

Record of Alaskan Birds

IN THE

COLLECTION OF THE LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

The Zoological Museum of the Leland Stanford Junior University contains several small collections of birds taken at various times in the western part of Alaska, and these I believe afford data of enough value to warrant the present paper. Dr. C. H. Gilbert of the Zoological Department of the University has kindly given me permission to work over the material, and has also aided me with pertinent suggestions.

The Alaskan bird skins in the Museum number nearly two hundred, and were taken in the following localities: Pribilof Islands (both St. George and St. Paul), Amagnak Island, Belkowsky Bay, Unga Island, Kadiak Island and Prince William Sound. I have thought it better to record the birds in a separate list for each locality. Unfortunately there are no field-notes accompanying the specimens, so that the annotations are chiefly of a technical nature.

I have made use of the collection of the California Academy of Sciences in comparing specimens, as well as my own series of Alaskan birds.

PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

Twenty-one species are represented in the collection from this group of islands. They were all taken by Snodgrass (R. E.) and Greeley, (A. W.) between July 25 and September 4, 1897. Two of these species (*Totanus melanoleucus* and *Saxicola oenanthe*) are new to the list of birds known from the Pribilofs. The exhaustive paper by William Palmer on "Avifauna of the Pribilof Islands,"* enumerates sixty-nine species of authentic occurrence. One other has since been recorded †(*Tringa acuminata*). The present additions probably come under the head of casual or irregular visitants, and bring the total list of birds known from this group of islands up to seventy-two species.

1. *Lunda cirrhata* Pall. Tufted Puffin.
St. George Island, ♂, July 26; St. Paul Island, ♂ ♀, September 1.
2. *Fratercula corniculata* (Naum.). Horned Puffin.
St. Paul Island, ♂ ♂ ♀, August 22, September 1 and 4.
3. *Cyclorhynchus psittaculus* (Pall.). Paroquet Auklet.
St. George Island, ♂ ♂ ♀, July 26.
4. *Simorhynchus cristatellus* (Pall.). Crested Auklet.
St. George Island, ♂ ♀ ♀, July 26.
5. *Simorhynchus pusillus* (Pall.). Least Auklet.
St. George Island, ♂ ♂ ♀, July 26; St. Paul Island, ♀, August 21.
6. *Uria lomvia arra* (Pall.). Pallas's Murre.
St. George Island, ♀, July 25.
7. *Rissa brevirostris* (Bruch). Red-legged Kittiwake.
St. George Island, ♂ ♀, July 26.
8. *Larus glaucescens* Naum. Glaucous-winged Gull.
St. Paul Island, ♀ im., September 4.
9. *Phalacrocorax urile* (Gmel.). Red-faced Cormorant.
St. Paul Island, ♂ ♂, July 31; ♂, September 2.
10. *Harelda hyemalis* (Linn.). Old-squaw.
St. Paul Island, August 17, two downy young evidently not more than two days old. This seems to indicate an unusually late nesting date.
11. *Crymophilus fulcarius* (Linn.). Red Phalarope.
St. Paul Island, ♂, August 17; ♀, August 31.
12. *Phalaropus lobatus* (Linn.). Northern Phalarope.
St. Paul Island, ♀, August 31.
13. *Tringa ptilouemis* Coues. Pribilof Sandpiper.
St. George and St. Paul Islands, eight specimens, August 17-25.

*The Fur-Seals and Fur-Seal Islands of the North Pacific. Part 3. Washington: 1899. p. 355.

†N. Am. Fauna, No. 19. Birds of the Yukon Region, etc. By Tr. I. P. Bishop, October, 1900, p. 66.

14. *Tringa acuminata* (Horsf.). Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

St. Paul Lagoon, ♂ (No. 3539 Coll. L. S. J. U.), August 17. This specimen is apparently in first plumage. This is the second record for the Pribilofs.

15. *Totanus melanoleucus* (Gmel.). Greater Yellow-legs.

Kamenista Lake, St. Paul Island, ♂ ad. (No. 3543 Coll. L. S. J. U.), August 17. This is the first recorded instance for the Pribilofs, and, as far as I know, the first Alaskan record west of Sitka where several specimens were secured by Bischoff.*

16. *Heteractitis incanus* (Gmel.). Wandering Tattler.

St. George and St. Paul Islands, four specimens, August 22-31.

17. *Arenaria interpres* (Linn.). Turnstone.

St. Paul Island, ♀ im., August 17.

18. *Leucosticte tephrocatis griseonucha* (Brandt). Aleutian Leucosticte.

St. George Island, ♂ ♀ juv. ♀, July 25. Judging from the material at hand I see no reason for considering *griseonucha* a distinct species. (See under KADIAK ISLAND).

19. *Passerina nivalis townsendi* (Ridgw.). Pribilof Snowflake.

St. George Island, two juveniles, July 25; St. Paul Island, juv., August 29.

20. *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis* Ridgw. Alaskan Longspur.

St. George and St. Paul Islands, 9 specimens, July 25—August 29. No. 3482 (Coll. L. S. J. U.) is a juvenile about half fledged, taken on August 20, which is notably late for so young a bird.

21. *Saxicola œnanthe* (Linn.). Wheatear.

An immature male (No. 3486, Coll. L. S. J. U.) taken on St. Paul Island August 29, forms the first record for the Pribilofs, and fills in another gap in the known range of this remarkably wide-spread species.

AMAGNAK ISLAND.

This small island at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, was visited by Snodgrass (R. E.) and Greeley (A. W.) in September, 1897, and four species were taken as follows:

1. *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis* Ridgw. Alaskan Longspur.

Adult ♀, Sept. 15.

2. *Ammodramus sandwichensis* (Gmel.). Sandwich Sparrow.

Five specimens, September 15-17.

3. *Melospiza melodia cinerea* (Gmel.). Aleutian Song Sparrow.

Three specimens, September 17. Robert Ridgway has recently described† two new Alaskan races of the Song Sparrow practically completing the chain of forms connecting *melodia* of eastern North America with *insignis* of Kadiak Island. Accordingly he reduces the latter to the rank of a subspecies. *Cinerea* is very slightly different from *insignis*, and moreover is known to inhabit the Aliaska Peninsula so that geographical continuity with Ridgway's *kenaiensis* is probable. Therefore according to the present trend of opinion in regard to similarly related forms, *cinerea*, too, should be considered a subspecies, as above.

4. *Anorthura alascensis* (Baird). Alaskan Wren.

♂ juv., September 17.

BELKOVSKY BAY.

This bay on the southern side of the Aliaska Peninsula was visited by Snodgrass (R. E.) and Greeley (A. W.) on July 22, 1897, and the following species were collected.

1. *Tringa minutilla* Vieill. Least Sandpiper.

♂ ♀ both in juvenile plumage, but fully fledged; probably migrants.

2. *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgw. Northern Raven.

♂ adult

3. *Passerina nivalis* (Linn.). Snowflake.

♂ adult (No. 3481 L. S. J. U.); Measurements: wing 4.27, tail 2.80, culmen .44. In the size of the bill this specimen approaches *townsendi*. Several skins which I have examined from western Alaska present larger measurements, especially of the bill, than do eastern specimens. In other words, they show a decided inclination toward the extreme as represented by *townsendi*, and I see no reason why *townsendi* should rank as a species, as proposed by Palmer in "The Avifauna of the Pribilofs" (l. c.). Notice also the measurements of the Kadiak specimens given beyond.

*Dall (W. H.) and Bannister (H. M.). List of the Birds of Alaska, with Biographical Notes. Transactions of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Vol. I, Part II. Chicago: 1863. p. 292.

†New Species, etc., of American Birds.—Fringillidae. Auk, Jan., XVI, 1899, p. 36. AND *ibid.*, XVII, 1900, p. 29.

4. *Ammodramus sandwichensis* (Gmel.). Sandwich Sparrow.

UNGA ISLAND.

But three specimens are from this island, taken by Snodgrass (R. E.) and Greeley (A. W.) in July, 1897.

1. *Lagopus lagopus* (Linn.). Willow Ptarmigan.
♀ ad., July 21.
2. *Zonotrichia coronata* (Pall.). Golden-crowned Sparrow.
♂ ad., July 22.
3. *Passerella iliaca unalaschcensis* (Gmel.). Unalaska Sparrow.
♀ ad., July 21.

KADIAK ISLAND.

Nineteen species are in the collection from this Island taken principally by Cloudsley Rutter during the winter of 1896-97. A few skins were obtained by A. W. Greeley in July, 1897. This collection is of special interest as affording a new subspecies.

1. *Fulmarus glacialis glupischa* Stejn. Pacific Fulmar.
Karluk, ♂ ad., (dark phase), July 20.
2. *Tringa couesi* (Ridgw.). Aleutian Sandpiper.
♂, Nov. 15; ♀ ♀ April 3.
3. *Lagopus lagopus* (Linn.). Willow Ptarmigan.
Six specimens, Dec., Jan. and Feb.
4. *Lagopus rupestris* (Gmel.). Rock Ptarmigan.
Karluk, adult in nearly complete summer plumage. (No date).
5. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus* Towns. Northern Bald Eagle.
Karluk, two specimens.
6. *Pica pica hudsonica* (Sab.). American Magpie.
Karluk, six specimens, Oct.—Dec. "Very common; feeds on dead fish" (Note on label).
The bills of these birds are slightly larger than in specimens of the same species from Nevada; otherwise I see no difference.
7. *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgw. Northern Raven.
Two specimens, Dec. 12 and 27.
8. *Pinicola enucleator flammula* (Homeyer). Kadiak Pine Grosbeak.
♀, Jan. 22. Measurements—wing 4.28, tail 3.74, culmen .57.
9. *Leucosticte tephrocotis kadiaka* (McGregor)* Kadiak Leucosticte.

Five leucostictes are in the collection from Kadiak Island. Four are in winter plumage, while one, No. 3942, Coll. L. S. J. U., taken at Kadiak, July 19, 1897, is a breeding bird, thus indicating that the species is resident on this Island. Specimens at hand indicate an almost complete gradation between *Leucosticte tephrocotis* of the Sierra Nevada and *griseonucha* of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. Such being the case, then the latter form is a subspecies of *tephrocotis* as long ago contended (*L. tephrocotis* var. *griseinucha* COURS, Key, 1872, p. 130.) I hope to further discuss the relationships of these forms as soon as some expected material arrives from the north.

10. *Acanthis linaria* (Linn.). Redpoll.
♀, Nov. 22; ♂ ♀, March 8.
11. *Passerina nivalis* (Linn.). Snowflake.
One specimen (No. 3767, Coll. L. S. J. U.), Feb. 28, Sex (?). Measurements—wing 4.50, tail 3.00, culmen .46. This bird is still closer in size to *townsendi* than the one from Belkovsky Bay.
12. *Ammodramus sandwichensis xanthophrys* nobis. Kadiak Savanna Sparrow.
TYPE—♀ ad., No. 3476, Coll. L. S. J. U.; St. Paul, Kadiak Island, Alaska; July 18, 1897; Collected by Greeley (A. W.) and Snodgrass (R. E.).

DESCRIPTION—Lower parts white; sides washed palely with tawny; feathers of breast, sides and flanks with cuneate or linear shaft-streaks. Edge of wing, pale yellow. Superciliary stripe canary yellow. Submalar and rictal stripes sooty, edged with tawny. Malar patch and sides of neck suffused with pale buff. Median crown stripe, whitish; otherwise, whole upper parts broadly streaked with sooty, each feather being centrally black, then tawny, and finally edged with grayish. The hind-neck, palest; middle of the back, most heavily marked. The tawny color predominates over the gray, giving the whole bird a decidedly "rusty" appearance.

Three specimens of this race are in the collection from Kadiak. As shown in the following table of measurements the proportions and size of the bill are almost exactly between those of *A. sandwichensis* and *A. s. alaudinus*. The general tone of the upper parts is quite different from either, showing a predominance of tawny. In this brownness of coloration *xanthophrys* resembles *A. s. savanna*, but the superciliary stripe of the former is very bright yellow and the size of

**Leucosticte kadiaka* McGregor, Reprint (sic!) from The Condor, Vol. III, No. 1. Author's edition; mailed Nov. 25, 1900.

the bird is larger. No. 3638, taken at Karluk, but without date, is almost exactly like the type. But No. 3477 is much more worn, resulting in a much less rusty cast of coloration. A Kadiak Savanna Sparrow in the California Academy of Sciences Collection is quite typical. There are also two skins from Middleton Island and one from Eagle Harbor, Shumagin Islands, all of which are referable to *xanthophrys*. All other Savanna Sparrows from Alaska examined by me are strictly referable to either *alaudinus* or *sandwichensis*. Among about a hundred winter *Ammodrami* from California, Washington and Oregon, I have not found one that can be called *xanthophrys*, though the latter two States present several specimens of *sandwichensis*. However, the Kadiak race is likely to be found wintering somewhere in the vicinity of Puget Sound.

Measurements of *Ammodrami* from Alaska.

	No.	Coll.	Sex	Locality	Wing	D'pth Bill	Culmen.
<i>sandwichensis</i>	3469	L. S. J. U.	♂	Amagnak Is.	3.10	.26	.46
	3466	"	♂	" "	3.06	.26	.45
	3465	"	♂	" "	3.13	.26	.45
	3467	"	♀	" "	2.90	.27	.46
	3464	"	♀?	" "	2.92	.27	.45
<i>xanthophrys</i>	2177	C. A. S.	♂	Kadiak Island	3.00	.24	.41
	3477	L. S. J. U.	♂	" "	2.97	.23	.40
	3638	"	♂?	" "	2.93	.22	.42
	3476	"	♀	" "	2.72	.23	.41
<i>alaudinus</i>	3592	L. S. J. U.	♂	Nutchuk, PWS	2.75	.20	.39
	3620	J. G.	♂	Cape Blossom	2.81	.20	.39
	3618	"	♀	" "	2.62	.19	.39
	3619	"	♀	" "	2.67	.19	.41

13. *Zonotrichia coronata* (Pall.). Golden-crowned Sparrow.
Juvenile ♀ (full grown), July 19.
14. *Melospiza melodia insignis* (Baird). Bischoff's Song Sparrow.
Three specimens, October and November,
15. *Passerella iliaca insularis* Ridgw. Kadiak Fox Sparrow.
Karluk, two specimens (no date).
16. *Lanius borealis invictus* Grinn. Northwestern Shrike.
Immature ♀, February 28.
17. *Cinclus mexicanus* Swains. American Dipper.
Three specimens, Oct. 19, Nov. 10 and 21.
18. *Parus atricapillus septentrionalis* (Harris). Long-tailed Chickadee.
Eight specimens, October to January. These are not referable to *occidentalis*. The species may possibly here be a winter visitant from northern Alaska, where *septentrionalis* is common in summer and fall.
19. *Hylocichla aonalaschkae* (Gmel.). Dwarf Hermit Thrush.
St. Paul, ♂ adult (No. 3493 Coll. L. S. J. U.), July 17, '97. This specimen is unusually pale and grayish dorsally, almost the shade of *H. aliciae*. This can scarcely be due to abrasion and fading, as the comparison is made with adult equally worn July and August specimens of *aonalaschkae* in my collection from Sitka.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND.

Eighteen species of birds are in the collection from this region, taken by A. W. Greeley in June and July, 1896.

1. *Gavia lumme* (Gunn.). Red-throated Loon.
Orca, two adult males, July 17 and 19.
2. *Lunda cirrhata* Pall. Tufted Puffin.
Nutchuk, three adult specimens, July 5 and 11.
3. *Brachyramphus marmoratus* (Gmel.). Marbled Murrelet.
Orca, ♂ adult, July 17.
4. *Uria troile californica* (Bryant). California Murre.
Nutchuk, three adult skins, July 5 and 11.
5. *Larus glaucescens* Naum. Glaucous-winged Gull.
Orca, two adults, July 21 and 29.
6. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus* Ridgw. Violet-green Cormorant.
Nutchuk, two adult females, July 5.
7. *Merganser americanus* (Cass.). American Merganser.
Iak Lake, ♀ adult, July 24.
8. *Phalaropus lobatus* (Linn.). Northern Phalarope.
Orca, ♀ adult, June 27.

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9. *Tringa minutilla* Vieill. Least Sandpiper.
Nutchuk, ♀ adult, June 30.
10. *Heteractitis incanus* (Gmel.). Wandering Tattler.
Orca, ♀ adult, July 19.
11. *Arenaria melanocephala* (Vig.). Black Turnstone.
Orca, four adults, July 19.
12. *Hematopus bachmani* Aud. Black Oyster-catcher.
Nutchuk, ♂ adult, July 5.
13. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (Gmel.). American Rough-legged Hawk.
Iak Lake, juvenile (full grown), July 24.
14. *Corvus caurinus* Baird. Northwest Crow.
Orca, ♂ juvenile (full grown), July 21.
15. *Ammodramus sancti-johannis alaudinus* (Bonap.). Western Savanna Sparrow.
Nutchuk, ♂ adult, July 2.
16. *Passerella iliaca annectens* Ridgw. Yakutat Fox Sparrow.
Nutchuk, eight specimens, June 30 to July 7; Orca, ♂ adult, June 27.
17. *Hirundo erythrogaster* Bodd. Barn Swallow.
Nutchuk, ♂ adult, June 30. This specimen does not appear to answer to the characters assigned by Palmer* to *unalaschensis*. The Alaskan skins I have examined (Kotzebue Sound and Siika) do not seem to differ on an average in wing measurements and extent of white markings on the tail, from U. S. specimens.
18. *Cinclus mexicanus* Swains. American Dipper.
Iak Lake, ♂ adult, July 23.

*Avifauna of the Pribilofs, l. c.