

RUSSIAN FAR EAST: 22nd June to 10th July 2018

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



**Russian Far East 2018
Kamchatka and Chukotka**

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23rd June 2018. **Moscow**

We left home on 22nd June, travelling to Moscow where we spent the night near the airport. With our flight onwards to Kamchatka not until the next afternoon, there was some time to explore what looked like some potentially interesting habitat near to the hotel, along the Klyazma River. We had a good morning's birding, with Blyth's Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Common Rosefinch, Whinchat and a bright male Bluethroat all found singing. Single Purple Emperor and Large Copper butterflies were in the same area, with a large patch of Wood Cow-wheat *Melampyrum nemorosum* and the bright red *Lychnis chalconica* at the roadside.

Back to the airport, and a long flight up beyond the Arctic Circle and back down to arrive in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky the next morning.

24th June 2018. **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**

Arriving at our hotel a little bleary eyed, after the 'overnight' flight, we chose to head straight out, to explore a nearby lake and surrounding scrubby woodland.

Tree Sparrows were immediately apparent, taking the place of House Sparrows here in the Far East. Unfamiliar songs came from the trees, which we soon identified as belonging to Olive-backed Pipits and Kamchatka Leaf Warblers, along with a couple of Common Rosefinches. A male Black-backed Wagtail appeared on the track, a Common Snipe was flushed from the marshy edge of the lake, and here we found the real star of the day, a stunning male Siberian Rubythroat singing at the roadside!

A variety of plants caught the eye, with spikes of Bristled Marsh Orchid amongst the trees, the big white Kamchatka Trillium near the water's edge and the beautiful Chocolate Fritillary growing rather incongruously at the road verge.

25th June 2018. **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**

We spent today exploring the city of Petropavlovsk. On the shore in the 'city centre' we had our first close-up looks at Slaty-backed and Glaucous-winged Gulls, with a handful of Common Guillemots bobbing about offshore and a single Harbour Seal poking its head up briefly.

Around at the harbour, a Tufted Puffin was swimming amongst the gulls, an exciting first for us, and the first of (very) many over the course of the trip. Pelagic Cormorants were fishing in the harbour, with Black-legged Kittiwakes joining the two larger gull species.

The wooded, hilly 'park' between the harbour and the town was home to more Olive-backed Pipits and Kamchatka Leaf Warblers. A pair of Rustic Bunting appeared briefly, as did a male Taiga Flycatcher, while butterflies came in the form of Chequered Blue, Northern Chequered Skipper and Swallowtail, the latter of the endemic *kamtschadalis* subspecies.

After lunch, which included the tempting offer of vodka shots and dried fish from some friendly locals, we headed back to the hotel to rest.

26th June 2018. **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**

This morning we split up, with some exploring town some more while others joined a group on a birding excursion, heading to the forests some 40 miles inland.

We enjoyed a glorious sunny morning out in the woods, with Swallowtail butterflies ridiculously common along the track side, more Northern Chequered Skippers and Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

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The birding was great, with Eyebrowed Thrush, Oriental Cuckoo, Rufous-tailed Robin and Dark-sided Flycatcher all new to us, along with Kamchatka Leaf Warbler, Olive-backed Pipit, Willow Tit, Nuthatch, Common Rosefinch and Taiga Flycatcher.

Heading back into town, via a short supermarket stop to stock up on chocolate, we finally made our way to the port and 'The Spirit of Enderby', our home for the next two weeks.

After settling in to our cabins and all the necessary orientation meetings, we were at last underway, heading out past hundreds of Tufted Puffins, Common Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants and gulls, with our first Pigeon Guillemots and Red-faced Cormorants putting in appearances, and one last new bird for the day, two pairs of Ancient Murrelets which came up in front of the boat and zoomed away.

27th June 2018: Zhupanova River

After travelling overnight, we awoke to find ourselves moored off the mouth of the Zhupanova River, a major salmon river in full spate after the heavy snowfall during the spring.

Our first morning's excursion was a zodiac cruise into the lagoon at the river mouth and then up the river through the flooded riverine forest.

Ducks were much in evidence, with Black Scoter, Goosander, Wigeon, Pintail and Shoveler all seen in small numbers, and a couple of large flocks of Scaup at the far side of the marsh. Also rather distant were a couple of Far Eastern Curlews in song flight, their bubbling call sounding similar to 'our' Eurasian Curlew but a little higher pitched.

While watching the ducks, a Brown Bear appeared on the shore, which quickly disappeared up the slope and into the undergrowth once it heard our commotion: a brief sighting, but the first of many bears to be seen over the coming days. The other great predator of these coasts is the Steller's Sea Eagle, and during the morning we enjoyed good views of at least five of these massive birds: a rather tatty adult was washing on the shore, being harassed by some crows; two juveniles showed well sat up in a riverside tree; and a superb pair in full adult finery were found in their nest tree, the nest itself a massive construction of twigs, at least a meter deep.

Several groups of Larcha Seals were seen hauled out on sand bars in the river, a very similar animal to the more familiar Harbour Seals, but with a subtly different habitat, preferring these gentle, sandier coasts for resting, while breeding at the edge of the sea ice.

Whilst cruising further up river, we heard the song of a Yellow-breasted Bunting coming from the riverside willows, and after some manoeuvring and more than a little patience, a male finally put in an appearance. Formerly known as the 'locust bird' in southern China and south east Asia, so great were its numbers in the winter, this species has suffered a massive decline in the last couple of decades, due to heavy trapping on the wintering grounds, and it is now critically endangered.

Leaving the coast behind, as we started the 'sailing' out to the Commander Islands we started to pick up new sea birds. Our first Pacific Fulmars appeared, a bird which would be a very common sight over the next days, with the majority around these southern waters of the dark 'double blue' colour morph. As we reached the deeper water, we picked out grey Fork-tailed Storm Petrels swooping and dancing over the water, and a handful of Laysan Albatrosses appeared, visiting from their Hawaiian nesting areas. More excitement came in the form of an adult Aleutian Tern, floating past the boat on a piece of flotsam! A very welcome sighting for the birders on board, as the Zhupanova River offered the best chances for this species on our itinerary.

Unfortunately, our arrival over the deeper water also coincided with us running into a bank of thick fog, and the visibility for the rest of the day was pretty minimal, so none of the hoped-for whales today...

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28th June 2018: **Bering Island.**

An early start, with the promise of more deep water just before our arrival at the Commander Islands. Alas, while there may have been deep water, there was also still heavy fog, and we didn't see anything more than the occasional Tufted Puffin and Pacific Fulmar looming out of the gloom.

We came to our anchor just off from Bering Island (so we were told... for all we could tell we were still in the middle of nowhere, so thick was the fog) and had breakfast.

As we prepared to disembark, at least four Sea Otters, two mother-and-kit couples, were seen just out from the boat.

A bumpy and splashy zodiac ride took us across to Bering Island, and the small settlement of Nikolskoye, where we spent the morning exploring.

The birds kept us more than occupied for much of the morning, with Glaucous-winged Gulls and a small group of handsome Harlequin Ducks on the rocky shore just near to the harbour.

A little further along, we found a small group of waders which included six Mongolian Plovers, a single (rather out of range) Turnstone and our first Rock Sandpipers, our main target for this morning. This wader, appearing half way between a Dunlin and a Purple Sandpiper, has a very limited world range, breeding only around the Bering Sea.

A little further along we found a larger group, including one bird in an interesting, non-breeding plumage, which caused some debate amongst the birders, as it looked very much like the more familiar (but Atlantic breeding) Purple Sandpiper.

Passing through the settlement, we came to a river mouth, where a flock of bright Dunlin were feeding, all decked out in their full breeding finery. These birds are of the longer-billed *kistchinskii* subspecies which breeds on Kamchatka and around the sea of Okhotsk. Equally smart, bright male Lapland Buntings were flitting about, making their song flights and singing from fence posts, but the strong wind made looking for Pechora Pipits less-than successful.

Meanwhile, back in the local museum, pride of place went to the skeleton of the extinct Steller's Sea Cow, a giant relative of the Dugong that was eaten out of existence within 20 years of its discovery in the 18th century.

With the fog still thick out at sea, and the wind picking up, the afternoon was spent travelling down the western side of Bering Island. The sea watching was rather slow, but those of us up on the bridge did manage to pick out 2 or 3 Laysan Albatrosses and a handful of Fork-tailed Storm-petrels out from the gloom, along with 'the usuals': Tufted Puffin, Short-tailed Shearwater, both Common and Brunnich's Guillemots and plenty of Pacific Fulmars.

Excitement came mid-afternoon as we travelled over the deep water trench, when a pair of massive black fins loomed out of the fog: two Killer Whales, with one spectacularly big bull and his consort. Over the next 30 minutes or more, and still surrounded by the fog, we encountered at least three more small pods of Killer Whales, at least 15 animals passing by giving everyone on board a chance for sightings.

As we headed further south, we came upon some large rafts of birds, hundreds of Pacific Fulmars and Black-legged Kittiwakes, amongst which was a single bright female Grey Phalarope. Then, turning the 'corner' around the southern tip of the island, we found a handful of the little Whiskered Auklets, tiny slaty grey auks with a slightly paler belly as they rose up in front of the boat and sped away.

And then, all of a sudden, we came out the other side of the fog and found ourselves under bright blue skies once again, surrounded by thousands of Pacific Fulmars!

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Dinner was a speedy affair as we dropped anchor just off Commander Bay, the location of the end of Bering's final journey. Fed, we donned our many and various layers once again and headed back into the zodiacs and across to the beach, to visit Bering's grave and enjoy the evening sunshine.

While Nathan told us about the site's history, a dark Bering Island Arctic Fox watched us from across the small bay, with hundreds of kittiwakes and Glaucous-winged Gulls feeding along the strandline, plus single Black-headed and Slaty-backed Gulls.

The short walk up the hill to the grave site revealed a variety of interesting plants: purple Selkirk's Violet and yellow Thick Violet, the large yellow Rieder's Globeflower, the almost-black Chocolate Fritillary and the bright Sea Pea. At the grave site itself, we found a small patch of beautiful Spotted Lady's Slipper Orchids.

29th June 2018: **Medny Island.**

A bright, sunny morning found us anchored off Medny Island, a stunning location with blue skies and the fog billowing down the valleys, while sea birds flew all around.

After breakfast, and having moved a little way down the coast, we disembarked for a zodiac ride along the rocky shore line, ending up at the site of the former village where we landed and explored the land.

Plenty of guillemots of all three species were swimming and flying about inshore, along with our first really good, close views of Horned Puffins.

Two good new birds were picked up at the base of the rocky cliffs: a rather tatty looking male Grey-crowned Rosy Finch (followed later by several others), a North American species which reaches its western (and only Asian) outpost here on Medny; and a couple of Pacific Wrens, again an essentially North American species which just squeaks into Asia here, and again of a form endemic to the Commander Islands, the subspecies *pallescens*.

Moving around the coast, we enjoyed some close up views of Red-faced Cormorant, the Commander Islands being the last spot on our itinerary where we were likely to find this bird, and nearby we found a male Commander Island Fox feeding down near the shore, much closer than yesterday's animal, but the same dark smoky grey colour, with a paler tail.

The next bay gave us our longed-for close-up views of Sea Otters, with several animals lazing about amongst the kelp beds. The nearest, and most photographically cooperative, was a mother with a fairly large cub, the parent swimming on her back, holding her baby in a tight hug. This pair entertained us for some time, before the mother finally rolled over and dived, taking her baby with her.

From here it was a fast, and rather wet ride in to our landing spot, the site of the former settlement and border post at Peschanay Bay. This was a stunning location, a beach at the end of an impressive valley, through which the wind was tearing. A Pacific Wren was singing down on the beach, but the windy conditions meant that the hunt for the Pechora Pipit was a pretty fruitless one, with one brief glimpse of a bird flitting from one clump of cover to the next and promptly disappearing.

The wild flowers here were pretty impressive (and impressively pretty): Large-flowered Speedwell, Northern Jacob's-ladder, Whorled Lousewort and the lovely white bells of Clubmoss Mountain Heather were all new, together with impressive displays of the Bristled Marsh Orchids and Narcissus-leaved Anemone across the slopes.

After lunch, and a (very) short rest, we were back out in the zodiacs and the sunshine once again, for a short zodiac cruise along a different section of coastline: more Grey-crowned Rosy Finches, another singing Pacific Wren, some good views of Horned Puffins both on the water and at their cave nest sites, and a wonderful group of Sea Otters in a dense kelp bed with some more good photographic opportunities.

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And then it was back on board the Spirit of Enderby, with the rest of the afternoon spent travelling northwards (as indeed we continued to do over night and through the next morning). We soon met the fog again, but today it wasn't quite as dense as yesterday, with plenty of clear patches, giving us good views of a handful of Laysan Albatrosses and Whiskered Auklets, hundreds of Fork-tailed Storm Petrels and several pods of Dall's Porpoises before dinner.

30th June 2018: Karaginskiy Island.

The morning, and the first half of the afternoon, was spent at sea as we made our way back across to 'the mainland' from the Commander Islands. Joining us for much of the way were a couple of Red-legged Kittiwakes who kept returning to perch on the zodiacs at the back of the ship!

Yesterday's fog was all behind us, with bright and calm conditions all the way across: a couple of groups of Dall's Porpoises appeared briefly, and a trio of Red Phalaropes were passed as they span on the water surface.

After lunch, we passed through several enormous flocks of Black-legged Kittiwakes, numbering into the thousands as they fed on the surface, together with smaller numbers of Common Guillemots, Pacific Fulmar and Short-tailed Shearwaters, which in turn attracted the attention of a trio of Arctic Skuas.

A single Humpback Whale was spotted blowing in the far distance just before we came in to anchor off Karaginskiy Island, in time for lunch.

After lunch, we made a landing on the island in the bright and surprisingly warm sunshine: warm enough to bring the butterflies out, in the form of a Northern Grizzled Skipper, a white, a dark fritillary and a couple of Swallowtails.

While some of us went on a yomp up the hill, the birding walk went more slowly across the hummocky ground, checking out several small pools and areas of low bushes. A handful of Dunlin were calling, guarding their small chicks, with several male Red-necked Phalaropes on the pools, including one bird flushed from a nest with four eggs. A pair of Arctic Skua were sat on the tundra, with a group of five Long-tailed Skuas passing overhead, elegant in breeding plumage with their long tail streamers. Several ducks flew up from the pools in the distance: a couple of Wigeon, a group of five Pintail and at least two pairs of Scaup.

Passerines included numerous Eastern Yellow Wagtails and Red-throated Pipits, plenty of Lapland Buntings, a couple of song-fighting Middendorf's Grasshopper Warblers, at least three Bluethroat including a singing male, a flighty Dusky Warbler and a fly-by Brown Shrike, obviously on its way someplace else. Underfoot there were plenty of interesting plants to be found: the chief vegetation was made up of Crowberry, amongst which was plenty of pink-flowered Bog Rosemary, fragrant Labrador Tea and Shrubby Cinquefoil. In the marshy areas we found the red Arctic Dock, Arctic Knotweed and Capitata Valerian, as well as two species of lousewort: the pink Hairy Lousewort and the yellow-flowered Oeder's Lousewort.

Driven back to the beach by the hungry mosquitos, we admired the impressive display of Oysterplant as well as plenty of Sea Pea before heading back to the ship.

1st July 2018. Verkhoturova Island and Govena Peninsula

A new day and a new month dawned bright and calm, with the ship anchored in the mirror-calm waters off Verkhoturova Island.

After an early breakfast, we headed out in the zodiacs towards the coast, and were immediately amongst great flocks of auks: thousands of Crested Auklets, zooming back and forth and rafting up on the sea, with their impressive quiffs and bright red bills; heavier, white-bellied Parakeet Auklets with thick orangey parrot-like bills; and after some searching, the tiny grey and white Least Auklets, squabbling in small

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groups on the water with high-pitched, tern-like calls. Along with both species of puffin and two species of guillemot, we recorded an impressive seven species of auk this morning.

After immersing ourselves in auks for as long as possible, we headed to a small group of islets just off shore, where a group of Steller's Sea Lions were hauled out, their bellowing calls adding to the atmospheric morning.

To complete the fantastic morning, we made a landing on the beach and scaled the impossibly steep slope up to the saddle, from where we were treated to eye-level views of Tufted Puffins at their nest burrows. The slope up to the saddle was alive with wild flowers: bright yellow Oeder's Lousewort, carmine pink Wedgeleaf Primrose, the creamy Pallid Paintbrush, Roseroot and various others.

Back on board, and after a post-lunch nap, it was time to disembark again at the Goven Peninsula, nicknamed 'Bear Gulley'. The reason for the name soon became clear, as a pair of Brown Bears were spotted feeding along the shoreline even before we had left the ship. During the afternoon we found more, with three trios of mother with two cubs spotted along the relatively short length of coast that we visited, plus another two single animals making a respectable total of 13 bears this afternoon.

Unfortunately the waves and swell conditions prevented us from landing, but we spent extra time cruising along the coast, visiting the Slaty-backed Gull colony on a ship-wrecked hull just off shore, and with various sea ducks including Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin, Goosander, Black Scoter and our first group of White-winged Scoters.

2nd July 2018. **Bukta Lavrova and Tintikun Lagoon**

Our morning excursion took us out into the fjord at Bukta Lavrova, with its abandoned herring fishery and another shipwreck, again colonised by Slaty-backed Gulls and a Pigeon Guillemot peeping out of a port hole.

Entering the left hand fjord, we could see a bear feeding on the shore in the distance: approaching slowly, we managed to not scare the bear away, and all had great views as he searched for food on the beach and then up the grassy banks into the forest.

Four young Steller's Sea Eagles were sat around the shore nearby, with a couple of adult Kamchatka Gulls amongst the larger, darker Slaty-backed Gulls.

More than happy with our time with the bear, we had a landing at the abandoned herring factory to stretch our legs and explore (and to feed the ravenous mosquitoes!). Amongst the derelict buildings and drying racks, Little Buntings and Red-throated Pipits were feeding their young, Common Redpoll and Common Rosefinch flitted about, Arctic Warblers were singing from the alder bushes and the wagtails now showed the grey backs of the Siberian *ocularis* form.

Two Dusky Thrushes were feeding in an open grassy area, and a Siberian Accentor took exception to the presence of a cuckoo and hopped up onto the top of a pole to chase it away.

Back on board the *Spirit of Enderby*, and as we moved position after lunch, a small number of Kittlitz's Murrelets were spotted from the bridge, our eleventh species of auk for the trip.

Our afternoon excursion was in to Tintikun Lagoon. As we headed towards the mouth of the lagoon, we flushed a large flock of Goosander, with smaller numbers of Harlequin flying about. The lagoon outlet was running too low for the zodiacs to make it through whilst laden with passengers, so we disembarked and made our way up the river by foot, passing by plenty of fresh bear scat as we went...

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Back into the zodiacs, and sure enough we found bears, and plenty of them: maybe ten animals were seen during the afternoon, including one battered old male right by the shore, and a lone female who spent some time feeding on rowan flowers.

Birds amongst the bankside shrubbery included a lovely male Pine Grosbeak, a female Siberian Rubythroat and a very shy Siberian Accentor.

On the water were plenty more Goosander, Harlequin, a small group of Black Scoter and a pair of White-winged Scoter, with an adult Steller's Sea Eagle and a hovering Rough-legged Buzzard overhead.

Before making our way back to the ship for dinner, we had a short stop on a small, bear-free island, where two species of flowering rhododendron were much admired: the golden *Rhododendron aureum* and the large pink flowers of the tiny dwarf *Rhododendron camtschaticum*.

3rd July 2018. **Koryak Coast**

We woke up this morning anchored off the little-visited Koryak coast.

After a leisurely breakfast, we split up into two groups, with some of us heading off to Expedition Bay to help in surveying new sites for potential Spoon-billed Sandpiper breeding habitat.

Our allotted site was a large flat area of tundra at the head of a bay, a stunning location in the bright sunshine.

Snow Buntings and Common Redpoll were flitting about the slopes, with plenty of signs of both Arctic Ground Squirrels and Brown Bears in the area, including some very recent bear scat. Luckily (perhaps) we didn't come across one on this occasion...

Heading out onto the tundra, we found numerous Skylarks, Red-throated Pipits and Eastern Yellow Wagtails of the dark-headed *plexa* subspecies. In a shrubby gully, Dusky Warbler was singing.

Beyond the gully, the tundra changed from Crowberry-dominated to a greater variety of wildflowers and lichen on gravels: two species of wormwood *Artemisia glomerata* and *A. tilesii*, lots of the delicate lilac Alpine Milkvetch and the bright pink Alpine Sweetvetch, Arctic Riverbeauty and Tufted Saxifrage were all in flower.

Waders were very few and far between, but we did come across three Red-necked Stints and a Mongolian Plover on territory. Alas, no Spoon-billed Sandpipers this time.

In the afternoon we moved up the coast to a new site. Unfortunately, the weather had closed in and the mountains were cloaked in low cloud. The area of tundra to be searched here was much smaller, and this time we didn't find any waders at all: a Buff-bellied Pipit was new, alongside a handful of Red-throated Pipits.

In the bay, several Larga Seals were hanging around by some fishing nets, ever hopeful.

4th July 2018. **Koryak Coast**

Our second day of Spoon-billed searching began with an early start and a long hard slog across the tundra for, alas, little reward, at least in the shape of any sandpipers...

A couple of Pacific Golden Plovers and several pairs of Mongolian Plovers were the only waders of note, although a small colony of Eastern House Martins and a trio of Pacific Swift were nice to see, as was the large blonde bear who managed to bumble his way past pretty much everyone during the morning.

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In the afternoon, we found ourselves in a spectacular fjord, where Nathan was more than insistent that we should all be out on deck admiring the scenery. A group of Snow Sheep spotted high on the mountain side were admired by all, right up until Kate made an all-too-close acquaintance with some of the deck furniture...

Our afternoon landing took us up the side of a snow-melt stream, through a boulder field where the lucky few found Northern Pika, and the rest of us made do with sitting in the blazing sun, admiring the amazing view and soaking up the warmth.

5th July 2018. Bukta Pavla and Bogoslova Island

Another day, another fjord. A bit chillier than yesterday, the morning was spent either zodiac-cruising the shores of Bukta Pavla, with several good bear encounters along the way, or climbing up the hills behind the fjord to an icy lake.

We all joined together again in the afternoon, for a trip out by zodiac to check out nearby Bogoslova Island, and a Pacific Walrus haul-out. Unfortunately, in the course of the day the 80 or so animals who had been on the beach as the ship passed by early in the morning had all departed, leaving just one solitary animal looking more than a little sorry for himself at the edge of the beach.

Rather livelier were the 20 or so animals we found in the water, with one group in particular allowing a reasonably close approach.

Harlequin and all the usual cliff-nesting sea birds were also seen well, and a young White-tailed Eagle flew overhead before we headed back to the ship and set off mid-afternoon for the overnight journey to Meinypil'gyno ready for the next day's plans.

6th July 2018. Meinypil'gyno

We awoke to find ourselves anchored some way offshore from the small settlement of Meinypil'gyno, surrounded by flat calm seas. As we waited for all the formalities of border guards and the like to be completed, it soon became apparent that the seas around us were quite busy, with small groups of Walrus visible out in the water in every direction, a handful of Kittlitz's Murrelets bobbing about and along the shore the blows of Grey Whales feeding in the shallows. One or two Grey Whales strayed out closer to the ship, further out a Northern Minke Whale showed itself a few times and a small group of Harbour Porpoises were feeding nearby.

We were finally given the all clear for our landing, and headed 'in to town' in the zodiacs.

Upon landing, and with strict instructions not to photograph or in any way acknowledge the presence of the solitary border guard (presumably not the busiest official in Russia, considering we were the only group of tourists to visit since this time last year), we met Yevgeny Syroechkovskiy, head of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Task Force and some of his team.

After introductions, half of us boarded a motley assortment of four wheel drive vehicles and disappeared out onto the tundra beyond the village, while the rest visited the local museum and learned something of the reindeer-and-salmon-centred lives of the local Chuchki people.

Time flies when you're learning about the various ways that reindeer skin can be used, and before we knew it the second group were taking their places in the jeeps and bouncing out across the tundra in convoy to our assignation with Nikolai and his three telescopes...

Having shed any brightly coloured layers, we shuffled across the tundra on our knees to the 'scopes and peered across in anticipation. Initially, we were disappointed to find the focus of our attention, a five year old male Spoon-billed Sandpiper, wasn't actually on his nest! Thankfully, after a quick search he appeared

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feeding in a nearby flash, and after a panic-inducing fly out over the bay he was soon back on his nest, tucked right down amongst the crowberry. And so passed the fastest 20 minutes ever, with the little male 'Spoony' watching us watch him.

All having had our allotted time with the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, one of fewer than 300 individuals left of this charismatic little wader, we met up again back 'in town' at the Cultural Centre, where we were treated to some Chutchki dancing and throat singing, before it was time to bid farewell to the little village of Meinypil'gyno and its friendly people and rare sandpipers.

Back in the zodiacs, and as we reached the river mouth we found large numbers of Larcha Seals and several pods of Beluga in the busy water, waiting for the salmon run. Through the clear water, the white whales gave wonderful views, like massive, muscular marsh mallows moving through the water, rising up to breath next to the zodiacs.

After spending some time with the Beluga, we headed back out to sea where we found Grey Whales and finally, in the distance, the distinctive fin of a big bull Killer Whale, just too far away for us to reach him, but who Kate had watched circling the ship earlier.

After a rather wonderful day, a celebratory gin and tonic was more than well deserved.

7th July 2018. **Pika River and Bukta Gravela**

We moved position overnight, after the Russian crew had finished watching their team playing Croatia in the World Cup, and woke up anchored some way off shore.

After breakfast we were out in the zodiacs, and heading in towards the coast: amazing cliffs of layers of sedimentary rock, and at the bottom a smear of pinky brown... as we got nearer it soon became clear that this paler layer was not rock but bodies, the massed ranks of several thousand Pacific Walruses hauled out on the beach along the base of the cliffs.

We spent the next two hours with the walruses, first watching the haul out from a distance and then much closer encounters with two or three groups of inquisitive adult animals, maybe ten or fifteen animals in each group that came to investigate the zodiacs, bobbing up to watch us, snorting and belching, blowing a fine mist of walrus-snot all over our lenses as the camera shutters clicked away.

After some of the closest possible views of the walruses, we eventually turned to head back towards the ship... and spotted another, larger blow behind us.

And so our return to the ship was delayed as we spent another hour or so with at least two Grey Whales that were feeding nearby. After some initial, typical blow-and-back views of the whales, we managed to find the perfect spot, and as our zodiac bobbed quietly on the waves, one of the whales came closer and closer still, eventually surfacing right next to us, taking a deep breath and then diving down, with one final view of his tail.

After an outstanding morning, the afternoon was much more relaxed: a walk across the tundra at Bukta Gravela, where we found a few small flocks of White-fronted Geese, a pair of Sandhill Cranes stalking up the hillside in the distance, and plenty of ducks: Eider, Scaup and Long-tailed Ducks. The tundra looked quite promising, wader-wise, but all we could find was a single Red-necked Stint and a couple of nesting Ringed Plovers.

The tiny, endemic Chukchi Primrose *Primula tschuktschorum* was growing at the back of the beach.

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8th July 2018. Keyngypilgyn Lagoon

Another foggy morning as we travelled across to the landing at Keyngypilgyn Lagoon, passing by good numbers of both Red-throated and Pacific Divers and Arctic Terns flying over the river.

Behind the beach we found some more good-looking tundra and a marsh- and mud-fringed lagoon, home to plenty of White-fronted Geese, Wigeon and Pintail, Vega and Kamchatka Gulls. Both Arctic and Long-tailed Skuas flew over, attracting the angry attentions of the nesting terns.

A pair of Emperor Geese were a great new bird for the list, with their bright orange legs and rust-stained white heads contrasting with mottled dark grey bodies. This goose has a very limited world range, breeding across the top of the Bering Straits and wintering down through Kamchatka to the Commander Islands. Our third goose species of the day came with four Black Brant feeding out on the marsh and then flying past us.

The tundra again looked wader-promising, especially so close to the muddy shores: again, the best we could come up with was a handful of Red-necked Stints, Dunlin and Ringed Plovers.

Turning back to the landing beach, the tern colony was particularly noisy as we passed, as they were busy shouting at a slightly larger bird, a very smart adult Sabine's Gull that was twisting and turning amongst the terns, giving a dry rattling call. After giving some spectacular close views, the gull headed overhead and out onto the saltmarsh, where it joined a group of Kamchatka Gulls feeding in the distance.

Alas, our time ashore came to an end, and it was back to the ship, and as we sailed northwards our attention turned to all the various bits of packing and bill-paying that accompanied the end of the trip... finishing the day with a rather wonderful five-course feast thanks to the amazing chefs.

9th July 2018. Anadyr

We woke to find ourselves moored up at Anadyr: Belugas were in the rivermouth nearby, although not as impressive here as in the crystal-clear waters at Meinypil'gyno, and a family of Arctic Ground Squirrels posed on the dock-side, begging for food from the passers-by...

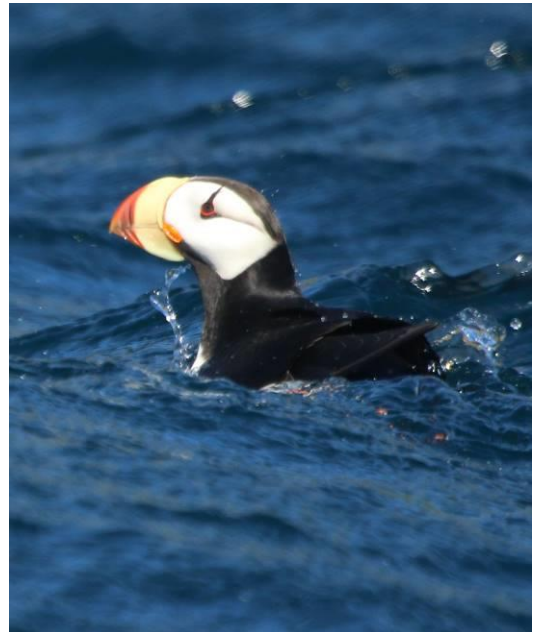
From here, it was a case of travel, travel, travel, flying from Anadyr to Moscow and then all back to our various destinations in the UK, a long and drawn out journey but taking with us some wonderful memories of a particularly spectacular and little-visited part of the world that it was a privilege to spend some time in.

MAMMALS OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST 2018: some highlights



Top row, l to r: Pacific Walrus and Kamchatka Brown Bear
Middle row, l to r: Sea Otter and Arctic Ground Squirrel
Bottom row, l to r: Commander Island Arctic Fox and Beluga

BIRDS OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST 2018: some highlights



Top row, l to r: Tufted Puffin and Horned Puffin
Middle row, l to r: Parakeet Auklet and Crested Auklet
Bottom row, l to r: Red-legged Kittiwake and Rock Sandpiper

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
BIRDS																		
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)																		
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons frontalis</i>													X	X	X		
Emperor Goose	<i>Anser canagicus</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International															X		
Black Brant	<i>Branta (bernica) nigricans</i>															X		
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>										X	X					X	
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				X			X								X		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X		X													
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				X													
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				X			X						X		X		
Greater Scaup (Pacific) Eider	<i>Aythya marila</i> <i>Somateria mollissima v-nigra</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International				X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International										X	X						
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>					X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Siberian Scoter	<i>Melanitta stejnegeri</i> Split by HBW from White-winged (<i>M. deglandi</i>) and Velvet (<i>M. fusca</i>) Scoters								X	X		X	X					
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i> Split by HBW from Common Scoter <i>M. nigra</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International				X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International				X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>										X	X						
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				X			X	X	X	X							
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					X				X	X	X				X		
Family Gaviidae (Divers)																		
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				X					X	X	X	X	X		X		
Pacific Diver	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>														X	X		
Family Diomedidae (Albatross)																		
Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International				X	X	X											
Family Procellariidae (Petrels and Shearwaters)																		
Pacific Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus (glacialis) rodgersii</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>				X	X	X				X		X		X			
Family Hydrobatidae (Storm-petrels)																		
Fork-tailed Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>				X	X	X	X										
Family Podicepsidae (Grebes)																		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>														X			
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)																		
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-faced Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax urile</i>			X		X	X											
Family Falconidae (Falcons)																		
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus calidus</i>						X			X								
Family Pandionidae (Ospreys)																		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			X														
Family Accipitridae (Hawks and Eagles)																		
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaetus albicilla</i>												X			X		
Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaetus pelagicus</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International				X					X								
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>			X						X								
Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i> Split by HBW from Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>			X														

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
Family Gruidae (Cranes)																		
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>														X	X		
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)																		
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>										X							
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>												X	X	X			
Mongolian Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus stegmanni</i> Considered by HBW as conspecific with Lesser Sandplover <i>C. atrifrons</i>					X					X	X						
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)																		
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	X	X					X										
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> Classified as Endangered by BirdLife International				X													
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa (=Heteroscelus) brevipes</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International									X								
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					X												
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International										X				X	X		
Rock Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis quarta</i>					X	X											
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina kistchinski</i>					X	X									X		
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pygmaeus</i> Classified as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International. Most recent estimates suggest the global population is now around 200 breeding pairs.												X					
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>					X	X					X				X		
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>							X				X		X				
Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)																		
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>							X			X	X			X	X		
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>							X	X		X	X				X		
Family Laridae (Gulls)																		
Kamchatka Gull	<i>Larus (canus) kamtschatscensis</i> Considered by HBW as conspecific w/ Common <i>L. canus</i> and Mew Gulls <i>L. brachyrhynchus</i>									X							X	
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>												X	X	X	X		
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>		X	X	X	X	X											
Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i> Considered by HBW as conspecific with American Herring Gull <i>L. smithsonianus</i>											X	X	X	X	X		
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X												
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla pollicaris</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa brevirostris</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International				X	X	X	X										
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>															X		
Family Sternidae (Terns)																		
Eastern Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo longipennis</i>		X	X	X			X						X				
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>															X		
Aleutian Tern	<i>Onychoprion aleuticus</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International				X											X		
Family Alcidae (Auks)																		
Brünnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>					X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>			X		X	X			X	X	X						
Kittlitz's Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus brevirostris</i> Classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International									X	X		X	X				
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>			X														
Parakeet Auklet	<i>Aethia psittacula</i>				X			X				X	X					
Least Auklet	<i>Aethia pusilla</i>							X										
Whiskered Auklet	<i>Aethia pygmaea</i>					X	X											

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
Crested Auklet	<i>Aethia cristatella</i>								X									
Horned Puffin	<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)																		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	X	X		X					X								
Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>			X														
Family Apodidae (Swifts)																		
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>											X						
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)																		
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>							X										
Family Corvidae (Crows)																		
Kamchatka Magpie	<i>Pica (pica) camtschatica</i>	X	X	X														
Oriental Crow	<i>Corvus orientalis</i>	X	X	X	X												X	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X						
Family Paridae (Tits)																		
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	X	X	X														
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)																		
Eastern House Martin	<i>Delichon lagopodum</i>											X		X	X	X		
	Split by HBW from Northern House Martin <i>D. urbicum</i>																	
Family Alaudidae (Larks)																		
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X				X								
Family Locustellidae (Grasshopper Warblers)																		
Middendorff's Warbler	<i>Locustella ochotensis</i>	X	X					X										
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)																		
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>							X		X	X							
Kamchatka Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus examinandus</i>	X	X	X														
	split by HBW from Arctic Warbler <i>P. borealis</i>																	
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>								X									
Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)																		
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea albifrons</i>			X														
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)																		
Eyebrowed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>			X														
Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>								X		X							
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)																		
Bluethroat	<i>Cyanecula svecica</i>							X			H	X						
Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>	X	X							X		X						
Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>									H								
Rufous-tailed Robin	<i>Larvivera sibilans</i>			X														
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>												X		X			
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>			X														
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>		X	X					X									
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)																		
Pacific Wren	<i>Troglodytes pacificus pallesens</i>						X											
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)																		
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	X	X	X		X												
Family Prunellidae (Accentors)																		
Siberian Accentor	<i>Prunella montanella</i>								X									
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails)																		
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>				X			X			X	X						
	Mostly of the Kamchatkan subspecies <i>M.t.simillima</i> , blue-headed with a white supercilium. A male seen on 3 rd with ashy grey head and no supercilium, apparently of the Siberian subspecies <i>M.t.plexa</i>																	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		X						X		X							

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
Siberian Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) ocularis</i>									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-backed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) lugens</i> Both potential splits from White Wagtail <i>M. alba</i>	X	X	X	X	X			X								
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	X	X	X													
Pechora Pipit	<i>Anthus gustavi</i>						X										
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>							X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus (rubescens) japonicus</i> A potential split from American Pipit <i>A. rubescens</i>										X		X				
Family Fringillidae (Finches)																	
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			X	X					H							
Oriental Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis sinica</i>							X		H	X						
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>									X	X	X	X				X
Grey-crowned Rosy Finch	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis griseonucha</i>						X										
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	X		X	X			X		X			X				
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>									X							
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			X													
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)																	
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>									X		X					
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i> Classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International	X	X		X												
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i> Classified as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International	X			X												
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina</i>				X												
Family Calcariidae (Longspurs)																	
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus coloratus</i>					X	X	X									
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>						X				X	X	X	X	X		



'our' male **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** at Meinypil'gyno: a terrible photo of a wonderful bird

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
MAMMALS																			
	Arctic Ground Squirrel	<i>Citellus parryi</i>								X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
I	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>		X															
	Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>									S								
	Snow Sheep	<i>Ovis nivicola</i>											X						
	Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i> The Commander Islands are home to two endemic subspecies of Arctic Fox: <i>A. l. beringensis</i> on Bering Island and <i>A.l.semenovi</i> on Medny					X	X											
	Brown Bear	<i>Ursos arctos</i> Kamchatka Brown Bears are sometimes considered to be a separate subspecies <i>Ursos arctos beringianus</i>				X				X	X	X	X	X		S	S		
	Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i> Classified as Endangered by IUCN				X	X	X											
	American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>					X												
	Northern Fur Seal	<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i> Classified as Vulnerable by IUCN				X	X	X											
	Steller's Sea Lion	<i>Eumatopias jubatus</i> Classified as Near Threatened by IUCN				X			X	X	X								
	Pacific Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus divergens</i> The Walrus is classified as Vulnerable by IUCN: the Pacific subspecies is classified as Data Deficient												X	X	X			
	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>						X											
	Largha (=Spotted) Seal	<i>Phoca largha</i>		X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>							X										
	Grey Whale	<i>Eshrichtius robustus</i>												X	X				
	Northern Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>												X	X				
	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i> Classified as Data Deficient by IUCN, the Killer Whale is thought to be the second most widely-ranging mammal species on the planet, after Humans.					X							X					
	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>												X					
	Dall's Porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>				X	X	X	X	X									
	Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>												X					X

AMPHIBIANS																			
I	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	Heard calling from the pond near the hotel, 24 th																

BUTTERFLIES etc																			
	Kamchatka Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon kamtschadalus</i>	X	X	X				X										
	Northern Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus silvicola</i>		X	X														
	cf Northern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus centaureae</i>							X										
	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	X	X	X														
	Polar Fritillary	<i>Boloria polaris</i>														X			
	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		X	X														
	a ringlet	<i>ERebia sp.</i>			X														
	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>		X															
	Arctic Bumblebee	<i>Bombus cf balteatus</i>	X	X				X	X			X	X			X			

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
SELECTED PLANTS																		
Pinaceae																		
Japanese Dwarf Pine	<i>Pinus pumila</i>								X	X	X	X	X					
Apiaceae																		
American Thorough-wax	<i>Bupleurum triradiatum</i>									X								
Asteraceae																		
Arctic Daisy	<i>Arctanthemum arcticum</i>									X	X							
Congested Wormwood	<i>Artemisia glomerata</i>										X			X	X	X		
Exuberant Wormwood	<i>Artemisia opulenta</i>													X				
Tiles' Wormwood	<i>Artemisia tilesii</i>										X	X			X			
Siberian Daisy	<i>Aster sibiricus</i>										X							
Arctic Sweet Coltsfoot	<i>Petastites frigidus</i>														X	X		
Beach Ragwort	<i>Senecio pseudo-arnica</i>							X			X				X			
Whitish Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum albescens</i>										X							
Boraginaceae																		
Kamchatka Forget-me-not	<i>Eritrichium kamtschaticum</i>														X			
Oysterplant	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>						X	X		X	X	X			X			
Siberian Mertensia	<i>Mertensia cf sibirica</i>										X	X						
Caprifoliaceae																		
Blue-berried Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera caerulea</i>	X																
Caryophyllaceae																		
Sea Sandwort	<i>Honckenya oblongifolia</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Arctic Catchfly	<i>Silene involucreta</i>													X				
Cornaceae																		
Lapland Cornel	<i>Cornus suecica</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Crassulaceae																		
Entire-leaved Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i>									X	X	X			X	X		
Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>								X	X	X	X						
Diapensiaceae																		
Pinchusion Plant	<i>Diapensia lapponica</i>												X	X	X			
Empetraceae																		
Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>							X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Ericaceae (inc. Pyrolaceae)																		
Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>							X				X	X	X	X	X		
Alpine Bearberry	<i>Arctous alpina</i>										X	X	X	X	X	X		
Clubmoss Mountain Heather	<i>Cassiope lycopodioides</i>						X											
Alpine Azalea	<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>									X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Blue Mountain Heath	<i>Phyllodoce caerulea</i>										X	X	X	X	X			
Liverleaf Wintergreen	<i>Pyrola incarnata</i>										X	X			X			
Golden Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron aureum</i>					X		X		X		X	X	X				
Kamchatka Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron camtschaticum</i>									X		X						
Marsh Labrador Tea	<i>Rhododendron tomentosum (=Ledum palustre)</i>							X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Lingonberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>									X								
Fabaceae																		
Alpine Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus alpinus</i>								X		X	X						
Alpine Sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum hedysaroides</i>								X	X	X	X			X			
Beach Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>					X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Creamy Milkvetch	<i>Oxytropis cf campestris</i>								X					X				
Kamchataka Oxytrope	<i>Oxytropis kamtschatica</i>											X						
Revolute Milk-vetch	<i>Oxytropis revoluta</i>							X					X	X				

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
Geraniaceae																		
Northern Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium erianthum</i>		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					
Montiaceae																		
Pink Purslane	<i>Claytonia sibirica</i>						X											
Onagraceae																		
Arctic Riverbeauty	<i>Chamerion latifolium</i>									X		X	X	X				
Orobanchaceae																		
Pallid Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja pallida</i>							X	X	X								
cf Oeder's Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis cf oederi</i>							X	X			X						
Hairy Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>							X			X							
Whorled Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis verticillata</i>						X	X										
Papaveraceae																		
Birds-in-the-Bush	<i>Corydalis ambigua</i>										X							
Arctic Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra peregrina</i>													X				
Arctic Poppy	<i>Papaver microcarpum</i>													X				
Plumbaginaceae																		
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>														X			
Polemoniaceae																		
Tall Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i>													X				
Northern Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium boreale</i>						X	X										
Polygonaceae																		
Arctic Knotweed	<i>Aconogonon tripterocarpum</i>							X	X	X	X		X	X				
Meadow Bistort	<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>												X	X				
Arctic Dock	<i>Rumex arcticus</i>							X			X	X	X	X				
Primulaceae																		
Wedgeleaf Primrose	<i>Primula cuneifolia</i>							X	X	X	X							
Chukchi Primrose	<i>Primula tschuktschorum</i>												X	X				
Chickweed Wintergreen	<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Ranunculaceae																		
Fischer's Monkshood	<i>Aconitum fischeri</i>									X				X				
Narcissus-leaved Anemone	<i>Anemone narcissifolia</i>					X	X	X			X	X		X				
Okhotsk Clematis	<i>Clematis alpina ssp ochotensis</i>	X	X	X														
Snow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>											X	X	X				
Pygmy Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>											X	X					
Kamchatka Globeflower	<i>Trollius riederianus</i>					X	X				X	X						
Rosaceae																		
White Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas punctata</i>														X			
False Calthaleaf Avens	<i>Parageum calthifolium</i>						X											
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>							X		X	X	X						
Red-stemmed Cinquefoil Or Volcanic Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla stolonifera or vulcanicola</i>									X	X			X				
Arctic Raspberry	<i>Rubus arcticus</i>	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cloudberry	<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>									X								
Creeping Sibbaldia	<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>						X											
Small Avens	<i>Sieversia pusilla</i>								X	X	X	X						
Siberian Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus sambucifolia</i>								X	X	X	X						
Beauverd Spirea	<i>Spiraea beuverdiana</i>								X									
Saxifragaceae																		
Heartleaf Saxifrage	<i>Micranthes nelsoniana</i>						X						X	X				
Tufted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga cf caespitosa</i>						X	X	X	X			X	X				
Merk's Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga merkii</i>													X				
Scrophulariaceae																		
Weasel-snout	<i>Lagotis glauca</i>						X				X							

RUSSIAN FAR EAST CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	
Large-flower Speedwell	<i>Veronica grandiflora</i>						X											
Valerianaceae																		
Capitate Valerian	<i>Valeriana capitata</i>							X	X						X			
Violaceae																		
Selkirk's Violet	<i>Viola selkirkii</i>					X	X	X				X		X				
Thick Violet	<i>Viola crassa (=V biflora?)</i>			X		X	X		X					X				
Amarylidaceae																		
Okhotsk Onion	<i>Allium ochotense</i>			X														
Wild Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Asparagaceae																		
Kamchatka May Lily	<i>Maianthemum dilatatum ssp kamtschaticum</i>	X	X	X		X	X											
Colchicaceae																		
Sharp-sepalled False Helleborine	<i>Veratrum oxysepalum</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Iridaceae																		
Wild Flag	<i>Iris setosa</i>			X		X		X		X	X	X			X	X		
Liliaceae																		
Chocolate Fritillary	<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X							
Melianthaceae																		
Kamchatka Trillium	<i>Trillium camschatcense</i>	X	X	X														
Orchidaceae																		
Spotted Lady's Slipper	<i>Cypripedium yatabeanum</i>					X												
Bristled Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza aristata</i>	X	X	X		X	X					X						
Frog Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza viride</i>					X	X											
Aleutian Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera tipuloides</i>						X											



Wild flowers of Kamchatka and Chukotka (left to right)

Spotted Lady's Slipper *Cypripedium yatabeanum*, Chocolate Fritillary *Fritillaria camschatcensis*, Kamchatka Rhododendron *Rhododendron camtschaticum* and Wedge-leaf Primrose *Primula cuneifolia*