

HIGH LONESOME BIRDTOURS

GAMBELL I – May 21-27, 2011

Trip Report and Annotated Species List

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Seawatch

Overall Impressions

Our Gambell I Tour group was regionally well-represented, with participants from Minnesota, California, Idaho, Massachusetts, Colorado, Texas, Virginia, New Mexico, and Sonora. Our overall totals for the tour were fairly good, although we certainly had to weather consistent wind from the northeast and east throughout the trip. This produced fewer than hoped for Asian landbirds and shorebirds on the island, but we did get to view spectacular concentrations of the breeding alcids as well as a few choice North American rarities. The camaraderie of the group was great, and the meals spectacular. Overall, a wonderful trip to one of the furthest outposts of North American birding destinations.

21 May 2011

Officially the tour began at the 6:30 pm “meet-n-greet” session at the Coast International Hotel, where we all introduced ourselves, and were given checklists and some background information for the upcoming trip to Gambell. Not wanting to waste any time in the lobby rather than going birding, we quickly grabbed our gear and headed to Westchester Lagoon for about an hour’s worth of birding before heading to Orso for a fine seafood dinner. At Westchester Lagoon we admired eight Hudsonian Godwits which afforded great views as well as a Common Loon on the lake (only one for the trip). Other birds included seven species of waterfowl, several Wilson’s Snipe, beautiful alternate-plumaged Red-necked Grebes, and various singing landbirds. On to Orso, where we dined on fresh seafood and enjoyed some decadent desserts, and then back to the hotel for final packing and preparation. Everyone was pretty excited about the tour, and full of anticipation for our morning trip to Nome and then on to Gambell.

22 May 2011

Travel day to Gambell via Nome, our group had all of their gear packed up and ready to go with plenty of time to spare. We took the hotel shuttle to the airport and we were off to Nome, where we landed a bit early. We moved our bags over to the Bering Air office, got checked in for our flight to Gambell, and within twenty minutes we were in the air toward Gambell.

Gambell is a small Yupik community located only 38 miles from the Russian Chukotskiy Peninsula. Occupied for thousands of years, this native community of 650 would be our home for the next week as we traveled all of the road system a multitude of times in search of unusual birds. Upon landing, our luggage was quickly transferred over to the Sivuqaq Lodge and we walked over where we were checked in and had a late lunch which Jennifer had prepared. Once familiar with the lodge rules, we then did the safety briefing and learned about the use of ATVs courtesy of David and Jennifer. Off to the Near Boneyard for some walking and got acquainted with the technique of sweeping the area in one coordinated manner rather than a haphazard walk through the area. Out to the Seawatch site and then on to the Cliffs in the late afternoon. Back to Sivuqaq for dinner of baked chicken, salad, rice, asparagus (where did Jennifer get that?) and a great dessert of strawberry shortcake.

23 May 2011

After a morning bracer of coffee and light breakfast fare, we headed out to Seawatch for an hour of birding before our real breakfast. Several Yellow-billed Loons flew by the Point, which were enjoyed by all, and we also had several thousand alcids, as expected. Back to the Sivuqaq for breakfast, and we all “enjoyed” the smoke alarms when they went off and we could not find a way to turn them off. Turning them off one by one took some time, but they appeared to be demonized! David finally tore one out of the wall, and that seemed to do the trick (all were replaced the following day with standard smoke detectors).

After breakfast, we headed back out to the north beach area to the Cliffs where we enjoyed a spectacle of thousands of Least and Parakeet auklets on the snow banks above us. One Arctic Fox was prowling the Cliffs, and there were also several Arctic Ground-Squirrels in the area. We were looking for Dovekie,

but not today. Although they typically arrive to investigate nesting burrows at about this time, they can be very difficult to locate until they settle in.

We spent a bit of time in the Far Boneyard and found one Eastern Yellow Wagtail as a fly-by and then back to the Sivuqaq for a lunch of turkey & noodle soup and sandwiches. In the afternoon we took the airport runway south and visited the Far Marsh and the south lakes, and although not too active in terms of vagrants, we all had good looks at Rough-legged Hawk, Rock Sandpipers, several fly-over Tundra Swans, White Wagtail and both redpoll species. Back to the Sivuqaq for dinner at 7:00 pm, we enjoyed baked macaroni & cheese casserole, salad and steamed vegetables as we celebrated Charlie's birthday (also Paul Lehman's)! Back out to the Far Boneyard for an hour or so to see if anything had arrived. Although the winds remained from the northwest, we did find a female Wheatear in the Boneyard and a male Northern Wheatear near the Cliffs, but the latter was very flighty and did not allow close approach. Back to the Sivuqaq by 10:30 pm.

24 May 2011

We awoke to cloudy conditions and some light rain, made our coffee and then off to Seawatch where we admired the alcid spectacle and also found White-winged Scoter and Common and Red-breasted mergansers. Several Yellow-billed Loons were seen as well as two Brant as fly-bys. After breakfast, we visited the Far Boneyard and the Cliffs again where we admired a hunting Arctic Fox amongst the Least Auklets. We noted that the fox was not nearly as successful as the Common Ravens, since we saw on two occasions a raven with a Least Auklet in its beak. No doubt the fox got to clean up the remains of the meal however.

After lunch we went to the Near Boneyard for another scouring, but nothing much happening there. All afternoon we worked the Far and Circular boneyards and the hillsides, but with nothing exciting. Dinner was Jen's magnificent meatloaf, vegetables, salad and carrot cake. Back out to Seawatch one last time before returning at 10:30 pm.

25 May 2011

Pretty much following the established routine, we had coffee and then headed out to Seawatch to watch the alcid spectacle before breakfast. Nothing stunning to report, we returned to the Sivuqaq, and then returned to the Cliffs to search for Dovekie. We certainly were putting in our time there, but we just could not pull out the birds (they were out foraging no doubt). Lingering snow in the nesting rocks probably discouraged them from establishing territories until the snow melted a bit more. We visited each of the three boneyards before lunch, but found very little except for Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. We headed back south to the far bay which has sometimes held large numbers of loafing sea ducks. We were successful, finding over 2500 loafing King Eiders on the water, mostly females and sub-adult males.

After lunch, we returned to Seawatch, the Cliffs and the boneyards for more searching, but did not turn up any of the hoped-for rarities. On a hunch, David and Dave swung by the south side of the school where we found two White Wagtails. Probably two males since they put on a spectacular aerial battle

(territoriality?), they tussled in the air and on the ice of Troutman Lake for several minutes, locking bills and feet and pounding each other with their wings.

The afternoon was spent searching the Near Boneyard, where Paul Lehman had found a Tree Sparrow which we all got great looks at. Although we were disappointed with the lack of Russian passerines, from an ornithological point of view, having passerines from mainland Alaska arriving at Gambell was nearly as interesting. It all depends on the winds, and so far the winds were not favoring the arrival of Russian vagrants. Dinner was spinach lasagna with salad and zucchini which fortified us for our last jaunt of the day, out to Seawatch again. Watching the alcid spectacle never seems to get old, and we viewed thousands of birds zooming back and forth to and from feeding grounds.

26 May 2011

Our last full day at Gambell, David and Dave decided to split up and send one group to the Cliffs and the other to Seawatch. The former group could not locate the Dovekies, but the latter group did get some good looks at Yellow-billed Loons, White-winged Scoters, and Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers. The sun came out after breakfast and the winds shifted briefly from the south (good news!). We relocated the White Wagtails near the lakeshore by the school and then went south to the Far Marsh to see what may have turned up, but the pickings were slim.

After lunch, we covered the Far and Circular boneyards and hillside on the east side of the lake. We found our first Gray-cheeked Thrush for the trip (a trans-Beringian migrant heading to breeding grounds in the Russian Far East), and another Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Then down to the South Marsh were we found Least and Western Sandpipers, and three Common Ringed-Plovers. One of the plovers was being severely harassed by a smaller Semipalmated Plover which we viewed for about five minutes. In flight, the white wing stripe on the Common is much more evident than on the Semipalmated, and we were able to see this on several occasions as they continued their territorial battles.

After a wonderful dinner of pork loin w/ cherry sauce, polenta, salad and mixed vegetables, we did our bird list and then headed back out to the Near Boneyard and Seawatch where we watched a spectacular sunset to the west over Russia.

27 May 2011

Our last morning at Gambell, we had a light breakfast and then headed out to Seawatch from 6:00 – 9:00 am for our last session there. Reluctantly, we headed back to Sivuqaq for breakfast and to get gear ready for the departure. Just as we were finishing breakfast, we heard over the radio “Ross’s Gull at the Point” and within seconds all hands were grabbing jackets, boots and binoculars and we jumped on our ATVs for a mad dash to see this mega-rarity. We arrived in mist and low clouds which obscured the viewing as we searched for the elusive bird which had disappeared since the original sighting, but patience paid off when after 15 anxious minutes the bird reappeared at the edge of the fog line flying into the wind. It looked like a second-year bird with the bold black-and-white pattern on the upperwing, but also had a fairly pinkish cast to the underparts and even sported most of the black collar on the head and neck. Truly a great bird and a great way to end the trip.

We headed back to the Sivuqaq to wait for the plane, but it was delayed due to the low clouds at Gambell. Finally after a three hour delay, the flight from Nome arrived and we said good-byes to our clients and new friends. A great trip under challenging circumstances, but we did see some very exciting birds and we thoroughly enjoyed our time in this truly unique area of North America.



ANNOTATED TRIP LIST

Order **Anseriformes**—Family **Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, & Swans**

Brant *Branta bernicla* Regular in migration, we recorded small numbers from the Seawatch on two days, with a high count of three birds on 26 May 2011.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis parvipes* Seen only in Anchorage, we recorded ten while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 before dinner at Orso, and several more were seen on Lake Hood near the hotel before departure the following morning (for those early birding participants).

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* Uncommon migrant to Gambell, we had nine fly over us on 23 May 2011, and also saw two more fly-overs on 26 May 2011.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Not recorded while in Gambell, but we did find two at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 and an additional two were seen on Lake Hood on the morning of 22 May 2011.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* Up to twelve were seen while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* At least six seen at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 and an additional four were on Lake Hood the following morning.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Two were seen at the marsh south of Troutman Lake on 26 May 2011.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* Fairly common migrant to Gambell, we found them either flying past the Seawatch or in the lower marsh on five days. A high count of four was recorded on 26 May 2011.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* Common migrant and breeder in western Alaska, we found several at Westchester Lagoon and Lake Hood. While at Gambell, we recorded them nearly daily, with a high count of seven on 26 May 2011.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* Common migrant and breeder in western Alaska, we recorded up to sixty while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011. Several more were seen as fly-bys while at Seawatch on 25 and 26 May 2011.

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* Certainly a highlight for many, we were afforded great views of up to ten while at Seawatch on 26 May 2011, and seen several other times during the tour.

Spectacled Eider *Somateria fischeri* Certainly one of the most “desired-for” duck species in North America and the world, we recorded four at the Seawatch on 26 May 2011.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* Good numbers of this spectacular sea duck were present again this year, with a high count of 2500 “loafing” individuals to the south of town in the protected bay. Seen daily while at Seawatch, we counted a high of 100 flying past on 23 May 2011.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* Small numbers present in Gambell, with a high count of eight flying by Seawatch on 24 May 2011.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* Low numbers seen at Gambell, but we did record them nearly daily while at Seawatch, and we counted a high of eight on 26 May 2011.

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* Good numbers this year in the Gambell area, with a high count of 93 birds on 26 May 2011. We did not record any individuals of the subspecies *Melanitta fusca stejnegeri*, which may be a valid split in the future.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* We recorded good numbers of this spectacular sea duck daily while at Gambell, with a high count of 350+ from the Seawatch on 26 May 2011.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Seen only in the Anchorage area at Westchester Lagoon and Lake Hood, we found a high of ten individuals at each site on 21 and 22 May 2011.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* While in Anchorage, we found them at both Westchester Lagoon and on Lake Hood, with a high of twenty birds at the former site before dinner at Orso.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* One male of the subspecies *Mergus merganser americanus* was seen by several of the group on 24 May 2011.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* Fairly common migrant through Gambell, we recorded them on nearly every day while at Seawatch, where we recorded a high of nine birds on 26 May 2011.

Order Gaviiformes—Family Gaviidae: Loons

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* Surprisingly hard to find this year, we recorded a single bird only on our last day in Gambell while at Seawatch. Several participants also found one while in Anchorage at Lake Hood before the Gambell tour started. According to Paul Lehman, the birds just were moving later this year, with 188 seen at Gambell on the relatively late date of 8 June 2011 (PEL pers. comm.).

Common Loon *Gavia immer* Our only sighting was of one bird at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 and several others saw a lone individual on Lake Hood before departure on 22 May 2011.

Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* A very good spring season for this species, with between two and twelve seen daily while at Seawatch.

Order **Podicipediformes**—Family **Podicipedidae**: **Grebes**

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Rather rare at Gambell, we recorded single individuals on two days, each as fly-bys while at Seawatch. Fortunately we were able to get our fix before the tour started, with up to twelve at Westchester Lagoon on the evening of 21 May 2011 before dinner.

Order **Procellariiformes** —Family **Procellariidae**: **Shearwaters and Petrels**

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Common while at Seawatch, we recorded up to 45 on 26 May 2011. Numbers seemed to fluctuate with wind direction and intensity, as well as if/when the walrus hunters were cleaning their kills on the north shore.



Order **Suliformes** —Family **Phalacrocoracidae**: **Cormorants**

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* Common migrant and breeder in the Gambell area, we recorded them every day in good numbers while at Seawatch with a high count of 160 on 24 May 2011.

Order Accipitriformes —Family Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, & Allies

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Not recorded while in Gambell, we did see one at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* An uncommon summer breeder on Gambell, we recorded single individuals on three days while there. This probably represented an single un-mated individual.

Order Gruiformes —Family Gruidae: Cranes

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* Uncommon passage migrant this year, with birds being seen on four days while in Gambell. A high count of sixteen was recorded on 25 May 2011. We also heard a pair at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Order Charadriiformes—Family Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* A very poor showing this year, with two being seen as fly-bys on 23 May 2011 and one more on 27 May 2011. We do not know what may account for this low total, unless birds were much later on migration this year or just missed Gambell altogether.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Certainly one of the highlights this year, we counted up to three individuals on 26 May 2011. Interestingly, this species is ½ inch larger than the following species, but can be harassed to the Point that it will abandon territories early in the spring. Lehman observed that one lingering female was finally joined by a male on 10 June 2011 and was presumably nesting in the area this year.



Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* Common summer breeder in the Gambell area, we recorded between two and eight daily while on our rounds. Quite the aggressive species, we observed several territorial disputes with the former species.

Order Charadriiformes —Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Phalaropes, & Allies

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Not recorded in Gambell, we did have several at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* Up to three were seen while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011, and some participants were able to locate one at Lake Hood on 22 May 2011 before departure to Gambell.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* We were able to study up to four birds while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011. While a common species, it was a treat to see them in breeding dress.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* A treat while in Anchorage, we found four birds in breeding dress while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana* One fly-by was seen by some of the group while at Seawatch on 24 May 2011.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Lower numbers than normal for this fairly common migrant and breeder. We recorded a high of 35 on 24 May 2011, almost all of which were in the lower marsh to the south of Troutman Lake.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* One lone individual was found on 26 May 2011 while at Gambell, but was the only one for the season (per Paul Lehman).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* A very rare breeder on St. Lawrence Island, we found one on 26 May 2011 in the south marsh.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* Uncommon to fairly common migrant to Gambell, we found two on two different days, each in the south marsh where some participants were able to get some photos of the birds.



“Bering” Rock Sandpiper *Calidris ptilocnemis tshuktschorum* Always a treat to see in breeding finery, we were able to admire this species on several occasions, all south of Troutman Lake on the hillside to the east and south of the marsh. According to Lehman, this species has been in a slow and steady decline in the Gambell area, for as yet unknown reasons.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Fairly common to common migrant and breeder at Gambell, we recorded up to twelve to these strikingly plumaged daily.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Numbers were lower overall compared to previous years, we recorded a high of eight at the near marsh and several were also frequenting the far marsh throughout our stay.

Snipe sp. One *Gallinago* sp. was heard along the road to the cemetery to the east of the far marsh on 23 May 2011 but we were unable to locate the bird for identification.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Common migrant and breeder to the area, we recorded them daily, particularly at the far marsh. We found a high number of thirty on 23 May 2011 there.

Order **Charadriiformes** —Family **Laridae: Gulls and Terns**

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Common migrant through the area, we recorded at least 100 per day passing the Point, with at least 650 birds seen there on 24 May 2011.

Bonaparte’s Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* Not recorded at Gambell proper, we were able to see at least ten while at Westchester Lagoon on 22 May 2011.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* Surely one of the highlights of the trip was fleeting but overall good views of a very bright first cycle individual from the Point on our last day in Gambell.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* Not recorded while at Gambell, we were still able to study seven individuals while at Westchester Lagoon on the evening of 22 May 2010.

"American" Herring Gull *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Two were found at Westchester Lagoon on 22 May 2011 before our departure. We were able to study the lighter mantle on these birds in preparation for viewing the following subspecies while at Gambell.

"Vega" Herring Gull *Larus argentatus vegae* Common nesting subspecies at Gambell, we recorded between ten and twenty daily, primarily at or near the dump or on the ice at Troutman Lake as they loafed or bathed. This slightly darker-mantled subspecies has been rumored to be a candidate for full species status in the future.



Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* One was seen at Gambell on 23 May 2011 for the only sighting of this uncommon (for Gambell) species.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Common migrant and breeder, we observed hundreds daily, particularly while at Seawatch and near the dump. Our high count of 200+ was on 24 May 2011.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* Common nesting species on the mainland, we observed up to four at Westchester Lagoon on 22 May 2011. Fairly common migrant (earlier than our arrival), numbers decrease noticeably as spring progresses. We found two birds while at Seawatch on two different days.



Order **Charadriiformes** —Family **Stercorariidae: Jaegers**

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* Common passage migrant through Gambell, we recorded up to sixty daily while at Seawatch as they passed in singles or small groups. We had good looks at all of the jaeger species, some in direct comparison with other species which allowed for close study of flight characteristics and tail length.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fairly common passage migrant past the Point while at Seawatch, we recorded up to twelve daily.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fairly common in the Gambell area this year, with up to seven seen nearly daily, primarily near the far marsh and to the south of there.

Order **Charadriiformes** —Family **Alcidae: Auks, Murres, & Puffins**

Common Murre *Uria aalge* Common fly-bys while at Seawatch or at the cliffs, we recorded scores daily, with at least one hundred on the first evening while at Seawatch. This species is much less common than the following.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* Common to abundant while at Seawatch and at the Point, we were able to study these two species closely, affording us good studies at size and plumage differences. Our high

count was of over 300 on 23 May 2011, but had we spent more time at Seawatch, the numbers would no doubt have been ten-fold that number.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille* Uncommon passage migrant to the area, we were able to see these in direct comparison to the following species on most days.. We had a high count of three on two different days while at Gambell.

Pigeon Guillemot *Cephus columba* Fairly common to common passage migrant while at Seawatch and at the north cliffs, we had a high count of sixty on two days.

Parakeet Auklet *Aethia psittacula* Common breeder on Gambell, we recorded them daily at the Point and at Seawatch, with a high of over 200 on 23 May 2011.

Least Auklet *Aethia pusilla* Abundant breeder on the cliffs at the Point and also well to the south, we recorded up several thousand daily.

Crested Auklet *Aethia cristatella* The most abundant alcid in the area, we saw thousands daily while at the Point. Our high count was on 23 May 2011 when we counted a conservative 2500 birds in a short time. Of note, Paul Lehman wrote that after our group left, on 8 June 2011, he counted as estimated **two million** birds passing the Point within 2 ½ hours in the evening flight.

Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata* Typically a late arrival for breeding, we found single individuals on two days. Numbers would increase later in the season.

Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata* Another late arrival, but we were able to record up to 25 individuals daily while at Seawatch and a few were seen along the cliffs to the east of Troutman Lake as they began to investigate nesting sites.

Order Passeriformes —Family Corvidae: Crows and Jays

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia* Fairly common the greater Anchorage area, we saw two while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* Fairly common on the mainland as well as at Gambell, we recorded up to ten daily on our rounds. Of interest was the fact that we saw several ravens successfully capture or carry Least Auklets while at the cliffs at the Point. Certainly it is a hazardous place for that species given the observed success rate.

Order Passeriformes —Family Hirundinidae: Swallows

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* Common on the mainland, we recorded at least 50 individuals at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina* Fairly common at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011, we counted about ten individuals there before dinner.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Paridae**: **Chickadees**

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* Common on the mainland, we found two at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Regulidae**: **Kinglets**

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* One was singing at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Turdidae**: **Thrushes**

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* An average spring for this species, we found two on 23 May 2011 and an additional individual on 26 May 2011 while in Gambell.



Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* A trans-Beringian migrant at Gambell, we found two birds on the slopes of the cliffs east of Troutman Lake on 26 May 2011.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* One was singing at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* Up to ten while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011, and an additional four while in Nome before our flight to Gambell on 22 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Sturnidae**: **Starlings**

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* At the northern limit of its New World distribution, we saw two birds while nearing Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Motacillidae**: **Wagtails and Pipits**

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* Uncommon to fairly common migrant to Gambell, we recorded individuals on several days, with a high count of two individuals on 26 May 2011.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder at Gambell, we found between one and two birds nearly daily. Some were fly-bys and were heard calling. There were an estimated two-three pairs in residence (breeding) by the end of the season.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* One bird was found on the foothills near the cliffs on the east side of Troutman Lake on 26 May 2011 for the only sighting of the trip (lower than normal).

American "Buff-bellied" Pipit *Anthus rubescens pacificus* Average numbers this season, with singles seen almost daily while at the Boneyards and along Troutman Lake and the Far Marsh.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Calcariidae**: **Longspurs and Snow Buntings**

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* Common while in Gambell, we counted up to 30 birds daily. A real treat to see them in full breeding attire!

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Common at Gambell, we recorded them every day while there, with an estimated high count of 45 birds on 26 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Parulidae**: **Wood-Warblers**

Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata* One was heard singing while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* One was singing at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

Yellow-rumped “Myrtle” Warbler *Dendroica coronata coronata* Common breeder on the mainland, we saw and heard several while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 and several more near the Nome Airport on 22 May 2011.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* OK, get used to the new scientific name (for now). We had one singing while waiting for our flight to Gambell while in Nome on 22 May 2011.

Wilson’s Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* One was at the Nome airport (singing) while we were awaiting departure for our flight to Gambell.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Emberizidae**: **Emberizids**

American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea* Although not unprecedented, we had one in the Near Boneyard on 25 May 2011, a reflection of the strength of the winds from the east while we were in Gambell.



Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* Several were heard and seen while at Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011 and an additional two were singing along the fence line at Lake Hood near the hotel on the morning of 22 May 2011.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* One was singing on the west side of Westchester Lagoon on 21 May 2011.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* Up to ten were at Westchester Lagoon and at least that many were at the Nome Airport on 21 and 22 May 2011.

Order **Passeriformes** —Family **Fringillidae: Fringilline and Cardueline Finches**

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* Fairly common breeder at Gambell, we had several daily and recorded a high of six on 23 May 2011 while touring the area.

Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* Common breeder in Gambell and vicinity, we found up to eighteen individuals on 26 May 2011.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* Common in the Anchorage area, we had several near the hotel on the morning of departure to Gambell on 22 May 2011.

Mammals

Arctic Ground-Squirrel *Spermophilus undulatus* Common in the Boneyards and along the Cliffs, we found them daily in fairly good numbers.

Saint Lawrence Island (Nelson's) Collard Lemming *Dicrostonyx nelsoni* Several seen on the foothills of the eastern side of Troutman Lake and near the Point on the tour.

Tundra Vole *Microtus oeconomus* Common in the Boneyards daily.

Arctic Fox *Alopex lagopus* Between one and two seen daily near the Cliffs.

Spotted Seal *Phoca largha* For those fortunate few, one was seen at the Point on 23 May 2011.

Gray Whale *Eschrichtius robustus* Up to twenty seen daily while in Gambell.