic Skuas chasing the terns.

We then took the zodiacs some way upriver where a magnificent Steller's Sea Eagle was stood guard by its nest. After a lot of hassle from a Raven it took flight so we headed back to the Salmon Camp where we were given fresh salmon and salmon caviar served on freshly baked bread. Then Chris took the birders to a nearby marsh where we managed to see a Long-toed Stint, several snipe, Siberian Rubythroats, Rosefinches plus a Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler.

At 12:30 we set sail for the long journey to the Commander Islands. During the trip a number of Dall's Porpoises were seen plus three Minke Whales. While Chris was giving his bird lecture a pod of seven Baird's Beaked Whales were seen and photographed. A single Northern Fur Seal added to the mammal list. Birds of interest included two Laysan Albatrosses, one Grey Phalarope, a couple of Least Auklets and hundreds of Fork-tailed Storm Petrels.

Day 5

Friday 27th June

We rose early as we were told we'd be passing the edge of the deep sea trench at 5:30 and that is where whales usually occurred. We were not disappointed with about 10 Humpbacks, including a fluke right on the bow, plus Dall's Porpoises and a glimpse of a Sperm Whale. We also saw five Laysan Albatrosses and several Leach's Petrels, among the usual seabirds.

After breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs to visit Beringa Island where we had to undergo a rigorous passport check by the over-zealous border guard, but we were soon looking out for birds. We were led to believe that Rock Sandpipers would be difficult and elusive but they were numerous and confiding. We saw at least seventy individuals plus about ten Mongolian Plovers. We even found a nest of a Mongolian Plover right next to a footpath. Other birds included Snow and Lapland Buntings, Tree Sparrows, Dunlins and the ubiquitous Glaucous-winged Gulls. We went to a marshy area where we spotted a single Temminck's Stint, and we managed to see Pechora Pipit display flighting, although the experience was lessened a bit by the wind and rain. Along the shore we spotted Pelagic Cormorants, Mergansers, Harlequins, Sea Otters and a Harbour Seal, adding another species to the mammal list. The flowers were quite interesting too with a beautiful show of Narcissus-flowered Anemones. We also visited the Bering Museum where we saw one of just a handful of skeletons of the long extinct Steller's Sea Cow, although these weren't constructed, they were lined-out neatly. Wet and bedraggled, we returned to the ship for lunch.

The wind was strong and it was foggy so Rodney said he wouldn't be able to land us at the Northern Fur Seal colony so he opted to cruise along the shelf edge all afternoon. Neil managed to photograph a breaching Humpback although most people saw a breaching humpback later on. The air was swarming with Fulmars with lots of Laysan Albatrosses too. We spotted a dense group of birds feeding on something and there were three Albatrosses with them; two Laysan, plus a juvenile Short-tailed Albatross. This is one of the rarest Albatrosses with only about 2000 individuals left, which only breed on the island of Toroshima off Japan.

Cat Rayner called out some whale blows and when we got closer we could see they were from a pod of Baird's Beaked Whales logging at the surface. Mervyn spotted another pod, more distant, but the real stars were numerous Dall's Porpoises which dashing through the surface water alongside the boat. The seabirds became better later in the afternoon with a number of Mottled Petrels, Fork-tailed Petrels, Crested Auklets plus a few Whiskered Auklets.

Day 6

Saturday 28th June

Early morning we were on deck watching seabirds and Humpbacks, but nothing else unusual. After breakfast we took the Zodiacs to Medney Island where immediately people started to see Arctic Foxes. Pechora Pipits seemed to be everywhere and after some searching we eventually found Grey-crowned Rosy Finches and Pacific Wrens. We also wandered up to the cliff tops to see Horned Puffins while the botanists wandered high up the mountain. The botany was pretty stunning at low levels too with Orchids, Anemones and the native Rhododendron.

We then took the Zodiacs along the coast for the most amazing two hours yet of the trip. Immediately we saw three Minke Whales surfacing in the bay, and among the Puffins and Guillemots we saw Parakeet Auklets and one Whiskered Auklet. A couple of Zodiacs managed to see Fur Seals and even an Orca. We then found a small cove that had lots of Sea Otters with cubs. They allowed really close approach and we even saw them hauled out on rocks, which is highly unusual for this species. We managed to get close photographable views of all the seabirds; Tufted and Horned Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, Parakeet Auklets, Red-faced Cormorants, Kittiwake and even one Red-legged Kittiwake. By this time the sea was mirror calm with huge rafts of seabirds, plus numerous feeding Humpback Whales. We even saw several whale breaches.

After dinner we hurried back on deck and spotted huge rafts of Whiskered Auklets. They must have numbered in their thousands, although they were really skittish and flew off long before the boat reached them. We did spot the odd bird much closer though. We then started to see Albatrosses, lots of Albatrosses, mostly sitting on the sea in the calm sunny weather. A pod of Orcas were seen distantly, which even included a couple of breaches. A while later Cat spotted a whale up ahead which had an angled blow. Sperm Whale! It was a huge male Sperm Whale that lay at the surface until we sailed alongside it, then it dived showing its tail flukes. During the next half hour we spotted three more Sperm Whales, all huge males. Dall's Porpoises added to the cetacean count, plus a few more Fur Seals for good measure. Other birds of note were a few Storm Petrels and an Ancient Murrelet.

Day 7

Sunday 29th June

This morning the weather was foggy and there seemed to be very few birds around. Most people had a lie-in, and then listened to two lectures on Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation by Evgenie and Elena. Evgenie kindly agreed to give his lecture again, as few attended the day before as it coincided with the sunny weather, Sperm Whales and Albatrosses. At about midday the mist had cleared and we ventured on deck to see small numbers of the usual seabirds, though more pale Fulmars and Common Guillemots than we had been used to seeing. Two Long-tailed Skuas close in were also much appreciated.

We saw about seven whale blows ahead but the group seemed to split up into two groups. We didn't know which species but the first view appeared to be a Fin Whale, but quickly followed by two Humpback Whales which started tail slapping. We assumed we must have been wrong about the Fin Whale but Cat had taken a photograph that showed a 100% Fin Whale. None of us had ever seen two different species seemingly interacting closely before.

At 15:00 we set out on the zodiacs for Kharaginskiy Island where we scanned the tundra and saw two Longtailed Skuas that kept fighting with a pair of Arctic Skuas that were also present in the area. When they weren't fighting each other they were harassing Common Terns or Black-headed Gulls that were trying to nest nearby. We then split into four groups and crossed the spongy Crowberry tundra that was dotted with interesting plants; Cloudberry, Bog Rosemary, Labrador Tea, three Louseworts, Jacob's Ladder, Dwarf Birch plus many more. We saw numerous Red-throated Pipits and a few Eastern Yellow Wagtails but it was difficult to get close views. A number of Dunlin were seen, and on the lake at the back of the tundra were various ducks: Goosanders, Scaup, Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Wigeon, Pintail, Goldeneye, and Teal. Best of all were Red-necked Phalaropes, some pools with up to eight birds. We even spotted one summer plumage Grey Phalarope. One group also saw Dusky Warblers and a Reed Bunting. We then returned to the ship to warm up and enjoy yet another delicious meal.

Day 8

Monday 30th June

We awoke alongside our destination Verkhoturova Island shrouded in cloud, with hundreds of Slaty-backed Gulls flying round, and landing on the boat. After breakfast we set off in our zodiacs to the scree slopes where the auklets nest. We saw thousands of Parakeet and Whiskered Auklets, though they didn't allow close approach. We also found quite a few Least Auklets, including one group of about 100. One zodiac spotted a Rhinoceros Auklet too. After this we landed on a nearby beach. There was a steep climb of about 80m to a plateau from which we could see nesting seabirds; Kittiwakes, both Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants, Tufted Puffins and Slaty-backed Gulls with young. Unfortunately the clifftop nesting gulls had pushed the Puffins further down the cliffs so we didn't get such close views. Kenny and Mervyn spotted a Tundra Vole but they eluded the rest of us. There were also Peregrine Falcons, Ravens and Red-throated Pipits around the island. In the bay we saw numerous Harlequins, Mergansers and Goosander but unfortunately the Steller's Eiders had departed for their breeding grounds.

At 10:30 we took the zodiacs to view a small colony of Steller's Sea-lions that were hauled out on an offshore rock. We had another quick look at the auklets then headed back to the ship for lunch. We then sailed across to the Govan Peninsula and en route we saw a couple of Fin Whales plus the usual seabirds. Late afternoon we reached our destination, a place Rodney called bear gulley. Even before we had boarded the zodiacs we had spotted a Bear on the beach. Unfortunately the waves and swell made landing impossible so we had to cruise the shore. We spotted four Bears in total; all a lovely golden brown colour too. On shore there were hundreds of roosting Kittiwakes and an unbelievable number of Goosanders, at least two hundred and the biggest flock any of us had seen. There were about thirty Harlequins and then unbelievably we had two groups of Steller's Eiders fly right past the zodiacs. There was a group of three and a group of five, all females. This was great news because we had missed Steller's Eider on Verkhoturova that morning. The swell increased and we had a rather exciting time boarding the boat from the zodiacs.

Day 9

Tuesday 1st July

After breakfast we took the Zodiacs to Tinitikun Lagoon, a Russian nature reserve. We spotted four Bears from the boat and another six around the lagoon, plus a couple of Largha Seals. Some even managed to photograph an Arctic Hare. There were hundreds of Harlequins flying around plus many White-winged Scoters and Goosanders. The birds were frustratingly elusive in the low scrub but most people managed to see Dusky Warblers, Oriental Greenfinches and Little Buntings. A few people managed to see Dusky Thrushes, Arctic Warbler, Arctic and Common Redpolls plus Siberian Accentor.

We then headed back to the ship where we were advised we were in the Kittlitz's Murrelet zone so we needed to be on deck. We managed to see about twenty five although none were especially close. The afternoon was pretty quiet, although two pods of Orca and several pods of Dall's Porpoise added a bit of excitement. Interesting seabirds included Vega Gull, Kamchatka Gull, Short-tailed Shearwater plus a few Crested Auklets.

Late afternoon we reached the lagoon at Pakachi but the waves at the entrance were too dangerous to get across so we headed back south 16 miles to try and find another landing. We didn't set out until 21:00 by which time most had decided they didn't want to go, but those that did were rewarded with more Bears, Grey-tailed Tattlers, Red-throated Pipits, Eastern Yellow Wagtail plus calling Pacific or Black-throated Diver. Much to Kenny's delight we also managed to find some Northern Pikas.

Day 10

Wednesday 2nd July

We awoke to clear blue skies and no wind. T-shirt weather on deck for the first time! As usual, the sharp-eyed ones were on deck spotting Bears and we reached a tally of five before we had even gone ashore. Lots of Scoters and Eiders were flying past, including two King Eiders. Neil managed to spot a group of Snow Sheep from the ship but unfortunately most people had already set off in zodiacs so missed them. We split up into five groups to search likely looking tundra for Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Needless to say we didn't find any but a great variety of birds was seen, including Steller's Sea Eagles, Sandhill Cranes with a chick, Rustic and Little Buntings, Ringed Plovers, Mongolian Plover, Steller's Eiders, Asian Rosy Finch and Red-necked Stint. Bears were everywhere, including a mating pair, plus mothers with cubs. We also saw several Arctic Ground Squirrels.

Straight after lunch we hit a patch of Kittlitz's Murrelets and counted 154 in 90 minutes, some really close too. We also spotted a couple of Humpback Whales and several small pods of Dall's Porpoises. At 17:00 we took the Zodiacs ashore at South Mechevna where we searched again for sandpipers. Along the river were numerous songbirds; Dusky Thrushes, Bluethroats, Little Buntings, Red-throated Pipits, Yellow Wagtails, Dusky Warblers. We also flushed a Red-necked Stint and found a Red-necked Phalarope. Three Asian Rosy Finches flew past. Out on the tundra we found a pair of nesting Mongolian Plovers.

Day 11

Thursday 3rd July

Today we were at Natalia and spotted about a hundred Walruses in the bay. We took the Zodiacs out and they allowed a close approach. After this there were three different activities were on offer. A small group spent the whole day birdwatching and managed to find Siberian Accentors, Siberian Rubythroat, Red-flanked Bluetails, Dusky Thrushes plus the usual tundra passerines.

Another group had zodiac cruises and saw a Walrus haul-out and a Pika. One group climbed over a mountain pass and saw nine Snow Sheep, Marmots and a pair of Golden Eagles.

Day 12

Friday 4th July

We sailed overnight to the mouth of the Opukha Lagoon where we knew that Grey Whales would be feeding. We spotted several from the boat early morning but there were about twenty five feeding at the lagoon entrance. We even saw a couple of breaches and several spyhops. About forty Largha Seals were seen and even one Ringed Seal was seen. A flock of Red-necked Phalaropes were seen from the deck plus several Kittlitz's Murrelets. A couple of Murrelets allowed close approach in the Zodiacs too. There were numerous Kittiwakes feeding and Arctic Skuas chasing them. Inside the lagoon were hundreds of gulls and terns. Among the Kittiwakes and Slaty-backed we found many Glaucous Gulls, a Vega Gull, two Black-headed Gulls and an adult Sabine's Gull. There were hundreds of sea-ducks including dozens of Steller's Eiders, 3 King Eiders and lots of Harlequins and Pacific Eiders.

In the afternoon we returned to the lagoon but this time to search the tundra for breeding waders, although we were distracted by close Steller's Eiders and several Bears, including one fishing in the sea. We divided into two groups, one searching the north side and one the south side. The north group found four pairs of Red-necked Phalaropes, a Dunlin on territory, 3 pairs of Long-tailed Ducks, a pair of Pacific Divers, Red-throated Pipit and Lapland Bunting. We also saw thousands of gulls; Kittiwakes, Kamchatka Gulls, Vega Gulls, Glaucous Gulls and Slaty-backed Gulls. The south group found Pacific Golden Plovers, Eider nests, Pomarine Skua, Sandhill Cranes. One small group had another Zodiac trip for whales because their Zodiac didn't connect well in the morning. This time they saw lots of Grey Whales, a swimming Bear and a vagrant White-winged Black Tern.

Day 13

Saturday 5th July

We sailed overnight to Meinypilgyno but arrived in the thick fog. We could not visit the nests in fog because visibility was below the flushing distance so we had to wait. From deck we could see Grey Whales, and Emperor Geese and White-billed Divers were also seen. After lunch the fog had lifted so we set out. We were being allowed to visit two nests; one 10km up the river and one 12km. We divided up into two groups and each set out on our 1km walk across beautiful tundra. Fortunately both groups connected with a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. We all felt immensely privileged that we had been allowed to see this rarest and most beautiful of waders on its nesting grounds. Bears were in evidence too with 13 seen along the river bank en route. One was a female with a very small cub. Also on the tundra we saw a flock of 17 Skuas, 12 of which were Long-tailed. It was also nice to see a Wheatear that had flown thousands of miles from sub-Saharan Africa to reach Meinypilgyno.

We headed off back and came across a pod of Belugas feeding in clear water at the river mouth. We could see them underwater feeding alongside dozens of Largha Seals. Further out were about 10 Grey Whales. As we headed north there were hundreds of Walruses and Grey Whales seen from the deck. All agreed this had been a fantastic day and one which we would probably never be able to repeat...

Day 14

Sunday 6th July

Our final full day in Chukotka dawned as we sailed north to Anadyr. There were a few Grey Whales and Walruses seen from the boat, plus at least a dozen Grey Phalaropes. Mid-morning we took the zodiacs to Keyngypillgyn Lagoon where there were many Red-throated Divers and at least a hundred Largha Seals in the entrance. As soon as we landed we spotted our first Emperor Geese, the first of many. Most people had missed yesterday's flyovers so it was great to get good views. We also saw Sandhill Cranes, White-fronted Geese, Red-necked Stints and a flock of 29 summer plumaged Grey Phalaropes. There were even a couple of Red-necked Phalaropes for good measure. Just as we were getting back into the zodiacs Kenny spotted an Arctic Hare which added another mammal to the list for most people.

Day 15

Monday 7th July

Our final day dawned as we slowly cruised into Anadyr Harbour. All of the Auks, Fulmars and Kittiwakes that had been ever-present throughout the trip had disappeared leaving a few Vega Gulls and the occasional Slaty-backed and Glaucous Gulls. A few distant divers and sea ducks were also seen, as were a number of Belugas in the outer estuary. As we approached the quayside there were about 15 Belugas and 30 Largha Seals surfacing right alongside the quay. Bizarrely there was also a family of Arctic Ground Squirrels giving the best photo-opportunities of the trip. A fitting end to a fantastically enjoyable and successful trip!

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Species List

Birds (\checkmark = recorded but not counted)

			June/July													
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Tundra Bean Goose	Anser serrirostris									4	12	15			
2	Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons											4		15	
3	Emperor Goose	Anser canagicus												15	20	
4	Whooper Swan	Cygnus Cygnus										2				
5	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas Penelope			4		1	3	12						20	
6	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos			4					2						
7	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata			2											
8	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta			3		3	5		4		4	20		100	
9	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca			1		1	5								
10	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula			3											
11	Greater Scaup	Aythya marila			4			20		4		20	2			50
12	Harlequin Duck	Histrionicus histrionicus				10	5	10	60	200		100	1000	20		2
13	Stejneger's Scoter	Melanitta stejnegeri			30					50	30	40	50	20		
14	Black Scoter	Melanitta americana			15					20	100	50	30	20		
15	Long-tailed Duck	Clangula hyemalis						10		5			2	2	10	
16	Common Eider	Somateria mollissma					20	10		20	500	200	200	100	100	
17	King Eider	Somateria spectabilis									2		3			
18	Steller's Eider	Polysticta stelleri							8		59		300			
19	Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula			10			2								
20	Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator			6	4	1		4	2		2	30	50	10	
21	Goosander	Mergus merganser						7	200	50	50	200	2	200		
22	Red-throated Diver	Gavia stellate			20							3	2	20	30	
23	Black-throated Diver	Gavia arctica											1			1
24	Pacific Diver	Gavia pacifica								10	2	5	5	10		1
25	White-billed Diver	Gavia adamsii								1				3		
26	Laysan Albatross	Diomedea immutablis			2	20	30									
27	Short-tailed Albatross	Phoebastria albatrus				1										
28	Northern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis		20	100	2000	2000	500	200	50	50		50	20	50	
29	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

									June/	July						
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Mottled Petrel	Pterodroma inexpectata				5										
31	Short-tailed Shearwater	Puffinus tenuirostris		3		10				5					1	
32	Sooty Shearwater	Puffinus puffinus								1						
33	Leach's Storm-petrel	Oceanodroma leucorhoa				4										
34	Fork-tailed Storm-petrel	Oceanodroma furcata		3	500	500	50									
35	Pelagic Cormorant	Phalocrocorax pelagicus		50	20	10			200	20	20	20	20	20	20	
36	Red-faced Cormorant	Phalocrocorax urile		5	2	1	1000									
37	Eurasian Kestrel (M)	Falco tinnunculus	5													
38	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus							2		1					
39	White-tailed Sea Eagle	Haliaetus albicilla										3				
40	Steller's Sea Eagle	Haliaetus pelagicus		1	4						3	2				
41	Common Buzzard (M)	Buteo buteo	5													
42	Rough-legged Buzzard	Buteo lagopus		1												
43	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos										2				
44	Sandhill Crane	Grus Canadensis									3	Н	9		4	
45	Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva												4		
46	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula									3				10	
47	Mongolian Plover	Charadrius mongolus				10					2					
48	Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			3											
49	Far Eastern Curlew	Numenius madagascariensis			8											
50	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola								1						
51	Common Sandpiper	Tringa hypoleucos								1						
52	Grey-tailed Tattler	Heterosceles brevipes								2						
53	Red Knot	Calidris canutus												4		
54	Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis								1	2	2			200	
55	Long-toed Stint	Calidris subminuta			1											
56	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii				1										
57	Dunlin	Calidris alpine				70		10					2		1	
58	Rock Sandpiper	Calidris ptilocnemis				70										
59	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Eurynorhynchus pygmeus												2		
60	Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus			1			15			1		40		2	
61	Common Name	Scientific Name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

									June/J	uly						
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62	Grey (Red) Phalarope	Phalaropus fulicaria			1			1		1					32	
63	Common (Kamchatka) Gull	Larus canus kamtchatschensis	3		1					5		2	1000	100		
64	Glaucous-winged Gull	Larus glaucescens		4	1	100	500	20	1	10	2					
65	Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus											50	100	10	5
66	Vega Gull	Larus vegae								1	8	2	50	500	30	20
67	Slaty-backed Gull	Larus schistisagus		100	100			100	1000	500	300	300	1000	500	100	5
68	Common Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	20	20	50			10					2			
69	Black-legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla		50		200	1000	50	1000	500	500	300	1000	300	200	
70	Red-legged Kittiwake	Rissa brevirostris			2	40	5									
71	Sabine's Gull	Xema sabini											1			
72	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo longipennis	20	1	20			10		2			200	20		
73	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea													10	
74	White-winged Black Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus											1			
75	Aleutian Tern	Sterna aleutica			8					2						
76	Pomarine Skua	Stercorarius pomarinus											1		1	
77	Arctic Skua	Stercorarius parasiticus			2			2		2	2		10	10	6	
78	Long-tailed Skua	Stercorarius longicaudus			2			2					1	10	12	
79	Brunnich's Guillemot	Uria lomvia		2		200	1000	5	1000	40	20	100	50	100	200	
80	Common Guillemot	Uria aalge		200	5		20	20	200			1			100	
81	Pigeon Guillemot	Cepphus columba		30	3	5	100	3	5	5	5	40	1	5	1	
82	Spectacled Guillemot	Cepphus carbo		2												
83	Long-billed Murrelet	Brachyramphus perdix			7											
84	Kittlitz's Murrelet	Brachyramphus brevirostris								25	154		5		2	
85	Ancient Murrelet	Synthliboramphus antiquus		50			1									
86	Parakeet Auklet	Cycclorrhynchus psittacula					20		1000		1					
87	Least Auklet	Aethia pusilla			2	1			100							
88	Crested Auklet	Aethia cristatella			4	1			2000	20			5			
89	Whiskered Auklet	Aethia pygmaea				4	5000									
90	Horned Puffin	Fratercula corniculata		8	10	10	300	1	20	2	2	10	1	10	20	
91	Tufted Puffin	Fratercula cirrhata		50	100	50	300	10	200	30	20	10	1	2	10	
92	Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	S													5
93	Common Name	Scientific Name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

									June/J	luly						
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
94	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	н	4	2											
95	Oriental Cuckoo	Cuculus optatus		Н												
96	Common Swift (M)	Apus apus	200													
97	Pacific Swift	Apus pacificus										20				
98	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	Picoides tridactylus		1												
99	Black Woodpecker	Dryocopus martius	1													
100	Common Magpie	Pica pica	4	5												
101	Carrion (Oriental) Crow	Corvus corone orientalis		20	5											
102	Hooded Crow (M)	Corvus cornix	10													
103	Northern Raven	Corvus corax			2		2	1	3	2	2	4				
104	Great Tit (M)	Parus major	5													
105	Willow Tit	Poecile montanus	1	5								1				
106	Northern House Martin	Delichon urbicum	10								1	30				
107	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica														
108	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis			10	3					2					
109	Eurasian River Warbler (M)	Locustella fluviatilis	3													
110	Lanceolated Warbler	Locustella lanceolata						h								
111	Middendorff's Warbler	Locustella ochotensis			2											
112	Blyth's Reed Warbler (M)	Acrocephalus dumetorum	10													
113	Common Whitethroat (M)	Sylvia communis	20													
114	Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus						5		10	6	30				
115	Arctic Warbler	Phylloscopus borealis								1		30				
116	Kamchatka Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus examinandus		15												
117	Pacific Wren	Troglodytes pacificus					3									
118	Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europea		2												
119	European Starling (M)	Sturnus vulgaris	С													
120	Eyebrowed Thrush	Turdus obscurus		5												
121	Dusky Thrush	Turdus eunomus								4	4	4				
122	Thrush Nightingale (M)	Luscinia luscinia	5													
123	Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica	5					1			2	20				
124	Siberian Rubythroat	Luscinia calliope		1	2					1		2				
125	Common Name	Scientific Name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

									June/	July						
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
126	Red-flanked Bluetail	Luscinia cyanura										8				
127	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe											1	1		
128	Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla		1												
129	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	1													
130	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	4	10		40										
131	Siberian Accentor	Prunella montanella								1		10				
132	Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla tschutschensis			5			10		6	8	20				
133	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea										6				
134	White (Black-backed) Wagtail	Motacilla alba lugens		5	1	1	1		1	5	6	20	6	10	6	
135	Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni		4												
136	Pechora Pipit	Anthus gustavus			2	2	30					1				
137	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus						20	2	4	10	20	2			
138	Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla										1				
139	European Greenfinch (M)	Cardulis chloris	2													
140	Oriental Greenfinch	Carduelis sinica		4						10		6				
141	Common (Mealy) Redpoll	Carduelis flammea							1	2	4	30				
142	Arctic Redpoll	Carduelis hornemanni								4						
143	Grey-crowned Rosy Finch	Leucosticte tephrocotis					6									
144	Asian Rosyfinch	Leucosticte arctoa									5	1				
145	Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus		5						4		6				
146	Common (Grey-bellied) Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula								Н						
147	Little Bunting	Emberiza pusilla								2	4	10				
148	Rustic Bunting	Emberiza rustica		5	1						2					
149	Common Reed Bunting	Emberiza shoeniclus			1			1								
150	Lapland Bunting	Calcarius lapponicus				8	10	10					1			
151	Snow Bunting	Calcarius nivalis				2					2	10				
152	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1													
153	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	5													
154	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	8													
155	Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	3													
156	Booted Warbler	Hippolais caligata	6													
157	Common Name	Scientific Name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		June								July						
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
158	Barred Warbler	Sylvia nisoria	Н													
159	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilis	8													
160	Corncrake	Crex crex	2h													
161	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	20													
162	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	2													
163	Blue Tit	Caerulescens	5													
164	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	3													
165	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	30													
166	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	1													
167	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	1													
168	Booted Warbler	Hippolais caligata	2													
169	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	1													
170	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	1													

Mammals

1	Arctic Ground Squirrel	Citellus parryi									30	2			1	3
2	Northern Pika	Ochotona hyperborea								2		10				
3	Tundra Vole	Microtus oeconomus							1					1		
4	Mountain Hare	Lepus timidus								1					1	
5	Snow Sheep	Ovis nivicola									12	9				
6	Arctic Fox	Alopex lagopus					3									
7	Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes										2				
8	Brown Bear	Ursos arctos			1				4	15	20	10	15	13		
9	Northern Fur Seal	Callorhinus ursinus			1	3	8									
10	Steller's Sea Lion	Eumetopias jubatus		1					36		1					
11	Pacific Walrus	Odobenus rosmarus divergens									100		300		4	
12	Harbour (Common) Seal	Phoca vitulina			2	20	2	10	1			1				
13	Largha (Spotted) Seal	Phoca largha	1	100				3	6	10	2	50	100		100	40
14	Ringed Seal	Pusa hispida											1			
15	Sea Otter	Enhydra lutris			3	5	20									
16	Sperm Whale	Physeter macrocephalus				1	4									
17	Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae				20	12	6			2					

			June/July													
	Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	Grey Whale	Eshrichtius robustus											30	130	5	
19	Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus						1	2							
20	Northern Minke Whale	Balaenoptera acutorostrata			3		3					1				
21	Orca (Killer Whale)	Orcinus orca			20		6			11						
22	Harbour Porpoise	Phocoena phocoena											2			
23	Dall's Porpoise	Phocoenoides dalli			20	30	8			12	8					
24	Beluga	Delphinapterus leucas												12		50
25	Baird's Beaked Whale	Berardius bairdii			7	5										

Plant list (Some of the plants recorded courtesy of Jenny Willsher)

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
Ferns, Clu	bmosses and Grasses		
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken		
Asplenium incisum			
Polysticum lonchitis	Holly Fern		
Athyrium americanum	Alpine Lady Fern		
Gymnocarpium dryopteris	Oak Fern		
Phegopteris connectilis	Beech Fern		
Equisetum hymenale	Rough Horsetail		
Huperzia selago	Fir Clubmoss		
Diphasiastrum (Lycopodium alpinum)	Alpine Clubmoss		
Selaginella rupestris	Northern Selaginella		
Leymus mollis	Dune Wildrye		The predominant grass, tall, coarse grass. Many other grasses seen also.

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
Flowering Plants			
Lilies	and Orchids		
Veratrum oxysepalum	Green False Hellebore, Corn or Indian Lily	Seen regularly, in woodlands and on tundra	
Fritillaria camtschatcensis	Kamchatka or Black Lily	Seen regularly, sometimes prolific	
Lloydia serotina	Alp Lily	Natalii	
Allium schoenoprasum	(Wild Onion)		
Maianthemum dilatatum	False Lily-of-the-valley	Seen regularly	
Streptopus amplexifolious	Clasping Twisted stalk	Medney	
Trillium camtschatcense	Kamchatka Trillium	Blue Lagoon	
Iris setosa	Wild Flag	Leaves seen regularly, woodland and tundra, flowering at Keyngypillgyn	
Coeloglossum viride	Frog Orchid	Medney, Nskoia	
Cypripedium yatabeanum	Yellow-spotted Lady's Slipper	Blue Lagoon	
Dactylorhiza aristata	Keyflower (Red Marsh Orchid)	Seen widely, lush at hot springs	
	Trees		
Abies gracilis		Seen regularly	Endemic pine, low growing, long soft needles, purple cones
Salix arctica	Arctic Willow	Medney	One of the many dwarf willows
Salix bebbiana	Bebb's Willow	Seen at various locations	One of the many dwarf willows
Salix reptans	Creeping Willow	Seen at various locations	One of the many dwarf willows
Salix kamtschatica	Kamchatka Willow	Karaginsky Island	One of the many dwarf willows
Salix reticulata	Net-leaved Willow		One of the many dwarf willows
Alnus fruticosa (kamtschatica)	Kamchatka Alder	Karaginsky Island	
Betula ermanii	Erman's or Stone Birch	Blue Lagoon, Steller's Eagle Nest!	Hard wood used in building
Betula exilis	A Dwarf Birch	Seen regularly	
Betula platyphylla	Broad-leaved Birch	Blue Lagoon	

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
	Others		
Aconogonon tripterocarpum	A Bistort	Seen regularly	White flowers
Bistorta vivipara			Pink flowers
Rumex arcticus	Arctic Dock	Seen occasionally	Red leaves
Claytonia acutifolious		Karaginsky Island	
Honckenya oblongifolia	Seabeach Sandwort	Seen regularly	
?Minuartia arctica	Arctic Sandwort		
Aconitum fischeri	A Monkshood		
Anenome narcissiflora ssp sibiricum	Narcissus-flowered Anenome	Bering Island and other places	
Atrogene ochotensis	Okhotst Clematis	Blue Lagoon	
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold		
Ranunculus altaicus	A double buttercup	Bering Island	
Ranunculus nivalis	Snow Buttercup		
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup		
Ranunculus pygmaeus	Pygmy Buttercup		
Trollius riederiaris	Rieder's Buttercup	Nskoia	
Dicentra peregrina	Exotic Bleeding Heart	Kreschoniy Ognion	
Dicentra sp			
Arabis hirsuta	Steller's Rock Cress		
Cardamine pratensis (? angustifolia)	Polar Cress/Lady's Smock		
Cochlearia officinalis	A Scurvygrass		
Parrya nudicaulis			
Rhodiola integrifolia	Entire-leaved Stonecrop	Seen regularly	
Rhodiola rosea			Honey-scented flowers
Saxifraga cherlerioides			Cream flowers

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
Saxifraga merkii	Merk's Saxifrage		Compact leaf rosettes
Saxifraga nelsoniana			
Aruncus dioicus	Goat's-beard		
Comarum palustre	Marsh Fivefinger	Fish Factory	
Geum macrophyllum	Large-leaf Avens	Medney, Nskoia	Small yellow flowers
Potentilla anserina	A Silverweed	Bering Island	
Potentilla stolonifera	(Red-stemmed Silverweed)	River and seaside gravel	
Potentilla villosa	Villous Cinquefoil	Bering Island	
Rosa rugosa			
Rubus arcticus	Arctic Raspberry	Seen regularly	Red flowers
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry, Salmonberry	Seen regularly	White flowers, orange fruit
Sieversia pusilla	Small Avens		
Sorbus sambuciolia	Siberian Mountain Ash		Low shrub
Astragalus alpinus	Alpine Milkvetch		Pale lilac flowers
Hedysarum hedysaroides	Upright Purple Milkvetch		
Lathyrus japonicus	Beach Pea	Fish Factory	
Oxytropis erecta		Verkhoturova Island	Purple flowers
Oxytropis evenorum		Verkhoturova Island	Yellow flowers
Oxytropis kamtschatica			
Oxytropis pumilio			Pale on flag
Oxytropis revoluta	Revolute Oxytrope		
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover		
Trifolium repens	White Clover		
Geranium erianthum	Northern Crane'sbill	Seen regularly	Blue flowers
Viola biflora	Yellow Violet	Seen regularly	
Viola cracca			
Viola sp		Medney	Large flowers

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
Chamerion angustifolium	Arctic Fireweed		
Angelica ursinum	An Angelica		American Indians believed the dried root warded off Polar Bears!
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley		
Heracleum lanatum	Cow Parsnip (Giant Hogweed)	Seen regularly	Masses near Moscow
Ligusticum scoticum	Beach Lovage	Fish Factory	Low growing, pink flowers
Chamaepericlymenum suecicum	Lapland Cornel	Widespread	
Arcterica nana	Low Arcterica	Medney	
Andromeda polifolia	Bog Rosemary	Widespread	
Cassiope lycopodioides	Clubmoss Mountain Heather	Medney	
Empetrum nigrum	Crowberry	Widespread	
Harrimanella stellerana	Alaska Bellheather	Widespread	
Oxycoccus palustris	Bog Cranberry	Fish Factory	
Phyllodoce caerulea	Blue Mountain Heath	Seen widely	
Pyrola incarnata	A Pyrola/Wintergreen	Kreschoniy Ognion	Pink-flowered
Rhodedendron aureum	Goldish Rhodedendron	Medney	
Rhodedendron camtschaticum	Kamchatka Rhodedendron	Kreschoniy Ognion	Low growing, red flowers
Vaccinium uliginosum	Bog Blueberry	Seen regularly	
Vaccinium vulcanorum	Volcanic Blueberry	Seen regularly	Not in flower
Diapensia obovata	Diapensia	Seen regularly	
Androsace septentrionalis		Natalii	Tall spindly flower spikes
Primula cuneifolia		Medney, other locations	
Primula farinosa	Bird's-eye Primrose		
Trientalis europeae sps arctica	Arctic Starflower	Seen regularly	
Gentiana glauca		Keyngypillgyn	
Polemonium acutiflorum	A Jacob's Ladder		
Polemonium boreale	Boreale Jacob's ladder		

Scientific Name	English Name	Location	Comments
Eritrichium villosum			
Mertensia maritima	Oysterleaf	Fish Factory	
Mertensia pubescens		Seen occasionally	
Myosotis cespitosa	Tufted Forget-me-not	Natallii	
Lagotis glauca	Weasel's Snout	Seen regularly	Stout spike of tiny blue flowers
Pedicularis oederi	A Lousewort	Seen occasionally	Yellow flowers with dark 'beak'
Pedicularis verticulata	A Lousewort	Seen occasionally	Pink flowers
Veronica grandiflora	Largeflower Speedwell	Medney	
Pinquicula sp.			Small flowers, yellow on lip and yellow spur
	Kamchatka Plantain		
Lonicera caerulea	Bluefly Honesuckle	Seen occasionally	Low growing, blue berries
Valerian capitata	Capitate Valerian		Seen occasionally
Antennaria dioica	Mountain Everlasting, Pussytoes	Seen regularly	
Arnica lessingii	Nodding Arnica		
Artemesia glomerata	Congested Wormwood	Seen regularly	Low growing, compact heads
Artemesia tilessii	A Wormwood	Seen regularly	Dark flowerheads
Erigeron humulis	Black Fleabane	Keyngypillgyn	
Erigeron koraginensis	Pale Fleabane		
Erigeron thunbergii	Blue Fleabane		
Leontopodium kamtschaticum	Kamchatka Eidelweiss		
Taraxicum sp		Keyngypillgyn	Low growing, flower stems flat to the ground

References:

Illustrated Flora of Kronotsky Reserve, 2010, Yakubov Flowers of Kamchatka, Yakubov Plants of Coastal British Columbia (inc Alaska), 2004, Pojar & MacKinnon