



Spitsbergen: Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales & Birds

Dates: June 23-30. Observer: Gerard Gorman & Group

Notes: X = seen. Leader only records and those of others on the cruise ship who were not in the Naturalist Journeys group are not included.
For more specifics, numbers, subspecies, etc., see the TOUR REPORT.

#	Family or Species Common Name	Scientific Name	Day								Comments	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
			June 23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
	BIRDS											
	DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS	ANATIDAE										
1	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>								X		Surprisingly few seen
2	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X		X	X			X		Common and widespread
3	King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>			X							Uncommon
4	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	X		X	X				X	X	Common and widespread
	PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES	PHASIANIDAE										
5	Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>										Seen on pre-tour day
	PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS	CHARADRIIDAE										
6	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X	X		X						Scattered observations
	SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES	SCOLOPACIDAE										
7	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										Seen on pre-tour day
8	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	X							X		Perhaps overlooked
	SKUAS AND JAEGER	STERCORARIIDAE										
9	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>				3	1					2 over land, 2 over sea seen
10	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	X	X	X	X				X		Common and widespread
	AUKS, MURRES, AND PUFFINS	ALCIDAE										
11	Dovekie	<i>Alle alle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		1000s seen
12	Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	X									Uncommon
13	Thick-billed Murre	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1000s seen
14	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Common but not in large flocks
15	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		X					X	X		Scattered observations
	GULLS AND TERNS	Laridae										

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			Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
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16	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Common and widespread	
17	Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>					4				Only at the Polar Bear kill	
18	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>					1				A rarity, 1 seen from the ship	
19	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Common and widespread	
20	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	Common and widespread	
	LOONS	GAVIIDAE										
21	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			2	1					Perhaps overlooked as nesting	
	PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS	PROCELLARIIDAE										
22	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Common and widespread	
	LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS	CALCARIIDAE										
23	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	Common at all land sites	
	MAMMALS											
	DOGS AND ALLIES	CANIDAE										
1	Arctic Fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>			1	1					Wary, only 2 glimpsed	
	BEARS	URSIDAE										
2	Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>				3	1		1		Female with 2 cubs on day 4	
	WALRUSES	ODOBENIDAE										
3	Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>			30	50					2 different groups seen	
	TRUE SEALS	PHOCIDAE										
4	Harbor Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			X	X					Singles and small groups seen	
5	Harp Seal	<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>					X	X			Approx. 2000 on day 6	
6	Hooded Seal	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>						X			Several singles seen on day 6	
	GREATER RIGHT WHALES	BALAENIDAE										
7	Bowhead Whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>					X				1, possibly 2, seen at ice edge	
	RORQUALS	BALAENOPTERIDAE										
8	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		X		X		X			Only glimpses from the ship	
	ARCTIC WHALES	MONODONTIDAE										
10	Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>				1				12	2 pods close together on 29th	

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	TRUE DEER	CERVIDAE										
11	Reindeer (Caribou)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>		X	X				X			Common on land

Plants recorded (with thanks to Susan Woodward)

Note: Daily lists include only new species seen on a particular day and not a complete list of the plants present and identified at each site.

22 June 2022. Longyearbyen

Perennial forbs:

Svalbard Poppy, *Papaver dahlianum*

Pale Whitlow Grass (white flower variant), *Draba oxycarpa*

White Arctic Bell-heather, *Cassiope tetragona*

Mountain Sorrel, *Oxyria digyna*

Arctic Chickweed, *Stellaria humifusa*

Sedge:

Arctic Cottongrass, *Eriophorum scheuchzeri* ssp. *arcticum*

Grass:

Polar Foxtail, *Alopecurus ovatus*

24 June 2022. Skansbutka

Perennial forbs:

Tufted Saxifrage, *Saxifraga cespitosa*

Arctic Mouse-ear, *Cerastium arcticum*

Sulfur-colored Buttercup, *Ranunculus sulphureus*

Polar Stoloniferous Saxifrage, *Saxifraga platysepala*

Drooping Saxifrage, *Saxifraga cernua*

Purple Saxifrage, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*

Mountain Avens, *Dryas octopetala*

Pale Whitlow Grass (yellow-flowered variant), *Draba oxycarpa*

Tufted Cinquefoil, *Potentilla pulchella*

Alpine Saxifrage, *Micranthes nivalis*

Tree:

Polar Willow, *Salix polaris*

29 June 2022. Calypsobyen

Perennial forbs:

Hairy Lousewort, *Pedicularis hirsuta*

Polar Scurvygrass, *Cochlearia groenlandica*

Moss Campion, *Silene acaulis*

Sedge:

Polar Bear Sedge, *Carex ursina*

Rush:

Northern Woodrush, *Luzula confusa*

Horsetail:

Polar Field Horsetail, *Equisetum arvense* ssp. *Boreale*