

# Iceland

## Sunday 2 - Wednesday 12 July 2006

### Trip Report

#### Leaders:

Andy Jones  
Neil Arnold

#### INTRODUCTION

I can safely say that we experienced Iceland in most of its moods, all we needed was a volcanic eruption or an earthquake and we would have had a full set!

My thanks go to you all for being such good company but especially to Andy and Gu\_rún for their expert leadership and organisational skills. I hope this report will bring back happy memories and that we will meet again.

Best wishes

Neil

Neil Arnold, Partner, the Travelling Naturalist

#### TRIP DIARY

##### SUNDAY 2 JULY

##### LONDON TO SK\_LHOLT

Weather 7/8 cumulus, sunshine and showers, SW 1-2

The majority of the group arrived at Keflavík just after 15.00, met Andy Jones, the local leader, and were on the road soon after.

As we drove east Andy pointed out a number of geological features and told us something of the local history and legend. We also noted a number of bird species, mainly gulls, terns and waders. En route we passed over the Mid Atlantic Ridge, moving in the process from the American tectonic plate to the Eurasian one. Soon after this we stopped to examine one of a series of deep craters at Keri\_.

In no time we had arrived at, and settled into, Skálholtsskoli, a fine guest house adjacent to a magnificent modern church which was built on a famous historic ecclesiastical site. We had tasted the wonders of Iceland's scenery and discovered that we would need more warm layers of clothing in the morning. The evening started with a fine meal at which we met the Chandler family who had flown in from the U.S.A. earlier in the morning. They had enjoyed a relaxing day locally, finding many birds, including a Short-eared Owl and Merlin. After a briefing from Andy on the plans for the next day we retired to bed or quiet local walks, as the mood took us.

##### MONDAY 3 JULY

##### SK\_LHOLT

Weather 4-7 / 8 cu. Sunny. SW 3

Our first port of call was the nearby bridge over the River Bruará. Here we were entertained by a flock of eight male Harlequin Duck and by twenty one Red-necked Phalarope. The latter were feeding in the fast flowing water of the river and then flying back upstream to start the process all over again. This was almost comical in its predictability. We also had

excellent views of a Dunlin and a Golden Plover, both of which were showing off their breeding plumage. Plants were also abundant, notably Butterwort, Alpine Catchfly, Northern Green Orchid and Moonwort.

We then moved on to the Reykjarettir, an ancient sheep pen made of local stone and turf. It was constructed in 1881 on the site of a traditional gathering area. Every September the hill sheep are herded together and sorted into pens belonging to individual farms. This is a notable social occasion. Whooper Swans, a Rabbit and a fine Redwing were noted as we admired the well crafted site.

As we moved on we enjoyed fine views of the sunlit but cloud fringed Mount Hekla. Our next stop was at the Gaukshöf\_i, a crag from which the valley of the River \_jórsá could be viewed. It was another fine area for flowers including Mountain Avens, Northern Rockcress, Roseroot, Scottish Asphodel and Small White Orchid.

We then crossed a volcanic desert covered in ancient tephra, a light material which was catapulted out of the erupting Mount Hekla. It was here that we explored a pseudo- crater, a feature formed as boiling lava passed over a marsh.

The small, but dramatic, waterfall, Hjalparfoss was our next stop. The falls have worn their way through a wall of columnar basalt which is twisted and shattered by the pressure of more lava pushing from behind as it cooled. Once again the plants were striking, especially Sea Pea, Alpine Bartsia and Arctic River Beauty.

We continued to drive up the valley until we came to the archeological site at Stöng. This is the excavated remains of a strongly built farmhouse which was buried in the eruption of Mount Hekla in 1104.

Once we had examined the house we walked upstream to yet another waterfall. A brief view of an Icelandic Wren was gained as we threaded our way along the riverside.

Our final port of call for the day was \_jó\_ veldisbærinn, a reconstruction of the house at Stöng. This is the work of great craftsmanship, and which enabled us to take our imaginations back to the living conditions of a farmer in the Twelfth Century.

As we made our way back downstream we stopped to admire four Harlequin Duck that were resting on the river bank adjacent to the road. We also enjoyed fine views of the snow covered flanks of Tindfallajökull and the distant glacier Eyjafjallajökull.

After a full day it was very pleasant to enjoy another fine meal and good conversation.

## TUESDAY 4 JULY

### SK\_LHOLT

**Weather** 8/8 cu, prolonged rain, short fine periods. SE 3-5

We drove east in the rain, stopping at Hvolsvöllur to shop and visit the bank and post office. On arriving at Seljalandsfoss we were impressed by the volume of water cascading over the lip of the falls. We followed the tradition and made our way behind the falls. We were already in full waterproofs so this did not present a problem. Behind the falls we discovered Tufted and Alpine Snow Saxifrage. We next walked parallel with the ridge examining a number of vegetated gullies. In three of these we found the Icelandic Wren.

The weather cleared a little so we made a bee line for the toe of the Solheimajökull Glacier. Once out of the bus we tramped over a demonic landscape of black moraine. We then crested a rise to view the glacier. Unlike the sparkling white glaciers to be found in many parts of the world this one was scarred with black debris. Luckily we were able to find a spot where

we could stand on the ice. On examination of the ice, formed from snow subjected to many years of compression, we were fascinated by its heaviness and strength. Although the ice and the newest moraine held no plants we looked on the older spoil, discovering Alpine Fleabane, Rock Speedwell and a Frog Orchid. As we watched, two Great Skua chased a wader up the valley.

After lunch we moved onto the coast at Vík. Here we were able to watch breeding Fulmar, Kittiwake and Puffin on the rocky headland. In fact we estimated that there were at least a thousand Puffin on the grassy slopes, in the air or resting on the sea. Needless to say this was a thrilling experience.

After a rest and coffee we drove a little way west in order to sample the other side of the headland. At Reynishverfi we walked over a black beach until we reached a wonderful basaltic outcrop. As though this was not wondrous enough Andy took us around the corner to a huge wave cut basalt cave in which we were able to shelter from the rain and wind. From the cave we were able to watch terns, gulls, Fulmars and skuas as they flew east. It was a most profitable end to a day in which we had enjoyed many new experiences.

Once back at Skálholtsskóli we were able to dry out clothing and relax. We also enjoyed a very fine meal.

### WEDNESDAY 5 JULY

#### SK\_LHOLT

**Weather** 8/8 cu, steady drizzle, short fine periods, 0

The whole day was spent driving to Grundarfjörur in the west. Our main port of call for the day was \_ingvellir. En route we made a visit to Laugavatnshellir, caves cut out of tuff, compressed volcanic ash. These caves were inhabited by herdsman until the mid 1930s.

We then drove on to the rift valley containing \_ingvallavatn, Iceland's largest lake. On the eastern side of the lake is a chasm which represents the edge of the Eurasian tectonic plate, the lake being in 'no-man's land'. On the western side of the lake is another chasm representing the edge of the American plate. This one is rather dramatic and has an air of brooding malevolence. It was here at \_ingvellir that the Vikings held their outdoor parliament every summer. Tufted duck was the star bird of the area.

The rest of the morning was spent driving on non metalled roads to the sea fjord Hvalfjörur. This was our introduction to the west. We stopped for lunch in an area holding Red-throated and Great Northern Divers, Black Guillemots, Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, a variety of gulls and a lone Common Seal.

At the little town of Borgarnes we stopped for refreshments and to enjoy telescope views of Shelduck, a rather scarce bird in Iceland, and a variety of waders. As we drove onto the peninsula of Snæfellsnes we were greeted by roadside Arctic Poppies. There was still a considerable amount of snow on the distant mountains.

We then came across a number of duck including a pair of Greater Scaup and more divers and Black Guillemot. We also saw the first Great Cormorants of the trip.

On our arrival at Grundarfjörur we were immediately impressed by the number of gulls.

After yet another appetizing meal we were having coffee and looking out over the bay when a sub-adult Iceland Gull appeared amongst the Glaucous Gulls. This was exciting because Iceland Gulls do not breed in Iceland but in Greenland, they are only common here in Winter. Many of us enjoyed an evening walk before reflecting on a interesting day, despite the rain.

**THURSDAY 6 JULY  
GRUNDARFJÖR\_UR****Weather** 4/4 cu, sunny. Cool N 2-4

The morning was spent driving to the most westerly point of the peninsula, stopping at points of interest en route. We were soon watching a wide variety of waders, duck, gulls and divers. Purple Sandpipers and Turnstone were seen well as were Red-throated and Great Northern Divers. At Ríf we spent some time enjoying the antics of feeding Red-necked Phalarope. It was interesting to compare them with adjacent Dunlin. At this point we were very near to an Arctic Tern colony, the adults demonstrating their aerial skills by swooping down on us. While we watched, the cloud lifted from the top of the Snaæfellsjökull glacier giving us a wonderful photographic opportunity. At Hellissandur we stopped to admire two modern turf roofed houses. We then made a short stop at Skar\_svík, a white shell beach, something of a rarity in Iceland where most beaches consist of pulverised black lava. One or two brave souls paddled in the Atlantic!

At Öndver\_arness Point we were able to watch seabirds on the ledges of the basalt cliffs. At one point Common Guillemot, Brunnich's Guillemot and Razorbill stood next to each other making comparisons very easy.

Puffin, Black Guillemot, Fulmar, Kittiwake and passing Shag and Gannet were also noted. Arctic Skuas patrolled off shore. Whilst looking out to sea we located a Minke Whale and then at least two more. We enjoyed several brief views of this ten metre-long cetacean.

Lunch was taken at nearby Brunnurinn Fálki. The highlights here were a male Snow Bunting and an Arctic Fox. The latter was watched for some time as it trotted across the lava field.

By 15.30 we were on the M.V. Brimrun, a stable twin hulled whale watching boat. As we sailed west we enjoyed views of a number of seabirds including thousands of Puffin. At 17.00 we came across a feeding frenzy, tight flocks of seabirds feeding at the surface and Gannets diving into the sea. We then had close views of at least three Minke Whales feeding amongst the seabirds. Later we saw two other Minke Whales. Although on this occasion we had only seen one whale species we did have satisfying views, especially considering that Minke Whale is always the most difficult of the common whales to observe because it seldom stays long on the surface of the sea.

Once again we had a number of exciting sightings throughout the day. The excellent evening meal included a subtle Iceland lobster soup.

**FRIDAY 7 JULY  
GRUNDARFJÖR\_UR****Weather** 3-6/8 cu, sunny, cold N 2-4

We drove to Stikkysbólur to catch the ferry to the island of Flatey. At 09.30 the ferry M.V. Baldur set off for the island. On the way we saw a number of seabirds, Puffin outnumbering the rest. A group of Grey Seals were also noted.

At 11.25 we landed on Flatey to be greeted by alarmed Redshank that thought we might be too near to their chicks and by a fine male Snow Bunting. Ringed Plover, Snipe and Purple Sandpiper were also seen at close range. Small pools held groups of Red-necked Phalarope which we were able to watch at our leisure. Lunch was taken sitting at the top of a grass bank upon which Puffins were nesting. They allowed us to approach within a few metres so we were able to watch them and nearby Black Guillemot whilst we ate.

After lunch we visited the church, the barrel ceiling of which is covered in paintings. These depict the early fathers of the Lutheran Church and traditional life on Flatey. The reredos shows Christ, dressed as an Icelandic fisherman blessing two fellow fishers.

Our next objective was to find a Grey Phalarope, which at this stage of the season have finished breeding and are feeding on the sea near the shore. The few pairs that breed on Flatey are the most southerly breeding Grey Phalarope in the world. Sadly this year they were nowhere to be found.

At 14.30 we made the return trip to the mainland, spending most of the time looking for White-tailed Eagle on the many islands. Again we had no success. Once on shore we met Gu\_rún, Andy's wife, who joined us until after breakfast on the following day.

We then drove the coast road via Berserhjagata; here we did find an immature White-tailed Eagle. We were able to watch the bird through the telescopes as it sat on the riverside and then we saw it in prolonged flight.

Once again we had experienced Iceland in different mood, the temperature soaring to 11 degrees C.

More eating!

#### **SATURDAY 8 JULY GRUNDARFJÖR\_UR**

**Weather 7/8 cu, bright with light showers. 3 degrees C. P.m. Heavy rain at first followed by sunny weather. 5 degrees C.**

The day was spent driving to Öngulssta\_ir a little way south of Akureyri.

By 09.30 we had reached Helgafell, a low rugged hill often mentioned in the Sagas. Legend has it that anyone who can walk to the top without looking back will have one wish granted. The sun still didn't shine!

Our next stop was at Álftafjör\_ur where we found a flock of some three hundred and ten Whooper Swans; even in the cloudy conditions they still made a moving sight. We moved on into the Laxárdalur Valley where we saw yet another Arctic Fox.

By lunch time we reached the sheltered harbour at Bor\_eyri in Hrótafj\_r\_ur. We set up lunch adjacent to a beach covered with Sea Mayweed and Oyster Plant, both of which were in full flower. While we ate our lunch we watched waders on the shore and Puffins and Great Northern Divers at sea. Three Purple Sandpipers and a few Red-necked Phalarope were seen well.

At Blönduós we admired a fresh fall of snow on the mountains. We also spent some time looking at plants.

A little further along the Langidalur we came across a pool which held breeding Slavonian Grebes. One was sitting on a nest.

Varmahli\_ made a convenient stopping place for some refreshment. In the Hera\_svötn Valley we searched the river banks for wildfowl finding some one hundred and twenty Pink-footed Geese, many of which were this year's young. We then climbed over the Öxnadalshéi\_i Pass at 540 M above sea level.

By 17.55 we had reached Akureyri, Iceland's second city. Soon after we were settling into our guesthouse at Öngulssta\_ir. The evening was sunny, the views of the snow topped

mountains quite spectacular.

## SUNDAY 9 JULY

### ÖNGULSSTA\_IR

**Weather a.m. 8/8 low cu. Dull NW 1. By 10.15 light showers, cold. From 16.00 cloud clearing, sunny 8 Degrees C.**

The day started with one of the group sighting a Short-eared Owl on his pre-breakfast walk. The rest of the day was spent driving to and from and exploring M\_vatn.

As we approached the area we saw a lone Ptarmigan, thanks to some expert spotting by one of the group. As we reached the Laxá river we started to hunt for Harlequin Ducks. We found ten females and a number of chicks. We also noted two female Barrow's Goldeneye.

Once at the Lake we spent time watching a variety of wildfowl including more Barrow's Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Gadwall, Mallard, Wigeon and Red Breasted Merganser. Slavonian Grebe also featured one pair with young.

At Kálfaströnd, an area of shallow pools edged by wonderfully sculptured block lava we found a Common Scoter with chicks and a lone Barrow's Goldeneye with the most enchanting pied offspring. We also found the rather local Hawkweed-leaved Treacle Mustard. Redpoll and Wren were singing in the low-lying woodland.

By mid-day we were at Hverfjall, an explosion crater formed about two thousand five hundred years ago. We stood at the base of the cone adjacent to the Birch forest growing amongst the black lava. We spent some time in a vain search for a Gyrfalcon, one of the most elusive of Iceland's birds.

Our next destination was Grótagjá an area influenced by earthquakes some of which took place during the period 1975-1984 during which there were nine volcanic events. Here we peered down into a deep chasm. In a shallow cave next to the split in the lava we were able to reach down and reach into a pool of warm water.

By 14.30 we had moved on to Leirhnjúkur an area of 'new' lava that originated around 1980. This area consisted of boiling clays formed by volcanic action on the original soils and an area of overlaid black lava which was still hot to the touch. The smell of sulphurous gasses was overwhelming. It was pleasing to find Cassiope and Trailing Azalea in the more stable area nearby.

At nearby Hverir we spent a little while watching streams rushing from vents and gasses bubbling up through deep mud pools.

Our encounter with volcanic phenomena was not at an end though. At nearby Reykjahali we climbed down into a chasm which contained a deep warm water pool. Whilst most of us were enjoying the plant life, including Herb Paris, Andy and Houston took a dip.

As we drove out of the area a Short-eared Owl flew across the road in front of us. At Go\_afoss, 'The falls of the Gods' we took yet more waterfall photographs. As we drove west the day was transformed into a sunlit delight.

More eating, during which we discovered that Italy had won the World Cup, news that was met with studied indifference.

## MONDAY 10 JULY

### ÖNGULSSTA\_IR

**Weather 1/8 cu, sunny SE 1-2**

The morning was spent on the charming island of Hrísey in the middle of Eyjafjör\_ur. By 09.30 we were on the ferry M.V. Saevar at Árskogssandur, preparing to sail to the little village on Hrísey. Once there we walked a marked trail that took us through the village, over the central plateau and along the eastern coast.

Once on the plateau we were immediately made aware that we were trespassing on a number of wader breeding territories. Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Snipe, Golden Plover and Whimbrel showed considerable agitation as we approached their chicks. Needless to say we soon moved away from each territory so as not to stress the birds too much. It was delightful to see the adult waders guarding their tiny chicks. We were also lucky enough to watch two families of Ptarmigan. In one case the female stood on a rock in full view in order to attract our attention whilst the male gathered the chicks.

There were other dramas. A Common Gull swooped down on a Whimbrel chick and carried it away in its beak. Despite the fact that the gull was closely pursued by two adult Whimbrel and a handful of Arctic Terns, it made its escape. The Whimbrel's blood was obviously up because it was soon chasing a light morph Arctic Tern from its territory.

Life seemed to be more peaceful for a pair of Red-throated Divers that sat quietly on a small pond.

At the coast we watched Kittiwakes and Fulmars and a pair of juvenile Great Black-backed Gulls. As we watched a fine drake Harlequin Duck swam around the corner of the nearby headland on a beautiful calm sea.

Way out at sea, close to a trawler, appeared one, or perhaps two, Minke Whales, but they were very far off. Alpine Gentian was found, at last, as we walked towards the harbour. Once back on the mainland we had our lunch and then set off for Akureyri.

All sorts of events followed: swimming in the city pool, visiting the church, enjoying a quiet walk in the Botanical Gardens, shopping and drinking coffee.

It had been another varied day.

**TUESDAY 11 JULY**

**ÖNGULSSTA\_IR**

**Weather Early: 3/8 ci, cu, sun, E1-2; 11.00: 7/8 cu, sun and showers, cold E; 15.00: 8/8 cu, heavy rain**

The day was spent driving through the centre of Iceland. Initially we drove west until we reached Varmahli\_. En route we noted flocks of Whooper swans, Greylag and Pink-footed Geese.

At Varmahli\_ we took the Kjölur route, a rugged unmade road south and described as one of the world's great journeys, starting at 10.35. By 11.00 we had reached a lookout at about eight hundred metres above sea level. We looked out over a bleak plateau and a dammed lake, the water from which is used to generate hydro-electricity. In the distance was the stark, forbidding Hofsjökull Glacier under a dramatic cloudscape.

As we drove south the Langjökull Glacier came into view through the low cloud.

At 12.10 we stopped at Hveravellir, the only settlement in the area. This consisted of a small service centre and a weather station. Some members of the group had a dip in a hot spring which had been adapted for swimming.

We then moved on over an area of cold desert. As it was then pouring with rain we were glad to reach the tarmac by 15.20.

Some idea of the remoteness and bleakness of the journey can be gauged by the fact that we only saw a handful of birds:-

Ringed Plover	1	Arctic Tern	1
Golden Plover	3	Arctic Skua	2
Dunlin	2	White Wagtail	1
G. N. Diver	2	Snow Bunting	a pair

Driving further south we approached Gullfoss, probably the most dramatic waterfall in Iceland. As we arrived the rain stopped and we were able to enjoy the site at our leisure. It is quite mind bending to consider that the flow over the falls is, on average, 109 cu m per second but can reach as much as 2,000 at peak flows.

As we moved south once more we saw a great plume of sunlit water spouting into the air; we knew we were approaching Geysir. Once there we watched the geyser Stokkur shooting water 30 metres into the air. There were also smaller geysers, some like Litli Geysir no more than a pool of bubbling boiling water.

Our last port of call was the small, but dramatic waterfall, Faxi.

It was pleasing to arrive at Skálholtsskoli and settle into familiar surroundings. We dined with Andy and Gu\_rún and then Andy showed us a pictorial presentation of our trip. Isn't modern technology wonderful?

### **WEDNESDAY 12 JULY**

#### **SKÁLHOLT**

**Weather 5/8 cu, sun,NW1, 4 later**

It was time to leave the Land Of Ice and Fire. By 10.15 we were in Reykjavík where we had time to look around the city centre, having said goodbye to Scrap and Susan who were meeting sailing friends at the harbour. Lunch was taken at the lighthouse at Gar\_skagi. Fortunately there was a brisk onshore wind so the passing seabirds were relatively close. We enjoyed good views of a variety of seabirds including some fifty Manx Shearwaters. This was a great finale to the trip.

At the airport we bade farewell to the contingent from the U.S.A., the rest of us flying to the U.K.

**Birds**

( ) Peak count

[ ] Total count

E - estimate

Breeding - evidence during the trip.

<b>Red-throated Diver.</b>	Widespread on small lakes. [22] Breeding
<b>Great Northern Diver</b>	Widespread on large lakes and coastal waters. [26] Breeding
<b>Slavonian (Horned) Grebe</b>	Four near Varmahli_ and three M_vatn.
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>	Very common in coastal areas and noted breeding up to sixty km inland.
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>	At least fifty flying past Gar_skagi.
<b>Northern Gannet</b>	Common Snæfellsnes and off Gar_skagi.
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	Mainly Snæfellsnes.
<b>European Shag</b>	Only Snæfellsnes and Gar_skagi. Breeding
<b>Whooper Swan</b> Alftafiordur	Breeding pairs and large gatherings especially at  (310). [E 435]
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	Two flocks sighted (120) and (47) including many juveniles River Heradvotn.
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	Very widespread. Flocks up to thirty strong. Breeding
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	Pair with chicks Borgarnes.
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	Flocks at M_vatn.
<b>Gadwall</b>	Small numbers with young at M_vatn.
<b>Common Teal</b>	A pair on River Bruará near Skálholt.
<b>Mallard</b>	Common and widespread. Breeding
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	Scattered records except at M_vatn where very common, including great numbers of chicks.
<b>(Greater) Scaup</b> Breeding	A similar distribution to Tufted Duck but less common.  M_vatn.
<b>Common Eider</b>	Very common; mainly young.
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	Fine views of drakes in breeding plumage and ducks with chicks. River Bruará (8) and River Laxá, M_vatn (10)
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	Fairly common breeding species, at M_vatn.
<b>Common Scoter</b>	Two ducks with chicks, M_vatn.
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	Twenty, and chicks, M_vatn.
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>	Very widespread on lakes, rivers and the coast.

<b>White-tailed Eagle</b>	An immature near Berserkjagata.
<b>Merlin</b>	One Skálholt
<b>(Rock) Ptarmigan</b>	One on the road, skillfully spotted by Ray. Three families Hrísey. Breeding
<b>(Eurasian) Oystercatcher</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>(European) Golden Plover</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>(Greater) Ringed Plover</b>	Scattered records.
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	Widespread. Breeding.
<b>Whimbrel</b>	Widespread. Breeding.
<b>Common Redshank</b>	Very widespread. Breeding.
<b>(Ruddy) Turnstone</b>	Three records: six Snæfellsnes, six Flatey, and seven Gar_skagi.
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	Small flocks on small pools and at coastal locations. [E 120 ] Breeding
<b>Common Snipe</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>	Noted on rocky shores Snæfellsnes [31]
<b>Dunlin</b>	Small flocks throughout. Two on the Kjölur route.
<b>Great Skua</b>	Ten Vík and three from MV Brimrun.
<b>Arctic Skua</b>	Widespread. Breeding. [ E 70]
<b>Common(Mew) Gull</b>	Only in the north, where common. Breeding
<b>Herring Gull</b>	Only in the south, where far from common.
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	Very widespread. Breeding.
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	Mainly on Snæfellsnes, small numbers in the north and at Gar_skagi. Breeding
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	Numerous Snæfellsnes, one Gar_skagi. Breeding
<b>Iceland Gull</b>	One sub-adult Grundarfjör_ur.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>(Black-legged) Kittiwake</b>	Thousands Vík, common Snæfellsnes and Flatey, less so elsewhere. Breeding.
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>Common Guillemot</b>	Numerous at Öndver_arness and from MV Brimrun. Breeding
<b>Brunnich's Guillemot</b>	Small groups Öndver_arness. Breeding
<b>Razorbill</b>	Common at Öndver_arness and from MV Brimrun. Breeding
<b>Black Guillemot</b> Breeding	Small flocks off the western and northern coasts. [ E 50 ]
<b>(Atlantic) Puffin</b>	Thousands Vík, numerous Öndver_arness, Flatey and from MV Brimrun. Breeding

<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	One Reykjavík!
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	One Skálholt, one Öngulssta_ir and one near M_vatn.
<b>White Wagtail</b>	Common. Breeding.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	Common. Breeding.
<b>(Winter) Wren</b>	One Song, three Seljalandsfoss and heard M_vatn. Breeding.
<b>Redwing</b>	Common. Breeding.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	Widespread. Breeding.
<b>Common Raven</b>	Very common. Breeding.
<b>Common ( European) Starling</b>	Widespread but never common. A leucistic individual was noted at Grundarfjör_ur.
<b>Snow Bunting</b>	Thinly distributed in Snaefellsnes and the north. Breeding
<b>Common Redpoll</b>	Only noted in or near woods, Skálholt, M_vatn and in the Akureyri Botanic Garden. Breeding

## MAMMALS

<b>Arctic Fox</b>	One Snæfellsnes and one Laxárdalur.
<b>Common (Harbour) Seal</b>	Two records Snæfellsnes and one Hrísey
<b>Grey Seal</b>	Several Brei_afjör_ur from MV Baldur.
<b>Minke Whale</b>	Three off Öndver_arness, five from the 'whaleboat' MV Brimrun and one or possibly two distantly off Hrísey.
<b>European Rabbit</b>	One Reykjarettir.

## PLANTS

The Plant list follows the numbers and order from A guide to the Flowering Plants & Ferns of Iceland by Hör\_ur Kristinsson.

<b>3</b>	<b>Tufted Vetch</b>	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>Nootka (Alaskan) Lupin</b>	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>Rock Speedwell</b>	<i>Veronica fruticans</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Germander Speedwell</b>	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Alpine Gentian</b>	<i>Gentiana nivalis</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Field Forget-me-not</b>	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>Water Forget-me-not</b>	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>Oysterplant</b>	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>Alpine Bartsia</b>	<i>Bartsia alpina</i>

20	Heath Dog-Violet	<i>Violet canina</i>
21	Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
24	Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
28	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
30	Wood Cranesbill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>
35	Sea Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> spp. <i>maritimus</i>
37	Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Cirsum arvense</i>
40	Alpine Catchfly	<i>Lychnis alpina</i>
41	Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus praecox</i> ssp. <i>arcticus</i>
44	Arctic Riverbeauty	<i>Epilobium latifolium</i>
45/46/49	Willowherb sp.	
51	Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
55	Trailing Azalea	<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>
56	Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>
58	Hairy Stonecrop	<i>Sedum villosum</i>
59	Heather (Ling)	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
60	Moss Campion	<i>Silene acaulis</i>
61	Thrift	<i>Armenia maritima</i>
62	Lady Smock	<i>Cardamine nymanii</i>
68	Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
69	Bog Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
70	Alpine Fleabane	<i>Erigeron borealis</i>
74	Sea Mayweed	<i>Martricularia maritima</i>
76	Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>
78	Grass of Parnassus	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>
81	Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>
82	Alpine Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastrium alpinum</i>
86	Bog-bean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
87	Mossy Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>
89	Tufted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifrage caespitosa</i>
91	Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
97	Alpine Snow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>
98	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastrium fontanum</i>

101	Sea Sandwort	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>
107	Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
112	Alpine Bistort	<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>
115	Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>
116	Stone Bramble	<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>
117	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
118	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
119	Garden Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>
120	Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
121	Scots Lovage	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>
123	Sweet Cicely	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
124	Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
125	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
126	Sea Rocket	<i>Cakile arctica</i>
127	Northern Rock-cress	<i>Cardaminopsis petraea</i>
128	Hoary Whitlowgrass	<i>Draba incana</i>
136	Common Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>
142	Scottish Asphodel	<i>Tofieldia pusilla</i>
143	Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>
147	Cassiope	<i>Cassiope hypnoides</i>
148	Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
155	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
156	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
157	Alpine Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>
158	Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
159	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
160	Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
162	Arctic Poppy	<i>Papaver radicum</i>
165	Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
171	Hawkweed-leaved Treaclemustard	<i>Erysimum hieracifolium</i>
174	Roseroot	<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>
176	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
180	Yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>

182	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>
183	Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium spp.</i>
190	Alpine Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>
191	Common Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>
194	Northern Green Orchid	<i>Platanthera hyperborea</i>
195	Small White Orchid	<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>
216	Mare's –tail	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>
217	Horsetail sp.	<i>Equisetum sp.</i>
229	Common Moonwort	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>
231	Lance-leaved Moonwort	<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>
233	Brittle Bladder-fern	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>
241	Dwarf Birch	<i>Betula nana</i>
242	Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
243	Dwarf Willow	<i>Salix herbacea</i>
244	Woolly Willow	<i>Salix lanata</i>
246	Tea-leaved Willow	<i>Salix phylicifolia</i>
247	Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i> . Planted near habitation.
248	Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
250	Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
253	Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
254	Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
255	Northern Dock	<i>Rumex longifolius</i>
256	Mountain Sorrel	<i>Oxyria digyna</i>
257	Frog Orchid	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>
267	Juniper	<i>Juniper communis</i>
268	Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
293	Viviparous Fescue	<i>Festuca vivipara</i>
302	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
306	Lyme Grass	<i>Leymus arenarius</i>
338	Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
351	Common Sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
356	Heath (Many headed) Woodrush	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>

