

Spitsbergen

Polar Wilderness

A Greentours Trip Report

20th June – 3rd July 2008

Led by Anders Magnusson



King Eiders

Photo: Geoffrey White©

Day 1 20 of June UK and Sweden to Longyearbyen

We all met each other at Olso airport Gardemoen. At 20.40 the plane departed for Longyearbyen and Spitsbergen. We had a fantastic landing with magnificent scenery in the midnight sun. Before arriving at the hotel we had seen our first reindeer. Arriving at the Spitsbergen Hotel we were welcomed by singing Snow Buntings and laughing Little Auks! Quite exhausted after the long journey we went to bed immediately after checking in.

Day 2 21 of June Longyearbyen and start of the cruise

After breakfast we just strolled the streets amongst the colourful houses. We got our first chance to get a look on the Arctic flora and among the beautiful flowers that we saw were *Polemonium boreale*, *Draba alpina*, *Taraxacum arcticum* and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*.

After lunch we walked down to Adventfjorden, Arctic Skuas, Purple Sandpipers and Arctic Terns were common. When talking to a local birdwatcher we were told that a Ring-billed Gull had been sighted the day before. As we were talking the Gull flew over us together with Kittiwakes! We got some quick views of the gull before it flew off further up in Adventdalen.

Happy, after that good start we slowly walked our way back to the hotel. When we arrived most of our luggage was gone! After a lot of phone calls we found out that the luggage had been picked up by the crew and was already on the ship!

When we got down to the jetty we saw our ship “Antarctic dream” at anchor a few hundred meters from shore. “Our jetty” was occupied by the Swedish ice breaker “Oden” awaiting the Scandinavian royal families! To embark the ship we had to do our first Zodiak cruise. On board we were welcomed by our Spanish crew and our “lost” luggage.

The weather was brilliant and as we set off for the open seas the high peaks and the glaciers were all around us. Resting on the water we discovered the journey’s first Grey Phalaropes and at a far distance a group of Beluga Whales as their white backs were flashing in the sunlight. While having a nice dinner, we left Isfjorden and headed west of the big island Prins Karls Forland. The plan was to reach the Krossfjorden the following morning.

Day 3 22 of June Krossfjorden – Ny Ålesund - Magdalenafjorden

Those who were up early this morning saw the trip’s only Minke Whale at the entrance of Krossfjorden. When having breakfast we had anchored up close to the beautiful Fjortonde Julibreen. The sea was full of Brünnich’s Guillemots, Little Auks and Puffins. On some drift ice we had good views of a couple of Bearded Seals.



Bearded Seal

Photo: Barrie Hatten©

After some safety instructions it was time for a Zodiac cruise. It was an amazing experience to sail between the ice flows at the glacier's front and we really got close up views of the Bearded Seals. We did our first landing below the bird cliffs which were full of breeding Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemots. On the grassy slopes lots of Reindeer and Barnacle Geese were feeding.

The spring was very late and many areas were still covered by snow but on some bare patches we saw lovely mats of *Saxifraga oppositifolia* and *Silene acaulis*. The beautiful weather from the day before had now changed to rain and fog.

The captain turned the ship and headed for the research settlement Ny Ålesund in Kongsfjorden. We anchored up just outside the jetty and were taken ashore with the zodiacs. Since Ny Ålesund is a sensitive research area visitors are strictly restricted to the roads.

We explored Ny Ålesund and heard some good stories about Norway's polar explorer Roald Amundsen. On the way to the mast which held Mr. Amundsen's airship when he flew across the Pole, I discovered a splendid summer plumaged Great Northern Diver close to the shore!

In the little pond called Solvatnet we saw three male Pintails together with the breeding pair Red-throated Diver. A walk to the dog yard usually produces Ivory Gull. We were lucky and had splendid views of an Ivory Gull feeding on seal carcasses meant for the dogs.

It was time to head for the ship and the next target was the beautiful Magdalenafjorden further north. We had reports telling that Polar Bears had been sighted in the area. When entering the fjord, the trip's first Walrus was sighted. Further in the fjord there were some small islands and

suddenly a Polar Bear was just standing on one of the islands! We had splendid views of the trip's most wanted species. We continued further in the fjord but those of us following the Polar Bear in the scopes saw that it was heading for a Bearded Seal resting on a small ice flow. The Polar Bear was swimming deep in the water and it was just the nose which was above the surface. The Polar Bear reached the ice flow with the seal and suddenly "jumped" out of the water trying to catch the seal but just missed.....

After that magnificent show we continued further north. Previous ice reports had told that lots of drift ice had been pushed south due to northerly winds the last few weeks. Our captain wanted to try to go as far east as possible but during night he had to turn when reaching 12 ° East. The ice situation was then too difficult for our ship!

Day 4 23 of June Fuglesangen-Raudfjorden-Smeerenburgfjorden

When most of us woke up we had anchored up east of the island of Fuglesangen. We had now reached the north west corner of Svalbard. After breakfast we turned eastwards again, it was time to experience the pack ice! Two Walruses were resting on an ice flow and we had really good views of these magnificent animals. A Pomarine Skua was also passing close to the ship and we could compare with the much more common Arctic Skuas.

After some hours in the ice we discovered the second Polar Bear for the trip. We sailed slowly and the bear changed course and headed towards the ship! The captain stopped the engines and soon we were able to get close views of the bear when it passed us within a few hundred meters. This was the King of the Arctic in its element!

Due to the ice situation we could not go further north and therefore the captain turned the ship and headed back to the Smeerenburgfjorden. But even here the ice situation was difficult and going on shore on the islands with the many remains from the whaling period was not possible.

Close to the island Fuglesangen where we had breakfast the same day some small groups of Walruses were resting in the drift ice. The weather was calm and therefore the Zodiaks were prepared and soon we were cruising among the ice flows. We carefully approached a group of Walruses and soon we could hear them "talking and snoring" within just a few meters.



Walrus

Photo: Geoffrey White©

We continued down in to the Smeerenburgfjorden which is a very beautiful fjord surrounded by high peaks and glaciers. After dinner some of us were out and spotted some Belugas and a Harp Seal close to the ship. As Harp Seals often do, it was swimming on the back!

We had now anchored up in the strait called Danskattet. Due to the magic evening it was really hard to go to sleep but there was a new day coming up so we forced ourselves to go to bed around midnight.

**Day 5 24 of June Pack ice N79° 58" E10° 56" - Fuglehuken,
Prins Karls Forland**

After breakfast the captain once more headed for the pack ice, thank you captain! After some time in the ice I discovered the third polar bear for the trip and it became an exciting experience as the bear started to hunt Bearded Seals! The bear located the seal by smell and then started to swim and dive between the ice flows until it was close to the ice flow where the seal was resting. The seal seemed relaxed and after some time the bear was just a few meters away....we all stood with our eyes in our binoculars; this was Arctic action on the highest level! Suddenly the bear “jumped” out of the water but the seal seemed to have a sixth sense and disappeared in the water with a big splash! We saw the bear make six attempts to catch a seal before we left it and continued further north.



Action in the pack ice, a Polar Bear is hunting!

Photo: Geoffrey White©

During the day we saw three more bears in the pack ice and also a lot of Harp Seals. After this fantastic day we headed south and the plans were to do a landing at the northern point of Prins Karls Forland called Fuglehuken in the evening.

The weather was not very good when we reach Fuglehuken because the wind had increased but we managed to do a landing in a small sheltered bay. The name Fuglehuken means the “right angled birdcliff” and just a few hundred meters from our landing site a huge bird cliff was heading for the sky. Those of us who wanted to stretch our legs started to walk uphill and soon we were surrounded by Brünnich’s Guillemots, Black Guillemots and Puffins. There were also a lot of breeding pairs of Pink-footed Geese. We also saw three Arctic Foxes which were searching for fallen eggs below the cliffs. The flora was very scarce and the only plant which flowered was the *Cochlearia groenlandica*. Back at the ship dinner was served and then we headed south towards Hornsund at the very south of Svalbard.

Day 6 25 of June Hornsund

Around 10 o’clock we arrived at the entrance of the fjord Hornsund which is a very beautiful fjord. The weather was fine with calm seas and bright sunshine. During early morning we had spotted some large parties of Harp Seals and a couple of Pomarine Skuas. Well inside the fjord the weather was getting worse, the wind was increasing and it started to rain. Hornsund is also known for being on the migration route for the Polar Bears as they move between the west and east coast of Svalbard. We scanned the glacier’s front, but no bears were visible at this time!

On the ice flows there were a lot of resting Ringed Seals, two Ivory Gulls were also passing by. A landing was planned on the south side of the fjord but the weather conditions were not very favourable and therefore we headed for the north side where we got better shelter from the wind. We did a little Zodiak cruise in a small bay called Burgerbukta. It was an amazing experience to cruise among the icebergs; three King Eiders were seen in large party of Common Eiders. A Bearded Seal was also resting on an ice flow together with some Black Guillemots.

When we came back to the ship the crew had prepared a barbecue for us! Some delicious food and good wine was served and for those who wanted to have some extra exercise there was dancing all night.... Late in the evening we left anchor and headed north again towards another fjord called Bellsund.

Day 7 26 of June Bellsund

Just before breakfast we reached Rechercher Fjorden on the south side of Bellsund and we anchored up in front of the glacier Renardbreen. From the ship we spotted a pair of Grey Phalaropes and an Arctic Fox when it was passing over a snow field. After breakfast we did a landing and in a sheltered bay we had close up views of another pair of Grey Phalaropes as well as a lot of Purple Sandpipers.

Close to our landing there was a small research station and for those who wanted to stretch the legs we walked along the beach and soon we reached the research station. Nobody was home except the Arctic Terns! A big colony of Arctic Terns had found an excellent breeding spot, inside an old ship! Not many flowers were out but we found some beautiful *Saxifraga oppositifolia* as well as *Silene acaulis*.

The next landing was planned on the northern side of Akselsundet but the wind was too strong and the captain headed for the big glaciers Nathurtsbreen and Doktorbreen at the bottom of Van Keulenfjorden. After dinner we made a very nice zodiac cruise in front of the big glaciers, four Ivory Gulls were our company when they were feeding among the ice bergs.

Day 8 27 of June Isfjorden and Skansbukta

In the morning we had arrived at the entrance of Isfjorden. The little side fjord Trygghamna is very deep and therefore difficult to anchor in so the captain just sailed the ship up on the beach! After breakfast we moved a little bit and in front of us was a magnificent bird cliff called Alkehornet with thousands of breeding Auks. The Zodiaks then took us ashore. Here on the southerly slopes lots of flowers were out and we made some new discoveries such as *Draba norvegica*, *Draba subcapitata* and *Saxifraga hirculus*. Everywhere we saw white patches of the lovely *Dryas octopetala*. As we were botanising we came across a Purple Sandpipers nest. The incubating male was perfectly camouflaged and it was really hard to see him from just a few meters. In order not to disturb him we slowly moved away towards the shore.



Mountain Avenues

Photo: Barrie Hatten©

We then continued into Isfjorden and further to Billefjorden and finally Skansbukta. Here we found some remains after plaster mining. The calcium in the ground was reflected in the flowers that we saw, such as lovely blue spots of *Polemonium boreale*, and among others *Potentilla nivea*, *Pedicularis dasyantha* and *Sagina cespitosa*.

Dinner was served and then it was time for us returning to civilisation and we arrived in Longyearbyen around midnight.

Day 9 28 of June Longyearbyen and Adventdalen

After breakfast we left the ship and checked in at the Spitsbergen Guesthouse. After a while we got our car for the next few days and we immediately started to explore the surroundings.

First stop was at the bottom of Adventfjorden where a sewage pipe had its outflow, the place is called “Kloakken” (The Sewage). We got splendid views of a couple of King Eiders and distant views of a pair of Grey Phalaropes. We also discovered a Eurasian Wigeon and a Shelduck. The last species had never been recorded on Svalbard before but the same bird had been staying for some weeks in the Longyearbyen area. We continued further down in the Adventdalen and got splendid views of several Grey Phalaropes, the most stunning wader of the high Arctic!

The weather was very nice and we decided to “climb” the mountain up to Gruve 7 (mine no 7). After a short drive we reached the summit where the entrance to Gruve 7 is situated. The view from here was absolutely fabulous towards Longyearbyen and Isfjorden with all its glaciers and high peaks. Here we discovered a couple of Ptarmigans and this resident of Svalbard allowed us to within just a few meters!

The time was running fast and we all started to get a little bit hungry and therefore went back towards Longyearbyen. A nice dinner at restaurant Kroa was a great finale to the day.

Day 10 29 of June Vestpynten and Adventdalen

After breakfast we headed for Hotelneset an area with some ponds near the airport.

These small ponds are always worth a look and this morning we were rewarded with some Grey Phalaropes and a flock of King Eiders.

We continued to the area around Vestpynten which is botanically rich and we found a lot of nice flowers such as the strange *Saxifraga platysepala*, *Stellaria humifusa* and *Carex ursina*. Lots and lots of the beautiful little poppy *Papaver dahlianum* were in flower everywhere. In the shelter of a little hut with stunning views of Isfjorden, we enjoyed a nice lunch.

The good weather conditions with sunshine “forced us” to do a photo expedition to the Phalaropes in Adventdalen. We were lucky and the Phalaropes were cooperative and allowed us within a few meters! A breeding Red-throated Diver was also a good bonus!

We headed back for another excellent dinner at Kroa and after that we did an evening tour to Kloakken. We were again lucky and found a second year Iceland Gull, some more Phalaropes and a Pink footed Goose with goslings.

Day 11 30 of June Bjørndalen

Today we started by changing from the good Spitsbergen Guesthouse to the more comfortable Spitsbergen hotel. After breakfast we drove slowly towards Bjørndalen. On the way we discovered a large party of Belugas close to the shore. We parked the van where the road ended and the valley of Bjørndalen begun. The Belugas had also followed the shore and just close to where we had parked our van! We quickly headed down to the beach and the Belugas were now diving and searching for food just 15 meters away from us!!

After that amazing experience we botanised the valley entrance for a couple of hours. We found some new plants such as *Carex subspathacea* and *Draba pauciflora*. The day was quite windy but we found some shelter from the wind behind a small hut and the lunch package and hot coffee tasted really good! We reached the hotel just in time for waffles and some relaxation.

Before dinner we did a quick visit at Kloakken and once again found a good bird, a pair of Gadwalls, also a first (?) for Svalbard!

Day 12 1 of July Hiorthamna

This day we had organised a boat trip across the Adventfjorden to a small settlement called Hiorthamna. Just before reaching the little harbour an Arctic Fox was running along the road.

After putting on the life suits (we all looked like the “Michelin man”!) we boarded a Zodiak and in no time at all we had crossed the fjord. We had some rain during the crossing and we started

the little excursion with a nice cup of warm coffee in the shelter of a small hut. Along the shore we found a lot of interesting plants such as *Saxifraga foliolosa*, *Mertensia maritima*, *Eutrema edwardsii* and the strange *Saxifraga platysepala*.

We arrived to our hotel just in time foryou guessed it, waffles, and some hot coffee!

Before dinner at our hotel we did a quick visit to the dog yard and discovered two Ivory Gulls.

Day 13 2 of July Adventdalen and Vestpynten

Today we started to explore the wetter areas in Adventdalen and among the plants that we saw were *Ranunculus spetsbergensis* and *Stelleria humifusa*.

A lot of Pink-footed Geese were breeding in the area and we continued to our favourite red birds, the Phalaropes! Some more pictures were taken....

We slowly drove back towards Longyearbyen and at the dog yard an Ivory Gull was feeding on some seal carcasses. After lunch we visited a site in the village for *Taraxacum arcticum*, and we were lucky as the Arctic Dandelion now were out!

The area around Vestpynten was also a favourite so we decided to go there once more. A new Sedge was added to the list, *Carex misandra*.

Day 14 3 of July Longyearbyen and Adventdalen

Our last day and we started with a visit in Adventdalen. The tide was low and the mudded flats were covered with Purple Sandpipers. An Arctic Fox was running along the road and being harassed by Arctic Terns. Further down in the valley the Phalaropes were on their usual site. We had a last look at them before we went back to Longyearbyen.

The museum at the university is very nice so we decided to spend some time there before it was time to go to the airport.

At 14.45 the plane left Svalbard after this tremendous trip!

Systematic List Number 1 Flora

Longyearbyen = LYB Prins Karls Forland = PKF

Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Widespread
Dwarf Horsetail	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	Widespread
Polar Willow	<i>Salix polaris</i>	Abundant
Net-leaved Willow	<i>Salix reticulata</i>	One record at Skansbukta, Isfjorden
Alpine Bistort	<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	Very common
Mountain Sorrel	<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Very common
Snow Pearlwort	<i>Sagina nivalis</i>	One record at Vestpynten
Teesdale Sandwort	<i>Minuartia stricta</i>	One record at Ny Ålesund
Mountain Sandwort	<i>Minuartia rubella</i>	Scattered around LYB
Tufted Sandwort	<i>Minuartia biflora</i>	Scattered around LYB
Sea Sandwort	<i>Honkenya peploides ssp diffusa</i>	Found at Hiorthamna
Fringed Sandwort	<i>Arenaria pseudofrigida</i>	Found at Skansbukta and Vestpynten
Tundra Chickweed	<i>Stellaria crassipes</i>	Abundant
Arctic Chickweed	<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	Scattered along beaches
Polar Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium regelii</i>	Common
Arctic Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium arcticum</i>	Common
Polar Champion	<i>Silene uralensis</i>	Found at Skansbukta, Isfjorden
Arctic White Champion	<i>Silene furcata</i>	Widespread.
Moss Champion	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Very common and widespread
Svalbard Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus spetsbergensis</i>	Found in wet places in Adventdalen
Snow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Very common in damp places, near snowmelt, etc.

Sulphur-coloured Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sulphureus</i>	Common but scarcer than the previous species.
Pygmy Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Widespread in dampish sparse tundra
Svalbard Poppy	<i>Papaver dahlianum</i>	Very common and widespread. Lovely displays at Vestpynten
Polar Cress	<i>Cardamine nymanii</i>	Records in LYB, Adventdalen and Bjørndalen
Alpine Cress	<i>Cardamine bellidifolia</i>	Scattered, mossy tundra especially below bird cliffs.
Polar Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i>	Very common and widespread
Polish Radish	<i>Eutrema edwardsii</i>	Quite common at Hiorthamna
Pale Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba oxycarpa</i>	One record in the LYB area
Tundra Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba pauciflora</i>	One record in wet moss in Bjørndalen
Golden whitlow-grass	<i>Draba alpina</i>	Very common and widespread – the most striking species in the genus here
Lapland Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba lactea</i>	Common
Rock Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba norvegica</i>	One record at Skansbukta
Hemispherical Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba subcapitata</i>	Scattered
Snow Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba nivalis</i>	Scattered around LYB
Scree Whitlow-grass	<i>Draba daurica</i>	One record at Hiorthamna
Purple Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Abundant with many good colour forms from white to deep pink. Coloured the tundra in places.
Hawkweed-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hieracifolia</i>	Scattered. Preferring nutrient rich sites near bird cliffs, husky kennels.
Alpine Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>	Very common and widespread in rocky tundra
Foliolose Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga foliolosa</i>	Rare and few records at Hiorthamna.
Drooping Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	Very common

Highland Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga rivularis</i>	One record at Fuglehuken
Polar Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hyperborea</i>	Scarce, found in LYB area
Tufted Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	Abundant
Polar Stoloniferous Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga platysepala</i>	Scarce at Hiorthamna and at Vestpynten
Tufted Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla pulchella</i>	Common in dry sandy places
Svalbard Snow Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla nivea ssp. subquinata</i>	One record at Skansbukta
Arctic Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i>	Common and widespread in tundra.
Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Abundant
White Arctic Bell Heather	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	Abundant around LYB
Boreal Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium boreale</i>	Rare. Only small colonies in LYB, common at Skansbukta
Oysterplant	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Scarce, colonies on the side streets of LYB, common at Hiorthamna
Woolly Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis dasyantha</i>	Scattered but good numbers at Skansbukta
Hairy Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	Widespread
Black Fleabane	<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	One record at Fjortende Julibreen, Krossfjorden.
Arctic Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum arcticum</i>	Scarce. LYB near the church.
Northern Wood-rush	<i>Luzula arcuata ssp.confusa</i>	Widespread
Arctic Wood-rush	<i>Luzula arctica</i>	Widespread
Arctic Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>	Widespread
Polar Bear Sedge	<i>Carex ursina</i>	Recorded at Hiorthamna and at Vestpynten
Arctic Saltmarsh Sedge	<i>Carex subspathacea</i>	Recorded at Hiorthamna and Bjørndalen
Nodding Sedge	<i>Carex misandra</i>	One record at Vestpynten
Arctic Holy Grass	<i>Hierochloe alpine</i>	One recorded in LYB

Polar Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus borealis</i>	Widespread
Outspread Snow-grass	<i>Phippisia concinna</i>	Recorded in LYB
Tundra Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia alpine</i>	Common
Northern Oat-grass	<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Abundant in the LYB area
Tundra Grass	<i>Dupontia pelligera</i>	Abundant in LYB and Adventdalen
Outspread Tundra Grass	<i>Dupontia psilosantha</i>	Abundant in LYB and Adventdalen
Polar Saltmarsh Grass	<i>Puccinellia angustata</i>	Abundant at Skansbukta and LYB
Creeping Saltmarsh Grass	<i>Puccinellia phryganodes</i>	One record in LYB
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra ssp arctica</i>	Abundant in the LYB area
Viviparous Fescue	<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Abundant in the LYB area

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Widespread within small numbers.
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	1 adult in Ny Ålesund 22 of June
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Very common
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Common
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Common and widespread
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1 ♀ in Adventdalen 28 of June to 1 of July
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	1 ♂ in Adventdalen 28 of June to 1 of July
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuata</i>	3 ♂♂ in Ny Ålesund 22 of June
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	1♂ 1♀ in Adventdalen 30 of June to 2 of July
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Very common
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	2 ♂♂ 1 ♀ in Hornsund 25 of June, 4 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ in Adventdalen 28 of June, 10 ♂♂ at Vestpynten and 2 ♂♂ in Adventdalen 29 of June, 1♀ 1♂ at Kloakken, Adventfjorden 30 of June, 12 ♀♂ at Kloakken, Adventfjorden 1 of July, 7 ♀♀ in Adventdalen 2 of July
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Widespread
Rock Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>	2 birds at Gruve 7 Adventdalen 28 of June, 1 bird in Bjørndalen 30 of June
Common Ringed	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Seen in the LYB area 28, 29, 30 of June, 1 and 2 of July with maximum 4 individuals 29 and 30 of June.
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1 at Hotelneset, LYB 2 of July
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Small numbers in the LYB area 28, 29, 30 of June 1 and 2 of July.
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Very common and widespread

Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	1♂ 1♀ at sea Isfjorden 21 of June, 2♀♀ 2♂♂ in Rechercher fjorden 26 of June, in total 4♂♂ and 4♀♀ in the LYB area 28 of June, 1♂ 1♀ at Hotelneset and 3♂♂ 2♀♀ with 2 pulli in Adventdalen 29 of June, 2♀♀ 1♂ Hotelneset 30 of June, 1♂ 1♀ at Hotelneset and 3♀♀ 1♂ in Adventdalen 2 of July.
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	Widespread on the cruise
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	1 ad at Fuglesangen 23 of June, 1 ad in the pack ice 24 of June, 2 (ad + subad) at entrance of Hornsund 25 of June
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Very common
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	1 in Skansbukta 27 of June
Ring billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	1 adult at Kloakken, Adventfjorden 21 of June
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Abundant.
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	1 2-year bird at Kloakken, Adventfjorden 29 of June.
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>	2 adults in Krossfjorden 22 of June
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	1 at Ny Ålesund 22 of June, 2 at Horsund 25 of June, 4 in van Keulenfjorden 26 of June, 2 at the dog yard LYB 1 of July and 1 at at the dog yard LYB 2 of July
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Abundant
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Abundant
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	Abundant at colonies and in all waters
Brünnich's Guillemot	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Abundant at bird cliffs and in all waters
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Common and widespread
Puffin	<i>Fraterecula arctica</i>	Common in water and at cliff sites
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Common around LYB and tundra elsewhere



The flora of Svalbard

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Systematic List Number 3

Mammals

Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	3 seen at Fuglehuken PKF 24 of June, 1 at Renardbreen, Rechercherfjorden 26 of June, 1 in “coal harbour” near Adventpynten 30 of June, 1 in the “little harbour” 1 of July, 1 near dog yard LYB 3 of July.
Polar Bear	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	1 in Magdalena fjorden 22 of June, 1 in the pack ice near entrance of Raudfjorden 23 of June and in total 4 individuals in the pack ice at approx. N 79° 58” E 10° 56” 24 of June.
Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus</i>	Common and widespread
Ringed Seal	<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Seen in small numbers most of the days at the cruise
Harp Seal	<i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	1 in Smeerenburgfjorden 23 of June, small parties in the pack ice 24 of June and approx 20 individuals at entrance of Hornsund 25 of June
Bearded Seal	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	The most common seal species and seen daily on the cruise
Walrus	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	1 at the entrance of Magdalena fjorden 22 of June, approx 70 individuals in the drift ice south west of Fuglesangen 23 of June and small groups in the pack ice 24 of June.
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	1 at the entrance of Krossfjorden 22 of June.
Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leuca</i>	10 in Isfjorden 21 of June, 10 in Smeerenburg fjorden 23 of June and 50 in Isfjorden 30 of June