

# Eastern Iceland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour report

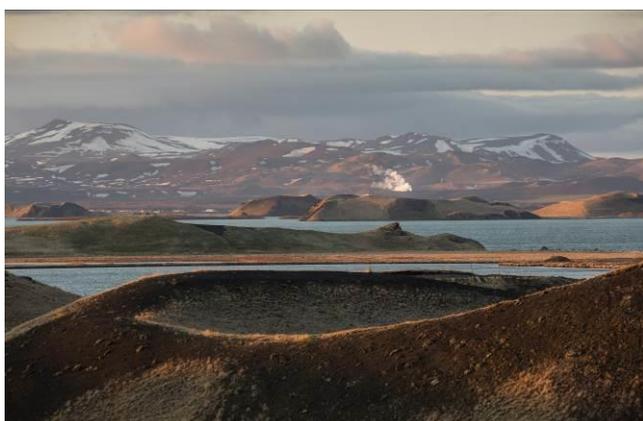
25 May - 2 June 2015



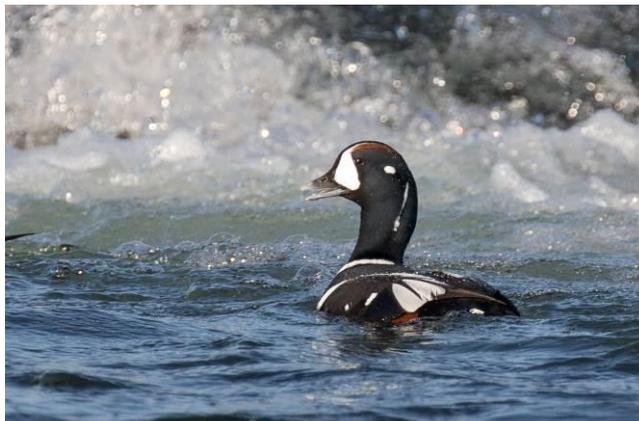
Gyr Falcon



Skogarfoss



Lake Mývatn



Harlequin Duck

Report compiled by Malcolm Stott  
Images courtesy Jeremy Lintott



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK  
T: +44 (0)1962 733051 F: +44 (0)1962 736426  
E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk) W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Malcolm Stott (leader)  
together with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Prologue

Despite the economy of language, the true sense of Iceland is, perhaps revealed through the sagas. In these stories events take place against a backdrop of daily life that reflects the deep relationship between the people and the landscape. The storytellers are keenly aware of the importance of this relationship, and they often display an acute awareness of the loss of naturalness since the arrival of the first settlers. They note that when events in their tales took place, forests were more abundant than in their own day, and occasionally they cite specific examples.

In fact, deforestation began with the arrival of the first colonists and the felling of timber for building and fuel; their sheep grazed emergent young shoots, thus preventing birch scrub to regenerate. It is now thought that by the thirteenth century most of Iceland's birch forests had already disappeared. This ecological disaster finds resonance in the semantic evolution of the word 'holt'. At first, like the German word 'holtz', it means 'forest'. This is its sense in place-names such as Reykholt, but following the woods disappearance, the word came to designate the sad sight that remained after the forest had gone – a field or low hill, stoney and barren. This secondary sense is also well tested in the sagas.

The catastrophic consequences of deforestation became increasingly evident after the 13th century. No longer protected by birch scrub, the soil began to erode, and even larger areas grew barren. This process was quickened by climatic changes as well. When the Norwegian colonists first arrived in Iceland the climate was relatively warm, perhaps a little warmer than today. This mild period of climate generally continued through the 12th century and it may, perhaps even have grown warmer, which explains why agriculture was far more varied in those earlier years than it became later. Numerous place names would suggest that pigs were raised along with sheep and cattle and, at least in the south, that grains were grown. In the 13th century however, the climate grew considerably cooler, and this change was to last a long time. The 14th century remained cold and although we lack sources for the 14th century, we know that the climate remained cold through the Middle-Ages and during the 16th century it grew even colder. This was the beginning of an especially cold era, sometimes known as the 'little ice-age', which lasted until the early 19th century. The cooling showed itself in various ways: glaciers advanced, sometimes burying ancient farmsteads in their paths, and ice floes appeared off the coast, sometimes closing access to the northern and eastern fjords, interrupting sea-travel or halting it altogether. The combination of deforestation and climate change, together with the enormous pressure placed on the remaining vegetation, meant that 'wounds' inflicted by volcanic eruptions could no longer heal as quickly as they had in the past; the eruptions, of course continued as before. With climatic change and progressive desertification, life for the people in Iceland deteriorated as well. This harsh quality of life inflicted on the population lasted from about 1820 to the early 19th century.

## Day 1

Monday 25th May

UK – Northern Light Inn, Weather: Overcast with a little sunshine, wind W 7/s, 4°C

Flights from UK destinations arrived more-or-less on time and soon we were on our way to the very comfortable Northern Light Inn.

Following a pre-dinner briefing and supper there was still plenty of daylight for a stroll to ponder the novelty of the local scenery; a geothermal power-plant and the world's first Carbon Recapture Plant! The geothermal energy

process may need little explanation, however on the other hand, the Carbon Recapture Plant may need more; basically it is making wood alcohol for blending with gasoline and bio-diesel fuels by extracting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and combining it with water and electricity from the nearby geothermal power plant into a carbon neutral source of liquid energy, making it the first of its kind in the world.

The need for clean affordable fuels, you will agree, is urgent and renewable methanol may be one solution. Carbon Recycling's methanol is produced economically by combining hydrogen with carbon dioxide under low pressure and temperatures. Hydrogen is made by breaking apart water molecules with electricity. The only bio-product is oxygen. Water in Iceland, as implied by its name, is frozen in abundance. Methanol also has the benefit of being biodegradable, water-soluble, easy to store safely and efficient transport energy.

## Day 2

Tuesday 26th May

Northern Light Inn – Skaftafell, Cloudy, little rain with sunny periods, wind NW 4m/s, 8°C

We left the hotel promptly at 9am and took the new coastal road to Selfoss. The drive took us through a barren landscape of ancient lava fields that were covered in centuries old Rhacomitrum moss, perhaps giving a false impression as to Iceland's natural beauty and wonderment before we reached the second largest town on the south coast.

The small town of Hella provided a welcomed coffee stop while provisions for a picnic lunch were bought. Next we visited Seljalandsfoss and surprisingly for May it was very busy and the car park almost full! Most enjoyed a walk behind the curtain of falling water although some did get a little damp, while others spent time birdwatching.

Our second waterfall at Skogafoss was even more impressive and reaching the top proved to be a challenge with 427 steps to climb. This gave Malcolm ample time to prepare an alfresco lunch in equally challenging weather conditions.

Travelling on, we made a stop at Vik to photograph the spectacular sea stacks before some indulged in a little retail therapy while the rest enjoyed a cup of coffee.

As the southern ring road from Reykjavik gently looped towards the coast, the peaks of Eyjafjallajökull were shrouded in low cloud, as was Mýrdalsjökull, an icecap that squats over the active volcano Katla, its many glacial tongues reaching to within a few a few kilometres of the road.

We managed another waterfall stop and some beautiful cascading water before starting to cross the impressive Skeiðararsandur, scene of the devastating sub-glacial eruption in 1998. Although its grandeur was tempered by low cloud, it was still pretty spectacular and seeing a glacier for the first time is always very special and a memorable experience.

The mighty Vatnajökull dominated the distant horizon during our journey and suddenly it looked much closer now. This vast glacier is the largest in Europe, both in terms of height and geographical spread. It covers more than 8% of the country's landmass, and its many peaks include Iceland's tallest mountain which can often be glimpsed poking through clouds; but not today! The glacier spills out into roughly 30 icefalls, each of which tumbles dramatically down to ground level and our hotel was situated amongst the terminal moraines of one of these, Svinafelljökull.

The journey through this enchanted area, with the vastness of the glacier and its various outlets, made a compelling impression on the mind. The expansive views across the black lava sands of the Skeiðarársandur towards Skaftfelljökull glacier left one in awe of the glacier's sheer magnitude, relentless in its crushing effect upon the land beneath it.

Having settled into our comfortable rooms we then reassembled at the service station just across the road for supper. The daily log followed and yes, we did see some birds along the way, but today was dominated by some magnificent scenery and simply enjoying where the journey had taken us.

## Day 3

Wednesday 27th May

Skaftafell – Jökulsárlón, Low cloud with sunny periods, wind NE 3m/s, 5°C

Exquisite light greeted us this morning, illuminating the glacier where Hvanndalshnúkur stood majestic above all the other jagged peaks. Short-eared Owl, Ptarmigan, Golden Plover and drumming Snipe all added to the atmosphere on a pre-breakfast walk.

We left the hotel at 9am sharp, taking a leisurely drive east with the aim of visiting Jökulsárlón. We made several photography and birding stops en route before arriving at the spectacular ice-lake.

There are few glacial lagoons existing in the world today and certainly none more awe-inspiring and accessible than the renowned Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, situated at the head of the Breiðamerkjökull outlet glacier on the peerless Vatnajökull Glacier.

We enjoyed an hour sailing between monster blocks of ice, discovering the enchanting frozen-blue world, while the guide explained all we needed to know about frozen water. It was so peaceful on the lagoon the silence was almost eerie, adding to the sense of awe.

Once back on the shore we dispersed in separate directions to relish some precious time in this fairy-tale landscape. The lagoon is actually much bigger and deeper than it first appeared, measuring approximately 24 square kilometres (9.2 square miles). You can easily fit the island of Heimay (in the Westman Islands) into it with room to spare. At over 250 metres (820 feet) deep, four 'Leaning Towers of Pisa' stacked one on top of each other wouldn't break its surface water!

With the ebb and flow of the tides, sea water enters into the lagoon bringing with it krill, capelin, herring and salmon. Curious seals know where the food is plentiful and we saw many of them bobbing along with the currents, swimming in and out between the icebergs and appearing to enjoy the attention from onlookers on the shore. Birds too feasted on this abundance of food; Arctic Terns commuted between the rich feeding grounds and nearby nesting colony carrying any amount of small fish, while Glaucous Gulls 'chilled out' on the icebergs and both species of skua menacingly patrolled the skies above. On the water, much to everyone's delight, John found a few Harlequin Ducks present amongst some rafts of Eiders.

The backcloth of dark clouds with the sunlight shining on and through the ice produced some beautiful effects; the multifaceted icebergs formed shapes that were utterly other-worldly. It was truly a photographer's dream, presenting a changing landscape of ice-sculptures and an opportunity for some unique shots.

It hasn't always been like this; the lagoon started to form in 1934, and has grown steadily larger since then as the Vatnajökull glacier began retreating and ice started moving slowly down towards the sea, breaking off in huge chunks in the lagoon and it is now the deepest lake in Iceland.

Before leaving we ventured across the road, near the delta where fresh and salt converge, and while lunch was prepared we walked down to the water's edge to witness the rather surreal sight of 'baby bergs' beached on the shoreline.

Leaving these crystals of shattered ice lying scattered on the black velvet sand, like precious gems to their eternal destination, we retraced our journey back to Skaftafell where we visited the National Park Visitor Centre. Since the weather had deteriorated we aimed to keep dry while watching a video explaining the important ecological aspects of the park. Once the rain had stopped we made our way back to the hotel and en route visited the glacial tongue at Svinafellsjökull, where we climbed the steep path above the ice where we could appreciate the scale and extent of crevasses.

Again we enjoyed supper at the service station and held the daily log, after which people disappeared to their rooms for warm clothing and cameras before enjoying an evening stroll in this amazing landscape.

## Day 4

Thursday 28th May

Ingólfshöfði – Skaftafell, Cloudy with showers and sunny periods, wind NW 4m/s, 8°C

We had a short drive to Fagurholsmyri this morning, where we had a rendezvous with a novel mode of transport to visit the Cape of Ingólfshöfði. The tractor and trailer proved an excellent means of transport across the marsh and fluvial out-wash plain to visit the headland; first settlement of Iceland by the Vikings in 874AD. Although the cape was once an island with a sheltered harbour and good grazing land close-by, the Vikings trusted faith in their Pagan gods which eventually lead them to Reykjavik (how lucky was that!).

Once the tractor had come to a halt at the foot of a large sandbar of wind-blown lava dust, the only way up was by foot. Taking time to recover from the climb, the view from the cliff top was a wonderful panorama back to the mainland and in spite of the low cloud it was easy to appreciate why the early settlers named this new territory Iceland.

Einar, our guide, gave us a very informative tour of the island and enthusiastically answered all our questions. Amongst the assembled seabirds we managed to see Puffin, Razorbill, Common Guillemot and the high Arctic specialist, Brunnick's Guillemot on this their most southerly breeding grounds. All too soon our time on this magical island had come to an end as we climbed down the sandbar and boarded the tractor and trailer for the return crossing. Einar's smile was almost the width of the sandbar and his enthusiasm for the island infectious; the whole experience will be memorable for some time to come.

We had lunch at the point of departure followed by a brief stroll across the marsh where we saw Dunlin and Red-necked Phalarope on the numerous rivulets and shallows before departing for Skaftafell.

On the return journey we could see ominous rain clouds gathering and drifting our way, so we decided to take a short break at the hotel until they had passed, which they soon did. Once at the National Park we drove as far as

possible up the steep incline onto the plateau from where we walked to see the splendid waterfall Svartifoss, the inspiration for the concept of new church in Reykjavik. We ambled back down to the visitor centre at our own pace, through scrubby birch woodland alive with the sounds of Redwing and Snipe, while Malcolm relocated the bus onto the lower car parking area.

Following supper and the daily log the evening light was sublime and we enjoyed a final stroll through the moraines up to the glacier snout before retiring.

## Day 5

Friday 29th May

Skaftafell – Djúpvogur, Clear sky and sunny, wind NW 2m/s, 9°C

Sadly it was time for us to depart this beautiful corner of Iceland and head further east. After several stops to photograph reflections of the stunning mountain scenery in roadside pools we eventually arrived at Fjallsárlón. Unlike our previous visit, the glacier was clear of cloud and looked awesome. We had time to walk down to the ice-packed lagoon and enjoy the serenity, since we had it to ourselves this morning; a unique event these days.

Next we revisited Jökulsárlón where we were disappointed to find crowds of noisy tourists, some trampling through the Arctic Tern colony to encourage the birds to attack just for a photograph; some even collecting their eggs would you believe! That aside, however annoying, we managed to enjoy the spectacular scenery and the glorious weather before moving further east to Hófn where we had lunch overlooking the shore and were entertained by one very obliging Snipe who seemed to enjoy posing for the cameras.

The coastal scenery along the drive to Djúpvogur was quite spectacular, weaving in and out of fjords before we eventually arrived at the town. A herd of Reindeer on its outskirts was a bonus before arriving at our quaint hotel. After checking-in we had time for a quick coffee before visiting the tiny airstrip to investigate what birds might be on its adjacent pools. This proved to be a great place with lots of divers, phalaropes and godwits; and we managed to add such Icelandic rarities as Shoveler and Shelduck to our increasing list of species before returning to the hotel in time for a delicious supper of Arctic Char followed by the now customary daily log.

## Day 6

Saturday 30th May

Djúpvogur – Myvatn, Cloudy am, bright and sunny pm, wind SE 6 m/s, 4°C

Before leaving Djúpvogur we couldn't resist making another visit to the pools where we found a very obliging Red-necked Phalarope that allowed some very close-up photography.

Our journey today took us through some very spectacular landscapes and before exchanging the coastal landscape for a more mountainous terrain, we had a brief stop to photograph a beautiful waterfall. On leaving route 1 the gravel road twisted and turned as it started to ascend the very steep mountain side. Once at the top the view back down the valley to the fjord was spectacular. We travelled across the plateau, still hanging onto numerous snow fields, before descending into a rich pastoral valley and arriving in Egilsstaðir. After coffee and yet another waterfall stop it felt as if we had climbed on top of the world as we travelled across a barren and desolate landscape. We paused briefly to view small flock of Pink-footed Geese before finding a suitably sheltered place for lunch, and in this vast wilderness finding some protection from the strong biting wind wasn't easy. Eventually when we did stop,

the stone desert was almost void of vegetation except for the scattered cushions of amethyst gems, *Vetrarblóm* (Purple Saxifrage).

After lunch we visited the mighty Dettifoss, but snow and ice prevented us from descending onto the lower shelf to get close views of the falls; instead we had to settle for distant views from the canyon rim. Next we visited Selfoss, a much smaller but more impressive waterfall, before returning to the car park and continuing on our journey to Lake Mývatn.

The elevated car park that overlooked the lake gave us a spectacular panorama of surreal lava, craters and cave formations, sulphur-streaked mountains, and sweeping wetlands: a unique landscape made even more enchanting gilded in the evening sunlight. Lake Mývatn and its surrounding marshes are one of Europe's greatest natural treasures; shaped by repeated volcanic eruptions and seismic activity down through the ages, the area is around 36 square kilometres.

Mývatn is well known for its rich birdlife, particularly its abundance of breeding wildfowl. No other site in Europe can boast such a diverse range of breeding ducks as the Lake Mývatn area. Fourteen of the sixteen species of duck which breed in Iceland are found here: Common Eider and Shelduck are coastal species and therefore rarely seen at Mývatn. Three other species of wildfowl, Whooper Swan, Graylag Goose and to a lesser extent Pink-footed Goose also breed in the area.

Once at our hotel we quickly unloaded the bus and couldn't resist the temptation to make the most of the glorious evening light and explore the environs before a late supper.

## Day 7

Sunday 31st May

Mývatn – Husavik, Cloudy with light rain, wind SE 7m/s, 1°C

Given the deteriorating weather forecast for later today, we opted for a morning whale-watching sailing. We had two choices for our outward journey around the lake and as luck would have it we choose wisely. Within 15 minutes of leaving the hotel we were privileged to witness perhaps the most celebrated falcon in the world plucking its breakfast! Within five metres of the road a beautiful female Gyr Falcon was perched, gripping tightly onto a Greylag Goose that was no more; it was definitely deceased and very dead! Every birdwatcher visiting Iceland dreams of having good views of a Gyr Falcon and we were not disappointed; it was truly a marvellous sight and, perhaps a good omen for the day ahead? It was with great reluctance we had to leave the falcon to continue our drive to Húsavik for the 10am sailing. Once on board the ship we quickly wriggled into our thermal 'onesies' and full of enthusiastic optimism we sailed out of the picturesque harbour and into the beautiful Skjáfandi bay.

There were many puffins and guillemots, including a few Black Guillemots on the sea to keep us entertained until we encountered our first whale; a Humpback with an enormous appetite judging by the number and duration of its dives. A second whale of the same species proved just as elusive as the first encounter, but our luck held and the third Humpback Whale eventually surface within a few metres of the ship giving some extraordinary close views much to everyone's delight. With that sighting the ships' engines roared into life and with a plume of exhaust gasses the ship turned and we head back towards the tiny harbour at Húsavik. Once back on dry land we had an improvised lunch by the renovated clincher build ships, and before leaving we had a brief visit to where Malcolm thought we might have a chance at seeing Iceland Gulls, and he wasn't wrong.

Back at the lake we collected Margaret and Graham from the hotel and returned to the Laxá for a walk along the river to view Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye followed by another circuit of the lake looking for more falcons and divers. Leaving the lakeside we headed inland to the unworldly landscape at Hverir with its gurgling, grey mud pots and hissing fumaroles. Finally, before returning to the hotel we visited the Nature Baths where some of us braved the cold for a dip in the geothermal waters, while the more sensible had hot drinks and watched from the warmth and comfort of the café.

## Day 8

Monday 1st June

Mývatn – Goðafoss, Cloudy with a little rain, wind N 7m/s, 1°C

Following a quick visit to the 'goose carcass' to see if the falcon had returned to enjoy another feast, we were disappointed to find it had already had its breakfast this morning, so we set off to visit Goðafoss. It was one of those misty, damp mornings you usually get in winter, but today was the 1st June! We made the best of our visit, given the weather conditions, returning to the Laugar valley for a spot of birding before revisiting the lake after lunch.

Again we checked on the 'goose carcass' and again found no falcons present, so we had a pleasant walk round the wooded peninsula Höfði. Here we enjoyed good views of a Great-northern Diver and two Slavonian Grebes, as well as taking the compulsory photographs of Mývatn's famous steam vents.

Later we had the obligatory stop at the 'Cowshed Café' for hot drinks and blueberry cake before visiting Dimmuborgir. We felt in need of some exercise so decided to wander along the labyrinth of paths between some weird and wonderful lava formations, losing ourselves in time and conscious our every steps were being watched by the trolls that inhabit the area.

Back at the hotel we enjoyed our final supper together and completed the daily log before retiring to pack in preparation for departure tomorrow.

## Day 9

Tuesday 2nd June

Keflavik – UK, Cold and snowy, wind NE 9m/s, -1°C

Lake Mývatn is situated 65 miles beneath the Arctic Circle yet it felt much closer as overnight temperatures plummeted to -1°C, added to which the wind-chill factor made it feel much colder! This morning we left our hotel base at Mývatn for the final drive to Akureryi, leaving its landscape firmly in the grip of winter and we even had snow flurries to accompany us on the journey.

We arrived in Akureryi in plenty of time for our flight south, so we made a brief visit to the Botanical Gardens. Most plants were not showing, although in two weeks from now most would be in flower.

The flight to Reykjavik was uneventful and our transfer coach was waiting our arrival. We had just an hour to absorb the ambience of this vibrant northern capital before boarding the bus for the transfer to Keflavik International Airport. Farewells exchanged and only security to negotiate before some indulgent retail therapy and the UK flight home.

## PS

In Iceland, May is the season when senses are normally reactivated to the presence of awakening nature; as birds reach their breeding climax. At this time of year the landscape is recovering from the long, dark winter and the birds are extremely active and conspicuous. The countryside is again rejuvenated with the evocative sound of bird song, active courtship and lively displays; but sadly not on this occasion!

Thank you for joining me on this amazing tour, your company and kindness were greatly appreciated. I hope you can now share a little of my enthusiasm for this enchanting land and one day, in the not too distant future you will return to experience more of what Iceland can offer, perhaps Iceland in autumn - Waterfalls, Glaciers and Icebergs (possibly Northern Lights too!).

## Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

## Species List

Birds (Status: R = resident: PM = passage migrant: SV = summer visitor: WV = winter visitor; S = scarce: A = Accidental: Intro = Introduced; ✓ = recorded not counted)

Status	Common name	Scientific name	Icelandic name	June/July									
				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
R	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Álft		✓	4	50	650	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SV	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Heiðgæs			4			60	4	1		
R	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Grágæs		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PM/SV	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Helsingi			6		23	4				
R	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Brandönd					✓	✓	✓	✓		
R	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Rauðhöfðaönd					4	✓	60	✓		
R	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Gargönd		2			12	✓	✓	6		
R	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Urtönd		✓	✓	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Stökkönd							2			
S/R	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Grafönd					1	1				
S/R	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Sheiðönd		2						3		
R	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Skutulönd		✓	10	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Skúfönd									1	
R	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Duggönd		✓	✓	12	✓	✓	✓			
R	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Æðarfuli					5	5				
R	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Brandönd			5		5	16	20	12	10	
R	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Straumönd					6	4	2	6	4	
R	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Hávella							8	4		
R	Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Hrafnsönd						8	62	✓	✓	
R	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Húsönd					8	2	6	6		
R	Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>	Toppönd		3	5	12	2		3	3		
R	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Rjúpa			10	2	24	6	1			
R	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Lúmur							1	2		
R	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Himbrimi						3	24	20	4	
R	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmaris glacialis</i>	Flórigoði	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
R	Northern Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>	Fýll			40	15						
R	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Súla		1		1						
R	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Toppskarfur		1	1						1	
R	Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Smyrill							2			

Status	Common name	Scientific name	Icelandic name	June/July									
				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
R	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Fálki		✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓		✓	
R	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Tjaldur			3		3	2				
SV	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Sandlóa		40	20	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PM	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Heiðlóa					8	6				
PM	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Rauðbrystingur							5			
R	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritime</i>	Sanderia			1							
R	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Sendingur		4	20	10	✓			2		
R	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Lóupræll		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SV	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius Phaeopus</i>	Hrossagaukur		20	12	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	Spói		✓	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PM/WV	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Stelkur					5	6				
SV	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Tildra			7	6	250	✓	250	✓	✓	
SV	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Óðinshani		3	15	10	✓	2	3	6		
SV	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Kjóí			12	100	✓					
R	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Skrúmur		✓	1		6	2	✓	✓		
SV	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Hettumáfur	✓	12	12	1					✓	
R	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Slifamáfur					1	1	6			
WV	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	Slifuramáfur			2				5			
R	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Bjartmáfur			10	1	✓				1	
R	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Hvitmáfur			1	12	1	1			1	
R	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Svarlbakur				✓			✓			
SV	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradise</i>	Rita		✓	✓	120	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Kría			15	✓			✓			
R	Brünnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Langvía				7						
R	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Stuttnefja				30	3		✓			
R	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Àlka							10			
SV	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Teista				✓			✓			
R	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'domestica'</i>	Lundi		10	1	1	3				✓	
R	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Húsdúfa			1	1						
V	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Brandugla	1									
R	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Landsvala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
R	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Trjátitlingur	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Status	Common name	Scientific name	Icelandic name	June/July									
				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
R	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Mariueria		2		2					1	
SV	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Músarrindill		1	1		1	1			3	
R	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Steindepill			1							
R	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Svartpróstur		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Skógarpróstur		50	12	10	10	✓	✓		2	6
R	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Hrafn		8								✓
R	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Stari		2							1	
R	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Auðnutittlingur			7	8	6	1	2		1	1

## Mammals

Intro	Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	Minkur			1							
Intro	Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Hreindýr					80	40				
R	Atlantic Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Útselur			6		1					
R	Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Landselur			1							
SV	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Hnúfubakur								3		