

THIRD REPORT OF THE ALASKA CHECKLIST COMMITTEE, 2008–2012

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ABSTRACT: The third report of the Alaska Checklist Committee outlines 15 species and three subspecies added to, and one species and one subspecies deleted from, the Checklist of Alaska Birds, resulting in a net total of 499 species and 117 additional subspecies currently recognized as occurring or having occurred naturally in Alaska.

The Checklist of Alaska Birds is founded on the “Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska birds” (Gibson and Kessel 1997), plus additions, deletions, status changes, etc., reflected in the previous Alaska Checklist Committee (AKCLC) reports (Gibson et al. 2003, 2008) and on the information included in this third committee report. During the period 2008–2012, 14 species and three subspecies were added to the Checklist of Alaska Birds, and one species and one subspecies were deleted. First- and second-round votes on a 15th species (Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*), under way at the close of 2012, were completed in March 2013, resulting in a net total of 499 species and 117 additional subspecies currently recognized by the AKCLC as occurring or having occurred naturally in Alaska.

Organized in 2000 by founding members Gibson, Heinl, and Tobish, the AKCLC grew during the years 2008–2012: Lang joined in 2009, Withrow in 2010, Gill in 2011, and DeCicco in 2012. As presently constituted, the committee comprises six voting members and a nonvoting secretary. We post a new edition of the Checklist of Alaska Birds early in each new year at the University of Alaska Museum website, where the 19th edition (January 2013) can be found at www.universityofalaskamuseumbirds.org.

Because preserved examples of avian species and subspecies (archived voucher specimens) make available manifold data about birds that can only be conjectured from representations (photos, videos, etc.), we include here details of first Alaska specimens of birds already on the Alaska list—specimens brought to our attention, re-evaluated, or obtained during this period of coverage. Subspecies listed in parentheses are inferred from photos on the basis of characteristics of plumage, phenology, and/or geographic range.

Author, year of publication and type locality are not included for taxa (species or subspecies) discussed in a previous AKCLC report. Authorities for outlines of nesting range include Vaurie (1959, 1965), American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] (1998), Dickinson (2003), and Dickinson and Remsen (2013). Maintained separately, the Alaska “unsubstantiated” list comprises

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species (currently 24) for which we have on file compelling sight reports but no Alaska specimen or readily identifiable photo.

ADDITIONS TO THE ALASKA LIST AND FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN RECORDS

Anser albifrons. Greater White-fronted Goose. ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES: *Anser albifrons sponso* Banks, 2011 {Hooper Bay, Alaska}. Breeds in western and southwestern Alaska. Holotype is U.S. National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 380325, ad. ♂, 11 May 1942, Hooper Bay, Alaska, C. E. Gillham. Banks (2011) described this Greater White-fronted Goose as similar to *A. a. gambelli* of interior and northern Alaska but averaging smaller, and similar to *A. a. elgasi* of the Cook Inlet area but smaller in all dimensions; subspecies *sponso* nests in western Alaska, in the Yukon–Kuskokwim delta area and in the Bristol Bay lowlands; it winters in California and western Mexico.

Pterodroma solandri Gould, 1844 {Bass Strait}. Providence Petrel. Breeds on islands in Tasman Sea. Monotypic. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos): Ten+ birds, 15 September 2011, vicinity of 53° 16' N, 171° 05' E, off Attu Island, Aleutian Islands, B. E. Cooper and G. B. Mackiernan (Cooper and Mackiernan 2012, including photos). NOTES: In its nonbreeding season the Providence Petrel occurs widely in the central Pacific Ocean (Onley and Scofield 2007), north at least as far as main islands of Japan (Ornithological Society of Japan [OSJ] 2012), and it has been reported recently, but not confirmed, off California, Oregon, and Washington (see Cooper and Mackiernan 2012) and off British Columbia (Dunn et al. 2012).

Egretta tricolor (Statius Müller, 1776) {Cayenne}. Tricolored Heron. Breeds from southern U.S. to northern South America. *Egretta tricolor (ruficollis)* Gosse, 1847 {Jamaica}, including *occidentalis* Huey, 1927 {Scammon Lagoon [= Laguna Ojo de Liebre], Baja California Sur} (see Hellmayr and Conover 1948, Erickson and Howell 2001, Unitt 2004). Range of the species except South America. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photo): One adult, 22–24 May 1985, Chickamin River, mainland southeast Alaska, P. Bethel (in litt., 2008; photo AKCLC). NOTES: Nearest nesting Tricolored Herons are in Baja California (see Erickson and Howell 2001). The species was formerly (until about 2000) a regular winter visitor along the coast of southern California, but there are only four records for northern California (P. Unitt, in litt., 2013). There have been several Oregon records, one in spring (Marshall et al. 2006).

Ardeola bacchus. Chinese Pond-Heron. Breeds from India to China and Mongolia and from southeast Asia to Sulawesi. Monotypic. FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN: University of Alaska Museum (UAM) 26000, ad. ♂ in nuptial plumage, 20 May 2009, Attu Island, Aleutians, J. J. Withrow and D. W. Sonneborn (Withrow and Sonneborn 2011, including photo). HISTORY IN ALASKA: One bird in nuptial plumage, 4–9 August 1996, at St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands (Hoyer and Smith 1997, including photos), provided the first and only previous Alaska record; one present 14–15 July 2011 at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, provided the only other Alaska record (see N. Am. Birds [NAB] 65:673—where photos [p. 713] erroneously dated 14–15 June).

Nycticorax nycticorax. Black-crowned Night-Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*. Breeds in the Old World (Eurasia from Europe to China, Japan, Taiwan, the Sundas, and Philippines; north Africa). FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN: UAM 15000, ad. ♂, 11 May 2002, Attu Island, Aleutians, K. Winker and D. W. Sonneborn (Gibson and Byrd 2007). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Prior Alaska records, all since the 1970s, were outlined by Gibson and Kessel (1992, 1997), who inferred occurrences of nominate *nycticorax* and of subspecies *hoactli* (Gmelin, 1789) {Valley of Mexico} (Breeds in the New World). Four additional Aleutian specimens of nominate *nycticorax* were



Figure 1. Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus* [*osculans*]), 26 May–13 June 2012, Buldir Island, Aleutians.

Photo by R. A. Dugan

collected in 2006 (Gibson and Byrd 2007). There is no Alaska specimen of *hoactli*. Finally, one Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported 11–29 July 2011 at St. George Island, Pribilofs (see NAB 64:673).

Circus cyaneus. Northern Harrier. *Circus cyaneus cyaneus*. Breeds in Europe, central and northern Asia. ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES (specimen): UAM 9062, juv. ♂, remains salvaged in June 1999, Attu Island, Aleutians, D. W. Sonneborn. Identified as this species by C. J. Dove, at USNM, the specimen comprises a distal right wing; its length (chord 318 mm) points to this subspecies (Gibson and Byrd 2007) rather than to the North American *C. c. hudsonius*.

Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus, 1758) {England}. Common Moorhen. Breeds from Europe to Japan, in sub-Saharan Africa, in Madagascar, and on many isolated oceanic islands and archipelagos, from, e.g., Mauritius and the Seychelles to the Philippines, Palau, and northern Marianas. *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*, including *indica* Blyth, 1842 {Calcutta} (see Vaurie 1965). Europe to Japan. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (specimen): UAM 27369, juv. ♂, 12–14 October 2010, Shemya Island, Aleutians, M. T. Schwitters (Withrow and Schwitters 2012, including photos). NOTES: In the wake of the AOU's decision (Chesser et al. 2011) to split the New World Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) from the Old World Common Moorhen (*G. chloropus*), the Shemya specimen provides the first record of the latter species within the political limits of North America. The Common Moorhen has been recorded twice as far east as Kamchatka (October 1974 and October 1981, Artyukhin et al. 2000) and once in the Commander Islands (April 1956, Marakov 1962), which lie 320 km northwest of Shemya.

Haematopus ostralegus Linnaeus, 1758 {Öland Island, Baltic Sea}. Eurasian Oystercatcher. Eurasia. *Haematopus ostralegus (osculans)* Swinhoe, 1871 {Liaotung Peninsula, Manchuria}. Breeds in northeastern China, Korea, Sea of Okhotsk, and Kamchatka. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos; Figure 1): One bird, 26 May–13

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June 2012, Buldir Island, Aleutians, I. L. Jones, M. Goh, R. A. Dugan (photos NAB 66:570). NOTES: Two Eurasian Oystercatchers seen together on 19 June 1883 at Bering Island (Stejneger 1885) seem to provide the only record in the Commander Islands (see Johansen 1961, Artyukhin et al. 2000).

Himantopus himantopus. Black-winged Stilt. *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*. Breeds in central and southern Eurasia (east to Honshu); also Africa and Madagascar. FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN: UAM 18462, ad. ♀, 16 May 2003, St. George Island, Pribilofs, K. Sundseth and J. J. Weicker (see NAB 57:389–390, photo p. 431). HISTORY IN ALASKA: There have been two other Alaska records—of one photographed during the period 24 May–3 June 1983 at Nizki Island, Aleutians, C. F. Zeilemaker and others (Zeilemaker et al. 1985), and inferred to be this subspecies (Gibson and Kessel 1997); and two birds together 1 June 2003, one still present on 9 June 2003, at Shemya Island, Aleutians, G. V. Byrd (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

Tringa semipalmata (Gmelin, 1789) (New York). Willet. Breeds in south-central Canada and north-central U.S. and along Atlantic coast of southeastern Canada and U.S. *Tringa semipalmata (inornata)* (Brewster, 1887) (Larimer Co., Colorado). South-central Canada and north-central U.S. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos; Figure 2): One bird, 22–30 June 2012, mouth of Kenai River, Kenai Peninsula, T. A. and L. K. Burke and others (photos AKCLC). The bird's long and rather slender dark bill are consistent with subspecies *inornata* (J. L. Dunn, in litt., 2012) HISTORY IN ALASKA: Transfer from the unsubstantiated list. Hartlaub (1883) inferred from a description of its feet that a "*Totanus*" reported to have been taken at Portage Bay [= Portage Cove, Haines] in 1882 was this species, but he never saw the specimen; Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959:828) included reference to Hartlaub's report in their hypothetical list. There were two 20th-century reports: up to two birds 8–9 August 1961 at Minto Lakes, west of Fairbanks, by W. T. Van Velzen (1963); and one with Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*), Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*), golden-plovers (*Pluvialis*), and Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*) on 29 April 1998 at Seward, by W. C. Shuster (in litt., 1998). NOTES: In the Pacific Northwest the Willet is generally rare or uncommon in coastal estuaries in Washington (Wahl et al. 2005) and very rare in spring, summer, and fall on the southern coast of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990).

Gallinago solitaria Hodgson, 1831 (Nepal). Solitary Snipe. Breeds in southern Siberia and from northeastern Mongolia to northeastern China and Kamchatka. *Gallinago solitaria japonica* Bonaparte, 1856 (Japan). Northeastern Mongolia to northeastern China and Kamchatka. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (specimen): UAM 27000, ad. ♂, 24 May 2010, Attu Island, Aleutians, J. J. Withrow and D. W. Sonneborn (Withrow and Sonneborn 2011). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Transfer from the unsubstantiated list. A sighting on 10 September 2008 at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, provided the only previous Alaska report (Bieber and Schuette 2009, including photos of marginal quality). NOTES: East of Kamchatka the Solitary Snipe is a rare straggler in the Commander Islands (Johansen 1961), and it has been recorded at Karaginskiy Island (Artyukhin et al. 2000), off the northeast coast of Kamchatka.

Leucophaeus atricilla (Linnaeus, 1758) (Bahama Islands). Laughing Gull. Breeds on Atlantic coast from southeastern Canada to Venezuela, also at Salton Sea and on Pacific coast of Mexico. Monotypic. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos): One bird (first cycle), 5–7 January 2010, city of Kodiak, Kodiak Island, R. A. MacIntosh and others (photos NAB 64:309). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Transfer from the unsubstantiated list. Early in the 20th century, Reichenow (1909) reported one collected 6 October 1906 on the Kenai River—a specimen that "reached the museum [Berlin] in such bad condition that it was thrown away" (A. Reichenow, in litt., 1915, fide Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959:829). Recent reports included one bird, probably in its second summer, 29 June 2002, Yakutat, P. M. Suchanek and others; one adult in summer plumage,

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31 August 2004, Icy Strait, S. T. Zimmerman and others; and one adult in summer plumage, 30 May 2009, Auke Bay, G. B. van Vliet. Heint and Piston (2009) judged the details of a 1976 report from Ketchikan (on file AKCLC; report noted by AOU 1998) insufficient to eliminate Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*). NOTES: In the Pacific Northwest the Laughing Gull has been recorded three times, spring to fall, in coastal Washington (Wahl et al. 2005), and there have been three summer reports from the southern coast of British Columbia (see Field Notes 52:493, 1998; J. D. Fenneman, in litt., 2013).

Streptopelia decaocto (Frivaldszky, 1838) {Turkey}. Eurasian Collared-Dove. Breeds from Europe to western China; Burma to eastern China. *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*. Europe to western China. FIRST ALASKA RECORDS (specimens; photos AKCLC): Added to the Alaska checklist in 2010 following first Alaska reports in 2006, 2007, and 2008 (Gibson et al. 2008, Heint and Piston 2009) and invasion in 2009 (NAB 63:641; see also photos at NAB 63:555). Currently a rare or uncommon resident in virtually every town from Metlakatla and Ketchikan north and west to Yakutat and Cordova. Specimens: UAM 27777, ♂, 25 September 2010, Ketchikan, J. and J. Raymond; and UAM 30669, ♂, 5 November 2012, Ketchikan, L. H. DeCicco and S. C. Heint. NOTES: Following release in the Bahamas in the 1970s, this species spread quickly to Florida (Smith 1987, Romagosa 2012) and beyond (Cecile 2004, Cole and McCaskie 2004, Leukering and Gibbons 2005, Mlodinow et al. 2006, Hamilton et al. 2007). As noted by Romagosa and McEneaney (1999), collared-doves are kept in captivity and individual doves found in the wild might be the result of local release (see also Glover et al. 2001, Cole and McCaskie 2004). In at least one case in Alaska (three at Petersburg 20 July 2006), the birds were thought to have been local escapes (Gibson et al. 2008). The incursion in 2009, however, clearly represented another step in the continued spread of this species across North America.

Myiarchus cinerascens (Lawrence, 1851) {Western Texas}. Ash-throated Flycatcher. Breeds in western U.S., Baja California, and western Mexico. Monotypic (see Patten et al. 2003). FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos; this issue's cover): One bird, 7–17 November 2012, Ketchikan, S. C. Heint (photos AKCLC), A. W. Piston, W. Young. HISTORY IN ALASKA: Transfer from the unsubstantiated list. One prior Alaska report, of one bird (photos, of marginal quality, AKCLC), 20 July 1999, Auke Bay, G. B. van Vliet and others (see Gibson et al. 2003). NOTES: The Ash-throated Flycatcher nests as far north as south-central Washington but is only a casual visitant in coastal Washington, mid-May to late November (Wahl et al. 2005). It is as well a very rare visitant in coastal southern British Columbia, early summer to late autumn, where there had been 36 records by the late 1990s (Campbell et al. 1997).

Vireo solitarius (Wilson, 1810) {Bartram's Woods, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania}. Blue-headed Vireo. Breeds from northwestern to eastern Canada and in north-central and northeastern U.S., south to Georgia. *Vireo solitarius (solitarius)*. Northwestern to eastern Canada and north-central and northeastern U.S. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (six photos; the best of which is reproduced in Figure 3): One bird, 30 September and 2 October 2012, Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, S. C. Heint, L. H. DeCicco (photos AKCLC), G. H. Rosenberg (photos AKCLC), and T. G. Tobish Jr. Peter Pyle wrote (in litt., 2012), "I have no problem endorsing it as an HY [hatch-year] male Blue-headed Vireo. I'm very confident of HY by primary coverts, and even if it was an AHY [after hatch year] I think it is too bright for AHY male Cassin's [Vireo *V. cassinii*]. For an HY it is confirmed as Blue-headed." HISTORY IN ALASKA: One prior Alaska report, a bird identified by song but not seen, 17 June 1999, Yukon River floodplain near Weshrinarin Creek, T. Rinaldi (Handel et al. 2009:546 and C. M. Handel, in litt., 2011). NOTES: The Blue-headed Vireo nests as close to Alaska as extreme southeastern Yukon Territory (Alexander et al. 2003) and northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997).



Figure 2. Willet (*Tringa semipalmata* [*inornata*]), 22–30 June 2012, Kenai River mouth.

Photo by L. K. Burke

Cistothorus palustris (Wilson, 1810) {Philadelphia, Pennsylvania}. Marsh Wren. Breeds from northeastern, central, and southwestern British Columbia and western Washington to central Canada and from north-central to southeastern U.S. Subspecies in Alaska not known (see NOTES). FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos; Figure 4): One bird, 25 October and 28 October 2009, in extensive 1.5-m reeds on Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, at 61° 30' N, 149° 20' W, D. L. Crowson (photos AKCLC and NAB 64:134), R. A. Winckler, and B. L. Friest. NOTES: Subspecies *C. p. plesius* Oberholser, 1897 {Fort Wingate, New Mexico} nests as far north as the southern interior of British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997); *C. p. iliacus* (Ridgway, 1903) {Wheatland, Knox Co., Indiana} nests as far northwest as Alberta (AOU 1957) and is likely the form now found nesting in northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997) and found recently, and possibly nesting, in southeastern Yukon Territory (Alexander et al. 2003). Subspecies *browningi* Rea, 1986 {Pitt Meadows, British Columbia}, which nests in southwestern British Columbia and west-central Washington (Rea in Phillips 1986), is probably sedentary (P. Unitt, in litt., 2013).

Phylloscopus collybita (Vieillot, 1817) {France}. Common Chiffchaff. Breeds mainly in western and central Eurasia. *Phylloscopus collybita (tristis)* Blyth, 1843 {Calcutta}. Siberia from the Yenisei to Lake Baikal, and east in the Russian Far East as far as the Kolyma River. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos): One bird, 6–7 June 2012, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, P. E. Lehman, K. J. Zimmer, and others (Lehman and Zimmer 2013; K. J. Zimmer, C. Irrigoo, and P. Schoenberger photos AKCLC). The AKCLC split its first vote on this identification, with two members voting to add and the other four voting to relegate the species to the unsubstantiated list (28 January 2013). After receiving an array of influential comments, from L. Svensson, P. Alström, P. Kennerley, P. Pyle, and others, we voted unanimously in a second round to add this species to the main list (6 March 2013). We did not accept the identification of an autumn bird reported as possibly this species (Lehman and Zimmer 2013:435) at St. Lawrence Island on 30 September 2011. NOTES: Subspecies *P. c. tristis* winters



Figure 3. Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius* [*solitarius*]), 30 September and 2 October 2012, Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska.

Photo by G. H. Rosenberg

chiefly from the Middle East to India (Cramp and Brooks 1992). In the Russian Far East it is reported to occur as far east as western Chukotka (Brazil 2009). It is a casual migrant in Japan (since 1996—OSJ 2012).

Luscinia sibilans (Swinhoe, 1863) {Macao}. Rufous-tailed Robin. Breeds from south-central and southeastern Siberia to northeastern China and in the Russian Far East to Sakhalin, Ussuriland, and Kamchatka. Monotypic. FIRST ALASKA RECORDS (specimen and photos): UAM 24600, second-year ♀, 4 June 2008, Attu Island,



Figure 4. Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris* [ssp.]), 25 and 28 October 2009, Palmer Hay Flats.

Photo by D. L. Crowson

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Aleutians, D. W. Sonneborn; and one bird (photos), 8 June 2008, St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, L. H. DeCicco and others (all DeCicco et al. 2009, including photos of second bird). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Transfer from the unsubstantiated list. A sighting on 4 June 2000 at Attu Island provided the first Alaska report of this species (NAB 54:317, including photos of marginal quality; see Gibson et al. 2003, DeCicco et al. 2009), and a sighting of one on 6 and 7 September 2012 at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, D. Gochfeld, S. Schuette, and others, provided the first fall report (NAB 67[1]:in press; photos AKCLC). NOTES: The Rufous-tailed Robin nests widely in Kamchatka as far north as the Palana and Karaga rivers, near the isthmus (Artyukhin et al. 2000), and occurs as a migrant throughout Japan (OSJ 2012),

Turdus iliacus Linnaeus, 1766 {Sweden}. Redwing. Breeds in Iceland, the Faeroe Islands, northern and eastern Europe, and in northern Russia as far east as Lake Baikal, the Lena River, and the lower Kolyma River. *Turdus iliacus* (*iliacus*). Range of the species except Iceland and the Faeroes. FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos; Figure 5): One bird, 15–27 November 2011, Seward, Kenai Peninsula, J. Herbert, C. A. Griswold, and others (Griswold 2012; photos NAB 66:194). NOTES: The Redwing is unknown in the Russian Far East beyond the Kolyma (see Portenko 1973, Kistchinski 1980, Artyukhin et al. 2000) but is a straggler in Japan, where there have been more than 12 records (OSJ 2012). A Redwing in Washington (December 2004–February 2005, NAB 59:316 and 370; Wahl et al. 2005) provides the only prior record in western North America.

Oreothlypis ruficapilla. Nashville Warbler. *Oreothlypis ruficapilla ridgwayi*. Breeds in southwestern Canada and western U.S. FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN: UAM 26264, first-fall ♀, 21 September 2009, captured aboard ship southeast of St. Matthew Island, Bering Sea, at 59° 20' N, 169° 00' W, L. H. DeCicco. Subspecies identification by C. Cicero (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, in litt., 2010). HISTORY IN ALASKA: Gibson et al. (2008) referred to the four previous Alaska records, as well as two historical reports, all in autumn, 5 September (2004, St. Lawrence Island, Lehman 2005) to 11 November (2005, Ketchikan, see Heinl and Piston 2009). One observed on 19 October 2009 in Juneau by L. H. DeCicco (NAB 64:132, photos AKCLC)—one month after he collected Alaska's first specimen—provides the only additional record.

Zonotrichia leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. *Zonotrichia leucophrys pugentensis* Grinnell, 1928 {Parksville, Vancouver Island}. Breeds from southwestern British Columbia south, west of the Cascade Range, in Washington and Oregon to northwestern California. ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES (specimen): UAM 30685, ad. ♀, 17 November 2012, Ketchikan, S. C. Heinl. HISTORY IN ALASKA: Specimen preceded by first Alaska reports in 2000 (immature at a Juneau feeder 9 December 2000–April 2001, G. B. van Vliet) and 2011 (adult photographed at Ketchikan during the period 5–20 November 2011, J. L. Dunn, L. H. DeCicco, and others; NAB 66:151).

Leucosticte arctoa (Pallas, 1811) {Russian Altai}. Asian Rosy-Finch. Breeds in the Altai, Sayan, and Tannu Ola mountains, Mongolia, and in the Russian Far East from the Stanovoi Mountains east to Sakhalin, the Kuriles, and Kamchatka. *Leucosticte arctoa* (*brunneonucha*) Brandt, 1842 {Kuril Islands}. Stanovoi Mountains east to Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, and Kamchatka. Winters to Manchuria, Ussuriland, Korea, Sakhalin, Kuriles, and Japan south to Kyushu (OSJ 2012). FIRST ALASKA RECORD (photos): One bird, 30 December 2011, Adak Island, Aleutians, I. J. Helmericks (photo NAB 66:370 and Birding 44[6]:32, 2012; additional photos AKCLC). NOTES: The Asian Rosy-Finch is unknown in the Commander Islands (Artyukhin et al. 2000), where the westernmost Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches occur (*Leucosticte tephrocotis griseonucha*, including *maxima* Brooks, 1915 {Copper Island, Commander Islands}—Vaurie 1959).

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF SPECIES UNSUBSTANTIATED IN ALASKA

Oceanodroma monorhis (Swinhoe, 1867) {near Amoy, China}. Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel. One bird was identified among 250+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (*O. furcata*), 15 Leach's Storm-Petrels (*O. leucorhoa*), and ~10 Northern Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*); 5 August 2003; Gulf of Alaska south of Kodiak Island, at 56° 03' N, 153° 42' W; S. Terrill, L. Terrill, R. Terrill, R. D. Spight, and S. T. Zimmerman. We judged brief video (on file AKCLC) insufficient to substantiate this identification (see Chesser et al. 2010).

Morus bassanus (Linnaeus, 1758) {Scotland}. Northern Gannet. An adult was identified off Point Barrow—on two successive days by observers unknown to each other and on separate ships—on 16 August 2010 at 71° 50' N, 161° 48' W by J. R. Rose (see Day et al. 2013) and on 17 August 2010 at 71° 18' N, 156° 47' W by C. Leedy. No photos. NOTES: North of its breeding range this species has occurred regularly in western Greenland (Boertmann 1994) and widely elsewhere in the North Atlantic (Mowbray 2002), but we found no prior report of occurrence in the Pacific sector of the Arctic Ocean.

Botaurus stellaris (Linnaeus, 1758) {Sweden}. Eurasian Bittern. One bird was observed briefly in flight on 13 June and 25 June 2012 at Buldir Island, Aleutians, by R. A. Dugan, but the only photos (on file AKCLC), which point to this species, are distant flight shots in fog.

Acrocephalus dumetorum Blyth, 1849 {India}. Blyth's Reed Warbler. One bird was identified on 9 September 2010 at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, by R. L. Ake, P. E. Lehman, A. J. Lang, and others (Lehman and Ake 2011, including photos). Of the many photos taken, most are of poor quality or flight shots (on file AKCLC). None show clearly the wing formula, and similar species in this difficult genus, such as the Large-billed Reed Warbler (*A. orinus*) and Eurasian Reed Warbler (*A. scirpaceus*), cannot be entirely eliminated. Peter Kennerley (in litt., 2011; see Kennerley and Pearson 2010) wrote, "To achieve acceptance, in my opinion, you would need crisp, sharp photographs and ideally the bird would need to be trapped, measurements taken, and feathers or blood sampled for comparative DNA evidence. As discussed above, and again in my opinion, I would not accept the record for a first for the USA and North America. It would need to be iron-clad in measurements and DNA, and this would require trapping and examination in the hand."

DELETIONS FROM THE CHECKLIST OF ALASKA BIRDS

Bucephala clangula. Common Goldeneye. DELETE ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES *B. c. clangula*. A specimen (USNM 237500) collected 27 November 1914 at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs (Hanna 1916), and long accepted as the only Alaska record of this Old World subspecies (see AOU 1957), has been reidentified as an example of New World *B. c. americana* (R. C. Banks, USNM, on specimen label).

Charadrius alexandrinus. Snowy Plover. DELETE SPECIES. In view of the AOU's decision (Chesser et al. 2011) to split into two species the Old World Kentish Plover (*C. alexandrinus*) and New World Snowy Plover (*C. nivosus*), we re-examined the supporting evidence (photos of one bird, 23–24 May 1991, Nome River mouth, Seward Peninsula; on file AKCLC) for the sole Alaska report (Gibson and Kessel 1992) and unanimously agreed that, although of a "Snowy Plover" *sensu lato*, the photos do not point conclusively to *either* species.



Figure 5. Redwing (*Turdus iliacus* [*iliacus*]), 15–27 November 2011, Seward.

Photo by C. A. Griswold

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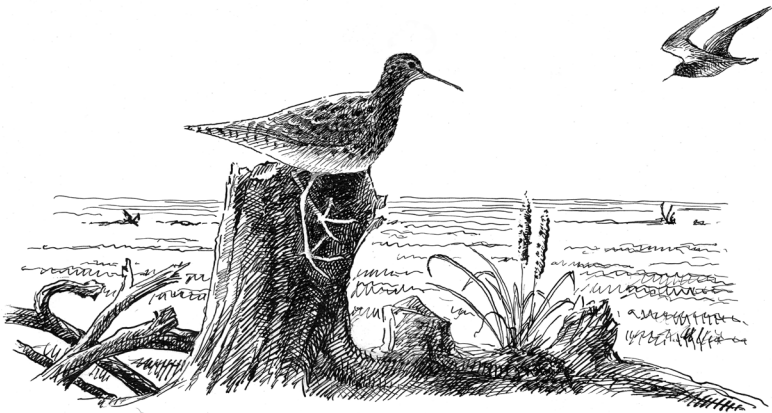
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Lesser Yellowlegs, Anchorage, Alaska

Sketch by Maksim Dementyev