BIRDS FROM THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS AND VICINITY

KARL W. KENYON AND RICHARD E. PHILLIPS

THIS paper reports unusual species of birds collected or observed on the Pribilof Islands (St. Paul, St. George, Otter, and Walrus islands) and records observations of interest concerning some resident species of the Pribilofs. Observations from the Aleutian and Commander islands are included. Preble and McAtee (1923) summarized available knowledge of Pribilof birds. We here attempt to record only pertinent information obtained in recent years.

Our data were collected primarily from 1947 to 1954. In this period Kenyon spent a total of 21 months on the Pribilofs, mostly from May to October. Phillips was on the Pribilofs from 19 June to 24 September 1954. Ornithological observations were made sporadically, incidental to full-time work on studies of Alaska fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*).

The data presented represent only a minor fragment of what is needed for an understanding of the ecology and distribution of Pribilof birds. No continuous, long-range studies have been undertaken in this area, although ecological conditions at the Pribilofs are of interest. For example, both the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) and Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*) are resident on islands north and south of the Pribilofs, yet neither breeds on the Pribilofs. The raven rarely occurs there and the guillemot is present only in winter months. The Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) is a common resident of St. George Island. It appears irregularly on St. Paul and Otter islands. Possibly it breeds in some seasons on St. Paul and was established at one time on Otter (Hanna, 1920*b*).

Growth of marine mammal populations has particularly affected populations of the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*), and the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*). As fur seal and sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) populations increased in recent years, bird nesting areas were usurped as mammalian breeding grounds.

As Hanna (1920*a*: 248) pointed out, the Pribilofs are ideally situated as a stopping place for birds from many areas. A number of species were added to the North American list on the basis of specimens collected on the Pribilofs. That more could be, and still are being, added is indicated by several observations of unusual birds which could not be collected or identified in the field.

Among the 34 forms here listed, 1 (*Apus apus pekinensis*) is a new record for North America; 9 (*Charadrius mongolus, Capella gallinago gallinago, Ereunetes mauri, Larus ridibundus, Aegolius funereus richardsoni, Progne subis, Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps, Dendroica coronata*

hooveri, and *Zonotrichia atricapilla*) are reported for the first time from the Pribilofs; 12 have been rarely recorded there; and 1 new breeding species (*Anas acuta*) and possibly a second (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) are recorded. Observations of interest about 10 other species are also included.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The late Isiah Merculief of St. George Island, Island Manager Dan Benson, and other residents of the Pribilof Islands contributed both specimens and information of unusual birds observed. John W. Aldrich and Allen J. Duvall, of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and William J. L. Sladen identified or confirmed identification of the specimens collected by critical comparisons at the U. S. National Museum and assisted in preparation of the manuscript. Ford Wilke and Victor B. Scheffer of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries contributed help in various ways.

NOTES ON THE SPECIES

Scaled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*).—On 25 July 1961, at 55°28′ N lat. and 175°25′ W long., approximately 215 nautical miles north of Atka Island, in the Aleutian Islands, Kenyon saw 28 of these birds in two hours of observation from the pilot house of the motor vessel "Penguin." One group of 12 was seen, but most were alone or in small groups of 2 to 6. Although this species, which breeds on islands in the south Pacific Ocean, ranges to the Aleutian Islands (A.O.U., 1957: 19), this is apparently the first report from the Bering Sea.

Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*).—This species has been recorded many times from the vicinity of the Pribilofs (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 40) and is undoubtedly common offshore. On 2 July 1947, Kenyon saw several thousand 40 to 50 nautical miles SSW of St. Paul. The appearance, however, of large numbers near shore is unusual. On 1 and 2 July 1954, we saw about 20 near the St. Paul village landing and 2 entered the Salt Lagoon where we observed them feeding. We saw others flying near shore on the south side of the island.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*).—We took a downy male (USNM no. 463847) on 31 July 1954 from a brood of six on Kamenisti Lake, St. Paul Island. This appears to be the first breeding record of this species for the Pribilofs. The Pintail is a common migrant there and a few are seen regularly throughout the summer. Kenyon searched unsuccessfully for eggs and other young in several seasons.

Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*).—A male in immature plumage (USNM no. 463853), weighing 74.6 g, was taken on Zolotoy Sands, St. Paul Island, 2 September 1954, by Phillips.

There are six previous records of the Mongolian Plover for North America (Gabrielson and Lincoln, 1959: 325), but none from the Pribilofs. It was not possible to identify this specimen to subspecies because distinguishing characters of subadult plumage are not known. Previous records were referred to *C. m. stegmanni*, the Siberian race, and on the basis of probability, this one may belong there also.

Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago gallinago*).—A female (USNM no. 463855) was taken from a group of three by Phillips, on St. Paul Island on 5 September 1954. This specimen was identified as the Old World form which breeds over much of Europe and Asia, as far east as Kamchatka and Bering Island but this is the first recorded occurrence on the Pribilof Islands. On 11 September, two more were seen and two were again observed on the 12th and 14th, the last time by Carl M. Eklund. The birds were among the ponds near Tonki Point and in the marsh near St. Paul

village. Additional specimens are necessary to determine whether or not the North American race may also reach the Pribilof Islands. The only previous snipe recorded from the Pribilofs is a European Jack Snipe (*Lymnocryptes minimus*) taken in the spring of 1919 (Hanna, 1920*b*).

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*).—Phillips took an adult (USNM no. 463856) on 11 July 1954 on St. Paul Island (Kenyon, 1961: 319). The bird attracted our attention by its fluttering song flight (it circled to an altitude of about 200 feet, then returned to the ground). We saw another bird on 31 July and two more on 8 August. All were near the shallow, grassy lakes at Tonki Point. The flight display was seen only once. There are three previous North American records, all from Alaska.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*).—Phillips took an immature female (USNM no. 463850) weighing 120 g on St. Paul Island on 11 September 1954. It was one of two birds on a shallow pond near Tonki Point. This appears to be the second specimen of this species for the Pribilofs (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 75).

Short-billed and Long-billed dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus* and *L. scolopaceus*).—On 31 August 1949, Kenyon saw four dowitchers on the Tonki Point ponds, St. Paul Island. A male taken on 13 September 1950 (USNM no. 463857) was later identified as *L. scolopaceus*. On 5 September 1954, at Tonki Point, Phillips saw seven dowitchers and there on 18 September we collected two from a flock of eight. One of these, a male (USNM no. 463858), was identified as *L. scolopaceus*; the other, a female (USNM no. 463859), as *L. griseus caurinus*. Hanna (1920*b*) records a Long-billed Dowitcher from St. Paul Island.

Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*).—On the afternoon of 24 August 1954, on Zapadni Beach, St. Paul Island, we heard a "peep" which we could not definitely identify. When Phillips returned that evening, he found two Western Sandpipers feeding together on the shore of Antone Lake and took one, a female (USNM no. 463851). Although the species is abundant in other parts of Alaska, this is the first record from the Pribilofs.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*).—Preble and McAtee (1923: 74) listed this species as occurring regularly in spring and fall on the Pribilofs and gave observation and collection records for May, June, and July. In five years when Kenyon made spring, summer, and fall observations he saw this species only twice. On 14 June 1949, he took two lone females on the shore of Big Lake, St. Paul Island (USNM nos. 397543 and 397544). On 21 May 1959, on a one-day visit to St. Paul, Kenyon saw a flock of five on Polovina Reef. Perhaps this species visits the Pribilofs more regularly than is indicated by these observations, but it appears that the number of individuals that stop there is small.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*).—Preble and McAtee (1923: 34) mentioned a breeding colony of about 15 pairs on Walrus Island, and stated (p. 33) that the species occasionally occurs on the larger islands. On 23 July 1949, Kenyon saw three or four Glaucous Gulls among Glaucous-winged Gulls milling over the nesting colony of the latter on Walrus Island. In 1954 we saw one or two Glaucous Gulls regularly on St. Paul, but none on Walrus Island when we visited it on 6 July. We saw no indication of nesting on the Pribilofs in 1954.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*).—The reduction in the breeding population of this gull as a result of competition with other wildlife populations on the Pribilofs is of interest. The three larger islands (St. Paul, St. George, and Otter) are occupied by foxes (*Alopex lagopus pribilofensis*); and although several pairs of gulls regularly attempted to nest on St. Paul, we observed no successful nesting. Almost

every spring since 1947, these gulls built two or three nests on the raised catwalks over fur seal rookeries on St. Paul Island. In two of these Kenyon saw eggs which later disappeared. On 15 August 1954 we found a nest with no eggs on a rock in Crater Hill Lake. The level of the lake had fallen in July and fox tracks led across the mud to the nest. Preble and McAtee (1923: 35) stated that "a few pairs breed on the summit of Sealion Rock, a small islet close to St. Paul." At least since 1947, none has nested there, probably because the fur seal breeding colony has increased since 1923 and now occupies the entire island.

Elliott (1882: 132) stated: "I do not think there were more than five or six hundred nesting on Walrus islet at the time of my visit in 1872." Preble and McAtee (1923: 35) estimated about 100 pairs were there in 1914. On 23 June 1949 the expanding colony of northern sea lions (Kenyon, 1962: 74) closely bordered the gull colony of about 30 to 40 nests. On 6 July 1954, when we visited the islet, we were able to find only three nests with eggs. The sea lion colony had usurped nearly all of the suitable nesting area.

A more detailed study of the gulls found on the Pribilofs is needed. Allen J. Duvall (letter: 1949) wrote, in reference to specimens from St. Paul Island sent to the U. S. National Museum by V. B. Scheffer and Kenyon:

> I happened to notice one [collected] 5 August 1948, FWS No. 396041, which I identified as *glaucescens*, not typical, and with a query. I have gone into the matter further and find that the specimen in question was a bird not quite fully adult, with some speckling in the tail and with several of the outer primaries apparently of the second or third year. Several new wing feathers were coming in and the dark areas clearly indicated that this condition was not typical of *Larus glaucescens*. When compared with *Larus argentatus thayeri* [Herring Gull], the back was entirely too dark for this race . . . and when compared with *L. a. vegae*, the back color matched but the color of the immature primaries was entirely too pale for the latter race. Just what the true identity of this bird is, I am not certain. It could be that it is a hybrid between *Larus glaucescens* and *L. argentatus*, or an intergrade between *Larus argentatus vegae* and *L. a. thayeri*. The ranges of the latter two subspecies are not known at the present to come in contact with one another, but the existence of an intermediate population of herring gull in northern Alaska could exist and still have gone unnoticed. Since there are records of apparent hybridization between various species of gulls, it would seem to me that the gull in question most likely represents a cross between a glaucous-winged gull and a herring gull.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus* subsp.).—An adult female (USNM no. 463846) in breeding plumage was taken by Phillips on St. Paul Island on 16 August 1954. There is only one other record for western North America, a female *L. r. sibiricus* taken in Kiska Harbor, Aleutian Islands, 4 June 1937 (Murie, 1945). There are several records of *L. ridibundus* from along the Atlantic seaboard. It might be assumed that the specimen here reported represents the Siberian race. Aldrich, however, failed to identify it because (letter: 1955) its "measurements, which are the only differentiating character, were exactly in the middle of the zone of overlap between the two subspecies."

Black-legged and Red-legged kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla* and *R. brevirostris*).—The known breeding range of the Red-legged Kittiwake consists of the Pribilof and Commander islands. On the Pribilofs it nests on St. George, Otter, and St. Paul islands. Hanna (1920*b*) listed it as nesting in the period 1916–19 on Walrus Island. On 6 July 1954 on Walrus Island we saw one Red-leg among a colony of nesting Black-legs, but found

TABLE 1
KITTIWAKE NEST CENSUS, ST. PAUL ISLAND, 1954

Location	*Date*	*Number of kittiwake nests*	
		Black-legged	*Red-legged*
Reef cliffs	5 July	119	0
Village cliffs	14 July	0	0
Tolstoi cliffs	5 August	249	0
Lukanin-Kitovi cliffs	6 August	24	0
Zapadni cliff	9 August	463	13
Einahnuhto bluffs, SW Point	4 September	1,000+[2]	300+[3]
Low bluffs, SW Point[1]	6 September	221	33
Totals		2,076+	346+

[1] Cliffs between Antone Lake and Southwest Point.
[2] Because of irregular topography satisfactory nest counts could not be made.
[3] This estimate is based on general observations. We counted 86 nests but the presence of many adult birds indicated that we saw only a fraction of the nests.

none of the former nesting. The total nesting population of the Pribilofs is unknown. We attempted to obtain a nest census on St. Paul Island, but irregular topography prevented a complete count (Table 1). The same was true of Otter Island, where general observations indicated that between 300 and 500 pairs nested in 1954. Several thousands nest on the high cliffs of St. George.

On a visit to Copper and Bering islands, in the Commander Island group, from 9 to 23 July 1961, Ford Wilke and Kenyon watched constantly for the Red-legged Kittiwake. They saw one on 9 July and one on 22 July, each with large flocks of Black-legged Kittiwakes near Southeast Cape, Copper Island. They saw none among the breeding colonies of Black-legged Kittiwakes in this area or with the large flocks of Black-legs near the north end of Bering Island. Soviet biologist G. A. Nesterov said (pers. comm.) that scattered pairs nested among Black-legged Kittiwakes in colonies several miles distant from the TINRO [Pacific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography] biological station at Southeast Cape, Copper Island. It appeared that the Red-legged Kittiwake is uncommon at the Commander Islands. According to Peterson and Fisher (1955: 404) the species is reported from the Kurile Islands.

In the Aleutian Islands Kenyon identified the Red-legged Kittiwake only once. On 12 July 1963, when he was camped on the beach of the north shore of Buldir Island, a gusty east wind (40 to 60 miles per hour) that swept over the island apparently created air currents which attracted Black-legged Kittiwakes. They gathered in an area about one-quarter mile offshore. About 2,000 birds wheeled in a rotating column up to about 1,000 feet and then while others soared upward behind them they dropped rapidly to rest on the water before again joining the rising column.

Figure 1. Members of a pair of Red-legged Kittiwakes joining each other at the nest. See text for description of calls and behavior. An incubating Black-legged Kittiwake is in the background. Photograph taken on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 23 July 1947, by K. W. Kenyon.

Kenyon watched this group with 6 × 30 binoculars for about an hour and saw, scattered singly among the Black-legged Kittiwakes, at least 10 Red-legged Kittiwakes. Unfortunately, prolonged harsh weather prevented examination of the large kittiwake colony at Buldir's East Cape.

It appears that the St. George Island colonies contain a major part of the world's population of the Red-legged Kittiwake.

The call of the Red-legged Kittiwake is apparently not described in the literature. The confusion of bird calls near nesting cliffs makes it difficult to separate the call of one minority species. Also, since the general appearance of the Red-legged is similar to the more numerous Black-legged, it is difficult to associate an individual bird with its call. After many hours near nesting cliffs, however, we found that the call of the Red-legged Kittiwake differs markedly from that of the Black-legged. The call of the Black-legged is distinctly *kittiwake* or, as Peterson (1961: 134) describes it, *kitti-waak*, usually repeated at least two or three times in rapid succession and often in chorus by flocks of birds. The call of the Red-legged Kittiwake is *kee-yika* or *keyika* and is usually repeated at least twice and may be followed by a soft *keeya* or, at the nest, by a series of *kuk-kuk-kuk* notes. When members of a mated pair join each other at the nest they call repeatedly in chorus, often with partly spread wings

TABLE 2
TIMING OF NESTING BEHAVIOR OF KITTIWAKES AT ST. PAUL ISLAND

Average[1] *dates*	*Black-legged Kittiwake*	*Red-legged Kittiwake*
7 June	Many nests built	Nest building beginning
30 June	Egg laying in progress	Nest building in progress (5 pairs observed)
20 July	Incubating	Incubating
4 August	Many young about one week old	Eggs hatching
15 August	Hatching completed	One newly hatched young seen
4 September	Some young flying	One nest, downy young 15 nests well-feathered young, none flying
16 September	Most young flying and many have left nests	Some young beginning to make short flights and return to nest
21 September	Almost all young have left nests	About half of young have left nests. Most of those remaining at nests are making short flights.

[1] Averages based on observations made in five years, 1947–54.

(Figure 1). Calling at the nest becomes less frequent as the young mature. Our impression is that the voice of the Red-legged is less harsh than that of the Black-legged.

The Red-legged Kittiwake usually lays one egg. Although we saw an occasional nest with two eggs, we have not seen a nest in which two young were successfully fledged. The Black-legged Kittiwake usually lays two eggs and often two young are fledged.

The Black-legged Kittiwake begins nest building slightly in advance of the Red-legged. By 20 September practically all young Black-legged Kittiwakes have left their nests, but many of the Red-legged still make only short flights and return to the nest. In general, it appears that the Red-legged Kittiwake is about a week behind the Black-legged in commencing and completing the nesting cycle (Table 2). Perhaps because of this difference in starting the nesting cycle, the Black-legged Kittiwakes often appear to obtain the best locations for their nests. Also, the Red-legged Kittiwake appears to be less aggressive than the Black-legged and may be driven repeatedly from desirable locations by the Black-legged. Both species occupy similar nesting locations (Figure 2). Thus, the greater abundance of the Black-legged Kittiwake may, in part, be a result of earlier nesting, the greater frequency of two surviving young, and its dominant or more aggressive behavior on nesting cliffs used mutually by the two species.

Figure 2. The Red-legged Kittiwake (above) and Black-legged Kittiwake (below) in a mixed colony. More commonly, the Red-legged Kittiwake forms small pure colonies, often in the midst of the large Black-legged Kittiwake colonies. Photograph taken on St. Paul Island, Alaska, 15 August 1947, by K. W. Kenyon.

Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*).—On 22 September 1954, at Zapadni Rookery, Phillips saw one bird. It was circling over and feeding among a group of seals off the rookery. Its small size, wedge-shaped tail, and rosy breast were conspicuous as he watched it through 8 × 30 binoculars at ranges as little as 50 yards for over half an hour. It came ashore and perched on a rock in the midst of the rookery, but it never got far enough away from the seals for him to obtain it. Apparently this is the third record for the species south of the Bering Straight. Two specimens are recorded from St. George Island (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 36).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).—Although these birds regularly occur on the

Pribilofs, a badly emaciated male (USNM no. 467467) is of special interest. This bird was found dead in Icehouse Lake on 26 August 1949. It weighed 76 g. The intestine was nearly filled by 16 large cestode parasites, which probably caused death. H. J. Van Cleave, to whom the parasites were sent, reported (letter, 1950) that "the worms are immature *Schistocephalus solidus* (Mueller, 1776) . . . . A. R. Cooper studied *Schistocephalus* in 1918 and in the material before him, he had larval stages from *Gasterosteus cataphractus* taken by C. E. Crompton [from a lake on], St. Paul Island."

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*).—The extensive colony of this murre, covering much of the surface of Walrus Island, has often been mentioned in the literature (e.g., Preble and McAtee, 1923: 27). The colony apparently approached a maximum population in the period of low sea lion population (Kenyon, 1962: 74). When Kenyon visited the island in July 1949, a few sea lions occupied the higher central area where most of the murres nested. On 6 July 1954, the sea lion colony had increased in numbers (Kenyon, 1962: 74) and many adults rested among the nesting murres. We saw 15–20 dead birds that appeared to have been crushed by the sea lions in this area. Other murres, saturated with sea lion excrement, were unable to fly and became soaked when they entered the sea. We saw several dead birds along the shore that had apparently drowned or died of exposure. Others, wet and bedraggled, perched on rocks at the water's edge, preening and attempting to fluff and dry their feathers.

The reduction of available nesting space for murres on Walrus Island, because of the growing sea lion colony, apparently caused movement of murres from this island to other areas. For example, on St. Paul Island, a group of about 100 Common Murres appeared in 1954 on a section of the Reef Point cliff where Kenyon had never seen them in previous years. Also, a large rock near the south shore of Otter Island was crowded with Common Murres on 21 July 1954. The number of birds present appeared much above normal for the space available. Although it was late for laying, we could see only three eggs from our position above the birds on the nearby cliff, a fact which may indicate that abnormal crowding had inhibited breeding. The Walrus Island murre colony is still a large one but continued growth of the sea lion colony would usurp much space presently used for nesting.

Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*).—This is a common winter resident at the Pribilofs (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 25), but rare in summer months. Kenyon saw one bird flying near the village cliffs on 1 July 1949.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus richardsoni*).—An adult (USNM no. 466220), sex unknown, was shot on St. Paul Island in the winter of 1949–50. It was frozen and given to Kenyon by Dan Benson in the summer of 1950. This is the first record for *A. f. richardsoni* from the Pribilofs. A specimen of the Asian subspecies *A. f. magnus* was taken on St. Paul Island in 1912 (Evermann, 1913).

White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus pacificus*).—Kenyon took an adult male (USNM

no. 397542) weighing 40 g on 13 June 1949 near Icehouse Lake, St. Paul Island. The stomach contained the finely ground remains of unidentified Diptera. While this is the second record of this species from the Pribilofs (see Mailliard and Hanna, 1921), Kenyon saw several swifts which appeared to be of this form in June and July on the Pribilofs.

Common Swift (*Apus apus pekinensis*).—An adult female (USNM no. 463854) was shot 28 June 1950 on St. Paul Island by Andre Mandregan and given to Kenyon when he arrived on 29 June. This form breeds from Asia Minor across southern Asia, barely reaching the Pacific Coast in the vicinity of Korea. The specimen constitutes the first record for North America (A.O.U., 1957: 299).

Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*).—A female (USNM no. 463845) was taken in the spring of 1954 on St. George Island by Isiah Merculief and presented to us. No specific data were preserved. However, Merculief told us that he had seen birds of this species several times before in the fall or early spring. One other specimen has been taken on St. George Island, in 1904 (Clark, 1911: 60).

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*).—A male (USNM no. 463849) was shot on St. George Island by Isiah Merculief in the fall or winter of 1949 and given to Kenyon. This species has not previously been recorded from the Pribilof Islands.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*).—We did not observe this species on the Pribilofs. However, in 1954 Dan Benson, Island Manager on St. George Island, told us that he and several others saw a pair of ravens repeatedly on St. George during the late winter and spring of that year.

Hanna (1920*b*) reported that in 1919 natives briefly saw three ravens and shot one which could not be retrieved. The 1954 reports are the first evidence that ravens have remained on any of the Pribilof Islands for considerable periods. The raven is resident on many Bering Sea islands both north and south of the Pribilofs; thus its rarity on the Pribilofs is of interest.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes alascensis*).—Although this bird is listed as resident on St. George, St. Paul, and Otter islands (A.O.U., 1957: 409), its numbers and distribution vary considerably from year to year (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 99). Prior to 1914 none had been recorded on St. Paul. It bred on Otter Island in 1916, 1917, and 1918, but in 1917 was extremely scarce on St. George (Hanna, 1920*b*).

In the summer months of 1947 through 1954 its occurrence on St. Paul was irregular. In several summers Kenyon did not see or hear any; in other summers one or two birds were seen, but in 1951 it was numerous, especially along the southwestern coast of the island. A male was taken on 20 September 1950, and on 21 September Kenyon saw two at Southwest Point. Peterson and Fisher (1955: 414) found this wren "numerous" on Otter Island on 15 July 1953 but in the full day of 21 July 1954, spent there, we did not record the species. It was generally abundant on St. George Island during this period.

The ecological factors which, while permitting the establishment of this species on St. George, have prevented its becoming a permanent resident on Otter and St. Paul islands 40 miles to the north are unknown. Climatic factors may be important. It may be noteworthy that while winter ice frequently surrounds St. Paul, it infrequently reaches St. George and then remains briefly. Winter ice is also sporadic at Copper Island, of the Commander group. There, in July 1961, Ford Wilke and Kenyon found the Winter Wren the most abundant passerine.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus pallidiceps*).—An adult male (USNM no. 466751) was shot by a local resident from a flock of about 10 birds on 20 May 1959 at Reef Point on St. Paul Island and given to Kenyon by Island Manager Roy

Hurd. This bird ranges over much of the Alaska mainland but has not previously been recorded from the Pribilofs. The stomach contained remains of seven kelp flies (Coelopidae, *Coelopa* sp.), and one individual of the Helomyzidae. These were identified by R. H. Foote and C. W. Sabrosky (letter, 1960).

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata hooveri*).—On 18 September 1954, we took a male (USNM no. 463844) in winter plumage among the sand dunes near Tonki Point, St. Paul Island. This species breeds in north-central Alaska and, along with other small passerines, might be expected to wander occasionally to the Pribilofs. This, however, is the first occurrence recorded from there.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus carolinus*).—A specimen (USNM no. 464742), sex unknown, was taken on St. George Island on 5 November 1955 by Laurence Prokopiof, Jr. It was preserved by Isiah Merculief and given to Kenyon in April 1956. The species was also recorded in 1911 and 1915 on St. Paul Island (Preble and McAtee, 1923: 87).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator kamtschathensis*).—A specimen (USNM no. 467454) of unknown sex was taken by Agafangle Merculief at Garden Cove on St. George Island on 28 March 1955. This specimen was mounted for exhibit on St. George, but was given to Kenyon in July 1960. Another specimen of this subspecies from St. George is mentioned by Preble and McAtee (1923: 88).

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*).—A female (USNM no. 463848) was shot in the late fall or winter of 1949 on St. George Island by Isiah Merculief and given to Kenyon. One previous specimen of this species was taken on St. Paul Island in 1920 (Mailliard and Hanna, 1921).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*).—An immature female (USNM no. 463852) was taken by Kenyon on 19 September 1952 on St. Paul Island. Although this is the first record of this species from the Pribilofs, its nesting range on the mainland of Alaska extends to Cape Prince of Wales, considerably north of the Pribilofs. Thus wanderers might be expected on the Pribilofs.

McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*).—On 15 August 1954 we observed an adult in breeding plumage, accompanied by an immature bird, on the high, broken, central ridge of St. Paul Island near the base of Bogoslof Hill. The young bird followed the adult, begging for food, and was fed several times while we watched it for about one-half hour. The birds were not particularly wild and we approached to within 50 or 60 feet of them. We watched them through 7×50 binoculars and compared them with nearby individuals of the common Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) of the Pribilofs. The predominantly white back of *hyperboreus* easily distinguishes it from *nivalis*. A specimen could not be obtained.

A specimen was recorded from St. Paul Island by Hanna (1920*a*), but our observation is the first to indicate possible breeding of this species on the Pribilof Islands. Its only known breeding place was the St. Matthew Island group approximately 200 miles north of St. Paul.

LITERATURE CITED

A.O.U. 1957. Check-list of North American birds. Fifth edit. Amer. Ornith. Union.

CLARK, A. H. 1911. The birds collected and observed during the cruise of the United States Fishery steamer "Albatross," in the north Pacific Ocean, and in the Bering, Okhotsk, Japan, and Eastern seas from April to December, 1906. Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., **38**: 25–74.

ELLIOTT, H. W. 1882. Seal-islands of Alaska. Spec. Bull. 176. Sect. IX (Monograph A), Washington, U. S. Govt. Print. Off. Pp. 1–176.

EVERMANN, B. W. 1913. Eighteen species of birds new to the Pribilof Islands, including four new to North America. Auk, **30:** 15–18.

GABRIELSON, I. N., AND F. C. LINCOLN. 1959. The birds of Alaska. Wildl. Mgmt. Inst., Washington, D. C.

HANNA, G. D. 1916. Records of birds new to the Pribilof Islands including two new to North America. Auk, **33:** 400–403.

HANNA, G. D. 1920*a*. Additions to the avifauna of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, including four species new to North America. Auk, **37:** 248–254.

HANNA, G. D. 1920*b*. New and interesting records of Pribilof Island birds. Condor, **22:** 173–175.

KENYON, K. W. 1961. Birds of Amchitka Island, Alaska. Auk, **78:** 305–326.

KENYON, K. W. 1962. History of the Steller sea lion at the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. J. Mammalogy, **43:** 68–75.

MAILLIARD, J., AND G. D. HANNA. 1921. New bird records for North America with notes on the Pribilof Island list. Condor, **23:** 93–95.

MURIE, O. J. 1945. *Larus ridibundus sibericus* [sic.] from the Aleutian Islands. Auk, **62:** 313.

PALMER, W. 1899. The avifauna of the Pribilof Islands. Pp. 355–432 (of pt. 3) *in* Jordan *et al.* The fur seals and fur-seal islands of the North Pacific Ocean . . . . Washington, D. C. U. S. Govt. Print. Off., Treasury Dept. Doc. 2017, 4 parts.

PETERSON, R. T., AND J. FISHER. 1955. Wild America. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co.

PETERSON, R. T. 1961. A field guide to western birds. Second edit. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co.

PREBLE, E. A., AND W. L. MCATEE. 1923. Birds and mammals of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. North American Fauna no. 46.

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Sand Point Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington, and Department of Poultry Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.