

Iceland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd – 31st May 2025



King Eider



Barrow's Goldeneye



Sperm Whale



Grey Phalarope

Tour report by Dave Jackson
Photos by Mark Woodhead and Dave Hughes



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Dave Jackson and Bob Gill (leaders) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

This tour picked up right where ‘Undiscovered Iceland’ left off, and was remarkable in the quality and quantity of species seen. We encountered rarities including King Eider, Ring-necked Duck, and a first for Iceland: Oriental Turtle Dove. We watched a Grey (Red) Phalarope in the morning, and Orca and Sperm Whale in the afternoon on one day. We visited dramatic waterfalls and fumaroles, and stayed at hotels in prime locations for wildlife, including Mývatn and Snæfellsnes.

Add to this a wealth of wildfowl such as Harlequin, Long-tailed Duck and Barrow’s Goldeneye, waders including Ruddy Turnstone, Black-tailed Godwit, Purple Sandpiper and very close views of enchanting Red-necked Phalaropes, plus Great Northern and Red-throated Divers, Slavonian Grebe and Ptarmigan, all set against the backdrop of Iceland’s breathtaking landscapes, quiet roads and legendary hospitality, and it’s easy to see why Iceland has become a top destination for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

Day 1

Friday 23rd May

Keflavik – Reykjavik

Overcast, 9°C

With flights arriving from Heathrow, Manchester and Glasgow and all due to arrive at Keflavik Airport within a very short time of each other, what were the chances of all going to plan? Amazingly, all worked out fine, and with no queues at the car rental office we were soon on our way to Reykjavik Domestic Airport to connect with our internal flight to Akureyri. Roadside birds included Common Snipe, Golden Plover, Whimbrel and Redwing.

On arrival at Akureyri, we picked up our second set of minibuses and made the hour’s drive to the Sel Hotel, situated right next to Mývatn (or Midge Lake in Icelandic), spotting Whooper Swans, Greylag Geese, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Slavonian Grebe, Black-tailed Godwit and Arctic Skua, and more Ptarmigans on the journey than we’d seen on past spring tours put together, with double figures: all were males flying or perched on rocks.

It was after 9.15 pm by the time we arrived, so we headed straight to the restaurant for our pre-ordered Icelandic dinner. Since it never truly gets dark during the Icelandic summer, we were able to enjoy a post-dinner walk down to the lake. There, we had our first encounter with the many Red-necked Phalaropes, accompanied by a supporting cast of Greater Scaups, Long-tailed Ducks, Great Northern Divers, Red-breasted Mergansers, and numerous Tufted Ducks. After a long day, we finally gave in to sleep.

Day 2

Saturday 24th May

Mývatn – Laxá - Goðafoss – Húsavík

Showers, 8°C

A cloudy start with a touch of drizzle didn't dampen the spirits of the early risers who ventured out for a pre-breakfast walk to the lake. It wasn't long before cameras were clicking, capturing close-up views of Red-necked Phalaropes, Slavonian Grebes, and Long-tailed Ducks. Arctic Terns flew constantly overhead, while the drumming of Common Snipe and the song of Redwings filled the air, sounds that would become a defining part of the trip's soundtrack. A particularly unusual sight was four Barrow's Goldeneye (three ducks and a drake) flying around before settling on the chimney of a nearby house! A male Ptarmigan also made a brief appearance, rounding off the morning nicely before we headed in for breakfast.

The Laxá River was a short drive from the hotel, and a pair of stunning Harlequin Ducks were on view as we arrived; the drake was particularly alluring. We then turned our attention to a male Barrow's Goldeneye, busily picking insects from the surface of the river. Dunlin and Golden Plover, both in full breeding plumage, were also popular sightings.

Our next stop was Goðafoss, one of Iceland's many picturesque waterfalls. With a twelve-metre drop and a width of thirty metres, it may not be the largest, but it's certainly impressive and a real magnet for visitors. The name Goðafoss is open to interpretation. The most popular story attributes it to a local chieftain who, in the year 1000CE, is said to have thrown his statues of the Norse gods into the falls, following Iceland's adoption of Christianity. However, according to a linguist and place-name expert, this tale likely originated in Denmark. He suggests the name may instead refer to two crags near the falls that resemble pagan idols. Despite the number of people at the site, we were treated to very close views of Snipe, Whimbrel, and Ptarmigan all going about their business, seemingly unbothered by the crowds.

We continued our journey to Húsavík, where we were booked on an afternoon whalewatching trip. We spent some time sorting through the local gulls, picking out Iceland and Glaucous Gulls from among the more familiar Herring and Lesser Black-backed. The three keen photographers in the group decided against the boat trip, preferring another attempt at photographing Harlequin Ducks on the Laxá. Fortunately, having two vehicles made it easy to split up: one group boarded the whalewatching boat, while the others set off by bus in pursuit of more dazzling duck delights.

While waiting for our boat to depart, we enjoyed great views of Black Guillemots and Eiders in the harbour, and a lone Swallow provided a delightful bonus. Out in the bay, Fulmars skimmed low across the waves and the occasional Gannet passed by.

After about an hour on the water, the crew received word of a Humpback Whale surfacing half a mile away. We quickly headed in that direction and were treated to a spectacular display as the whale surfaced and shallow-dived repeatedly around the boat. Fluke shots were plentiful, whether taken with camera or phone, and we spent a memorable forty-five minutes with the whale before leaving it in peace and turning back toward the harbour. The skippers are clearly committed to responsible whale-watching, placing time limits on interactions to avoid disturbing the animals.

Meanwhile, the photography group returned to Mývatn with the aim of tracking down a Ring-necked Duck that had been reported the previous day. A local photographer was eager to share his photos and pointed to the exact location. It didn't take long before the duck was spotted among the Tufted Ducks; it was easily identifiable thanks to its larger size and distinctive pale foreflank patch.

The group reunited for the pre-dinner checklist. The three photographers shared their highlights, having enjoyed excellent views of Harlequin Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneye, Dunlin and Red-necked Phalaropes. All in all, it had been a thoroughly satisfying day.

Day 3

Sunday 25th May

Dimmuborgir – Dettifoss – Námafjall Hverir – Höfði Woodland Park

Showers, 8°C

The day started wet, but a few of us still ventured out for a pre-breakfast walk around the lake. Red-necked Phalaropes, soon to be the most photographed birds of the trip, were irresistible, even in the rain! Slavonian Grebe, Great Northern Diver, Common Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Scaup, and Black-tailed Godwit all posed obligingly in the drizzle. A pair of Ptarmigans wandered about unassumingly, offering some great photo opportunities. Unfortunately, two males engaged in a territorial scrap were just a bit too far away for decent shots.

After breakfast, we headed out for the day, with our first stop at Dimmuborgir, a vast area of unusually shaped lava fields, also known as the Dark Forest. This dramatic landscape of towering lava formations, volcanic caves and Birch woodland is steeped in Icelandic folklore, and is said to be the home of the country's brutal trolls. We didn't run into any, though, and since they only eat children, we probably weren't in much danger! Instead, we enjoyed the atmospheric setting, filled with singing Redwings, as well as Ptarmigans and Snipe, both looking delightfully out of place perched atop the strange lava spires.

A small flock of Snow Bunting took off from the roadside as we approached Dettifoss, reputedly the second most powerful waterfall in Europe, after the Rhine Falls, when measured by the volume of water cascading over its edge each second. At 44m high and 100m wide, it is undeniably spectacular, though somewhat surprisingly not especially photogenic. Just a short walk away, however, lies its much smaller and far more photogenic cousin, Selfoss, making it a double waterfall day for some.

A pair of Red-throated Divers loitered on a barren lake and drifted off slowly as three of the group approached; they were in no mood to have their photos taken. A pair of Pink-footed Geese flew overhead, while at ground level, Moss Campion injected a patch of colour to this otherwise rocky landscape. Lunch was taken at Mývatn Nature Baths, though we stayed on the dry side of the glass.

After lunch, we visited the geothermal mud pools and fumaroles of Námafjall Hverir, an extensive area of bubbling mud pots and steaming vents, all accompanied by the unmistakable aroma of sulphur. This stark volcanic landscape, almost devoid of greenery, is strikingly coloured by sulphur and other mineral deposits which stain the ground in vivid hues. Three new birds were added to the list from the road down to the bird museum: Teal, Shoveler, and a Merlin speeding past pursued by godwits.

On the return journey to the hotel, we stopped at Höfði Woodland Park, a rocky, wooded promontory that extends into Mývatn. Here, we spotted more Teal and Wigeon on the lake, while (Icelandic) Redpolls showed well in the trees, alongside a striking White Wagtail. All too soon, it was time to head back to the hotel for dinner and to pack for the next leg of our journey.

Day 4

Monday 26th May

Mývatnssveit – Laxá – Blönduós – Laugarbakki

Broken cloud, 2-10°C

We made a short stop at the Laxá River to look again at Barrow's Goldeneyes, a bird we were unlikely to encounter again on the trip, before the long journey to our next hotel in Laugarbakki. Along the way, we passed Goðafoss and followed the scenic mountain route to Akureyri, where we refreshed our picnic supplies. About thirty minutes later, we stopped at a beautiful riverside spot at Jónasarlundur, a beautiful wooded valley surrounded by high crags, with a fast, glacial river flowing through. Two Harlequin Ducks were asleep on a rock in the middle of the river; the photographers were desperate for them to wake up! A Merlin flew past carrying prey, possibly a luckless Snipe, a pair of Goosander was spotted further down the river, and the ever-present Redwings were carrying food to their young. Eventually, a third Harlequin joined the other two, and one slipped into the turbulent water, at last allowing some great shots.

Our next stop was at the small river estuary in Blönduós, where we enjoyed great views of six Red-throated Divers, Ringed Plover, Redshank, Eider, Glaucous, Iceland, Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls, and an Arctic Skua.

We then headed to the Laugarbakki Hotel, our stop for the night, where we dropped our bags before heading out for a drive along the peninsula, stopping first at the small harbour of Hvammstangi. Good numbers of Eiders were present in the harbour, the males still resplendent in their breeding plumage, Arctic Terns were in good numbers, Fulmars were flying around or swimming on the sea, and an Arctic Skua dive-bombed the terns, looking for a free meal. Further along the road, it seemed that on every other post either a Snipe, a Redshank or a Redwing posed, and two Black Guillemots and a Grey Seal bobbed around in the sea. Our final species of the day was a Wheatear flitting among the rocks and gathering food for its young. It was then time to head back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 5

Tuesday 27th May

Laugarbakki – Ytri Tunga – Langaholt Hotel

Breezy, 12°C

Both leaders were up and ready for a 6.00am drive up the Vatnsnes peninsula, where Shag was a new bird. Snipe called and preened from their chosen fenceposts as we made our way along the gravel road, until we came to a lay-by. From here, we could see a flock of waders roosting, mostly glorious Knots, with a single Purple Sandpiper and several Dunlin in the mix. Harlequin Ducks were widespread this year, and another six were added to the list here before we returned to base.

With breakfast done and the buses loaded, we set off for Snæfellsnes, a three-hour drive away. We made a quick stop at Borgarnes to pick up a picnic lunch, before making a short drive to a large estuary which, as promised in the itinerary, turned out to be a good spot to add Shelduck to the trip list.

We continued our journey onto the peninsula, but as it was too early to book into the hotel we stopped off at Ytri Tunga, just a short drive from the hotel and wow, what a place it turned out to be, with large numbers of Eider, Arctic Terns, gulls including Glaucous, Iceland, Great Black-backed and Black-headed, and breeding-plumaged waders including Sanderling, Dunlin, Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper, Redshank and Knot. All gave fantastic views. Flocks of Pale-bellied Brent Geese flew by, on the way to their breeding grounds in the high Arctic, and Harbour Seals basked on the rocks. All too soon, it was time to head back to the buses, but then one of the group spotted a King Eider asleep on the rocks: an excellent find! Unfortunately, it remained asleep, so we vowed to return later when the tide was in, to see if we could get better views.

After checking in at the Langaholt Hotel, home for the next two nights, we took a drive out along the peninsula, basking in the beautiful scenery. Our first stop was Ólavsvík harbour for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, before continuing on to Ondverðarnes, the westernmost point of the peninsula. This is an interesting drive through a rugged lava landscape, leading to sea cliffs and a lighthouse. The cliffs here held good numbers of Kittiwakes, Guillemots, Razorbills and a few Puffins, and among this noisy throng was a breeding pair of the much rarer Brünnich's Guillemot, one of which was quickly located and photographed. To top things off, a much-wanted Arctic Fox was spotted making its way across the lava field. Luckily, it sat down for several minutes, giving us all good views and the opportunity for some photographs.

Before returning to the hotel, we dropped back in to Ytri Tunga to look for the King Eider; typically, it was nowhere to be seen, but just as we were on the point of giving up, it duly flew in and landed on the sea, giving us superb views of this stunning duck. There can't be too many days, even in Iceland, when one can boast a tally of Harlequin Duck, Brünnich's Guillemot, Arctic Fox and King Eider: what an afternoon! Elated, we returned to the hotel for a very welcome buffet dinner.

Day 6

Wednesday 28th May

Ytri Tunga – Arnarstapi – Ólavsvík – Hellissandur

Changeable, 6-9°C

A pre-breakfast drive back to Ytri Tunga produced no further sightings of the King Eider, just plenty of Common Eider and waders to work through, and nothing new. After breakfast we drove along the peninsula to Arnarstapi, where we walked down to the famous rock arch, with good numbers of breeding Kittiwakes and Fulmars. The Kittiwakes were dropping into some pools to bathe before returning to the cliffs. As we approached, a male Grey Phalarope, in full breeding plumage, was spotted in among the gulls. Some time was spent watching and photographing this real stunner before it was time to return to the buses, running the gauntlet of a noisy pair of Oystercatchers watching out for their two chicks.

We moved on to Ólavsvík, where an Oriental Turtle Dove, a first for Iceland, had been reported from a private garden but, despite a slow drive around the estate, we couldn't locate it. After a picnic lunch and another fruitless drive looking for the dove, we headed to the harbour for our whale-watching trip.

Once toggled up in onesies, we boarded the boat and headed out into the bay. Fulmars, Kittiwakes and the occasional Puffin kept us company before the cry went up: we had contact with a small pod of Orca! Some time was spent with these fantastic animals as they surfaced repeatedly around the boat, the male easily distinguished by his collapsed dorsal fin, making him look as though he was carrying a rucksack! Again, following the policy of moderating disturbance to the animals, before too long we were heading out to deeper water.

Alerted by a distant blow, the boat made haste, and before long we were enjoying the company of a huge Sperm Whale; adult males can grow to be eighteen metres long and weigh up to fifty tonnes! These really are the leviathans of the deep, diving down to over two thousand metres in search of their main prey, squid, including the fabled Giant Squid, which they find by echolocation. At 236dB, that make the Sperm Whale the loudest animal on earth.

Enough time was spent with this giant for plenty of photographs to be taken, before it made a deep dive, giving us a fantastic flash of its fluke as it went. That was the cue to move on, as a deep dive can last well over twenty minutes. It wasn't too long before another Sperm Whale was spotted. As this one had already been on the surface for some time, it too soon made a deep dive: what an exhilarating experience! To top off the trip, on the way back to the harbour we had another encounter with the Orca pod.

Back on dry land, we had another drive around the estate, looking for the Oriental Turtle Dove. Half the group elected to return to the hotel for dinner, while the rest decided to continue the search. Their patience paid off, and the Oriental Turtle Dove was seen flying back to its favoured garden after being missing all day. The residents invited the group and two Icelanders, who had travelled from Reykjavik, into their home for better views through their kitchen window. Such hospitality!



Purple Sandpiper



Oriental Turtle Dove

Day 7

Thursday 29th May

Borgarnes – Þingvellir – Gullfoss

Short showers, 9-12°C

A pre-breakfast walk to the lake in the hotel grounds proved fruitful, with calling Red-throated Divers, three pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers and a host of Arctic Terns; they were not as vicious as the ones on The Farne Islands, but were feisty enough on occasions.

After breakfast, primed and packed, it was sadly time to leave Snæfellsnes and head back in the direction of Reykjavik, stopping once again at Borgarnes to pick up a picnic lunch and to take another look over the estuary.

Our hotel for our last two nights in Iceland was the Hotel Gullfoss, close to the famous Gullfoss waterfall, and on the way we stopped at the lower car park of Þingvellir (T(h)ing-vet-lir), a spectacular landscape created by the mid-atlantic rift, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are moving apart. Iceland is the only place in the world where this rift can be seen above sea level, and at Þingvellir the edges of both plates can be clearly seen.

As we were returning here the next day, we enjoyed our picnic lunch on the shore of Þingvallatn, the largest lake in Iceland, before taking a short walk along the river, enjoying very close views of Snipe, Redwing and Greylag Geese.

We continued our journey to Hotel Gullfoss where, after checking in and dropping bags off, the group decided to make the three-kilometre journey to Gullfoss on foot, along the well-trodden track from the hotel, while the two leaders took the easy option and drove up ready to taxi everyone back in time for dinner. Such selflessness.

Gullfoss is widely regarded as one of the most impressive and picturesque waterfalls in Iceland and forms one of the main attractions on the Golden Circle Tour; it is one of the most photographed waterfalls in Iceland. In the afternoon sun it looked at its absolute best, with a spectacular rainbow created by the sunlight on the spray. Glorious!

Day 8

Friday 30th May

Gullfoss – Geysir – Þingvellir

Sun and showers, 10-14°C

Our final full day in Iceland included a tour of the Golden Circle route, so after breakfast, it was back up to Gullfoss, this time from the upper car park, which allowed for a different perspective of the falls, but also some retail therapy in well-stocked though expensive visitor centre.

It was then a ten-kilometre drive to Geysir, a geothermal field of bubbling pools, hot springs and one erupting geyser, Strokkur. The Great Geysir, after which the site is named, is sadly dormant, but its smaller cousin is very active, erupting approximately every ten minutes to a typical height of twenty metres, but occasionally reaching

forty metres. Either way it is still spectacular when it blows, and it was great fun trying to predict the timing for photos and videos.

The third major part of the Golden Circle is Þingvellir, so we headed back there via a supermarket to pick up our picnic lunch, this time heading for the main car park and visitor centre. After lunch, we walked between the tectonic plates, North American on the left and Eurasian on the right, to a large open area which served as the Alþingi, the site of Iceland's parliament from the tenth to the eighteenth centuries, and the site of the world's *first* parliament.

The shallow river which cuts through the site and into Þingvallatn holds large Brown Trout but, more importantly to us, up to six Harlequin Ducks were either sunbathing on the rocks or taking advantage of the cooler waters. Golden Plover, Snipe and Redwings seemed to ignore the crowds of visitors, while Greylag Geese wandered around with their goslings. Our last Red-necked Phalaropes of the trip were seen at the edge of the lake, and the photographers couldn't resist that last shot!

Our final destination of the day was away from the Golden Circle at the hydroelectric plant on the River Sog, where we did get views of the breeding Great Northern Divers, although they were too distant for photographs. Once again, the group split, and the ardent photographers, with a good deal of patience, managed close shots of a diver before returning to the hotel to pack and enjoy our final dinner together.

Day 9

Friday 31st May

Reykjavik – Reykjanestá – Keflavik

With an afternoon flight, we had sufficient time to visit some sites on the way to the airport, including a visit to Reykjavik, stopping to view the Sun Voyager, a gleaming stainless-steel sculpture resembling a Viking longboat, representing the promise of undiscovered territory and a dream of hope, progress and freedom. We then parked up next to Town Lake, where Greater Scaup mixed with Gadwall and other waterfowl, paid a brief visit to the town hall housing a large-scale relief map of Iceland, and said goodbye to one couple who were spending a few more days in Iceland.

We made a brief stop at the Njarðvíkurfitjar pools while the minibuses were refuelled, then set off through lava fields and past geothermal power plants until we reached Reykjanestá, the site of the Great Auk memorial, a bronze statue by sculptor Todd McGrain, created as part of the Lost Bird Project to commemorate extinct bird species. The keyboard played in the opening sequence of *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*, starring Will Ferrell, is bolted to the rocks at the location where the scene was filmed, slowly rusting away.

We grabbed sandwiches and sat outside a new café, taking in the pure Icelandic air before the short journey to the airport. Our adventure in Iceland had come to an end. We'd seen several unexpected rarities, including Ring-necked Duck and Oriental Turtle Dove, and seen Orca and Arctic Fox, all while immersed in breathtaking landscapes and in great company. The memories will be long-lasting.



Common Snipe

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Species lists

Birds

I=Introduced		May 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>						✓			
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			2			2			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		2	✓	✓					✓
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			4						
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>		1							
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>					1				
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		✓	✓	✓					
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				3					
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓								✓
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>						1			
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>						1			
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		5		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>					✓	✓			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				✓	✓		✓		
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		✓			✓	✓			
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			

I=Introduced		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>					✓	✓				
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>					1					
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓	
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓	
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			1	1						
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>							✓	✓		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>					✓		✓			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓	✓	✓				
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>			3							

Mammals

		May 2025									
Common Name	Scientific name	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Atlantic Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				1						
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>					✓	✓				
Arctic Fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>					1					
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		1								
Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>						6				
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>						2				

Selected plants

Common Name	Scientific name
Purple Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>
Moss Campion	<i>Silene acaulis</i>
Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>
Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>
Woolly Willow	<i>Salix lanata</i>
Alpine Bartsia	<i>Bartsia alpina</i>
Alpine Lady's-mantle	<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>
Moonwort	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>
Trailing Azalea	<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>
Heath Dog-violet	<i>Viola canina</i>
Nootka Lupin (introduced)	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>
Wood Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>