

SEVENTY-FOUR NEW AVIAN TAXA DOCUMENTED IN ALASKA 1976-1991¹

DANIEL D. GIBSON AND BRINA KESSEL

University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775

Abstract. The occurrence in Alaska of 74 avian taxa was documented for the first time during 1976-1991, bringing the number of species known to have occurred in Alaska to 436. These added taxa include 20 species and eight subspecies documented for the first time in North America.

Key words: Bird distribution; avian taxa; Alaska.

INTRODUCTION

Continued interest in the biogeography of Alaska birds since Gabrielson and Lincoln's (1959) *Birds of Alaska* has rapidly increased our knowledge of bird taxa that have occurred in this large and geographically varied region at the northwestern extremity of the North American continent. In their benchmark book, Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) discussed 311 species that had been reported through June 1958. We updated the Alaska list through November 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), bringing the total to 381 species (enumerated according to AOU 1957 and supplements and Vaurie 1959, 1965). So many additional species have been recorded since then that we have prepared this addendum.

Several factors contribute to the variety and uniqueness of Alaska's avifauna, including Alaska's vast geographic extent both north-south and east-west, its varied physiography, its extensive marine contiguity, and its proximity to the region of the Bering Sea land bridge and the Old World (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Because of the remoteness of much of Alaska, its sheer enormity, and its sparse human population, knowledge of the avifauna is still far from comprehensive. Thus, while a comparatively large number of species has been recorded in Alaska, the addition of new species continues at a relatively rapid rate. The following addendum not only includes a number of newly reported accidentals and casuals, but it also illustrates the regularity of occurrences over time of species that were formerly considered only accidental, and it shows the currently changing status of some species.

In this paper we have included only taxa documented by specimen, photograph, or tape-recording, which materials, except as indicated in text, are on deposit at the University of Alaska Museum (UAM). In all, we discuss 74 taxa, including the first documented North American records of 20 species and eight subspecies of Old World birds. The Alaska list now includes 436 species, based on the systematics of the most recent AOU Check-List (1983 and supplements).

In the following accounts, nomenclature in the headings denotes whether the subject is a species or a subspecies. Terminology and conventions used in describing geographic regions, abundances, and authorities are those of Kessel and Gibson (1978). All in-hand identifications are by Gibson unless stated otherwise.

ANNOTATED LIST

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos Gmelin. American White Pelican. A lone American White Pelican observed by many on saltwater in Petersburg and vicinity from 2 May until the week of 13-17 July 1981 (Osborne 1982) is Alaska's only record of a pelican. Photos were published in the local newspaper (Petersburg Pilot 8[18]:1, 6 May 1981) and in *American Birds* (35:852, 1981). This monotypic species breeds nearest Alaska in southern interior British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990).

Fregata magnificens Mathews. Magnificent Frigatebird. A juvenile Magnificent Frigatebird seen at close range as it flew about a ship in Belkofski Bay, Alaska Peninsula, on 15 August 1985 (J. E. Low, photos) provided the first Alaska record of a frigatebird identified to species. Identification of the photos was confirmed by R. W. Schreiber and by P. Harrison. In the eastern North Pacific, *F. m. rothschildi* Mathews breeds no far-

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ther north than Baja California Sur (AOU 1957), but it wanders much farther north (e.g., Langara Island, British Columbia, August 1981, Campbell et al. 1990). Unidentified frigatebirds have been reported at intervals in the northern Gulf of Alaska (at sea, July 1957 and September 1969, Isleib and Kessel 1973; in Montague Strait, Prince William Sound, 26–27 June 1984, C. Kirner; and in Chiniak Bay, Kodiak Island, 27 June 1984, J. and D. Brigham).

Ixobrychus sinensis (Gmelin). Yellow Bittern. A Yellow Bittern observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutian Islands, 17–22 May 1989 is the only Alaska record of this eastern Palearctic heron (UAM 5611, female). This monotypic species breeds as far north and east as northern Japan and the southern Kurile Islands (Vaurie 1965).

Casmerodius albus (Linnaeus). Great Egret. Alaska's first record of a Great Egret was a bird near Juneau on 22 June 1980 (F. A. Glass and R. H. Armstrong, photos). Another was reported at Cordova on 14 May 1984 (J. L. Trapp). Subsequently, single birds were observed at Glacier Bay from 19 May through 3 July 1987 (B. B. Paige) and at Kodiak Island from 19 May through early July 1987 (R. A. MacIntosh, J. B. Allen, and D. W. Menke, photos). The likely subspecies, New World *C. a. egretta* (Gmelin), breeds no closer to Alaska than Washington; it is a very rare visitant in southern British Columbia and is accidental in the Queen Charlotte Islands (Campbell et al. 1990). Both Palearctic races, widespread *C. a. albus* and eastern *C. a. modestus* (Gray), occur as far east as Japan, the former as a visitant and the latter as a breeder (Vaurie 1965).

Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus). Cattle Egret. The first Alaska record of the Cattle Egret comprised four birds in the Ketchikan area in November 1981 (Gibson and Hogg 1982). Two birds (UAM 4165–4166) were found dead, one of which had been banded in California as a nestling in June 1981. Since 1981 Cattle Egrets have occurred in southeastern Alaska in three years: single birds in November 1984 at Ketchikan (R. E. Wood and C. Smith), Sitka (C. H. Johnstone), and Peril Strait (L. J. Johnson); one in December 1986 at Sitka (K. Hanson, photo); and one in December 1989 at Ketchikan (R. E. Wood). The Ketchikan specimens are nominate *ibis*, the Cattle Egret that has colonized North America over the last 50 years (AOU 1957, 1983); it is a scarce late-fall and winter visitant on the British Columbia coast,

where known as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands (Campbell et al. 1990).

At a different extremity of the state and at another season—in Southwestern Alaska and in early summer—the carcass of a breeding-plumaged Cattle Egret was salvaged at Agattu Island, Aleutians, on 19 June 1988 (B. Seppi and E. V. Klett). The specimen (UAM 5553, female) was identified as Asiatic *B. i. coromanda* (Boddaert) by the cinnamon-colored ornamental feathering over the entire head (including cheek, chin, and throat) and on foreneck, breast, and back and by its large size (diagonal tarsus 91.4 mm). In a distribution wholly disjunct from that of nominate *ibis*, *B. i. coromanda* breeds in southern and southeastern Asia (Vaurie 1965, Cramp and Simmons 1977), as far east and north as central Japan (Brazil 1991).

Butorides striatus (Linnaeus). Green-backed Heron. A Green-backed Heron stalking about a small pond near Juneau on 29 May 1983 (L. L. Hawkins, photos) provided Alaska's first record. Western Nearctic *B. s. anthonyi* (Mearns) breeds as close to Alaska as southwestern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus). Black-crowned Night-Heron. Like the Cattle Egret, the Black-crowned Night-Heron has reached Alaska from two different populations. The only documented records are an adult observed at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 20 April 1986 (G. F. Wagner, photos) and a flock of up to eight birds observed at Juneau 17 May–4 July 1987 (M. E. Isleib and others, photos). Three other Bering Sea reports, all of adults, include one at Atka Island, Aleutians, on 28 April 1975 (fide A. W. White); one at St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, on 3 April 1979 (N. Stepetin); and one at Shemya Island, Aleutians, on 25 April 1981 (T. G. Tobish and G. B. Rosenband). The Juneau record is the only Alaska report from east of the Bering Sea.

The Palearctic subspecies, nominate *nycticorax*, breeds as far east as central Japan (Brazil 1991) and is presumably the form taken once in the Commander Islands (female, 27 May 1960, Marakov 1962). North American *N. n. hoactli* (Gmelin) is a rare local breeder and summer and winter visitant in southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986, Campbell et al. 1990). The latter subspecies was recognized by the AOU (1957), but was submergered in nominate *nycticorax* by Payne (1979).

Mergus merganser merganser Linnaeus. Com-

mon Merganser. The first Alaska record of the widespread Palearctic subspecies of the Common Merganser included two adult males (UAM 3438, 3546) taken at Shemya Island, Aleutians, in May 1976 and reported by Byrd et al. (1978) and by Gibson (1981), who described this form as a rare, annual spring migrant in the western Aleutians. An adult male (F. H. Fay, photos) was found dead at Punuk Islands, St. Lawrence Island, on 29 June 1979 (Kessel 1989).

Cathartes aura (Linnaeus). Turkey Vulture. A Turkey Vulture observed perched and in flight near Delta Junction on 9–10 May 1979 (B. Kessel, photos) provided the first documented record of a vulture in Alaska. There have been several other reports subsequently of lone birds, each seen briefly in flight, from Cordova and Dillingham to the Tanana, Porcupine, and Yukon river valleys, May–September, and most or all of them might well have been accurate identifications. The northwestern subspecies, *C. a. teter* Friedmann, breeds as far north as central Alberta and southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Falco tinnunculus Linnaeus. Eurasian Kestrel. The first Alaska record of Eurasian Kestrel comprised two birds at Shemya Island, Aleutians, in September and October 1978, including a specimen (UAM 3683) identified as *F. t. interstinctus* Horsfield, the easternmost race of this widespread Old World falcon (Gibson 1981). Additional records include sightings of a male at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 4 and 7 May 1981 (T. G. Tobish and others); a female aboard an oil-drilling platform in the Navarin Basin, 175 km west-southwest of St. Matthew Island, 12–14 September 1983 (T. S. Sterrett, photo); a female at Attu on 17 October 1983 (P. W. Sykes and G. F. Wagner); a male at Attu on 3–4 June 1984 (T. G. Tobish and others); and a female aboard a ship in the vicinity of 57°11'N 165°40'W, Bering Sea, 4–7 October 1991 (W. Hayes, photo).

Falco subbuteo Linnaeus. Northern Hobby. The first Alaska record of Northern Hobby was a sighting of one that came aboard ship 32 km northeast of Attu Island, Aleutians, on 2 July 1982 (R. A. Rowlett). The following year, one was seen ashore at Attu on 20 May 1983 (T. G. Tobish and N. S. Proctor and others); two were reported aboard fishing vessels 160 km southwest of Agattu Island, Aleutians, on 19 June 1983 (fide R. A. Rowlett); and one was observed aboard a fishing vessel 150 km north of Attu on 25 June 1983 (R. A. Rowlett, photos *Am. Birds* 37:1018, 1983). One at St. George Island, Pribilofs, on 15

August 1984 (J. M. Wright and others, photos) is the only subsequent documented sighting.

A primary remex and three rectrices collected in an abandoned building at Attu in May 1987 (T. G. Tobish) and identified by R. C. Laybourne as those of a “young” Northern Hobby constitute the only specimen evidence of this species’ occurrence in Alaska (UAM 5647). Nominate *subbuteo* is the form of the entire range of this widespread Palearctic bird, except for parts of China; it breeds as far east as the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk and Kamchatka (Vaurie 1965).

Rallus limicola Vieillot. Virginia Rail. The deteriorating carcass of a Virginia Rail salvaged at Prince of Wales Island on 17 February 1986 (T. Pulliam and T. E. Kogut) is the only Alaska record of the species (UAM 5292). The North American subspecies, nominate *limicola*, breeds as far west and north as southern British Columbia and Alberta (AOU 1957). It winters in small numbers in southern British Columbia, and there is a December record as far north as Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Islands (Campbell et al. 1990).

Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus. Snowy Plover. A Snowy Plover observed by many at the Nome River mouth, Seward Peninsula, on 23–24 May 1991 provided the first Alaska record (B. J. Rose, photos). The photos suggest the North American race, *C. a. nivosus* (Cassin) [including *C. a. tenuirostris* (Lawrence)], which breeds on the Pacific coast from Washington to Baja California Sur (Hayman et al. 1986, Page et al. 1991). It has been recorded eight times in coastal British Columbia, where accidental as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands (Campbell et al. 1990). Eastern Palearctic *C. a. dealbatus* (Swinhoe) breeds in eastern China and Japan (Vaurie 1965).

Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus). Black-winged Stilt. The only Alaska record of a Black-winged Stilt is one observed at Nizki Island, Aleutians, 24 May–3 June 1983 (Zeilemaker et al. 1985, including photo). Nominate *himantopus* is a rare annual migrant and a local breeder in Japan (Brazil 1991). There is no other North American record of this widespread Old World relative of the Black-necked Stilt *H. mexicanus*.

Recurvirostra americana Gmelin. American Avocet. The sole Alaska record of the American Avocet is one observed at Valdez 12–18 May 1981 (J. Perkins, S. and T. Richardson, M. L. and R. P. Ward, photos). This monotypic species breeds as far northwest as southeastern British Columbia and central Alberta (Godfrey 1986).

Glareola maldivarum Forster. Oriental Pratincole. An Oriental Pratincole observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 19–20 May 1985 was the first New World record of a member of the family Glareolidae (UAM 5237, male). The only additional Alaska record is one observed by many at St. Lawrence Island the following spring, on 5 June 1986 (J. L. Dunn, photos). This monotypic species breeds in the central-eastern Palearctic in Transbaikalia, Outer Mongolia, Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, perhaps in China, and in the Philippines (Vaurie 1965). It breeds locally in Japan, where it occurs widely as an irregular migrant in small numbers (Brazil 1991).

Tringa ochropus Linnaeus. Green Sandpiper. The first Alaska sightings of Green Sandpipers were lone birds at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 13 June 1978 and 22 May 1979 (King et al. 1980). Subsequent records include single birds at St. Lawrence Island on 5–7 June 1982 (J. L. Dunn and others); at Nizki Island, Aleutians, on 24 May 1983 (C. F. Zeillemaker and others); at Shemya Island, Aleutians, 29 May–1 June 1983 (D. W. Sonneborn, photos); and at Attu 16–19 August 1983 by many (G. F. Wagner, photo). A monotypic species, it breeds across the northern Palearctic to Amurland (Vaurie 1965). It is known on Sakhalin, in the Kurile Islands, and as a transient in Japan (Ornithological Society of Japan 1974), where uncommon (Brazil 1991).

Numenius minutus Gould. Little Curlew. A Little Curlew observed by many at St. Lawrence Island on 7–8 June 1989 provided the first Alaska record of this monotypic Asiatic species (UAM 5617, adult female). The only other New World records are single birds seen in California in 1984 (Lehman and Dunn 1985) and in 1988 (fide J. L. Dunn). This curlew's breeding range lies in eastern Siberia (Verkhoyansk and Cherski ranges), as far east as Amurland and the Stanovoi Range (Vaurie 1965, Labutin et al. 1982), but not northeasternmost Asia. It is a rare spring and fall migrant in Japan (Brazil 1991) and winters in eastern Indonesia, from the Moluccas to New Guinea, and in Australia (Vaurie 1965).

Calidris minuta (Leisler). Little Stint. The Little Stint has a complicated if recent history in Alaska. The species was first recognized here in 1976, when one was observed and photographed at Point Barrow (Myers and Greenberg 1978), but the first Alaska specimens, it has developed, antedate that record.

An immature male taken at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, on 6 September 1961 (USNM 476187,

W.J.L. Sladen) and identified by R. C. Laybourne provided the first Alaska record. Thereafter but still before 1976, two immature *Calidris* collected at Buldir Island, Aleutians, on 13 and 18 August 1975 (UAM 3422–3423) and reported as *C. ruficollis* (Byrd et al. 1978) were identified in 1981 as *C. minuta* (Byrd and Day 1986). Thus three Alaska specimens of this bird antedate one taken in Canada in 1979 and published as the first North American specimen (Morrison 1980).

There are three subsequent Alaska specimens (UAM 3753, adult male, St. Lawrence Island, 8 June 1980, V. K. Slwooko; UAM 3762, adult female, Barrow, 23 June 1980, G. E. Hall; and UAM 4132, immature male, St. George Island, Pribilofs, 24 August 1981, B. E. Lawhead), and there have been numerous recent sight records: an immature at St. Paul 20–21 August 1981 (E. B. Rhode, photos); one with *C. ruficollis* at Shemya Island, Aleutians, 31 May–1 June 1983 (D. W. Sonneborn, photos); two or three immatures at Attu Island, Aleutians, 5–10 September 1983 (T. G. Tobish and others, photo West. Birds 17[2]: cover, 1986); one at St. Lawrence on 31 May 1984 (J. L. Dunn and others); single immatures at St. George on 10, 14, and 15 August 1986 (G. V. Byrd and D. E. Dragoo) and at St. Paul on 11, 18, and 24–25 August 1986 (I. L. Jones and G. V. Byrd); one or two immatures at St. Matthew Island on 16, 18, and 21 August 1986 (P. D. Martin); one at Shemya on 22 May 1987 (D. W. Sonneborn, photos); one at St. Lawrence on 10 June 1987 (S. Komito, photos); one at St. Lawrence 31 May–2 June 1988 (N. B. Broadbooks and G. H. Rosenberg, photos); one at St. Paul on 19 May 1989 (I. L. Jones and R. A. Sundstrom); one immature with immature *C. ruficollis* at St. Paul 25–27 August 1989 (D. Beadle and others); an immature at Buldir on 28 August 1989 (G. V. Byrd and H. Douglas); and one with *C. ruficollis* at Attu 22–26 May 1991 (M. E. Isleib and M. Toochin and others).

Although this species has not been regarded as a bird of eastern Asia by most non-Russian authorities (Vaurie 1965, Cramp 1983, Hayman et al. 1986), it was collected on the Chukotsk Peninsula—the easternmost extremity of the Palearctic—as long ago as 1934 (Portenko 1972), and in the 1970s it was found breeding there (Krechmar et al. 1978, Tomkovich and Sorokin 1983). In Japan it has been recognized as an “accidental amongst Red-necked Stints” since 1980 (Brazil 1991).

Calidris maritima (Brünnich). Purple Sand-

pipper. A lone *Arquatella* sandpiper collected at Point Barrow on 29 September 1990 (R. S. Suydam) proved to be the first Alaska record of a Purple Sandpiper (UAM 5720, immature female). Still in first-autumn plumage, the specimen was identified, in comparison with similar-age series of both *C. maritima* and Rock Sandpiper *C. ptilocnemis*, by a combination of size (wing chord 130 mm), coloration (absence of beige wash on lower throat, no chestnut tones above), and less prominent wing-stripe. The western limits in the Canadian arctic archipelago of *maritima*'s high-arctic breeding range are unknown, but birds have been seen in summer as far west as Banks and Prince Patrick islands, Franklin District, Northwest Territories (Godfrey, 1986). These westernmost islands in the archipelago lie less than 1,100 km northeast and 900 km east of Point Barrow. There is no Northern Alaska record of Rock Sandpiper.

Gallinago stenura (Bonaparte). Pin-tailed Snipe. A *Gallinago* snipe observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 25 May 1991 was clearly not (by plumage, voice, and behavior) a Common Snipe *G. g. gallinago*, the only snipe that occurs regularly in the western Aleutians. In hand, the bird's seven pairs of 1.5 mm-wide outer rectrices readily identified it as a Pin-tailed Snipe, the first from Alaska (UAM 5820, female). This widespread, monotypic, eastern Palearctic species breeds in much of Siberia, east to western Anadyrland and the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk (Vaurie 1965). Because of field-identification difficulties in this genus, *G. stenura* "is best considered a rare migrant . . ." in Japan (Brazil 1991). It has been taken once in the Hawaiian Islands (Clapp and Woodward 1968), but there is apparently no record in the Commander Islands.

Larus heermanni Cassin. Heermann's Gull. A juvenile Heermann's Gull was observed with Mew and California gulls at Ketchikan on 22 August 1991 (S. C. Heinl, photos), providing Alaska's first record of this monotypic species. It breeds on the Pacific coast of Mexico and occurs annually as far north as southern British Columbia (AOU 1983), where it is an abundant summer and fall visitant about southern Vancouver Island (Campbell et al. 1990).

Larus crassirostris Vieillot. Black-tailed Gull. The first Alaska sighting of a Black-tailed Gull was an adult at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 29 May 1980 (D. D. Gibson and others). Another was seen about 240 km south of Amchitka Is-

land, Aleutians, on 6 June 1982 (R. A. Rowlett). The first documented record was an adult observed by many at St. Lawrence Island, 2–9 June 1988 (J. L. Dunn, B. J. Rose, and G. H. Rosenberg, photos), and the most recent was an adult observed just off Buldir Island, Aleutians, on 19 June 1991 (G. V. Byrd, photos). This monotypic, eastern Asiatic species breeds as far north and east as northern Japan and the southern Kurile Islands (Vaurie 1965).

Larus canus kamtschatschensis (Bonaparte). Mew Gull. The first Alaska record of the Siberian subspecies of the Mew Gull was a specimen (UAM 3444) collected at Shemya Island, Aleutians, on 16 May 1976 (Byrd et al. 1978); this form was subsequently described as a rare spring migrant in the western Aleutians (Gibson 1981). A second specimen was taken at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 15 May 1991 (UAM 5818, adult female). This bird breeds in Siberia as far east as Anadyrland, Kamchatka, and the Kurile Islands (Vaurie 1965), and there are May, June, and September specimens from the Commander Islands (Hartert 1920).

Larus fuscus Linnaeus. Lesser Black-backed Gull. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull observed with other gulls at Juneau 16–19 September 1990 (M. E. Isleib and R. L. Scher) provided Alaska's first certain record of this European species (UAM 5708, female). The specimen was identified as *L. f. graellsii* Brehm by R. C. Banks and M. R. Browning. This subspecies breeds in Iceland, Britain, Ireland, France, and northwestern Spain (Cramp 1983). The Juneau bird seems to be the only North American specimen taken west of Louisiana (Post and Lewis, in press). Photos of an adult gull at Kodiak Island on 16 August 1991 (R. A. MacIntosh) resemble the Juneau specimen.

Although we regard the Juneau bird as the first entirely acceptable Alaska record, the species has a history in the Alaska ornithological literature. A first-winter gull (Denver Museum of Natural History 9786) taken at Icy Cape in northwestern Alaska on 16 September 1921 was identified as *L. f. taimyrensis* Buturlin (Bailey 1948). Because species limits are not clear in the group that includes *Larus fuscus* and the Herring Gull *L. argentatus*, however, whether to include *taimyrensis* in *L. fuscus* or in *L. argentatus* is problematic (e.g., see Dementiev and Gladkov 1951, Vaurie 1965, Cramp 1983). The enigmatic interrelationships of numerous *Larus* gulls constitute "one

of the most complicated problems in ornithological systematics today" (AOU 1983:218).

Sterna caspia Pallas. Caspian Tern. A recent invader from lower latitudes via the eastern North Pacific coast (see Gill and Mewaldt 1983), Caspian Tern was added to the Alaska list in summer 1981, when up to four birds were seen at Ketchikan 2–4 June (F. A. Glass; R. E. Wood) and two were seen in Sitka on 7 July (A. L. Sows and J. W. Nelson). Since then the species has occurred annually in Southeastern and Southcoastal Alaska, arriving in May–June and departing in August–September, in groups of up to 80 (Cordova, September 1989, M. E. Isleib). Adults feeding begging, flying juveniles (M. E. Isleib; P. G. Mickelson) point to probable breeding on the western Copper River Delta.

Beyond Prince William Sound, Caspian Terns are now casual summer visitants as far west as Anchorage (two, 15 July 1983, J. L. Trapp; two, 2 July 1985, D. W. Sonneborn, photos) and Homer (two, 10 July 1982, R. L. Scher, photos; two, 21 July 1987, E. Smith; one, 17 August 1987, D. A. Holway) and in eastern Central Alaska, where there have been two sightings on the upper Yukon River (one, near mouth of Charley River, 16 July 1984, R. R. Moldenhauer and others, photos; two, 16 km upriver from Circle, 16 July 1985, R. E. Ambrose).

Two summer adults taken from a flock of 33 Caspian Terns at Cordova on 6 August 1987 (M. E. Isleib) provided the first Alaska specimens (UAM 5394–5395, both females). The second bird had been banded as a flightless juvenal near Westport, Washington, on 2 June 1979. During the 1960s this species became a regular summer visitant in southern coastal British Columbia, where it is now fairly common to locally very common and a local breeder (Campbell et al. 1990).

Brachyramphus marmoratus perdix (Pallas). Marbled Murrelet. Remains of a Marbled Murrelet found in the Alaska Range, south of Healy, on 27 August 1983 (Sealy et al. 1991) constituted the first Alaska record of the Asiatic race (UAM 5302). The range of *B. m. perdix* includes the Sea of Okhotsk and the east coast of Kamchatka (Vaurie 1965), and there is one specimen from the Commander Islands (Hartert 1920). Other North American records—all similarly enigmatic, inland occurrences—were also discussed by Sealy et al. (1991).

Streptopelia orientalis (Latham). Oriental

Turtle-Dove. An Oriental Turtle-Dove observed by many at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, 23 June–18 July 1984 (W. E. Rodstrom, photos) provided the first documented Alaska record of this eastern Palearctic species. Another was observed in the Bering Sea aboard a ship ("... usually within 50 mi [80 km] of the Pribilofs . . .") 20–26 July 1986 (S. G. Speckman, photos), and one was observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, from 20 May through 12 June 1989 (D. A. Guthrie and S. Komito, photos; photo *Birding* 23:192, 1991). The eastern Siberian race, nominate *orientalis*, breeds east to Sakhalin, Japan, and the Kuriles; its northern populations are migratory (Vaurie 1965).

Zenaida asiatica (Linnaeus). White-winged Dove. A White-winged Dove captured weak but alive in Skagway in October 1981 (M. Bell) is the only Alaska record (UAM 4207, male). The specimen was identified as poorly differentiated *Z. a. mearnsi* (Ridgway) by R. C. Banks. This bird of the southwestern U.S.A. and western and southcentral Mexico breeds no farther north than southern Nevada and southeastern California (AOU 1957). It is accidental in coastal Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia (Roberson 1980).

Coccyzus americanus (Linnaeus). Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo killed by a cat and salvaged near Ketchikan on 18 August 1991 (S. L. Norton) is the only Alaska record (UAM 5932, adult female). This monotypic species (Banks 1988) used to be an uncommon summer visitant as far north as southernmost British Columbia, where there has been only one record since 1927 (Campbell et al. 1990).

Strix varia Barton. Barred Owl. The Barred Owl was first recorded in Alaska in 1977, in the Juneau area (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Since then records have proliferated in southeastern Alaska, where it has come to be recorded annually in small numbers and where it has bred from Skagway (M. Hopey and others) to Ketchikan (R. E. Wood; J. L. Canterbury). Four salvaged birds are examples of nominate *varia*, the widespread northern race (UAM 3701, immature male, Juneau, 26 August 1978, R. H. Armstrong and M. Bethers; UAM 5508, male Mitkof Island, week ending 9 January 1988, J. Eddy; UAM 5654, immature female, Juneau, 19 September 1989, D. Elsensohn; and UAM 5839, female, Herbert River at Windfall Creek, 13 June 1990, via Alaska Dept. Fish & Game).

This species has been known in British Columbia since 1943, when it was discovered in the northeastern part of the province, at Liard River. Its range expansion there has been south and west to the coast, and it is now regarded as rare to uncommon throughout British Columbia and a widespread breeder (Campbell et al. 1990).

Chordeiles acutipennis (Hermann). Lesser Nighthawk. A nighthawk was found dead, an apparent window kill, at Sheshalik, Noatak River mouth, on 16 August 1985 and the remains were salvaged (W. R. Uhl). The specimen (UAM 5666) was identified by R. W. Dickerman as a Lesser Nighthawk *C. a. texensis* Lawrence. Breeding no farther north than central interior California, southern Nevada, and extreme southwestern Utah (AOU 1957), *texensis* is the northernmost race of this widespread Neotropical nighthawk, and its occurrence north of the Arctic Circle is unique.

Chaetura pelagica (Linnaeus). Chimney Swift. A *Chaetura* swift found moribund in a building at St. George Island, Pribilofs, on 16 June 1981 (A. J. Mercurief) proved to be a Chimney Swift (UAM 4125, male, wing flat 131.5 mm), the only Alaska record. This monotypic bird breeds in eastern North America, north and west to southern Manitoba and central Saskatchewan, south and west to eastern New Mexico (AOU 1983). In addition, it is a rare but regular summer visitant in coastal southern California, where it has nested (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

Calypte costae (Bourcier). Costa's Hummingbird. An adult male Costa's Hummingbird observed by many at an Anchorage sugar-water feeder from about 23 July until 17 October 1989 (R. L. Scher, photos) provides the only Alaska record of this species. This desert bird, which breeds from central California to Sonora and Baja California Sur (AOU 1983), is known recently as a casual visitant far north of this range (Roberson 1980, Campbell et al. 1990), culminating, to date, in the Anchorage record.

Sphyrapicus varius (Linnaeus). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Almost all Alaska records of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are sightings in the upper Tanana River drainage, in the eastern interior, from the vicinity of Northway Junction, where they have nested (photos), to the Canada boundary at Scottie Creek (Kessel 1986). On the Yukon River, at least one bird was seen at Eagle on 18 and 25 May 1985 (R. R. Moldenhauer). The only record elsewhere in Alaska is one observed on

the Wooded Islands, off Montague Island, Prince William Sound, on 9 June 1977 (Kessel 1986). Nominate *varius* breeds in southern Yukon Territory, northern British Columbia, and southwestern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories (Godfrey 1986).

Dendrocopos major (Linnaeus). Great Spotted Woodpecker. The only Alaska record of the Great Spotted Woodpecker is one collected at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 27 April 1986 (Wagner 1989). The specimen (UAM 5337) is *D. m. kamtschaticus* (Dybowski), the easternmost race of this widespread Eurasian woodpecker (Vaurie 1965). There are three specimens of this form from the Commander Islands (Hartert 1920).

Empidonax traillii (Audubon). Willow Flycatcher. A singing male Willow Flycatcher collected near Hyder on 13 June 1986 (UAM 5322, D. D. Gibson) and another 'fitz-bew' singer observed near Juneau on 4 July 1986 (M. W. Schwan) were the first Alaska records of this species. A singing male at 670 m above Anchorage 16–24 July 1988 (D. W. Sonneborn and others) provided the second Alaska specimen (UAM 5528). Since 1988 there have been three additional reports of 'fitz-bew' singers: one at Sergief Island, Stikine River mouth, on 21 June 1989 (P. J. Walsh and J. L. Dunn); one at "Curlew Lake," northeast of St. Marys, lower Yukon River, also on 21 June 1989 (B. J. McCaffery); and one at Texas Creek near Hyder on 23 and 25 June 1990 (S. O. MacDonald). Both specimens are western *E. t. brewsteri* Oberholser, which breeds as far north as southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1966).

Empidonax minimus (Baird and Baird). Least Flycatcher. The first Alaska report of a Least Flycatcher was a singing male near Juneau on 18 June 1969 (R. J. Gordon). Thirteen years later, a male that held a song territory at Anchorage 14–23 June 1982 (R. L. Scher and others) provided the first Alaska specimen (UAM 4225). The next record was a singing bird identified at Glennallen on 18 June 1983 (F. J. Broerman). In 1986, the species was first recorded in the Interior (singing male, 4–5 June, K. L. Wilson and others; another, 22–26 June, B. A. Cooper and others [UAM 5335], both Fairbanks), and it was found again in southern Central Alaska (two singing males, Kenney Lake, 21 June–5 July, R. L. Scher and others) and on the Southeastern mainland (two singing males, Hyder, 10–17 June, D. D. Gibson and S. R. Johnson [UAM 5326];

singing male, near Skagway, 15 June, P. D. Martin).

Records since 1986 include singing males found regularly at Hyder (one, 9 June 1987, M. E. Isleib; three, 31 May 1988, D. R. Herter; one, 18–19 June 1989, R. L. Scher; one, 26 June 1990, M. W. Schwan; one, 14–18 June 1991, R. L. Scher and others) and singing males reported at Mosquito Lake near Haines (one, 24 May 1988, R. C. Bradley and G. Bauer), at Delta Junction (one, 16 June 1989, J. D. Walters), and at Fairbanks (one, 19–20 June 1987, B. A. Cooper and others; one, 11–12 June 1991, D. D. Gibson and R. W. Dickerman). An *Empidonax* collected at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 23 September 1988 (M. E. Isleib) proved to be this species (UAM 5550, immature female), the only fall record. This monotypic species breeds as far north and west as southwestern Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Sayornis phoebe (Latham). Eastern Phoebe. An Eastern Phoebe holding a song territory about an abandoned building at Camden Bay, North Slope, 29 June–6 July 1990 (P. D. Martin and M. D. Hanneman, photos; tape-recording on file at Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University) provided the first Alaska record of this monotypic species. It breeds north and west as far as the middle Mackenzie River valley, in central-western Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories (Godfrey 1986).

Myiarchus crinitus (Linnaeus). Great Crested Flycatcher. A *Myiarchus* flycatcher collected at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 29 September 1990 (UAM 5710, M. E. Isleib) was confirmed to be a Great Crested Flycatcher by R. C. Banks and M. R. Browning. The widespread northern subspecies, *M. c. boreus* Bangs, breeds as far north and west as east-central Alberta. The timing parallels that on the California coast, where this species is a very rare fall visitant (DeSante and Ainley 1980, Roberson 1980).

Corvus brachyrhynchos Brehm. American Crow. Crows in and near the town of Hyder, numbering perhaps 70 birds, were identified in June 1986 as American Crows (D. D. Gibson and S. R. Johnson)—as distinct from Northwestern Crow *C. caurinus* Baird. Two adult females (UAM 5327–5328) were collected on 17 and 19 June 1986. Additional specimens were collected on 9 June 1987 (M. E. Isleib): three adult males (UAM 5373, 5379, 5380) and a just-fledged male (UAM 5398), which documented

local breeding. The specimens are *C. b. hesperis* Ridgway, which has long been known to breed as far north and west as adjacent north-central interior British Columbia (Brooks and Swarth 1925).

Locustella lanceolata (Temminck). Lanceolated Warbler. At least 25 Lanceolated Warblers were present at Attu Island, Aleutians, 4 June–15 July 1984, when one specimen (UAM 5005) was collected (Tobish 1985). There is no other Alaska record of this monotypic, eastern Palearctic species, which breeds as far north and east as Kamchatka, the Kurile Islands, and northern Japan (Vaurie 1959).

Phylloscopus sibilatrix (Bechstein). Wood Warbler. A *Phylloscopus* warbler (UAM 3695) collected at Shemya Island, Aleutians, on 9 October 1978 proved to be a Wood Warbler (Gibson 1981). This monotypic species breeds in Europe and westernmost Asia and winters in tropical Africa (Vaurie 1959). A bird on Hegura Island, Japan, on 8 October 1984 (Brazil 1991) seems to be the only record in eastern Asia. The Shemya bird provides the only New World record.

*Phylloscopus fuscatu*s (Blyth). Dusky Warbler. The first Alaska sighting of a Dusky Warbler was one at St. Lawrence Island on 6 June 1977 (King et al. 1978). One of two (UAM 3690) observed at Shemya Island, Aleutians, 18–23 September 1978 provided the first Alaska specimen (Gibson 1981). Subsequently, one was collected aboard ship in the central Bering Sea (at 57°04'N 179°37'W) on 31 May 1983 (UAM 4864, male, R. H. Day and D. J. Forsell); one was studied by many at St. Lawrence Island on 5–6 June 1983 (B. Maxwell, photos); one was observed at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 21 September 1983 (T. G. Tobish and others); and one was observed at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, on 12–13 June 1987 (I. L. Jones and R. A. Sundstrom). Both specimens are nominate *fuscatus*, the widespread Siberian subspecies of this Asiatic bird. It breeds as far northeast as the Anadyr Basin and the Sea of Okhotsk (Vaurie 1959).

Ficedula narcissina (Temminck). Narcissus Flycatcher. A male Narcissus Flycatcher observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 20–21 May 1989 provides the only Alaska record of the species (UAM 5610, subadult male). The specimen is *F. n. narcissina*, the northern form of this eastern Palearctic flycatcher, which breeds as far north and east as Sakhalin and northern Japan (Vaurie 1959).

Muscicapa latirostris Raffles. Asian Brown Flycatcher. An Asian Brown Flycatcher observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 25 May 1985 is the only Alaska record of the species (UAM 5245, female). This monotypic, eastern Palearctic bird breeds as far east as Sakhalin, Japan, and the Kurile Islands (Vaurie 1959). See Phillips (1991) for use of *M. latirostris* Raffles instead of *M. dauurica* Pallas for this taxon.

Eriothacus cyane (Pallas). Siberian Blue Robin. An active, nondescript chat observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 21 May 1985 proved to be a Siberian Blue Robin (UAM 5238, 1st-spring female), another first Alaska record. We were unable to assemble an adequate series of this species for certain subspecific identification. The eastern race, *E. c. bochaiensis* (Shulpin), breeds in Amurland, Ussuriland, Sakhalin, and Japan (Vaurie 1959).

Tarsiger cyanurus (Pallas). Red-flanked Blue-tail. The first Alaska record of Red-flanked Blue-tail was a female-plumaged bird observed at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 5 June 1982 (T. G. Tobish and others, photos). A bird seen at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, on 10 June 1987 (G. V. Byrd and others) provided the first Alaska specimen (UAM 5386, female). One at Attu on 22–23 May 1988 (UAM 5464, 1st-spring male) was the first of four similarly-plumaged birds seen there by many 22 May–6 June 1988. Subspecies are based on differences in adult males, so the two Alaska specimens cannot be assigned to race (Phillips 1991). Nominate *cyanurus* is the widespread northern and eastern bird, which breeds from northwestern Russia and the western Urals to Amurland, Kamchatka, the Kurile Islands, and Japan (Vaurie 1959). The species was regarded by Johansen (1961) as a “regular straggler” in the Commander Islands, where specimens have been collected 21 May–4 June (Hartert 1920).

Saxicola torquata (Linnaeus). Stonechat. A male Stonechat identified at St. Lawrence Island on 6 June 1978 (A. H. Rider) was the first Alaska report of this widespread Palearctic species. Another male was observed there by many on 5 June 1985 (W. S. Davidson, photo Am. Birds 39:340, 1985). Two years later, Osborne and Osborne (1987) discussed the extraordinary circumstances of the discovery of the first Alaska specimen—an immature bird, which doubtless had died the previous autumn, found frozen in one of many Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* burrows at Galena, on the Yukon River, on 19 April 1986 by a young schoolgirl; the specimen (UAM

5301) proved to be Asiatic *S. t. stejnegeri* (Parrot). A Stonechat collected at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 28 September 1990 (M. E. Isleib) is also that subspecies (UAM 5709, male). The northeasternmost race, *stejnegeri* breeds as far east as Sakhalin, northern Japan, and the Kurile Islands (Vaurie 1959).

Catharus fuscescens (Stephens). Veery. A singing Veery identified at Hyder on 22 June 1990 (J. C. Haney) was the first Alaska report of this species. One was heard singing near Hyder on 29 May 1991 (S. C. Heint), and a singing bird was tape-recorded at that location on 14 June 1991 (T. G. Tobish and others, tape on file at Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University). Five singing Veeries were heard in the vicinity of adjacent Stewart, British Columbia, on 17 June 1991 (R. L. Scher and others). The northwesternmost race, *C. f. salicicola* (Ridgway), is known to breed as far north as southern interior British Columbia (Phillips 1991).

Mimus polyglottos (Linnaeus). Northern Mockingbird. The first Alaska sighting of a mockingbird was one at Marble Island, off Prince of Wales Island, on 20 July 1952 (Brown 1953). Thirty years later, the next was one observed at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, 8–16 September 1982 (T. G. Tobish and others). One was observed at Juneau 30 June–13 July 1984 (M. W. Schwan and others, photo); and a mockingbird observed at Fairbanks on 2 October 1986 (J. L. Sease and others), a bird that was moving through on a cold front advancing from the northwest, provided the first Alaska specimen (UAM 5354, adult female). Most recently, a mockingbird was seen again at Middleton on 29–30 September 1991 (M. E. Isleib). The specimen is nominate *polyglottos* [including western *leucopterus* (Vigors)], the widespread northern form of this bird, which breeds from southernmost Canada and central U.S.A. south to central and southern Mexico (Phillips 1986). It is a “rare or casual visitor” in southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Anthus trivialis (Linnaeus). Brown Tree-Pipit. A pipit collected (UAM 3294) at Cape Prince of Wales on 23 June 1972 (Kessel 1989) was ultimately identified—after comparisons at U.S. National Museum, American Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum (Natural History)—as a worn example of the nominate race of Brown Tree-Pipit by L. L. Short and J. Farland. This specimen provides the only North American record of this Palearctic species. Nom-

inate *trivialis* is the widespread subspecies, breeding in Europe from northern Spain to 70°N and in Asia from Asia Minor east to Lake Baikal, as far as about 64°N in Siberia (Vaurie 1959). There have been four records in Japan, all since 1965 (Brazil 1991).

Bombycilla garrulus centralasiae Polyakov. Bohemian Waxwing. A lone Bohemian Waxwing observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 24–25 May 1989 provided the first Alaska specimen of the eastern Asiatic subspecies (UAM 5612, adult female). The identification was confirmed by R. W. Dickerman. This form breeds east to the Sea of Okhotsk and Kamchatka and, in the east, winters erratically in the Kurile Islands and in northern Japan (Vaurie 1959). It was regarded by Johansen (1961) as a rare straggler in the Commander Islands, whence there are specimens taken 16 and 21 May (Hartert 1920). At least five Bohemian Waxwings seen by many at Attu 16 May–4 June 1983 (T. O. Smythe, photo) were probably this form also.

Lanius cristatus Linnaeus. Brown Shrike. The first Alaska sighting of a Brown Shrike was one at St. Lawrence Island, 4–7 June 1977 (King et al. 1978). The first Alaska specimen (UAM 3696) was taken at Shemya Island, Aleutians, on 10 October 1978 (Gibson 1981). Since then there have been two additional sightings, an immature at Anchorage on 28 September 1983 (T. G. Tobish and L. J. Oakley) and a bird at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 4 June 1984 (M. E. Isleib and N. S. Proctor and others). The specimen was tentatively identified by R. C. Banks as *L. c. lucionensis* Linnaeus. Breeding no farther north than Korea and southern Japan and separated from the species' northeastern distribution limits by three other subspecies (Vaurie 1959), *lucionensis* is not, geographically, the most likely form to occur in Alaska. Nominate *cristatus* breeds as close to Alaska as Anadyrland and Kamchatka.

Vireo solitarius (Wilson). Solitary Vireo. A singing Solitary Vireo near Hyder on 11 June 1986 (UAM 5321, adult male) and another in the same area 12–15 June 1986 constituted the first Alaska record (D. D. Gibson). Five years later, another singing male was observed at Hyder on 15 and 17 June 1991 (R. L. Scher and others). The specimen is *V. s. cassinii* Xántus, the western form that breeds as far north as central British Columbia and central Idaho (Phillips 1991).

Vireo philadelphicus (Cassin). Philadelphia Vireo. The first Alaska records of Philadelphia

Vireo were sightings of a singing bird at Eagle on 27 June 1982 (tape-recording at Texas Bird Sound Library, Sam Houston State University) and of a bird at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 14 September 1982 (Moldenhauer and Tobish 1984). One observed at Middleton on 29 September 1987 (M. E. Isleib and R. L. Scher) provided the first Alaska specimen (UAM 5428, adult male). This monotypic species breeds across southern Canada as far as central-eastern British Columbia (Phillips 1991) and, on the west coast, is a very rare fall visitant in California (Roberson 1980).

Dendroica discolor (Vieillot). Prairie Warbler. A Prairie Warbler observed at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 22 September 1988 (M. E. Isleib) provided the first Alaska record (UAM 5549, immature unsexed). Another was observed near Ketchikan on 29 September 1990 (S. C. Heinl). The specimen is nominate *discolor*, the widespread race of this eastern North American bird; it breeds no farther west in the U.S.A. than the eastern edge of the Great Plains (see AOU 1957) and, in Canada, southern Ontario (Godfrey 1986). Timing of the Alaska records parallels that in coastal California, where the species is a very rare fall visitant (DeSante and Ainley 1980, Roberson 1980).

Dendroica palmarum (Gmelin). Palm Warbler. A Palm Warbler near Ninilchik, Kenai Peninsula, on 6 July 1967 (Taylor 1969) was the first Alaska report. Almost all subsequent records have been in fall: single birds identified at Kodiak Island on 11 October 1984 (R. A. MacIntosh); at "Dry Lake," 24 km west of Dot Lake, Tanana Valley, on 16 October 1987 (M. Britten); at Juneau on 31 October 1987 (UAM 5449, immature female, M. E. Isleib); on the Taku River on 18 October 1989 (P. W. Sykes and G. F. Wagner); at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 2 October 1990 (UAM 5719, immature, M. E. Isleib); at Mitkof Island on 6 October 1990 (P. J. Walsh); at Ketchikan on 21 October 1990 (S. C. Heinl); two, Coleen River, Brooks Range, in October 1990 (H. Korth); one again at "Dry Lake," on 11 September 1991 (UAM 5939, immature, T. H. Pogson); at Prudhoe Bay on 24 September 1991 (E. E. Burroughs); at Nunivak Island on 24, 27, and 29 September 1991 (B. J. McCaffery); and at Barrow on 16 October 1991 (UAM 5946, immature found dead, G. E. Norton). One observed at Petersburg on 16 April 1990 (P. J. Walsh) is the only spring report. The four specimens are nominate *palmarum*, which breeds as

far northwest as southwestern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, and northeastern British Columbia (AOU 1957).

Seiurus aurocapillus (Linnaeus). Ovenbird. An Ovenbird observed at Prudhoe Bay on 10 September 1981 (R. L. Scher, photos) was the first Alaska record of the species in this century. An Ovenbird that held a song territory near Fairbanks 31 May–12 June 1984 (Weeden and Weeden 1985) provided the only other record to date. The northern subspecies, nominate *aurocapillus*, breeds as far north and west as southern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, and northeastern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

This species was described by Dall and Bannister (1869) as breeding, but not common, along the Yukon River, where found at Fort Yukon, and where one was collected upriver from Nulato on 30 May 1867. On deposit at the Chicago Academy of Sciences, the specimen was lost in the Chicago fire of 1871.

Oporornis philadelphia (Wilson). Mourning Warbler. An *Oporornis* warbler observed at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 29 September 1987 (R. L. Scher and M. E. Isleib) was identified at UAM as this species (UAM 5429, female), an identification later corroborated by S. F. Bailey. This monotypic species breeds as far west as northeastern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986). The Alaska record parallels occurrences in coastal California, where this bird is a very rare fall visitant (DeSante and Ainley 1980, Roberson 1980).

Guiraca caerulea (Linnaeus). Blue Grosbeak. An adult male Blue Grosbeak observed at Petersburg on 6–7 August 1989 (B. E. Bracken and others) is the only Alaska record of the species (UAM 5643). The specimen was identified by R. C. Banks and M. R. Browning as *G. c. interfusa* Dwight and Griscom. The northern edge of this western form's breeding range extends from southeastern California east and north to central South Dakota (AOU 1957).

Passerina cyanea (Linnaeus). Indigo Bunting. A bird identified as a subadult male Indigo Bunting at an Anchorage seed-feeder on 3 September 1973 (N. W. Hall) was the first Alaska report of the species. An adult male killed by a boy in the village of Wainwright in early August 1989 was photographed in hand but was not preserved (E. Loring, photos). An adult female found dead, an apparent window kill, in Anchorage on 20 August 1991 (G. J. Tans) is the only Alaska speci-

men (UAM 5935). Its identity was confirmed by R. C. Banks. This monotypic species breeds as far northwest as southeastern Saskatchewan and is a casual summer visitant in southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Pipilo erythrophthalmus (Linnaeus). Rufous-sided Towhee. A Rufous-sided Towhee identified at Juneau on 5 May 1968 (R. H. Armstrong) was the first Alaska report. A male that frequented a Juneau feeding station from 6 October through the last week of December 1984 (H. H. Heinkel and others, photo) provided the first documented record. The spotted-backed male was clearly an example of the western, "*maculatus*" subspecies-group, which has representatives breeding as close to Alaska as southern coastal (*P. e. oregonus*) and southern interior (*P. e. curtatus*) British Columbia and in Alberta (*P. e. arcticus*) (Godfrey 1986).

Spizella pallida (Swainson). Clay-colored Sparrow. The first Alaska record of a Clay-colored Sparrow was one observed at Sergief Island, Stikine River mouth, on 21 September 1984 (UAM 5100, immature male, D. D. Gibson). A male that held a song territory along Marsh Creek, south of Camden Bay, North Slope, for about two weeks in June 1985 (UAM 5257, 30 June 1985, C. A. Babcock) provided the second record. Most recently, one was observed at Haines on 18 September 1991 (M. E. Isleib). This monotypic species breeds as close to Alaska as interior and northeastern British Columbia and southern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories (Godfrey 1986).

Chondestes grammacus (Say). Lark Sparrow. A Lark Sparrow observed on the Alaska Highway in the hills just west of Scottie Creek on 12 July 1991 (T. J. Doyle, photos) was Alaska's first record of the species. Western *C. g. strigatus* Swainson breeds no closer to Alaska than southern interior British Columbia and southeastern Alberta (Godfrey 1986).

Melospiza georgiana (Latham). Swamp Sparrow. A singing male Swamp Sparrow at Anchorage 17–19 June 1981 was the first Alaska sighting of the species (G. J. Tans and E. S. Hunn and others), and one observed near Ketchikan on 3–4 November 1985 (M. E. Isleib, R. L. Scher, and T. G. Tobish) provided the first specimen (UAM 5262, immature female). Subsequently, one was observed at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 27 September 1987 (UAM 5418, D. D. Gibson); one was observed near Petersburg,

23 September–24 November 1989 (P. J. Walsh); and single birds were observed near Ketchikan on 2 and 30 November–12 December 1990 (S. C. Heinl). If western *M. g. ericrypta* Oberholser—breeding as far west as central-western and southern Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, and eastern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986)—should be recognized, the two Alaska specimens should be assigned to that form (N. K. Johnson).

Calcarius lapponicus coloratus Ridgway. Lapland Longspur. The occurrence and breeding of the Commander Islands subspecies of the Lapland Longspur (UAM 5239) at Attu Island, Aleutians, was discussed by Gibson (1986); this form was observed there in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Emberiza aureola Pallas. Yellow-breasted Bunting. A bird identified as a first-spring male at St. Lawrence Island on 26–27 June 1978 (G. L. Tolman) was the first Alaska report of a Yellow-breasted Bunting. An adult male observed by many at Attu Island, Aleutians, on 26 May 1988 provided Alaska's first documented record (UAM 5465). Subsequently, a female was observed at Buldir Island, Aleutians, on 20 and 25 June 1988 (J. L. Wells and G. V. Byrd), and an adult male was seen at Buldir on 13 June 1990 (I. L. Jones). The specimen is *E. a. ornata* Shulpin. This eastern Asiatic form breeds widely in eastern Siberia (Vaurie 1959) and Japan (Brazil 1991), and it has long been known as an occasional migrant or irregular straggler in the Commander Islands (Stejneger 1885, Johansen 1961).

Carpodacus purpureus (Gmelin). Purple Finch. Based on sightings on 11 April 1974 and 8 November 1975, the Purple Finch was described as a casual migrant in Southeastern Alaska by Kessel and Gibson (1978). The first Alaska specimen was a lone immature male taken at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 4 October 1982 (UAM 4280, D. D. Gibson). Since then the species has been reported irregularly from fall to spring in Southeastern Alaska: two, Juneau, 22 February 1984, M. E. Isleib; flock of up to 11, Ketchikan seed-feeder, most of March 1984, R. E. Wood (UAM 5002–5004, two adult males and a female); an immature female trapped and banded, Juneau, 4 October remained into December 1985, R. B. Williams; flock of up to six, Ketchikan seed-feeder, late January to mid-April 1987, R. E. Wood; female, Petersburg, 13 December 1989–5 April 1990, P. J. Walsh; a female or immature near Ketchikan, 10 November 1990, S. C. Heinl; and an adult male, Juneau seed-feeder, 28 April

1991, M. E. Isleib (UAM 5825). It has been reported once in Southcoastal Alaska (male, Homer, 10 February to 29 March 1985, West and Bailey 1986) and twice in Central Alaska (male, Denali Natl Park, 14 June 1987, P. D. Vickery; immature, near Tok, 22 August 1989, R. S. Hadley). An adult male collected at St. Lawrence Island on 5 June 1984 (UAM 5559, formerly Univ. Washington Burke Museum 39023, R. L. Rausch) provides an extraordinary, westernmost record of the species. The adult males are nominate *purpureus*, which breeds as far west as southern Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Carpodacus cassinii Baird. Cassin's Finch. The first Alaska record of Cassin's Finch was an adult male observed at a Homer seed-feeder from 20 April through 14 May 1985 (West and Bailey 1986, photos). An immature was heard and observed at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, on 30 September 1991 (S. C. Heinl and R. A. MacIntosh). This monotypic species breeds as close to Alaska as southern interior British Columbia (Godfrey 1986).

Carduelis tristis (Linnaeus). American Goldfinch. A flock of three birds identified as American Goldfinches at St. Lawrence Island on 10 August 1964 (Sealy et al. 1971) was the first Alaska report of the species. A flock of up to four was reported at Juneau on 28–29 May 1986 (R. J. Gordon). An adult male observed at a Ketchikan seed-feeder for three days in mid-June 1991 (J. Silberling, photos) provided Alaska's first documented record. This polytypic species reaches its northern and western range limits in *C. t. pallidus*, which breeds as far as north-central Alberta and southern interior British Columbia, and in *C. t. jewetti*, a breeding resident on the coast from Vancouver Island to Oregon (AOU 1957, Godfrey 1986).

Passer domesticus (Linnaeus). House Sparrow. A lone female House Sparrow observed foraging among domestic ducks in a downtown Petersburg yard on 23 October 1987 (P. J. Walsh and E. L. Young) provided the first Alaska record of the species (UAM 5448). Nominate *domesticus* is the race that has flourished in North America following its introduction in the period 1850–1867. The species is found as far north and west in Canada as northeastern and central British Columbia (Godfrey 1986—but it is not resident in Yukon Territory, contra Godfrey 1986); a female in the Queen Charlotte Islands in October

1981 is the only record for British Columbia's northern offshore islands (fide R. W. Campbell).

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