

CONTRIBUTORS—Joan Achille; Bea Allen; Tom Bancroft; Carl Bauer; Mrs. Gordon Beck; BBe, Byron Berger; Delbert Boggs; BBr, Bruce Broadbrooks; Mary Budd; BB, Bonnie Burch; Scott Burge; Dennis Carter; Rch, Ross Chapin; Bill Clark; Allegra Collister; RC, Richard Crossin; Edith Danielson; Jerome Decker; Dorothea DeLollis; Ludwig Deppisch; Salome Demaree; Harold Fetter; Ralph Fisher; Elsie Fogle; J. Gibson; Dotty Goard; Blayne Graves; Grace Gregg; Sallie Harris; Bill Harrison; WHa, Walton Hawk; Myrtle Hilty; Philip Hotlen, WHu, William Hunt; Peter Isleib; Betty Jackson; Ron Kalinoski; Lawrence Kline; Donald Lamm; Charles Lawson; DMag, Don Magee; Barbara McKnight; W. Meteer; DM, Darlene Meyer; Fred Miller, VM, Vester Montgomery; VMow, Vincent Mowbray; Alan Nelson; Ethel Noble; Philip Norton; Steve Olson; Tom Orbeson; Martin Paulsen; Joan Peabody; Rolf Peterson; Don Prentice; Eleanor Radke; Charles Richards; Stephen Russell; JSa, James Sands; Elmer Schooley; William Scott; JSi, James Sikes; Fletcher Sillick; Linwood Smith; Chancie Snyder; Steve Speich; Anna Starr; JS, John Stroebele; Richard Todd; James Travis; Anna Wainger; Roland Wauer; Bernard Weideman; Steve West; JW, Jack Whetstone; Geth White; RWie, Rainer Wieland; JWit, Janet Witzeman, RWit, Robert Witzeman; JWo, John Woodworth.—PATRICIA R. SNIDER, 4432-A Alabama, Los Alamos, N. Mex. 87544.

ALASKA REGION / Daniel D. Gibson

With the exception of Adak Island, where the weather during the period was described as less gruelling than during the 1969-70 winter, the



varied parts of the Region reported a very severe winter with record or near-record cold and precipitation.

A new record cold for the state was formally established in early February at Prospect Creek, near Bettles in the n. interior, with a reading of -79°F . In fact this was not very much colder than lows recorded elsewhere in the interior. Fairbanks' January average was -31°F , with constant temperatures in the -50s and -60s in the first half of the month, and readings in the -70s in outlying areas. Fairbanks also received a record snowfall of 142 inches during the winter.

In the Upper Gulf Coast area, the weather at Cordova was cold and windy through most of the period. Prolonged -10° to $+10^{\circ}\text{F}$ spells occurred from November through February, and accompanying N winds of 40-100 mph drove the effective temperature far below zero. Prince William Sound had -10°F readings, and the Copper River delta experienced -20 to -25°F with winds in excess of 100 mph. In contrast to the previous winter most of the precipitation there fell as snow.

Snow and cold was the story on the northern Kenai Peninsula too. It was very cold following the first of the year; readings in the -30s were not uncommon in Kasilof during January and February, but the bottom fell out in March, when readings of -46°F in Kenai and -42°F in Soldotna were recorded.

LOONS—All four species were recorded in the Prince William Sound area during the period (PI), and all four were recorded in the Juneau area on Jan. 2 (RJG, et al.). A Yellow-billed Loon near Pleasant I., Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument, Jan. 21 (BBP), was the only one seen there. Most unusual was a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Adak, Feb. 13-15 (GVB & DLJ). The bird was watched at close range, and readily identifiable photographs were taken. It may be a first record for the Aleutian Is. Several Arctic Loons were seen at Adak during February and March (GVB & DLJ). Twelve were seen together on Mar. 21 in Sweepers Cove. The species' status in the Aleutians is not clear; these birds were identified in the field as *G. a. pacifica*, not *viridigularis*.

SWANS, GEESE—The unidentified swan at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, mentioned in the fall migration account was identified in December as an adult **Whooper Swan**, and it was photographed at close range (AJD). Although this species is regular in the w. Aleutians it is extremely rare in the Pribilof Is. An adult Whistling Swan that attempted to overwinter at Eyak L., Cordova, was found dead in mid-February. During its stay it remained apart from the 21 wintering Trumpeter Swans there (PI). A Canada Goose present at Soldotna from December through Feb. 8 (MAM, et al.) was believed to have been the last of a very late group of 7 or 8 that had remained at the Soldotna dump through December (COL, fide MAM).

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS—A carefully described **Black Duck** was reported with a flock of 110 Mallards at Gustavus on Dec. 26 (BBP & RR). This is the second straight year the species has been reported from that area; there are no other records for the Region. Adak's **Chinese Spot-billed Duck**, present since April 1970, was seen quite regularly with Mallards during February and March (GVB & DLJ). Excellent color photo-



Adult Chinese Spot-billed Duck, Adak I., Aleutians. Apr. 10, 1970-Feb. 15, 1971. Photo/David L. Johnson

graphs were taken at close range on Feb. 6 by Johnson. Large flocks of 50 to 100+ Gadwall wintered in Port Fidalgo, e. Prince William Sound, and at Port Wells, near Whittier (PI). Two ♀ **Falcated Teal** carefully identified with Pintails and Mallards at Adak on Feb. 9 (GVB & DLJ) may have been those seen in November. Hardy Green-winged Teal were located in Prince William Sound during the winter (PI), 1 was found at Anchorage on Dec. 27 (CLE), and as many as 2 ♂♂ were present with Com. Teal at Adak Dec. 13-Feb. 20 (GVB & DLJ). Up to 12 Eur. Widgeon wintered at Adak, and one ♂ and two ♀ **Am. Widgeon**, mentioned in the fall migration account, overwintered with them (GVB & DLJ). Several Am. Widgeon noted in Port Fidalgo during the period were the first overwintering records of the species there (PI). Three ♀ Shovelers observed at Adak on Dec. 5 and 6 (GVB & DLJ) were the only ones reported anywhere in the Region after November.

DIVING DUCKS—Fourteen Canvasbacks wintered at Adak (GVB & DLJ), slightly less than last winter's showing. A ♂ present at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay Monument, from early December through Jan. 18 (BBP, et al.), was one of few winter records there. Four Tufted Ducks were seen regularly all winter at Adak; on Feb. 18 & 20 a flock of 4 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ was seen there

(GVB & DLJ). Harlequin Ducks were very abundant in Prince William Sound during the winter (PI), and 468 at Adak on Dec. 27 (GVB, et al.) was an excellent count. Two ♂ Steller's Eiders were seen regularly at Adak from Feb. 6 on (GVB & DLJ), and several pairs or small flocks were noted in Prince William Sound during the late winter (PI). The same ♂ King Eider seen at Adak in November spent the winter with Com. Eiders in Clam Lagoon (GVB & DLJ). Several small flocks of King Eiders were seen in Valdez Arm and in the fiords of Port Wells (PI). Numbers of White-winged Scoters arrived at Adak in January, and approximately 500 were present there from then through the end of the reporting period (GVB & DLJ). One ♂ Surf Scoter was seen with the White-wingeds from Jan. 17 until late February; two ♂♂ were seen on Jan. 31 (GVB & DLJ). All three scoters were reported in Prince William Sound; many flocks of Com. Scoters were seen there (PI). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters were common at Glacier Bay Monument (BBP, et al.) and at Juneau (RJG, et al.), but there was only one report of Com. Scoter for either of these last areas, at Gustavus (BBP).

HAWKS, FALCONS—Goshawks were numerous in the interior during the winter; in the immediate vicinity of Fairbanks the birds, mostly immatures and often in twos, were drawn to concentrations of snowshoe hares, which are nearing a cycle peak in that area (DDG, et al.). Elsewhere, 1 was seen at Anchorage on Dec. 27 (CLE); 3 were seen on the Copper River delta and 1 in the Prince William Sound area during the period (PI); and there was a single record at Bartlett Cove during the winter (BBP). A Gyrfalcon was seen irregularly at Adak during the period, but no Peregrines were seen there after November (GVB & DLJ). Single Peregrine Falcons were observed at Bartlett Cove on Dec. 26 and Jan. 12 (GS & JW) and at Cordova in mid-January (PI). The Cordova individual was described as being an arctic bird, not *pealei*. A Pigeon Hawk observed near Soldotna on Dec. 1 (MAM) was one of very few Kenai Peninsula winter records for this species.

SHOREBIRDS—Surfbirds found wintering in small flocks on the islands of Prince William Sound and 2 Black Turnstones noted on the rocks off Port Etches, Prince William Sound, on Mar. 10 (JDS, fide PI) were both first winter records for that area. Records of Com. Snipe at Hoonah on Nov. 22 and at Bartlett Cove on Dec. 3 and 26 add to the evidence that the species winters in small numbers (BBP, GS, & JW). Rock Sandpipers were abundant in Prince William Sound during the winter (PI), and 670 at Juneau on Jan. 2 (RJG, et al.) was an excellent count. In both areas the species was accompanied by small numbers of overwintering Dunlin.

GULLS, ALCIDS—Slaty-backed Gulls were not

numerous in the n. Bering Sea during the last few days of the reporting period (GEH). No observer was present earlier in the winter. There were a few records of Herring Gulls in s.w. Alaska, where the species is scarce: an immature was observed occasionally at Adak in December, an adult was seen there on Feb. 15, and an adult and an immature were noted on Mar. 28 (GVB & DLJ). Five Mew Gulls overwintered at Adak; about 25 were present in March (GVB & DLJ). Ivory Gulls were common in the n. Bering Sea during the last few days of the period (GEH). Thick-billed Murres outnumbered Com. Murres 20:1 this winter at Adak (GVB & DLJ). Five Parakeet Auklets observed just offshore at Adak, Jan. 31 (GVB & DLJ), were the only winter report. Johnson commented from Adak that Crested Auklets have been common for a period of almost two months each of the past two winters. Last winter the period was Dec. 20–Feb. 14; this winter it was Jan. 16–Mar. 7. It is unusual to see Least Auklets from land during the winter: 2 were seen along the shore at Adak on Mar. 11, and 1 was seen in Clam Lagoon on Mar. 22 (GVB & DLJ).

OWLS—A Snowy Owl that overwintered in the Fairbanks area was apparently feeding entirely on snowshoe hares (NC & GEH, et al.). Hawk Owls remained exceedingly scarce in the interior during the winter (Am. Birds 25: 93); there were only three or four sightings during the period (IA & MA, et al.). The species was not scarce in s.-central Alaska, however: 1 was seen near Kasilof on Nov. 23 (MAM), 1 was observed in Homer on Dec. 26 (MAM), and another was seen in the Anchorage area on Dec. 27 (CH, et al.); 4 to 6 were seen regularly along the Copper River Highway during the winter (PI). Pygmy Owls are not often reported, so 1 at Gustavus on Dec. 26 (BBP) and 1 at Juneau on Jan. 2 (RJG, et al.) were of interest. A Short-eared Owl observed foraging over the Gustavus flats on Dec. 11 (BBP) was a late record locally.

JAYS—Steller's Jays remained the winter at the fringes of their range (AB 25: 94). One was seen in Anchorage on Dec. 27 (CH, et al.), and one that wintered at a Kasilof feeder that was joined by a second individual on Feb. 8 (HK, fide MAM) provided the first wintering report for that area.

FRINGILLIDS—These species were not numerous in the Region during this past winter. They were seen at irregular intervals and in generally small numbers in most areas. Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and White-winged Crossbills were nowhere common. The 320 redpolls at Fairbanks on Dec. 27 (despite the fact that almost all of those identified to species were Hoary) was not high, and even that number would have been difficult to duplicate later in the winter. Anchorage found 321 Common Redpolls on the same date (CH, et al.), and that was certainly not a large number for that area. For the second winter in a row **McKay's Buntings** overwintered on the beach at

Nome. Four were seen there on Dec. 28 (WLF), and they had been present for some time.

CONTRIBUTORS—Irvin Ailes, Marilyn Ailes, G. Vernon Byrd, Nancy Clayton, Ada J. Davis, Clifford L. Estabrook, William L. Foster, Richard J. Gordon, George E. Hall, Catherine Hoschouer, Pete Isleib, David L. Johnson, Howard Kaiser, Charles O. Lewis, Mary A. Miller, Bruce B. Paige, Robert Rose, J. David Solf, Gregory Streveler, James Warner.—**DANIEL D. GIBSON, P.O. BOX 1551, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.**

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The winter of 1970-71 in the Northern Pacific Coast Region was both colder and wetter, with more precipitation in the form of snow, than normal. Mid-January brought severe cold and considerable snow; 39 inches of snow fell in five



days at Vancouver, B. C., where the previously recorded heaviest fall for the entire month of January had been 37 inches. Subsequent rains melted the snow by the end of January, but brought the month's total precipitation well above normal. Temperatures and rainfall were about normal until the last days of February, when more cold and snow carried over into the first week of March. Signs of spring thus were few and late in the Region by the end of the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS—A Yellow-billed Loon was seen from Dec. 31 to Feb. 22 at Bellingham (JD, ES, TW et al.); another at Westport, Wash., Jan. 17 was compared at close range with a Com. Loon (G & WH), a third bird of this species appeared at Ediz Hook, Clallam Co., Wash., Mar. 26 (M&DP;