

is still only casual in the state. The male Streak-backed Oriole that wintered at G.W.R. in 2005–2006 returned again 7 Oct+ (TSG, ph. J. McKay, B. Grice). A small flock of 4–5 Black Rosy-Finches were reported along the Vermilion Cliffs 26 Nov (JB) without further details; this species is a casual winter visitor to rocky areas in extreme n. Arizona. Lawrence's Goldfinches were found across s. Arizona this fall beginning in late Sep, with the largest concentrations reported in the Santa Cruz R. valley s. of Tucson. One at Page Springs 17 Sep (NG) represented the most northerly report.

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## Alaska



across the Aleutians in mid-September, coupled with United States Fish & Wildlife Service transects earlier in the month, produced an exciting account of pelagic distribution at the season's warm-water peak.

Seabird summaries from the VENT charter were influenced by targeted chumming and forays directed to steep banks, deep trenches, and

canyons from both sides of the Aleutians, from Sanak Bank west of the Shumagin Islands all the way to Stalemate Bank, just west of Attu Island. Gambell highlights were again dominated by rarities from both sides of the Bering Strait, and persistent coverage again produced a new species for North America. Passerines dominated this season's rarity highlights, all after 10 September, but late August and the first third of September—normally a productive period at offshore sites for Asian landbirds—were almost devoid of notable reports at Gambell and on Shemya Island.

### SWANS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

The mild early half of the season allowed Trumpeter Swans to linger in high numbers, at least in the Upper Cook Inlet basin, where a late count of 151 was made between Anchorage and Portage 21 Oct (RLS, TT). A family group of 5 Trumpeters was notable offshore at Kodiak, with Tundras 1 Nov (ph. RAM). Most Trumpeters are pushed off nesting lakes by freeze-up, usually in the early part of Oct. Wood Ducks made a strong

showing, with 2 different drakes in the Ketchikan area 18 Sep (RN) and 28 Nov+ (PR, ph. AWP), plus another in Juneau 29 Sep and again in Nov through at least the 20th (DM, ph. RA). These represent Ketchikan's 5th/6th records of this casual fall migrant usually located in s. Southeast. Eurasian Wigeons passed in average numbers at the usual Bering Sea–Aleutian sites, with a peak of 69 counted at Shemya I. 10 Oct (MS). Extralimital American Wigeons included one at Gambell 8 Sep (PEL), a Gambell first in autumn, and one on



With recent increased coverage during migration on Shemya Island, Alaska, in the western Aleutian chain, Eurasian Hobby has been found to be regular there. This adult was observed 24 September (here) through 2 October 2006. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

Attu I. (VENT), where casual, 18 Sep. Although Blue-winged Teal can be found most summers scattered on e. Interior lakes, 14 together, including a female with 8 young at Kenny L. 12–19 Aug (AL), made an exceptional fall total. The season's only Garganey report was of 3 imms. at Shemya I. 18 Sep (MS). Baikal Teal again reached the w. Aleutians, where they have been regular in Sep

### The de Tobish

Weather-wise, fall 2006 was anomalous. High-pressure conditions expanded across the Mainland and displaced the Aleutian Low northward, such that the season's typical anticyclone flows were deflected south of the Aleutians. Even with excellent coverage, including a boatload of birders at Attu for the first time since 2000, it was a relatively quiet year for Asian species in the western Aleutians. North of the mid-season high-pressure band, several storms managed to draw both Nearctic and Palearctic species into the northern half of the Bering Sea, as at Gambell. The season remained generally warm and storm-free across the Region through October, when strong Arctic high pressure ushered in intense and widespread cold for most of November. Out-migration of Alaskan breeders was concentrated in the first half of the season, while the November cold ruined most chances for late records. The Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) cruise

over the past few years, including 4 around Shemya I. 17-22 Sep (ph. MS) and a single at nearby Attu, also on the 17th (VENT, ph. JS). In a rather slow season for Asian waterfowl, Tufted Ducks seemed on the early side, with an eclipse drake at Shemya 23 Aug (MS) and another at Attu 14 Sep (VENT). Fourteen at Shemya 10 Oct furnished the season's high count (MS). Another Ruddy Duck appeared at Anchorage's Spenard L. 5-19 Oct (SK, CM et al.), where all of the few local records have been, while the Ruddy Duck stronghold in the s. Interior, Kenny L., reached a new high count of 28, which included three broods, 12-19 Aug (AL).

It was a typical Arctic Loon showing in the Bering Strait, with singles off Gambell 5 & 11 Sep (PEL) and a group of 4 from the Nome-Safety Lagoon road 8 Sep (LSa). More unusual was an ad. with 3 imms. in Etienne Bay off Attu 20 Sep (VENT), as most w. Aleutian records include likely wintering birds from early spring. Pacific Loons demonstrated heavy movement between St. Lawrence I. and Kodiak right on time in early Oct. Peak one-day tallies included 215 off Gambell 1 Oct (PEL), a new fall one-day maximum, and 110 from Narrow Cape off Kodiak 3 Oct (RAM, JBA). Yellow-billed Loons are not regular in the w. Aleutians until late fall, when small numbers of presumed wintering birds arrive. One at Shemya 15 Sep (MS) was described as a first ever for the fall there, while 2 in Etienne Bay at Attu's w. end 20 Sep (VENT) were equally early. At least 3 Pied-billed Grebes were in Juneau 28 Sep-24 Oct (GVV, DM, PS, MS), and 3 were around Ketchikan 25 Oct-11 Nov (AWP, SCH), an above-average count for this rare-but-annual fall/early winter visitor in the Southeast. The season's northernmost Western Grebe was a single found around Glacier Bay 31 Oct (ND, BP), where there are few fall records.

Normally, research vessels in Alaska's offshore waters terminate their summer work and transects before the North Pacific Ocean reaches its highest surface temperatures. This year, two vessels crossed the Aleutians in early/mid-Sep, and both produced an array of uncommon species. The VENT cruise, on a meandering course between Whittier and Attu 9-13 Sep, chummed and surveyed several seamounts, steep pelagic banks, and deep waters at the Aleutian Trench's n. side. Highlights included at least 10 different Short-tailed Albatrosses on various dates, a Pink-footed Shearwater 10 Sep, and dozens of Mottled Petrels, mainly w. of Seguam Pass. Later, 2 Short-tailed Albatrosses came into chum at productive Stalemate Bank w. of Attu 21 Sep, along with 380 Laysan Albatrosses. Pink-foot-

ed Shearwaters were also found 6 & 26 Aug off se. Kodiak I. (JBA), where there have been several late-summer observations. Lone Flesh-footed Shearwaters were described from off Icy Cape 9 Aug (†MS) and in the w. North Gulf of Alaska sw. of the Shumagins 4 Sep (†TG). Still not substantiated for the Region by photograph or specimen, Flesh-foot-



**This very pale Peregrine Falcon, likely of the Nearctic subspecies *tundrius*, was found along the Attu Island beaches 20 September 2006, probably the first documented record for a subspecies other than *pealei* in the western Aleutian Islands. Photograph by D. Lawrence.**

ed remains casual in Alaska, mostly from the North Gulf in late summer. The only notable Buller's Shearwater report was a single off n. Tanaga I. 31 Aug (†TG), a first for Aleutian waters. Short-tailed Shearwaters peaked at 1,600,000 off Gambell 17 Sep (PEL, GHR), a



**Temminck's Stint and Red Knot, though disparate in size, both show pale gray upperparts with dark shaft streaks and pale-edged coverts. This juvenile Temminck's was one of two that visited Shemya Island, Alaska 10-13 (here 6) September and very late on 1 October 2006. Photograph by Robert Trotter.**

new local high estimate from St. Lawrence I. Another Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel wandered into the Bering Strait off Gambell 13 Sep (GHR, vt. PEL), where now considered occasional. An aggregation of 1000+ Fork-taileds in Icy Strait 18 Aug (SZ) was exceptional on the Shelf in the Southeast, while 15 feeding at the head of Resurrection Bay at Seward 28 Oct

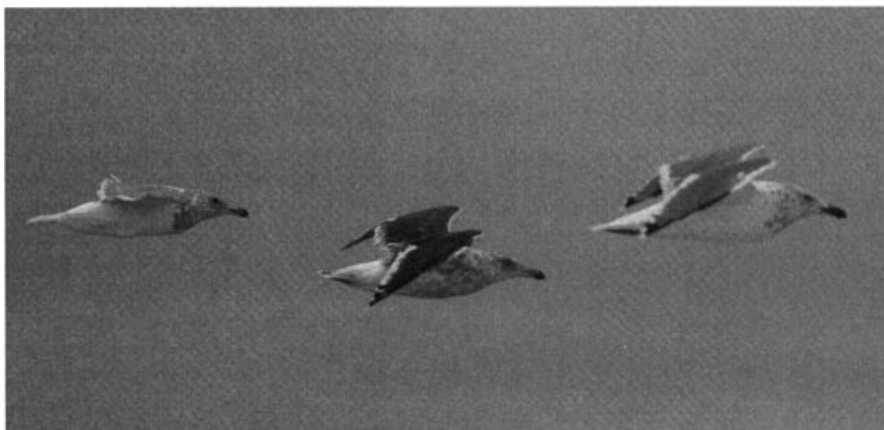
(RLS, TT) was a noteworthy count inshore so late.

## HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Swainson's Hawk described and (marginally) photographed moving along the coast w. of Barrow 14 Oct (†CT-H, ph. CT) was without precedent for this n. locale. There are few fall Alaska records of this very rare, local summer visitor from the e. Interior and certainly no previous North Slope sightings; however, the species is occasional along the Dempster Hwy. in the n.-cen. Yukon Territory, even as close as 200 km from the Beaufort Sea coast (P. H. Sinclair et al. 2003. *Birds of the Yukon Territory*). Late American Kestrels included singles near Wasilla 4 Oct (PF) and in Juneau 16 Nov (ph. GVV). Kestrels may be annual in very small numbers on the North Gulf of Alaska coast in fall, though reports are still sporadic. Again, Eurasian Hobby was documented at Shemya I., an ad. 25 Sep-2 Oct (ph. MS); the species now seems to be an almost annual visitor in the w. Aleutians. A very pale ad. Peregrine Falcon at Attu 20 Sep (ph. DL) was clearly not resident *pealei* and likely *tundrius*. The Asian subspecies *calidus* is equally possible but not easily distinguished from the Nearctic form. Although there are occasional reports of pale Peregrines, mainly from migration in the cen. islands, *tundrius* has not been substantiated in the Aleutians.

Another migrant Virginia Rail was seen in sedges along Ward L. in Ketchikan 7 Nov (†JFK), a local first. For years considered accidental based on a winter-salvaged corpse in the s. Southeast, this species has become almost annual there, with sight records and photographs from all seasons. As is typical in fall, American Coots were observed in much of the s. half of the Region, with highlights including one near Delta Jct. 9 Sep (NH), 2 in Gustavus 27-29 Oct (BP), and 3 in Sitka 22 Oct-14 Nov (MLW, MET). Eight was the season's maximum in Juneau 25 Oct (PS), while a single in Ketchikan 12 Nov (AWP, SCH) was the latest. Sandhill Cranes generated few reports, but one in Palmer farm fields through 26 Nov (PF) was hardy, and 2 at Shemya 11-13 Oct (MS) were getting late for the Aleutians.

The shorebird passage was locally spotty, with some sites offering diverse flocks but usually only after the very few Aug-Sep storms. Asian species were in very low numbers but in an average species array at Bering Sea and w. Aleutian sites. The season's chief highlight was Alaska's first documented Northern Lapwing, a bird flushed from a sedge pool on Shemya 12 Oct (ph. MS). This species, which has been carried on the Alaska



This lucky shot from the Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska seawatch nicely illustrates plumage patterns of the three less-common large gulls found in the Bering Sea in fall, where Glaucous Gulls otherwise rule. From left: Glaucous-winged Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, and Vega Herring Gull. Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.

Unsubstantiated List based on a very old sight report from the Alaska Pen., is listed as locally common on the Pacific coast of Asia, mainly as a wintering species. It is an irregular migrant and winter bird to n. and coastal Japan but it is rare w. of the Sea of Okhotsk. In the Aleutians, reports of note included: an excellent peak count of 300 Pacific Golden-Plovers from Shemya 29 Sep (MS); a season tally of at least 5 Lesser Sand-Plovers at Shemya 10-23 Sep (MS); a juv. Spotted Redshank at Attu 15-19 Sep (VENT); 2 Temminck's Stints 10-13 Sep and 1 Oct and a Long-toed Stint 8 Sep, both from Shemya (MS), both species less regular in fall than spring; single Buff-breasted Sandpipers probably heading to the Far East at Shemya 16 & 18 Sep (MS), where they are occasional in fall; and an unusually high one day count of 13 Ruffs, also at Shemya 19 Sep (MS). In the n. Bering Sea at Gambell, shorebirds were generally below average but included: up to 4 Lesser Sand-Plovers 15 Aug-4 Sep (PEL); a juv. Common Ringed Plover 20 Aug (vt. PEL), only the 5th there in fall; a season-total 10 Gray-tailed Tattlers 16 Aug-9 Sep (vt. PEL), including 4 on 1 Sep; very rare (in autumn) Bristle-thighed Curlews, with 2 on 13 Aug and one 24 Aug (PEL, HI); only the 2nd St. Lawrence I. fall Long-toed Stint 18 Aug (vt. PEL); St. Lawrence I.'s first fall Curlew Sandpiper 15 Aug (†PEL); and a rare Bering Sea fall-season Buff-breasted Sandpiper 4-5 Sep (vt. PEL). Mainland shorebirds were on the move early and, aided by fine early season weather, produced spotty highlights. Notable shorebirds were scattered on the coast from Barrow well into the Southeast, including 8 juv. Pacific Golden-Plovers identified at Barrow 20 Aug (MR), where they are probably annual but rarely described. Of the few Hudsonian Godwit reports outside of the Cook Inlet Basin, a

group of 16 in Juneau 13 Aug (MS) was a good peak count for the Southeast, where they have been found over the past decade to be regular in low numbers, mostly in Aug. With few fall records away from their sw. coastal breeding areas, a lone Marbled Godwit offshore at Sitka 26 Sep (MLW, MET) was noteworthy. Two Red Knots on the slush ice at



A long way from nearest breeding areas, this Common Nighthawk ventured out into the Bering Sea, where it managed to hang on at Gambell, Alaska late July through 15 (here 6) August 2006, a first for the Bering Sea. Photograph by Gerard Koonooka.

Seward 28 Oct (RLS, TT) probably represented a record-late departure for the Region. Baird's Sandpipers are rarely encountered in high numbers in migration, probably because most arrive and depart the Region at either end of long flights to distant staging areas, so group of 62 Baird's in Gustavus 5 Sep (BP) was exceptional. The Upper Cook Inlet wintering population of Rock Sandpipers moved into the e. side tidelands at the beginning of the season, with 4500 estimated at the Kasilof R. mouth 20 Nov (TE)—virtually the entire

population of the nominate subspecies winters in the n. inlet, mostly concentrated on the w. side near Trading Bay (*vide* REG). Stilt Sandpipers were well distributed on the North Gulf Coast, where they are annual in low numbers, with singles in Anchorage 22 Aug (TT, DWS, WK) and Juneau 3 Sep (GVV) and 2 offshore at Kodiak 25 Aug and 1 Sep (RAM). North Gulf Ruffs included 2 together at Juneau 27 Aug-10 Sep, with one refound 22 Sep (RJG, MS ph., GVV), one in Gustavus 31 Aug (BP, ph. ND, PV), and one at Kodiak 1 Sep (ph. RAM, SB). Ruffs are casual in fall on the immediate coast and islands in the North Gulf. The season's lone Wilson's Phalarope appeared 17-23 Aug in Anchorage (DWS et al.), where the species is casual.

Kamchatka Mew Gulls were documented at both ends of the Bering Sea, with a single juv. at Attu 14-20 Sep (VENT, ph. MJI) and a second-cycle bird at Gambell 23-24 Sep (ph. GHR, PEL), a 3rd fall record there. Kamchatka Gulls are not annual but often seen in spring in the w. Aleutians. There were few California Gull accounts this season, with highlights limited to n. birds: up to 5 around Gustavus 10 Aug-22 Sep (BP, ND), where not

annual, and singles in Anchorage 11 Aug (DWS) and 7 Sep (VENT). Gambell gull reports including a season peak of 80 Vega Gulls 21 Sep, a St. Lawrence I. high count; a Thayer's Gull at the Gambell seawatch 17 Sep; and 65 Glaucous-winged Gulls there 1 Oct (all PEL). Most interesting of the usual Slaty-backed Gull sightings including 2 at Barrow through 20 Sep (MR, PP), a single in Homer 24 Aug (ph. BH), and up to 6 in Kodiak 21 Aug-22 Oct (RAM). Extremely late for the Region but especially on the North Slope dur-



Known in Alaska from a handful of fall records, this Anna's Hummingbird wandered northward and westward to Ketchikan, where it made a living at feeders and *Fuchsia* flowers 26 August into December (here 22 November) 2006. Photograph by Andy Piston.

ing ice-in conditions was an Arctic Tern on the beach in Barrow 7 Oct (PP).

On the heels of the summer season's nest finds in the w. Aleutians, another Kittlitz's Murrelet nest was discovered at 900 m in the Kodiak N.W.R. mts. (ph. SS), a first for Kodiak. At least 2 and likely more Kittlitz's were watched off the point at Gambell 20 Aug–14 Sep (PEL), their best fall showing ever there. A lone Whiskered Auklet off the sw. shore of Attu 19 Sep (VENT) was a little surprising well away from any colony but likely a post-breeding bird in dispersal.

## DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

Three Mourning Doves in the Ketchikan area 9 Sep–2 Oct (AWP, CF, TLG) and up to 4 in Sitka 21 Sep–24 Oct (MLW, MET) were the only ones for the season at sites where annual in fall. Western Screech-Owls were widely distributed in above-average numbers, including at least 3 around Gustavus 26 Aug–14 Sep (HL, FB, KY, BP, KH), and singles offshore on Prince of Wales I. 15 Sep (AWP) and at Sitka 23 Oct (MLW, MET). Northern Pygmy-Owls were locally common in parts of the Southeast, described as abundant in Gustavus 12 Sep+ (fide ND), where rare. At least 4 were noted around Juneau 2 Sep–late Nov (PR, PS, BA, GVV) and at least 7 counted from in the greater Ketchikan area 2 Oct–12 Nov (AWP, SCH). A Barred Owl in Gustavus 2 Nov (ND, PV) was at the nw. limits of the species' Alaskan range, and roughly 8 were reported around Ketchikan 19 Aug–30 Oct (NA, AWP), where they are probably annual breeders. At least 4 Common Nighthawks coursed over Juneau's Mendenhall V. 29 Aug–15 Sep, with 3 at once 12 Sep (GVV, PR); a few are seen here each fall. More remarkable was a single bird hanging around the Gambell dump from late Jul–15 Aug (ph. GK, vt. PEL), the Bering Sea's

first record. There are several old late-summer records from Barrow and nearby Wainwright.

Only one Anna's Hummingbird appeared this season, an imm. male at a Ketchikan feeder mid-Nov+ (JT, AWP, ph. SCH). Most of the Region's Anna's occur in Sep and Oct. Casual and only reported in fall, an imm. Costa's Hummingbird reached offshore to Kodiak 26 Aug–mid-Nov (DP, ph. RAM), remarkably a 2nd Kodiak record. Extralimital hummingbirds also made news in the Interior, where

they are casual, with probable imm. Rufous Hummingbirds reported in Fairbanks (at least 4) 4 Aug–27 Sep (fide A.B.O.) and s. to Delta Jct. 17 Sep (fide SD). Another wandering Rufous made it to Kodiak 3 Sep (fide RAM), where the species is occasional. Following St. Lawrence I.'s first record from the spring, another Northern Flicker (of the Yellow-shafted group) darted around Gambell 7–14 Sep (LSa,



Two more Chipping Sparrows at Gambell, Alaska in fall 2006 (here 14 September) brings the autumn total there to a surprising 12 birds since 1998. This species breeds no closer than in southeastern and extreme eastern-central Alaska. All of these fall records have been of birds with remnant juvenal breast streaking, typical of many young, western Chippings but not shown by most mid-autumn juveniles in the East. Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.

ph. GHR, vt. PEL).

Rare so far w. and offshore were 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers at Kodiak, furnishing only the 2nd record ever there 20 Aug (RLS, CS, RAM). An imm. Say's Phoebe in Juneau 2 Sep

(ph. GVV) was a good find for the Southeast, where the species occurs sporadically, mainly in fall. Although Northern Shrike is a rare and local breeder in the mts. and North Slope foothills, Arctic Coast records are few, so one at Barrow 28 Sep–2 Oct (MR) was noteworthy and late. A brief visit to Hyder produced a rare fall-period Cassin's Vireo 10 Aug (PS, AD). Essentially all Alaskan records are earlier and mostly from Jun. The first Bering Sea Philadelphia Vireo drifted offshore to the Gambell middens 18 Sep (ph. GHR, vt. PEL), almost certainly a reverse migrant. Prior Alaskan records include only two fall reports and a singing bird in Jun on the Upper Yukon R.

Swallow accounts were meager, probably because of the mild and storm-free Aug–Sep period. Notably late for the Region was a Bank Swallow in Gustavus 22 Oct (ND). Red-breasted Nuthatches were again moving to the Region's periphery n. and w. of their breeding zone in s. South-coastal Alaska. Extreme locations for this push included several in Fairbanks in Sep and singles farther n. to mile 52 on the Chena Hot Springs Rd. 6 Aug and mile 9 on the Elliot Hwy. late Sep–10 Oct (fide A.B.O.), both areas n. of Fairbanks. Only one Red-breasted Nuthatch reached Gambell

this season, 28 Aug (PEL); recent coverage has found them regularly. Far more novel was a brave individual that came onboard a vessel some 9 km out of Dutch Harbor 11 Sep (VENT). A first for the Aleutian Is., this bird actually landed on two people and visited lashed trees on the deck before jetting off. Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Gambell 25 & 26–28 Sep (GHR, vt. PEL) and one on the Arctic Coast at Barrow 2 Oct (MR), where casual, were the season's extralimital highlights.

For the first time ever, thanks to vessel access, birders were able to scour isolated Etienne Valley at the w. end of Attu. The visit was immediately fruitful when a Yellow-browed Warbler was discovered skulking in a creek thicket 21 Sep (VENT ph. MJI), a first for the Aleutians; Alaska's only other records were singles in the fall at Gambell. Another anticipated *Phylloscopus*, a Pallas's Warbler (*P. proregulus*), was discovered skulking low in the Gambell middens 25–26 Sep (ph. GHR, vt. PEL), North America's first.

Gambell has now produced four new *Phylloscopus* species for North America, beginning with Dusky Warbler in 1977. It was also a record year for outbound Arctic Warblers at Gambell, with the season total of 109 pumped

up by 74 on 20 Aug (PEL).

St. Lawrence I. had a fine run of thrushes from both adjacent mainlands, including: a male Siberian Rubythroat at Gambell 14 Sep (ph. GHR, PEL, TD), rare for the Bering Sea and a 2nd in fall there; a new late record Bluethroat 14 Sep (PEL); a first St. Lawrence I and n. Bering Sea **Red-flanked Bluetail** 30 Sep (†PEL) and one of the Region's few fall reports; a Gambell record season (13 Aug–12 Sep) total 142 Northern Wheatears (PEL); a new late date for Gray-cheeked Thrush of 21 Sep (PEL); and a first-in-fall Varied Thrush, from Maknek Lagoon on the island's se. corner 4 Oct (LS). Rounding out the thrush-like group at Gambell was a Siberian Accentor 29 Sep (vt. PEL, BD), the 10th there since 1999. Two **Northern Mockingbirds** were in the Southeast, one each at Juneau 6 Aug (GVV; a few prior records there) and Gustavus 8–10 Sep (ph. ND), a local first. The majority of the Region's few records come from fall. A few Black-backed Wagtails, possibly local nesters, were found scattered around Attu's Massacre Bay 14–20 Sep (VENT), and up to 4 were similarly seen at Shemya 2–24 Sep (MS). A solitary White Wagtail at Gambell was record late for St. Lawrence through 30 Sep (vt. PEL). Less than four years ago, **Pechora Pipit** was unrecorded in fall in the Region, but another at Gambell 14 Sep (†PEL, GHR, TD) represented the 9th there since 2003.

## WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES

There was no accounting for the season's timing or distribution of extralimital Cedar Waxwings: numbers were described from the Homer area, with easily 16 reported Aug–9 Sep (DE), and mostly 1–17 Aug around Anchorage (PP, DWS, TT, DP), where the maximum of 14 came 1 Sep (DWS). Cedar Waxwings are casual in fall in South-coastal Alaska, found usually in Sep. It was a mixed season for warbler highlights, and there were fewer interesting late dates compared to the past five years. Four Tennessee Warblers captured at Fairbanks area banding stations 5 Aug–17 Sep (ABO) was this casual visitor's best Interior fall showing. As occurred last fall, another very late **Nashville Warbler** (possibly 2) skulked in a Sitka hedge 6 Nov (ph. MG); all of the Region's five records are in fall. Another rare Bering Sea Northern Waterthrush ventured to Gambell 27 Aug (vt. PEL), a 3rd fall record there. Two different MacGillivray's Warblers described from Gustavus 14 & 28 Aug (ND) were beyond their regular Alaskan nesting range, which brings small numbers into the riparian valleys of the mainland Southeast at similar latitudes to the east. Getting very late was a lone Common

Yellowthroat at the Pt. Bridgett vagrant trap n. of Juneau 29 Oct (PS). Only one Nov Wilson's Warbler sighting was submitted, a single in Juneau on the 2nd (GVV).

Two imm. Chipping Sparrows located in the Gambell middens 14–16 & 23 Sep (vt. PEL, ph. GHR) represented the 11th and 12th fall records for St. Lawrence I. A fresh juv. **Clay-colored Sparrow** found a Juneau feeder 14–18 Sep (ph. GVV), the Region's 8th overall and one of few fall reports. The Fox Sparrow count in the Bering Sea included only 2 from Gambell for the season, a *zaboria* type 10 Sep and a Sooty type 14 Sep (GHR, vt. PEL, TD). A Red Fox Sparrow in Ketchikan 5–12 Nov (AWP, SCH) was a local first. Presumed *zaboria* Fox Sparrows are rare but regular to the North Gulf Coast, at least s. to the Juneau area in fall. For the first time in years, no Swamp Sparrow reports were submitted. White-throated Sparrows were widely dispersed, with singles from Anchorage 29 Oct (TE), Kodiak 1 Nov+ (RAM; 3rd local record), and Gustavus 25 Sep (ND). The season produced 3 in the Ketchikan area, all in Nov (AWP, SCH); most of the Region's records come from this area in fall/winter. Single Harris's Sparrows were located at each end of the Region, at Barrow 29 Sep (MR)—where the bird was predated by an equally rare Northern Shrike—and at Ketchikan 19–24 Oct (AWP, SCH), where there are few prior fall sightings. Eight imm. White-crowned Sparrows, 30 Aug–25 Sep, was considered a below-average showing at Gambell (vt. PEL, ph. GHR), where they have been annual over the past decade; one was rare on the Arctic Coast at Barrow 29 Sep (MR). Extralimital Golden-crowned Sparrows wandered n. and w. to Gambell, with 5 detected 9–25 Sep (vt. PEL), a below-average fall tally for St. Lawrence I., while one at Shemya 29 Sep (MS) provided the only w. Aleutian report. Separate single Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos at Gambell 11–14 & 27 Sep (vt. PEL, GHR, TD) add to the growing number of n. Bering Sea fall reports, which now number seven from Gambell village. Another junco that drifted w. to Shemya 29 Sep (MS) furnished a rare Aleutian report.

Amazingly, the season's only Rustic Buntings appeared late and in Juneau, with singles described 27 Oct and 29 Oct–2 Nov (ph. PS, RJG, GVV et al.); the Southeast has one prior record of the species. The season's main *Emberiza* bunting event was the almost mythical **Pallas's Bunting** documented in the Gambell middens 24–26 Sep (vt. PEL, ph. GHR), which established Alaska's 5th overall record and first in fall. A nice photograph accompanied details on an ad. **Lazuli Bunting**

on Farm I. on the Stikine R. Delta, where it lingered 20–24 Sep (EB, ph. MB); there is one prior Alaska fall record of this casual visitor, an Oct bird from Juneau.

Of the usual scattered Brown-headed Cowbird observations, most notable was one offshore in the Southeast on Admiralty I. 30 Aug (ph. LM). This season's Purple Finch report came again from Ketchikan, where a male was at a local feeder 19 Nov (ph. SCH). An imm. Evening Grosbeak was a little early and probably dispersing across the Coast Range just inland from Juneau 15 Sep (MB), the only one this fall. Common Redpolls were in evidence and on the move early and in high numbers s. of the Alaska Range by mid-Nov. Numbers continued to expand through the month, whereas typical winter patterns have them arriving in numbers in late Feb or early Mar.

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