

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE NORTHEAST CAPE OF ST. LAWRENCE  
ISLAND AND OF THE PUNUK ISLANDS, ALASKA

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This report summarizes observations made of birds in the vicinity of the eastern end of St. Lawrence Island and the Puduk Islands while I was serving a tour of duty there with the U.S. Air Force between 24 April 1964 and 20 January 1965.

St. Lawrence Island lies in the north-central Bering Sea approximately 250 kilometers south of Bering Strait. The three Puduk Islands are approximately 26 kilometers south of the northeast cape of St. Lawrence Island (see Friedmann, 1932:3).

The ecology and distribution of the avifauna of St. Lawrence Island were described by Fay and Cade (1959), largely on the basis of field work on the western half of the island, and Bédard (1966) recently reported new Alcidae records from that area. Fay and Cade (1959) and Fay (1961) mentioned expected qualitative and quantitative differences in the birds of the eastern half of the island. Little work has been done in the Northeast Cape area. Likewise, although several authors (Friedmann, 1932; Murie, 1936; Fay and Cade, 1959) have mentioned the Puduk Islands, little has been published concerning their avifauna.

TERMS AND METHODS

All geographic names, with three exceptions, are taken from the U.S. Geological Survey (1958) quadrangle sheet. The exceptions are my designation of the three Puduk Islands as North, Middle, and South Islands; these terms correspond with latitudinal positions. All observations in the annotated list, unless specifically referred to the Puduk Islands, were made on or at sea near St. Lawrence Island. All nomenclature follows the AOU Check-list, Fifth Edition (1957).

One hundred and twenty-one hours were devoted to field observations, which were made during off-duty time and consequently at irregular intervals from 25 April 1964 to 20 January 1965. Most of these observations were made during the spring and summer, although occasional field trips were made during the winter. The tundra between the northern edge of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains and the northern shore of St. Lawrence Island was traversed on foot several times. One trip was made to the eastern shore of Seepanpak Lagoon, and many trips were made into the tundra west of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Many short excursions were made up the northern and western slopes to the barren highlands of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Trips on foot were made along the northern shore from Kangighsak Point to the eastern edge of Northeast Cape. In addition, birds on the offshore water were observed on 6 June 1964 during an all-day walrus hunt north of Northeast Cape. On 12 and 30 July 1964, I traveled by boat from Northeast Cape to the Puduk Islands.

The annotated list is based primarily on my sight records; a few specimens of waterfowl killed by the Eskimos were examined by me, but none was preserved. Several Eskimos provided valuable information concerning local birds, and, when considered reliable and pertinent, it is included.

AVIAN HABITATS

NORTHEAST CAPE, ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND

Fay and Cade (1959:87-92) discussed 10 avian habitats on St. Lawrence Island.

This section contains a discussion of the extent of these habitats at Northeast Cape and the associated birds. I also herein add a discussion of the relationship of several species to recent man-made changes on the island.

*Sea cliffs.* None is found at Northeast Cape.

*Inland cliffs.* These cliffs comprise very little of the area of Northeast Cape. They are found on the upper slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains and along several creek canyons. *Corvus corax* was the only species regularly observed there.

*Barrens.* Much of the area of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains is of this habitat type, most of which is over 230 meters in altitude. *Plectrophenax nivalis* was found at all elevations, while *Calcarius lapponicus* appeared confined to the lower elevations. *Corvus corax* was also present. Bédard (1966:504) mentions that *Brachyramphus marmoratum* and *Synthliboramphus antiquum* may nest in the interior mountains; although I watched for Alcidae during my trips up the slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains, none was seen.

*Mesic tundra.* Mesic tundra is found largely on the lower slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Birds I observed there are those listed by Fay and Cade (1959:90), with the addition of *Calcarius lapponicus*.

*Wet tundra.* Tundra west of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains is wet tundra. In the summer of 1964 this habitat was saturated with water; in September extensive areas east of Seepanpak Lagoon became covered with standing water. This habitat was not extensively utilized by birds, but *Phalaropus fulicarius* and *Lobipes lobatus* were found there.

*Fluvial water.* Many small streams are found in the Northeast Cape area. Most arise in the Kinipaghulghat Mountains and carry their highest volume of water in late June and early July, when most of the snow in the highlands melts. *Sterna paradisaea* was often found at the mouth of the Tapisaghak River and often flew considerable distances upstream. Gulls and shorebirds were occasionally seen near the streams.

*Lacustrine water.* The lakes, ponds, and, to a lesser degree, the lagoons of Northeast Cape form a conspicuous and extensive habitat. Lakes and ponds are especially abundant west of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Large lagoons such as are found along the southern coast of the island are absent. I have no species to add to the list given by Fay and Cade (1959:91).

*Tundra-lacustrine water edge.* A great deal of this edge habitat is available at Northeast Cape. It is widely used by the species included under lacustrine water habitat.

*Seashore.* Northeast Cape's northern shoreline is exclusively a sand and gravel beach. *Calcarius lapponicus* was observed feeding along the beaches during the summer. In the fall, flocks of shorebirds were present, and *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* made frequent foraging trips offshore from Seevoo Point.

*Marine littoral water.* Species associated with marine waters included many of those listed by Fay and Cade (1959:92), with the addition of *Histrionicus histrionicus*, *Pagophila eburnea*, and *Sterna paradisaea*.

*Recent man-made changes.* The establishment of a military base and a small Eskimo village at Northeast Cape has caused changes in the habitat and avifauna. The most ecologically significant change has been the establishment of two large garbage dumps, one north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains and another in the highlands. *Corvus corax* was seen daily at the tundra dump and probably was as common at the other dump. An estimated population of 30 to 50 were permanent

residents in this area; at other areas of Northeast Cape, except for the Eskimo village, *C. corax* was seldom seen. Large flocks of *Larus argentatus* frequented the tundra dump during the spring. During the first week in June, the gulls began to utilize the dump less frequently; they apparently began feeding more often along the then-open Bering Sea. The only two pairs of *Motacilla flava* observed were both in the vicinity of the tundra dump.

The military buildings appear to have attracted a few species. *Motacilla alba*, whose occurrence in Alaska was recently summarized by Peyton (1963), was found only near the buildings. Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:691) mention this wagtail's predilection for buildings, and Fay and Cade (1959:129) found this bird nesting in a building at Gambell. *Plectrophenax nivalis*, especially in early spring, and, to a lesser extent, *Calcarius lapponicus* were observed in the area of the buildings. *Charadrius semipalmatus* was found on the graveled areas around the buildings, which probably provided excellent breeding habitat for these plovers.

The erection of utility poles and wires has provided singing posts for *C. lapponicus* and *P. nivalis*. *Stercorarius longicaudus* also used these poles for perches from which to hunt.

#### THE PUNUK ISLANDS

The Penuk Islands consists of three small islands. Visits were made to the islands on 12 and 30 July. This section extends and adds new observations to a brief account given elsewhere (Thompson, 1965). Habitats found on the islands are described below, and birds observed on each island are shown in table 1. Supplementary data, such as egg dates, when available can be found for each species in the annotated list.

*North Island.* Three rocky peaks of volcanic origin occur on North Island; the remainder of the island is low and grass covered. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus* nests on the two highest peaks. During the summer of 1964 two Arctic Foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) were on North Island, presumably stranded there by the spring break-up of ice in the Bering Sea. Cormorant nests were inaccessible to the foxes, as well as to humans, and the foxes probably foraged in the low, grassy areas and along the shore.

*Middle Island.* Middle Island, surrounded by a sandy beach, is completely flat and grass covered. It is probably not more than four meters above sea level at any point. *Somateria mollissima* and *Lunda cirrhata* commonly nest in the grassy areas.

*South Island.* The southeastern shore of South Island consists of sheer-wall and rock-pile cliffs where *P. pelagicus* nests in large numbers. From the tops of the cliffs, the grass-covered land gently slopes to a low, rock-lined northwestern shore.

#### ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

*Gavia adamsii.* Yellow-billed Loon. One was seen on 6 July offshore from Kangighsak Point; another large loon, probably of this species, was seen on 6 June north of Northeast Cape.

*Gavia arctica.* Arctic Loon. A recently killed specimen in breeding plumage was examined on 12 July; it was taken north of Northeast Cape. Single loons of this species were observed and heard calling on 12 September on several of the tundra lakes.

*Gavia stellata.* Red-throated Loon. This was the most abundant loon at Northeast Cape. Throughout June pairs were seen on most of the large lakes, and on 10 July small groups of up to five birds each were frequently seen.

*Phalacrocorax pelagicus.* Pelagic Cormorant. On 6 June pairs and small groups were often seen perched along the tops of ice floes at sea, and large flocks were present on the sea ice east of

TABLE 1  
SPECIES OBSERVED AT THE PUNUK ISLANDS ON 12 AND 31 JULY 1964

Species	North	Island <sup>a</sup> Middle	South
<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	xxx	0	xxx
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	x	0	0
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	0	xxx	xx
<i>Erolia alpina</i>	x	0	0
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	x	?	x
<i>Uria aalge</i>	?	0	0
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	?	0	0
<i>Cepphus columba</i>	xx	0	0
<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>	xx	0	xx
<i>Aethia pusilla</i>	xx	0	0
<i>Lunda cirrhata</i>	xx	xxx	xx
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	x	0	0

<sup>a</sup> x—Observed; xx—Observed and probably nesting; xxx—Found nesting; ?—Status unknown; 0—Not observed.

Northeast Cape. On the Penuk Islands this cormorant was found nesting on the cliffs of the southeast shore of South Island and on the two largest rocky peaks on North Island. On 12 July most of the nests in the South Island colony contained recently hatched young; a few older, down-covered young were also present, and some nests still contained clutches of eggs. On 30 July few eggs were found and the majority of young were down-covered; some had emerging wing and tail feathers. The adults made no attempt to defend their nests and young on either visit to the colony. One hundred and nine nestling cormorants were banded at the South Island colony on 30 July. The only recovery to date was a dead cormorant washed ashore on the northern coast of Northeast Cape on 27 October 1964. On 9 September 30 cormorants were observed at Seevoo Point, where they were feeding in the company of Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*). On 19 November one cormorant was seen along the edge of the sea ice north of Northeast Cape.

*Olor* sp. Swan. Pairs were observed north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains on 8 and 25 June. On 18 July a pair was seen south of Seepanpak Lagoon, where, according to the Eskimos, swans have been known to nest. Because of their extreme wariness, I was unable to approach closely enough to identify any of these pairs. The Whistling Swan (*O. columbianus*) is the only species recorded from St. Lawrence Island (Fay and Cade, 1959:103).

*Branta nigricans*. Black Brant. On 9 September, near some small lagoons west of Tapisaghak River, five brant were observed in association with a flock of from 30 to 40 Emperor Geese (*Philacte canagica*).

*Philacte canagica*. Emperor Goose. According to the Eskimos, these geese nest in the Northeast Cape area, and one Eskimo told of formerly collecting their eggs in the Tapisaghak River region. I was unable to locate any nests, but on 25 June near the Tapisaghak River I observed an Emperor Goose which I believe was incubating. Emperor Geese were first observed inland on 5 June; a pair was observed in the morning, and 10 geese, which appeared to be paired, were seen in the late afternoon of that day. I saw no Emperor Geese at Northeast Cape between 6 July and 9 September. An Eskimo told me of seeing a large flock of flightless Emperor Geese near Southeast Cape in the latter half of July. My latest observation was on 9 September, when a flock of from 30 to 40 Emperor Geese (accompanied by five Black Brant) was seen near Tapisaghak River.

*Anas acuta*. Pintail. The St. Lawrence Island Pintail population appears to vary from year to year (Fay, 1961:74). In 1964 this duck was often seen in pairs throughout early summer; occasionally lone males were observed. On 16 June a nest containing seven eggs was found near an abandoned gravel road north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. On 19 June, when the nest was next visited, the eggs were gone, and some of the down lining was scattered about. I did not

see any Pintails after 18 July; however, east of Seepanpak Lagoon on 12 September I flushed nine ducks which were possibly Pintails.

*Anas carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal. One pair in breeding plumage was observed on a small tundra pool north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains on 25 June. This teal is considered an irregular visitor to the island (Fay, 1961:74). The Eskimos questioned were not familiar with this species.

*Aythya* sp. Scaup. On 25 June a pair of scaup, tentatively sight identified as *A. marila*, was seen on a tundra lake north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Another pair was flushed from an inland tundra pool east of Seepanpak Lagoon on 18 July. *A. marila* is the only scaup known to occur on St. Lawrence Island and is believed to breed there occasionally (Fay and Cade, 1959:105-106; Fay, 1961:74).

*Clangula hyemalis*. Oldsquaw. Pairs were common on the Bering Sea on 6 June and on tundra lakes throughout June. In July flocks were often seen north of Northeast Cape. These were probably nonbreeders (see Fay and Cade, 1959:106). Throughout the last half of July and August these ducks were occasionally observed. Oldsquaws are known to winter in the vicinity of St. Lawrence Island, mostly along the southern shore where more ice-free areas occur (Fay, 1961:72). I observed none on the trips I took along the northern coast in November and December 1964 and January 1965. Two ducks seen on 7 October were probably Oldsquaws.

*Histrionicus histrionicus*. Harlequin Duck. Fay and Cade (1959:106-107) noted that few if any Harlequin Ducks are to be found along the northern coast of St. Lawrence Island between Gambell and Savoonga. Likewise, I never observed this species anywhere along the northern coastline from Kangighsak Point to the eastern side of Northeast Cape. Two flocks were seen on 12 July on the sea near North Pujuk Island; the larger flock contained 48 males.

*Somateria mollissima*. Common Eider. Positive identifications of Common Eiders were obtained on only three occasions. Large flocks of eiders were often seen far away and flying low and rapidly over the water; identification was virtually impossible in most cases. On 12 July Common Eiders were identified on Middle Pujuk Island. Approximately 10 nests were found there, most if not all of which were of Common Eiders; three nests were within a radius of nine feet of each other. One nest contained four eggs. On 6 June a large flock (over 500 birds) of an unknown species of eider was seen east of Northeast Cape. Smaller flocks were observed during the two boat trips to the Pujuk Islands on 12 and 30 July. One Common Eider was identified at South Pujuk Island on 30 July. My latest record is of a lone Common Eider sitting on an exposed sandbar near Kitnagak Point on 6 November.

*Somateria spectabilis*. King Eider. On 12 July a flock of 20 to 30 King Eiders was encountered north of Northeast Cape; on 30 July a male and a female were seen north of Northeast Cape.

*Grus canadensis*. Sandhill Crane. This species was often seen from 3 June until 16 August at Northeast Cape. Cranes observed on 3 and 25 June near Tapisaghak River were in groups of three. On 6 July a pair was discovered east of Seepanpak Lagoon near the coast, and on 16 August I flushed two cranes from the upper slopes (above 170 meters) on the western side of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains.

*Charadrius* sp. Plover. On 19 June and 22 and 23 July plovers believed to be *C. semipalmatus* were observed on man-made, graveled areas north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. On 22 and 23 July, near one of the military buildings, I observed a distraction display given by one of these plovers; later on the 23rd I returned and was confronted by two loudly calling adults. After a short search, I found a downy young, which I captured and banded. The graveled area of the military station probably provided the favorable breeding habitat that attracted the birds. *C. semipalmatus* appears to be uncommon on St. Lawrence Island; two records are listed by Fay and Cade (1959:111-112) and two by Sauer and Urban (1964:48). There is no previous record of its nesting on the island.

*Pluvialis dominica*. Golden Plover. The first Golden Plover was observed on 7 June, and the last on 12 September. Until the latter half of July this common bird was confined primarily to the drier mesic tundra along the northern and western slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. After the middle of July individuals were seen more often in the wet tundra.

*Arenaria interpres*. Ruddy Turnstone. One was observed on 25 June near the northern coast,

and on 16 September four or five were seen with a flock of other small shorebirds that were feeding in the mud around a small lagoon on the northern coast. Within this flock the turnstones tended to remain together.

*Heteroscelus* sp. Tattler. One unidentified tattler was observed on 3 June in a rocky area north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. Both *H. incanum* and *H. brevipes* have been reported from St. Lawrence Island (Fay and Cade, 1959:113).

*Totanus flavipes*. Lesser Yellowlegs. On two occasions, 5 and 18 July, a Lesser Yellowlegs was observed feeding and singing in a small, marshy area north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. On both occasions the bird was closely approached and was observed under good lighting conditions; identification was based on size and call. This is the first record of a yellowlegs from St. Lawrence Island.

*Erolia alpina*. Dunlin. Dunlins and Western Sandpipers (*Ereunetes mauri*) were the most abundant shorebirds on the tundra throughout the summer. Some of the Dunlins appeared to be paired on 31 May, and on 8 June a nest with two eggs was found in moderately dry tundra. On 17 June this nest still contained two eggs; after that date I was unable to find the nest. In contrast to my 8 June date, Fay and Cade (1959:115) found that nesting did not begin until mid-June at the western end of the island, and Sauer and Urban (1964:50) report an 11 June nest at Boxer Bay. A flock of Dunlins in mottled plumage was seen on North Pujuk Island on 12 July. I did not observe any Rock Sandpipers (*E. ptilocnemis*) on St. Lawrence Island. Fay and Cade (1959:114) report that the population of Rock Sandpipers fluctuates widely. Although it is quite possible that I overlooked them, certainly they were much less abundant than the Dunlin.

*Ereunetes mauri*. Western Sandpiper. This species was common at Northeast Cape. Between 16 June and 6 July many of these sandpipers initiated intense distraction displays when I approached; courtship behavior and territorial defense were also evident throughout this period. On 7 July the first flocking was observed, a small flock of less than 20 sandpipers that also contained four male Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*).

*Phalaropus fulicarius*. Red Phalarope. A group of three, possibly four, Red Phalaropes was observed on 5 June; there were at least two females and one male. This species was seen on only two other occasions, 7 and 8 June.

*Lobipes lobatus*. Northern Phalarope. A lone male was discovered on 25 June on a small tundra pool north of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. On 7 July four males were seen in a small flock of Western Sandpipers.

*Stercorarius longicaudus*. Long-tailed Jaeger. My observations suggest that this jaeger frequents the mesic tundra. On 31 May the first jaegers were observed; two were chasing several Ravens (*Corvus corax*). Courtship behavior was observed on 16 June, and later that day four jaegers were seen in an aerial chase. On 17 June a jaeger was observed flying from utility pole to utility pole, on each of which it would alight for a few minutes and apparently scan the tundra. Occasionally the bird would fly from its observation post, hover over an area for a few seconds, and then return to a utility pole. On 20 June a nest containing two eggs was discovered in mesic tundra on the northern slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. The incubating adult that I flushed from the nest made repeated dives at me while I examined the nest; its loud, harsh calls attracted several other jaegers to the vicinity. When I returned on 21 June, the eggs were gone.

*Larus hyperboreus*. Glaucous Gull. Gulls of this species were seen occasionally during the summer, and a few were seen at the cormorant colonies of North and South Pujuk Islands.

*Larus argentatus*. Herring Gull. This species was often seen from 7 May to 25 June in the tundra garbage dump. On 10 May there were two flocks of 80 and 120 birds each. By 31 May the large flocks had broken up, with lone gulls and groups of two or three birds becoming common. During and following the first week of June these gulls were seen less frequently near the dump, apparently having moved out to sea to feed. On 6 June they and Ivory Gulls (*Pagophila eburnea*) were attracted to an ice floe where the Eskimos had butchered walrus. None was seen after 25 June.

A dark-mantled race of Herring Gull (*L. a. vegae*) is known to occur regularly on St. Lawrence Island (Fay and Cade, 1959:120), and I assume that the birds seen by me were of this race.

The only other dark-mantled gull frequenting the Bering Sea region is the Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*), which has not been recorded from St. Lawrence Island.

*Pagophila eburnea*. Ivory Gull. On 6 June several Ivory Gulls were attracted to an ice floe east of Northeast Cape where the Eskimos had recently butchered three walrus.

*Rissa tridactyla*. Black-legged Kittiwake. This gull was observed frequently during the summer. On 10 July groups of up to 20 birds were constantly in sight north of Northeast Cape between 1730 and 2100. These groups were not far offshore and were flying westward. Small groups were also seen at sea on 12 July.

*Sterna paradisaea*. Arctic Tern. None was observed at sea on 6 June. On 25 June terns were found feeding along the northern coast. At the mouth of Tapisaghak River a small flock was feeding mostly in the sea; occasionally one or two terns flew upstream, where a "fish-flight" was observed.

*Uria* spp. Murres. My only positive record of *U. aalge* is of a bird seen a short distance from North Punuk Island on 12 July. On 6 June and 12 and 30 July large flocks of murres were observed at sea; on 6 June flocks consisting mainly of *U. lomvia* were seen at sea north of Northeast Cape. A few murres, possibly of either species, were observed standing on the rocky shore of North Punuk Island.

*Cephus columba*. Pigeon Guillemot. On 6 June a few were seen at sea, and on 12 July several were observed at North Punuk Island.

*Cyclorhynchus psittacula*. Parakeet Auklet. Paired auklets were seen along the low, rocky shore of North Punuk Island on 12 July. They were present on 30 July at South Punuk Island, and probably nest on both of these islands.

*Aethia cristatella*. Crested Auklet. Crested Auklets were often observed on the Bering Sea north of Northeast Cape on 6 June.

*Aethia pusilla*. Least Auklet. On 6 June this was the most numerous auklet observed on the Bering Sea. Throughout the day flocks containing from 30 to over 100 birds were continually within sight of the boat. On 30 July they were seen at South Punuk Island.

*Fratercula corniculata*. Horned Puffin. Lone individuals were occasionally found on the Bering Sea on 6 June.

*Lunda cirrhata*. Tufted Puffin. Many Tufted Puffins were on the Bering Sea north of Northeast Cape on 6 June, and it appeared that most were paired. East of Northeast Cape on that date flocks of over 50 birds each were seen. On 12 July this puffin was seen on all three Punuk Islands. Some no doubt nest on North and South Punuk Islands, but the large majority nest on Middle Punuk Island, where the edge of the turf is honeycombed with their nesting burrows. Eggs, one to a burrow, were found on 12 July on Middle Punuk Island. On North and South Punuk Islands these birds were found in the rocky areas where the Pelagic Cormorants nested.

*Nyctea scandiaca*. Snowy Owl. None was observed during the summer months, although I found a dead owl at Camp Kulowiye in July. On 6 and 19 November two were observed at Kitnagak Point, where they were perched alone on the highest hummocks along the coast.

*Corvus corax*. Raven. Ravens are resident at Northeast Cape. The garbage dumps attracted a flock of from 30 to 50. They fed in company with gulls. Ravens were also seen foraging along the coast and in the Eskimo village. During the summer they were often seen and heard on the upper slopes of the Kinipaghulhat Mountains where they probably nested. Adults molting their remiges were first noted on 19 June.

*Motacilla alba*. White Wagtail. On 12 and 19 July White Wagtails were seen in the area of the military base. A singing male was first seen on 12 July in the area of the military base; on 19 July two were seen feeding on insects on the ground around the buildings.

*Motacilla flava*. Yellow Wagtail. On 25 June a male in a courtship display near the military base was observed; similar behavior was noted in two pairs on 10 July near the tundra garbage dump. They were last seen on 15 July.

*Calcarius lapponicus*. Lapland Longspur. This was the most common passerine bird at Northeast Cape. My notes indicate that the birds probably arrived between 1130 on 31 May, when none was found, and 0300 on 1 June. This is over a week later than the 20 May arrival

date given by Fay and Cade (1959:130). Females were first noted on 4 June, and some appeared paired on that date. Males utilized utility poles and wires as well as tussocks for singing posts; throughout June males were also frequently seen in the characteristic flight song. On 5 July several females were found calling repeatedly with a single note from perches on tundra hummocks. On 25 June pairs were observed feeding among the pebbles along Northeast Cape's northern shore. A fledgling, as yet unable to fly well, was caught on 6 July. The longspur was usually found in mesic tundra, and inhabited the western slopes of the Kinipaghulghat Mountains up to approximately 170 meters. On 28 August small flocks (four to seven birds) in fall plumage were noted. My latest record is 12 September, when scattered flocks of up to 10 birds were observed.

*Plectrophenax nivalis*. Snow Bunting. Singing males were first heard on 6 May. After 15 May few buntings were seen at low elevations, but on 29 June many pairs were found at all altitudes in the Kinipaghulghat Mountains. After 5 July they became common again on the tundra. Between 2400 and 0100 on 30 September, during very foggy, cold weather with a strong north wind, a large number of birds was heard constantly calling from above one of the outdoor lights of the military base. Only one was clearly seen; it was a Snow Bunting, and all were probably of this species. They may have been attracted by the light during the foggy weather. Several were observed at North Punuk Island on 12 July.

#### SUMMARY

This report contains observations of 44 species of birds made at Northeast Cape, St. Lawrence Island, and on the Punuk Islands, Alaska, from 25 April 1964 to 20 January 1965. Included are discussions of the natural habitats and associated birds found at Northeast Cape, as well as the effect of several man-made changes upon the avifauna. The general features and bird life of the three Punuk Islands are described. Behavioral and ecological observations are given for some species. Included are the first indication that the Semipalmated Sandpiper nests on St. Lawrence Island, the first sight record of a Lesser Yellowlegs on St. Lawrence Island, the occurrence of adult Yellow Wagtails in probable breeding activities on St. Lawrence Island, and observations of a pair of Green-winged Teal on St. Lawrence Island.

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