

THE BIRDS OF GAMBELL AND ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, ALASKA: NEW RECORDS AND OTHER UPDATES, 2019–2025

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ABSTRACT: Much noteworthy avian information has accrued since the publication of *The Birds of Gambell and St. Lawrence Island, Alaska* (Lehman 2019). These include first-time records as well as many new early arrival and late departure dates, high counts, and additional records of rare and casual species. From 2019 to 2025, 14 new species were recorded on St. Lawrence Island. Two, Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler (*Helopsaltes certhiola*) and the Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*), were also firsts for North America. Another two species were new at the village of Gambell but had previously been recorded elsewhere on the island. In addition, the taxonomic splits of the Vega Gull (*Larus vegae*) and American Herring Gull (*L. smithsonianus*) from the Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) and of the Siberian Pipit (*Anthus japonicus*) from the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*) were accompanied by the merging of Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) and Hoary Redpoll (*A. hornemanni*) into a single species. These discoveries and reclassifications bring the species total at Gambell to 303 and on St. Lawrence Island to 307.

This article summarizes the most significant avian records from Gambell and Saint Lawrence Island, Alaska, since the publication of *The Birds of Gambell and St. Lawrence Island, Alaska* (Lehman 2019) by Western Field Ornithologists. This new information comes primarily from 2019 through 2025 but also includes some pre-2019 addenda that have come to light since the book's publication. Many additional records of note could have been included. These may establish new early arrival or late departure dates by only a day or two, add only a small number of individuals to a previous high count, or add new reports of regularly occurring rarities that already had accrued more than 10 records.

Gambell is a village of mostly Yupik people located at the northwest tip of St. Lawrence Island in the northern Bering Sea (63.78° N, 171.73° W). It lies approximately 315 km west-southwest of Nome, 265 km southwest of the closest point on the Seward Peninsula, at Wales, and only 73 km southeast of the nearest point on the Chukchi or Chukotski Peninsula of the Russian mainland (Figure 1). The shortest distance from the island to the Alaska mainland is approximately 200 km. The village of Savoonga (63.69° N, 170.48° W), 62 km east of Gambell, is the only other permanent settlement on this large, mostly volcanic island, which measures just slightly over 160 km in length and 15–65 km in width, encompassing roughly 5200 km².

I define "Gambell" as the area from the tip of Northwest Cape ("the point") east to the slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain and south to the first major coastal headland, Ooynik Point, approximately 8 km south of the village (Figure 2).

Birders have visited Gambell annually in spring since about 1973. Most have visited the village area during the last week of May and first week or 10 days of June. Data for this period during the height of spring migration are now extensive, although the periods from April to mid-May and from mid- to late June have received only limited coverage. Autumn observations

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FIGURE 1. Location of Gambell and St. Lawrence Island in the northern Bering Sea. Also shown are several additional islands and island groups that have received varying amounts of observer coverage over the years.

Map by Cindy Lippincott

were extremely sparse until the early 1990s, when birders made visits for up to ten days duration the last week of August and first week of September. From 1999 to 2019, a small number of birders, including me, remained for extended stays of over a month, between late August and the end of September or early/mid-October. Since 2019, however, such extended stays have become



FIGURE 2. This aerial photo looking southwest over Gambell 9 Sep 2006 shows the village, Troutman Lake to the south, and the three “boneyards” that show up as dark green areas. Northwest Cape (“the point”), where seawatching takes place, is just off the photo to the right. Sevuokuk Mountain is on the left.

Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

more sporadic. Data for early spring, summer, late fall, and winter are sparse. Several local residents have provided many important records during these seasons. Some of the limited information from Gambell and the Savoonga area during summer comes from studies focused on alcids. Almost all visiting observers since the 1970s have restricted their activities largely to within a few miles of Gambell, with little exploration of other areas on St. Lawrence Island.

Lehman (2019) summarized information on the avifauna at Gambell and the rest of St. Lawrence Island and surrounding waters through March 2019. At that time, 287 species had been recorded at Gambell, with an additional five species found elsewhere on the island, for a total island list of 292 species. Since early 2019, 13 further species new to the island have been recorded at Gambell, and another was found at Savoonga. Two of these species, Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler (*Helopsaltes certhiola*) and the Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*), were also firsts for North America. Another two species were new at Gambell but had been recorded elsewhere on the island previously. These finds plus taxonomic changes bring the species total at Gambell to 303 and for St. Lawrence Island to 307.

For each individual record listed below, the initials of the finder(s) are given. Almost all records have been shared via <https://eBird.org>. A small number are published in *North American Birds* (NAB).

For those interested in a more complete listing of the avian data from St. Lawrence Island, four documents are maintained on the Western Field Ornithologists website. One is a complete database covering the spring and summer seasons, the second is a database covering the fall and winter seasons since 1998, a third is a listing of all addenda and corrigenda to Lehman (2019) through March 2019, and the last covers notable addenda from 2019 to the present. These documents are updated annually and are available at <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/wp-content/Studies/Lehman/>.

ADDENDA THROUGH 2018

Some significant records prior to 2019 have come to light since the publication of Lehman (2019), many the result of observers sharing their sightings only recently for the first time through eBird. Observers are credited by their initials and listed in the acknowledgments.

BLACK TURNSTONE *Arenaria melanocephala*. Very rare or casual spring visitor. A record-late spring visitor was at Siknik Cape, south shore of St. Lawrence Island, 18 Jun 1997 (MR).

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Very rare spring and fall visitor. A record-late spring visitor or summer wanderer was at Koozata Lagoon, south shore of St. Lawrence Island, 23 Jun 1997 (MR).

RUFF *Calidris pugnax*. Rare spring and casual fall visitor. A displaying male and up to two females were at Gambell 13–16 Jun 2006 (BW). Displaying birds have been noted on several occasions but were not known to linger or breed locally.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*. Rare but regular spring and fall visitor. A pair was at Koozata Lagoon 22 Jun 1997 (MR). This species probably breeds on St. Lawrence Island, where there are several summer records and birds seen in display flight, but there are no documented nesting records.

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GRAY-TAILED TATTTLER *Tringa brevipes*. Very rare spring and rare fall visitor. A late spring visitor or summer wanderer was at Koozata Lagoon 22 Jun 1997 (MR).

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus*. Rare to uncommon spring and uncommon fall visitor; casual in summer. An additional summer bird was at Gambell 29 Jun 2007 (GC).

FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates furcatus*. Casual spring and rare to very rare fall visitor; casual in summer. The first summer record at Gambell was of an individual found dead 5 Jul 1979 (EAC). Apparently the specimen was not saved.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates leucorhous*. One photographed from shore ~8 km southeast of Gambell 7 Oct 2012 (RU; Figure 3) represents the first island record. This species is a casual visitor to the northern Bering Sea.

CHINESE POND-HERON *Ardeola bacchus*. Accidental visitor. The adult at Gambell 14–15 Jul 2011 (Gibson et al. 2013) still represents the only record of this species for St. Lawrence island and one of only three for North America (RU; Figure 4). I include this species here because I did not have access to the original photo in 2019, and here take the opportunity to reproduce a version at a resolution higher than it was published in *N. Am. Birds* 65: 713, 2011.

SAY'S PHOEBE *Sayornis saya*. Casual spring visitor. One on 3 Jun 1981 (Wings Birding Tours) was the first of three recorded at Gambell in spring.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET *Corthylio calendula*. Although a rare fall visitor with over 50 individuals recorded, the only spring record was established at Gambell 2 Jun 2009 (TB, KS).

NAUMANN'S THRUSH *Turdus naumanni*. Accidental spring visitor. Because of a taxonomic split from the Dusky Thrush (*T. eunomus*), Naumann's Thrush gained species rank in 2020 (Chesser et al. 2020). Thus a bird photographed at Gambell 5 Jun 2015 (RH, JLD) adds a further species. Naumann's Thrush breeds east to near the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). Several additional records have been accepted from the Aleutian Islands, but there is a fairly large hybrid zone with the Dusky Thrush (east to the western Anadyr River basin), and several other Alaska reports do not eliminate hybrids (Gibson et al. 2023).

FIRST RECORDS, 2019–2025

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula*. One was photographed at Gambell 3 Sep 2023 (GS, RLV). This species is a very rare visitor to the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands, mostly in fall (Gibson and Withrow 2015), and is casual elsewhere in North America (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). It breeds north to Kamchatka and the northwest coast of the Sea of Okhotsk (Brazil 2009).

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*. One in a weakened condition was photographed inside a shed at Savoonga 31 Jul 2021 (D&JT, TN). This species breeds no closer to St. Lawrence Island than the Lake Baikal region and northeast China (Brazil 2009). There are records from Korea and Japan (Brazil 2009), four records from the Pribilof Islands, all in late June, and one July record from the central Aleutians (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data, W. S. Gibson pers. comm.). The Common Swift is accidental elsewhere in North America.

WESTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus verticalis*. One photographed at Gambell 1 Aug 2025 (RU, CI; Figure 5) established the first record for the Bering Sea region. This species is very rare or casual anywhere in Alaska and nests no farther north than southern British Columbia (Dunn and Alderfer 2017).

WOOD-PEWEE SP. *Contopus* sp. One was photographed at Gambell 29 Aug–1



FIGURE 3. St. Lawrence Island's sole record of Leach's Storm-Petrel, a casual visitor to the northern Bering Sea, was established by this bird seen from shore about 8 km southeast of Gambell 7 Oct 2012.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.

Sep 2019 (AJL, SCH, et al.). From plumage features, distribution, and timing this bird was almost certainly a Western Wood-Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). This species breeds north to interior Alaska (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). Elsewhere on islands in the Bering Sea, there are four previous records of the Western or unidentified wood-pewees from the Pribilof Islands (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. The first recorded in North America was at Gambell 22 Sep 2022 [RU; photo NAB 73(2):23; *Western Birds* 54(2): cover; Gibson et al. 2023]. Subsequently another was found at the Pribilof Islands 7 Oct 2023 [photo NAB 75(2):72]. This species breeds no closer to Alaska than southwest



FIGURE 4. This photo of St. Lawrence Island's only Chinese Pond-Heron, at Gambell 14–15 Jul 2011, was not available for publication in Lehman (2019).

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.



FIGURE 5. The Bering Sea region's first Western Kingbird was at Gambell 1 Aug 2025.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.

Siberia near Omsk (Kennerley and Pearson 2010), and there are no definite records for east Asia (Gibson et al. 2023).

PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER *Helopsaltes certhiola*. The first North American record was of one at Gambell 9–12 Sep 2019 [SCH, AJL; photo Lang and Heintl (2021), NAB 71(2):11]. This species breeds northeast in Russia to near the north coast of the Sea of Okhotsk (Kennerley and Pearson 2010).

PACIFIC WREN *Troglodytes pacificus*. One flew inside a house, twice, at Gambell 22–23 Oct 2019 (M&M&FU), was photographed, and subsequently perished (specimen to University of Alaska Museum). This species is resident in the Aleutians and Pribilofs and found on the mainland north to the Alaska Peninsula and south-central Alaska (Dunn and Alderfer 2017), where its status as a migrant or resident is uncertain. The subspecies of the Gambell bird has not yet been identified (J. J. Withrow pers. comm.).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD *Sialia currucoides*. Found at Gambell 10 Sep 2021 [RBB; photo NAB 73(2):54; Figure 6], this species occurs irregularly north to interior Alaska (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and has been recorded twice in fall on the Pribilofs (W. S. Gibson pers. comm.).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. One was at Gambell 9 Oct 2024 (CI, RW; Figure 7). This species breeds east only to about Lake Baikal (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). It is casual in Japan (Gibson et al. 2023). A small influx brought at least six to western and northern Alaska in fall from 2019 to 2024, including at least three in 2024.

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa sibirica*. Single birds were photographed at Gambell 6 Sep 2022 (RLV), 5–9 Sep 2023 [GS, AT; photo NAB 75(2):61; Figure 8], and 9 Sep 2024 (AJL, SCH, et al.). This species breeds northeast to Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and is a very rare visitor to the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Pribilofs (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data).

PINE GROSBEAK *Pinicola enucleator*. One was found at Gambell 21 Oct 2022 (CI; Figure 9). On the basis of its apparent smaller bill size, the bird was of the Asian subspecies *P. e. kamtschatkensis* (D. D. Gibson pers. comm.). In Alaska, the subspecies *P. e. leucura* breeds west to the central Seward Peninsula and rarely wanders



FIGURE 6. The sole island record of the Mountain Bluebird was established at Gambell 10 Sep 2021.

Photo by Andy Kraynik



FIGURE 7. Since 2020 the Song Thrush has reached North America as a casual visitor thousands of kilometers east of its known normal range. This individual at Gambell 9 Oct 2024 was one of several seen in Alaska that fall.

Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.



FIGURE 8. The Dark-sided Flycatcher was added to the St. Lawrence Island list with individuals found at Gambell 6 Sep 2022, 5–9 Sep 2023 (shown in this photo), and 9 Sep 2024.

Photo by Greg Scyphers

farther west (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). In Asia, *P. e. kamtschatkensis* occurs as close to St. Lawrence Island as the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). There are several records of *P. e. kamtschatkensis* from the Pribilofs (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data) and western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

CASSIN'S FINCH *Haemorhous cassinii*. An adult male was photographed at Gambell 24 Oct–1 Nov 2023 [CI; ph. NAB 75(2):67; Figure 10]. This species breeds no closer to St. Lawrence Island than southern British Columbia (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and is a casual visitor anywhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015). This



FIGURE 9. This Pine Grosbeak at Gambell 21 Oct 2022, an island first, represents the Asian subspecies *Pinicola enucleator kamtschatkensis*.

Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.



FIGURE 10. Adult male Cassin's Finch at Gambell 24 Oct–1 Nov 2023. This species is a casual visitor anywhere in Alaska, and this photo established the first record for the Bering Sea region.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.

individual established the first Bering Sea record and was likely associated with a notable incursion of Cassin's Finches north to south-central Alaska during late fall and winter 2023–2024 (eBird).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. A young male was photographed at Gambell 1 Oct 2022 (CI; Figure 11). This species breeds



FIGURE 11. The Yellow-headed Blackbird is casual anywhere in Alaska. This example at Gambell 1 Oct 2022 was the second recorded on an island in the Bering Sea.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.



FIGURE 12. This Western Tanager, at Gambell 23–25 Sep 2023, is the only one yet recorded there.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.

north to central British Columbia and northern Alberta (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and is a casual visitor to Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015). The only other Bering Sea record, for the Pribilofs, preceded the occurrence at Gambell by just a few days (W. S. Gibson pers. comm.).

WESTERN TANAGER *Piranga ludoviciana*. One was photographed at Gambell 23–25 Sep 2023 (CI; Figure 12). This species breeds north to southeast Alaska and southeast Yukon (Dunn and Alderfer 2017). Its appearance on St. Lawrence Island was foreshadowed by six records in fall and one in summer from the Pribilofs and one fall record from the central Aleutians (W. S. Gibson pers. comm.).



FIGURE 13. Gambell's first Belted Kingfisher was discovered 14 Sep 2019.

Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

Two species formerly recorded only elsewhere on St. Lawrence Island were found for the first time at Gambell:

BELTED KINGFISHER *Megasceryle alcyon*. Previously recorded once at the east end of St. Lawrence Island. Single individuals were at Gambell 14 Sep 2019 (GHR; Figure 13) and 28 Aug 2023 (RU). This species breeds north to central and southwestern Alaska (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and has occurred more than ten times in fall on the Pribilofs (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Single birds seen at Southwest Cape 21 Oct 2022 (fide RU) and photographed at Gambell 23 Oct 2022 (CI) established the second and third records for St. Lawrence Island. This species occurs regularly in interior western Alaska as close to St. Lawrence Island as the central Seward Peninsula (Dunn and Alderfer 2017), very rarely farther west. In Asia, it nests as close as the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). Bohemian Waxwings occur casually on other Alaska islands, including at least two records of the Asian *B. g. centralasiae* from the Aleutians (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

SECOND AND THIRD RECORDS, 2019–2025

All records below are from Gambell.

BEWICK'S TUNDRA SWAN *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*. Casual spring visitor. One was photographed 29 May–4 June 2019 (AJL, GB), and another was seen 31 May 2022 (AJL). These bring the total number of records for St. Lawrence Island to four. In addition, a report of Whooper (*C. cygnus*)/Bewick's Swan 5 Jun 2022 (KJZ) was the second of such. Bewick's is a casual visitor to western Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

FORK-TAILED [PACIFIC] SWIFT *Apus pacificus*. Accidental fall visitor. St. Lawrence Island's second record was of one on 31 Aug 2022 (SCH; Figure 14). This species is a casual visitor to both offshore and mainland Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Nannopterum auritum*. Casual spring visitor. St. Lawrence Island's third and fourth records involved two individuals photographed 27–28 May (GB) and 4 Jun (KJZ) 2019 (same birds?). Since the 2010s this species has spread north in western Alaska and is now an annual visitor to Nome and the Pribilofs.

BALD EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The second fall record and third overall was of an immature photographed 5–7 Nov 2022 (NRH). This species nests as close to St. Lawrence Island as interior western Alaska and the central Aleutians (Dunn and Alderfer 2017) and is an uncommon visitor to the Pribilofs (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data).

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. Accidental fall visitor. One from 9 to 16 Sep 2019 (pers. obs.; Figure 15) established the second local record (the first was also in fall) and the fourth accepted record for North America (three in Alaska, one in California).

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. Accidental visitor. One photographed by a local resident on 7 Jun 2025 (GK) established the island's second record and its first in spring.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum*. Accidental fall visitor. One photographed 28 Aug 2022 (AJL) was the second recorded on St. Lawrence Island. There are only two other records for Bering Sea islands, both from the Pribilofs in late August/early September (W. S. Gibson pers. comm.).



FIGURE 14. Gambell's second Fork-tailed Swift was discovered 31 Aug 2022.

Photo by Aaron J. Lang

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. Casual fall visitor. The third North American record was established 12 Sep 2022 (SCH, AJL, RU). All three records are from Gambell in September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Curruca curruca*. Accidental fall visitor. One on 24 Sep 2025 (RU; Figure 16) established the second Gambell and third Alaska record.



FIGURE 15. This Eurasian Wryneck, seen 9–16 Sep 2019, was the second recorded at Gambell and the fourth for North America.

Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg



FIGURE 16. Gambell's second and Alaska's third Lesser Whitethroat was found 24 Sep 2025.

Photo by Rodney Ungwiluk Jr.

RUFOUS-TAILED ROBIN *Larvivora sibilans*. Accidental spring and fall visitor. One on 9 Sep 2019 (AJL; Figure 17) was only the second recorded, the first in fall, and the first to be photographed. This species is a casual spring and fall visitor to offshore western Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos*. Accidental fall visitor. The second record was of one 4–10 Oct 2023 (CI; Figure 18). There are three other fall records from the western Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Withrow 2015).



FIGURE 17. The Rufous-tailed Robin is a casual visitor to offshore western Alaska. This example, photographed 9 Sep 2019, was the second recorded at Gambell, and the first in fall.

Photo by Steven C. Heinel



FIGURE 18. This Pine Bunting from 4 to 10 Oct 2023 was the second recorded at Gambell in fall. There are three other records from western Alaska, all in fall.

Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

YELLOW-BROWED BUNTING *E. chrysophrys*. Accidental fall visitor. Two or three birds occurred in 2025: one on 11 Sep (RW, CI; Figure 19) and two on 14 Sep, of which one remained through 16 Sep (ZP, RW). These and the one previous Gambell occurrence in 2007 are the sole North American records.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina*. Accidental spring and fall visitor. The second record was of a late spring vagrant 26 Jun 2024 (CI; Figure 20). The first record was from fall. This species has been found possibly breeding as close as extreme east-central Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and is a casual visitor farther north and west, including once in fall on the Pribilofs (S. C. Schuette unpubl. data).



FIGURE 19. Two or three Yellow-browed Buntings at Gambell during the fall of 2025 included this individual on 11 Sep. There was only one previous record for Gambell and North America.

Photo by Riley Wyna



FIGURE 20. This Cape May Warbler was at Gambell 26 Jun 2024. There was a previous Gambell record in fall, and elsewhere in the Bering Sea another fall record from the Pribilof Islands.

Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT RECORDS, 2019–2025

All records below are from Gambell unless otherwise specified.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*. Uncommon migrant to and from Wrangel Island in northern Russia. Four at Savoonga 26 Jun 2022 (NRH) established the first summer record for St. Lawrence Island.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. albifrons*. Uncommon spring and very rare fall visitor. One on 10 Oct 2019 (pers. obs.) was late.

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE *A. serrirostris*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. Additional individuals seen 26 May, 28 May, and 29–30 May (2) 2019 (Tobish 2022a); 1 Jun 2024 (JDL); and 26 May 2025 (GB). Also, single unidentified bean-geese were seen on 17 Jun 2019 (CI) and 4 Jun 2022 (MS).

EURASIAN WIGEON *Mareca penelope*. Uncommon spring and fall visitor. One from 6 to 17 Oct 2019 established a new late fall record (pers. obs.).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. One on 27 May 2021 (DK) was the 14th recorded in spring, but one on 2 Sep 2024 (RLV) was only the sixth in fall.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *A. acuta*. Fairly common spring and fall visitor and breeder. One from 12 to 17 Oct 2019 set a new late fall date (pers. obs.).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *A. crecca*. Uncommon spring and rare fall visitor. Both American (*A. c. carolinensis*) and Eurasian (*A. c. crecca*) Green-winged Teal are found on St. Lawrence Island in spring. Fall birds are in eclipse plumage and have not been definitively identified to subspecies. New late fall records were of one remaining through 11 Oct 2019 (CF) and one on 19 Oct 2023 (CI).

EIDERS. Numbers of most species appear to be declining. An apparent hybrid Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*) × Common Eider (*S. mollissima*) was photographed 27 Oct 2022 (RU).

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*. Rare or very rare spring and casual fall migrant. The second fall record was established by two birds on 1 Sep 2019 (ZP).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER *M. deglandi*. Uncommon migrant. One on 13 Nov 2025 set a record late fall date (RW).

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STEJNEGER'S SCOTER *M. stejnegeri*. Rare but regular spring visitor. This species continues to occur during late spring in numbers ranging from one to 11 annually, with a high count of 14 between 26 May and 6 Jun 2019. It remains unrecorded in fall. Gambell and Nome remain the two most reliable sites for this species in North America.

BUFFLEHEAD *Bucephala albeola*. Very rare spring and accidental fall visitor. The first fall record was of a very late individual at Akeftapak Lagoon, southeast of Gambell, 12 Nov 2019 (MA).

COMMON GOLDENEYE *B. clangula*. Rare spring and casual fall visitor. The fourth and fifth fall records involved two on 30 Sep 2019 (GHR) and a high count of nine on 14 and 15 Oct 2020 (CI).

HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. Two further spring observations raise that season's total to 15 records. In fall, one on 15 Sep 2019 (CF) and up to three from 6 to 12 Oct 2019 (pers. obs.) bring that season's total to five records.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Casual spring visitor. One was photographed 31 May 2025 (RU), the first since 2014. There are still no reports in fall, when there are two records of the Oriental Cuckoo (*C. optatus*).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. One on 19 and 20 May 2021 (RU) set a new early arrival date.

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER *P. fulva*. Uncommon spring migrant and fairly common fall visitor and breeder. One on 30 Apr 2019 (CI) was exceptionally early, and a juvenile from 15 to 17 Oct 2019 (CI) was the second latest.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW *Numenius tahitiensis*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The fifth recorded in spring was seen 30 May 2024 (JLD), and the sixth in fall was photographed 12 Aug 2024 (RW).

GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris*. Casual spring and accidental fall visitor. The 12th recorded in spring (and 16th at any season) was seen 29 May 2024 (GB).

RUFF *C. pugnax*. The first recorded at Gambell in fall, and the second recorded at that season for St. Lawrence Island, was of a very late juvenile photographed 8–13 Oct 2019 (pers. obs.).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *C. acuminata*. Casual spring but uncommon fall visitor. A new one-day high count was of 112 birds 31 Aug 2021 (CB). The previous high was 46.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *C. ferruginea*. Casual spring and fall visitor. A juvenile 22 Aug 2021 (AK) was only the second in fall.

BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER *C. subruficollis*. Casual spring and fall visitor. A juvenile 7 Sep 2022 (SCH) was the seventh recorded in fall.

SNIPE *Gallinago* spp. Six Common Snipe (*G. gallinago*) seen in spring bring that season's total to 19. Three additional very rare Wilson's Snipe (*G. delicata*) were recorded in spring, but only the third in fall was found 2 Sep 2022 (SCH). Additional Common/Wilson's Snipe included single birds 2 Sep 2023 (RLV) and 9 Sep 2024 (AJL, SCH, et al.).

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*. Rare or very rare spring and casual fall visitor. One present 28 Aug–3 Sep 2023 (RU) was only the second recorded in fall.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The sev-

enth and eighth spring records were of single individuals found 22–25 May (GB) and 31 May (SL et al.) 2024.

COMMON GREENSHANK *T. nebularia*. Very rare spring visitor. Three additional birds bring the total to 22. The species remains unrecorded in fall.

WOOD SANDPIPER *T. glareola*. Rare spring and casual fall visitor. The third and fourth fall records were of juveniles 14–18 Aug (RW) and 26–28 Aug (CI) 2024.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. Fairly common spring and fall visitor and breeder. A juvenile 14 Sep 2024 (DL) set a new late date.

POMARINE JAEGER *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Fairly common spring and fall visitor. Although no breeding is known from St. Lawrence Island, a juvenile reluctant to fly and guarded by an adult at Gambell 28 Aug–13 Sep 2021 (CF) suggests it.

ALCIDS: Notable declines in the numbers of many species of locally nesting alcids have been observed during the past decade, although these lower numbers vary substantially from year to year and from season to season. More study is needed at the St. Lawrence Island breeding colonies away from Gambell. One species that has declined substantially is the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), which formerly flew past Gambell in the thousands each day, but now may go unrecorded on many days in spring and occurs mostly in fall, in number between 10 and 100 per day. This followed a huge die-off of perhaps half of the Alaska population, likely associated with a major marine heat wave during the late 2010s (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://share.google/xsqM347iR31WpogdC>).

DOVEKIE *Alle alle*. Uncommon breeder. One on 21 May 2019 set a new early arrival date (RBB). Numbers at Gambell have declined notably since their peak pre-2010, when counts reached up to 11 individuals on the slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain. Since 2019, only one or two individuals have been found annually, except for a total of five flying past on 4 Jun 2025 (AJL, SCH, et al.).

MARbled MURRELET *Brachyramphus marmoratus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. An unknown number of different individuals were seen 6 Sep, 20 Sep, 22 Sep, and 6 Oct 2019 (RLV, RU, pers. obs.).

ANCIENT MURRELET *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. Rare spring and uncommon fall visitor. In fall, post-breeding dispersing birds from as far south as British Columbia pass Gambell northbound in moderate numbers to late-season feeding areas in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi seas (A. J. Gaston pers. comm.). On 28 and 29 Sep 2019 a count of 410 birds set a new high; surprisingly, almost all were southbound (pers. obs.).

CRESTED AUKLET *Aethia cristatella*. Abundant breeder and visitor. This species' winter status in the northern Bering Sea is uncertain. There are several previous early- and mid-winter records at Gambell. Twenty birds were at Savoonga 10 Dec 2020 (NRH).

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*. Very rare visitor in spring and early fall; rare but regular in late fall and early winter. From 2019 to 2025 there were several additional spring and late fall sightings of single birds and small groups. After two on 4 Jun 2024, an unprecedented flight of 68 passed the next day (AJL, SCH, KJZ, BG, et al.; Figure 21). Also, an exceptionally early fall juvenile was found 30 Aug 2024 (RLV).

SHORT-BILLED GULL *Larus brachyrhynchus*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. A count of seven Short-billed and three Short-billed/Mew (*L. canus*) Gulls on 6 Jun 2023 during moderate east winds was exceptionally high (AJL).



FIGURE 21. An unprecedented spring flight of 70 Ross's Gulls passed Gambell 4–5 Jun 2024 (photographed with a Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*).

Photo by James D. Levison

VEGA GULL *L. vegae*. Common visitor and fairly common breeder. Casual in winter. St. Lawrence Island is the only known regular breeding site in Alaska and North America for this species, split from the American Herring Gull by Chesser et al. (2025). Current nesting sites, all well away from Gambell, and numbers of pairs are uncertain, as is whether this species nests primarily on seacliffs or, perhaps surprisingly, mostly on islands in coastal lagoons, or in both habitats (Fay and Cade 1959, Stephensen et al. 1998). The latter authors estimated 859 breeding Vega Gulls at 21 sites on the island in 1996 and 1997.

AMERICAN HERRING GULL *L. smithsonianus*. Very rare fall visitor. There are now 21 records, mostly of adults, between late August and early October, plus a late individual 11 Nov 2025 (RW).

ICELAND GULL *L. glaucoides*. Casual spring and rare or very rare fall visitor. All records represent *L. g. thayeri*, Thayer's Gull. The fifth and sixth spring records at Gambell were established 2 Jun 2021 (SL et al.) and 8 Jun 2022 (RBB), plus two birds were at Savoonga 6 Jun 2023 (RBB). Additional fall records bring the island's total to 28 individuals. One on 28 Nov 2025 (RW) was the latest yet recorded. A one-year-old at Gambell 9 Jul 2024 (RW) is the island's first Thayer's Gull recorded in summer.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. Uncommon spring and fall visitor and breeder. A count of ~100 on 5 Aug 2024 (RW) was a new high for fall.

RED-THROATED LOON *Gavia stellata*. Uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder. A new high count of 56 birds was set 3 Jun 2024 (AJL, SCH, et al.).

ARCTIC LOON *G. arctica*. Uncommon spring and rare fall visitor. Counts of 24 birds on 8 Jun 2023 (AJL, SCH, et al.), 25 on 3 Jun 2024, and 25 on 2 Jun 2025 (SL, AJL, SCH, et al.) were new highs for single days; a new high single-season total was 47 in 2024. A new late fall date was set 13 Oct 2019 (CF).

PACIFIC LOON *G. pacifica*. Common spring and fall visitor and scarce breeder. A large loon flight 3 Jun 2024 produced 352 Pacifics (AJL, SCH, et al.), one of the higher counts. A large flight of 800 birds 26 Sep 2024 (ZP) set a high one-day record for fall.

COMMON LOON *G. immer*. Casual spring, summer, and fall visitor. The eighth in fall was seen 3 Sep 2022 (AJL).

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FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates furcatus*. Occurrences in fall included 10 birds 27 Sep 2019 (pers. obs.) and one found alive inside a cabin east of Savoonga 7 Sep 2022 (SW).

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER *Ardenna tenuirostris*. Casual spring but abundant fall visitor. There were very few reports in late spring prior to the 2010s. Now up to several birds are seen almost annually, with a high count of 60 on 31 May 2025 (GB). In late summer and fall, immense numbers occurred on a regular basis, with well over 500,000 tallied on many days and a million or more on some. But since 2019, high totals most years have been under 100,000.

NORTHERN FLICKER *Colaptes auratus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The fourth island record was of one found dead for an uncertain length of time at Niyrakpak Lagoon, southeast of Gambell, 13 Jun 2022 (Tobish 2022b). I am unaware if the specimen was saved.

NORTHERN SHRIKE *Lanius borealis*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The fourth noted in spring occurred 28 May 2023 (GB), and the third in fall was on 8 Oct 2022 (RU).

WARBLING-VIREO SP. Very rare fall visitor. Seven records since 2019 bring the fall total to a surprising 20 individuals. It is uncertain whether Gambell records represent the Eastern (*V. gilvus*) or Western (*V. swainsoni*) Warbling-Vireo, split as species by Chesser et al. (2025). From its distribution the Western is more likely, and a few photographed birds appear to match this taxon in color and bill size more closely. The Western nests in southeast Alaska, while the Eastern is unreported in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. The ninth and tenth fall records were of one on 13 Sep 2025 (ZP) and up to two 26 Sep–5 Oct 2025 (GS). There are now 24 spring records.

MIDDENDORFF'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLE *Helopsaltes ochotensis*. Casual fall and summer visitor. Individuals on 8 Sep 2019 (RLS) and 4 Sep 2021 (RLV) bring the total to six. The five fall records are clustered between 30 Aug and 8 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. Rare or very rare spring/early summer and casual fall visitor. Most records involve an Asian subspecies, presumably *H. r. gutturalis*. Since 2019, several additional spring records have accrued, as expected. In 2020, a pair of Asian Barn Swallows began building a nest on 15 Jun; it had nestlings during the second half of July, both adults and two fledged young were still present 29 Aug, and two birds lingered late through 16 Sep (CK; Figure 22). The first documented successful nesting of Asian Barn Swallows in North America was near Nome in 2016 (Robinson and DeCicco 2017).

SIBERIAN HOUSE-MARTIN *Delichon lagopodum*. Casual spring and accidental fall visitor. Two additional records from 2 Jun 2022 (Tobish 2022b) and 1–4 Jun 2023 (SL et al.; Figure 23) bring the spring total to 11.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus satrapa*. Casual fall visitor. One on 9 Oct 2021 (CI) was the tenth recorded on the island.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET *Corthylio calendula*. Several additional fall reports included record late dates 27–30 Oct 2019 (CI), 27–29 Oct 2020 (CI), and 28 Oct 2023 (CI).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Very rare fall visitor. Additional fall records 22 Aug 2021 (CI), 2 Sep 2023 (AJL), 6 Sep 2023 (SCH, GS), and 21 Aug 2025 (RU) bring the sum to 24 individuals, a large percentage of the North American total.



FIGURE 22. A pair of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*) at Gambell during the summer of 2020 fledged two young (one shown in this photo taken 18 Aug), perhaps establishing only the second documented record of that Asian subspecies' successful nesting in North America.

Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.



FIGURE 23. This Siberian House-Martin at Gambell 1–4 Jun 2023 was the 11th noted there in spring. Note the extensively white rump and medium tail fork, characters distinguishing the Siberian from other species of house-martin.

Photo by Steven C. Heint

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These birds presumably represent the east Asian subspecies *P. t. yakutensis*, although *P. t. acredula/trochilus* has been documented in the Aleutians (Gibson et al. 2023).

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *P. collybita*. Casual spring and fall visitor. One additional spring record of one from 5 to 7 Jun 2025 (SCH). One or two birds between 26 Aug and 5 Sep 2021 (RU) and another from 19 Aug to 21 Sep 2025 (RU) were earlier than noted previously in fall. The latter bird was joined by a second on 11 Sep (AJL, SCH, et al.). There are now 13 or 14 Gambell records, all since 2012, which represent more than half of those for North America. All records likely involve the Asian subspecies *P. c. tristis*.

DUSKY WARBLER *P. fuscatu*s. Casual spring and very rare fall visitor. One on 30 Aug 2021 (AT) and a total of three between 4 and 7 Sep 2021 (GS) bring the fall total to 32, a majority of North American records.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *P. inornatus*. Casual fall visitor. Three individuals during fall 2025—10 Sep (AJL, SCH, et al.), 14 Sep (ZP), and 26–28 Sep (GS)—brought the total to nine.

ARCTIC WARBLER *P. borealis*. Uncommon spring and fairly common fall visitor. No definite breeding records. One on 23 Jul 2019 (CI) set a new earliest date of a presumed fall migrant.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH *Catharus ustulatus*. Casual spring and very rare fall visitor. One found 29 Aug 2019 (ZP) established a new early arrival date in fall.

HERMIT THRUSH *C. guttatus*. Rare to very rare spring and fall visitor. One on 16 Jun 2021 (CI) set a new late spring date, and one on 21 Aug 2025 (RU) set a new date for early arrival in fall.

DUSKY THRUSH *Turdus eunomus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. One from 21 Oct to 5 Nov 2019 (CI), late for fall, brings the total to eight.

AMERICAN ROBIN *T. migratorius*. Very rare spring and rare fall visitor. Nine additional birds at Gambell in fall bring that season's total to 22; in addition, one was at Southwest Cape 20 Oct 2022 (fide RU). The 11th in spring was a late individual 13 Jun 2024 (RU).

VARIED THRUSH *Ixoreus naevius*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. Six additional birds in spring. In fall, one each on 1 Oct 2023 (RU), on 9 Oct 2024 (CI), and from 15 to 21 Nov 2025 (RSi)—exceptionally late—bring the fall total to ten.

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Calliope calliope*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. The fifth and sixth fall records were established 13 Oct 2019 (pers. obs.) and 15 Sep 2025 (ZP).

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The second reported in spring was present 25–31 May 2019 (Tobish 2022a), and the fifth and sixth in fall were somewhat early on 14 Sep 2024 (DL) and 13 Sep 2025 (ZP).

TAIGA FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicilla*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The third fall record, and fourth overall, was of one on 22 Sep 2025 (CI).

ASIAN [SIBERIAN/AMUR] STONECHAT *Saxicola maurus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. One each 1 Jun 2023 (SL et al.) and 31 May 2025 (AJL) were the ninth and tenth in spring, and one 6–7 Sep 2022 (SCH) was the fifth in fall.

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR *Prunella montanella*. Rare fall visitor. With the addition of four birds in 2019, a high seven in 2021, one each in 2023 and 2024, and three in 2025, the fall total now stands at an impressive 53 individuals, representing well over half of the North American records.

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WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. Fairly common visitor and breeder. A new high count of 26 birds was set 31 Aug 2019 (AJL). One on 7 and 8 May 2022 (RU) was the earliest yet reported in spring, and one on 19 Oct 2020 (CI) was exceptionally late for fall. Five additional records of the Black-backed Wagtail (*M. a. lugens*), a very rare visitor, included an early arrival 9–11 May 2022 (NRH) and a late departure 29 Sep 2022 (RU).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Casual fall and accidental spring visitor. Single individuals on 22 Sep 2019 (CF), 29 Sep–1 Oct 2023 (CI), and 10–11 Sep 2024 (CI) bring the fall total to six. These and the one older spring record constitute a large majority of North American records of the Tree Pipit.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *A. hodgsoni*. Very rare spring and fall visitor. Additional records 2 Jun 2021 (TD) and 4 Jun 2023 (AJL) bring the spring total to 14. In fall, individuals 28 Aug–1 Sep (ZP; early), 27 Sep and 7 Oct (pers. obs.) 2019; 10 Oct 2021 (RU); 14 Oct 2022 (CI); 7 Sep 2023 (AJL); and 1 Oct 2025 (GS) bring that season's total to 17.

PECHORA PIPIT *A. gustavi*. Very rare fall visitor. One each from 3 to 6 Sep 2022 (AJL), from 30 Aug to 4 Sep 2023 (RU), and up to two from 29 Aug to 5 Sep 2025 (RW, CI) bring the fall total to a 27—a large percentage of North American records. I now believe uncertain the three spring records cited by Lehman (2019), including an undated specimen.

SIBERIAN PIPIT *A. japonicus*. Very rare spring and uncommon fall visitor. This taxon was split as a species from the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*) by Chesser et al. (2024). Because of the regularity of intermediate-looking individuals, its status is somewhat uncertain, especially in spring. Through 2025, there were over a dozen spring reports. In fall, found annually in small numbers between late August and early October, with as many as 39 individuals reported during several years prior to 2019.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. Rare spring and very rare fall visitor. Since 2019 there have been additional records in both spring and fall. In spring, up to 19 birds (a high count) were present 29 May–6 Jun 2023, and two late birds were seen 21–24 Jun 2023 (RU). The greatest incursion of Bramblings yet recorded reached much of western Alaska during May 2022. Unusually early, it followed the passage of a large storm with strong southwest winds. At Gambell, 20+ individuals arrived 7–8 May (RU, CI), increased to 90–132 birds from 9 to 14 May (high on 14 May), and two still remained 3 Jun (AJL); in addition, up to five were at Savoonga 7–14 May (BR). Fall occurrences are of an early individual 3–4 Sep 2019 (LP), a high count of up to 10, 18–29 Sep 2022 (RU), and a very late Brambling that remained through 6 Nov 2022 (RU).

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Casual spring visitor. One additional record from Gambell 27 May 2024 (GS) was at least the ninth there. The first Hawfinch reported at Savoonga was found 1 Jun 2023 (TT).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Very rare spring and fall visitor. Up to two birds between 5 and 15 Jun 2025 (IR) and single individuals 16 Jun 2022 (Tobish 2022b), 15–22 Jun 2023 (RU), and 18 Jun 2024 (CI) were getting late and bring the spring total to 18. In fall, two additional birds from 4 to 7 Sep 2023 (AJL, SCH, et al.) and on 2 Sep 2025 (AJL, SCH, et al.) bring that season's total to 11.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The island's third fall record was of one on 14 Oct 2020 (CI).

PURPLE FINCH *Haemorhous purpureus*. Casual fall and accidental spring visitor. The fourth and fifth fall records, 17–18 Oct 2019 (CI) and 14–16 Sep 2020

(CI, RU), also represented the third and fourth island records of nominate *H. p. purpureus*.

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*. Uncommon to fairly common spring and fall visitor and rare breeder; casual in winter. A new high count in spring was of 48 Common Redpolls (*A. f. flammea*) 29 May 2024 (GB). Some 120 Hoary Redpolls (*A. f. exilipes*) 24–25 Sep 2019 (pers. obs.) tied the high fall count. One new winter record of a Common Redpoll, 11 Jan–21 Feb 2024 (CI), and one of a Hoary, 19 Dec 2019 (CI).

RED CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. Casual summer and fall visitor, accidental in spring. Two additional fall records were of one each on 4 Aug 2021 (CI) and 1 Sep 2024 (AJL).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL *L. leucoptera*. Casual spring, summer, and fall visitor. One additional fall record, 10 Aug 2023 (RU), brings the overall Gambell total to five.

PINE SISKIN *Spinus pinus*. Casual visitor in spring and summer, rare in fall. The fourth spring record was of one from 31 May to 1 Jun 2024 (AJL). Six additional fall records included the first for Savoonga, of two birds 22 Sep 2020 (NRH).

McKAY'S BUNTING *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*. Rare but regular spring and fall visitor, sometimes in small flocks. Casual in summer and winter. One additional mid-summer individual, 21 Jul 2024 (RW). Two additional winter records of up to 12 birds during Jan 2024 (CI) and up to 11 from 2 to 30 Dec 2025 (RW). This species winters regularly along the nearby coast of the Alaska mainland.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. Rare fall and accidental spring visitor. Nineteen additional fall birds, including one as late as 28 Oct 2020 (CI), bring the total for that season to an impressive 55 individuals. These constitute the large majority of records of the Little Bunting for North America.

RUSTIC BUNTING *E. rustica*. Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. Three new spring records included an early arrival 9 May 2022 (NRH). The seventh and eighth records in fall were of one on 18 Oct 2019 (CI) and up to two 19–29 Sep 2022 (RU).

PALLAS'S BUNTING *E. pallasi*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The second and third spring records were 2–3 Jun 2021 (SL et al.) and 6 Jun 2025 (AJL, SCH, et al.); the sixth in fall was 29–30 Aug 2019 (AJL). These nine occurrences constitute the majority of the sightings of Pallas's Bunting known for North America.

CHIPPING SPARROW *Spizella passerina*. Rare fall and accidental spring visitor. Since 2019, five additional fall Chipping Sparrows have brought the total to a surprising 47 and included a record-early arrival 14 Aug 2023 (RU) and a record-late departure 14 Oct 2023 (RU).

FOX SPARROW *Passerella iliaca*. Although the Fox Sparrow is a rare but regular visitor in fall, single Red Fox Sparrows (*P. i. zaboria*) 26 May 2021 (DK) and 23 May 2024 (GB) were only the third and fourth of that subspecies in spring. Late fall dates were of a Red Fox Sparrow 26 Oct 2020 (CI), of a Sooty Fox Sparrow (*P. i. unalaschcensis* group), which is a rare but regular visitor, 18 Oct 2019 (CI), and of an intermediate-looking individual 4 Nov 2025 (RU).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW *Spizelloides arborea*. Rare to very rare spring and fall visitor. New early and late fall dates were 27 Aug 2024 (CI) and 16 Oct 2020 (RU), respectively.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. Very rare spring and rare but regular fall visitor. A new high count of 12 birds was set 31 Aug 2024 (AJL), and a new late date was set by one that remained from 26 to 31 Oct 2020 (CI).

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GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW *Z. atricapilla*. Very rare spring and rare but regular fall visitor. A new high count of 24 birds was set 3 Sep 2019 (AJL), and a new late date was set by one that remained from 15 to 18 Oct 2019 (CI).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW *Melospiza lincolni*. Casual spring and very rare fall visitor. One additional occurrence in spring, 3 Jun 2025 (AJL, SCH, et al.). Eight additional fall records brought the total for that season to 26 and included a new early arrival date of 31 Aug 2019 (AJL) and late dates of 14 Oct 2023 (RU) and 29 Oct 2019 (CI).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD *Molothrus ater*. Casual fall visitor. Single individuals 25–26 Aug 2025 (CI) and 17–20 Sep 2025 (ZP) represent the sixth and seventh records. The latter bird was Gambell's first adult cowbird.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The third and fourth spring records involved at least two birds 26–28 May 2021 (RU, CI) and one 28 May 2023 (AB). The fourth and fifth fall records at Gambell were of one each on 21 Sep 2024 (CI, RU) and 16 Sep 2025 (ZP).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *Parkesia noveboracensis*. Casual fall and accidental spring visitor. The island's eighth in fall was found 11 Sep 2019 (pers. obs.).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER *Leiothlypis celata*. Casual spring and rare but regular fall visitor. One from 10 to 14 Aug 2023 (RU) set a new early date for fall arrival. Two additional birds appearing to be of the brighter yellow subspecies *L. c. lutescens*, a casual fall visitor, were present 3 Sep 2019 (RLV) and 6 Sep 2022 (AJL).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER *Geothlypis tolmiei*. Casual fall visitor. The fourth and fifth records were 11 Sep 2021 (AJL; adult male) and 11 Sep 2023 (RU).

MOURNING WARBLER *G. philadelphia*. Casual fall visitor. This species breeds no closer to St. Lawrence Island than extreme southeast Yukon and is casual anywhere in Alaska. Thus the addition of three individuals brings the total to a surprising six birds: 7–10 Sep 2022 (AJL, SCH, RLV), 12 Sep 2023 (AJL), and, exceptionally late, 22 Oct 2022 (CI).

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*. Casual fall visitor. The fifth in fall was very late, 8–14 Oct 2023 (RU, CI).

YELLOW WARBLER *S. petechia*. Rare fall visitor. One on 11 Oct 2019 (pers. obs.) established new late date, late for anywhere in Alaska.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *S. striata*. Casual spring and fall visitor. The fourth and fifth fall records were 14 Sep 2022 (RU, CI) and 30–31 Aug 2025 (RW).

PALM WARBLER *S. palmarum*. Casual fall visitor. The seventh in fall was very late, 24–30 Oct 2023 (CI). All records are of the expected nominate subspecies.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER *S. coronata*. Very rare spring and fall visitor. All records represent the Myrtle Warbler (*S. c. hooveri/coronata*). Two new spring and six additional fall records included new late dates in spring, 6–7 Jun (ST) and 9 Jun (SCH) 2023, and a new early date in fall of 14 Aug 2023 (RU).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER *S. townsendi*. Very rare fall and accidental spring visitor. The island's second spring record, and the first at Savoonga, was of one photographed 10 Jun 2025 (LK). Four new fall records bring that season's total to 12.

POSTSCRIPT

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*. A bird seen briefly (ZP, CI) and documented with distant photographs at Gambell on 9 Sep 2025 was tentatively identified as a

Richard's Pipit. The identification was subsequently endorsed by pipit experts Per Alström, Paul Dufour, Daniel López-Velasco, and Killian Mullarney. This record would be a first for North America and thus awaits review by the checklist committees for both Alaska and the American Birding Association.

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