

June count was 5 at Maxwell 20–21 Jun (DC). Singing Savannah Sparrows in new locales were singles at Valle Grande, Jemez Mts., 9 Jul (WH) and Guadalupita 12 Jul (SOW, PM). Although Grasshopper Sparrows are scarce in shortgrass prairie, a recently fenced area near Abbott attracted 4 singers 21 Jun (HS); 2 n. of Mora 10 Jul (DS) furnished a new locale.

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES

Far n. was a Northern Cardinal on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso 11 Jun (CR); in the sw., one was on Berrenda Cr. 9 Jun (GG) and 7 were on Macho Cr. 10 Jun (GG) while breeding was observed for the first time at P.O. Canyon in the n. Peloncillo Mts. (R. Scholes). Pyrrhuloxias pushing n. in the R.G.V. were singles singing near San Antonio 19 Jun (N&SC) and at Caballo Dam 22 Jul (JP). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Edgewood 26 Jun (B. Evans *vide* HS). Blue Grosbeaks were conspicuous at Petroglyph N.M., including a first nest for the park 25 Jun (NV). Indigo Buntings inundated the s. half of the state and were conspicuous n. to *San Juan, Rio Arriba, Colfax, and Harding* (v.o.). In a reverse action, several Lazuli Buntings nested s. to the Cliff-Gila Valley (SS). A pair of Varied Buntings ventured n. to the Gila Valley near Riverside 24 Jul (WW); in Guadalupe Canyon, where regular, 3 territories were occupied 14–15 Jun (SOW). Noteworthy for the lower R.G.V. were Painted Buntings at 2 sites near Radium Springs (RM). One–five Dickcissels were at Maxwell, L.V.N.W.R., Ft. Sumner, and Clovis June–July (v.o.). Although still overlooked by popular field guides, fair numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks breed in ne. New Mexico, and this season they outnumbered Westerns in some *Union* locales (HS). Far w. was a Common Grackle at Aztec 6 Jun (TR). Bronzed Cowbirds continued their tainted lifestyle across the s. tier of counties and n. in the R.G.V. to E.B.L. (v.o.). Northerly Orchard Orioles were single males at Maxwell 2 Jul (JT), Ft. Sumner 4 Jun (DC), and N.R.T. 3 Jun (JP, JO). Like Texans, Pine Grosbeaks prefer New Mexico ski areas; this season found singing birds at Taos Ski Valley 4 Jun (WW) and Santa Fe Ski Basin 1 Jul (BF). Cassin's Finches were scarce and generally confined to the n. highlands; high count was 9 on Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KE). Red Crossbills were found in the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Zuni, Sandia, Jicarilla, and Sacramento Mts. (v.o.); high count was 33 near Angel Fire 17 Jun (CR). Late were 4 Pine Siskins at Silver

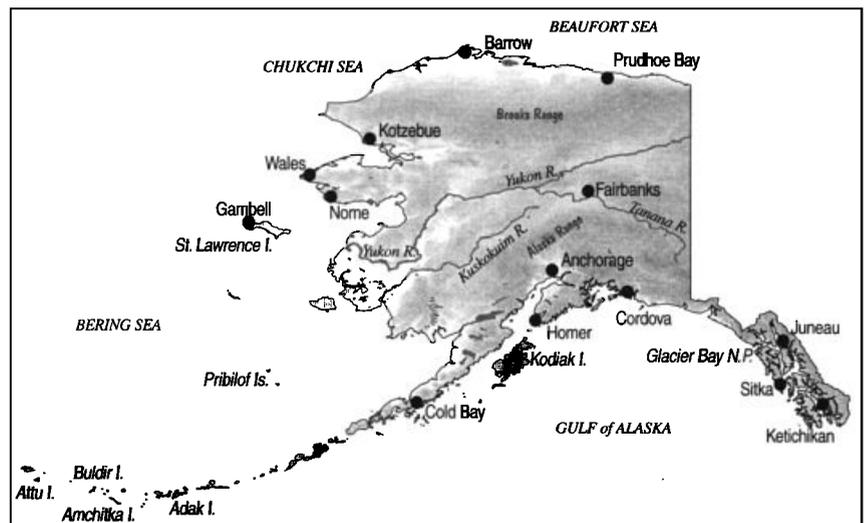
City (D. & M. Zimmerman); noteworthy were adults feeding fledglings at Zuni 3 Jun (ph. DC) and 19 Jul (DC). American Goldfinches were only recently documented breeding in New Mexico; this season found about 12 summering in the Chama area June–July (DE, BN, CR), plus 2 along the Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KE) and singles at Orilla Verde 6 Jun (CR) and Gallinas Canyon 25 Jun (CR).

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After a promising warm and dry early season, Summer 2000 faded into a dreary and wet second half. Aside from excellent coverage and subsequent highlights from the Southeast's Mainland river systems, this breeding season was mostly uneventful. Fewer than usual Asiatic records came in, and most significant finds originated from the Southeast and from pelagic forays. Highlights from the season's reports clearly revealed where the Region's pioneering efforts continue to produce

surprises. Each time the larger Southeast river systems are covered, especially between mid-June and July, notable results ensue. Most of these watersheds drain out of British Columbia through the Coast Range and provide continuous but limited deciduous forest cover in an otherwise homogeneous sea of Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock rainforest. Since the early 1970s most summer-season forays into these riparian habitat "islands" produced interesting birds. A parallel theme holds true for Alaska's southern pelagic realms, where systematic summer coverage also regularly produces new data. Coupled with the standard pelagic access sites, new Alaska ferry routes into deeper waters between Juneau and Seward, and research vessel voyages

into rarely checked pockets off the Aleutians are generating interesting seabird summaries and trends.

Abbreviations: ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); P.W.S. (Prince William Sound); S.E. (Southeast Alaska); S.C. (Southcoastal Alaska); S.W. (Southwest Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A pair of Red-throated Loons with 2 chicks, located on a pine bog lake on Gravina I. near Ketchikan 8–15+ Jul (AWP, SCH), represented one of few s. S.E. breeding records. While Red-throateds nest locally in S.E., viable breeding habitat is limited. Along with the now obligatory Nome area reports (usually without details), a single Arctic Loon appeared at St. Paul I. 26–27 Jul (WINGS), one of few Pribilof reports, and near Kotzebue 3 Jul (RJG). At least 5 were picked out of a mixed flock feeding offshore of the Nome-Council Rd. 10 Jun+ (SJD). U.C.I.'s second-ever Pied-billed Grebe established a territory at Potter Marsh 3–24 Jun+ (RLS, ph. DFD), one of the Region's few in summer. A Pink-footed Shearwater, annual and local in the North Gulf in very small numbers, was interesting inshore at the mouth of Resurrection Bay 5 Jul+ (TS).

More than a little surprising, especially in a non-*El Niño* year, was the adult **Brown Booby** that came aboard a research vessel

SA Given this season's reports, heartening news continues for both Laysan and Short-tailed Albatrosses. On an extended pelagic trip across the Aleutians, MacIntosh noted both species in record numbers for modern times. In a massive feeding swarm of pelagic birds that covered the sea over the east end of Stalemate Bank just west of Attu I., observers tallied at least **2000** Laysans and 3 Short-taileds 16–17 Jul (RAM). Since the late 1970s, maximum Laysan counts rarely exceeded 50 individuals; this summer's totals continue to demonstrate the species' obvious recovery. Shipboard observers documented another **11** Short-tailed Albatrosses across the length of the Aleutians 3–20 Jul (RAM), while additional singles were described from Unimak Pass 10 Jun (LG), off Cape Yakataga from the Juneau-Seward ferry 23 Jun (AD), and off Kodiak 3 Jul (RK *vide* RAM).

positioned 13–15 Jul 200 nautical miles nw. of the Pribilofs in the cen. Bering Sea (*vide* *RAM, ph.). While a summer 1999 Brown Booby record was rejected (it appeared in Alaska waters at Kodiak after boarding and riding a ship from Hawaii), this individual's presence is more problematic. Analysis of weather systems present prior to this report may shed light on the natural occurrences and validity of this most unusual record. A few Brandt's Cormorants (maximum 3) were noted 21–22 Jun (AD) in nearshore waters of Seal Rocks at the P.W.S. entrance, where a small colony has existed since at least the mid-1970s. There are four–six small such colonies on outer coast sea-stacks between Dixon Entrance and P.W.S. Another mid-summer but origin-unknown (Palearctic vs. Nearctic) **Great Egret**, Alaska's 11th, showed up on the Egegik R. 31 Jul–1 Aug (SH, WK, AC, DC).

Following a strong spring showing was one of the Region's few "summer" Bean Goose records, a single at St. Paul I. 20 Jun (ST PAUL). Casual in Alaska, with most reports from the fall, a female **Wood Duck** was found up the Taku R. 20 Jun 20 (AD). Three Steller's Eiders in Kodiak's Womens Bay 29 Jun+ (RAM, KT, KG) were in an area of the species' winter range where they occasionally over-summer. Hooded Merganser reports were generally below-average in number. A female near mi 50 of the Denali Hwy 15 Jul (WINGS, vt. GHR) was in the same pond where 2 were discovered last summer. Ruddy Ducks made a strong summer showing in the e. Interior. Beginning with a male on the Tanana R. flats sw. of Tok Jun 7 (KWL), aerial surveys of Dalthmund, Gasoline, and Old Albert Lakes produced up to 33 on 13 Jul (KWL). An adult **Eurasian Hobby** at Shemya I. 4–10 Jun, about the Region's 7th, punctuated this spring's exciting w. Aleutian migration (*DDG, RWP). A concentration of 4 pairs of Peregrine Falcons nested on Alaska Highway road-cuts in a 30-mi stretch east of Tok (KWL). Prey remains included several American Coots.

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Another **Virginia Rail** was calling 2 Jun (RJG) in the Juneau sedge ponds that have produced reports nearly annually since the mid-1990s. Even with decent river-habitat coverage, 5 displaying Soras in the Haines area's productive 25-mi marsh 8–23 Jul (AD, TS) was the season's only report. A single American Coot, the season's first, at Yarger L. in the e. Interior 11 Jun (TT, LJO), was followed by peak count of 11, including

a pair with a brood of 6 at Gasoline L. 13 Jul (KWL). As is always the case for the summer season, shorebird reports emphasized late spring highlights and early southbound wanderers, including: the only southbound Mongolian Plover, a single adult at St. Paul I. 7–8 Jul (ST PAUL); a late Common Greenshank report, a single at Nome 5–6 Jun (ph. SP, ph. SS) and the Mainland's 1st ever; one of very few Mainland Gray-tailed Tattlers, east of Nome on the Teller Rd. 29 Jun (TS); 3 more Far Eastern Curlews reached the w. Aleutians at Shemya 6 Jun (DDG), while a single was found at St. Paul I. 3 Jun (ST PAUL), the Pribilofs' first since the late 1980s; notable southbound Hudsonian Godwits on (and out in) the North Gulf, with 10 seen offshore from the Alaska Ferry 21 Jun (AD), significant staging counts of 31 in Juneau 23–29 Jul (PS), and hundreds at Anchorage's Coastal Trail mudflats through July; a late Red Knot in Anchorage, where casual, 31 May–3 Jun (TT, RLS, DFD, DWS; U.C.I.'s 4th); a southbound Red-necked Stint at St. Paul 17–20 Jul (ST PAUL); a Stilt Sandpiper (casual in the Bering Sea) at St. Paul 22 Jun (ST PAUL); and U.C.I.'s 4th Wilson's Phalarope, at Anchorage 1 Jun (BS).

An adult Black-headed Gull that wandered into outer Bristol Bay 3 Jun (RAM, ph.), and immatures at St. Paul I. 9 Jun (*vide* ST PAUL) and near Nome 15 Jul (TS) represented a below-average summer total. Of the usual scattering of Slaty-backed Gulls, an adult at Prudhoe Bay 15 Jun (ph. BPG) was most interesting. Always unusual inshore away from classic pelagic realms, an adult Sabine's Gull drifted north into Cook Inlet at Anchorage 4 Jun (TT, LJO), a 2nd spring U.C.I. record. Up to 16 Caspian Terns shared a Taku R. islet with nesting Herring Gulls 1–11 Jun+, and 2 *active nests* with chicks were located on the 4th (AD). These nests confirm this recent Alaska invader's first S.E. breeding location and the first between the Pacific Northwest and other suspected or confirmed breeding sites on the Copper R. Delta. Caspian Tern was added to the Alaska list only in 1981. Late but not without mid-summer precedent was a single *longipennis* Common Tern at St. Paul I. 23 Jun (ST PAUL). Most unusual and rarely reported in such summer concentrations, observers tallied Marbled Murrelet aggregations of 300–404 in the Boca de Quadra area of s. S.E. 22 Jun–1 Jul (AWP), and an incredible 830+ on 25 Jul (AD), all within a quarter-mile stretch of water off Anyaka I., halfway up

Lynn Canal near Haines. Unusual inshore and well before typical periods of late season occurrence was a Crested Auklet on a lake near Barrow 30 Jun (TS). Variable numbers, usually several thousand, annually wander into the w. Beaufort Sea each year after late-July.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The season's only Northern Pygmy-Owl reports came from what are now considered "regular" summer locations, a single on the Taku R. 4 Jun and 2 in Upper Chilkat Valley north of Haines 8–10 Jul (AD). The only Barred Owl observation was a calling bird in tidewater hemlock woods in the Chilkat SP campground at Haines 12 Jun (TT, LJO). Although Barred Owls are recorded annually, mostly from the cen. and s. S.E. Mainland since the 1970s, reports from Glacier Bay NM and the Chilkat Valley inland from Haines are the most northerly; our understanding of the species' Alaska range and status continues to evolve. Common Nighthawks again occupied nesting substrate in the Haines area, including at least 6 in display along the Chilkat R. sand bars (mi 23 Haines Highway) 14 Jun–23 Jul (TT, LJO, TS), and 2 on the Kellsall R. flats over the ridge to the south on 8 Jul (AD). Other singles were reported from the e. Interior at mi 1313 of the Alaska Highway near Tok 22 Jul (TR, *vide* KWL), and over a Juneau subdivision 7 Jun (DR, KT). Most unusual in summer, when this casual fall visitor is accidental, was a male Anna's Hummingbird near Ketchikan 9 Jun (JFK *vide* SCH).

On the basis of four fair color prints of a bird captured and released 4 Jul at a Denali NM MAPS site (*vide* DFDe, ph.), **Black Phoebe** became Alaska's 460th species. With few records north of the species' breeding areas in nw. California, this individual exemplified extreme post-breeding wandering. The season was otherwise quiet for extralimital or unusual Tyrannids, with only one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher heard near Tok 22 Jun (RP), and yet another Eastern Kingbird, about the 8th for Alaska's North Slope, at Prudhoe Bay 23 Jun (BPG ph., DT, KB). Almost annual for the past eight years, a **Cassin's Vireo**, a single, was heard on an early territory up the Taku R. 11 Jun+ (AD), the season's only report. A few scattered single Warbling Vireos in the greater Ketchikan area 4–30 Jun+ (AWP) were about average for offshore in S.E., where they are distinctly tied to the Mainland river corridors. A more systematic count of 78 on 15 Jun along the



Providing the eighth record for Alaska's North Slope was this Eastern Kingbird at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, 23 Jun 2000. Photograph by Brian P. Gibbons.

38-mi Haines Highway from tidewater to sub-apline coniferous forest at the Canada Border (TT, LJO) was one of the Region's highest tallies and presumably indicative of the species' S.E. status in areas of sufficient habitat. Given decent river-system coverage, it was surprising that the only Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports were pairs at Marten R. on the Boca de Quadra Mainland in s. S.E. and at a nest in a road-bank near Ketchikan 23 Jul–12 Jul (AWP, SCH). Nearly all summer records of this rare and local visitor come from the south half of S.E. For the 3rd year running and beyond the edge of the species' nesting sites at its periphery in S.W. were 3 pairs of Cliff Swallows at King Salmon thru July (SS). Apart from less obvious biological reasons, Cliff Swallows are distinctly limited by nesting substrate beyond their traditional range, and ephemeral small colonies and isolated pairs beyond are not uncommon. A white-bellied Barn Swallow from the Teller area of the Seward Pen. 13 Jun (SJD) was the summer's single extralimital find.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Unusual on the coastal slope beyond customary interior dry-country breeding habitats were 5 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the Juneau area 4 Jun (RJG), and a single bird 5 miles from tidewater near Haines 14 Jun (TT, LJO). These were all probably overshoot migrants. Following the Attu reports from earlier in June was a single Dusky Thrush at nearby Shemya on 8 Jun (DDG). Getting late for the s. Bering Sea was a Yellow Wagtail at St. Paul I. 20 Jun (ST PAUL). There are a few "spring" records after the second week of June. Still casual in the Region, 2 different Gray Wagtails were discovered at Shemya I. 3 & 12 Jun (DDG). A few American Pipits summered at St. Paul I., where a pair with at least one fledgling was described from alpine habitat 8 Jul (ST PAUL). Although there are historic accounts of breeding from Bering Sea and e. Aleutian islands, we have few reports of such from the Pribilofs. Extralimital Common Yellowthroats included singing birds at Anchorage 14 Jun (AP, RC) and

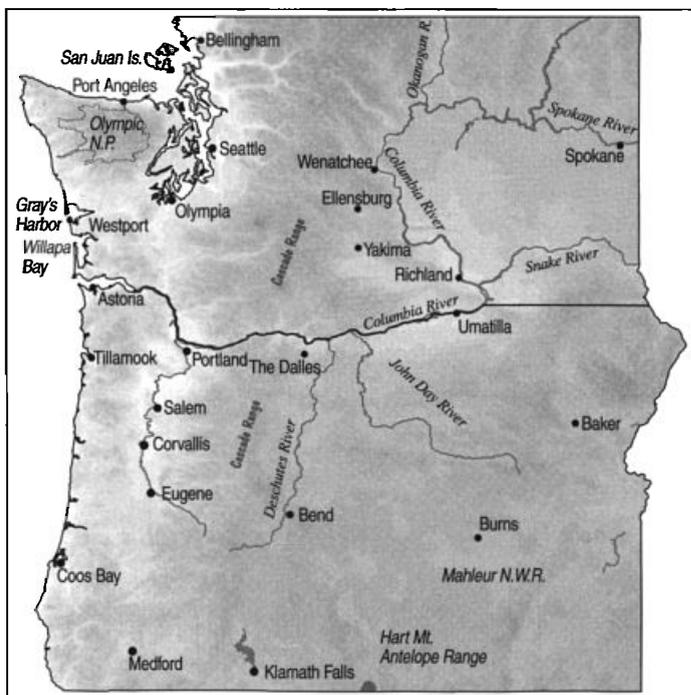
Northway in the e. Interior, where casual, 19 Jun (KWL). Western Tanagers were making news across suitable riparian habitat in S.E. all season. Notable were an above-average 8 around Juneau 5–13 Jun+ (RJG) and easily 25+/day in the Haines area 11–15 Jun (TT, LJO). More extreme was a single offshore at Ketchikan 5 Jul (JG), only the 4th there and 2nd in summer.

A **Swamp Sparrow** set up territory and teased Juneau observers from a sedge marsh 26 Jun–31 Jul (SZ, MWS, PS, TS), furnishing only the 2nd spring/summer Regional report of this casual fall visitor. Most unexpected in S.E., where it is rare in fall/winter, a White-throated Sparrow was mist-netted near Juneau 19–20 Jun+ (RJG, GB). There are only a handful of summer reports, usually of singing singles in the e. Interior. A late-season storm pushed Common Rosefinches into the Region, with 2 males 7 Jun and a female on the 12th at Shemya (DDG), and another bright male at St. Paul I. 13–14 Jun (ST PAUL, vt. GHR), a 2nd island record. Crossbills of both species were broadly but variably reported, with no trends to articulate. After quite a hiatus, White-winged did show in small numbers locally in S.C. White Spruce forests on the e. Kenai Pen. and north to U.C.I.

Details (+), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (v.t.) referenced are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

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Washington and Oregon had another interesting season. There were some fine rarities, including Oregon's first Yellow-throated Vireo and fourth Blue-winged Warbler, plus Washington's fourth Eastern Phoebe and fifth White-winged Dove. More interesting, however, were findings from June research cruises off the northern Olympic Peninsula, which recorded not only rarities (two

Murphy's/Solander's Petrels and three Manx Shearwaters) but out-of-season Laysan Albatrosses, Buller's Shearwaters, Short-tailed Shearwaters, Arctic Terns, and Ancient Murrelets. What they did not find were numbers of Cassin's Auklets. The decline of this species as a breeder in the Region is of grave concern. Another bird possibly in peril as a breeder here is Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. On the other hand, numbers of other common seabirds such as Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, and Common Murres seemed to be rebounding from recent downtrends. Perhaps the most interesting report of the season, however, involved a family of grouse in the Olympic Mountains—a sighting which raises the specter of a relict Spruce Grouse population there.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane, OR); M.N.W.R. (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.N.P.