

## REVISED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE COMMANDER ISLANDS

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THE birds that occur in the Commander Islands are relatively well known, although their seasonal status is often misunderstood. More than half of the species recorded from these islands are only accidental visitors or were carried to the islands by storms. Some of these birds have been collected or observed during their normal breeding season, giving rise to the impression that they breed in the islands. Hartert was thus misled in many instances in writing his classic work *Die Vögel der Paläarktischen Fauna* (1903–1922), and his errors have been perpetuated in other lists, such as Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World*, and the *Check-list of North American Birds* published by the American Ornithologists' Union. I have set forth below the correct status of the birds of the Commander Islands in so far as it is known to me. I have already discussed these birds (1934) after spending more than three years in these islands, but this paper, which was published in Tomsk in Siberia in a serial virtually unknown outside of the Soviet Union, is no longer available.

The Commander Islands were discovered accidentally by Vitus Bering when his ship was wrecked on these islands on its return to Kamchatka during the expedition to North America. Pallas was the first to mention the birds of the Commanders in his famous *Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica* (1811), and based his report on a manuscript of Steller, the scientific assistant to Bering. From Steller's notes Pallas described *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*, the only bird that was endemic to these islands. This bird is now extinct, but seems to have been fairly abundant in 1830–1840 when Kuprianov, the governor of Sitka, collected five specimens that are now in the museums of Leningrad, Helsinki, Leiden, and London.

Toward the end of the last century much ornithological work was done on the islands. Between 1870 and 1880 Dybovski, Grinevitski, and Vosnesenski collected birds there, and Dybovski, together with Taczanovski, published a list of 107 species. The governor of the islands, Dr. N. Grebnitski, who stayed on the islands for 25 years (1880–1905), collected many specimens, sending them to the museum of St. Petersburg (Leningrad), and also to Dybovski and Stejneger. The latter visited the islands several times between 1882 and 1884 and made a collection of about 2,000 specimens, which is in the United States National Museum in Washington. Stejneger's paper, *Results of Ornithological Explorations in the Commander Islands and Kamtschatka* (1885) with excellent

plates, is the best and most important work on the birds of the Commander Islands but, of course, is now partly out of date.

Sokolnikov, the new governor of the islands (1905–1916), was also an eager bird collector. He sent his first 200 skins to the museum in St. Petersburg where, together with the older collections of Grebnitski and those of Grinevitski and Vosnesenski, they were described by Bianchi (1911). The other specimens collected by Sokolnikov (from 1909 to 1916)—about 860 skins—were bought by Rothschild for the Tring Museum, and studied by Hartert (1920). This collection is now in the American Museum of Natural History. Some smaller collections were made between 1910 and 1913, and one of them, consisting of 127 skins, was reported upon by Buturlin (1913); this paper is of special interest as all the specimens were taken on Copper Island.

My own paper (1934) was based on my observations and collections (212 skins) made during a stay of three and a half years on the islands as scientific assistant of the fur commission. During the preparation of the present paper, I also examined the Sokolnikov collection in the American Museum of Natural History.

The assumption that many birds visiting the Commanders remain to breed is based on a misconception of the prevailing ecological conditions. It is therefore necessary to give a short description of these islands (*Komandorskie Ostrova* in Russian). They are situated relatively far south, about 200 miles off the coast of eastern Kamchatka at about latitude 55° N. by longitude 167° E., but, nevertheless, are truly subarctic. They consist of four islands, of which only two, Bering and Copper, have any importance. The largest, Bering Island, is 95 kilometers long by an average of about 18 in width. The central and southern parts of the island are rocky and mountainous, reaching an elevation of 757 meters at Mount Steller. The northern end is more or less flat, consisting of some small, low plateaus and broad, low ridges, interspersed with lakes and swamps; these moist lowlands are called the "wet tundra." The more elevated parts are covered by dry upland tundra, sometimes stony.

Copper Island is separated from Bering by a strait of 48 kilometers and is 53 kilometers long by an average of only 3.5 wide. It is all mountainous with high, rocky cliffs dropping down to the sea, and cut by many steep valleys with small but rapid creeks. The other two islands (Ariy Kamen and Toporkov) are very small and lie off and near the coast of Bering. Their only interest consists in their large breeding colonies of a few species of sea birds.

The climate of the Commander Islands is extremely oceanic, the winter being relatively warm and the summer very cool (the average July tem-

perature being only 9° C). Spring begins at the end of May or the beginning of June. The summer is almost always foggy and the sun rarely seen, fierce storms prevail during the autumn and winter, and, as a result, the arborescent vegetation is poor, consisting of dwarf birches, several willows, and mountain ash (*Sorbus*), which hardly reach a height of six feet, and this only in the most sheltered valleys. These valleys are thickly overgrown with high grass, but the grass cover becomes low and scanty in open country and on the hills.

In view of these conditions, the land fauna is very poor, and the only indigenous mammal is the polar fox. The other land mammals consist of three introduced species: the reindeer, the housemouse in the villages, and the red mouse (*Evotomys rutilus*). The latter is restricted to Bering, where it was accidentally introduced in the middle of the last century. It has become abundant, and this has had an important bearing on the status of the Snowy Owl. This bird was rare in Stejneger's time but now breeds commonly on Bering but not on Copper where there is no red mouse.

The list of birds consists of 175 species, but many are only stragglers or accidental visitors. Regular migrants or visitors are less numerous, and only 55 species breed in the islands. More than half of the breeding birds are sea or water birds, the land and shore birds numbering only about 20 species. The avifauna is predominantly Palearctic, although a few species have been derived from the Nearctic region.

#### SYSTEMATIC LIST

The nomenclature followed is chiefly that in use in the latest edition of the *A.O.U. Check-list* published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1957). Only Bering and Copper Islands are referred to, as a rule, or are combined under the term "both islands."

##### BREEDING BIRDS

1. *Gavia stellata stellata*, Red-throated Loon  
Common breeder on both islands.
2. *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*, Fulmar  
Common breeder on both islands. The dark phase is much more frequent than the whitish one.
3. *Oceanodroma furcata furcata*, Fork-tailed Petrel  
Breeds in colonies on Copper, and possibly also in the southern part of Bering.
4. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*, Leach's Petrel  
Breeds in small numbers with the preceding species on Copper.
5. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus*, Pelagic Cormorant  
Resident and common breeder on both islands.
6. *Phalacrocorax urile*, Red-faced Cormorant  
Resident breeder in the northern part of Copper.

7. *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*, Pallas' Cormorant  
Extinct. Last seen in 1852.
8. *Branta canadensis* subsp., Canada Goose  
Formerly rare breeder on Bering. The last specimen was collected in 1914 by Sokolnikov. I did not see it during my stay (1928-1931).
9. *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*, Mallard  
Common breeder in the northern part of Bering. Possibly single pairs breed also on Copper.
10. *Anas acuta*, Pintail  
The most common surface duck on both islands.
11. *Anas crecca crecca*, Common Teal  
Common breeder on both islands.
12. *Spatula clypeata*, Shoveler  
This species may breed on Bering according to Stejneger, but breeding records are lacking.
13. *Aythya marila*, Greater Scaup  
Common breeder on both islands; seems to be intermediate between the nominate race and *nearctica*.
14. *Aythya fuligula*, Tufted Duck  
This species is a rare summer resident and, undoubtedly, breeds, although this has not been confirmed.
15. *Clangula hyemalis*, Oldsquaw  
Fairly common breeder and abundant on the sea during the winter.
16. *Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus*, Harlequin Duck  
Resident on both islands and abundant on the sea during the winter.
17. *Somateria mollissima v-nigrum*, Common Eider  
Resident, but breeding records exist only for Copper Island.
18. *Mergus merganser merganser*, Common Merganser  
A rare breeder according to Stejneger, but this bird has been seen by me only in the spring and single individuals in winter.
19. *Mergus serrator serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser  
Breeds on both islands. Not common.
20. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*, Bald Eagle  
Formerly resident breeder according to Stejneger (1885), but during my stay only single individuals were seen in winter by natives.
21. *Falco rusticolus grebnitzkii*, Gyrfalcon  
A rare breeder on Bering according to Stejneger (1885), but I have seen it only during the winter, and the 12 specimens collected by Sokolnikov were collected at that season.
22. *Falco peregrinus*, Peregrine Falcon  
Resident on both islands. The breeding form is very large and very dark, and is *pealei*. During migration a pale form occurs also, probably *calidus*.
23. *Lagopus mutus ridgwayi*, Rock Ptarmigan  
Common and abundant breeder on both islands.
24. *Charadrius mongolus stegmanni*, Mongolian Plover  
Common breeder on both islands.
25. *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*, Common Snipe  
Common breeder on Bering.

26. *Heteroscelus brevipes*, Siberian Tattler  
Possibly rare breeder. Seen in summer, and young birds have also been collected late in August. Regular migrant.
27. *Tringa glareola*, Wood Sandpiper  
Common breeder on Bering, and rare breeder on Copper.
28. *Erolia ptilocnemis quarta*, Rock Sandpiper  
Resident common breeder on both islands.
29. *Erolia subminuta*, Long-toed Stint  
Breeds on Bering where I have found its nest and eggs, and probably breeds also on Copper. It is frequent on migration on both islands.
30. *Lobipes lobatus*, Northern Phalarope  
Common breeder on Bering, and probably breeding rarely on Copper.
31. *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Pomarine Jaeger  
Breeds on both islands, the light and dark phase being equally represented.
32. *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Parasitic Jaeger  
Breeds on both islands, also in both phases.
33. *Stercorarius longicaudus pallascens*, Long-tailed Jaeger  
Has been captured several times during the breeding season, and probably is a rare breeder.
34. *Larus glaucescens*, Glaucous-winged Gull  
The most common breeding gull on the islands. Partly resident, but most of the birds that remain during the winter are young.
35. *Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*, Kittiwake  
Common, partly resident, and breeds on both islands.
36. *Rissa brevirostris*, Red-legged Kittiwake  
Less common than the preceding and breeds only on Copper and the southern part of Bering. Not seen in winter.
37. *Sterna paradisaea*, Arctic Tern  
Single pairs may breed on Bering as Stejneger (1885) states, but this has not been confirmed by me.
38. *Uria aalge inornata*, Common Murre  
Breeds on both islands in limited numbers.
39. *Uria lomvia arra*, Thick-billed Murre  
The most common sea bird on the islands. Winters probably in the open sea.
40. *Cephus columba kaiurka*, Pigeon Guillemot  
Very common breeder on both islands. Not seen in winter.
41. *Synthliboramphus antiquum*, Ancient Murrelet  
Fairly frequent breeder on Copper.
42. *Cyclorrhynchus psittacula*, Parakeet Auklet  
Fairly common breeder on both islands.
43. *Aethia cristatella*, Crested Auklet  
Stejneger (1885) states this species breeds on Bering and Copper, but it was not found by me during the breeding season. Sokolnikov's collection consists only of birds taken during the winter.
44. *Aethia pygmaea*, Whiskered Auklet  
Resident breeder on both islands but more frequent on Copper.
45. *Fratercula corniculata*, Horned Puffin  
Common breeder on both islands. In winter in the open sea.

46. *Lunda cirrhata*, Tufted Puffin  
One of the most common breeders, especially on the little "Toporkov Island" near Bering where I counted about 100,000 pairs. In winter in the open sea.
47. *Nyctea scandiaca*, Snowy Owl  
Resident and breeding on Bering. Has increased greatly in numbers, the increase being correlated with the enormous increase in the introduced red mouse during the last 100 years.
48. *Asio flammeus flammeus*, Short-eared Owl  
Stejneger (1885) states that it is a rare resident on both islands, but no one has collected this species since. A native told me he saw one many years ago.
49. *Corvus corax kamtschaticus*, Common Raven  
Resident and breeds on both islands.
50. *Troglodytes troglodytes pallescens*, Winter Wren  
Resident and fairly common breeder on both islands.
51. *Motacilla flava simillima*, Yellow Wagtail  
Breeds rarely on Bering, as I observed the species in July and in the beginning of August. Frequent and regular during spring migration on both islands.
52. *Anthus gustavi commandorensis*, Pechora Pipit  
Common breeder in the grassy parts of the islands.
53. *Leucosticte tephrocotis maxima*, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch  
Resident on both islands.
54. *Acanthis flammea flammea*, Common Redpoll  
Resident. Breeds in the valleys of the southern part of Bering.
55. *Calcarius lapponicus coloratus*, Lapland Longspur  
The most common summer resident among the Passeriformes.
56. *Plectrophenax nivalis townsendi*, Snow Bunting  
Resident and breeds on both islands. Some birds that occur in the Commanders are probably migrants, as I have seen small flocks at a time when the local birds were already paired.

#### REGULAR MIGRANT AND WINTER VISITORS

1. *Olor cygnus*, Whooper Swan  
Regular migrant, more frequent in the autumn. Rare in the winter.
2. *Philacte canagica*, Emperor Goose  
October to April in small flocks on the coast.
3. *Anser albifrons frontalis*, White-fronted Goose  
Regular spring migrant, more rare in the autumn.
4. *Anser fabalis serrirostris*, Tundra Bean Goose  
Regular in the spring, rare in the autumn.
5. *Mareca penelope*, European Widgeon  
Regular spring migrant. Extremely rare in the autumn.
6. *Polysticta stelleri*, Steller's Eider  
Large flocks in the winter on the sea.
7. *Somateria spectabilis*, King Eider  
In the winter on the sea.
8. *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*, White-winged Scoter  
Fairly common in the spring and in the autumn near the coast. Rare in the winter.

9. *Oidemia nigra americana*, Common Scoter  
Stejneger states (1885) that it is found in small numbers on the open sea during the winter, but I have neither collected this bird nor am I certain that I have seen it.
10. *Pluvialis dominica fulva*, Golden Plover  
Regular and common spring and autumn migrant.
11. *Squatarola squatarola*, Black-bellied Plover  
Regular migrant, but more frequent in the autumn.
12. *Arenaria interpres interpres*, Turnstone  
Very common regular spring and autumn migrant. Seen also in the summer on the coast, but there are no breeding records.
13. *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*, Whimbrel  
Regular spring and autumn migrant.
14. *Actitis hypoleucos*, Common Sandpiper  
Regular migrant on Bering. Found on Copper only in the spring.
15. *Erolia temminckii*, Temminck's Stint  
Regular but rare migrant.
16. *Erolia ruficollis*, Rufous-necked Sandpiper  
Regular spring and autumn migrant.
17. *Erolia alpina sakhalina*, Dunlin  
Regular but not common in the spring and in the autumn.
18. *Limosa limosa melanuroides*, Black-tailed Godwit  
Rare spring migrant.
19. *Limosa lapponica baueri*, Bar-tailed Godwit  
Common during migration. Some individuals remain in the summer but probably do not breed.
20. *Larus hyperboreus* subsp.?, Glaucous Gull  
Common migrant in the spring and in the autumn on both islands. Rare in winter.
21. *Larus schistisagus*, Slaty-backed Gull  
Common spring and autumn migrant. Rare in January and February but frequent from March to June.
22. *Larus argentatus vegae*, Herring Gull  
Regular migrant but less frequent than the two preceding species.
23. *Alauda arvensis pekinensis*, Skylark  
Regular spring visitor on Bering, but not breeding as stated by Bianchi (1909).
24. *Motacilla alba*, White Wagtail  
Regular visitor in the spring, rare in the autumn. Two subspecies occur: *M. a. ocularis* and *M. a. lugens*.
25. *Fringilla montifringilla*, Brambling  
Regular migrant in small flocks on both islands, but less frequent in the autumn.
26. *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*, Hoary Redpoll  
Regular winter visitor. The latest record is from 13 May.

## ACCIDENTALS AND STRAGGLERS

1. *Gavia immer*, Common Loon  
One specimen was collected in the 1880's.

2. *Gavia adamsii*, Yellow-billed Loon  
Occasional in the winter and in the spring on the open sea.
3. *Gavia arctica* subsp.?, Arctic Loon  
Irregular visitor in the spring and in the autumn. The specimens in Sokolnikov's collection seem to be intermediate between *viridigularis* and *pacifica*.
4. *Podiceps grisegena holboellii*, Red-necked Grebe  
Occasional in the spring and in the autumn on both islands.
5. *Podiceps auritus auritus*, Horned Grebe  
Rare accidental visitor.
6. *Diomedea albatrus*, Short-tailed Albatross  
Rare on the open sea from March to October, according to Stejneger (1885).
7. *Diomedea nigripes*, Black-footed Albatross  
Observed 12 June 1906 between Attu (Aleutian Islands) and Copper Island by A. H. Clark (1910).
8. *Puffinus tenuirostris*, Slender-billed Shearwater  
In summer time single migratory individuals are observed in the open sea.
9. *Cygnus columbianus*, Whistling Swan  
One specimen collected in November 1882, according to Stejneger (1885).
10. *Branta bernicla nigricans*, Black Brant  
Rare straggler in the autumn.
11. *Cygnopsis cygnoides*, Swan Goose  
Doubtful. Dybovski is said to have had a record from Bering (Stejneger, 1887).
12. *Chen hyperborea hyperborea*, Snow Goose  
A white female collected 30 May 1911 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
13. *Anas strepera*, Gadwall  
Rare accidental visitor.
14. *Anas falcata*, Falcated Teal  
Rare straggler in the spring.
15. *Anas formosa*, Baikal Teal  
Rare straggler.
16. *Anas querquedula*, Garganey  
Rare straggler.
17. *Mareca americana*, American Widgeon  
One specimen collected May 1883 (Stejneger, 1885).
18. *Aythya ferina*, Common Pochard  
Rare accidental visitor.
19. *Bucephala clangula clangula*, Common Goldeneye  
Regular but rare straggler in the spring and in the autumn. Occasional in the winter.
20. *Bucephala albeola*, Bufflehead  
Rare winter straggler.
21. *Melanitta deglandi*, White-winged Scoter  
Accidental visitor. The three specimens known from Bering and Copper may belong to the Alaskan race *dixonii* (Hartert, 1920).
22. *Melanitta perspicillata*, Surf Scoter  
Accidental visitor in the spring and autumn.
23. *Mergus squamatus*, Chinese Merganser  
One specimen collected 9 June 1911 on Copper (Hartert, 1920).



24. *Mergus albellus*, Little Merganser  
Rare straggler in the spring and autumn.
25. *Accipiter gentilis albidus*, Goshawk  
Accidental visitor.
26. *Accipiter nisus nisosimilis*, Sparrow Hawk  
Accidental visitor.
27. *Buteo lagopus menzbieri*, Rough-legged Hawk  
Winter and spring straggler.
28. *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Gray Sea Eagle  
Accidental visitor.
29. *Haliaeetus pelagicus*, Steller's Sea Eagle  
Regular but rare straggler.
30. *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*, Osprey  
Regular visitor from Kamchatka in the spring and summer.
31. *Falco columbarius insignis*, Pigeon Hawk  
One specimen collected 10 June 1915 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
32. *Grus canadensis*, Sandhill Crane  
Accidental on Bering.
33. *Haematopus ostralegus osculans*, Oystercatcher  
One specimen recorded by Stejneger 19 June 1883 on Bering.
34. *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*, Snowy Plover  
One specimen collected by Sokolnikov 21 November 1911 on Bering.
35. *Charadrius morinellus*, Dotterel  
Shot on Bering September 1928.
36. *Gallinago solitaria japonica*, Solitary Snipe  
Rare straggler from Kamchatka.
37. *Numenius madagascariensis*, Australian Curlew  
Straggler from Kamchatka. Only three records.
38. *Heteroscelus incanus*, Wandering Tattler  
Fairly common spring straggler on Bering.
39. *Tringa erythropus*, Spotted Redshank  
Infrequent spring straggler on Bering.
40. *Tringa nebularia*, Greenshank  
Regular and common straggler in the spring and in the autumn.
41. *Tringa guttifer*, Nordmann's Greenshank  
One specimen obtained by Stejneger 22 May 1883.
42. *Xenus cinereus*, Terek Sandpiper  
One specimen obtained by Stejneger 9 September 1884.
43. *Calidris tenuirostris*, Great Knot  
One specimen collected May 1881 by Grebnitski (Bianchi, 1909).
44. *Erolia melanotos*, Pectoral Sandpiper  
Rare straggler in the autumn.
45. *Erolia acuminata*, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Rare straggler in the autumn.
46. *Erolia ferruginea*, Curlew Sandpiper  
Rare straggler in the spring and autumn (two records only).
47. *Philomachus pugnax*, Ruff  
Very rare straggler in the spring and summer.
48. *Crocethia alba*, Sanderling  
Rare straggler.

49. *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Spoon-bill Sandpiper  
One specimen collected 5 September 1911 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
50. *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Red Phalarope  
Irregular migrant on both islands.
51. *Larus kamtschatschensis*, Kamchatka Gull  
Accidental on both islands. This species is closely related to *Larus delawarensis*. (A paper on this matter is in press.)
52. *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, Mew Gull  
Accidental in the autumn and winter (three records).
53. *Larus ridibundus sibiricus*, Black-headed Gull  
Rare straggler to both islands, mostly in the spring.
54. *Rhodostethia rosea*, Ross' Gull  
Rare straggler in the winter (four records).
55. *Xema sabini* subsp.?, Sabine's Gull  
One specimen collected 16 May 1913 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
56. *Sterna hirundo longipes*, Common Tern  
Fairly common straggler to both islands.
57. *Sterna aleutica*, Aleutian Tern  
One specimen collected 7 September 1911 on Copper (Hartert, 1920).
58. *Cephus carbo*, Black Guillemot  
A pair was seen by Stejneger (1885) on Bering in April 1883. No other records.
59. *Brachyramphus marmoratum*, Marbled Murrelet  
Rare accidental visitor from Kamchatka.
60. *Aethia pusilla*, Least Auklet  
Straggler in the winter, rare in the spring.
61. *Cerorhinca monocerata*, Rhinoceros Auklet  
Two specimens collected by Grebnitski in 1880 and 1881 (Stejneger, 1885).
62. *Cuculus canorus telephonus*, Cuckoo  
Rare straggler in May and June on both islands.
63. *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi*, Oriental Cuckoo  
Rare straggler in June, July, and in the autumn to the islands.
64. *Aegolius funereus magnus*, Boreal Owl  
One specimen collected 31 January 1911 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
65. *Dendrocopos major kamtschaticus*, Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Accidental visitor from Kamchatka.
66. *Riparia riparia ijimae*, Bank Swallow  
Irregular straggler in the spring and summer.
67. *Hirundo rustica*, Barn Swallow  
Rare straggler. Stejneger (1885) watched the brown-bellied race *tytleri*; I collected four specimens of the white-bellied race *gutturalis* 27 August 1931.
68. *Corvus corone orientalis*, Carrion Crow  
A single individual observed in the spring of 1883 on Bering (Stejneger, 1885).
69. *Parus atricapillus kamtschatkensis*, Black-capped Chickadee  
Accidental visitor on Bering.
70. *Turdus naumanni eunomus*, Dusky Thrush  
Rare spring straggler on both islands.
71. *Turdus obscurus*, Eye-browed Thrush  
Sporadic straggler in the spring and early summer.

72. *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*, Wheatear  
Accidental visitor in the autumn on both islands.
73. *Luscinia calliope*, Siberian Rubythroat  
Occasional straggler to the islands.
74. *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Red-flanked Bluetail  
Regular straggler, more frequent on Bering.
75. *Phylloscopus borealis xanthodryas*, Arctic Warbler  
Regular straggler in the spring; rare in the autumn.
76. *Locustella ochotensis*, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler  
Regular straggler in the spring. Was collected in July, but no breeding records.
77. *Motacilla cinerea robusta*, Gray Wagtail  
Rare spring visitor; accidental in the autumn.
78. *Anthus spinoletta japonicus*, Water Pipit  
Rare straggler to both islands.
79. *Anthus cervinus*, Red-throated Pipit  
Rare straggler to Bering.
80. *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*, Indian Tree Pipit  
Accidental on both islands.
81. *Bombycilla garrulus centralasiae*, Bohemian Waxwing  
Rare straggler to both islands.
82. *Muscicapa griseisticta*, Gray-spotted Flycatcher  
Rare accidental. Two records only: in the spring of 1883 and 1912 (Hartert, 1920).
83. *Muscicapa sibirica*, Sooty Flycatcher  
This species invaded Bering in good numbers in the spring of 1883, according to Stejneger (1885), but has not been seen since.
84. *Ficedula parva albicilla*, Red-breasted Flycatcher  
Irregular straggler in the spring.
85. *Coccothraustes coccothraustes japonicus*, Hawfinch  
One specimen collected 24 May 1912 on Bering (Hartert, 1920).
86. *Pyrrhula pyrrhula cassini*, Bullfinch  
Rare accidental visitor; two records in the summer of 1913 and in 1919 (Hartert, 1920).
87. *Carpodacus erythrinus grebnitskii*, Common Rose Finch  
Rare straggler to both islands.
88. *Pinicola enucleator kamtschatkensis*, Pine Grosbeak  
One specimen collected by Sokolnikov, but its label was lost (Hartert, 1920).
89. *Loxia curvirostra japonica*, Red Crossbill  
One specimen collected by Grebnitski in December 1880 on Bering.
90. *Emberiza rustica latifascia*, Rusting Bunting  
Irregular straggler in the spring on both islands.
91. *Emberiza variabilis*, Gray Bunting  
One specimen collected by Stejneger 11 June 1883 on Bering (Stejneger, 1885).
92. *Emberiza aurcola kamtschatica*, Yellow-breasted Bunting  
Irregular visitor in the spring and early summer.
93. *Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina*, Reed Bunting  
The only specimen known was collected 20 May 1930 by me (Johansen, 1934).

## NOTE

*Larus genei*, Slender-billed Gull

The record of this bird for the Commanders is based on a single specimen collected by Sokolnikov 7 October 1912, and reported by Hartert (1920). This specimen, however, was misidentified and is a *Larus ridibundus sibiricus*.

## CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

The latest edition of the *Check-list* published by the American Ornithologists' Union (1957) contains a number of errors concerning the status of the birds of the Commander Islands. The more important ones are listed below with the page number of the *Check-list*; the correct status of the species concerned is indicated in the systematic list above.

## A. Birds listed erroneously as breeding.

- Podiceps grisegena holboellii* (p. 4)
- Branta canadensis* (p. 60)
- Anas strepera* (p. 73)
- Anas falcata* (p. 75)
- Mareca penelope* (p. 78)
- Spatula clypeata* (p. 80)
- Bucephala clangula* (p. 85)
- Melanitta perspicillata* (p. 93)
- Haematopus ostralegus* (p. 164)
- Charadrius alexandrinus* (p. 168)
- Pluvialis dominica fulva* (p. 173)
- Erolia ferruginea* (p. 198)
- Larus schistisagus* (p. 219)
- Apus pacificus* (p. 299)
- Locustella ochotensis ochotensis* (p. 450)
- Motacilla alba lugens* (p. 456)
- Pyrrhula pyrrhula cassini* (p. 558)
- Emberiza rustica latifascia* (p. 641)

## B. Species for which the Commanders should be added to the breeding range.

- Anas crecca* (p. 75)
- Aythya marila* (p. 83)
- Falco peregrinus pealei* (p. 119)
- Stercorarius pomarinus* (p. 212)
- Plectrophenax nivalis townsendi* (p. 641)

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