

WESTERN BIRDS



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FIFTH REPORT OF THE ALASKA CHECKLIST COMMITTEE, 2018–2022

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ABSTRACT: The fifth report of the Alaska Checklist Committee adds 21 species to the Checklist of Alaska Birds from the five years 2018–2022, a net total that includes the addition of two species formerly maintained as subspecies—Stejneger’s Scoter (*Melanitta stejnegeri*) and the Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*)—and the deletion of one species (Northwestern Crow) currently maintained as a subspecies of the American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchus caurinus*. At the close of 2022 we recognize 541 species and 118 additional subspecies as occurring, or having occurred, naturally in Alaska.

In this report the Alaska Checklist Committee updates the checklist of Alaska birds with additions, deletions, and changes in status, taxonomy, and nomenclature since our last report (Gibson et al. 2018). For species not included in the American Ornithologists’ Union’s *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998 and supplements through [Chesser et al.] 2022), scientific nomenclature, English names, and outlines of nesting ranges generally follow Vaurie (1959, 1965), Dickinson and Remsen (2013), and Dickinson and Christidis (2014). Twenty-one species were added to and one species was deleted from the Checklist of Alaska Birds during the period 2018–2022, resulting in a total of 541 species recognized by this committee as occurring,

or having occurred, naturally in Alaska through 2022. Three additional subspecies were added and two were deleted, and others were integrated, resulting in a total of 118 additional taxa. Organized in 2000, the committee currently comprises the eight authors of this report. We post a new edition of the Checklist of Alaska Birds early in each new year at the University of Alaska Museum Department of Ornithology website, where the 29th edition (January 2023) can be found at www.universityofalaskamuseumbirds.org.

Archived examples (voucher specimens) of avian species and subspecies make available manifold data that can only be inferred or conjectured from representations (photos, videos, etc.). Therefore we include here references to first Alaska specimens of species already known to have occurred in the state as well as to archived specimens brought to our attention, re-evaluated, or obtained during this period of coverage. Many of these represent the northwesternmost North American specimen records of Nearctic taxa or the easternmost specimen records of Palearctic taxa. Unless a species account includes an outline of subspecies, we regard the species as monotypic. Bracketed subspecies names are inferences based on characteristics of plumage, phenology, and/or geographic range. Maintained separately, the Alaska “unsubstantiated” list currently comprises 17 species for which there are on file (AKCLC) detailed reports but no specimen or readily identifiable photo.

Museum abbreviations in text are AMNH (American Museum of Natural History, New York), DMNS (Denver Museum of Nature and Science), LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County), MVZ (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley), UAM (University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks), USNM (U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC), and UWBM (University of Washington-Burke Museum, Seattle). Photos archived by the Macaulay Library, Cornell University, are identified by the letters ML.

ADDITIONS, OTHER CHANGES TO THE ALASKA LIST, AND FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN RECORDS

Melanitta stejnegeri (Ridgway, 1887) {type locality: Bering Island, Commander Islands [Vaurie 1965:133; and see Gibson and Byrd 2007:278, footnote 8]}. **Stejneger’s Scoter.** Breeds in Siberia and the Russian Far East, east to Anadyrland, Koryakland, and Kamchatka and south to Amurland, Sakhalin, and the Kuril Islands. **RE-EVALUATED TAXON:** Chesser et al. (2019) divided the White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, as then broadly defined, into three species: *M. fusca* (Velvet Scoter—Europe), *M. deglandi* (White-winged Scoter—North America), and *M. stejnegeri* (Stejneger’s Scoter—Asia). For discussion of the casual occurrence of Stejneger’s Scoter in Alaska, see Garner et al. (2004), Gibson et al. (2008), Dunn et al. (2012), and Gibson and Withrow (2015). Photos ML 342150931 and 287075131; published in *Birding World* 17:338–339 (2004) and *Western Birds* 43:222 (2012). No Alaska specimen.

Grus monacha Temminck, 1835 {Hokkaido and Korea}. **Hooded Crane.** Breeds in s Siberia, n China. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was shot from a flock of Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) at Delta Junction during crane hunting on 29 Sep 2020 (UAM 45000, second-year ♂, M. Lenze; Withrow and Lenze 2021, incl. specimen photos). **NOTES:** Its arrival date was not determined, but the bird had been present for several days. Recorded widely in Japan (OSJ 2012), where most of the

world's population winters on Kyushu and Honshu (Brazil 1991). For discussion of the four earlier North American records (in Idaho, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Indiana), see Pranty et al. (2014), Pranty (2015), and Pyle et al. (2021).

Charadrius nivosus (Cassin, 1858) {San Francisco, California}. **Snowy Plover.** Breeds in w, c, and s USA, c Mexico, Bahamas, Greater and Netherlands Antilles, and from coastal sw Ecuador to c Chile—in two or three subspecies (Dickinson and Remsen 2013). *Charadrius nivosus* [*nivosus*]. W, c, and s USA, etc. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird, estimated to be an adult female, was observed at Egg Island, Copper River delta, on 7 Jun 2019 (M. A. Bishop, K. Jurica, and A. Schaefer; photos AKCLC). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Before *nivosus* was elevated from subspecies to species status by Chesser et al. (2011), the Alaska checklist included *C. alexandrinus* (*sensu lato*). But Gibson et al. (2013) regarded the photos supporting the single Alaska record of that polytypic taxon (Nome River mouth, 23–24 May 1991) as insufficient to distinguish *alexandrinus* from *nivosus*, resulting in the AKCLC's decision to remove the "Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*" from the Alaska checklist.

The Egg Island bird was distinguished from *C. a. alexandrinus* Linnaeus, 1758 (breeds east to China and s Japan) and from *C. a. nihonensis* Deignan, 1941 (breeds on Sakhalin and in s Kuril Islands) by being very pale-backed and having a very reduced pectoral band—both characteristics of this species and sex. Recent British Columbia records number almost 20 (Toochin and Cecile, undated), and an adult male occurred at Marsh Lake, Yukon Territory, 27–29 May 1998 (photographed; Eckert and Sinclair 1998, Sinclair et al. 2003).

Limosa fedoa fedoa (Linnaeus, 1758) {Hudson Bay}. **Marbled Godwit.** Breeds from e-c Alberta, s-c Saskatchewan, and s Manitoba east to Ontario and south to e Montana, North Dakota, ne South Dakota, and nw Minnesota. **ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES:** UAM 45800, ad. ♂, Fairbanks, 27–30 May 2019 (found dead and salvaged by C. Stuyck and P. Leonard). Larger measurements (diagonal tarsus 74.9 mm, flattened wing 227 mm, and culmen ~100 mm) point to the larger, mid-continent subspecies (see Gibson and Kessel 1989). **NOTES:** A Marbled Godwit observed at Fairbanks 27 May–5 Jun 2004 (Tobish 2004) was tentatively inferred to be this subspecies because it occurred inland (Alaska's first inland Marbled Godwit) and long after the April to mid-May coastal migration of *L. f. beringiae* (see Gibson and Kessel 1989, Isleib and Kessel 1989, Ruthrauff et al. 2019), which breeds on the Alaska Peninsula. Also, it was accompanied by Wilson's Phalaropes (*Phalaropus tricolor*) (N. R. Hajdukovich, L. H. DeCicco, et al.); that species is a casual late-spring migrant from east of Alaska. Records of nominate *fedoa* west and north of its nesting range are scarce as far as e-c British Columbia (see Campbell et al. 1990); a Marbled Godwit at Marsh Lake, Yukon Territory, 18–19 May 1997 (Sinclair et al. 2003) fits the timing of the few birds found in interior Alaska.

Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus Pallas, 1773 {Caspian Sea}. **Pallas's Gull.** Breeds from sw Russia to w Mongolia and n China. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** A lone adult was observed at Shemya Island, Aleutian Islands, 2–4 May 2019 (R. A. Fischer; photos AKCLC). The bird was found dead 10 days later and the specimen was salvaged (UAM 43000, ad. ♀, 14 May 2019 [R. A. Fischer; Figure 1]). **NOTES:** In e Asia recorded in Taiwan, Korea, and Japan (Brazil 2009), where accidental on Honshu, Kyushu, and Okinawa (OSJ 2012). A report from nearer Alaska—920 km west of Attu—is that of one bird at Khalaktirskoye Lake, Kamchatka, 18 Oct 2015 (S. Atkinson, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S25456807>).

Larus brachyrhynchus Richardson, 1831 {Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories}. **Short-billed Gull.** Breeds in nw North America. **RE-EVALUATED TAXON:** Once again recognized as a separate, monotypic, North American species (Chesser et al. 2021b)—as originally named and described (see AOU 1886, 1895, 1910). For



FIGURE 1. Pallas's Gull: UAM 43000, ad. ♀, Shemya Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, 14 May 2019.

Photos by J. J. Withrow

many years (AOU 1931, 1957, 1983, 1998) this taxon was maintained as a subspecies of *L. canus* Linnaeus, 1758 {Sweden}, the Common or Mew Gull. Alaska collections of the Short-billed Gull include series (≥ 10 specimens) at AMNH, DMNS, MVZ, UAM, USNM, and UWBM. NOTES: The Common Gull remains on the Alaska Checklist in subspecies *L. c. kamtschatschensis* Bonaparte, 1857 {Kamchatka}—Alaska specimens UAM (9). See Gibson and Withrow (2015).

Sternula antillarum Lesson, 1847 {Guadeloupe Island, West Indies}. **Least Tern.** Breeds on the Atlantic coast of North America from Massachusetts to Bermuda, the Caribbean Sea as far south as Belize and Curaçao; in the interior USA in river systems of the Great Plains and Mississippi River valley; and on the Pacific coast of North America in California and Mexico—in up to five subspecies (see Patten and Erickson 1996, Massey 1998), but “validity of races dubious ... only clinal variation exists” (Malling Olsen and Larsson 1995:136; see also Pyle 2008). To our knowledge it remains true that “no quantitative data exist that would allow assessment of [the] reliability of these characters or their degree of overlap with other taxa” (Patten and Erickson 1996:888). **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** A second-year bird in first alternate plumage was observed at Anchorage from 21 Jul to 4 Aug 2022 (B. J. Lagassé, R. L. Scher, et al.; photos AKCLC, Figure 2). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: On the west coast of North America, the Least Tern is a casual or accidental visitor north to Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia; the northernmost previous record is for Sandspit, Haida Gwaii, 24 Jun 2010 (Charlesworth 2010). The Alaska bird was a difficult identification (vote 6:1), corroborated by P. Pyle (in litt.). Of the species/pair *Sternula albifrons*/*S. antillarum*, we retain *S. albifrons*, the Little Tern, on the unsubstantiated list.

Thalasseus sandvicensis (Latham, 1787) {Sandwich, Kent, England}. **Sandwich**



FIGURE 2. Least Tern, Anchorage, Alaska, 21 Jul 2022.

Photos by R. L. Scher

Tern. Breeds in Europe and w Asia; in coastal e USA, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; and on islands off Venezuela and French Guiana and from coastal e Brazil to s-c Argentina—in three subspecies (Dickinson and Remsen 2013). *Thalasseus sandvicensis [acuflavidus]* (Cabot, 1847) {Quintana Roo}. Breeds from coastal e USA to the Caribbean. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was observed at Gustavus 10–11 May 2021 (N. Drumheller; photos AKCLC, Figure 3). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Known in winter on the Pacific coast of Mexico and Panama (see Howell and Webb 1995); north of Oaxaca first found in Sonora in 1987 (Russell and Monson 1998), in Baja California in 1986 and 2008 (Velarde and Tordesillas 2009), and in California in 1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, and 1991 (see Schaffner 1981, Unitt 1984, Collins 1997, Hamilton et al. 2007).

Ardenna pacifica (Gmelin, 1789) {Kermadec Islands}. **Wedge-tailed Shearwater.** Breeds on islands off w Mexico, in the Hawaiian Islands, in the c and w Pacific Ocean, off s Australia and New Zealand, and in the Indian Ocean. **FIRST ALASKA**



FIGURE 3. Sandwich Tern, Gustavus, Alaska, 10–11 May 2021.

Photo by N. Drumheller

RECORD: A lone light-morph bird was observed 6 km west of Cape Edgecumbe, Kruzof Island, Alexander Archipelago, on 23 Jul 2022 (C. Goff; photos AKCLC). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Occurs off the w coast of Middle and South America (AOU 1998); casual or accidental in California (Hamilton et al. 2007), Oregon (Marshall et al. 2006), and Washington (Wahl et al. 2005).

Buteo rufinus (Cretzschmar, 1827) {upper Nubia, Shendi, Sennar, and Abyssinia}. **Long-legged Buzzard.** Breeds from c Europe to c Asia, in n Africa, Cape Verde Is., and Socotra—in two (Vaurie 1965) or four (Dickinson and Remsen 2013) subspecies. *Buteo rufinus* [*rufinus*]. C Europe to c Asia. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** A light-morph adult was observed at St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, from 15 Nov 2018 to 2 Jan 2019 (B. Lestenkof, B. Pierce, R. B. Benter, and S. Clark; photos AKCLC, Figure 4). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** There would seem to be no record in e Asia east of Mongolia, >4500 km from the Pribilofs. See Orta et al. (2020) for this species' relationships within *Buteo* and for its hybridization with the Upland Buzzard (*B. hemilasius*).

Lanius collurio Linnaeus, 1758 {Sweden}. **Red-backed Shrike.** Breeds from Europe and w Siberia to Asia Minor, the Caucasus, the Levant, n and nw Iran, n Kazakhstan, and the Altai Mts. Monotypic (Dickinson and Christidis 2014, Shirihi and Svensson 2018)—but variation at the specific and subspecific levels and issues of hybridization in central Asian *Lanius* are complicated and probably not yet settled (e.g., see del Hoyo and Collar 2016 and citations therein). **FIRST ALASKA RECORDS:** Lone immatures were observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, 3–22 Oct 2017 (Lehman 2019, Lehman et al. 2019—both incl. photos) and at Shemya Island,



FIGURE 4. Long-legged Buzzard, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, 15 Nov 2018–2 Jan 2019.

Photos by B. Lestenkof

Aleutians, 10–19 Sep 2022 (Z. M. Pohlen; photos, e.g., ML486368541, <https://ebird.org/ak/checklist/S119176579>). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: In e Asia accidental in Japan on Shikoku, Kyushu, Hegura, and Yonaguni (OSJ 2012); reported from Korea (Brazil 2009). Elsewhere in North America, a Red-backed Shrike was present at Powell River, British Columbia, 23–30 Oct 2020 (<https://bcfo.ca/brc-round-30-jan-to-nov-2021-accepted-records/>); a shrike in Mendocino Co., California, 5 Mar–22 Apr 2015 was identified as a hybrid *L. collurio* × *L. phoenicuroides* (Pyle et al. 2015).

Corvus brachyrhynchos caurinus Baird, 1858 {Fort Steilacoom, Washington}. **American Crow**. Coastal resident from Kodiak Island to Puget Sound. **RE-EVALUATED TAXON:** Chesser et al. (2020) dismissed *Corvus caurinus*, the Northwestern Crow, as “a geographical trend, rather than a species or subspecies, and thus is treated as a junior synonym of *Corvus brachyrhynchos*” —a nomenclatural lapsus promptly corrected by stating instead that *caurinus* “is now considered a subspecies of *brachyrhynchos*” (Chesser et al. 2021a). The taxonomic status of *caurinus* has been a subject of continuous discussion for over 100 years (e.g., see Rhoads 1893, Ridgway 1904, Swarth 1912, Oberholser 1919, Brooks and Swarth 1925, Taverner 1928, Brooks 1942, Johnston 1961, Mattocks et al. 1976, Godfrey 1986, Madge and Burn 1994, Campbell et al. 1997, Chesser et al. 2020, 2021a, Slager et al. 2020, Butler 2021). In following the assessment of Chesser et al. (2021a), we recognize two subspecies of the American Crow in nw North America: *C. b. caurinus* and *C. b. hesperis* Ridgway, 1887 {Fort Klamath, Oregon}. The latter has reached Alaska—from adjacent interior British Columbia—only at Hyder (see Gibson and Withrow 2015). Alaska specimens of *C. b. caurinus* include series (≥10 specimens) at AMNH, LACM, MVZ, UAM, and USNM; of *C. b. hesperis* at UAM (9 specimens).

Hippolais icterina (Vieillot, 1817) {France}. **Icterine Warbler**. Breeds from c, n, and e Europe to sw Siberia, the Caucasus, and n Iran. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, on 22 Sep 2022 (R. Ungwilk Jr.; photos AKCLC; see Figure 5 and this issue’s front cover). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: “Presently unaccepted in Japan” (OSJ 2012:407). Svensson (2020) included no records from e Asia; indeed, the e limits of the currently understood breeding range lie >5000 km west of Alaska.

Helopsaltes certhiola (Pallas, 1811) {“in regionem ultra Baicalem” = mountainous regions between Onon and Borzya in eastern Transbaikalia [Vaurie 1959:234]}. **Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler**. Breeds from the Irtysh River in Kazakhstan and Siberia to Mongolia, n China, and the Russian Far East—in five subspecies (Kennerly and Pearson 2010). *Helopsaltes certhiola* [*certhiola*]. Russian Far East and ne China. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, 9–12 Sep 2019 (Lang and Heintz 2021, incl. photos). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: Recorded widely in Japan (OSJ 2012). Hybridizes extensively with *H. ochotensis* at the Sea of Okhotsk (e.g., see Kalyakin et al. 1993, Drovetski et al. 2015; UWBM specimens examined by Withrow).

Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus (Linnaeus, 1758) {England south of Thames} or ***P. t. acredula*** (Linnaeus, 1758) {Uppsala, Sweden}. **Willow Warbler**. **FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN AND ADDITIONAL SUBSPECIES:** UAM 48000, immature ♀?, Shemya Island, Aleutians, 21 Sep 2021 (Z. M. Pohlen; Figure 6). NOTES: The species is casual in fall at St. Lawrence Island (see Gibson and Withrow 2015, Lehman 2019) and in the Pribilofs (2011–2018—D. Gochfeld, C. Gregory, W. S. Gibson; photos AKCLC); this first Alaska specimen provides the first Aleutian record. Photos of Alaska’s first Willow Warbler, at St. Lawrence Island, were thought to “best fit within populations of easterly *acredula* or in the borderland between *acredula* and *yakutensis*” (L. Svensson in Lehman 2003:7). Photographs of subsequent individuals show a range of phenotypes, including grayish birds with dark legs/feet suggestive of *yakutensis*. Discussion of *yakutensis* in Gibson and Withrow (2015; cf. Gibson et

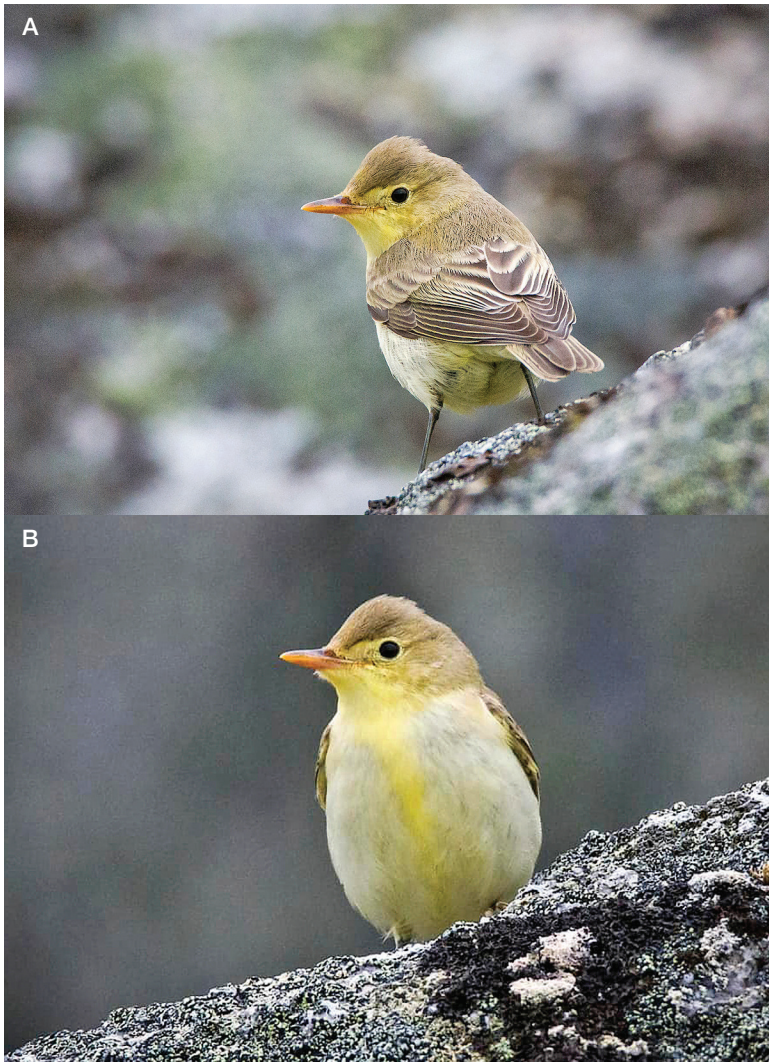


FIGURE 5. Icterine Warbler, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 22 Sep 2022.

Photos by R. Ungwiluk Jr.

al. 2003) was an inference based on proximity. Geographic variation in the Willow Warbler is “predominantly clinal” (Vaurie 1959: 271), with only the extremes reliably diagnosed (Shirihai and Svensson 2018, Sokolovskis et al. 2019; see also Bensch et al. 2009), and individual variation is such that some authors have considered the species dimorphic (Ticehurst 1938, Williamson 1976). Parsing this complexity in North America awaits further collecting.



FIGURE 6. The North American specimen of Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*, UAM 48000; with partially spread wing) in comparison to two examples of *P. t. yakutensis*—from the Indigirka River, Russia (top, UAM 29477 and 29485; both mid-Jun) and an example of nominate *trochilus* or subspecies *acredula* from Ukraine (bottom, UAM 19571; Oct). Although this photo compares fall immatures (bottom two) with summer adults (top two), the Willow Warbler’s two complete molts each year (Svensson 1992, Shirihai and Svensson 2018) serve to ameliorate color differences due to fading. Descriptions of *yakutensis* in first-fall plumage are few but make clear that the differences seen here are likely not due only to a difference in age (see Ticehurst 1938, Cramp 1992). Therefore we assess the Shemya bird as belonging to a subspecies other than *yakutensis*.

Photos by J. J. Withrow

Turdus naumanni Temminck, 1820 {Silesia and Austria ... Hungary [Ripley 1964]}. **Naumann’s Thrush**. Breeds in Siberia from mid-Yenisei valley to upper Lena basin, south to Lake Baikal and n Mongolia. **FIRST ALASKA RECORDS**: One bird was observed at Adak Island, Aleutians, on 22 Oct 1982 (C. F. and M. Zeilemaker; color sketch AKCLC); one bird at Attu Island, Aleutians, 20–22 May 2000 (S. C. Heil et al.; digital photo by B. Carlson); one bird at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, on 5 Jun 2015 (J. L. Dunn et al.; photos AKCLC, Lehman 2019, *Birding* 72[2]:14, 2021); one bird at Shemya Island, Aleutians, on 30 May 2021 (Z. M. Pohlen; Figure 7); and another at Adak, 24–26 Sep 2022 (A. J. Lang, F. A. Haas photos AKCLC). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES**: Following the elevation of *T. naumanni* from subspecies to species status by Chesser et al. (2020), the AKCLC—initially concerned that the possibility of hybrids, which are frequent, with the closely related Dusky Thrush (*T. eunomus*) could not be eliminated by the available photos—added this species to its unsubstantiated list on the basis of the first three reports above. That decision was superseded by a second vote in 2021—after additional photos were obtained of the St. Lawrence Island bird (above)—which added the species to the Alaska checklist. *Turdus naumanni* and *T. eunomus* hybridize extensively and were long considered conspecific.

Dement’ev and Gladkov (1954) reported *naumanni* breeding east only to the middle Maya River, in the se Lena River basin (2400 km west of the w Aleutians), but mentioned hybrids or intergrades occurring as far northeast as the Anadyr River, which drains into the nw Bering Sea. Recorded in Japan widely as a migrant and (OSJ 2012) in very small numbers in winter (Brazil 1991).

Turdus philomelos C. L. Brehm, 1831 {central Germany on migration [Vaurie 1959]}. **Song Thrush**. Breeds from Europe east through Siberia to s Lake Baikal—in four subspecies (Vaurie 1959, Shirihai and Svensson 2018). *Turdus philomelos* [*philomelos*] or [*nataliae* Buturlin, 1929 {Krasnoyarsk, c Siberia}]. C and e Europe



FIGURE 7. Naumann's Thrush, Shemya Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, 30 May 2021.

Photos by Z. M. Pohlen

east to c Siberia. **FIRST ALASKA RECORDS:** One bird was observed at Utqiagvik on 9 Oct 2020 (T. Ficker, J. Cunningham, and M. Bell; photos AKCLC, Figure 8), and one bird was observed at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, on 4 and 10 Oct 2022 (W. S. Gibson, M. Kramer; photos AKCLC). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** The nearest part of the known breeding range lies 5000 km from Utqiagvik. Accidental in Japan (e.g., Aoki et al. 2014).

Saxicola maurus (Pallas, 1773) {Karassum [Ishim River, w Siberia]}. **Asian Stonechat. RE-EVALUATED SPECIES:** *Saxicola maurus*—including subspecies *stegnegeri* (Parrot, 1908) {Etorofu, Kuriles; and Hokkaido}, to which Alaska specimens have been referred (Gibson and Withrow 2015)—was split from *Saxicola torquatus* (Linnaeus, 1766) {Cape of Good Hope}, the African Stonechat, and from *S. rubicola* (Linnaeus, 1766) {France}, the European Stonechat, by Chesser et al. (2022). Thus *S. maurus* simply replaces *S. torquatus* on the Alaska list.

Monticola saxatilis (Linnaeus, 1766) {Switzerland}. **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush.** Breeds from nw Africa and s and c Europe east through sw and c Asia to trans-Baikal region of s Siberia and nw and n China. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** An

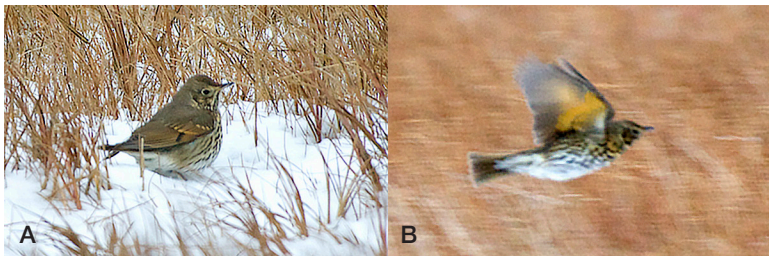


FIGURE 8. Song Thrush, Utqiagvik, Alaska, 9 Oct 2020.

Photos by T. Ficker

imm. male was observed at Utqiagvik from 24 to 26 Jun 2021 (K. A. Hansen, W. Klockner, W. S. Gibson, J. Myles, J. Benningfield, R. L. VanBuskirk, et al.; photo Birding 72[2]:15, 2021; Figure 9). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: Accidental in Japan (Brazil 1991). The nearest part of the known breeding range lies some 4000 km from Point Barrow, Alaska.

Motacilla citreola Pallas, 1776 {“In Siberia orientaliore” (Mayr and Greenway 1960:135)}. **Citrine Wagtail.** Breeds from Finland east to n-c Siberia and south to the Himalayas. Polytypic in two (Alström and Mild 2003) or three (Dickinson and Christidis 2014) subspecies. *Motacilla citreola* [*citreola*]. Finland east across Russia to the upper Amur River and south to China. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** An immature was observed at Seward on 15 Sep 2022 (J. Maniscalco, R. B. Benter; photos AKCLC, Figure 10). No Alaska specimen. NOTES: Accidental, or scarce migrant, in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan (Brazil 2009, OSJ 2012). Recorded thrice previously in North America: in Mississippi (DeBenedictis et al. 1995), British Columbia (N. Am. Birds 67:144, 181, and 327, all 2013; and 507, 2014), and California (Singer et al. 2020).

Calcarius ornatus (Townsend, 1837), {near forks of Platte River, w Nebraska}. **Chestnut-collared Longspur.** Breeds from c-s Canada to ne Colorado, n Nebraska,

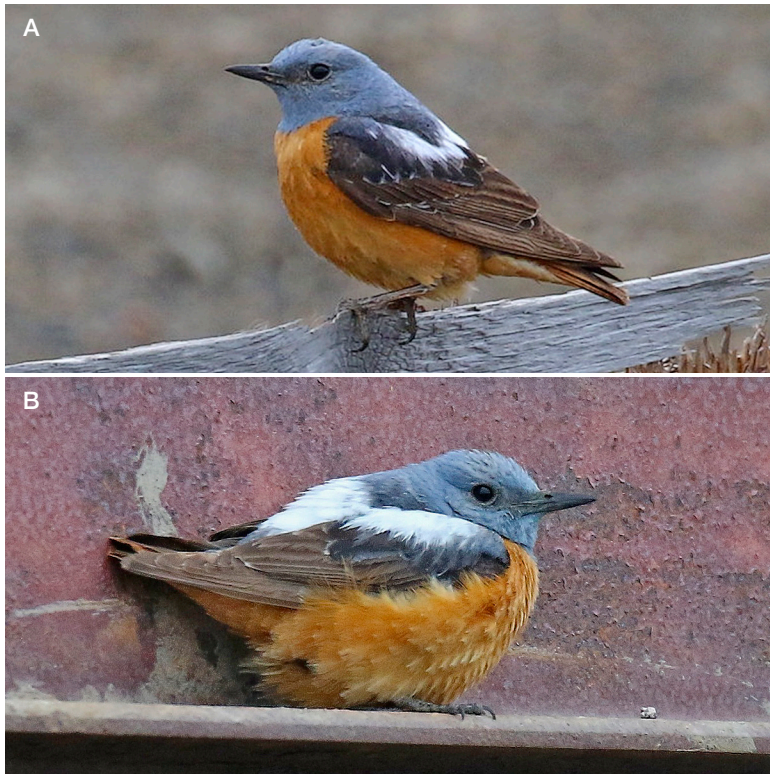


FIGURE 9. Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Utqiagvik, Alaska, 24–26 Jun 2021.

Photos by R. L. VanBuskirk (A) and J. Benningfield (B).



FIGURE 10. Citrine Wagtail, Seward, Alaska, 15 Sep 2022.

Photos by J. Maniscalco

and sw Minnesota. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** A male flew aboard a vessel in Warren Channel, between Warren and Kosciusko islands, on 4 Jul 2022 (A. Montgomery, via G. B. vanVliet, W. S. Gibson; photos ML470802011, ML470827381). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Transferred from the unsubstantiated list, where long included on the basis of a single report from Juneau (of flocks of five and seven birds, 22 May and 29 May 1982, respectively, B. A. Wright, UAM files). Recorded repeatedly in sw British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001), as far north and west as the Kispiox River valley (Swarth 1924).

Ammospiza leconteii (Audubon, 1844) {Fort Union, North Dakota}. **LeConte's Sparrow.** Breeds in w-c Canada (west to ne and e-c British Columbia), n-c USA. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was observed at Sitka on 13 Oct 2018 (C. Goff; photo N. Am. Birds 72:48, 2021). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Casual or very rare in s British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).



FIGURE 11. Lucy's Warbler, Chena Hot Springs, Alaska, 27 Jul 2022.

Photo by M. Sopoliga

Leiothlypis luciae (Cooper, 1861) {Fort Mojave, Arizona}. **Lucy's Warbler.** Breeds from se California, s Nevada, s Utah, and sw Colorado to ne Baja California, s Arizona, n Sonora, sw New Mexico, and w Texas. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One bird was observed at Chena Hot Springs, 82 km east-northeast of Fairbanks, on 27 Jul 2022 (M. Sopoliga; Figure 11). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Accidental widely in North America, as far north as British Columbia (<https://bcfo.ca/bc-bird-records-committee-sightings-database/>; see also AOU 1998, Johnson et al. 2020) and Alberta (Hudon et al. 2009).

Setophaga castanea (Wilson, 1810) {Pennsylvania}. **Bay-breasted Warbler.** Breeds from ne British Columbia (Weber and Cannings 1990), sw Mackenzie, and n Alberta east to the Maritimes and south to n Minnesota, n Michigan, n New York, and Maine (Venier et al. 2020). **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** A male was observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, 6–8 Jun 2018 (Lehman 2019, incl. photos). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Transferred from the unsubstantiated list, where long included on the basis of two reports (male, Fairbanks, 23 May 1951, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959:830; and immature, Petersburg, 13 Aug 1994, P. J. Walsh [UAM files]).

Setophaga fusca (Statius Müller, 1776) {French Guiana}. **Blackburnian Warbler.** Breeds from w-c Canada (Alberta) east to the Maritimes and south to n-c USA, in the Appalachians to Georgia. **FIRST ALASKA RECORD:** One immature female was observed at Ketchikan on 28 and 29 Oct 2022 (S. C. Heinl, R. L. Scher, B. L. Limle; photos ML, Figure 12). No Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** Strays recorded in most western states (Morse 2020); well known as such in California, especially in fall (Hamilton et al. 2007). Accidental in British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

Setophaga nigrescens (J. K. Townsend, 1837) {Fort William, Portland, Oregon}. **Black-throated Gray Warbler.** Breeds in sw Canada (coastal sw British Columbia), w USA, and nw Mexico. **FIRST ALASKA SPECIMEN:** UAM 43333, ad. ♂, Hyder, 5 Jun 2019 (J. J. Withrow). **NOTES:** First Alaska records in 2016 (see Gibson et al. 2018,



FIGURE 12. Blackburnian Warbler, Ketchikan, Alaska, 29 Oct 2022.

Photos by B. L. Limle

Tobish 2019; photos *Western Birds* 49:187, 2018; *N. Am. Birds* 70:371, 2019; 72:52, 2021), when the species was transferred from the unsubstantiated list, where it had been included based on a single report (male, Mitkof Island, 5 Jul 1989, Tobish and Isleib 1989).

ADDITION TO THE ALASKA UNSUBSTANTIATED LIST

Pterodroma ultima Murphy, 1949 {Oeno Island, South Pacific}. **Murphy's Petrel.** Breeds in the s-c Pacific Ocean in the Austral, Tuamotu, and Pitcairn islands;

FIFTH REPORT OF THE ALASKA CHECKLIST COMMITTEE, 2018–2022

“probably disperses ... from c-s Pacific towards the w coast of North America, being recorded n to Hawaii (Oct–Nov) and to 54° N in Gulf of Alaska (mainly well offshore) ... possibly regular off w North America (sometimes 100s) in Feb–Jun (mainly Apr–May), but also even more rarely in Jul ... early Dec” (Carboneras et al. 2020). In Alaska waters, at least one bird was identified in the Gulf of Alaska east of Kodiak Island on 14 Jul 2019 (D. Cushing).

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