(v.o.), including one in the rarely-visited Los Pinos Mts. 17 May (HS); w. were singles at Cedar Hill 15 May (ph. TR) and Water Canyon 13 May (DE, BN). A female Blue Grosbeak near Riverside 8 Apr (RSS) was a month ahead of schedule. Indigo Buntings were unusually common in the south (D&MZ, SW); singing Indigos encroaching on Lazuli turf in the n. were 3 at Farmington 9 May (TR), 2 at Orilla Verde 24 May (CR), and singles at Pojoaque 31 May (CR) and Santa Fe 21 May (B & DF). Very early was an Indigo x Lazuli hybrid at Corrales 26 Mar (WH). A male Varied Bunting was at R.S. 13 May (SW), where occurrence is irregular. Far w. was a Dickcissel on Berrenda Creek 6 May (CR). A pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** lingered at Percha 18 Mar (JEP, ph. JO) and the male was singing 24 Mar (DE), but neither were found thereafter. Far w. was a male Common Grackle at Zuni 29 Apr (DC). Bronzed Cowbirds occurred across the s. tier of counties after late March (v.o.); n. was a male at Carrizozo 28 May (ph. JO). A male Hooded Oriole wandered n. to Zuni 24 Apr (ph. DC). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole was near Pep 13 May (LAS); the apparent Bullock's that overwintered at Carlsbad was last seen 8 Mar (SW). The only rosy-finches were at the Taos Ski Basin, where there were about 55 Blacks, 40 Brown-cappeds, and 25 Gray-crowneds 7 Mar (WW). Cassin's Finches were exceptionally scarce, as were Red Crossbills, while Pine Siskins were plentiful in the west but scarce in the east; a siskin was nesting at Signal Peak 21 May (RWi, fide D&MZ). The 5 Lesser Goldfinches at Corrales 12 Mar (WH) likely overwintered. American Goldfinches lingering in potential breeding habitat included one at Zuni 26 May (DC), 2 at Orilla Verde 23 May (CR), one near Velarde 25 May (CR), and 3 at Coyote Creek S.P. 24 May (SOW, PM). High count for Evening Grosbeaks was 47 at Taos 13 May (RWe); the species was decidedly scarce elsewhere.

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idespread, systematic, and season-long coverage of the Region's outposts, combined with a decent inshore storm profile, produced one of Alaska's more exciting spring migrations in years. Even with the hiatus of a storm-free high-pressure period in late May, the western Aleutians once again rallied with the most surprises and "quality" migrants, including yet another first for North America and a first for Alaska. Better coverage around Nome also produced more rarities than usual. The northbound push commenced and continued nearly on-average through the season, at least south of the Alaska Range, while decent concentrations of shorebirds and early passerines surfaced at most reporting stations. Onshore winds in the eastern Bering Sea pushed record numbers of Nearctic forms onto the Bering Sea coast and offshore islands. In the second half of May, the Aleutian Low shifted to a position that forced the anticyclone storm track far south of the western Aleutians, dulling bird passage in the process.

As has come to be a recent pattern, documentation of significant species continues to be sporadic, with marginal and excellent details and/or photos often interspersed with few or no details. I cannot publish reports or forward records of notable observations to the University of Alaska Museum without proper documentation.

This spring's Attu Island highlights will be the last installment of bird-tour reports from that long-established Aleutian outpost. From sporadic reports by pioneering souls in the early 1970s to the well-oiled, nearly "posh" ATTOUR trips of the last 22 years, the tours as we have come to know them ended there after an autumn 2000 trip. Because of impossible logistics hurdles, military and FAA impediments, aging planes, and various other uncertainties, ATTOUR will close out its Aleutian trips. In the 22 years of continuous bird tours to Attu, some 17 species were added to North America's list, another three new Nearctic breeding records were confirmed, and dozens of first or second Aleutian records of notable Palearctic species were substantiated. Those individuals involved throughout the history of these visits were also fortunate to have observed profound natural-history changes in the Massacre Bay area and the steady decay of historical World War II evidence. An irreplaceable chapter of Alaskan and North American avifaunal history closes.

Abbreviations: ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (n. Gulf of Alaska); S.E. (se. Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas). Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (vt.) referenced are on file at University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Gambell seawatchers reported an aboveaverage 23 Arctic Loons off the point, mostly between 4–8 Jun, with a peak of 7/day (WINGS). At least 2 each were also found at

Attu and Shemya Is. 22 May-early Jun (ATTOUR, DDG). Hearsay reports, rarely with documentation, from the Nome road system continue each year, where Arctic Loons are casual. Indications of an excellent winter population (and possibly a record one-day Aleutian total) were 9 Yellow-billed Loons around e. Attu 19 May+ (ATTOUR), where singles are more normal in spring. Alaska's 2nd Eared Grebe, reported from Juneau 20-21 May (†RJG et al.), follows the Region's first documented record from Fairbanks in spring 1998. Estimated dead a week, the carcass of a Little Egret was found at Buldir I. 27 May (JCW, *ILJ), providing the first record of this Palearctic form in Alaska and w. North America.

Bering Sea/Aleutian waterfowl reports were surprisingly dominated by Nearctic forms, while observers noted one of the poorest Palearctic waterfowl showings ever. Bean Geese were notable exceptions, with a new record 13+ around Attu 16 May-5 Jun, including 8 on 18 May (ATTOUR) and a single e. to St. Paul I. 23 May (ST.PAUL). Significant North American finds from the Nome area included a pair of Gadwalls 2 June (VENT), a drake Blue-winged Teal 5-7 Jun+ (GB, VENT), and 32+ Canvasbacks (MMR, WINGS). Western Aleutian Nearctic highlights involved increasing record counts of Aleutian Canada Geese at both Attu and Shemya (ATTOUR, DDG), a pair of American Wigeons at Shemya 14 May+ (DDG) and a single at Attu 24-28 May (ATTOUR), 5 carolinensis Green-winged Teal at Shemya 20 May (DDG) and at least one from Attu 24 May-12 Jun (ATTOUR), and an ad. male Surf Scoter, casual in the w. Aleutians, at Shemya 21 May (DDG). Waterfowl highlights from elsewhere in the Region included interesting Snow Geese overflights in the Interior, where rarely noted, with small groups at Talkeetna 25 Apr (GP) and Fairbanks 27 May (fide ABO); a single Ross's Goose from the Homer Spit 5-6 May+ (GVB[†], RLS), Southcoastal's 2nd; a rare spring drake Wood Duck in Juneau 28 May (PS, RJG, GVV); a peak of 16 Bluewinged Teal around Juneau 12-20 May (RJG, PS) and a pair rare offshore in S.E. in Ketchikan 11 May (AP ph.); a Juneau Cinnamon Teal 30 Apr (PS); a new S.E. record 18 Redheads from Juneau 20 May (RJG, PS); and a peak concentration of 15,000 Surf Scoters attracted to spawning herring near Ketchikan 25 Apr (SBW). Gambell observers reported larger numbers of migrant Spectacled Eiders than in the previous 12 years, including two flocks of 52 and 120 on 3-5 Jun (WINGS).



Furnishing just the second record for Alaska and the third for North America were two Lanceolated Warblers at Attu, the venerable Aleutian Island famous for attracting wayward Asian birds. This individual was photographed on the last day of the two birds 2–6 June 2000 stay. *Photograph by David W. Sonneborn*

COOTS THROUGH ALCIDS

Following probable extirpation of Arctic Foxes from Attu, Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan numbers rebounded quickly, with spring counts of 30+ from several days in May. Several nests of this island endemic population, which had been considered threatened, were also located in June (ATTOUR). The Anchorage area's ptarmigan magnet-site at Arctic Valley produced a local record 50+ Rock Ptarmigan 20 Mar-2 Apr (RLS), where singles are normally noteworthy; they are distinctly rare and local in the Chugach Mts. The spring's only American Coot was in Juneau 19 May (PS). Possibly because of historically poor spring coverage on S.E.'s mainland rivers, little is known of Sandhill Crane migration there and in S.E. generally. This spring revealed a late April surge of flocks within and e. of the Coast Range, with hundreds noted well up the Unuk R. 2-21 Apr (AWP) and similar counts at Hyder in the same general time frame (DDG). Whether these were migrants reorienting inland after drifting towards the coast, or simply within the "normal" northbound range remains in question.

Except for Nome area highlights, shorebird passage was sporadic and with a weak Asiatic component, especially from the Aleutians, where two Long-toed Stints at Attu 30 May-2 Jun were the only regular Asian Calidris recorded. Highlights were mainly Nearctic forms and a sprinkling of Asiatics to the Bering Sea and interesting S.E. finds, including 3 Pacific Golden-Plovers 13 May at Ketchikan (ph. AWP), where rare; a Mongolian Plover described from the Seward Peninsula's Teller Road w. of Nome 7 Jun (†MMR); an unusual w. Aleutian Semipalmated Plover at Attu 13 Jun (ATTOUR); a showy Eurasian Dotterel at Gambell 6 Jun (WINGS, vt. GHR); a Common Greenshank, casual from Gambell, 29 May-1 Jun (MMR, WINGS, vt. GHR) and another 6 at St. Paul 28-31 May

(ST.PAUL); an incredibly late and low peak of only 4 Wood Sandpipers at Attu 31 May (ATTOUR); Gambell's first-ever Solitary Sandpiper 1 Jun+ (WINGS, vt. GHR); single Far Eastern Curlews at Attu 21 May and 1 Jun (ATTOUR) and ≤ 3 at Shemya 1–6 Jun (DDG); single Great Knots from St. Paul I. 21-22 May (3rd Pribilof record, ST.PAUL) and Attu 21-22 Jun (4th Aleutian record, ATTOUR); and a Ruff from Juneau 15 May (†RJG). With extensive and increasingly earlier coverage of the Nome road system, more-than-usual early-season wader highlights were noted from there. Unprecedented of these finds was a Little Stint described from Safety 7 Jun (†REG, NS, LT), a first for the Seward Peninsula; a White-rumped Sandpiper (casual on the Bering Sea coast) 6 Jun at Safety Sound (†MMR); a single Curlew Sandpiper (Seward Peninsula's 2nd) also at Safety 7 Jun (†REG, NS, LT); about the 8th Seward Stilt Sandpiper at Nome 6 Jun (†MMR); and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper inland in subapline habitat near Ear Mt. 4 Jun (JP, †REG).

Considered long overdue after the few previous Aleutian records, a first-summer **Black-tailed Gull** was well-described from Attu 14 May (ATTOUR, †SCH), the Region's 12th overall and the Aleutian's 4th. Rare in S.E. in spring was a second-summer Ring-billed Gull at Ketchikan 6 May (SCH). An ad. **Western Gull**, also rare in S.E., described from Ketchikan 29 Mar (†SCH) was likely a leftover from the winter season. Three *longipennis* Common Terns, the season's only report, appeared at Attu with a weather front 3 Jun (ATTOUR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

Apparently associated with the passage of two low-pressure systems were separate groups of 3 and 2 Common Cuckoos at Attu 2–9 & 12–13 Jun, respectively (*ATTOUR). Included in the first "wave" was a single **Oriental Cuckoo** 3–5 Jun (ATTOUR, †*SCH), the Aleutians' 4th overall and the **SA**One of the season's ultimate events was an unprecedented and unaccountable passage of Northern Hawk Owls across the w. edge of the Seward Peninsula. Beginning with a single individual found inland near the Kougarok R. bridge 29 May (CH, LT, JP, DB), Nome-area birders encountered an incredible 20 hawk owls through at least 10 Jun. Nearly all were noted within 2 km of the immediate coast. Zimmer and Wolf's report (VENT) chronicled what they describe as an "invasion" when the group found at least 5 individuals between the Nome R. bridge and Safety Sound 3 June, and 12+ during a longer survey of the coast roads 5 Jun. Several were actually seen flying well offshore and relatively high, moving directly toward the coastline. It was generally felt that birds were arriving, resting, feeding on an abundant vole population, and moving on during this period; most owls were harassed by local breeding birds of many species. Although this diurnal owl inhabits the Interior taiga west to near the Seward Peninsula base, there are only 5 previous records from the entire peninsula. Kessel (Birds of the Seward Peninsula, 1989) recounted an historic report of a similar spring "movement" of hawk owls from the "upper Nome River" 23 May 1906. Whether this spring's coastal birds were actually migrants, and if so of which race (Nearctic S. u. caparoch or Old World ulula), or simply represented possible Interior non-breeders taking advantage of a microtene population explosion, remains an intriguing conjecture. Although Northern Hawk Owls are often noted "dispersing" to coastal sites in fall, there is never a reverse spring movement.

first time both Cuculus appeared together. Western Screech-Owls continue to turn up w. and beyond the few known S.E. breeding locales, with \leq 3 reported in Mar/Apr out the Cordova road system (fide AL, DDG), where there are only a few previous accounts. Another, picked up dead at the edge of Girdwood Valley down Turnagain Arm from Anchorage in early May (fide REG), was completely unexpected and a first for U.C.I. So little is known about this local resident form that we have no idea if it is expanding westward or simply a rare and local resident of riparian cottonwoods within the Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock forest. The winter's (q.v.) Great Gray Owl appearances expanded well into April, with a final tally of at least 8 in U.C.I. between Big Lake and s. Anchorage to 12 Apr (*fide* RLS). Another, the "winter's" 2nd in S.E., appeared offshore at the Klawock Airport, Prince of Wales I. 10 Mar (SM, MI, *fide* SCH). At least 3 Shorteared Owls successfully wintered for the first time in U.C.I. at Anchorage, noted regularly late Feb-early Apr (DWS, NS, DFD et al.). These birds are the most northerly to overwinter in the Region.

A decaying Northern Shrike carcass was picked up near the beach at Attu 13 May (*SCH) and is pending subspecies assignment. There are no records w. of Adak I., where Nearctic borealis is casual in fall/winter. A pair of Northwestern Crows, extralimital in U.C.I., that wintered in Bird Creek just s. of Anchorage, were found at a nest 31 May+ (GB, OH, fide RLS). Although nothing was in the nest at that date, it represents the Region's most northerly breeding record for this coastal fringe resident. Closest known nesting areas are over the Kenai Range in Prince William Sound and on the Kenai Peninsula coast. A cinnamon-bellied Barn Swallow appeared out of nowhere inland on the Seward Peninsula at Quartz Creek 5 Jun (NS, REG, CH), within the time frame of the other half-dozen Seward Peninsula records. Finishing up the tail-end of spring passage at Attu was a classic, skulking Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler 10-11 Jun (*ATTOUR). Of the seven previous Alaska records, this is the 2nd in spring and 4th overall for the Aleutians. Filling out the Locustella run were 2 Lanceolated Warblers flushed out of the beach rye-grass fields on Attu 2-6 Jun (ATTOUR, †SCH, ph. DWS), the Region's first since an initial appearance on Attu in spring 1984. A fallout of at least 7 Red-breasted Flycatchers at Attu, including 2 adult males, followed a storm cell 2-5 Jun (ATTOUR). This diminutive bird remains casual in the w. Aleutians in spring only.

TURDIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Single Siberian Rubythroats at Attu 23–24 & 28 May were followed by storm fallouts of 4 on 1-9 Jun and 3 on 13 Jun (ATTOUR). Shemya had a similar passage initiated with a single bird 22 May (DDG). A small brown thrush flushed by the morning field party from Attu's Gilbert Ridge bluffs 4 Jun turned out to be a Rufous-tailed Robin, Luscinia sibilans (ATTOUR, ph. JK). Relatively poor photographs are being analyzed at time of this writing. Both races of this relatively restricted species reach the Sea of Okhotsk but the more northerly swistun apparently ranges to an isolated colony to e.-cen. Kamchatka. It migrates on the mainland to winter sites in the Yangtze R. waterSA Unprecedented numbers and diversity of Nearctic taxa reached the Bering Sea islands this spring as noted in St. Paul and St. Lawrence I. reports. Besides the already mentioned waterbird highlights, mainland Alaska passerines found Bering Sea islands in late May/early June. Coverage of the road-system habitats at St. Paul I. turned up one each of Yellow-rumped Warbler 19 May (TS), Golden-crowned Sparrow 21 May, Dark-eyed Junco 18 May (2nd spring record), and Rusty Blackbird 21 May (first spring record, fide ST.PAUL). Mainland forms sought opportunistic habitats at Gambell, including an Olive-sided Flycatcher 5 Jun (2nd St. Lawrence I. record, TS, WINGS); a Horned Lark 30 May-1 Jun (about the 4th island record, VENT, WINGS, vt. GHR); single Bank Swallows 1 & 4 Jun (WINGS); a Swainson's Thrush 5 Jun (2nd island record, WINGS, vt. GHR); 3+ Hermit Thrushes 31 May-5 Jun+ (MMR, WINGS); several American Tree Sparrows 1-8 Jun (MMR, WINGS); 2+ Savannah Sparrows 1-8 Jun (WINGS); at least one Sooty Fox Sparrow, possibly unalaschcensis, 3-6 Jun (3rd overall and 2nd spring island record, WINGS, MMR); 2 White-crowned Sparrows 3-8 Jun (±6th island record, WINGS); and a pair of Dark-eyed Juncos 4-8 Jun (WINGS, vt. GHR). Although some of these species find their way to the Bering Sea islands occasionally in both spring and fall, this year's representation was historic and nicely documented.

shed of se. China; it is a rare, irregular migrant, mostly from the w. shores of Japan.

With excellent S.E. coverage, the Mountain Bluebird migration across the e. sections of the Region was nicely framed this year. Up to 7 birds were tallied in the Juneau area 14-30 Apr (PS, SZ) and another 2 were reported from the Taku R. 14 & 27 Apr (AD). Record numbers passed through riparian sites of the upper Unuk R. farther s. in S.E. 11-30 Apr (DM, fide AWP), with a peak of 30 individuals counted 14 Apr (AWP). This form is typically an irregular spring migrant in small numbers in S.E., on its way to interior British Columbia breeding areas. Elsewhere, singles near Fairbanks 28 Apr and 10 May, and a pair there 18 May (fide ABO) were more normal. Also unusual for the S.E. mainland, where there are sporadic spring records, were single Townsend's Solitaires up the Unuk R. 25-27 Apr (AWP). Small numbers of Eye-browed Thrushes were in the storm-related mix in the w. Aleutians 21–25 May+ (ATTOUR, DDG), with a peak of 3 at Attu 21–23 May. Another 3 were also noted at Attu 3–4 Jun (ATTOUR). Heinl submitted details of what was considered an imm. male Naumann's Dusky Thrush, T. n. naumanni, from Attu's Gilbert Bluffs 20–21 May (ATTOUR). This more southerly race reaches the Pacific Coast barely to the s. Sea of Okhotsk, and this report constitutes the Region's 2nd and the first in spring.

Another suspicious pair of Blackbacked Wagtails resided at Attu 13 May–13 Jun near a structure where the species has previously nested (ATTOUR). Up to 6 Olive-backed Pipits made a decent spring peak at Attu 13 May–1 Jun+ (ATTOUR, DDG). Two small groups of Rustic Buntings arrived at Attu only, including 4 on 13–25 May and another 4 on 2–5 Jun (ATTOUR). Bramblings were described in small numbers, with maxima of only 13 at Attu 18 & 19 May and in the w. Aleutians 13 May–3 Jun+ (ATTOUR, DDG). The only

report from elsewhere was of 2 together at Gambell 29 May (TS, MMR, VENT). At Attu and Shemya 1-13 Jun, Common Rosefinches made the Region's best showing since the Jun 1977 Gambell fallout, with a peak 7 at Attu 3 Jun (ATTOUR, DDG). The Ketchikan area's 2nd-ever May Purple Finch, which remains a rare winter/spring visitor in S.E., appeared at a feeder there 6 Jun (JFK). A flighty male Bullfinch, the 4th for the w. Aleutians, was reported without details from Attu 14-15 May (ATTOUR). Evening Grosbeaks were up the Taku R., probably part of the winter push that also brought one to Juneau (q.v. winter), last seen 7 Apr (SZ). Up to 9 were reported from the Tulsequah area in April (fide AD), and singles were seen near Canyon I. 5 Apr (AD) and at the Canada border 9 May (TS). A few Hawfinches were included in this spring's passage, including one at St. Paul 21 May (ST.PAUL) and 2 and then a single at Attu 1 & 13 Jun, respectively (ATTOUR). Observers: ABO (N. DeWitt), C. Adler, J. Ainsworth, J. B. Allen, C. Anderson, R. Armstrong,

ATTOUR (S. C. Heinl, P. Baicich, J. Huntington, D. W. Sonneborn, G. B. Rosenband, P. W. Sykes, M. Toochin), J. Ball, G. Beaton, K. D. Bell, R. Berns, J. Blackburn, B. Blush, D. Brann, M. Brown, G. Bullock, G. V. Byrd, B. Daugherty, D. F. Delap, A. DeMartini, J. Doyle, S. Doyle, L. Edfelt, G. Etherington, D. D. Gibson, R. E. Gill, R. J. Gordon, T. Goucher, C. Harwood, S. C. Heinl, O. Hughes, B. Hunt, M. Ingle, M. Jefferson, I. L. Jones, J. Knott. J. F. Koerner, A. Lang, R. A. MacIntosh, B. J. McCaffery, S. McCurdy, B. Myers, M. Nash, L. J. Oakley, J. Pearce, G. Perkins, R. Pintner, A. W. Piston, M. Resoff, M. M. Rogers, B. Rowe, D. Russell, L. Sanborn, S. Savage, T. Schantz, R. L. Scher, M. W. Schwan, M. Schwitters, N. Senner, S. E. Senner, W. Shuster, D. W. Sonneborn, S. Springer, ST.PAUL (S. D. Smith, M. Greenfelder, E. Hynes, D. Lovitch, B. McWhorter), D. Stokes, P. Suchanek, M. E. Tedin, L. Tibbitts, K. Titus, S. B. Walker, G. Van Vliet, VENT (D. E. Wolf, K. J. Zimmer), K. S. Wallen, M. Walsh, M. L. Ward, S. Wellborn, J. C. Williams, WINGS (J. L. Dunn, G. H. Rosenberg, S. N. G. Howell et al.), M. A. Wood, S. Zimmerman.

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For only the second season in the last five there were no first state records found in the Region this spring—no Shy Albatross, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Red-faced Cormorant, Whiskered Auklet, or Eurasian Kestrel. Perhaps we were getting spoiled. But it was still an inter-

esting spring, and the most fascinating angle was not specific rarities but trends. Whitefaced Ibises irrupted across the Region, Franklin's Gulls irrupted on the eastside, and shorebirding on the eastside/ interior westside was incredibly good, better than on the coast for that matter. Somehow, these occurrences seem likely linked, but how is not clear. The eastside also had its share of mega-rarities with Arctic Loon, two Eastern Phoebes, Black-throated Green Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager, all recorded ten or fewer times in the Region.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane, OR); L.K.N.W.R., (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.N.P. (Pt. No Pt., Kitsap, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA); WBRC (Washington Bird Records Committee). "Eastside" and "westside" mean east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A Red-throated Loon was on the eastside, where not annual, at Priest Rapids L. 15 Apr