

for the Com. Grackles at Roswell should read June 8-26, not 8-16. AFN 24:705. In AB 25:89 the date for the Acorn Woodpeckers seen at Toadlena was July 21. In AB 25:91 the record of the Red-faced Warbler in the Pinal Mts. should be for BJ not BT., and the record of the Five-striped Sparrow should be for BH not EH. In the Corrigenda, the Broad-billed Hummingbird wintered in both Nogales and Phoenix. In Contributors AB 25:91, Zona Brighton should be Zona Brighton.

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ERRATUM—The record of the Spotted Redshank reported from Reifel Refuge in May, 1971 (Am. Birds 25:791) was apparently an unverified, second-hand report, and should be annulled, as an erratum.

ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson and Stephen O. Macdonald

Weather throughout the summer months was described as near normal in most areas. The cold late spring provided a migration that lasted until mid-June from Adak I. to Barrow.

Some comments should be directed to the wealth of recent Aleutian records of birds long regarded as accidental in the Region. There have been and still are very few observers in the Chain. Most of these have worked there on a

seasonal basis, and none has been resident for more than a couple of years. In addition, physical problems keep the Chain a difficult area to know. Most of the islands are of extremely difficult access and are seldom visited. But records are accumulating with sufficient frequency to make it increas-



ingly clear that the status of a number of these Asiatics, whether or not it has actually changed in recent years, is presently far more regular than that of a casual, if not yet demonstrably annual.

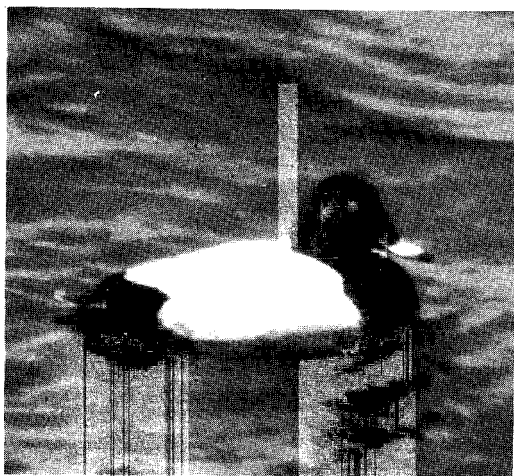
Certainly such species as Great Knot and Hawfinch must be regarded as casual or accidental, but others (e.g. Eur. Widgeon, Tufted Duck—for which there are now Aleutian records for every month except August—Smew, Wood Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, and Brambling) are uncommon to very rare on a probably annual basis and can no longer be considered to be wind-drifted strays. It will be a long time before an equilibrium is reached in the Chain, but these species, if not breeders, are nevertheless an integral component of the migrant avifauna in the Aleutian Islands.

LOONS—An ad. **Yellow-billed Loon** closely observed and sketched at Smith L., College, June 5 (WDB), provided the first definite record of the species in the interior.

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS—A pair of Green-winged Teal seen at Deadhorse June 4 (SOM) was certainly at the n. limits of the range. Two ♂♂ were noted in the c. Aleutians during the summer, both with resident Com. Teal: one at Amchitka I. and one at Adak I. Following widespread records of the species during the spring (many of which have only now come to light), a pair of Eur. Widgeon was observed at the w. end of Imuruk Basin June 28 (BK & SOM), the first record of the species on the Seward Peninsula.

Up to 6 were seen through June at Adak (GVB & DDG). Two pairs seen June 29 were the last recorded there. A ♀ widgeon thought to be of this species was seen on Amchitka, July 8-9 (DDG). No evidence of breeding was found on either island.

DIVING DUCKS—The ♂ **Com. Pochard** present on Clam Lagoon, Adak (see spring migration), was rejoined by the ♀ June 8, and the pair was observed almost daily through June 17 (GVB & DDG). Many readily identifiable photographs were taken. North of their normal range, a flock of about 20 Lesser Scaup was recorded at Umiat, June 23 (GEH). Several Tufted Ducks were seen in the Aleutians during the period, but no evidence of breeding was found. A pair was seen at Adak June 2 (RLA & GVB) and one ♂ was present, June 3-6 (GVB & DDG), but none was seen there subsequently until July. Two ♂♂, one full-plumaged and one in eclipse, were noted on Amchitka, July 7-9 (DDG). Two high-plumaged ♂♂ and a ♀ were observed on Adak, July 19-20 (GVB & DDG), and one ♂ was seen there on July 29 (GVB). A ♀ **Smew** was observed on Adak, June 5-6 (GVB & DDG). The only other June record in the Region was made at Amchitka in 1969.



Common Pochard, Clam Lagoon, Adak I, Alaska.
Photo by Daniel D. Gibson.

SHOREBIRDS—A very large curlew with an enormous decurved bill, no head stripes, much fine streaking on neck and underparts, no cinnamon in wing linings, and no white rump, carefully observed at Clam Lagoon, Adak, July 4-5 (DDG), was identified as a **Far Eastern Curlew** (*Numenius madagascariensis*). The bird was very wary and thwarted attempts to collect it. There are at least three previous Alaska records, all recent. A single Whimbrel was observed on Adak, June 1 (RLA, GVB, & DLJ). This species is rarely recorded on passage in the Aleutians, although it is a common migrant on the mainland

coast. Four additional (see spring migration) Wood Sandpipers were seen at Adak: one was collected June 2 (RLA & GVB; specimen to U.A.), and two were seen on June 5 (GVB & DDG). Difficult to interpret except as an early fall migrant was one observed on Aug. 4 (DDG). A **Great Knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) in high plumage was observed at length and collected at Clam Lagoon, Adak, June 4 (GVB & DDG; specimen to U.A.). Details of this second North American record will be published elsewhere. A Pectoral Sandpiper on Adak June 6 (GVB & DDG) was a first local record; the species is quite rare on passage in the Aleutians. Uncommon breeders on the arctic coast, White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded at Pt. Barrow June 9 and at Oliktok, at the Colville R. mouth, June 17 (GEH). One of two **Rufous-necked Sandpipers** was collected at Adak on June 4 (GVB & DDG; specimen to U.A.), where it was a first record for the Aleutian Islands. One of very few records of the species on the arctic coast, a single Rufous-necked Sandpiper was photographed at Pt. Barrow June 10 (GEH). Two Stilt Sandpipers observed at Prudhoe Bay, June 3 (IA & DN), were the only report. Small numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed courting at both Oliktok and at Prudhoe Bay in mid-June. Both this and the preceding species breed in small numbers along the arctic coast.

GULLS AND TERNS—An ad. **Franklin's Gull** observed at Chisik I., Tuxedni Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Cook Inlet, May 14-17 (DS), was well photographed and is the first positive record of the species in Alaska. Black-headed Gulls were observed at Adak into mid-summer (see spring migration): an ad. June 1 and 5 on June 2 (RLA & GVB); one imm. June 4, an ad. on June 5, an imm. on July 1, and an ad. and an imm. on July 5 (GVB & DDG). There were no subsequent records during the period. An extralimital record of Bonaparte's Gull was one observed at Prudhoe Bay on June 6 (SOM). A high-plumaged ad. Sabine's Gull was well seen at sea off Kasatochi I. July 26 (DDG). There is only one other record for the c. and w. Aleutians, a specimen from nearby Atka I. A breeding-plumaged tern observed feeding with Arctic Terns at Adak July 10, 20, and 21 was identified as the eastern Siberian race of the **Com. Tern**, *S. h. longipennis*, (GVB, DDG, & GEH). On Aug. 1 an adult ♂ was collected (GVB & DDG; specimen to U.A.). Still another individual was seen on Aug. 4 (DDG). There are few Alaska records of this form, but even with its black bill and brownish-red feet and tarsi it could easily be overlooked among Arctic and Aleutian Terns. Aleutian Terns bred at several sites in the Aleutians in 1971. Two small colonies at Adak were located opposite each other across Clam Lagoon (GVB & DDG), two small colonies on Amchitka were located near Rifle Range Pt. and n.e. of Quonset L. (DDG), and a relatively large colony of at least 35 pairs was located just inland from

Massacre Bay, Attu I. (DDG). The Attu colony, first discovered in 1970 (PCS), was the only one in which Aleutian Terns outnumbered the Arctic breeding with them, and the ratio there was approximately 6:1.

CUCKOOS, OWLS — Two **Oriental Cuckoos** were recorded on Amchitka. One was collected near Constantine Harbor at the end of May (CMW; specimen to U.S.N.M.), and the second was watched at close range near Kirilof Pt., July 7 (DDG). Snowy Owls were confirmed as a breeding species on Attu I. in 1970, when two active nests were discovered (PCS). No definite evidence of breeding was secured this year, but 3 adults were observed, Aug. 2-3 (DDG), at Murder Pt. and inland from Massacre Bay. The few castings collected appeared to be composed entirely of the bones and fur of rats.

SWALLOWS — A Tree Swallow at Adak, closely observed June 6 (GVB & DDG), the first record in the Aleutians, is of particular interest in light of the late May record on the Pribilofs (see spring migration). The species breeds sparingly to the tip of the Alaska Peninsula, at Port Moller and Cold Bay. A **Barn Swallow** observed at Oliktok Pt. June 15 (GEH) was identified in the field as the nominate race. Three races of this species have been recorded in n. and w. Alaska; all are casual or accidental there. A ♀ or imm. **Purple Martin** was closely observed and carefully described on St. Paul I., Pribilofs, July 20 (ETM). This species is a vagrant anywhere in the Region.

MAGPIE, THRUSHES — A pair of Black-billed Magpies at their nest with at least one young, in n.w. Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument, n.e. of Russell I., June 26 (OW), is probably the first breeding record of the species in s.e. Alaska. An **Eye-browed Thrush** (*Turdus obscurus*) collected at Barrow, June 16 (FAP; specimen to M.V.Z.B.) is the first record of this Asiatic on the North Slope. There are several records for s.w. Alaska. On June 6 a **Swainson's Thrush** was observed at Barrow (GEH), providing the first record of this thrush n. of the boreal forest. Several pairs of Bluethroats were found in the Serpentine Hot Springs area, Seward Peninsula, in early July (BK & SOM). They were not reported from other areas.

WARBLERS — Again this summer Blackpoll Warblers were found w. of the previously known range, on the Seward Peninsula in riparian scrub w. of the boreal forest (BK & SOM). Probably the first actual nest record of **Yellowthroat** in Alaska was one located on the island in Adams Inlet, Glacier Bay Monument, June 25 (OW). Five eggs were present on that date; on July 9 the nest was empty but at least one young was seen nearby with the ♂.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — A vagrant ♂ Red-winged Blackbird was seen at Barrow June 6 & 9 (GEH). First sighted in the area in 1967 and

suspected of breeding there in 1969, **Red-winged Blackbirds** were found breeding on the island in Adams Inlet, Glacier Bay Monument, June 17 (OW). Five active nests plus three that were empty were found. This is the first breeding record of the species in s.e. Alaska. Although it probably breeds in the Copper River area, the species is known to breed only in extreme e.c. Alaska, from Tok locally to the Yukon border. Probably the same ♂ **Brambling** observed at Adak May 30 (see spring migration) was last noted June 1 (RLA & GVB). The lingering ♀ **Hawfinch** at Adak (see spring migration) was regularly observed through June 28 (GVB & DDG), having fed almost daily outside the observers' window.



Hawfinch, Adak I., Alaska. Photo by Daniel D. Gibson.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

June was colder and wetter than normal with much cloudiness throughout the Region. The first days of July were similar, but a sudden improvement in the weather took place thereafter, bringing about normal temperatures and less rain than usual for the remainder of July. The first half of August was warmer than usual. Snow remained