

Whitewater 17 Jun (D. Beaudette). The bulk of Varied Buntings do not arrive in Arizona to breed until early to mid-Jun. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in small numbers at scattered locations in se. Arizona where not known to breed. A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds was in a Cornville yard 1-2 Jun (R. Radd); this species is known to "breed" sparingly to n. to n. *Yavapai*.

Red Crossbills were again at scattered locations low in the Chiricahua Mts. in the period; this species is apparently *not* annual in this range (EH, DJ). Early Pine Siskins were reported in Scottsdale 11 Jul (J. Bartley) and in Paradise 21 Jul (EH, J. Lewis). Clearly the

finch phenomenon of the season was an unusually early and widespread irruption of Lawrence's Goldfinches in the state, with no fewer than 15 different reports (mostly in groups of 1-4 individuals) received beginning in early Jun and continuing through Jul, some from as far n. as Prescott and Pine (N. Silacci, J. Estis). Normally, irruptions of this species from California occur during the winter season. A female-plumaged American Goldfinch was out of place (early) in Tucson 15 Jul (MMS).

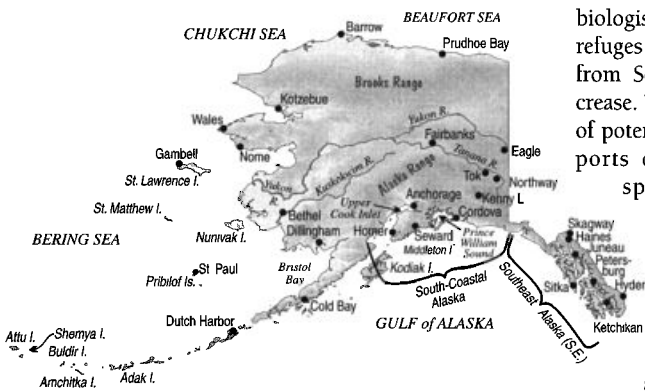
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Relatively widespread cool spring conditions prevailed into the early summer across the Region, with below-average temperatures, lengthy cloudy periods, and lower precipitation totals. It was therefore also a relatively quiet fire season. The vast Interior zone was probably the only area of the state where warm, sunny, dry conditions dominated much of the season. But even there, thunderstorm cells were common afternoon events for most of July. Northbound migrants ended up showing a mostly on-time phenology, while breeding onset seemed a little late, at least at some locales. Rarities at the classic peripheral sites continued well into June, while overshoots to Interior and southeastern sites were spotty at best. A late May cyclone brought a nice array of Palearctic migrants to the western Aleutians, many of which stayed into mid-June. Coverage from the eastern Interior suffers without dedicated

biologist/birders staffing wildlife refuges there, but summer reports from Southeast continue to increase. There were a few surprises of potential new breeders and reports of probable pioneering species prospecting new sites. As always, documentation of rarer species was spotty, and I must continue to remind observers to submit documentation with all reports of rare, casual, or accidental species. Referenced details, specimens, photographs, videotape, and audiotape are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

GEESE THROUGH ALCIDS

Slightly late was a report of 2 Tundra Bean-Geese at Buldir I. 6-7 Jun (SL, CS). The lone Adak **Spot-billed Duck**, first discovered in late May, was still there 13 Jul (ph. JL). Adak has now sported all but one of the Aleutians' four-plus records of mostly long-staying individuals. Two eclipse-plumaged Cinnamon Teal found in the Juneau area 23 Jul (PS) were most unusual summer reports. A drake Redhead at Gustavus 12 Jun (BP) and a female Ring-necked Duck at Kodiak 4 Jun (RAM) were both odd, off-season records for the North Gulf coast, where most records come from late fall and winter. The Ring-necked was a first Kodiak summer re-

port. Two Lesser Scaup present on Kagankaguti L. on the Alaska Pen. 4-23 Jun (LD) were at the periphery of this species' taiga breeding range. Single late Smews reached e to Buldir I. 5-7 Jun (ph. SL), where habitat has limited past reports, and at St. Paul I. 3 Jun (Field Guides). A fly-by **Great Egret** over the Barrow shoreline 16 Jun (Field Guides, DS, ph. KH) represents the first North Slope/Beaufort Sea record of this otherwise casual spring/summer visitor in the Region.

The end of the shorebird passage reached into Jun, highlighted mostly by Bering Sea vagrants, including a Terek Sandpiper reported at St. Paul I. 4 Jun (Field Guides) and another at Buldir I. 8-10 Jun (SL, SS, EA, CS) and a Far Eastern Curlew at Buldir I. 31 May (ph. SL, EA, SS, CS). A Red Phalarope was most un-



This lucky shot substantiates the first northern (and Arctic Coast) Alaska record of Great Egret, seen near Barrow on 16 June 2007. Photograph by Kevin Heffernan.

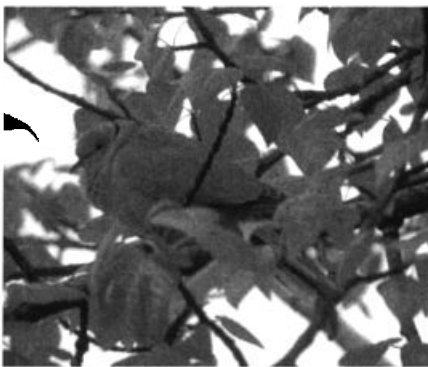
usual and late in Cook Inlet at Kenai 9 Jun (KT, TE), and a Stilt Sandpiper was located well w. of typical range in Nome 11 Jun (Field



This adult White-tailed Eagle was a rare sight at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island on 2 June 2007. Photograph by Dave Porter.



This likely full adult Gray-tailed Tattler was one of the six or more birds detected at Shemya between 31 May and 6 June (here) 2007; first-year birds would show heavily worn primaries or worn inner primaries contrasting with fresh outer primaries. The broader supercilium over the eye and the unmarked belly and vent are characteristics that separate this regular vagrant from Wandering Tattler. Photograph by Robert Trotter.



Showing all the signs of a "pure" Eurasian Collared-Dove, this individual, one of two present at Gustavus 4 June 2007, would constitute the first certain Alaska record of this expanding pioneer. Others were noted in the general area and at five other Southeast Alaska sites in the season. Photograph by Nat Drumheller.

Guides). A pair of Solitary Sandpipers was defending a territory in suitable bog habitat near the Ketchikan airport 24 Jun–22 Jul (SCH, JEP), while a single was in similar habitat 2 km away 3 Jun (JEP); these represent the 2nd summer reports from s. Southeast and are well beyond documented nesting range. Another Solitary was behaving as though on territory in

bog habitats near Gustavus 5 Jul (ND), near where the species has nested. Thirty-six Hudsonian Godwits in one group in Gustavus 17 Jul (ND) was an exceptional south-bound concentration and one of the North Gulf coast's biggest counts where singles are the norm. A handsome black-and-white Ruff, distinctly rare on the North Slope, was observed at Barrow 8-9 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours). On the heels of a local spring report, a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes, the season's only account, showed up in Juneau 23 Jun (GVV).

Extralimital gulls made news this season across the Region, highlighted as always by coastal finds. A slew of Franklin's Gulls in the North Gulf zone produced the highest summer numbers for Alaska, with different single birds at Kodiak 9-10 Jun (CF, BG) and 12 Jul (ph. RAM), 2-3 around Juneau 8 Jun (one), 2 Jul (2), and 19 Jul (one) (PS), and a single in Glacier Bay N.M. 4 Jul (ND). An ad. Black-headed Gull was e. of usual areas in Juneau 12 Jun (AD), a first local report and one of very few from Southeast, while a Bonaparte's Gull wandered to the North Slope at Barrow 15 Jun (Wings, ph. MP). Bonaparte's are very rare but nearly annual in early summer on the North Slope. Following May w. Aleutian reports, another ad. Black-tailed Gull was located, this one at Buldir I. 8 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS). Accidental in the Beaufort Sea was an ad. Ring-billed Gull in Barrow 19 Jun (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours). The season's northernmost California Gull report included an ad. and a second-cycle individual in the Gustavus area 10 & 20-24 Jul (ND) at the extreme n. end of this rare visitor's traditional summer range. Most interesting was a banded first-cycle Thayer's Gull in Gustavus 2 Jun (ND), a bird that had been marked as a chick on St. Helena I., Nunavut in Aug 2006. It appeared to be a poor season for Slaty-backed Gulls, with a first-cycle bird in Kodiak 18 Jun (ph. RAM) the most unusual of the handful of coastal reports. Two Caspian Terns at Nome's productive Safety Sound 9 Jun (Wings) follow very few Bering Sea coastal reports. One of the summer season's largest-ever Marbled Murrelet feeding aggregations included 514 birds in Mud Bay near Haines 2 Jul (CE). This estuarial bay is one of n. Southeast's most



This handsome adult Brown Shrike was found foraging at Shemya Island's eastern end on 6 June 2007. This constitutes only the third spring record for Alaska, all of which are from early June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

consistent waterbird concentration sites, typically most active between early Jun and mid-Jul.

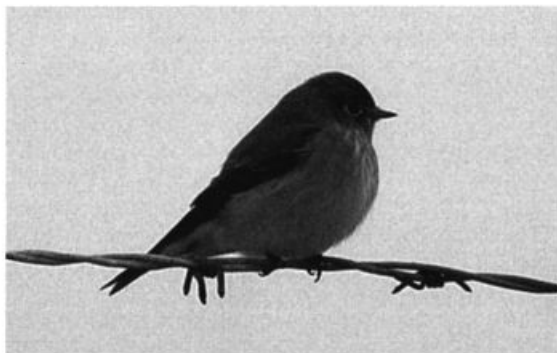
PIGEONS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

Alaska's first official Eurasian Collared-Doves entered the Region with a handful of mid-season sightings in Southeast, including singles at Meyers Chuck 28 May (PC), in Ketchikan early–15 Jun (ph. SCH), and offshore at Klawock on Prince of Wales I. 18 Jun (BT). At least 2 others were documented farther n. in the Gustavus area 4 Jun–19 Jul (ph. ND, SP, BP). These follow several reports from the Petersburg area, but those birds were determined to have been escapees. Two begging Western Screech-Owls were located at Starrigavan Park in Sitka, the topotype locale for the nominate subspecies, where it is periodi-



Although extralimital Barn Swallows are occasionally found in the vast eastern Interior of Alaska in summer, the fact that three sites had birds exhibiting nesting behavior was notable in summer 2007. This bird appeared alone at this half-built nest site in Tok on 10 June. Photograph by Thede Tobish.

cally detected. Two different Northern Pygmy-Owls around Gustavus 18 & 20 Jun (LP, ND) were unusual and well n. of most summer season reports, which come typically from the s. Southeast. A single Black Swift



This Dark-sided Flycatcher, which fed actively after arriving at Shemya Island, Alaska on 9 June 2007, was coincident with other birds in the same timeframe from nearby Buldir Island. The darkish lores, dusky brownish dorsum, and relatively heavy smudges on underparts and near the "shoulder" separate this bird from Gray-streaked Flycatcher. Photograph by Robert Trotter.



Part of a western Aleutian Islands fallout, this adult male Taiga Flycatcher was singing near a female at Shemya Island, Alaska 7 June 2007. Up to five were detected at nearby Buldir Island from 5 through 7 June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

over MacDonald L. on the Cleveland Pen. in s. Southeast 18 Jul (SCH) was a first local record and w. of known or suspected breeding sites from the Mainland riparian corridors.

One of very few North Slope reports of the species, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Barrow 8 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours); there are three other records from the Beaufort Sea region. Most of the Region's rarer and extralimital *Empidonax* showed well this summer. At least 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were located 14 & 24 Jun (DP, SP, PP, JJ, JD, ND) in a recently discovered "colony" on Eureka Dome in the Yukon-Tanana Highlands s. of the Yukon R. Another Yellow-bellied was singing n. of Juneau 20-23 Jun (MS, PS, GVV, BA), where there are few sight records. A Willow Flycatcher, about the 5th from Juneau, sang near Pioneer Marsh 11 Jun (MS, PS, ph. PR); most of the Region's reports are from the 2nd half of Jun from Southeast and especially Juneau. Three singing migrant Least Flycatchers were discovered, the first a little early at Eagle on 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT), followed by singles n. of Juneau 19 Jun (PS) and Fairbanks 24 Jun (MS). Leasts remain less

than annual in the Region and are detected mostly as Jun overshoots into the e. periphery from Hyder to the e. Interior.

A Warbling Vireo reached South-central Alaska, where it was singing near Eagle River 16 Jul (BD, LD, PD, LM). This represents at least the 3rd Upper Cook Inlet report of the species. Normally restricted to very localized riparian sites in the mainland portions of Southeast, Red-eyed Vireos were unusual and farther n. in Anchorage, where a singing bird became the 3rd local record (all of singing birds in Jun), and in Haines, where a pair was found in suitable nesting habitat 2-3 Jul (ph. CM, PS). Red-eyes are casual away from those Southeast river corridors. Swallows almost always contribute to each summer's rarity accounts, which this year were dominated by extralimital Barn Swallows: a white-bellied bird at Buldir I. 18 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS); 2 prospecting nest sites at isolated American Summit in the highlands s. of Eagle 8 & 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT); one on a nest at Tok 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, ph. TT); one each in Nome 2 & 9 Jun (*vide* Field Guides); and another pair at a nest in McCarthy 21 Jul (*vide* DWS). Two Bank Swallows were rare in the w. Aleutians at Buldir I. 4-8 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS).

Reminiscent of the only other Lanceolated Warbler "fallout," in 1984, at least 4 were documented at Buldir I. 8-18 Jun (ph. SL, EA). At least 3 of these were singing and thought to be nesting through the 18th. An early Jun storm brought at least 5 Taiga Flycatchers 5-7 Jun (SL, EA, SS) and a single Dark-sided Flycatcher 4-9 Jun (ph. SL, EA) into the w. Aleutians at Buldir I., the season's only reports.

THRUSHES THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Mountain Bluebirds continue to be scarce and in decline in the e. Interior, where the species has nested locally since the late 1980s. A lone female in Delta 8 Jun (NC) constituted the season's only report. A Bohemian Waxwing described from the Nome area's Teller Hwy. 6 Jun (†KP) was a good find near the coast



Although occasionally found on the Southeast Mainland river corridors in Alaska, Red-eyed Vireos are still not found annually in the state and are seldom photographed. Two were located in the Haines area 2 July 2007 (here) and the next day. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.

away from nesting habitat (taiga), which is restricted in that area to the base of the Seward Pen. At least one Cedar Waxwing present near Ship Cr. 29+ Jul (DP, DWS) carried on the Anchorage area sightings, which started in the previous Aug; the species is a casual visitor to South-central Alaska.

Eight singing Tennessee Warblers were tallied 9 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT) on the short road system around Eagle on the upper Yukon R., the Region's highest one-day count ever. An additional individual was located nearby on the 10th, while another appeared 21 Jun (SD) on the upper Richardson Hwy. (near milepost



After chasing this bird around Gustavus, Alaska feeders for several days in early June 2007, Nat Drumheller finally caught up with this Black-headed Grosbeak on the fifth of the month. It represents the Region's northernmost summer record and one of few outside the fall season, when they are casual visitors, mostly in the Southeast. Photograph by Nat Drumheller.

244). Overshooting Tennessee Warblers reach into the e. Interior nearly every year in Jun in very small numbers. A singing Yellow Warbler in willows near Dutch Harbor 17 Jun



This female Common Rosefinch, reported from the spring 2007 season, was photographed at Shemya Island 8 June. Mostly female-plumaged birds, showing the classic blank face pattern with dark beady eye, are found intermittently in spring in the western and rarely into the central Aleutians from late May into mid-June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

(*vide* MR) was a good find for the e. Aleutians, where they are rare overshoots and breed as close as e. Unimak I. The Region's first Magnolia Warbler in several years sang in the Juneau area 17 Jun (PS, BA, FG, LB), where there are a few Jun records. Magnolias had become nearly annual in Hyder when birders made it there in Jun. Alaska's 3rd Mourning Warbler was a singing bird skulking in Juneau *Rubus* thickets 24 Jun (GVV, ph. PS et al.). Previous finds included singles from fall at Middleton I. in the North Gulf and at a North Slope oasis. Mournings are known to nest as close to the Region as the e.-cen. areas of British Columbia and into se. Yukon Territory. Four Common Yellowthroats at Northway 8 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT) was a good tally at the species' breeding periphery in the e. Interior, where they have been found for nearly the past decade in very small numbers. Two Wilson's Warblers wandered to the North Slope at Barrow 7-8 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours), where the species is occasional in Jun.

A singing Chipping Sparrow at milepost 328 of the Parks Hwy. s. of Fairbanks 15 Jun (DP, SP, PP, JJ) was s. of the species' nw. breeding limits in the greater Fairbanks area. There

are a few previous such records along the Parks Hwy. between Fairbanks and Talkeetna. Very surprising and rare away from alpine nesting habitats was a migrant Brewer's Sparrow in Juneau 10 Jun (PS, AD, ph. PR), a 2nd record for that locale and only about the 3rd in spring from Southeast. Recall that Brewer's Sparrow had been found nesting in the mid-1990s in a disjunct population at treeline in the Nutzotin Mts. of the Alaska Range, not far from the British Columbia border (see *Western Birds* 28.1). A juv. Fox Sparrow located near the Dutch Harbor airport 20 Jul (*vide* MR) was a

good find and another presumed breeding record for Unalaska and the e. Aleutians, where imms. have been sporadic. Sooty Fox Sparrow (*alascensis*) is actually extralimital at its type locality. The exciting Hyder coastal fringe produced a new record for Alaska when a Vesper Sparrow was photographed on the dike 4 Jun (ph. IB). Although there are overshoot records from well up the w. coast of British Columbia and in the n. interior from the upper Stikine and upper Skeena R., the closest known breeding sites are in the cen. interior of British Columbia near Quesnel. A Black-headed Grosbeak that had been sporadic around a Gustavus feeder for a few days was confirmed on 5 Jun at the same feeder (ph. ND, PV). This is the Region's northernmost record for the summer season and about the 3rd ever away from the Southeast Mainland and the Ketchikan area, where most records come in fall.

A pair of Common Rosefinches arrived following an early Jun storm and hung around the same spot at Buldir I. 5-15 Jun (SL, SS, EA), the season's only find of this nearly annual very rare migrant in the w. Aleutians. The scattered planted spruce trees in Dutch

Harbor drew in an imm. Red Crossbill 21 Jul (MR), a 3rd report for the e. Aleutians. Other less-common Palearctic finches recorded this season following the late-May storm in the Aleutians included 3 Oriental Greenfinches at Buldir I. 31 May-7 Jun and a Hawfinch 4-7 Jun (SL, EA, CS). A female Evening Grosbeak at a Gustavus feeder 5 Jun (SM, *vide* ND) was also a new local first record and one of only a few from that area in summer.

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