

# **Birding in the Arctic** with Jeff Walters

## **ITINERARY - June 4-11, 2026**

*This is approximate and will shift depending on weather and road conditions.*

**Thursday, June 4 - Transportation: Fairbanks to Toolik Field Station** - Drive to Toolik, perhaps stopping at Coldfoot to visit the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center, eat, and bird. We will make other stops along the way to stretch our legs, use the restroom, and see what birds are around. When we arrive in Toolik, there will be a welcome orientation.

**Friday, June 5** - Settle into Toolik. This will be a low-key day, walking and exploring the immediate area. Target species: Bluethroat, Yellow-billed Loon, Long-tailed Jaeger, and raptors.

**Saturday, June 6** - Another low-key day, perhaps exploring the Galbraith Lake area ten miles south. Target species: Smith's and Lapland Longspurs, Wandering Tattler, American Golden-Plover, Long-tailed Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Arctic Tern.

**Sunday, June 7** - Drive up towards Ice Cut (Milepost 325) and perhaps Happy Valley (milepost 334). Target species: Smith's Longspur, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Ice Cut raptors, Arctic Warbler (if they're back; they sometimes don't return until around June 10), more possible Bluethroats, Horned Lark, Northern Wheatear, Hudsonian Whimbrel, etc. Shrub passerines, including Gray-cheeked Thrush, may be singing at Happy Valley. Watch for musk-ox and caribou, too.

**Monday, June 8** - Drive south to Atigun Pass, stopping occasionally for birds and scenery. Target species: Northern Wheatear, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Snow Bunting, Baird's Sandpiper (sometimes found in wet alpine areas), Golden-crowned Sparrow, Wandering Tattler, Red-throated Loon, and more Smith's Longspurs.

**Tuesday, June 9** - This will be our longest birding day! We will drive north to Deadhorse (Milepost 414) to look for Spectacled and King Eiders, Red-necked Phalarope, Stilt Sandpiper, Pacific Loon, and many other shorebirds and waterfowl.

**Wednesday, June 10** - Group choice

**Thursday, June 11** - Pack a lunch before heading back to Fairbanks, with a stop at Chandalar Shelf (just south of Atigun Pass - this is a great spot for Arctic and Wilson's Warblers) and a stop at Coldfoot. This will be a long day of travel.