

Additions to the avifauna of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, including five species new to North America.—The Pribilof Islands are renowned for the variety and immensity of their breeding sea bird populations and for the unusual Old and New World visitors which pass through during the spring and autumn migrations. Situated in the middle of the Bering Sea, these tiny islands offer a resting place for regular migrants from both continents and a refuge for many others blown off course by the severe storms so characteristic of this region. Over 40 per cent of all species recorded from Alaska are listed from the Pribilofs and 18 first records for North America have previously been made there (see Preble and McAtee, *North American fauna*, no. 46, 1923; Wilke, *Auk*, 61: 655, 1944; Gabrielson and Lincoln, *The birds of Alaska*, 1959).

The 22 additions listed below were observed in 1960, 1961, and 1962 when I was resident on St. Paul and St. George islands for about 18 months while conducting medical research on upper respiratory infections.¹

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All specimens are in the U. S. National Museum (USNM), Washington, D. C. All observations and specimens collected were made by me unless otherwise stated.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*).—*G. a. viridigularis* was the only subspecies previously reported. The species was seen regularly in the autumns of 1960, 1961, and 1962. Three specimens collected all appear, at least in size, to represent the subspecies *G. a. pacifica*. An adult female in non-breeding plumage (USNM 479518) was obtained on St. Paul Island, 2 November 1960. Another, of undetermined sex and partly in winter plumage (USNM 479517), was taken on 2 November 1962 from St. George. A third, taken on 4 November 1962 from St. Paul, was an immature male (USNM 480499) and was also in winter plumage.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).—Two birds were seen in breeding plumage on Lake Antone, St. Paul, on 10 and 11 June 1961.

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis serrirostris*).—A large Bean Goose observed on St. Paul, 24 May 1961, was taken on 25 May (USNM 476204) and proved to be a non-breeding female of the race *A. f. serrirostris*. The first record of *serrirostris*, or "Thick-billed Bean Goose," in North America was made by E. S. Schiller when a bird was taken on 7 April 1952 on St. Lawrence Island (Gabrielson and Lincoln, *op. cit.*). This specimen appears to represent the second record.

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*).—Four Baikal Teal in non-breeding plumage were seen on St. Paul, 9 September 1961. One of these, an immature male (USNM 476173) was later taken by George Rukovishnikoff, Jr. In the hunting season on St. Paul two more (USNM 476180, immature ♀; USNM 476176, immature ♂) were collected by Andrey Kochutin on 21 September, and another was taken by George Rukovishnikoff, Jr. (USNM 479626, immature ♂), on 8 October. There have been at least 10 records of Baikal Teal in North America. These were from Alaska (6); California and Ohio, possible escapes from captivity (1 each); British Columbia (1), and (1) North Carolina (Sykes, *Auk*, 78: 441, 1961). All but the British Columbia record (Hatter, *Condor*, 62: 480, 1960) involved males in breeding plumage, which made identification much simpler. The above records from the Pribilofs all involved immature birds

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or females, which could have been confused with Green-winged Teal (*A. carolinensis*) without close observation or collection of specimens. It is possible, therefore, that the Baikal Teal is more numerous in the Bering Sea area than is supposed at present. It breeds in Kamchatka; is a rare straggler in the Commander Islands (Johansen, *Auk*, 78: 44-56, 1961); and it probably breeds in Alaska (Maher, *Condor*, 62: 138, 1960).

American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*).—Though usually outnumbered by its Palaearctic relative *M. penelope*, the American Widgeon was observed regularly on St. Paul in small numbers during spring and autumn migrations. Two specimens were collected, an immature male (USNM 479532) on 17 October 1960 and a female (USNM 479531) on 15 October 1961.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*).—On three occasions, once in May, 1960, and on 7 and 14 May 1961, single male Barrow's Goldeneyes in full breeding plumage were identified in company with Common Goldeneyes, *B. clangula*, on Salt Lagoon, St. Paul. The male Barrow's seen on 7 May was closely followed by two brown-headed birds, probably of the same species.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*).—On 25 May 1960, I saw two brown-headed Smew diving at the far side of the large lake near Halfway Point, St. Paul. Their bills were thin, their faces white below the eye with dark brown caps extending down the back of the neck. When one bird stretched and stood up in the water, the whitish belly could be seen in contrast to the gray back, wings, and flank. Some white was seen on the wings when they were rearranged. These characters were well seen through a 20× and 40× spotting scope; on many occasions I have watched this species during the winter months on the London reservoirs in England. About a year later, on 20 May 1961, three brown-headed birds were seen actively diving for fish on a small lake near Salt Lagoon, St. Paul. Two specimens were taken (USNM 476206 and 479545). Both were males in immature plumage with enlarged testes and a residual *bursa Fabricii*.

The St. Paul specimens are the first collected from North America and the first record for western North America, and fully substantiate the occurrence of this species (in hypothetical list of A.O.U. Check-List, 5th edit., 1957). I think the Smew was, however, satisfactorily established as a North American species from sight records and photographs of a brown-headed bird seen on the Niagara River in New York State and Ontario (Axtell, *Prothonotary*, 26: 10, 1960; Rosche, *Kingbird*, 10: 18, 1960; Speirs and Speirs, *Audubon Field Notes*, 14: 305, 1960) between 17 January and 30 March 1960. This Palaearctic merganser has a very extensive breeding range across arctic Eurasia. The eastern population migrates to China, Korea, and Japan. Smews are spring and autumn stragglers on the Commander Islands (Johansen, *op. cit.*: 52) and should therefore be looked for as transients in the Pribilof and Aleutian islands and perhaps elsewhere in western Alaska.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).—I saw a male in full plumage on St. Paul, 27 October 1961. The Hooded Merganser, rare, has previously been reported only in southeastern Alaska. Strangely enough, *Mergellus albellus* is more likely to be seen in the Bering Sea than its Nearctic counterpart.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).—Residents of St. Paul reported seeing an Osprey fishing on numerous occasions in Village Cove, St. Paul, in the second week of July, 1960. I saw a bird there on 14 July.

European Coot (*Fulica atra atra*).—The first sight record of this species for St. Paul was made by Stuart Davey on 31 October 1962 on a small lake near Salt Lagoon. On 5 November an immature female (USNM 479548), probably the same bird, was

taken by Nicolai Stepetin from the same lake. On 24 October 1962, a coot was reported from Lake Atka, St. George, which may have been the same species.

This is a most unexpected record. The breeding range of this Palaearctic species does not extend east of the upper Lena River and Sakhalin in Central Siberia. Farther southeast it breeds in Korea, Japan, and northern China. Stejneger (*U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 29, 1885; see p. 354) stated that it was unknown in Kamchatka, even as a straggler. Moreover, it is the only Palaearctic bird so far recorded from the Pribilofs which is not also recorded from the Commander Islands in Johansen's list (*op. cit.*: 44). *F. a. atra* is an infrequent visitor to the eastern shores of North America but has not previously been recorded from Alaska or western North America.

Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*).¹—A large curlew was seen on the mud flats at the south end of Salt Lagoon, St. Paul, on 11, 12, and 13 June 1961. Usually it was feeding close to resting gulls of several species. On 11 June I wrote that it was "the size of the [larger] gulls and much larger than the kittiwakes," whereas on 12 June it appeared "slightly smaller in body size than the Glaucous-winged Gulls" (*Larus glaucescens*). The very long bill appeared blacker at the tip and decidedly down-curved at the tip. The face was paler and the primaries conspicuously darker than the rest of the otherwise uniform plumage. There was no clear-cut dark marking on the crown, though there was a shadow through the eyes. The general appearance and coloration were those of the European Curlew, *Numenius arquata*, with which I am very familiar, but the bird lacked the pale rump of that species. When it flew it called *cur-lee*. The call was simpler and less melodious than that of the European Curlew and more distinctly two-syllabled. On 12 June it was photographed through the 20× spotting scope. In all, I saw it three times and observed it with other residents. On each occasion clear views were obtained through the 20× and 40× spotting scope, but it was too wild to obtain. The field notes and photograph have been seen by Alexander Wetmore, Robert Falla, Roger T. Peterson, and John W. Aldrich. All agreed that this bird could belong to one of but two species, *N. madagascariensis*, the "Australian" Curlew, or *N. americanus*, the Long-billed Curlew, a smaller bird that breeds no farther north than south-central British Columbia, migrating south to California, Arizona, Texas, etc., and not recorded from Alaska. *N. madagascariensis*, however, breeds in eastern Siberia north of Kamchatka and winters from China, Korea, and Japan south to Australia. Moreover, it has been recorded three times as a straggler to the Commander Islands (Johansen, *op. cit.*: 52). Though field and distributional evidence strongly favor *madagascariensis*, the lack of a skin and more detailed photos preclude this as a definite first record for North America. It should, however, be placed on the hypothetical list as there is good reason to believe it will be seen again in the area.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*).—A curlew with a rather short bill and pale rump extending part way up the back was seen on the tundra near Marunic, St. Paul, on 2 September 1961. On 9 September a similar-looking bird, which proved to represent the subspecies *N. p. variegatus*, was taken there by Nicolai Stepetin. It was an extremely fat male (USNM 476208; weight 450 g) with a stomach full of *Empetrum nigrum* berries. *N. p. variegatus* breeds in eastern Siberia and is a regular spring and autumn migrant through the Commander Islands. It has been recorded only twice before from North America (St. Lawrence Island and Point Barrow) but

¹ The usual vernacular name Australian Curlew indicates only part of the winter range of the species. Far Eastern Curlew, as used by Kozlova (*Fauna of the USSR*: 330, 1962) is more appropriate.

is likely to be more widespread. *N. p. hudsonicus* has the back and rump like the rest of the upperparts, whereas *variegatus* has them paler, although not white like its more western relative *N. p. phaeopus*.

Spotted Redshank (*Totanus erythropus*).—I saw two of this Old World species on 19 September 1961 at the edge of a small lake near the village of St. Paul and took one (USNM 476211). Nicolai Stepetin took another specimen (USNM 476210) from four more seen on 22 September. The first specimen was an immature male, the second an immature female. Both were in non-breeding plumage and each had a conspicuous *bursa Fabricii*.

The Spotted Redshank breeds in northern Scandinavia eastward through Siberia to Kamchatka. It has been reported (Stejneger, *Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.*, 10: 117–145, 1887; and Johansen, *op. cit.*: 52) as an infrequent spring straggler on Bering Island, Commander Islands. These specimens, collected from a total of six birds observed, seem to provide the first and second records from North America.

Greenshank (*Totanus nebularia*).—On 29 May 1962 I identified four Greenshanks as they fed on the mud flats along the edge of Salt Lagoon, St. Paul, and took one, an adult male in breeding condition (USNM 479562). Two Greenshanks were observed in the same location throughout most of 30 May. At least two were still present on the island on 3 June.

Since some doubt pertains to Audubon's record (*Ornithological biography*, Vol. 3, Edinburgh, 1835; see p. 483) of a Greenshank in Florida (Howell, *Florida bird life*, New York, 1932; see p. 235; see also A.O.U. Check-List, 5th edit., 1957), the Pribilof records seem to be the first authentic ones for this species from North America. It is remarkable that this Palearctic bird has not been reported before from the Bering Sea area because it breeds on the Kamchatka Peninsula and is a regular and common spring and autumn straggler to the Commander Islands (Johansen, *op. cit.*: 52).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*).—On 22 October 1961 I took a female tern in immature plumage and with a conspicuously black bill (USNM 479608) at Northeast Point, St. Paul. This specimen proved to represent the present race. On 5 June 1962 two fine females in full breeding plumage were taken by D. C. Boggs from a lake near Halfway Point, St. Paul. One of these (USNM 479609) had a solid black bill and dark brown tarsi and feet. The other (USNM 479610) had a solid black bill with a tinge of red at the base. The tarsi and feet were light reddish brown. When in breeding condition this subspecies may readily be distinguished in the field from *S. hirundo hirundo*, and also from the Arctic Tern, *S. paradisaea* (the only common species of tern in Alaska), by its jet-black bill and duller legs.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (*op. cit.*) place *S. hirundo* in their Alaskan hypothetical list because of incomplete information concerning a record by the Russians in 1844 at St. Paul, Kodiak Island. Murie (*N. Amer. Fauna*, no. 61, 1959) lists the only Alaskan record of *S. h. hirundo* as a sight record made by Alexander Wetmore on 4 June 1911 50 miles off Tigalda Island, Aleutian Islands. It thus appears that the three above-mentioned Pribilof specimens represent the only authentic records of *S. h. longipennis* in North America. This subspecies should be looked for in the Bering Sea region because it breeds in Kamchatka and is a fairly common straggler to the Commander Islands (Johansen, *op. cit.*: 53).

Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus acadicus*).—On 7 November 1962, a small owl was caught by Metrofan Rukovichnikoff at Northeast Point, St. Paul, and given to the Public Health doctor. Kept in captivity, it died two months later (USNM 479611). Williamson *et al.* (*Condor*, 67: 76, 1965) consider this species an uncommon breeder in the Cook Inlet region, Anchorage, possibly extending throughout the

coastal region from southeastern Alaska to the Alaska Peninsula. Prior to this, it had been reported only six times from Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln, *op. cit.*).

Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*).—A male (USNM 479614) of this Siberian thrush, taken by D. C. Boggs on 6 October 1962 at Little Polovina, St. Paul, is evidently the second North American specimen. The first was obtained on 27 May 1956 on Kamchatka Island, Alaska (Kenyon, *Auk*, 78: 322, 1961). Johansen (*op. cit.*: 53) regards the Eye-browed Thrush as a sporadic straggler to the Commander Islands, so the Pribilof record made in the autumn migration is of additional interest.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa amoenus*).—An adult male kinglet later referred to this subspecies was caught by Ilarion Mercurieff on 16 October 1961 in the village of St. Paul. Two days later an adult female was caught in the same area by Brenda Sladen (USNM 479615 and 479616). A very small greenish bird with pale wing bars and a wiry call note (*tzee-tzee*), seen briefly at Webster House, Northeast Point, on 14 October, was thought to be of the same species.

Gray Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea robusta*).—For the first time in North America, a specimen of this species was taken (USNM 479617; sex indeterminable) by D. C. Boggs on 13 October 1962 near Webster House, Northeast Point, St. Paul. Charles Vaurie examined the skin and considered it an adult of the eastern race in winter plumage. Vaurie (*Amer. Mus. Novitates*, 1832: 1–16, 1957) gives the breeding range of *robusta* as restricted to Kamchatka, Okhotsk Sea region, Kuriles, Sakhalin, eastern Amurland, Manchuria, Ussuriland, northern Korea, and Japan. It migrates through eastern China to Formosa, Philippines, and Indonesia. Though reported as a rare spring visitor and an accidental in autumn on the Commander Islands by Johansen (*op. cit.*: 54), it was comparatively numerous on Bering Island during the second week of June, 1883 (Stejneger, *op. cit.*, 1885).

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*).—This species, with which I was very familiar in Europe, was seen twice on St. Paul. On 23 October 1960 I watched one at close range on the roadside by Big Lake, noting its characteristic movements on the ground with tail-wagging, a gray back, black horseshoe around the upper breast, a pale head with a yellowish tinge and yellowish eye stripe. Probably a young bird, it flew with typical undulating flight and sharp staccato *tchizzik* call note. The second record was made 9 June 1961—a bird flying and calling by Lake Antone. Neither could be obtained, so their subspecific identity is unknown. *M. alba ocularis* and *M. alba lugens* have both been reported from the Bering Sea region and are therefore likely visitors to the Pribilofs.

Junco oreganus oreganus × *J. hyemalis cismontanus*.—An adult male junco taken by Nicolai Stepetin on St. Paul, 4 November 1962 (USNM 479623) was identified as above by the late Dr. Alden H. Miller. According to Gabrielson and Lincoln (*op. cit.*), *J. o. oreganus* breeds no farther west than Yakutat Bay in Alaska, whereas *J. h. cismontanus* has been taken only once before in Alaska—at Eagle Creek, Douglas Island, on 9 October 1949.

Mention should be made of four more species infrequently seen in North America but already recorded from the Pribilofs. With D. C. Boggs, I saw a male Falcatated Teal, *Anas falcata*, in full breeding plumage on St. Paul, 3 June 1962. This Asiatic duck has been recorded previously from North America only three times, the first record having been made on 18 April 1917 on St. George. The Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*, was seen on several occasions in small numbers during spring and autumn migrations. Two specimens (USNM 476203, adult ♀; 479534, immature ♀) were collected on St. Paul; the first by me on 7 June 1961, the second by Patrick Kozloff on 7 October 1961. A pair in full breeding plumage was seen on 3 and 4 June 1962.

On 19 May 1962 I took an adult male Bristle-thighed Curlew, *Numenius tahitiensis* (USNM 479557), from Salt Lagoon, St. Paul. The left testis measured 13×7 mm and seemed to be coming into breeding condition. The first Pribilof specimen was taken on St. George on 26 May 1917. The Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*, was recorded four times at St. Paul. I took the first seen (USNM 476212, ♂) on 28 May 1961, near Lake Antone. The testes were in full breeding condition (left testis 12×7 mm). Another bird was taken (USNM 476183, immature ♀) on 27 August. Others were seen on 28 September 1961 (one) and 30 May 1962 (two birds near Lake Antone).—WILLIAM J. L. SLADEN, *Department of Pathobiology, Johns Hopkins University, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Maryland.*

The occurrence of Red-throated Pipits in California.—In October, 1964, Dr. Duane Carmony and I spent a considerable amount of time checking the birds feeding in a cultivated field in the Tijuana River Valley one mile south and three miles east of Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California. The field was about 200 acres in area, and had produced a crop of tomatoes. The tomato plants and many rotting tomatoes had been plowed into the ground, leaving a large level area of freshly exposed earth along with some remnants of the original crop still exposed. In this condition the field proved to be a suitable feeding area for many birds, the majority being about 2,500 Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) and 1,000 Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*), among which we were able to find a few Red-throated Pipits (*Anthus cervinus*), and Lapland and Chestnut-collared longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus* and *C. ornatus*). It is interesting that this dry, cultivated field also attracted some shorebirds, including Mountain, American Golden, and Black-bellied plovers (*Eupoda montana*, *Pluvialis dominica*, *Squatarola squatarola*), and Baird's and Least sandpipers (*Erolia bairdii* and *E. minutilla*), all regular migrants or winter visitants in this area.

I first saw a Red-throated Pipit among the Horned Larks and Water Pipits on 12 October. The next day Carmony and I found at least three birds and collected two. Both specimens were prepared by Richard C. Banks of the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM). One, a female, weighed 19.5 g and had a fully ossified skull; the other, probably a male, weighed 21.6 g and had an incompletely ossified skull. Both were moderately fat and in fresh plumage. The specimens are now nos. 35097, SDNHM, and 154172, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, The University of California, Berkeley.

Carmony and I checked the field almost daily after the initial discovery and were able to find as many as 15 Red-throated Pipits in a day. It is possible that 17 birds were present in the field when the species was first detected, and that 15 were present 14–18 October. After this the number of Red-throated Pipits present dropped. The last was noted on 27 October, and it appeared that the birds of the "flock" did not all depart together, but left over a 10-day period.

The Red-throated Pipit appears to be a little smaller than the Water Pipit, which it closely resembles. The upper parts, from the top of the head to the upper tail coverts, are a richer brown than those of the Water Pipit, and are boldly streaked with a buffy brown. The tail is dark, with white on the outer edges, and appears to be shorter than that of the Water Pipit. The underparts are a pale buff, and there are bold black streaks across the upper breast and along the flanks. The legs are pale pink. In most of the birds at Imperial Beach the throat was unmarked and appeared to be buffy yellow, and the stripe over the eye was the same color. Two