



May 30 – June 10, 2021

Alaska: Birding and Wildlife

With Greg Smith (Nome), Peg Abbott, Raymond VanBuskirk (Anchorage and Seward) and 10 participants: Kathy, Steve, Mark, Lois, Douglas, Ruth Ann, Doni, Kenneth, Val, and Karen

Compiled by Peg Abbott

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Summary: We had an extraordinary trip to this northern wonderland, arriving in Nome when snow still decorated the highlands as waterways were just getting released from the grip of ice. While cold and windy on some of our outings, we found Muskox with ease including nursery herds with impossibly cute youngsters. There were ground-hugging tundra wildflowers hosting summer nest areas for Red Knot and three species of plovers, and Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Grebes on nests. Other Nome highlights included Bluethroat displaying and singing and a surprise close encounter with a Northern Goshawk at Council. In contrast to the arctic realm of Nome, Denali seemed warm and lush, and the mountain was good to us, appearing on several of our days, even one midnight peak with pink and orange alpenglow. The Muldrow Glacier was surging, bears were digging, an albino Black-billed Magpie was an oddity, and finding a Collared Pika in the rocks from our bus window was a treat. Twenty-seven species of waterfowl, including courting Long-tailed Ducks and rafts of bright colored Harlequins was notable. The long summer days, the flight song of Semi-palmated Plovers and Wilson's Snipes all around, and the wistful song of Golden-crowned Sparrow are all memorable. The drive to Seward was dramatic with clouds forming, sadly our day at sea was a bit of a bust as the storm hit hard and all but a few were driven in the cabins. The Kenai Fjords Captain obliged our hopes for seeing seabirds and we went as far into the Chiswell Islands as conditions allowed, but we missed a few species. Thankfully little Kittlitz Murrelets cooperated under their glacial boulder field nesting areas, and we had super looks at fly-by Ancient Murrelets. To see 25 species of mammals as well as a grand array of northern birds was very satisfying.

BIRDS (144 species in 37 families):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (27)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*—A lone individual seen at the Nome River mouth, scoped as it rested on a mudflat at mid-tide.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*—Seen near Hastings Creek on the Nome Council Road and then again, each day that we ventured out among the tundra ponds at Denali. They seem to be increasing in Denali.

Brant *Branta bernicla*—Seen at Safety Sound in Nome in good numbers, several 100 early in the week for Peg and Greg, then in groups of 10-30 for the group

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*—Seen near Hastings Creek on the Nome Council Road and two were spotted from at a bridge stop at the Sinuk River about a third of the way to Wooley Lagoon on the Teller Road where we had many shorebirds. Others seen near Anchorage on the mudflats.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Nome, Denali, then best seen at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*—Seen in tundra ponds on the shuttle up and train back from Denali. Also seen in Denali National Park on a small pond coming out from Wonder Lake, where a pair was hanging out. We also had great looks driving to Seward at a regal pair.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*—Beautiful views and big numbers, 300+ while in Nome, at the far end of Safety Lagoon, also up the Kougarak Road in one of the larger ponds along the way. A pair at East End Park in Nome were there daily for close viewing.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Seen in Nome at several locations then seen daily – a widespread species along our route.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—Seen at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage and while in Denali, at the ponds by the Wonder Lake ranger station.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*—Only seen on the pre-tour scouting, one individual and as with so many rarities that show up in Nome, it did not linger for us to show the group days later.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*—Seen in Nome and then common in small numbers, seen on seven of our days.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen in Nome in small numbers, mainly on the Cemetery Pond as we had come and go from the airport or out to the Teller Road. More common in Denali, Anchorage and en route to Seward.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—Bright individual first seen at East End Park in Nome, then seen daily through our time in Anchorage.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—Fairly widespread in the Nome area in small numbers. Then seen daily along our journey.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*—Seen on the day we traveled to Denali, and then seen at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*—One of the more common ducks at Nome, first seen at the Cemetery Pond coming from the airport. Present throughout the trip, seen on nine of our days.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—Seen well at Denali, and with Greater Scaup at Ranger Pond for a nice scope comparison. Seen also at Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage – seen on five days, from Denali onward.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*—Seen in good number at Safety Sound, Nome, both on the ocean side of the road and loafing on the lagoon side, often in pairs.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*—Present at Cape Nome each time we stopped, off the pier and off the rock jetty. We also had lovely views of them on the fast-flowing rivers, a group of five by Grand Central River going to Kougarak was memorable.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*—Seen at Cape Nome, flying by in flocks and a few on the water, though tough to work these due to high winds at the times we were viewing.

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi*—We saw this species each stop at Cape Nome, and with detailed photo of in-flight inspection we might pull out the Russian variety, Stejneger's that David Sibley picked out while we were there, but on the water key field marks do not show well. We did see groups of 4-12 in flight, but in howling winds so scopes were nigh impossible... Later in the trip a large group was seen at a distance in the center part of Wonder Lake in Denali.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*—Seen at Cape Nome

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*—Seen regularly at Nome, beautiful pairs, with bright males twitching their long tails as they courted females. Some by the airport were close enough to get video of this. We heard a few vocalizations. Great to spend time with this species almost daily. They also like the harbor at Nome. We had one in a tundra pond at Denali as well.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*—Seen in tundra ponds at Denali.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*—Seen on the foray with David Sibley on one of the tundra ponds.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*— Several seen-on tundra ponds in Denali - a few individuals seen all three days.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*—Very common in Nome, we saw them in good number, in almost every pond or waterway. We saw them again at the coast in Seward.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (3)

Spruce Grouse *Falcipennis canadensis*—Seen on the bus coming out of Denali, a most cooperative bird that was crossing the road, then hopped up in a tree at eye-level so we could see it from the bus.

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus*—Seen often at Nome, males were calling and often perched up in trees to make themselves visible while they did so. They went right up to snowline and often were encountered just at the edge of the road. We saw them also in Denali – found on seven days.

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*—Not at all common, we got views in Nome on an incredibly windy knoll where scopes were tough to use. Greg's van got a second chance on a nearby knoll, both off the Teller Road. Finding them again in the high country of Denali on the Naturalist Foray with David Sibley gave us much better viewing in easier conditions.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*—Great views of this species in both Nome and at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage. They were breeding, several on nests, so we got fine views. A courting pair near the airport at Nome impressed us with the power of their vocalizations!

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)—Someone in Nome seemed to keep them by a coup on the way out to the Penny River on the Nome-Teller Road, we also had them in Anchorage and other towns.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (1)

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*—Despite rain and drizzle at the Bake House where we had lunch at Girdwood, a few made passes at hanging baskets of flowers, nice!

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—We had several breeding pair on various roads from Nome, often in small wetland areas.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (4)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—Oh what a thrill so spies this one in its breeding colors, walking about fields of flowers. We saw several near Wooley Lagoon, just where Greg predicted we would. Nice!

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*—We saw this finely attired plover in breeding plumage at several spots along the Nome Teller Road.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*—First seen well just below us at the Sinuk River on the Nome Teller Road, then again at Wooley Lagoon.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*—It was such fun to see this bird courting, hurling itself into the air to sing in flight, fluttering back to the ground. They were common in all directions from Nome.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (19)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—Seen on our journey to Council, one where we did not know if we would get through, and we did. They were in the flats close to the spruce forest, spaced out as if on territory. Another was spied on Coffee Dome, not where you want to see them when in search of their more local relative, but a good excuse for added hiking up there with fine views all around.

Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis*—Success, yeah! We found one bird, on Peg's hunch it would be atop the ridge, she saw one in flight at a distance and Greg was able to pin it down. We all got very good looks and a few, though distant photos.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*—Seen on the return trip to Westchester Lagoon, resting on the small island.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*—We saw them on mudflats at the Nome River mouth and at the Sinuk River on the Nome-Teller Road where we birded from the bridge.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—Beautiful breeding males seen on the road to Wooley Lagoon, then we had some on the mudflats at the Nome River mouth.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*—We found one on the descend from our terribly windy knoll, and eagle-eye spotter in Greg's van said STOP. Peg was able to come back up the hill, so both vans got to watch one for some time. It was unconcerned, feeding in the lee of a small hill and not wanting to leave. Returning there later we found one more, this is a breeding stronghold for them, and we hope numbers continue to hold.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*—Seen in good number at Safety Lagoon, Hastings Creek, the Nome-Teller Road, and the Nome River mouth.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Seen along the river going out to Kougarok from Nome.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*—Seen first at the Snake River area of the Nome-Teller highway, then also at Safety Lagoon.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—Seen at East End Park, and below the bridge at close range on the Nome River.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*—Seen on the Snake River crossing on the Nome Teller highway at at Safety Lagoon in Nome.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—Many seen at the Hastings Creek overlook on a windy day.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—Seen well at East End Park, feeding. One on a telephone wire resting and calling was a surprise. We heard them at many of our stops in appropriate habitat. Also seen and heard near ponds in Denali.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*—Beautiful looks at the airport ponds, East End Park ponds and on the Safety Lagoon route.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*—Three individuals were seen on the lagoon side of Safety lagoon at the far end just where the bridge is and the road turns.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—First seen at the Penny River in Nome when we stopped to search for American Dipper, then found at a few other locations from Nome, also at Denali.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*—We had good looks near the mile 21 area of the Kougarok Road, on the river gravel bars.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—Seen at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—Seen on the Sinuk River where we viewed from the bridge on the Nome-Teller Road on a windy day. Also, at Potter Marsh by Anchorage.

JAEGERS AND SKUAS: Stercorariidae (3)

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*—Really great looks at four plump individuals in flight along a ridge near the Penny River, they were most impressive!

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*—Across the bridge and before the Train to Nowhere, we had two sightings, both in flight.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*—A very common bird in the Nome area, spaced out on their breeding terrain of the tundra. They were fun to watch, so acrobatic in flight, and so cheeky about stealing food from each other. We often heard them over some commotion as we were focused on finding other species, but never minded another look!

AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS: Alcidae (9)

Common Murre *Uria aalge*—Seen around the Chiswell Islands on a rainy and blustery day. So awful were viewing conditions we missed their cousins this year, the Thick-billed, as the captain did not dare to venture to their cliff-nesting area.

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba*—Seen well in the harbor at Seward and around the Chiswell Islands on our sea day from Seward.

Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*—Seen in the harbor at Seward up by the Sealife Center and then in quieter waters of Northwestern Fjord on the cruise from Seward.

Kittlitz's Murrelet *Brachyramphus brevirostris*—Seen in Northwestern Fjord where freshwater streams poured off the glaciers, near their cirque-basin boulder field nesting areas.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*—Hearty souls out on deck and those watching from inside had good looks at this species, four flew by at very close range while navigating out the Chiswell Islands.

Parakeet Auklet *Aethia psittacula*—A few seen in flight, very quick views, near to the island they are known to nest on in the Chiswells, from Seward.

Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*—Seen on the water in rafts as we came out of Northwestern Fjord on the cruise from Seward.

Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata*—Seen on the wild and windy waters of the Chiswell Islands, and in flight.

Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata*—Seen in Northwestern Fjord and at the Chiswell Islands, though under difficult viewing conditions this year – we could not safely approach the nest islands.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (9)

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*—Seen in Nome off the ocean side of the Safety Lagoon Road. Many seen on the day at sea, particularly at the Chiswell Islands, roosting on the seamounts and in flight.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*—One long individual seen among Arctic Tern flocks feeding acrobatically with them, then resting ashore at the bridge over Safety Lagoon.

Mew Gull *Larus canus*—Very common, seen first at East End Park in Nome near our hotel, seen daily there and at Anchorage and Seward. Recently split, it may soon be known as the Short-billed Gull. Seen daily.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*—Westchester Lagoon and Seward, common.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus*—Greg had scouted some regulars at the dump in Nome and they were there for the group to see.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*—Seen near Seward, both days well.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*—Very common in Nome, seen daily there both at sea, on the lagoons and up the rivers where pairs will breed.

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus*—Seen at mile post 25 on the Nome-Council Road, Peg was alerted by their different than Arctic vocalization as two flew nearby over the van. Two others were seen by the bridge over the Nome River. Often with Arctic, voice is a helpful tip to then look for field marks.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*—Very common out Safety Lagoon, we marveled at their feeding when a boil of fish showed at the surface out there. We had several nesting in a gravel area near town and the airport, on eggs and very vocal. They were also seen at Tern Lake en route to and from Seward.

LOONS: Gaviidae (3)

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*—Fun to be where this is a common bird, inhabiting almost every tundra pond in Nome. They were nesting, we got some stunning photos and had a lot of interesting behavior to view.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*—Beautiful views of this species, while not common, a few were starting to nest at Nome, and we saw several at sea and off Cape Nome. One was seen in Denali, and a few during our time at Seward.

Common Loon *Gavia immer*—Seen well at Denali on Wonder Lake.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (1)

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*—Seen feeding at sea near the Chiswell Islands.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)

Red-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax urile*—A couple were seen in flight as we left Resurrection Bay from Seward, flying toward the side they are known to nest on. It was too rough by the time we returned to head over that way for better looks this year, darn!

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*—Seen well off Cape Nome and a few in the Chiswells from Seward.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Seen as we headed out from Seward on the cruise, by the docks in town and along the shore by our hotel.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—One seen on a nest pole as we came down the Knik Arm going into Anchorage, on the train.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*—Seen in flight on the Nome-Council Road, quite close over head as we came off the pass heading to the spruce forest. It circled for several minutes – nice! They were not yet using their normal nests, or perhaps were well buried in them due to windy conditions as we went by on our explorations from Nome. Seen daily in Denali, including one feasting on an Arctic Ground Squirrel.

Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*—Several seen in open tundra areas, one near a spot on the road to Wooley Lagoon and Teller that also had Short-eared Owl. Also seen several times while in Denali, in the open stretch leading to Wonder Lake.

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—Seen by one group on a foray in Denali.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*—Great views of one, though quick, that flew right in front of us, on the hunt as we walked the forested roadsides near Council.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—First seen coming in on the train to Anchorage, then common from there to Seward. One viewed from the boardwalk at Potter Marsh was really cooperative!

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*—Seen on a couple of days from Nome, the best view was for Greg's van coming out of Wooley Lagoon, we had another distant one out from Safety Sound.

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Short-eared Owl *Osio flammeus* — Good views in Nome of one coursing over open tundra as we made our way out to Kougarak and Coffee Dome.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Seen by Mark and Lois on the train as they stepped out for fresh air at the open end of the dome car.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (1)

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Northern Flicker seen by our avid hiker, Kathy on her day in the park.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*— Seen along the Bear River, Steve picked it up in rapid flight. Also seen on two days by our hikers.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*—A lone bird tucked well down in its nest was our only view. But it was good to know the following week she was still here, and that a web camera was placed on the bridge to monitor activity and help protect her. Another was seen by Kathy while hiking on her strenuous day outing in the park, both perched and in flight.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—Seen on the day we traveled from Anchorage down to Seward.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (2)

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*—Heard repeatedly at the campground at Wonder Lake, Denali NP.

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*—Heard in Denali, but then seen very well at Potter Marsh where it flew to several perches in close range. We heard them a couple of other locations.

SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)

Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*—One lone bird was hunting the shrubby tundra area adjacent to the Penny River on the road to Teller, at Nome.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (4)

Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*—Several seen near the outlet and inlet to Wonder Lake, making repeated vocalizations. They were seen each day in Denali.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*—Our greeting committee when we got to Anchorage, there were several around the Copper Whale Hotel. We watched them in Denali, observed their large nests, and saw one almost-albino individual that David Sibley got the scope on, hanging out with others of its kind, but quite a strange looking individual. Also seen around Seward.

Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*—Seen commonly around Seward.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Seen at all locations on the trip, always with personality. Seen daily.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Westchester Lagoon, on the walking trail by Cooke Inlet we got very good views.

Boreal Chickadee *Poecile hudsonicus*—Lovely views of several individuals in the spruce forest at Council. Part of our group also encountered them while on a foray in Denali.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*— Seen well at Nome, around the tundra ponds and harbor.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*—Seen flying around the open parking area at the Bake Shop in Girdwood on our way to Seward.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—We encountered a big flock of this species, about forty, near Safety Lagoon, obviously moving through the area. Seen also as we made our way to Seward.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*— Seen at the Sinuk River and the drainages out on the Kougarak Road as we drove to Coffee Dome. Seen also around the ranger station at Denali.

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*—(HO) Heard repeatedly near the ranger station ponds we would scan as we drove alongside Wonder Lake.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*—Seen at the Penny River bridge, where a pair was nesting, Nome. Another was seen in Denali on Moose Creek on a foray.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Seen in Anchorage at Westchester Lagoon and in town in Seward.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (4)

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*—Good views in a shrub patch near Cape Nome, perched up and singing. They were also present around Camp Denali. Also, near Seward, in total seen or heard on eight days.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*—The most common thrush at Nome and around Camp Denali.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*—Seen or heard all three days while at Denali.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen at Hastings Creek overview where we glassed many shorebirds as the wind blew. Then noted daily in a great variety of habitats.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (2)

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*—Success! Peg and Greg has spotted one just ahead of the trip and with luck they were still in the vicinity, setting up territory. We were able to see it perched and in flight, a stunning songbird.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*—Seen at mile 34 ridge and on the Wooley Lagoon Road.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* – Seen only by Ken but well described, while we were engrossed in chickadees, at the Bear River area near Council.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (2)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*—Valerie spied this bright yellow gem arriving for the summer in Nome at the East Fork of the Solomon River on our way to Council.

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*—We watched them at the edge of snowfields, feeding on insects on the road to Kougarak and on the Nome-Teller Road at mile 34 up on the ridge. We also saw them in the high country of Denali, both hiking and driving over the passes.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (5)

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*—Seen at Council.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*—Good views while at Nome and later in Denali. Seen on seven days.

Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*—The more common of the two redpoll species this year in Nome, an irruptive year for them most likely. We got excellent looks and photographs.

White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*—Heard and seen at Bear River going to Council, then a big flock roamed the treetops among our cabins at Camp Denali.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus*—Seen well at the Bird Point turnout on the road to Seward, high in the trees and calling. Also seen at the Bake Shop on our final day at lunch with Raymond.

LONGSPURS: Calcariidae (1)

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*—One of the treats of Nome is the common nature of this species, in bright plumage. We saw them among the fish camps going to Safety Lagoon, in the tundra areas near town, and going towards Teller at various places.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (8)

American Tree Sparrow *Spizelloides arborea*—A lovely songster, we got good views at this bird, common and present for breeding, mainly seen in willow and tall shrub habitat. Also heard and seen in Denali.

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*—Another songster, our first views were at the stop to sort through gulls at the dump outside of Nome. We saw them regularly, good views of the red form of this species. Observed on eight days.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—Seen at Camp Denali and at the Bake Shop near Girdwood, with young begging at that location.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Very common all around Nome and present at Denali and Seward.

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*—New for quite a few of our group, they were inquisitive, responsive and gave us good looks. Their lovely call was a treat to hear all around Nome.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*—First seen near Hastings Creek at Nome, we had them there and at Denali, and found in shrubbier terrain than in their grassy winter habitats at “home”.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—Seen on one day in Denali, then also on one day in Seward.

Lincoln’s Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—Seen in Denali just by the small reflection pond at Camp, and then also as well at Potter Marsh, Anchorage.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (1)

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*—First seen at the Penny River bridge outside Nome our first afternoon there, we found them in several locations on days following. One perched up by Ranger Pond was a surprise our first morning with David Sibley in Denali.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (6)

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*—One of the more common warblers in Nome, very much on display and perched up, singing.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata*—With its more subtle trilling call we had to listen for this species, but when we paid attention, they were present in the willow and shrub habitats and in poplars where we found them in small but regular occurrences. Widespread, we also had them in Denali and Seward.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—Common in Nome, first seen around the Cemetery Ponds, then frequent in the pond areas we checked in willow habitat there and later in Denali.

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*—(HO) Heard at Westchester Lagoon our first stop there, but we could not entice it down from the high canopy of poplars.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Good views at the Bear River area near Council, all Myrtle race at Nome. Then seen also in Denali and Seward.

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*—First seen at the Penny River, this was a common species all around Nome and we found them a few times in Denali. Seen on six days.

MAMMALS (25 species recorded):

Gray Wolf *Canis lupus*—Peg spied a gray-colored individual while at lunch and scanning, but it was quick and she could not steer others to it, it followed a ridge a short way, sniffing and turning, then went down into a wooded ravine out of sight.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* — Ken spotted an active individual digging away at some distance while we were watching terns and a jaeger at Safety Sound. We got the scopes on it and had fun watching its frenzy.

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus*—Two separate individuals were spotted from the train returning to Anchorage.

Grizzly Bear *Ursus arctos*—Seen on all four days in Denali.

Ringed Seal *Pusia hispida*—One was seen on final morning lifting its head to face us at Cape Nome.

Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*—Seen on the ice surrounding glaciers up Northwestern Fjord, some with pups.

Steller's Sea Lion *Eumetopias jubatus*—Seen on rocks at the Chiswell Islands.

Sea Otter *Enhydra lutris*—Seen in Resurrection Bay and in Northwestern Fjord from Seward

Moose *Alces alces*—Seen several times in Nome, the most memorable was one wading across a pond with mountains behind – spectacular. We also saw them in Denali and had a very tolerant one feeding close to us and then laying down off the boardwalk at Potter Marsh.

Caribou *Rangifer tarandus*—Common and readily seen, including large nursery bands in Denali.

Mountain Goat *Oreamnos americanus*—

Dall Sheep *Ovis dallii*—Steve spotted one high on the cliffs at Tern Lake, then we saw others on the cruise up Northwestern Fjord in the rain.

Muskox *Ovibos moschatus*—Such a thrill to see them well and repeatedly in Nome, some groups were females with small young ones and others were males, often two. We observed them quite a bit, and in the wind, those flowing skirts will be forever memorable, feeding on tundra with no shelter and just vast space and the Bering Sea behind.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*—Seen in Resurrection Bay as we started the cruise in Seward.

Killer Whale (Orca) *Orcinus orca*—A small pond in Resurrection Bay near Seward.

Snowshoe Hare *Lepus americanus*—Seen in Nome and then in Denali, just a few.

Collared Pika *Ochotona collaris*—Great views from the bus as we crossed a higher pass in Denali.

Hoary Marmot *Marmota caligata*—Seen by the ridge hikers in Denali.

Arctic Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus parryii*—Seen when in the high country of Denali, very tame ones were at our feet at the Visitor Center.

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*—Seen at Wonder Lake Campground in Denali and heard in other forested areas.

Beaver *Castor canadensis*—Seen very well at ponds where they were active going in and out of Camp Denali. We had one so small we thought it was a lemming, but photos revealed its tiny beaver face.

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*—One seen swimming in the outlet of Wonder Lake

Porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum*—One under their cabin kept Val and Karen awake much of one night, a memorable close encounter! They seemed to be more numerous this season, perhaps after a year off from activity at various lodges during the pandemic last year.

Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine) *Mustela erminea*—One was quite active and tame near Steve and Kathy's cabin at Camp Denali, living under the porch and making feeding trips back and forth.

Vole *Microtus sp.* — A few were seen along the roadside and trails in Denali.