

was considered late, as this species does not winter regularly in that part of the state. Only 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows were found, one at Hidden Valley near Maricopa 1 Nov (N. Lange) and one near Patagonia 26 Nov (JM).

The last Varied Bunting of the season was a late one reported from Kino Springs 7 Oct (PS). Quite amazing for s. Arizona were relatively large numbers of Painted Buntings, with nearly 40 reported during Aug, mostly from the extreme se. portion of the state; the largest concentrations reported included 12 together at the Slaughter Ranch e. of Douglas 5 Aug (G. Smith) and 7 at Portal 17–22 Aug (RAR, REW). Several Dickcissels were near Duncan 9 Sep (ph. RSh); there are few, if any, records for *Greenlee*. Bobolink reports included singles at Willcox 12 Sep (KK), in Sierra Vista 13 Sep (SH), and at Sweetwater 22 Sep (M. Ander-

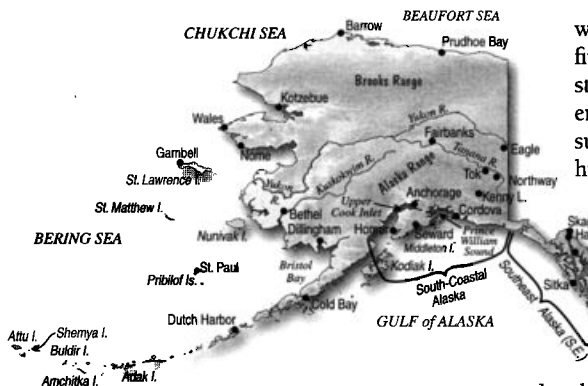
son). Orchard Orioles returned for the 3rd year in Tucson 5 Nov+ (J. Ogden) and for the 4th year in Ahwatuckee 15 Nov+ (G. & S. Barnes). Outstanding was a Streak-backed Oriole at G.W.R. 8 Nov+ (ph. Mark Brown; TC; ph PD, KR, MW). A male Baltimore Oriole was in Portal 26 Sep (B. Stocku et al.); one seen at Ganado 21 May (vt., †CBA) was inadvertently left out of the spring report. Pine Siskins were definitely on the move, with several seen at odd locations in the lowlands during the fall. Lawrence's Goldfinches were virtually unreported this fall.

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Alaska



weather event came in the last five or so days of September: strong southeasterly winds generated between a huge low-pressure system and a continental high-pressure ridge in the eastern Gulf of Alaska. This huge system certainly moved migrants towards the Bering Sea and slowed southbound movements for over a week in the Southeast. Birders

push in decent numbers across the w. Aleutians. Schwitters provided a clear picture of Eurasian Wigeon migration in the Aleutians from Shemya I., where a single arrived 16 Sep and was followed by peaks of 17 birds 21 Sep and up to 28 through 15 Oct (CS, MS). Blue-winged Teal at the outer fringes of its range included a female with a small brood on Kenny L. 3 Aug (AL), where they have been suspected of breeding before, and another eclipse-plumaged male offshore in the North Gulf at Middleton I. 22 Sep (UAM). Northern Pintails peaked at an above-average 135 at

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The combination of extensive coverage at many of the Region's known hotspots and prolonged mild weather conditions defined one of Alaska's most exciting fall migrations ever. The migration was at its most protracted in a season that is often cut short by high-pressure systems that drop snow and freeze fresh water quickly. Highlights from Asia were limited mostly to passerines and a strong early movement of waterfowl; Asian shorebirds and passerines were noteworthy across the breadth of the coastal perimeter. As was noted last year, nearly all of the semi-hardy forms were slow to leave; warbler highlights actually outshined emberizids this season.

Most observers provided good documentation of rarities. The season's significant

managed a short trip to isolated Middleton Island after an eight-year fall hiatus, adding another four species to that hotspot's total list, which now stands at about 228 species. And at Gambell, where this fall's highlights were mostly Nearctic, Lehman's comprehensive coverage still provides a thrilling pace.

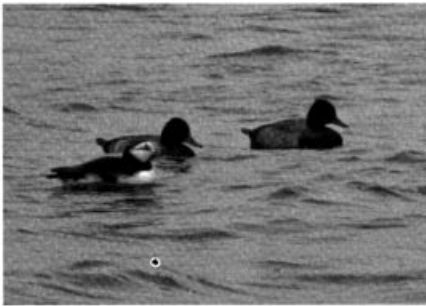
GEESE THROUGH FALCONS

Emperor Geese were on the move early into North Gulf coast winter sites, including one way e. at Juneau 20 Sep (ph. MSch); there are few records from this area. Emperors otherwise arrived early at their North Gulf winter stronghold around Kodiak 18 Sep, and numbers built to a local record 457 by 21 Nov (JPM, RAM). Asian waterfowl made an early



One of at least four Baikal Teal noted in the Aleutians at Shemya 13-28 September 2005, this bird was photographed 27 September. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

Shemya 18 Sep (CS, MS). A few dozen for the season is more typical in the w. Aleutians. Casual in fall, eclipse-plumaged Baikal Teal



Representing a first fall record for St. Lawrence Island and for the northern Bering Sea, two Lesser Scaup were observed on Troutman Lake at Gambell, Alaska 4 September 2005. Photograph by Aaron Lang.

were again documented at Shemya this season, with at least 4 observed 13–28 Sep (CS, ph. MS). A Tufted Duck dropped in 31 Aug at Shemya (CS, ph. MS), where there are few Aug reports; this was near record early for the w. Aleutians. Record-high Greater Scaup numbers assembled early at Kodiak winter sites, with up to 3000 noted in Womens Bay 21 Nov (RAM). Two Lesser Scaup on Troutman L. at Gambell 4 Sep (ph. Wilderness, vt. WINGS) were a first in fall for the n. Bering Sea and for St. Lawrence I. Casual in Southeast and mostly from winter, a female King Eider showed up at Juneau's Pt. Bridget hotspot 19 Nov (PS). The single drake and 3 female Ruddy Ducks found all summer at Kenny L. were seen with 13 juvs. 3 Aug (AL), furnishing a first local breeding record for this productive s. Interior hotspot.

Unprecedented offshore and certainly storm-related was an imm. Rock Ptarmigan rocketing along the w. shore of Middleton I. in strong southeasterly winds 28 Sep (*UAM). Pending a formal subspecific identification, the bird appears closest to subspecies *nelsoni*, which breeds on the nearest Mainland and island alpine areas in the North Gulf. The southbound loon migration was weak and late, save for a season high 228 Yellow-billeds moving by Gambell, including an amazing count of 92 birds there in two hours on 26 Sep (PEL). Most of these were moving in an east-northeasterly direction, which is typical for the w. side of St. Lawrence I. in autumn. Two Pied-billed Grebes around Juneau 5–21 Oct (RJG, PS) were the season's only reports. Staging locales and migratory phenology of Red-necked Grebe are poorly understood in fall, but a single at Kodiak 16 Aug (RAM) seemed early there. At Middleton I., building Red-necked numbers appeared to be staging in the local food-rich upwelling off the n. shore, with over 200 birds in loose feeding flocks observed 21–26 Sep (UAM). Two Red-neckeds off the Point at Gambell 10 & 26–29 Sep (PEL) was considered an average number in fall.

Another Pink-footed Shearwater was again found off Kodiak waters near Ugak Pass 20 Sep (JBA), where singles of this very rare visitor are often located. Following the summer season's documentation and subsequent addition to the Alaska List, another Manx Shearwater was observed inshore in the same area off the w. side of Middleton I. 26 Sep (UAM). Most records of this species had been concentrated Jun–early Aug. in the e.-cen. North Gulf. A late-season warm-water surge must have been responsible for an unprecedented movement of Buller's Shearwaters into the North Gulf. Shipboard observers made at least passing comments on the species' abundance beginning in Aug, but Sep counts from



Two immature Eurasian Hobbies were documented on Shemya Island, Alaska between mid-September and early (here 1) October 2005. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

Middleton I. included a high of 300+ on 24 Sep, and hundreds were visible mostly off the island's w. side 21–28 Sep (UAM). The Region's previous maximum was at most a few hundred, with singles more typical, and most are gone from the Region by early Sep. Typically casual in the Bering Sea n. of St. Matthew I., another Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel appeared off Gambell 17 Sep (PEL), a 4th contemporary St. Lawrence I. record. On the early side for winter area arrivals, an imm. Brandt's Cormorant was on a breakwater in the s. Tongass Narrows near Ketchikan 15 Nov+ (RAM, AWP et al.). Small numbers of this casual and very local coastal Southeast islet breeder have been located wintering s. of Ketchikan into Nichols Passage.

An American Bittern on the sedge flats on Farm I. at the mouth of the Stikine R. 8 Oct (RL, *vide* SCH) provided one of the Region's latest of very few fall records. The status of

this species has not changed since a few calling birds were located on the Stikine R. in the mid-1970s; it is a casual migrant and summer bird mostly from the Southeast Mainland river systems. It was a banner falcon season at Shemya, where an imm. Eurasian Kestrel made a brief showing along the runways 16 Sep (CS, ph. MS). It was followed by an imm. Eurasian Hobby 18 Sep, which was joined by another imm. 25 Sep, and both patrolled the island for the next three weeks (CS, ph. MS). Both species remain casual in spring and fall, although the latter has been more regular, mainly in spring at Shemya the past few years. Shemya was the site of North America's first Eurasian Kestrel in Sep 1978, and since then records are evenly split between May and Sep/Oct, mostly in the w. Aleutians and the s. Bering Sea. A very pale migrant Peregrine Falcon photographed at Shemya 7 Sep (CS, ph. MS) may have been *tundrius*, which has been identified a few times in the Aleutians but not yet substantiated.

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Virginia Rail glimpsed at an extreme high tide in Juneau 5 Oct (†MSch) is the Region's first fall report; the state's first record is a winter specimen. This report follows a spring and summer occurrence from n. Southeast and a few summer reports near Juneau. American Coots made an average showing, with 3 at Sitka's Swan L. 10–30 Nov providing the high count (MLW, MET). An ad. American Coot attending 2 juvs. in the rushes of Yarger L. in the e. Interior 5 Aug (TT, LJO) was at the site where breeding was first documented in Alaska in 1980–1981. Breeding evidence has been reported occasionally in the e. Interior in the ensuing years. Overall, the Nearctic shorebird passage was exciting, with plenty of extralimital, nice concentrations, and late



Casual in the Aleutians and rather early were two juvenile Eurasian Dotterels at Shemya Island 24 August 2005 (here). Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.



This Terek Sandpiper on Shemya Island 17-19 (here 18) August 2005 was preceded by a Broad-billed Sandpiper 15 August there; both species are casual in Alaska's Aleutian islands in fall. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

departures along the Pacific coast. Conditions must have been prime for a shorebird concentration at Kodiak's Narrow Cape in mid-Aug, when an exceptional mixed-species flock of 3000-4000+ birds included 14 species, with an amazing 4 Black Turnstones, 575 Western Sandpipers, and 2950 Semipalmated Sandpipers 16 Aug (RAM). These species are typically considerably less common or even missed in some years from Kodiak. The notable Asian highlights included: 2 very early juv. Eurasian Dotterels, casual in the Aleutians, at Shemya I. 24 Aug (CS, ph. MS); a Wood Sandpiper at Shemya 16 Aug (CS, MS); and a Common Sandpiper 6 Sep, a Terek Sandpiper 17-19 Aug, and a Broad-billed Sandpiper 15 Aug at Shemya (CS, ph. MS). The latter two species are casual fall migrants in the Region, mostly in the w. Aleutians late Aug-early Sep. A Lesser Sand-Plover at Gambell 18-26 Sep (vt. PEL) was one of the latest on record from the n. Bering Sea. Elsewhere, late records included: a Black-bellied Plover in Gustavus through 28 Nov (ND, PV); single Semipalmated Plovers at Gustavus 18 Oct (ND) and Kodiak 22 Oct (RAM); and a Least Sandpiper at Kodiak 23 Oct (RAM).

Other significant shorebird finds were of extralimital birds. There was another w. Aleutian Semipalmated Plover at Shemya (where casual) 14-17 Sep (CS, MS). A White-rumped Sandpiper near Gustavus was quite late for the Region 15 Oct (ND, PV) and furnished one of few North Gulf records. Well n. of its normal range in the Pribilofs, a Rock Sandpiper of the nominate race at Gambell 25-26 Sep (vt., †PEL) was likely a n. Bering Sea and St. Lawrence I. first. Southeast observers produced a good North Gulf distribution of Silt Sandpipers, where they are annual in very small numbers, with 5+ around Juneau 17 Aug (PS, GVV), a single offshore at Sitka, where we have few reports, 30 Sep (MLW, MET), and a first local Ketchikan

record near Traitor's Cove 22 Aug (AWP, ph. SCH). Perhaps 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Gustavus 24 Aug-7 Sep (BP, ND, PV) provided the season's only North Gulf reports. Wilson's Snipe was documented from the n. Bering Sea, where there are surprisingly few certain fall reports, with one at Gambell 1-4 Sep (WINGS, Wilderness Birding Adventures).

Gull reports and distribution were excellent, with highlights focused in Southeast, including: a Franklin's Gull at Ketchikan 27 Aug-1 Sep (AWP, ph. SCH), still the optimal site for this rare fall migrant; good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls heading southward well

into mid-Nov (e.g., 300+ in the Ketchikan waterfront 14 Nov [RAM, RLS, TT] and 200 in Auke Bay near Juneau 24 Nov [GVV]); a high count of 17 Ring-billed Gulls in the Ketchikan area 27 Aug and 1 Sep (AWP, SCH), with one lingering quite late 11 Nov (AWP, SCH) and 2 ads. in the Gustavus area 15 Sep (BP); at least 4 California Gulls at the n. edge of the species' regular fall range near Gustavus 7 Aug-4 Sep (BP, JS); and 3 Slaty-backed Gulls at the s. edge of its fall range in Ketchikan 14 Sep-23 Nov (ph. BW, JFK, AWP, SCH). Away from Southeast, larid highlights were scattered, with up to 6 Black-headed Gulls 14 Sep-14 Oct and 2 *kamtschatschensis* Mew Gulls 14-18 Sep around Shemya beaches (CS, ph. MS), an ad. Ring-billed Gull n. to Anchorage 11 Oct (BT), where casual, and a subad. California Gull offshore on Middleton I., a local first there, 23 Sep (SCH, ph. GHR, RAM, TT).



One of two Nashville Warblers found in Ketchikan, Alaska in autumn 2005, this bird was photographed 11 November; another had been found 19 October. Photograph by Steve Heinl.

Another rare Bering Sea Thayer's Gull was documented from Gambell 17-26 Sep (vt. PEL), only the 2nd from St. Lawrence I, while a very late Mew Gull stayed in Nome through 29 Sep (PEL). Fourteen Slaty-backed Gulls in various plumaged provided the season's single-day peak from Nome 30 Aug (WINGS).

Aside from a single in Juneau 5 Aug (PS), the season's only other Caspian Terns included staging birds in the Gustavus area 1 Aug-2 Sep, where the high count reached 20+ on 5 Aug (ND, PV). Begging juvs. were noted in these small groups on 12, 21, & 22 Aug (ND). The Gambell seawatch was acid-rich this season, with up to 6 extralimital Kittlitz's Murrelets off the Point 17-18 Sep (PEL),



Gray-streaked Flycatchers were located on Shemya 11 September 2005 (here) and later on 5 and 10 October, the latter dates quite late. Photographs by Michael T. Schwitters.

where there are usually only singles in fall, and an incredible 27 Ancient Murrelets there 28 Sep (PEL). A record 39 Ancients passed by Gambell 6-29 Sep (PEL).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

Beyond the normal few scattered Mourning Doves, one reported at Kodiak 30 Sep (JBA) a 3rd local record there, and up to 6 around Ketchikan 6 Sep-23 Oct (AWP, ph. SCH, DM, MM) were the season's highlights. There was a weak late-season Snowy Owl push from the North Gulf and Southeast coasts, with 5 located around Gustavus 14 Nov+ (ND, BP et al.) and a single in downtown Ketchikan 12-19 Nov (SCH et al.). Northern Pygmy-Owls were widely dispersed to the coast in numbers, with at least 2 documented from Gustavus, where it is casual, 21 Oct-28 Nov (ND, PV), one at Haines 11 Nov (AWP), at least 3 at Juneau 13 Aug-19 Nov (GVV, PS MS), a single offshore at Sitka 1 Nov (MLW, MET), and easily 10 counted in the Ketchikan area 15 Oct+ (SCH, AWP). Short-eared Owls often linger into Nov in mild falls this year's examples were 10+ in the Juneau



In Ketchikan, Alaska three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found between 3 and 19 (here 4) October 2005; the species is casual in the state. Photograph by Steve Heintl.

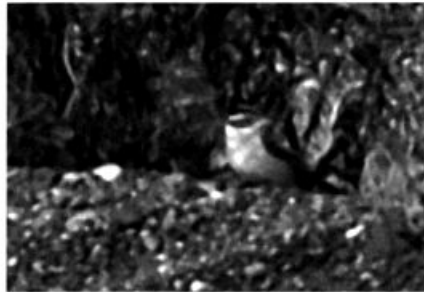
area in mid-Nov and singles at Ketchikan 6 & 12 Nov (AWP, SCH, RLS).

Favorable conditions concentrated outbound Vaux's Swifts over Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 19–27 Aug, with a peak 200+ birds staging 23–27 Aug (GVV, PS, MSch), certainly the Region's new maximum count. A very late single Vaux's at Ketchikan 4 Oct (AWP, SCH) furnished one of the Region's latest and was record late for the locale by a week. The Region's 7th Costa's Hummingbird managed to find greenhouse flowers in Kenai 9 Oct (SP, T&MA, CS, ph. PR), the only remarkable hummer report of the season; four of the Region's reports of the species have been of birds that lingered into Oct. It was a quiet fall for extralimital woodpeckers, with the exception of 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers w. to Kodiak 17 Oct–26 Nov (ph. RAM, JPM).

On the heels of the Bering Sea's first Say's Phoebe from Gambell this summer, another ventured offshore to St. Paul I. 19 Aug (ph. BKP, RK, SW), and one was detected 14 Aug in alpine tundra above Juneau (GB), where there are few records. Records of fall-migrant Say's Phoebes are sporadic, especially away from the e. Interior, although singles are occasionally recorded on the North Gulf coast. With only a handful of mainly winter reports in the cen. and e. Aleutians, an imm. Northern Shrike at Shemya, which clearly arrived with migrants from Asia 10 Oct (CS, ph. MS), was quite exciting. This bird was presumably of subspecies *sibiricus*, which is probably inseparable from Alaskan *invictus* in the field. Another Warbling Vireo was videotaped 26 Sep at Gambell (vt. PEL), where there are

now four fall reports. A single Sky Lark at Gambell 16–24 Sep (vt. PEL) provided that locale's 3rd in fall; none were detected in the w. Aleutians, where they are more regular. Casual in the Region after mid-Jul, a single Northern Rough-winged Swallow was found in a mixed swallow flock in Gustavus 15 Aug (ND); there are only a few records nw. of this end of Southeast.

Three Ruby-crowned Kinglets out in the Bering Sea at Gambell 9–28 Sep (vt. PEL) constituted the only extralimital report. Lehman recorded another Dusky Warbler at Gambell 18 Sep (†PEL), the 8th in fall from St. Lawrence I. since 1997. Nearctic-breeding Arctic Warblers staged a strong movement across the Bering Strait, highlighted by a fall record-high 31 on 30 Aug and a very late single there 16 Sep (PEL). To the south, Arctic Warblers of the ne. Asian subspecies *examinandus* arrived at Shemya 16 Sep, with 9 more singles through 18 Oct (CS, ph. MS). Three different ad. Gray-streaked Flycatchers were located on Shemya 11 Sep and 5 & 10 Oct (CS, ph. MS); the Oct birds are the Region's latest of very few in fall. An imm. male Siberian Rubythroat at Shemya 18 Oct (CS, ph. MS) was the only report and was quite late. As many as 13 Northern Wheatears tallied in a narrow period at Shemya 6–12 Sep (CS, ph. MS) was easily the highest fall number for the



This immature male Black-headed Grosbeak at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island 26 September 2005 furnished a first record of the species for northern/western Alaska. Photograph by Paul E. Lehman.

w. Aleutians, where singles are more typical. Thirty at Gambell 30 Aug–8 Sep (PEL) was an average count of Alaska birds headed southward across the Bering Strait. A *stegneryi*-type Stonechat was documented at Gambell 6 Sep (ph. AL, ph. CK, vt., †PEL), the first substantiated there in fall, and about the Region's 4th for autumn. Very late Hermit Thrushes, now expected in mild falls, included one in Kodiak 7 Nov (RAM) and a dozen in the Ketchikan area 12 Nov (SCH, AWP et al.), where even in a good season singles are mostly encountered after the first days of Nov. At least 3 Eyebrowed Thrushes skulked around Shemya's thickets 10–18 Oct (CS, ph.

MS), an exceptional and late report of a species that is more regular in spring. A Siberian Accentor at Gambell 11 Sep (†PEL) was the season's only one and just the 9th for St. Lawrence in fall. An Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Gambell 26 Sep (PEL) was the latest there by a week. Imm. White Wagtails showed well across the Region, with a family group of 5 at Gambell 1–19 Sep and 2 still there 22 Sep (PEL) for a new local late date; at least 5 at Shemya 12–13 Oct (CS, ph. MS), one of the Region's latest ever; and an amazing bird that arrived at the Ketchikan waterfront 13 Nov, where it persisted into early Dec (ph. SCH, ph. AWP). We have only two other Southeast records. While the Gambell birds were identified as *ocularis*, the Shemya photographs appeared to be of imm. *lugens* (Black-backed); the Ketchikan bird was not identified to subspecies. Previously considered casual in fall, another Pechora Pipit was flushed from the Gambell middens 26–27 Sep (†PEL), the 8th there in just the past three years.

WAXWINGS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Cedar Waxwings are rare and regular in fall, moving northward and westward away from local breeding sites on the Southeast Mainland. This year's push included at least 3 at Kodiak 3 Oct–21 Nov (WED, ph. RAM, JPM), where they are nearly annual later in the season. Fifteen in Juneau through 10 Sep (GVV, PP) and 5 in Ketchikan 6 Oct, with one lingering until 15 Oct (SCH), were highlights otherwise. The Ketchikan birds were considered unusual, as there were only two previous Oct records in s. Southeast. One of the greatest late-season warbler showings ever for Alaska produced six species and good numbers well into Nov. Extremely late birds included: a Tennessee Warbler at a Ketchikan suet feeder 12–23 Nov (JFK et al., ph. SCH), the Region's latest ever; an Orange-crowned Warbler at a Fairbanks feeder 22 Oct (*vide* KR) and 3 singles in Ketchikan 12–15 Nov (SCH, AWP, RAM, RLS, TT); numerous Nov Yellow-rumps, with singles in Wasilla 20 Nov (RW), at Kodiak 21 Nov (RAM), 2 in Juneau 19 Nov, one far n. in Talkeetna 23 Nov+ (DP), and at least 10 around Ketchikan, with latest 2 there 20 Nov; late Townsend's in Ketchikan 9–12 & 14 Oct Nov (JFK, SCH, AWP, TT); a rare post-Sep Common Yellowthroat in Juneau 1 Oct (GVV); and a Wilson's Warbler in Ketchikan 10 Nov (SCH, AWP). Other warbler highlights otherwise included Bering Sea finds at Gambell (PEL): 4 *celata* Orange-crowneds 12–28 Sep; an amazing 5 Yellow Warblers 12–25 Sep; a 3rd fall Townsend's 12 Sep; St. Lawrence's first Palm Warbler 29 Sep (vt. PEL), one of very few reported for the

Bering Sea; a 2nd Bering Sea and Gambell American Redstart 17 Sep; and a Wilson's Warbler 28 Sep. On the heels of last fall's first documentation for Alaska, Ketchikan observers located 2 Nashville Warblers, 19 Oct and 11 Nov (AWP, ph. SCH, JFK). Three Western Tanagers in Ketchikan 9 Sep (AWP, SCH) were rare offshore and rather late.

With such a mild season, one expects more highlights among the sparrows than this season delivered. This fall's notables were few, mostly extralimitals, with very few late records. Two American Tree Sparrows at Gambell 16 & 17–18 Sep (PEL) were average for the past few years, while 2 juv. Chipping Sparrows there 12–14 & 17 Sep (vt. PEL) brought the St. Lawrence fall total to 10 sightings since the late 1990s. A single Chipping in Anchorage 3 Sep (TT) was casual. The season's Fox Sparrow totals offshore at Gambell were impressive with 9 Sooty and 2 Red 6–25 Sep (PEL). The former continue to be found regularly, the latter only occasionally in fall in the Bering Sea. A Lincoln's Sparrow ventured to Gambell 23 Sep (PEL), a St. Lawrence 4th for fall. This year's Swamp Sparrows include singles at a Juneau feeder 8–30 Nov (ph. PS), a 4th local record, and at Ketchikan's Mountain Pt. vagrant trap 27 Oct+ (AWP, ph. SCH). Still a rare fall migrant in Southeast, White-throated Sparrows this year included 4 in Ketchikan 9 Oct–9 Nov (JFK, SCH) but only one other, at Juneau 3–30 Nov (GVV). And only a single Harris's Sparrow was located, offshore at Sitka 29–30 Oct (MLW, MET). Thirteen White-crowned (9–22 Sep) and 16 Golden-crowned Sparrows (31 Aug–28 Sep) were above the recent average totals for the n. Bering Sea and St. Lawrence (vt. PEL, AL). Recent data suggest that both are regular in small numbers in fall there. Four scattered Rustic Buntings made a late arrival at Shemya 13–18 Oct (CS, MS); the species is not annual in fall and typically arrives earlier in Sep.

Pheucticus grosbeaks in Ketchikan included 3 different Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 3–14, 6–19, & 15–19 Oct and a Black-headed 5–13 Oct (AWP, ph. SCH); Ketchikan had only single prior records of both. Rose-breasted ranges into the se. Yukon and n.-cen. British Columbia, so it has been surprising that this species remains casual in the Region, where most records have come from Southeast. An imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak at Gambell was found in the middens 26 Sep (vt. PEL), a first for n. and w. Alaska. A Western Meadowlark appeared briefly nearly at the feet of Mountain Pt. birders near Ketchikan 15 Nov (AWP, SCH, RAM, RLS, TT) before rocketing off; there are now five Ketchikan-area records from fall and winter.

Very late and casual in fall, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared offshore at Sitka 29–30 Oct (ph. KZ et al.). Ketchikan had an icterid-rich season, with a Brewer's Blackbird 15 Oct+ (AWP, ph. SCH), a Common Grackle 20 Nov+ (JFK, AWP, ph. SCH), and single, different Brown-headed Cowbirds 17 Aug, 28 Aug, and 17–18 Oct (AWP, ph. SCH). The Brewer's was Ketchikan's 6th ever, the grackle a local 2nd and Alaska's 9th, and the Oct cowbird nearly record late. Two juv. cowbirds were on Admiralty I. 9 Aug (GB, ED, MB), one was in Juneau 16 Aug (ph. PS), and another Bering Sea waif was at Gambell, the 5th there in fall, 31 Aug (PEL). At least 5 Bramblings were documented from Gambell 16–29 Sep (vt. PEL), where they are usually less common in fall. Another Brambling was in the thickets at Middleton I. 26 Sep (SCH, TT), where there are a few previous fall reports, and good numbers moved through the w. Aleutians at Shemya 17 Sep–19 Oct (CS, ph. MS), including a peak count of 18 on 24 Sep. Elsewhere, single Bramblings appeared in Kodiak 20–21 & 26 Nov (ph., fide RAM).

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