

gle Black-and-whites were at Albuquerque June 14 (CB) and the Pinos Altos Mts., July 18 (RF). Unusual was an Ovenbird singing along the Pecos R. near Artesia June 7 (ML). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Boone's Draw June 2 (CB). A notable warbler event was the discovery of a ♂ **Hooded Warbler** singing at Gila Cliff Dwellings June 28 (WM), followed by sightings of a female there July 23–Aug. 1 (P. McConnell, RF, ph. DC) and of both male and female Aug. 4 (A. Craig, N. Moore-Craig); although no young were seen, breeding was suspected. Summer Tanagers were north with a pair at Bloomfield June 19–July 22 (TR) and one near Sabinoso June 17 (CR).

Cardinal to Finches

Notable N. Cardinals in the Pecos drainage were one w. of Roswell June 15 (SOW) and a nest at Rattlesnake Springs June 7 (SW). Lazuli Buntings included two–three south at Zuni July 1, 8, & 20 (DC) and one near Alma June 30 (B. Rothman); an apparent Lazuli x Indigo hybrid was at High Rolls all season (ph.LS). Additional evidence of Painted Buntings occupying the R.G.V. was provided by a singing male at Socorro June 20 (CB), a pair near Hatch June 5 (SW), and a male at Jornada July 17 (*vide* CS). Dickcissels were in evidence in the east, including \leq eight at Maxwell N.W.R., June 19+ (v.o.), one near L.V.N.W.R., July 25 (WH), and three at Fort Sumner June 4 (JEP); far n.w. was one singing in an alfalfa field near La Plata June 4 (DC). Highs for Abert's Towhees were 3 pairs in the Lower Gila Box July 15–17 (WM) and six at San Simon Cienega July 22 (JEP). **Botteri's Sparrows** returned to the Animas Valley for the 4th consecutive year, with one July 1 (TB) and three–five July 22 (JEP, CS). Cassin's Sparrows did especially well in their e. strongholds, where 10 breeding bird routes averaged 155 birds each, but numbers in the dry southwest were lower than usual. In the northwest, one–three Cassin's were at Nagesi June 20 (GS), Counselor June 21 (GS), near Laguna June 18 (GF), Datil June 9 (LE), and n. of Magdalena July 6 (JRP); 20 were at Zuni July 19 (DC). Evidence of early fall migration was provided by one–two Chipping Sparrows at San Marcial July 14 (WH) and Joranda July 8 (CS), and by Lark Sparrows at Mangas by mid-July (RF). Two Brewer's Sparrows were unusually east near Farley June 8 (GF). Four Lark Buntings e. of Corona June 14 (DM) were s.w. of the usual breeding range; two at Los Lunas July 8 (JRP) were early. Grasshopper Sparrows made a good showing in the east, with one–nine at 13 locales from Maxwell, Farley, and Grenville s. to Pastura, Fort Sumner, and Hobbs (v.o.). Three–four Song Spar-

rows again summered s. in the Zuni Mts., June 16–July 21 (HS). The only Bobolink report was one at Bosque July 13 (WH). Eastern Meadowlarks at the n. fringes of their range included two near Mt. Taylor June 17 (BW), one (among 81 Westerns) in *Harding* June 3 (SOW), and seven (among 144 Westerns) near Rosebud June 5 (WM). Southerly were 25 Brewer's Blackbirds near Cloudcroft June 24 (CR).

Common Grackles unusually west included three at Aztec June 1 (TR), five near Farmington July 24 (TR), and a pair near Cliff July 29 (SOW). Three Orchard Orioles at Lakewood June 14 (WH) were at their n. limit in the Pecos Valley. The only Pine Grosbeak report was at Black Canyon near Hyde S.P., July 8 (WM). Small numbers of Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills were in the n. highlands and the Sandia Mts. (v.o.), and at Cedar Hill, *San Juan* June 15 (TR); additional crossbills were at Mt. Taylor June 17 (BW) and Cloudcroft June 24 (CR). A ♀ Am. Goldfinch was reported nesting at Bloomfield June 19 (TR *et al.*) and a male was there in July (TR). Evening Grosbeaks south included one near Reserve June 10 (DM), 2 pairs (but no fledglings) in the Pinos Altos Mts. through mid-June (RF), and one near Cloudcroft June 24 (CR).

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Alaska Region

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What began as an average to cool and overcast summer slowly developed into a near repeat of summer 1993, which ended up as one of the warmest and driest over two decades. Although this year was more typically cloudy and slow to warm through June, the second half of the season was dominated by several strong high pressure systems over the Mainland that managed to hold Gulf of Alaska lows well offshore. Contrary to summer 1993, early breeding of passerines did not appear to gel anywhere and the earliest departing insectivores showed little sign of earlier-than-average southbound departures. There were widespread reports of failed nesting for Gulf of Alaska/southern Bering Sea seabirds, a trend that this year included Black-legged Kittiwakes and Common Murres, species that appear to be in a long-term breeding decline, and the very sensitive Aleutian Terns. Once again reports of breeding season activities came in from little known areas of the state, with typically surprising results. This year's pioneering efforts produced numerous new local breeding or occurrence results from the isolated, little known Askinuk Mountains at the coast in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and from several front range locales in both the Wrangell and eastern Alaska ranges.

Loons to Raptors

Suspicious pairs of Red-throated Loons were found away from typical alpine lake nesting areas, in the e. Interior at Deeper L. on the Tetlin N.W.R., June 29 and e. of Tok on Moon L., July 19 (TJD). There are few summer and no breeding records from the lowlands of the Upper Tanana Valley. Breeding season reports of Arctic Loons from the w. Seward Pen. were few compared to the past 3 summer seasons. Noteworthy W. Grebe observations included six late spring lingerers June 19 and 24 early fall migrants July 31 (PJW), both from Sumner Strait. Extralimital Double-crested Cormorants were recorded in the Interior, with a single along Scottie Cr. at the Canada border June 9 (†TJD, HKT, RCM), and in the Bering Sea with at least two on the cliffs near Cape Romanzof June 6+ (BJM), and a single at the

Pribilofs at St. Paul I., June 5 (FIELD GUIDES). There are few Interior and no previous Tanana Valley cormorant records and the Cape Romanzof birds were some 230 km n. of the nearest known, northernmost Double-crested nesting area on Nunivak I. A single Brant in Sumner Strait June 25 (PJW) was a first Mitkof I. area summer report and one of few ever in summer from Southeast.

This summer's noteworthy waterfowl reports included mostly extralimital or seasonal overshoots: a single ♂ Blue-winged Teal 95 km out the Denali N.P. road June 10 (FIELD GUIDES), a ♂ Gadwall on Kenny L., June 12 (TGT, LJO), a mixed *Aythya* flock at Safety Lagoon that included a ♂ Com. Pochard (3rd local record) June 6–12 (BP, BJR, AK, ATTOUR), a flock of 15 Canvasbacks June 6–12+ (m.obs.), a ♂ Redhead June 11–13+ (FIELD GUIDES, m.obs.), and a single Ruddy Duck at the now traditional Interior site at Northway L., June 4–28 (TJD). For the 6th consecutive summer, the ad. Steller's Sea-Eagle resided on the lower Taku R. all season. Northern Harriers took advantage of a local microtene population peak to nest at Juneau, where a pair was found at nest July 8 and four young were seen there July 12 (*fide* RJG). This is the first documented Southeast nest.

Rails to Larids

A little-visited freshwater *Equisetum/Carex* marsh near Juneau proved to provide ideal rail habitat. Forest Service biologists reported both Virginia Rail and Sora there in the first week of July and subsequent visits (notes from July 10+) revealed the presence of at least two calling Virginia Rails and one Sora into August (RP, WP, TDS; no details at time of publication). The only previous

Alaska Virginia Rail was a single carcass found in winter fall in s. Southeast. The closest known breeding areas lie in s. British Columbia into the Fraser R. lowlands. The Sora represented Juneau's 3rd recent record. Sora's went unreported from other traditional Southeast or e. Interior sites.

Midseason storm-free conditions allowed the southbound shorebird migration to pass without significant concentrations noted anywhere. Species arrived within average dates and remained for shorter periods at all the traditional coastal staging sites, and local peaks, especially for peeps, were well-below average. Providing a clear bridge between previous known Am. Golden-Plover nesting areas to the east and inland and to the west at Nelson I. were several pairs located at Cape Romanzof in early June (BJM). Nearly all other highlights were late spring records, including two rare for the Mainland Mongolian Plovers June 10–12+ (ATTOUR, BJR), two late Gray-tailed Tattlers at St. Paul I., June 5 (†FIELD GUIDES) and a single at Nome's Safety Lagoon June 12 (†ATTOUR); a single Terek Sandpiper at Safety June 12 (†ATTOUR, †FIELD GUIDES); and a Great Knot June 7 (†BH), also at Safety Lagoon. A displaying Temminck's Stint was well documented apparently on territory at Barrow June 18–20+ (FIELD GUIDES, tape), a first N. Slope record.

New locality nest records for Parasitic Jaeger from Southcoastal, where the species is rare and local along the immediate North Gulf Coast e. of Kodiak I., included 2 pairs and one nest found e. of Homer June 10–July 14 (SW, GCW), and another nest with a single chick on the Kenai R. flats near Kenai June 26–July 9 (JH). Three different Franklin's Gulls doubled the Region's previous number of

summer reports, and followed the spring's records. Singles were found at Juneau July 3–8 (PS, RJG), Ketchikan July 17 (†SCH), and Petersburg July 31 (PJW). The earliest post-breeding northbound Ring-billed and California gulls arrived June 12 at Juneau (RJG) and July 19 at Ketchikan (SCH), respectively. Good numbers of both species were noted throughout Southeast between those 2 communities. The Juneau area's ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull again spent the season about the Mendenhall Glacier gull colony (m.ob.). Once again the coastal Glaucous-winged Gull wandered up the Copper R. inland, where this year a single was at Copper Center June 12 (TGT). At least two Ivory Gulls frequented the greater Nome area, where very rare in summer, June 7–14 (AK, FIELD GUIDES, †BH). Caspian Terns were more widespread than has become expected. Besides reports from the Cordova area, where adults and juveniles are seen each year, adults were noted in Southeast, ≤seven Juneau June 28–July 10 (RJG); on the Stikine R. flats, with a single July 2 (PJW); and for the first time at Kodiak, with two near Woman's Bay June 27 (RAM). Another adult fly-by at Cape Romanzof June 5 (†BJM) represents the westernmost for the Region and a first Bering Sea report. Aleutian Tern colonies at Homer and Kodiak apparently failed this year and adults were difficult to find about the colony sites after mid-July (GCW, RAM).

Doves to Motacillids

The season's Band-tailed Pigeon reports included a nice count of 10 birds July 21 (SCH) at a site some 50 km n. of Ketchikan which has produced previous records, and a single on Mitkof I., June 28 (PJW). Three N. Pygmy-Owls near Petersburg June 4–25 on Mitkof I. (PJW) were about average there, but singles on Kuiu I., June 22 (PJW) and on Douglas I. across from Juneau July 12 (RJG) were unusual for midsummer. The e. Interior's 2nd ever, and one of very few midsummer reports, was a single Com. Nighthawk at the Tok Airport July 13 (†TJD). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers made a strong showing across a broad front in the e. Interior, where this *Empidonax* is casually detected. A single singing bird was heard at Mile 43 up the Taylor Hwy., June 13 (TJD), two birds held adjacent territories at Mile 158 of the Richardson Hwy., June 11+ (†TJD, DFD, *et al.*), and another single migrant sang briefly near Chitna June 15 (RLS). This summer's only Least Fly-





Small and plain, but exciting nonetheless, was this Asian Brown Flycatcher at Gambell, Alaska, June 9, 1994. It provided a second North American record. Photograph/B. J. Rose.

catcher was a single reported from Hyder June 8–11 (RFL, WM). Hyder also generated the season's only **Western Kingbird** sighting, with a single on the tide flats June 9–10 (RFL, WM). Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports included a single s. of Wrangell July 9–23 (PJW), providing a 3rd local record, and \leq four at Hyder June 7–11 (RFL, WM). Hyder and Wrangell are the only sites where this form has bred in Alaska. Prospecting Barn Swallows were located at nests well beyond known breeding sites. A pair built a nest on a frame tent near Gold Hill in the Nutzotin Mts. on the n. slope of the Wrangell Mts., June 18–19 (\dagger TJD, WR), and \leq four pairs attended nests on a shed at Portage, mid-June+ (JLD, *et al.*). This e. North Gulf Coast breeder has nested casually, and usually unsuccessfully, in the Anchorage area. Details of a **Common House Martin** came in from St. Paul I. from July 10 (\dagger DB), furnishing a 2nd report from the Pribilofs. The field description did not unequivocally rule out the recently split allospecies Asian House Martin, a problem noted on several recent sight records.

Up to 20 Am. Crows were frequenting tidal haunts at the species' only known toehold in the Region at Hyder June 7–11 (RFL, WM). Two juvenal Chestnut-backed Chickadees noted at Seldovia near the mouth of Kachemak Bay July 31 (GCW) indicated local breeding at a site well w. of the species' known regular nesting zone, which extends w. to the e. coastal fringe of the Kenai Pen. Recent site records of pairs and juvenals beyond the e. Kenai indicate a pulse of range expansion for this secretive *Parid*. A new easternmost site in the Region

for Arctic Warbler was established when a singing bird was noted in typical *Salix* habitat in the upper Cheslina R. drainage, s.w. of Northway June 24 and July 16 (\dagger TJD, RCM). This Palearctic *Phylloscopus* breeds regularly in the central Interior into the Mentasta Mts., where the habitat becomes discontinuous in the >150 km between that area and this year's new report. Clearly a long distance overshoot was the **Asian Brown Flycatcher** discovered in the Gambell Village middens June 9 (ATTOUR, \dagger SCH, AK & BJR, ph.), furnishing the Region's 2nd record. This long-distance migrant breeds only as far n. and e. to Sakhalin I. and the central Kuriles. The Region's first record from spring at Attu I. is, as far as I am aware, the previous northernmost report for this *Muscicapa*. Surveys throughout the Cape Romanzof-Askinuk Mts. turned up at least 10 singing σ Bluethroats June 6–10 (BJM) in 3 areas of appropriate riparian habitat. These are the first records s. of St. Michael on Norton Sound since the 1870s and the southernmost in the Region. Since no females were detected, these could have been early exploring young males at the periphery of the range.

Pipits to Fringillids

The s. limit of the Region's breeding Red-throated Pipit was better defined this year when pairs and displaying males were located in low densities in the coastal Askinuk Mts., June 6–10 (BJM). Previous southernmost reports included a single 1867 St. Michael record, some 300 km to the north of these Cape Romanzof sightings, and a few casual reports without details.

As appears to be the case in several other urban sites, the Eur. Starling population is expanding around Juneau. A peak flock count of >100 birds was tallied July 23 (RJG), a new local high. Walsh heard \leq three signing Red-eyed Vireos July 4 (PJW) in their only regular Alaska site on the Stikine R. along Hot Springs Slough. Nearly all of the Southeast Mainland "specialties" can be found on this slough. The only Tennessee Warblers this season were again around Juneau, where a singing bird was first noted June 23 and \leq five were located in muskeg habitat by July 2 (RJG). For the 3rd consecutive summer, **Brewer's Sparrows** (*S. b. taverneri*) were detected in south-facing alpine *Salix* thickets in the Nutzotin-Wrangell Mt. interface at Gold Hill. At least six singing males were heard June 19 (\dagger TJD, tape) in roughly the same area as in the past 2 years' observations. Another singing male was found in similar habitat June 24 (\dagger TJD) in the front range of the same mountains, some 80 km to the northwest. This new site establishes the occurrence of the "Timberline Sparrow" well into the n. side of the Alaska Range. A "good" bird finally appeared at McCaffery's Bethel feeder when a f **Purple Finch** joined Lapland Longspurs and redpolls June 22 (\dagger BJM, ph.), a first for Southwest Alaska. White-winged Crossbills pushed across a broad front into most of the s. half of the Region, with small groups and territorial pairs noted from the Yukon R. across Southcoastal (m.ob.). Red Crossbills also made a surge beyond their "regular" range in most of Southeast, into e. Prince William Sound. A few groups reached beyond to the s. Kenai Pen. (Seward, Homer), n. to Anchorage (two, July 17; RLS), and w. to Kodiak.

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