

Prothonotary Warblers showed up in a Portal yard, a female 2 Jun and a male there 5 Jun (ph. REW, RAR), with one moving to a different Portal yard 9-12 Jun (ph. M. Decker). Yet another excellent bird showed up in a Tolleson yard, this time a Kentucky Warbler 22 Jun (ph. BG), providing only a 6th *Maricopa* record. Late MacGillivray's Warblers were reported from Tucson 3 Jun (*vide* R. Yak-sich) and Portal 22 Jun (M. Decker). Hooded Warblers have become somewhat expected in midsummer; this year, singles were at Com-fort Spring 17 Jun (RH, KK, J. Mohlman), in Miller Canyon 22 Jun (JWo), and at Rio Salado, Phoenix 26 Jul+ (EL; ph. D. Burba). The Rufous-capped Warbler found in Sycamore Canyon during the winter and spring continued through the summer (m.ob.) and was apparently joined by a 2nd bird (female?) 24 Jul-10 Aug (J. Hutchison). One was seen gathering nesting material near Hank & Yank's 25 Jul (BM), but there were no further indications of nesting.

An out-of-place Western Tanager was at San Bernardino N.W.R. 27 Jun (REW). The male Flame-colored Tanager at Madera Canyon remained on territory into Aug (m.ob.). It is unclear whether there was successful fledging this year, but the bird reportedly paired with a female Western Tanager and was seen attending a nest with young 16 (J. Drummond) & 21 Jun (RH). A very late

Green-tailed Towhee was reported from Madera Canyon 15 Jun (J. Ayers); one in a Portal Yard 3 Jul (RAR, REW) may have summered locally. A late Brewer's Sparrow was in Cave Creek Canyon 3-6 Jun (P. D. Hulce, B. Clough). A summering Lark Sparrow at G.W.R. 21 Jun-19 Jul (C. Ross, M. Moore) provided perhaps the first Jun record for *Maricopa*.

Yellow Grosbeak is a casual late spring and summer visitor to se. Arizona, with virtually all of the fewer than 15 accepted records falling between late May and late Jul; therefore an ad. male reported in Sycamore Canyon 10 (†Z. Holderby) & 12-13 Jun (M. Brown, RW et al.) is of great interest and will be evaluated by the A.B.C. No fewer than 14 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, mostly males, were reported during Jun and Jul, consistent with recent patterns. A late Lazuli Bunting was in Madera Canyon 22 Jun (DS). No fewer than 12 different Painted Buntings were reported in se. Arizona during the last 10 days of Jul—certainly the time of year to look for this scarce species.

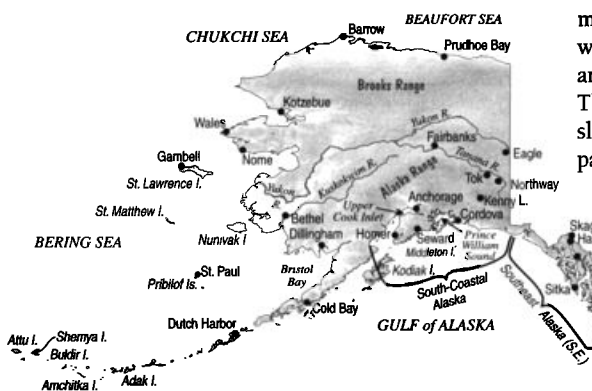
A singing Eastern Meadowlark s. of Colorado City 1 Jun (TC, CL) was n. of this species' normal breeding range in Arizona, which (rarely) extends w. to the s. Grand Canyon region. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are casual in se. Arizona in Jul; a flock of 40-50 at a cattle tank near Portal during most of the

summer (DJ) was unusual. Six Bronzed Cowbirds at Yuma 22 Jul (HD) were w. of their normal nesting areas in s. Arizona. A male Lawrence's Goldfinch at a feeder in Ash Canyon 13 Jul (ph. JLD) provided one of only a few summer reports for se. Arizona. Similarly, an American Goldfinch at a feeder in Portal 18 Jul (RAR, REW) was out of place, as this species does not breed in the state.

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Alaska



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While there were sporadic periods of fine weather, most of the Region was cool and washed with overcast windy conditions and quite a few coastal and alpine June snow storms throughout the sum-

mer. June and July temperatures were below long-term averages, and late July saw serious rains. The season advanced incredibly slowly, especially compared to the past five or six years. For instance, the Nome area had plenty of lingering ice and snow and its coolest June in 21 years. No doubt influenced by persistent winter snowpacks and a very deep Bering Sea pack-ice position that extended far s. of long-term averages, northbound migration was protracted, extending well into mid-June. Biologists with the U.S. Geological Survey noted tardy waterbird arrivals and delayed occupation of territories in shorebirds across most of the coastal tundra in the vast Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas. Southbound shorebirds were weakly distrib-

uted in low volumes at the standard first-tier staging sites, for instance at Homer, Kodiak, and Upper Cook Inlet. It was another good season for June-staging waterfowl in the Nome area, where heavy snowpack, persistent cool conditions, and several snow storms delayed northbound migrants and Seward Peninsula breeders from normal early breeding.

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GEESE THROUGH HAWKS

Very late and locally unusual at this season were single Greater White-fronted Geese at Hyder 5-7 Jun (AWP, SCH) and Ketchikan 15 Jun (DW). Another Jun Cackling Goose (subspecies *minima*) was located at Hyder 6-7 Jun (AWP, ph. SCH); the species is a rare early-spring migrant in the s. Southeast. *Fulva* Canada Geese, the taxon introduced in the 1980s at nearby Shuyak I., showed up on the Kodiak I. road system for the first time in summer, with dozens found scattered at several locales 2-25 Jun (*vide* RAM). Two Be-

wick's Swans were at St. Paul I. 7-14 Jun (VENT, Wings, ph. GHR); there are a few Alaska sight reports from the Pribilofs and cen. Aleutians of this subspecies. In a flock of 2000 Tundra Swans, a subad. Whooper Swan was at Nome's Safety Lagoon 16-17 Jun (VENT, ph. BRZ); there are still few records of Bering Strait Whoopers, including two previous spring birds from Safety Lagoon. The Safety Lagoon/Nome area was again fruitful for rarities and overshooting waterfowl, highlighted by 2 Gadwalls 1-10 Jun (Wings, AL), up to 5 Canvasbacks 10 Jun (Wings), a drake Redhead 1 Jun (AL), 3 Ring-necked Ducks 15-17 Jun (VENT), and 2 Lesser Scaup 16-17 Jun (VENT). All of these are rare to casual and not annual on the Seward Pen. Other notable waterfowl sightings were widespread, including 10 Northern Shovelers around Kodiak 22 Jul (RAM), where they are distinctly rare in summer; several Eurasian Teal, including one in Barrow 23 Jun (DK, FL); 2 rare summer Tufted Ducks at St. Paul I. 3-4 Jul (AL); a nice eider assortment at the e. end of their winter range from e. Kodiak, where all but Commons are rare in summer, with 6 Steller's 30 Jun and 18 Kings 26 Jun-22 Jul (RAM); a female-type Smew from St. Paul I. 10-12 Jun (Wings, ph. GHR); and continuing Ruddy Ducks at the s. end of the Interior from Kenny L., where 8 were noted 14 Jun (JLD) and 6 on 9 Jul (AL).

Juneau birders located a White-tailed Ptarmigan nest 22 Jun at 900-m elevation above Lemon Cr. (ph. ND), and other ads. were found then and 1 Jul (MB). These data build on only occasional new information for White-taileds from this area of the Mainland Southeast, where Gabrielson and Lincoln's 1959 *Birds of Alaska* described them mainly in late winter from Juneau. An average season for Arctic Loon accounts included a basic-plumaged bird at St. Paul I. 4 Jun (Field Guides) and 2 in the Nome area 12-19 Jun (Field Guides, VENT). Very unusual for the e. Interior and for summer was likely a late migrant ad. Yellow-billed Loon on Deadman L., e. of Tok, 13-14 Jun (ph. RAM, MAM). Tubenose highlights included a single Pink-footed Shearwater e. of Kodiak 24 Jul (JBA), from which there are many such summer records, and single Manx Shearwaters off the Chiswell Is. 15 Jun (VENT, +KJZ) and to the s. off Coronation I. 29 Jun (+BT). The latter species continues to be reported regularly, mostly as singles in the North Gulf each summer. A second-year Double-crested Cormorant was located at the productive mouth of Safety Lagoon 12 Jun (Field Guides), only



Of two Bramblings at Finger Bay, Adak Island, Alaska 31 May through 2 June, this male was photographed on the latter date. Photograph by John Puschock.

the 2nd ever for the Seward Pen. An *Ardea* heron observation from Barrow 17-18 Jun was thought to be probably a Great Blue rather than a Gray; photographs are inconclusive but suggest Great Blue (Field Guides, ph. GA, VENT); any heron on the North Slope is



This Common Sandpiper was at Salt Lagoon, St. Paul Island, Alaska on 7 June 2006; the species is almost annual here in spring. Photograph by John Puschock.

rare. Of the few raptor highlights, single Ospreys were n. of known regular sites, on the Canning R. 14 Jun (AL) and on the coast at Barrow 18 Jun (DK, FL), where casual.

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Only one Sora was found this season, at Hyder 5-8 Jun (AWP, SCH), a 2nd local record. American Coot was hard to find; 2 were on Yarger L. in the e. Interior, where they have bred, 18+ Jun (PWS), and one was seen briefly in Anchorage 3 Jun (DW, BW). As is typical for an Alaskan summer, both late and early northbound migrant shorebirds made highlights, whereas southbound shorebirds were in low numbers at the standard coastal staging areas, probably because of poor breeding conditions. A mid-season survey in the alpine on the s. side of the Talkeetna Mts. affirmed an earlier report for nesting American

Golden-Plovers, with 16 total ads. and juvs. there 2 Jul (CF, PF). We still lack a complete picture of this species' s breeding limits, which probably extend farther southward in the Alaska Range and the Talkeetna/Chugach front ranges than currently documented Lesser Sand-Plovers made summer news, with late migrant singles at St Paul I. 4-9 Jun (VENT) and at Barrow 15-20 Jun (Field Guides, VENT, DK, FL), where casual. A territorial pair of Lessers first seen at Gambell 19 Jun+ (DJ, SJ) actually nested on gravel flats there, noted on eggs 11 Jul (*vide* PEL, ph. GK); there are a few known or suspected nest records from w. Alaska, but this is the first such record for St. Lawrence I., following several occasional intriguing late Jun-early Jul reports in the Gambell vicinity With dwindling reports from the past decade only one Eurasian Dotterel report was submitted, from Prudhoe Bay 22 Jun (+AS).

Five Wood Sandpipers in the Barrow area 10 Jun-early Jul (+BK, FL) were noted in display and copulation; there are few North Slope Wood Sandpiper records. Other Palearctic shorebird notables included a Common Sandpiper at St. Paul I. 7 Jun (VENT); a Red-necked Stint at Barrow 20 Jun (DK); and quite a few late Ruffs, on the heels of a strong spring showing, with singles in the Nome area on the Teller Rd. 3 Jun (AL) and Safety Lagoon 16 Jun (Wings), "several" in Barrow into early Jun (*vide* DK), and possibly a pair near Gambell 16 Jun (*vide* PEL, GK). A snow-driven day count of 30+ Baird's Sandpipers on the Teller Rd. out of Nome 5 Jun (Field Guides) was of interest. Other noteworthy Nearctic shorebirds were mainly interesting southbound migrants, including 2 Upland Sandpipers in the alpine above Juneau 29 Jul (GVV), where occasional; a great Southeast tally of 16 Hudsonian Godwits in Juneau 14-16 Jul (ND, MS); Kodiak's first-ever Jun northbound Marbled Godwit 3 Jun (RAM); a near-record early Stilt Sandpiper in Juneau 16 Jul (GVV et al.); a Short-billed Dowitcher in Nome 10 Jun (Wings); 4 Red Phalaropes at Fairbanks 4-5 Jun (A.B.O., NH); and a single and a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes from Juneau 7 Jun (GVV) and Barrow 21 Jun (DM, *vide* DK), respectively. Wilson's are occasional late spring finds in Juneau but casual on the North Slope. Wide-ranging Buff-breasted Sandpipers followed their spring showing to unusual sites, with Jun reports of singles and small groups from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Deltas and points northward: 13 along the coast at Nome 10 Jun (Wings), one inland in the alpine e. of Nome 15 Jun (VENT, ph

MJI), and at least 2 at Barrow 17-18 Jun (VENT). Buff-breasteds occasionally push w. of their normal spring migration corridor to the Bering Sea coast.

Six Long-tailed Jaegers on the s side of the Talkeetna Mts. 2 Jul (CF, PF) were at the s. margins of their known breeding range. A waif Franklin's Gull wandered to the Bering Sea coast at Nome 3 Jun (VENT, †KJZ); this spring overshoot, presumably from e. British Columbia nesting areas, has reached the Bering Sea more often than elsewhere in the state, usually in the first half of Jun. An ad. Black-headed Gull was notable around Dutch Harbor 9-10 Jun (DW, BW); there are few e. Aleutian or se. Bering Sea reports. A subad. Black-tailed Gull in Anchorage 23 Jun (DWS, GT) represents the first local record and just 3rd record from South-central Alaska; mid-summer records are especially few. Two Ring-billed and 28 California Gulls near Gustavus 26 Jun (BP) were the best of the season's reports of these rare annual visitors. Although both *vegae* and *smithsonianus* Herring Gulls are known from the Seward Pen., where their ranges overlap, few observers document the Nearctic form. At least 2 second-cycle *smithsonianus* were photo-documented in the Nome area 13-14 & 17 Jun (VENT, ph. MJI), and most other birds present were *vegae*, as is typical. In Nome, 16 Slaty-backed Gulls 17 Jun (VENT) and up to 30 through 12 Jun (Field Guides) appeared to be the summer's high counts. Slaty-backed otherwise were reasonably represented, including one in Homer 17 Jun (ph. RAM) and one in Anchorage 23 Jun (VENT, ph. MJI), where there are few summer reports. Seven ad. Sabine's Gulls inshore near Gustavus 18 Jun (ND, PV) were anomalous for the date but likely just very late migrants. It was another good summer for Caspian Terns, including peak counts of 20 from Juneau 29 Jun (MS), 6 in Ketchikan 3 Jun (CF) and Homer 21 Jul (Wings), and 17 around Glacier Bay 30 Jun (BP). An extralimital single on the Bering



This male Spotted Towhee, possibly of subspecies *curtatus*, sang on territory in Anchorage 11-13 (here 13) June 2006, a first summer record of a species that is otherwise a casual autumn visitor to southeastern Alaska. Photograph by Thede Tobish.

Sea coast at Nome 10 Jun (Wings) constituted a first Seward Pen. record. Caspian Tern was only first documented in the Bering Sea at Cape Romanzoff in Jun 1994. Only one Common Tern surfaced in the Bering Sea at St. Paul I. 9 Jun (*fide* VENT, KJZ), of the expected subspecies here, *longipennis*.

Single Black Guillemots were identified off the Nome beaches 15 (VENT, †MJI) & 16 (Wings) Jun. Observers felt that onshore ice conditions and the late season may have contributed to these reports, which follow the first Nome area records from summer 2005, when the same observers located up to 10 birds between the Nome breakwater and Cape Nome.

It would not be surprising to find Black Guillemots, which are known to take advantage of ephemeral breeding sites (e.g., in debris on islands off Barrow), nesting in the Nome area.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS

On the heels of the first Upper Cook Inlet/Anchorage Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from a few years ago, another bird set up a short-lived territory near Eagle R. 8-17 Jun (DWS, PP); there were no other summer reports of this rare spring overshoot to e. Interior. Casual summer from the Southeast Mainland was a *glacialis* Downy Woodpecker in Juneau 18 Jul (GVV, MM), where the species is occasional in winter. Gambell birders turned up St. Lawrence I.'s first Northern Flicker in the middens 9-11 Jun (JH, †HI, *fide* PEL), one of few spring Bering Sea reports. An extralimital Olive-sided Flycatcher made it to the Arctic Coast, where it is casual in summer, at Barrow 16-18 Jun (Field Guides, VENT). The cen. Interior "colony" of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, found in the past few summers near Eureka, nw. of Fairbanks (see *Western Birds* 37: 8-22), was again visited and at least 2 detected 17 Jun (EC et al.). Out-of-range



At Safety Lagoon in Nome, Alaska, this subadult Whooper Swan accompanied thousands of Tundra Swans 16-17 (here 16) June 2006; it provided a third record from this location for this species, quite rare in the Bering Strait. Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.

Alder Flycatchers wandered to the immediate coast at Nome 16 Jun (Wings, ph. GHR, VENT, ph. MJI) and n. to Barrow 23 Jun (DK, FL), where casual in summer. Least Flycatchers were heard and documented in Nome 25 Jun (†KLG), the Seward Pen.'s first, and in Hyder 5-8 Jun (AWP, SCH). Leasts are annual or nearly so, mostly along the Region's e. periphery. Eastern Kingbird again appeared at Barrow 22-26 Jun (NC, *fide* DK), where there are, surprisingly, several records of likely summer overshoots. The season's only Red-eyed Vireo report came from Juneau 20-22 Jun (MB, ph. PS et al.), a local 4th of this rare visitor, which is found mostly in the larger Southeast Mainland riparian corridors.

Staggering numbers of swallows were tal-

SATen nests of Kittlitz's Murrelets, involving at least nine pairs, were discovered and monitored in alpine sections of Agattu I. this season (*fide* LS, per GVV)—which nearly doubles the total of known Alaskan nests. Numerous summer sightings of Kittlitz's from large bays in the cen. and w. Aleutians have led many to believe that this cryptic species breeds where there are appropriate alpine or glacier remnants, and this speculation was also recently supported by a nest located at Kiska in 2005. This season, another Kittlitz's nest was found, with a half-grown chick on post-glaciated ridges (elev. 900 m) in the Mount Glottof Research Natural Area in the Kodiak N.W.R. 6 Aug (ph. SS)—a first nest record for the Kodiak Archipelago. Ad. Kittlitz's were heard vocalizing and seen coming and going to these ridges in late Jul—early Aug, so obviously this cirque habitat provides what may be extensive suitable nesting substrate for the species.

Unusual inshore in the Nome area was a Kittlitz's Murrelet off Safety Lagoon 15 Jun (VENT), while 3 at the mouth of Tracy Arm 27 Jun (BT) were in their most regular southerly location in the Southeast. Clearly, there is more to be learned about this species, which is currently listed as Critically Endangered by BirdLife International.

lied across the North Slope from Kuparuk to Barrow through the season, mostly 16 Jun–3 Jul; all Alaskan species except Violet-greens are casual there. On 20 Jun at Barrow, 4 Trees, 2 Banks, and 5 Cliff Swallows were tallied (BPG, DK). A Tree Swallow pair nested at Barrow 17–25 Jun (BPG), a first for the North Slope. Both Nearctic and Palearctic subspecies of Barn Swallows were described from Barrow 24 & 22–23 Jun (BPG, DK). Three Arctic Warblers were detected in the Upper Nome Cr. drainage of the White Mts. some 85 km ne. of Fairbanks 24 Jun (DS, *vide* A.B.O.). These may be the first White Mt. records for Arctics, which are casual so far e. within the Alaska Range. Arctic Warblers were reportedly as having been hard hit by a 22 Jun snowstorm along the e. half of the Denali Hwy, and all nests under observation were abandoned as a result (*vide* A.B.O.). The North Slope's 2nd Dusky Thrush was reported from Barrow 12–14 Jun (NS, †DK et al.); the only previous summer report was also from early Jun at Barrow. European Starlings continued to show signs of local expansion in the Anchorage area, where several nests allowed monitoring and a local new high summer count of 75 was noted 28 Jun (DWS). On 13 Jul, another nest and clutch was located in the phone pole that had successfully produced a Jun clutch in Anchorage (TT); this is the first documented 2nd clutch for the species in the area. A single Red-throated Pipit was a good North Slope find from Barrow 16 Jun (DM), where there are few records.

WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

Never common and irregular mostly only from the Southeast Mainland, Cedar Waxwings were nearly ubiquitous. Up to 8 at Sitka 22 Jul (MLW, MET) and several in Ketchikan all season (AWP, SCH) were unusual offshore numbers, while 24 in Hyder 8 Jun (AWP, SCH) were nesters and/or migrants. Cedars even reached n. to Kodiak, with a single 22–23 Jun and up to 3 over the period 3–31 Jul (JW, RAM, ph. JBA)—the first summer records of any waxwing in the Kodiak Archipelago. At least 6 Cedars were also sighted along Ship Cr. in Anchorage 30 Jul (*vide* PP), where they are casual in fall only. Summer Tennessee Warbler overshoots, presumably from their closest Yukon breeding populations, are nearly annual in the e. Interior, so singles s. of Fairbanks 6–18 Jun (*vide* A.B.O.) and near Delta Jct. 1 Jul (SD) were typical. Two in Juneau 12 & 16 Jul (GVV, ND) were more unusual for Juneau, where they are more often detected in early Jun. The season's only extralimital warbler otherwise was a rare North Slope Blackpoll Warbler at Barrow 16–17 Jun (Field Guides). Most unex-



This female or immature male Smew was seen at St. Paul Island, Alaska 10–12 (here 12) June 2006, the only one reported in the state after May. Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.

pected was the Spotted Towhee that set up a territory in Anchorage 11–13 Jun (CA, DWS, DFD, TT, ph. GHR, JLD). Vocalizations and plumage traits suggested it was possibly of subspecies *curtatus*. This represents Alaska's first summer record of this casual fall visitor to the Southeast.

More breeding evidence for Chipping Sparrows in the alpine Southeast Mainland came in from Taku Inlet with a singing bird at 540 m 26–30 Jun (ND) and a juv. at the same elevation above Juneau 29 Jul (GVV). Chipping Sparrow is known to nest with certainty in Southeast only from the larger Mainland river



Two Bewick's Swans visited St. Paul Island, Alaska 7–14 (here 13) June 200; this subspecies of Tundra Swan is known from a few sight records in the Bering Sea otherwise. Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.

corridors. A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Barrow, where casual, 16–17 Jun (Field Guides). Additional Southeast nesting evidence was also submitted for Golden-crowned Sparrow above Juneau, including up to 6 singing 22 Jun and 13 & 29 Jul (ND, MS, GVV). A male Golden-crowned Sparrow, first heard in Bethel in May, was seen with a fledgling 15 Jul (BJM); this bird was beyond previously documented nesting areas, which are presumably to the se. on the w. flanks of the Alaska Range. Up to four Dark-eyed Junco broods in the Bethel area, also in early Jul (BJM), confirmed local nesting there for the first time. The closest known nests have been identified about 20 km upstream in denser taiga forest.

A single Black-headed Grosbeak was an ear-

ly arrival in Hyder 6 Jun, where it was followed by 3 in song in the same area 8 Jun (AWP, SCH); singles have been casual at this Southeast Mainland hotspot since the early 1990s. Extralimital Red-winged Blackbirds made news in South-coastal Alaska away from the few known local breeding sites, including a male in Seward 18–19 Jun (VENT, CG) and a female described farther w. from Seldovia 1 Jul (GL). The female Common Rosefinch reported in the Gambell middens in early Jun was relocated 19 Jun (DJ, SJ). Crossbills were scarce and scattered. Reds resurfaced in late Jun at Kodiak after an Oct 2005 departure, and the first broods were noted 5 Jul (RAM, SB), while White-winged became more widespread across the Kenai Pen. and in to Upper Cook Inlet by late Jul (TT, m.ob.).

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