

# WESTERN BIRDS



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## REPORT OF THE ALASKA CHECKLIST COMMITTEE, 2003–2007

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**ABSTRACT:** During the five years (2003–2007) since the last report of the Alaska Checklist Committee 21 species or subspecies have been added to the Alaska list, two subspecies have been raised to species status, and one subspecies has been deleted, resulting in a net total of 485 species and 115 additional subspecies of birds we maintain at the beginning of 2008 as occurring or having occurred naturally in Alaska.

For three decades, 1970–1999, a checklist of Alaska birds was maintained by Gibson at the University of Alaska Museum. Nine editions of a one-page checklist were published during that period—in 1970, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1990, 1993, and 1999. As an increasing percentage of avian taxa were added to the state list on the basis of photographic (rather than specimen) evidence, we found it useful to form a committee to review all potential additions, especially those substantiated (or not) by photos, as well as other business that would affect the state checklist. Founded in 2000, the Alaska Checklist Committee comprises three members, who must agree unanimously for passage of an item under discussion. The Checklist of Alaska Birds is now revised annually, and a new edition is posted at the University of Alaska Museum website—at [www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/bird/projects/checklist.pdf](http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/bird/projects/checklist.pdf)—early in each new year.

Using the published inventory of Alaska birds (Gibson and Kessel 1997) and our previous report (Gibson et al. 2003) as a foundation, we have assembled here all additions to, systematic changes to, and deletions from the Alaska list during the years 2003–2007, inclusive. Occurrence of most of these 600 avian taxa—485 species and 115 additional subspecies—in Alaska is substantiated by archived voucher specimens or by published and/or archived photos accompanied by written details. For those taxa added to the Alaska list since 2002 we include all records and published reports through 2007. For those formerly included on the unsubstantiated list we

refer to the reports on which that status was based. No avian species is added to the Alaska list in the absence of an archived voucher specimen, photo, videotape, or sound recording. Subspecies identified by inference are presented in parentheses; these are taxa either not represented by an extant Alaska specimen or they are represented by a specimen for which age, sex, or other criteria preclude certain identification to subspecies.

Because preserved *examples* of avian taxa (archived voucher specimens) make available manifold data about birds that can only be conjectured from *representations* (photos, videos, etc., used widely to corroborate identification and geographic occurrence of birds), we include here references to first Alaska specimens of taxa already on the Alaska list obtained, or brought to our attention, during this period of coverage.

## STATUS CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE ALASKA LIST

*Anser serrirostris*. Tundra Bean-Goose. Additional subspecies elevated to species rank. The taxa long maintained as the polytypic Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) are now recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) as constituting two polytypic species, *A. serrirostris* and *A. fabalis*, with the English names Tundra Bean-Goose and Taiga Bean-Goose, respectively (Banks et al. 2007). RANGES (see Vaurie 1965): *A. serrirostris*—Eurasian tundra from the Northwestern Federal District of Russia (including Novaya Zemlya) to the Chukotski Peninsula, Anadyrland, and Koryakland (subspecies *serrirostris* occupies the range of the species east of Taimyr Peninsula); *A. fabalis*—Eurasian taiga from northern Scandinavia east to western Anadyrland (subspecies *middendorffii* occupies the range of the species in Siberia and the Russian Far East). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Subspecies *A. s. serrirostris* of the Tundra Bean-Goose occurs regularly in the western Aleutian Islands (see Gibson and Byrd 2007; two specimens); single specimens have been collected as well in the Pribilof Islands (Sladen 1966) and at St. Lawrence Island (Fay and Cade 1959). The Taiga Bean-Goose is known in Alaska from a Pribilof specimen of subspecies *A. f. middendorffii* (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Gibson and Kessel 1997) and from a recent Aleutian sighting (three together, 27 September 2007, Shemya Island, M. T. Schwitters, photos at University of Alaska Museum [UAM]). NOTES: A result of the taxonomic decision followed here is that many past Alaska sightings of Bean Geese must be referred to now as occurrences of "bean-geese (sp.)."

*Branta hutchinsii* (Richardson, 1832) (type locality: Melville Peninsula, Nunavut). Cackling Goose. Additional subspecies elevated to species rank. On the basis of a number of genetic studies, the forms treated formerly as the polytypic Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) are now recognized to constitute at least two polytypic species (Banks et al. 2004). *Branta hutchinsii* comprises the taxa maintained formerly as the smaller subspecies of the Canada Goose. Of those recognized by the AOU (Banks et al. 2004), three are associated with Alaska: *B. h. leucopareia*, nesting in the Aleutians and in the Semidi Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007); *B. h. minima*, nesting on the Bering and Chukchi coasts of the Alaska mainland from the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta to northwestern Alaska (except the Seward Peninsula; see Delacour 1951, 1954, Kessel 1989); and *B. h. taverneri*, nesting in northwestern and northern Alaska (away from the coast; Delacour 1951).

Additional subspecies: *Branta hutchinsii taverneri* Delacour, 1951 (Colusa, California). The AOU (Banks et al. 2004) detached this taxon from *B. canadensis parvipes*, with which it had been synonymized frequently (cf. AOU 1957, Palmer 1976, Kessel 1989, Gibson and Kessel 1997—and see as well notes at AOU 1983:70 and AOU 1998:60). RANGE, HISTORY IN ALASKA, AND NOTES: Not better understood in

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Alaska now than a half century ago. Subspecies *taverneri* was assessed by Delacour (1954:167–168), three years after he described it for science, as follows:

“Breeding areas...poorly known...probably...ten to fifty miles from the coast, from the base of the Alaska Peninsula...[north]. It intergrades with *minima* in the Wainwright area....It certainly also intergrades with *parvipes*, but the ranges and intergradation of the two forms are yet to be worked out. The identification of the various populations remains difficult, and until further knowledge is acquired we unite them under the name *taverneri*. Winters from Washington to Texas and Mexico, mostly in the large interior valleys of California.... [It]...replaces the larger *parvipes* in northern and western Alaska, but we know very little about the intergrading and distribution of the two....It behaves toward the smaller *minima* that breed on the shore tundra along the Bering Sea as *parvipes* to [nominat] *hutchinsii* along the shores of the northern Hudson Bay, breeding farther inland, migrating separately, and building different, much bulkier nests.”

*Melanitta fusca*. White-winged Scoter. Additional subspecies: *Melanitta fusca (stejnegeri)* (Ridgway, 1887) (Bering Island, Commander Islands). First records (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): adult ♂, 30 May 2001, Cape Nome; adult ♂, 2–4 June 2002, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island (Garner et al. 2004; includes photos); adult ♂, 17 June 2004, Nome, M. J. Liff (photo at UAM). Also one reported 10 June 2005, Gambell, P. E. Lehman (*N. Am. Birds* [NAB] 59:640). RANGE: Central and eastern Russian Far East (see Vaurie 1965).

*Thalassarche cauta* (Gould, 1841) (Bass Strait, between Australia and Tasmania). Shy Albatross. *Thalassarche cauta (salvini)* (Rothschild, 1893) (New Zealand). One record (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): subadult, 4 August 2003, 18 km northwest of Kasatochi Island, central Aleutians (Benter et al. 2005). RANGE: Species breeds on islands off southern Australia and New Zealand and ranges widely in the South Pacific (AOU 1998); subspecies *salvini* breeds at the Snares, Crozet, and Bounty islands (Dickinson 2003). NOTES: Benter et al. (2005) referred to nine other records in the North Pacific.

*Puffinus bulleri*. Buller's Shearwater. First Alaska specimen: UAM 21852, ♀, 11 September 2005, Gulf of Alaska at 58° 40' N, 148° 20' W, K. D. Bell. HISTORY IN ALASKA: Long reported from the northern Gulf of Alaska (see Day 2006 and citations therein), this species was only recently added to the Alaska list, by photo (Gibson et al. 2003:124).

*Puffinus puffinus* (Brünnich, 1764) (Faeroe Islands). Manx Shearwater. First substantiated records (no specimen; photos at UAM, Figures 1 and 2): two together, perhaps a pair prospecting for a possible nest site, 12 May 2005, Middleton Island (59° 26' N, 146° 20' W), Gulf of Alaska, B. M. Guzzetti; two together in that area 3–24 July 2005, B. M. Guzzetti and N. Bargmann (NAB 59:640); one bird (still?) there, in company with Short-tailed Shearwaters (*P. tenuirostris*) on 26 September 2005 (G. H. Rosenberg, R. A. MacIntosh, S. C. Heinl, and T. G. Tobish, Jr., NAB 60:120, 2006). RANGE: According to AOU (1998) this species breeds only on islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, with records from the South Atlantic, South Pacific, and North Pacific in California and Washington. Most of the North Pacific records are recent. In Washington waters there were 31 records from the late 1990s through 2002, March–October (Wahl 2005); in California waters, where the species has been recorded annually since 1993, there were 97 records through 2006, in every month but November (Hamilton et al. 2007, Heindel and Garrett 2008).

HISTORY IN ALASKA: In the absence of any Alaska specimens of the taxonomically complicated and incompletely understood group of which this species is a member (see NOTES, below), the Manx Shearwater is known here from sketchy information. Prior Alaska sightings of Manx-type shearwaters include a number from the northern



Figure 1. Manx Shearwaters along beach at Middleton Island, 12 May 2005.

Photo by B. M. Guzzetti

Gulf of Alaska: one, 4 June 1975, off Barren Islands; one “dark-vented,” 4 July 1976, Gulf of Alaska at 57° 26' N, 145° 10' W; one “dark-vented,” 5 August 1976, Chiniak Bay, Kodiak Island (all Kessel and Gibson 1978); one, 17 May 1981, between the Barren Islands and Homer, C. J. Hohenberger (*Am. Birds* [AB] 35:852); one “white-vented,” 19 June 1986, between Kodiak and Seward, D. J. Fisher, J. L. Dunn, B. Hallett, and C. Gottlund (AB 40:1242); one, 17 July 1995, off Kodiak Island, C. Dexter (*Field Notes* [FN] 49:963); five birds, 8–10 July 2004, between Cape Fairweather and Lituya Bay, P. M. Suchanek (NAB 58:583); one, 1 September 2004, off Cape Suckling, S. Zimmerman and others (NAB 59:129). There is also one sighting from the southern Bering Sea (one, 8 June 1998, Bristol Bay at 56° 05' N, 162° 25' W, R. A. MacIntosh).

Following the Middleton Island activity in 2005, outlined above, there were three reports the following year: one, 25 May 2006, off Sitka, G. Meyer (NAB 60:421, photo 60:422); one, 15 June 2006, near the Chiswell Islands, K. J. Zimmer and others (NAB 60:565); and one, 29 June 2006, near Coronation Island, B. Tweit (NAB 60:565). NOTES: “Species limits in the superspecies complex that includes *P. puffinus*... [and *P. yelkouan*, *P. gavia*, *P. opisthomelas*, *P. auricularis*, *P. newelli*, and *P. huttoni*] are uncertain” (AOU 1998:21).

*Pelecanus occidentalis* Linnaeus, 1766 {Jamaica}. Brown Pelican. *Pelecanus occidentalis (californicus)* Ridgway, 1884 {La Paz, Baja California}. First records (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): one immature, 23 May 2003, Clarence Strait, between Kasaan Peninsula and Gravina Island, K. Turley (NAB 57:390, photos at UAM); one adult, 24–28 May 2003, Clover Passage, near Ketchikan, M. Pattison, S. C. Heinl, and others (NAB 57:390, includes photo; photo also published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, B-3, 5 June 2003). RANGE: Breeds locally from southern California south; ranges north along the coast regularly to southwestern British Columbia (AOU 1998). HISTORY IN ALASKA: An immature was reported to have reached



Figure 2. One of two Manx Shearwaters along beach at Middleton Island, 12 May 2005.

Photo by B. M. Guzzetti

Ketchikan aboard a fishing vessel on 18 April 1996, “two or three days” after it had landed aboard that vessel, northbound in Canadian waters (Tobish 1996:319), and an immature was reported on 21 December 2002 in Clarence Strait, near Gravina Island (L. Johnson). NOTES: Since the 1970s this species has steadily increased in numbers as a visitant along the Pacific Northwest coast (Campbell et al. 1990, Gilligan et al. 1994, Wahl and Tweit 2000). At the latest turn of century, compared with 30 years before, it arrived increasingly earlier in the spring and lingered later in the fall; small numbers began to remain regularly in winter on the southern Oregon coast (Marshall et al. 2003), where unprecedented numbers were recorded well into December 2002 (NAB 57:247).

*Ardea cinerea* Linnaeus, 1758 [Sweden]. Gray Heron. *Ardea cinerea (jouyi)* Clark, 1907 [Seoul, Korea] First substantiated record (no specimen; photos at UAM): one, 1–2 October 2007, St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, R. Hoyer, J. Mohlmann, and others. RANGE: Widespread in Eurasia and Africa; subspecies *jouyi* breeds in Asia, as far east and north as Korea and Hokkaido (see Vaurie 1965). HISTORY IN ALASKA: One prior report (one, 1–2 August 1999, St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, Burton and Smith 2001).

*Ardea alba*. Great Egret. *Ardea alba egretta* Gmelin, 1789 [Cayenne]. First Alaska specimen: UAM 20049, adult ♀, found dead 6 January 2004, Juneau, M. W. Schwan; bird present alive 31 December 2003–5 January 2004, M. W. Schwan, G. B. van Vliet, K. Hart, and others (see NAB 58:268). RANGE: Breeds in the Americas, from southern Canada to Patagonia (Dickinson 2003). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Subspecies *egretta* had been discussed as the likely taxon involved in earlier, photo-supported sightings of this species in southeastern and south-central Alaska, mid-May to early July (Gibson and Kessel 1992).

Additional subspecies: *Ardea alba modesta* J. E. Gray, 1831 [India]. First Alaska specimens: UAM 22607, adult ♂, and UAM 22608, adult unsexed, found dead 25 May and 28 May 2006, respectively, Buldir Island, western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Breeds in southern and eastern Asia north to southern Japan

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and south to Australasia (Dickinson 2003). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Subspecies *modesta* had been discussed as the likely taxon involved in earlier, photo-supported sightings of this species in the Aleutian Islands in fall and winter (Gibson and Kessel 1997).

*Mesophoyx intermedia* (Wagler, 1829) {Java}. Intermediate Egret. *Mesophoyx intermedia intermedia* (Wagler, 1829). One record (specimen): UAM 22603, adult ♂, found dead 30 May 2006, Buldir Island, western Aleutians (Lorenz and Gibson 2007). RANGE: Species breeds from southern India to Japan, Philippines, the Greater Sundas, southern Moluccas, New Guinea, and Australia; also in Africa from Sudan to Cape Province (Dickinson 2003); the nominate subspecies breeds throughout the range of the species, except Africa (Dickinson 2003) and from the Moluccas to New Guinea and Australia (Vaurie 1965).

*Accipiter gentilis*. Northern Goshawk. Additional subspecies: *Accipiter gentilis (albidus)* (Menzbier, 1882) {eastern Siberia, Amurland, and Kamchatka}. First records (no specimen; one photo UAM): adult, 25–27 May 2001; one (white morph), 17 September 2001, both at Shemya Island, western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Northeastern Russian Far East, east to Kamchatka and Anadyrland (see Vaurie 1965).

*Buteo lagopus*. Rough-legged Hawk. Additional subspecies: *Buteo lagopus kamtschatkensis* Dementiev, 1931 {Kikhchik River, Kamchatka}. First Alaska specimen: UAM 21100, adult ♂, 8 May 2005, Shemya Island, western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Sea of Okhotsk coast, northern Kuril Islands, and Kamchatka (Dickinson 2003). HISTORY IN ALASKA: This taxon is of intermittent occurrence (less than annual, ≥30% of years) in spring in the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

*Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus, 1758) {Sweden}. Northern Lapwing. One record (specimen): UAM 22699, adult ♀, 12 October 2006, Shemya Island, western Aleutians (Schwitters 2007). RANGE: Widespread in Eurasia, from western Europe to Us-suri-land (see Vaurie 1965). HISTORY IN ALASKA: In their hypothetical list, Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:827) referred to a 19th-century report by Dall and Bannister (1869:293), who had written, “A bird was described to me by one of the Russian hunters as having been killed on one of the small islands in Norton Sound, off the mouth of Golsova River. From this description, which could apply to no other bird of the country, and agreed well with the colors and crest of the lapwing, I am induced to believe that stragglers of that species may occasionally occur there.”

*Calidris alpina*. Dunlin. Additional subspecies: *Calidris alpina sakhalina* (Vieillot, 1816) {Sakhalin}. First Alaska specimens: at least six UAM specimens, 19 May–1 June, from Attu, Shemya, Buldir, and Amchitka, in the western and central Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Northeastern Russian Far East (see Kistchinski 1980, 1988). HISTORY IN ALASKA: This taxon is rare or uncommon in spring in western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

*Larus crassirostris*. Black-tailed Gull. First Alaska specimen: UAM 23503, adult ♀, 22 April 2007, Shemya Island, western Aleutians, M. T. Schwitters. HISTORY IN ALASKA: There have been more than 25 widely scattered Alaska records, the first in 1980 (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Heil 1997, Gibson and Byrd 2007). Early records documented by archived photos (UAM) encompass western and southwestern Alaska (adult, 2 June 1988, St. Lawrence Island, N. B. Broadbooks, G. H. Rosenberg), the Aleutians (adult, 19 June 1991, off Buldir Island, E. V. Klett), southeastern Alaska (second-summer/adult winter, 21 August–8 October 1992, Ketchikan, S. C. Heil; adult, 1 August 1993; first-summer, 6 and 28–30 September 1995, Petersburg, P. J. Walsh), and south-central Alaska (adult, 15 June 1995, Homer, K. Brock). Photos of the bird at Ketchikan were published (AB 47:166, 1993, Heil 1997).

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*Larus fuscus*. Lesser Black-backed Gull. Additional subspecies: *Larus fuscus heuglini* Bree, 1876 {Zeila, British Somaliland}, including as a junior synonym *taimyrensis* Buturlin, 1911 (del Hoyo et al. 1996, Dickinson 2003). One record (specimen): UAM 21826, adult ♀, 15 September 2005, Shemya Island, western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Northwestern Federal District of Russia east to about 125° E in Siberia (Vaurie 1965). NOTES: Informed insights into the identification of this specimen were provided by L. Jonsson (in litt.), P.-A. Crochet (in litt.), and M. Renner (in litt.).

*Ninox scutulata* (Raffles, 1822) {Sumatra}. Brown Hawk-Owl. *Ninox scutulata (japonica)* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1845) {Japan}. One record (no specimen; photos at UAM): one, 27 August–3 September 2007, St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, D. Radin, J. Mohlmann, G. L. Thomson, S. Sapora, K. Litle, and others (Yerger and Mohlmann 2008). RANGE: Eastern Asia (Vaurie 1965); subspecies *japonica* breeds in southern Korea and Japan (OSJ 2000).

*Tyrannus forficatus* (Gmelin, 1789) {Mexico}. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. First substantiated record (no specimen; photos at UAM, Figure 3): one adult, 9 July 2003, Juneau, J. G. and M. L. King, P. M. Suchanek, G. B. van Vliet, and others (NAB 57:533). Subsequently, one was reported to have been seen 30 June 2003, at Klokachef Island, southwest of Chichagof Island, J. Miller and L. Brown.) RANGE: Breeds no closer to Alaska than western Great Plains, but “casual throughout most of North America outside the breeding range” (AOU 1998:415). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Three prior sightings are all from southeastern Alaska (one, 22 July 1972, Gustavus, B. B. Paige; one, 15 June 1983, Cape Fairweather, A. G. Bomford; one, 3 June 1993, Juneau, B. Bereman and D. Vogt).

*Lanius excubitor*. Northern Shrike. Additional subspecies: *Lanius excubitor (sibiricus)* Bogdanov, 1881 {Chukotski Peninsula}. One record (specimen): UAM



Figure 3. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Juneau, 9 July 2003.

Photo by R. H. Armstrong

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21841, immature ♀?, 10 October 2005, Shemya Island, western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). RANGE: Siberia and Russian Far East (Vaurie 1959, Kistchinski 1980, Dickinson 2003).

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Linnaeus, 1758) {Sweden}. Sedge Warbler. One record (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): one, 30 September 2007, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Rosenberg and Lehman (2008). RANGE: Europe east to western Siberia (Dickinson 2003).

*Phylloscopus proregulus* (Pallas, 1811) {Ingoda River, southern Transbaikalia}. Pallas's Leaf-Warbler. One record (no specimen; photos published): one, 25–26 September 2006, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island (Lehman and Rosenberg 2007). RANGE: Southwestern Siberia to Russian Far East in Amurland, Ussuriland, and Sakhalin (Dickinson 2003). NOTES: We follow Dickinson (2003) in maintaining this species as monotypic.

*Vermivora ruficapilla* (Wilson, 1811) {near Nashville, Tennessee}. Nashville Warbler. Polytypic in two subspecies (AOU 1957, Dickinson 2003). We think that subspecies in Alaska cannot be reasonably inferred from the available evidence. First substantiated records (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): one, 5–7 September 2004, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island (Lehman 2005; NAB 59:186); also single birds on 19 October and 11 November 2005, Ketchikan, A. W. Piston, S. C. Heintz, and J. F. Koerner (NAB 60:123, photo of latter bird published at 60:121), and on 6 November 2006, Sitka, M. Goff (NAB 61:126). RANGE: The western subspecies *ridgwayi* van Rossem breeds as far north as southern interior and southwestern British Columbia; the eastern subspecies nominate *ruficapilla* (Wilson) breeds as far west as southern Manitoba (AOU 1957). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Two prior reports (one, 12 September 1971, Cordova, Isleib and Kessel 1973; and probably two individuals, 20–21 September 1981, Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, T. G. Tobish, Jr., AB 36:208).

*Pooecetes gramineus* (Gmelin, 1789) {New York}. Vesper Sparrow. *Pooecetes gramineus (confinis)* Baird, 1858 {Loup Fork of Platte River, Nebraska}. One record (no specimen; photos at UAM): one, 4 June 2007, Hyder, I. Bruce. RANGE: Breeds as close to Alaska as southern interior British Columbia (AOU 1998).

*Emberiza chrysophrys* Pallas, 1776. {Transbaikalia}. Yellow-browed Bunting. One record (no specimen; photos published and at UAM): one, 15 September 2007, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, P. E. Lehman, P. Mayer, D. W. Sonneborn, and H. Irrigoo (Lehman 2008). RANGE: East-central Siberia and central Russian Far East (Vaurie 1959).

*Spiza americana* (Gmelin, 1789) {New York}. Dickcissel. One record (no specimen; photo published and at UAM): ♂, 22–23 May 2004, Juneau, B. Maybank, D. MacPhail, and others (see NAB 58:420, photo published at 58:463). RANGE: Breeds no closer to Alaska than southern Saskatchewan and eastern Montana; casual in southern British Columbia (AOU 1998).

*Icterus bullockii* (Swainson, 1827) {Temascaltepec, state of México}. Bullock's Oriole. First substantiated records (no specimen; photos at UAM, Figure 4): three immatures, 13 September 2007, A. Lang and others, and 23–24 September 2007 and 23–29 September 2007, G. H. Rosenberg, P. E. Lehman, and others, all at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island. RANGE: Breeds no closer to Alaska than southern British Columbia (AOU 1998). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Four prior sightings: adult male visited sugar-water feeders, 22–25 May 1980, Petersburg, J. H. Hughes, L. J. Westphal, R. Pederson, and M. R. Voltz, AB 34:807; adult male, 25–26 April 1996, Ketchikan, P. Meredith, FN 50:320; immature, 2 September 2003, Ketchikan, S. C. Heintz and A. W. Piston, NAB 58:128; one female or immature, 3 October 2004, Gambell, St.





Figure 4. Bullock's Oriole at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, 13 September 2007.

Photo by A. Lang

Lawrence Island, Lehman (2005). NOTES: We follow Patten et al. (2003) in maintaining this species as monotypic.

## DELETIONS

Under *Passerculus sandwichensis* the Savannah Sparrow, we follow Rising (2007) in submerging subspecies *anthinus* Bonaparte in nominate *sandwichensis*, which by this action becomes the only subspecies of Savannah Sparrow recognized in Alaska. Nominate *sandwichensis*—*Emberiza sandwichensis* Gmelin, 1789 {Unalaska Island, Aleutians}—thus includes four junior synonyms named from Alaska (cf. Rising 2007): *Emberiza chrysops* Pallas, 1811 {Unalaska Island, Aleutians}, *Passerculus anthinus* Bonaparte, 1853 {Kodiak Island, Kodiak archipelago}, *Ammodramus sandwichensis xanthophrys* Grinnell, 1901 {Kodiak Island, Kodiak archipelago}, and *Passerculus sandwichensis crassus* Peters and Griscom, 1938 {Sitka, Baranof Island, Alexander Archipelago}.

## POSTSCRIPTS

A proliferation during 2006 and 2007 of records of collared doves, genus *Streptopelia*, in southeastern and south-central Alaska from Ketchikan to Yakutat remains under discussion. It has not been established with certainty that any of these represents the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*S. decaocto*), which has spread explosively across North America south of Alaska (see Smith 1987, Romagosa 2002). That species has recently been found with increasing frequency in the Pacific Northwest (e.g., NAB 60:429, 2006). As noted by Romagosa and McEneaney (1999), this species is kept in captivity, and individual doves found in the wild might be the result of local introduction. In at

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least one case in Alaska, birds determined to have been local escapes from captivity have clouded the issue.

A remarkable Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) photographed on 19 May 2006 aboard a ship in the northern Bering Sea at 63° 15' N, 173° 44' W, southwest of St. Lawrence Island, was almost certainly a migrant from Asia (and a would-be first Alaska record of nominate *otus*), but we judge the lone photo (Figure 5) inadequate for identification below the species level. The very few prior Alaska records of this species are all from the southeastern Alaska mainland, where the North American subspecies *wilsonianus* (including *tuftsi*) is known from two specimens (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology 9786, ♂, 26 September 1909, Taku River, H. S. Swarth; UAM 18100, ♀, 1 February 2003, Gustavus, B. B. Paige).

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Figure 5. Long-eared Owl aboard a ship in the northern Bering Sea, 19 May 2006.

*Photo by E. Labunski*

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