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A List of the Birds Observed in Alaska  
and Northeastern Siberia During  
the Summer of 1914

BY

F. SEYMOUR HERSEY



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A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA AND  
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By F. SEYMOUR HERSEY

During the summer of 1914 the writer had the good fortune to make a rather extended trip along the Alaskan coast. Besides brief visits to one or two points in southern Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, stops of varying extent, but mostly of brief duration, were made at practically every village between the mouth of the Yukon River and Barrow, as well as several of the islands in Bering Sea and four points on the Siberian coast. The trip was made in the interest of Mr. A. C. Bent, to obtain data, and especially nesting photographs, for his work on the "Life Histories of North American Birds."

We left Seattle May 12 on the Revenue Cutter *Bear*, and for four days steamed slowly northward through the narrow and often tortuous channels of the "Inside Passage." The scenery was delightful. Mountains, clothed with the luxuriant evergreen growth so characteristic of the northwest coast, rose abruptly from the water's edge, with here and there a loftier peak, capped with snow, towering above its neighbors. Wooded islands were sighted and left behind, and once or twice we passed a small steamer. Finally we dropped anchor at Ketchikan on the afternoon of May 16.

This part of the country is heavily wooded with great evergreens. Beneath the trees the partly decayed trunks of fallen trees are numerous; these and the ground itself being covered with a heavy growth of green mosses, and everything dripping with moisture. Small birds did not appear to be plentiful, but our stay was too short to allow of any extended work. Northern Bald Eagles were common and we found one or two species here which were not seen at any other place.

We left Ketchikan that night and passed out through Dixon's Entrance, heading for Unalaska. Although the weather was fine, a heavy swell caused us to roll badly. Soon after leaving the land behind, I began to notice various members of the Tubinares. These became more abundant as we neared the "pass." Sooty Shearwaters

were the most common, with Fork-tailed Petrels next. Leach's and Fisher's Petrels were often seen, and several Black-footed Albatrosses followed us until we neared land, when they disappeared.

As we approached Unimak Pass the number of birds increased to a point almost beyond belief. As far as the eye could see great masses of birds were bedded on the water. California (and perhaps Pallas's) Murres and Tufted Puffins were everywhere, with a smaller proportion of Horned Puffins. As we steamed through the pass, they swam or fluttered to one side barely clearing the sides of the vessel. Ahead of us great clouds of Sooty Shearwaters rose, and flying a short distance, again settled on the water. It was utterly impossible to form any definite estimate of the number of birds seen. "Hundreds of thousands" does not exaggerate their abundance. We were several hours in going through the pass and it was not until we reached Unalaska in the evening, that we saw the last of this vast number of birds.

We planned to spend two days at Unalaska but a bad storm kept us there a third. The time was profitably spent collecting the various species peculiar to this locality.

Our next stops were at St. George and St. Paul Islands, but we did not land. Crested, Paroquet, and Least Auklets, and Rodger's Fulmars, were about the ship during our brief stays here.

Nome was our next port, which we reached on June 1. I shall long remember the novelty of this day's experiences. Early in the morning we sighted ice and the day was spent laboriously forcing our way through it. We finally anchored to the ice a little way off shore about 10.30 p. m., and dog teams came out from the town and took off the mail. During the day we had been within sight of the steamer *Corwin*—formerly a revenue cutter, but now owned and operated by a Seattle steamship company—and just before midnight she steamed in and anchored near us. Her passengers were landed on the ice and transferred by dog team to the shore. The long Arctic day was drawing to a close, but there was still enough light to obtain photographs of this interesting scene.

After leaving Nome we were again delayed by ice, but reached St. Michael early in the morning of June 5. Here I left the ship, and arrangements being made with the owner of a small open powerboat to carry me and my outfit to the mouth of the Yukon River, we left St. Michael Monday morning, June 8. We went through the "canal" (so called), a tide channel which separates St. Michael Island from the mainland. When a distance of about 25 miles had been

covered a storm arose which forced us to make camp, and I remained here until June 11. Although impatient of this delay, I found birds plentiful and the time was employed to good advantage. Eggs of the Pectoral Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher, as well as several other species, were secured while here. At last we were able to resume our journey and left this point about seven o'clock at night and reached our destination at four o'clock the next morning.

Headquarters were established at the wireless station at the mouth of the river. There were no houses near; the village of Kotlik, eight miles away, being the nearest settlement. The people of this village, mostly natives, were at this time at their summer fishing camps, some distance away. Excepting the men at the station, I saw almost no one during my stay here.

The country is low tundra, very little above sea level, flat and monotonous. It is dotted with little sloughs and ponds, and intersected by numerous creeks. The drier parts are covered with a grayish moss and a little grass and low creeping vines, but about the creeks the grass is heavier and greener. Small clumps of dwarf willows and alders are found in places. Scattered along the shore of the river are low mud flats, sometimes quite extensive. They are covered by water at high tide and support a scant growth of stiff, coarse grass about 6 or 8 inches high. These flats make safe feeding grounds for Little Brown Cranes and geese, as it is impossible to approach them unobserved. So bare and level is the country that a photograph of the river, taken from the shore, shows the opposite bank as nothing but a straight black line, such as might be made across the print with a ruler and coarse stub pen.

The bulk of the breeding season was spent here, during which time many miles of tundra were tramped over, and with a boat I explored such of the flats in the river as I could reach. I found Pintails and several species of shore birds breeding abundantly. Gulls, Terns, and Jaegers were common, and among the willows and alders were Hoary and common Redpolls, and Alaska Yellow Wagtails. Willow Ptarmigan and Alaska Longspurs were common and widely distributed species in the region.

Several species found by Mr. Nelson at the time of his visit were not seen by me, or were present in very small numbers. As I was in the country a comparatively short time, I was not able to explore a large section, especially the great expanse of territory between the Yukon and Kuskoquim Rivers. Could I have done so it is possible that I would have found some of these species, although, personally,

I believe that many of the geese and other water birds that Mr. Nelson found in such large numbers, now breed there very rarely or not at all.

Leaving the Yukon in July, I returned to Nome and rejoined the *Bear*, the remainder of the summer being spent in cruising along the coast. Stops were made at the following places on the dates indicated:

- Golovin Bay, July 13 and 21.
- St. Lawrence Island, July 24 and 25.
- St. Lawrence Bay, Siberia, July 26.
- Teller Reindeer Station, Alaska, July 28.
- Cape Prince of Wales, July 29.
- Deering, August 1.
- Chamisso Island, Kotzebue Sound, August 1 to 3.
- Cape Espenberg, August 5.
- Point Hope, August 7.
- Cape Dyer, August 7 (at 9 p. m.).
- Cape Lisburne, August 8.
- Wainwright Inlet, August 10 to 20.
- Point Franklin, August 18 and 20.
- Barrow, August 21.

Golovin Bay, a narrow inlet surrounded by low hills, was a particularly favorable spot for small land birds. Low willows were more in evidence here than at most places on the coast, and in them were found several species not noted elsewhere. St. Lawrence Island impressed me as a particularly promising locality and I would gladly have spent more time there. At two places on the north side of the island where landings were made, the land was high rolling tundra. At the northwestern part, a native village is located on a level gravel spit. Back of the village rise high cliffs in which Crested, Paroquet, and Least Auklets, Pallas's Murres, Pacific Kittiwakes, Glaucous Gulls, Horned Puffins, and perhaps Rodger's Fulmars, were breeding. The natives are superior to any I saw on the mainland. They are unusually clean, have substantially built houses and good boats. The excellent English spoken by many of them, and the evidence of their familiarity with the use of soap and water, reflect great credit on the government school and its teacher.

Near Deering, on the north coast of the Seward Peninsula, are several rocky cliffs where Pallas's Murres and Horned Puffins breed. Several Gyrfalcons were seen about these cliffs and probably bred



here. Chamisso Island, and Puffin Island near by, contained the largest breeding colonies of Horned Puffins that I saw anywhere in Alaska. On Puffin Island they were crowded together on the rocks and cliffs, and for every bird thus seen there was (presumably) a mate hidden away among the rocks or in the nesting burrows. Those that could not find room on Puffin Island had settled on Chamisso. Here there were about three thousand pairs of birds, but it was impossible to even guess how many were on Puffin Island. Besides the Puffins were many Pallas's Murres and about four hundred Pacific Kittiwakes.

One of the most interesting localities north of Kotzebue Sound was Point Hope. Behind a long gravel spit was a large lagoon, bordered by an extent of level tundra. At the farther end of the spit was a native village with a smaller lagoon. Birds of many kinds were seen everywhere. In the large lagoon were Old-squaws and various ducks; on the end of the spit rested a large flock of gulls, while Pallas's Murres were flying by outside. In the village, Snow Buntings, (Ruddy?) Turnstones, Red-backed Sandpipers, and Alaska Longspurs were much in evidence, and in the small lagoon Northern Phalaropes and a small flock of Sabine's Gulls were swimming, while many small sandpipers waded about the shore.

About Cape Dyer and Cape Lisburne the shore is more or less rocky, but north of this latter point it again becomes level tundra but little higher than sea level. North of Point Franklin it rises gradually, although still level, and in places attains an elevation of probably 30 or 40 feet.

The first ice was encountered on this northern trip as we passed Icy Cape, and when Wainwright Inlet was reached we were forced to stop. Here 10 days were spent, sometimes going ahead a few miles as an apparent "lead" opened through the ice, only to be compelled to retreat later. At last, on August 20, a favorable wind allowed us to go forward with some prospect of successfully reaching our destination, and the following evening we made Barrow. With the ice conditions so bad, it was unsafe to stay here any longer than necessary, so having landed the mail, and taken aboard several men who had been caught by the ice the previous season and obliged to winter there, we turned south. Among the men who came aboard at Barrow was Mr. W. S. Brooks, a member of the *Polar Bear* party. Mr. Brooks had been collecting for the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He had reached Barrow but a few days previous to our

arrival, having travelled from the eastward on a small gasoline schooner bringing his collections with him.

As soon as the ship was out of the ice the course was changed to west and an effort made to reach Wrangel Island, where the shipwrecked crew of the *Karluk* was known to have wintered. Fog, snow, and general bad weather prevented our reaching this point, and after 10 days cruising we returned to Nome for more coal. On the way stops were made at two points near Cape Serdze, and at East Cape, Siberia. Cape Serdze is a high rocky point. Each side of the cape are stretches of low rolling tundra with several lagoons. East Cape is marked by a rocky precipice rising abruptly from the sea to a height of several hundred feet. Large colonies of Pallas's Murres, Horned Puffins, and Pacific Kittiwakes were breeding on the cliffs. At both capes are small native villages. From Nome the writer took passage for Seattle on the steamship *Victoria*.

During the season careful notes were recorded of all birds seen or taken. A daily list was made in which were entered the species seen and their abundance, the actual numbers present being set down whenever possible. A field journal was also kept wherein were entered accounts of the localities visited, the character of the country, flowers or animals seen, and any other items of interest not properly belonging to the daily list. In addition to the above, extensive notes were made on the habits of the various species. In the list which follows I have omitted these latter notes, as this material will be used by Mr. Bent in his forthcoming work.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks for courtesies received. Acknowledgments are due the Revenue Cutter Service for permission to accompany the *Bear*, and to Mr. H. J. Lee, U. S. Deputy Marshal at St. Michael, for assistance in securing transportation to the mouth of the Yukon River.

Especially do I appreciate the many kindnesses extended to me by Capt. C. S. Cochran and his officers while aboard the *Bear*. Everything possible was done to facilitate my work and to make the trip comfortable and pleasant. My thanks are also due Messrs. S. F. Rathbun and D. E. Brown for favors received while in Seattle.

Finally, I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. A. C. Bent of Taunton, Massachusetts, through whose kindness and generosity I was enabled to make the journey here described.



## LIST OF SPECIES

**COLUMBUS AURITUS**

Horned Grebe

Not common. The species was noted several times in the sloughs and creeks at the mouth of the Yukon. Near Deering three birds were seen together a short distance out from shore on August 1. They allowed us to row quite near to them when they dove and swam away. This was the farthest north that the species was seen. No specimens were taken.

**GAVIA ADAMSI**

Yellow-billed Loon

Although constantly on the watch for this species, I saw no indication of its presence until we reached Kivalina, a few miles south of Point Hope. Here a native brought out a skin from the head of a bird which he had shot the previous week. Upon being questioned he stated that this species was rarely seen there. I was told a few breed about Point Hope, but it was not until we reached Wainwright Inlet that I found them in any numbers. Between this place and Point Barrow a number were seen, in fact they were fairly common for a bird of this family. I was told a bird accompanied by a downy young had been shot at Wainwright shortly before I arrived.

**GAVIA ARCTICA**

Black-throated Loon

**GAVIA PACIFICA**

Pacific Loon

As no specimens were taken I am unable to determine the status of these two species in the territory. A few were seen about the Yukon and St. Michael, but were not tame enough to allow of approach to within gunshot distance. These were supposed to be the Black-throated Loon, as this is the species recorded by Nelson from this locality.

North of Bering Strait they were more abundant, the greatest number being seen between Wainwright Inlet and Point Barrow. Here the Pacific Loon only is supposed to occur. While trying to work our way slowly north, we surprised a bird, one day, in a little patch of open water of 4 or 5 yards in extent and entirely sur-

rounded by ice cakes. The size of the patch of open water was not sufficient to allow him to take wing, and the surrounding ice kept him for a time, from escaping by diving. As we could not stop to pick him up, I did not shoot the bird, but watched him until the movement of the ice at last opened up a lane of open water allowing him to swim out.

#### **GAVIA STELLATA**

Red-throated Loon

The most common Loon in Alaska. The heads and necks of this species are used by the Eskimos for a variety of fancy articles. The skin is removed and made into tobacco pouches or split open and spread out flat and then trimmed into square or oblong-shaped pieces which are combined with similar pieces from the various Eiders and made into small mats. These are often very neatly and smoothly made and are quite pretty.

#### **LUNDA CIRRHATA**

Tufted Puffin

From the Aleutian Islands southward, this is the commonest Puffin. In Unimak Pass they are particularly abundant as already stated. North of this locality the Horned Puffin takes the place of the Tufted, although a limited number were noted in all the Horned Puffin colonies as far north as East Cape, Siberia, and Kotzebue Sound.

#### **FRATERCULA CORNICULATA**

Horned Puffin

As we steamed through Unimak Pass large numbers of this species were met with for the first time. Although the total number of individuals was large, it is probable that *corniculata* did not compose more than 10 per cent of the thousands of Puffins that abound in these waters. Throughout Bering Sea, wherever there are steep, rocky cliffs or suitable islands, colonies of these curious birds may be found breeding. These colonies range in size from 100 or so pairs, as at St. Michael, to the great hordes found at Chamisso Island, where it would be difficult, if not impossible, to estimate their numbers.

North of East Cape, Siberia, and Chamisso Island the species was not seen, but I did not visit the large colony of Pallas's Murres at Cape Lisburne where Nelson reports it as also breeding.

The breeding season in these large colonies is greatly prolonged. At the date of our visit to Chamisso Island (August 2) many birds still had eggs only slightly incubated, while a larger number were bringing food to their young. On July 16 I found that most of the eggs in the colony at St. Michael were hatched, and the young could be heard in the crevices among the rocks, although they were beyond reach. At the colony at East Cape the young were still in the nests as late as August 29. In fact, no young were seen either on the wing or in the water up to the time I left the region (September 12), and none of the adults showed any indications of moult either of bill or plumage.

**PHALERIS PSITTACULA**

Paroquet Auklet

**ÆTHIA CRISTATELLA**

Crested Auklet

**ÆTHIA PUSILLA**

Least Auklet

Myriads of these interesting little birds were met with about all the larger islands of Bering Sea, but as very little work was done on the islands, I did not visit their breeding places. On St. Lawrence Island the natives catch numbers of them in nets. At the time of my visit nearly every family had a dozen or more. I picked out a number of the best birds, thus securing a good series of Crested and Least, but only found one Paroquet. It may be that this latter species is less plentiful here.

I was told that these birds were used regularly for food and were considered very nice and that their skins were used for clothing. Eighty-five skins of the Crested Auklet were said to be used in making a "parka" and a larger number of the Least are needed.

Auklets were plentiful about East Cape and the Diomedé Islands, but were not seen north of Bering Strait.

**SYNTHLIBORAMPHUS ANTIQUUS**

Ancient Murrelet

This species was met with only at Ketchikan where a specimen was secured. A number were seen.

**CEPPHUS COLUMBA**

Pigeon Guillemot

This species was not seen on the Alaskan coast north of the Aleutians, but a few were met with on the Siberian side. At East Cape I estimated there were about 150 birds flying with the circling clouds of Pallas's Murres and Horned Puffins.

**URIA TROILE CALIFORNICA**

California Murre

**URIA LOMVIA ARRA**

Pallas's Murre

All along the coast from the Shumagins to Barrow large numbers of Murres were observed. Both species occur in the Pribilof Islands, but north of that point Pallas's Murre is the most common. All the specimens taken (St. Lawrence Island and East Cape) were of this form. They nest abundantly wherever suitable rocky cliffs are found. The most northern breeding colony is at Cape Lisburne where natives brought out eggs nearly fresh on August 8. Most of the Murres at Chamisso Island had well-grown young on August 2, but a few were still sitting on their single eggs.

NOTE.—On August 10, while slowly forcing our way through the ice near Wainwright Inlet, we came upon a pair of small *Alcidae*. They were swimming in a bit of open water and allowed us to pass them at a distance of not more than 50 feet. As we could not have picked them up I did not shoot either but observed them closely with a good glass for about a half hour. They were glossy black above, with white markings on the scapulars plainly visible, and throat and upper breast black. The small size and dark color of the bill were clearly noted. They were very much too small for Murres, with shorter bill, and certainly were not Auklets, as the *black* bill and *glossy blackness* of the plumage indicates. I am very sure they were Dovekies, but as neither was taken, and I can find no record for this part of the Arctic Ocean, I make but this mention of the species.

**STERCORARIUS POMARINUS**

Pomarine Jaeger

In Thayer and Bangs' "Notes on the Birds and Mammals of the Arctic Coast of East Siberia" it is stated that "the Pomarine Jaeger is much more common south of Bering Strait than northward." This is doubtless true of the Siberian coast, but on the Alaskan side I found them most numerous north of Kotzebue Sound. Nelson speaks of their abundance at the mouth of the Yukon during the

spring migration, but I did not note their presence there during the breeding season. The other two species were common. From Cape Espenberg to Barrow they were met with rather frequently, although usually not more than one was seen at a time, and they were never as common as the Parasitic and Long-tailed.

#### **STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS**

Parasitic Jaeger

This is the most evenly distributed and probably the most abundant Jaeger in Alaska, although exceeded in numbers in one or two localities by the Long-tailed. They were found nearly everywhere that stops were made from the Yukon Delta to Barrow. Among the large number seen during the summer, only two were in the dark phase of plumage, one of which was secured.

The dusky patches on the sides of the breast, when viewed from a distance, give this bird the appearance of having a broad black band across the breast. This is an excellent field mark and readily distinguishes this species from the Long-tailed Jaeger when flying toward one or otherwise in a position where the tail feathers are hidden from sight.

#### **STERCORARIUS LONGICAUDUS**

Long-tailed Jaeger

This graceful bird was found commonly between Golovin Bay and the mouth of the Yukon River. About St. Michael it was very numerous. As we worked northward it was rarely seen, until near Point Barrow it again appeared in numbers.

This species showed less variations in plumage than the Parasitic. The specimens taken and the birds observed were quite uniform in color, although the length of the central tail feathers varied much in different birds.

#### **RISSA TRIDACTYLA POLLICARIS**

Pacific Kittiwake

Very common off shore throughout the region. They did not usually come very near the land except where breeding and they were not seen at the Yukon, where the water is very shallow for long distances off shore. An exception was noted at Nome where they were frequently seen flying about the beach.

They nest at East Cape, Puffin Island, and many other places. On August 2 most of the nests on Puffin Island held young birds



about one-fourth the size of adults, but a few eggs were noted. The nests were inaccessible, but looking over the edge of the cliff from the top of the island I could see the contents of about 100 nests below me. At East Cape young were still in the nests on August 29, but young on the wing were also seen about this date.

### LARUS HYPERBOREUS

#### Glaucous Gull

The dominant bird of Bering Sea. They were abundant everywhere north of the Seal Islands. They followed the ship as we cruised along the coast and bedded in the water all around us when we anchored.

Where so many were gathered together, great variations were noted in their plumages. Four very distinct types were represented. First, and perhaps most abundant, was a quite dark mottled bird with blackish primaries and a bill mostly dusky. These were birds of the previous year and were from 10 to 12 months old. The second stage was a much lighter, brownish or ecru-colored bird apparently barred rather than mottled, with light primaries, sometimes nearly white, and a dark bill. This form was more common in August and early September, at which time many birds intermediate between this and the first stage were noted. I believe this is the second winter plumage, the intermediate specimens seen being probably moulting birds. Earlier in the season (June and July) a comparatively small number similarly colored were seen, which may have been precocious individuals of about one year, or fully as likely backward birds of the second summer which still retained the plumage of the previous winter. Some birds in this plumage also had gray feathers in the back. The third and rarest was the white *hutchinsii* type. This phase was only seen in early summer and seldom were birds *pure* white. Usually they had a small amount of gray in the mantle. A bird of this kind was shot June 29. I doubt if this plumage is regularly assumed by any very large proportion of the species. I am inclined to think that it is produced by birds lacking in vitality or otherwise unable to take on the complete adult plumage at one moult. They may be birds that have started to acquire the adult plumage earlier than usual but lack the necessary pigment to produce it entire. I think it represents birds 22 to 24 months old in the second nuptial plumage, but normally the second nuptial plumage appears to be the light ecru-drab second stage plus a greater or less proportion of gray feathers in the mantle. The fourth type of plumage was the

fully adult with white underparts, head and tail and light pearl gray mantle. The proportion of adults in the flocks about the ship was small as most of the old birds were attending to their domestic duties. I doubt if any number ever assume full adult plumage until the third winter or breed before they are three years old. The great amount of variation in the plumages of the immature birds seems to indicate this, the differences being too great to be merely individual variation in birds of the same age, that is, one year old or less, which would necessarily be the case if the birds become adult and breed when two years old.

It may be of interest to mention that, in company with Mr. D. E. Brown, I took a Glaucous Gull on Tacoma Bay, May 2. Dawson and Bowles, in the "Birds of Washington," mention the species only in the "hypothetical list."

#### **LARUS GLAUCESCENS**

Glaucous-winged Gull

A large number of these gulls followed us from Seattle to Ketchikan. Upon our arrival they were joined by others and were the most common species in southeastern Alaska. At Unalaska they were abundant and very tame, and throughout the southern part of Bering Sea were continually seen. None were observed north of St. Michael.

#### **LARUS SCHISTISAGUS**

Slaty-backed Gull

A small number were seen from the steamer on the homeward trip, when only a few hours out from Nome. They were easily identified among the Pacific Kittiwakes and Glaucous Gulls.

#### **LARUS OCCIDENTALIS**

Western Gull

#### **LARUS ARGENTATUS**

Herring Gull

Both these species were common about Seattle and quite a number of the latter followed us through the "inside passage" to Ketchikan. Among the Herring Gulls were about an equal number of Western Gulls quite conspicuous by their darker colored backs. These gradually left us, a few at a time, until by the time we anchored at Ketchikan there were not more than four remaining.

**LARUS VEGÆ**

Vega Gull

This species appears in small numbers off the coast of Nome during the early part of September. Among the white-winged Glaucous Gulls their presence is readily detected.

**LARUS CALIFORNICUS**

California Gull

**LARUS DELAWARENSIS**

Ring-billed Gull

Among the Herring and Western Gulls that followed the ship through the Inside Passage were several California Gulls. At Ketchikan they joined the large mixed flocks of gulls already there. These flocks were made up largely of Ring-bills and Glaucous-winged, but may have contained other California Gulls also. The range of the California Gull is not generally considered to include any part of Alaska, but I believe it regularly passes up and down the coast at least as far as this point. I collected one bird there and have seen at least one other skin taken in that locality.

The Ring-billed Gull is common at Ketchikan, but was not met with elsewhere.

**LARUS BRACHYRHYNCHUS**

Short-billed Gull

Very common about St. Michael and the Yukon Delta. Not found north of Norton Sound. On the homeward voyage the steamer stopped at St. Michael, September 9. At this date nearly all had left for the south, only one or two being seen.

**XEMA SABINI**

Sabine's Gull

This exquisite little gull is very plentiful at St. Michael and also quite common at the mouth of the Yukon. It appears to be unevenly distributed although generally numerous in any locality where it occurs at all. None were seen north of St. Michael until Point Hope was reached, where a small flock was seen and one specimen taken. They were next met with a few miles south of Point Barrow. Among a very large flock of Jaegers, Pacific Kittiwakes, and Arctic Terns were about 100 Sabine's Gulls. They were also seen at Cape Serdze, Siberia, where the first young birds were noted on August

28. July 14 a bird was seen with some white feathers in the dark hood (perhaps a bird in first nuptial plumage), but even as late as September 9 very few birds showed much sign of moult. I saw no missing flight feathers and very little white about the head. Several of the spring birds collected, but not over 25 per cent, had a faint tinge of pink on the underparts which was always lost before the specimen became wholly dry.

Birds in any plumage can be identified in life by the arrangement of the white feathers in the wing. When flying they appear to have a large wedge-shaped piece taken from the center of each wing.

### STERNA PARADISÆA

Arctic Tern

A very common bird throughout the region.

### STERNA ALEUTICA

Aleutian Tern

My first sight of this rare bird was on June 3, when in the ice a few miles off Cape Nome. Two terns were seen approaching and were watched through a good glass as they passed close to the ship. The light was favorable and the white forehead was plainly seen.

The next meeting with the species was on July 8. I had become temporarily separated from my baggage and the day had been spent in an effort to get it. Toward evening I borrowed a gun and a handful of shells loaded with number two shot—the smallest I could get—and started out for a short stroll. I was told of some Spectacled Eiders that had been seen a few days before by a native, so obtaining a boat I rowed out on the bay. I saw nothing of the Eiders and after rowing some distance I had about decided to return, for it was nearly nine o'clock and the sun was getting low, when I sighted a small island. Several terns were flying about so I landed to look for nests. As I did so I saw at once that they were not Arctic Terns. Two were shot and proved to be, as I expected, Aleutian Terns. As the large shot made bad work of their plumage I did not kill any more at this time. A hasty search showed no nests and I reluctantly left the island with the determination, however, to return as soon as possible.

This I did not do until July 17, on which date I secured 13 more birds. I went over the island very carefully but found no nests, although the birds were doubtless breeding somewhere near. The birds collected had evidently laid eggs at a fairly recent date. No

young were seen on the wing and the total number of adults did not exceed (apparently) 100 birds.

The Aleutian Tern is easily distinguished from the Arctic Tern in life. It appears larger and much darker, in some lights nearly black. The white forehead is rarely visible unless the bird is flying low and the light is strong.

#### DIOMEDEA NIGRIPES

Black-footed Albatross

Common on the Pacific but not seen in Bering Sea. Among the birds that followed the ship were some probably younger birds in which the white about the base of the bill and upon the rump was much restricted, or occasionally seemed to be wholly absent. Also one or two were seen in which the white about the face was of larger extent than usual.

On the homeward voyage the species was more abundant than in the spring. Nine birds were counted at one time and it was not until within about 75 miles of Vancouver Island that the last one disappeared.

#### FULMARIUS RODGERSI

Rodger's Fulmar

Often abundant in rough weather, especially about the Seal Islands, East Cape and other rocky cliffs in Bering Sea. A number were seen in the Arctic Ocean some hundred and fifty miles north of Cape Serdze, Siberia.

As we pitched about in the rough weather the Fulmars came close about the ship and often rested on the water like gulls. At such times, as we rode high over the oncoming waves, one could look down on the backs of a score or more of these birds calmly resting in the trough of the sea with huge masses of swirling gray water threatening to engulf them at every turn. In such positions I could note every detail of their plumage. Many had the gray of the mantle as extensive and unbroken as in *glupischa*.

#### PUFFINUS GRISEUS

Sooty Shearwater

#### PUFFINUS TENUIROSTRIS

Slender-billed Shearwater

I have already spoken of the thousands of Sooty Shearwaters in the North Pacific and about the Aleutian Islands. Among these



a smaller bird was sometimes noted with a lighter colored throat, which I referred to the Slender-billed. I do not believe, however, that there is any character conspicuous enough to positively identify this species in life, and it is probable that both of the above species were equally abundant. They did not extend very far into Bering Sea and on my return in early September most of them had left, although two or three good sized flocks were still to be seen.

#### ÆSTRELATA FISHERI

Fisher's Petrel

One of the pleasures of the trip across the North Pacific was the repeated occurrence of this species. The first one was seen May 18, and during the next three days they were very common. May 22 we were near the Shumagin Islands and none were noted. On the return two were observed September 14 and again next day.

Among the large dark Shearwaters, and smaller but also darker Petrels, this species was easily distinguished. One bird came close up to the stern of the vessel where he was not more than 25 feet from me. He remained at this distance for about three minutes, which gave me a very satisfactory opportunity to examine him closely.

#### OCEANODROMA FURCATA

Fork-tailed Petrel

#### OCEANODROMA LEUCORHOA

Leach's Petrel

Both of these Petrels were very abundant in the North Pacific.

#### PHALACROCORAX PELAGICUS PELAGICUS

Pelagic Cormorant

This is the most common member of the family in the northern parts of Bering Sea and is the only one I positively identified. They were nesting at East Cape where a young bird, able to fly, was taken.

A Cormorant which I thought might be *robustus*, if that form is really distinct from *pelagicus*, was shot at Unalaska but fell into the sea a few feet from shore. Before I could get a boat the swiftly ebbing tide had carried it out of sight.

About St. Paul Island many Cormorants were flying about which may have been *urile*, but they kept at a distance and I failed to satisfactorily identify them.

**ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS**

Mallard

A Mallard was flushed from her nest and eight eggs on June 19. They were not common.

**NETTION CRECCA**

European Teal

Lord William Percy shot one of these ducks at Unalaska.

**NETTION CAROLINENSE**

Green-winged Teal

A female was taken at St. Michael June 9.

**DAFILA ACUTA**

Pintail

This is the most abundant fresh water duck in Alaska. A number of nests were found about St. Michael and the Yukon. Not observed north of Cape Espenberg.

**MARILA MARILA**

Scaup Duck

Quite common at St. Michael and the Yukon Delta.

**HARELDA HYEMALIS**

Old-squaw

This species was common at many points along the coast. They are remarkably tame and I often watched birds from a distance of a very few feet. All were in the handsome breeding plumage, but fully one-half of the males had a trace of white still remaining on the crown, and some had quite a good sized patch of it. One curious specimen was largely marked with white on the entire head and neck. Downy young were taken at Cape Lisburne.

**HISTRIONICUS HISTRIONICUS**

Harlequin Duck

Quite common at Unalaska and two or three were noted to the east of St. Lawrence Island.

**POLYSTICTA STELLERI**

## Steller's Eider

Never will I forget my first meeting with this handsome little Eider. As we neared Lutke Island, in St. Lawrence Bay, the sand was seen to be dotted with black and white birds which soon took wing. Part were Pacific Eiders which passed us and flew out to sea, but the Steller's remained and flew around the island in a great cloud. I had put little faith in the stories I had heard of whalers feeding their entire crews on these ducks, but I no longer doubt that it was often done. We shot a number and found them very palatable, being far superior to the other Eiders. The birds collected were all moulting into "eclipse" plumage and were very fat.

We found the species common during the summer from St. Lawrence Bay, St. Lawrence Island and Teller Reindeer Station northward on both sides of Bering Sea and along the Arctic coast to Point Barrow. I understand they also occur for some distance to the eastward of Point Barrow. At Point Hope I saw the remains of these birds about the dog kennels, although the dogs are usually fed on fish.

**ARCTONETTA FISCHERI**

## Spectacled Eider

This Eider is irregularly distributed and nowhere does it appear to be common. The only locality where I personally saw the birds in life was in the vicinity of St. Michael, but they also occur in small numbers at St. Lawrence Island and on the Siberian coast at St. Lawrence Bay. The heads of this species are often combined with those of the Pacific Eider, by the natives, in various ornamental articles, and these, of course, also served to indicate the distribution of the species. They are apparently absent from the Seward Peninsula north of Norton Sound and I failed to find any signs of them about the mouth of the Yukon. A trader whom I met told me he had seen them between the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, but I had no opportunity to test the truth of his statement. It is probable that they occur there in small numbers as they did when Nelson visited the locality.

I did not observe them about Kotzebue Sound, and Kivalina was the first point north of the sound where I saw any indication of their presence. Here a native brought out a head and upon being questioned about the species he stated that they were not often seen or shot. At Point Hope I was told that they occurred rather fre-

quently and a few bred. One had been shot the night before I arrived, but was cooked and eaten that morning. Between Point Hope and Point Barrow they occur in small numbers in suitable localities.

#### SOMATERIA V-NIGRA

##### Pacific Eider

The most generally distributed Eider in the region and very common everywhere along the coast. In the vicinity of Point Barrow they are, however, exceeded in numbers by the following species.

#### SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS

##### King Eider

From Cape Lisburne to Point Barrow this species occurs abundantly. While anchored off Wainwright Inlet, great flocks were constantly passing. As you looked northward over the great expanse of water thickly dotted with drift ice, the eye became conscious of a faint undulating grayish patch on the distant horizon, which appeared like heat waves rising from the glaring beach sand of more southern regions on a day in midsummer. As you watched, this indistinct mass gradually became clearer, until at last you were able to make out a vast flock of flying birds. Although the individual birds were flying swiftly, the flock as a whole seemed to move slowly and it was several seconds, often minutes, before they swept by, usually a quarter of a mile or more from the ship, but the roar of their wings plainly audible, and finally disappeared to the southwest. These flocks were mostly composed of King Eiders, and there were few times during the day when one or more of them were not in sight.

At Point Barrow "ice cellars" are dug below ground in which the temperature does not rise above freezing. While the Eiders are flying large numbers are shot and placed in these cold storage cellars for winter use, and I was told from 1,800 to 2,000 birds were on hand at the time I landed there. Most of those I examined, although originally in the best of plumage, were not then in condition to make into good specimens, but I secured one male in nearly full "eclipse" that had been very recently killed and was still unfrozen.

During the summer the King Eider occurs regularly as far south as St. Lawrence Island where they doubtless breed, but I did not find them about St. Michael or anywhere to the southward.

**OIDEMIA AMERICANA**

Scoter

**OIDEMIA DEGLANDI**

White-winged Scoter

**OIDEMIA PERSPICILLATA**

Surf Scoter

About St. Michael the American Scoter was noted several times and a few were also seen at the mouth of the Yukon where a female was taken. The White-winged Scoter was not seen north of Unalaska, where it was rather common. They were also plentiful at Ketchikan and probably occur all along the coast of southern Alaska. I saw very little of the Surf Scoter, although it was occasionally noted as far north as Kotzebue Sound.

**ANSER ALBIFRONS GAMBELI**

White-fronted Goose

At the mouth of the Yukon five downy young were collected together with the male parent on June 21. At Cape Serdze, Siberia, several flocks of White-fronted Geese were seen flying, but as none were taken I do not know whether they were the American form or *albifrons*. (No Snow Geese were seen anywhere during the trip.)

**BRANTA CANADENSIS (Subsp?)**

Once or twice flocks of 12 to 20 small geese were seen which belonged to this group, but as none were taken their subspecific identity was not established.

**BRANTA NIGRICANS**

Black Brant

On August 15, while standing on deck, a flock of 21 Black Brant flew over the ship at very close range. They were flying slowly and it would not have been difficult, had I had a gun at the time, to have dropped one or more of the birds on the deck. We were, at that time, anchored off Wainwright Inlet.

**PHILACTE CANAGICA**

Emperor Goose

I had confidently expected to find this species nesting plentifully about the mouth of the Yukon River, but was disappointed. Single



birds were seen now and then, but the total number so observed would not aggregate a dozen individuals. No nests were found. The natives' habit of driving these birds into nets during the season when they have moulted their flight feathers, as described by Mr. Nelson (Rept. on Nat. Hist. Coll. made in Alaska, p. 91), probably accounts for their present scarcity in the locality.

I was repeatedly told that Emperor Geese occur in large numbers on the south side of St. Lawrence Island during the period when engaged in the post-nuptial moult, and I believe that the center of their abundance to-day is on this island.

[I was several times told of swans being heard or seen at the Yukon mouth, but I did not myself see the birds.]

#### **GRUS CANADENSIS**

Little Brown Crane

Cranes were seen rather frequently both at St. Michael and at the Yukon. At the latter place they fed on the broad mud flats that were exposed by the falling tide. As there was no concealment in such places they were safe from the approach of the hunter or collector, and I never was able to get nearer than a quarter of a mile without having them take wing.

#### **PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS**

Red Phalarope

This species appears to be a more northern bird than *lobatus*. I did not find it at St. Michael or southward during the nesting season, but north of the Seward Peninsula it occurs commonly. On the Siberian side it is abundant and apparently nests farther south than on the Alaskan shore.

A number of specimens collected at Cape Serdze on August 28 were all in winter plumage. Some were young birds, but only one, of several adults, had any chestnut feathers of the nuptial plumage remaining and these were scattered through the plumage of the breast and belly.

#### **LOBIPES LOBATUS**

Northern Phalarope

On the barren Arctic tundra, level and monotonous, this richly colored little bird finds a congenial summer home, where, lightly swimming about the edges of the many marshy pools, its dainty, graceful motions, and gentle notes add a touch of life and beauty to the otherwise dreary northern wastes.

About St. Michael and the Yukon Delta they were very common, and at both places eggs were found. I did not observe them north of Cape Lisburne—from this locality to Point Barrow the Red Phalarope being the only species met with. On August 7 I found a large flock at Point Hope. All were well advanced in the autumnal moult, only a few stray feathers of the nuptial plumage remaining.

#### GALLINAGO DELICATA

Wilson's Snipe

Not common. A few spend the summer at the Yukon Delta. On June 17, as I was tramping along the edge of a marshy spot, a small brown bird fluttered from four eggs in a slight depression and slipped away through the grass. I had but a glimpse of her as she disappeared, which resulted in my making a mental note of her as a probable Dowitcher. Without touching the eggs I withdrew, and again passing that way some hours later the bird was flushed under more favorable conditions and was seen to be a Wilson's Snipe. After photographing the nest I was chagrined to find that the eggs were on the point of hatching.

A few days later another bird was flushed from the border of a willow patch that from its actions had either a nest or young close by

#### MACRORHAMPHUS GRISEUS SCOLOPACEUS

Long-billed Dowitcher

While the Dowitcher is not common in the same sense that the Western Sandpiper is, an hour's walk in the vicinity of St. Michael or the Yukon Delta would hardly ever fail to disclose the presence of two or three pairs of the birds. Seldom do we find more than two birds together, but as a pair were found in almost every half mile or so travelled the total number of birds must be large.

Eggs were taken near St. Michael on June 9, at which time incubation was about one-half advanced, and downy young were collected June 20 at the mouth of the Yukon River.

#### ARQUATELLA MARITIMA COUESI

Aleutian Sandpiper

#### ARQUATELLA MARITIMA PTILOCNEMIS

Pribilof Sandpiper

About the middle of July a species of *Arquatella* appeared about St. Michael, frequenting the rocky shores about the bay. No speci-

mens were secured, but I have no doubt that they were Aleutian Sandpipers.

About ten o'clock, on the night of July 24, we landed at a reindeer camp on the north side of St. Lawrence Island to secure a supply of fresh meat. The sun had set and the soft twilight, which takes the place of night during the short Arctic summer, was settling over the earth. As I strolled along the beach, gun in hand, the faint whistling of shore birds was heard. Surmounting a small ridge, I found a long irregular shaped lagoon with stony shore, from which again came the same call notes. As I made my way along the shore, stumbling now and then over some half-hidden rock, a small flock of birds would fly out over the water, circle, and return to the land. With the water of the lagoon as a background they were plainly visible, but upon alighting on the shore, were at once swallowed up in the deep gloom. If shot while flying they would have fallen into the water and have been lost, but by some half dozen shots into the darkness, in the direction in which they appeared to alight, I succeeded in obtaining four specimens. They proved to be Pribilof Sandpipers, the only ones met with during the trip.

**PISOBIA MACULATA**

Pectoral Sandpiper

This species was met with only at St. Michael and at the mouth of the Yukon, and at neither place did I find it common. Eggs were taken and specimens of the downy young.

**PELIDNA ALPINA SAKHALINA**

Red-backed Sandpiper

At no time during the breeding season was this species met with south of Bering Strait. A few were seen August 7 at Point Hope, and I was given two eggs that were taken there during June. They were very plentiful near Cape Lisburne and also on the Siberian coast.

**EREUNETES PUSILLUS**

Semipalmated Sandpiper

The only specimens of this bird that I saw were two shot on July 28, at Imaruk Basin.

**EREUNETES MAURI**

Western Sandpiper

With the possible exception of the Alaska Longspur this is the most abundant bird on the stretch of tundra that borders the Bering

Sea coast from Norton Sound to the Yukon mouth. Their great abundance, lack of fear and gentle manner combine to make them one of the most charming birds in all that bleak and inhospitable region. As one walks over the tundra the birds are found scattered about everywhere and they run on ahead, if disturbed, with a dainty gracefulness of carriage that is most pleasing.

At the army post at St. Michael I have seen them running about on the boardwalks, and especially do I remember one bird that came aboard ship during a heavy rain while we were well out of sight of land. He spent the afternoon running about the deck, wading in the little pools of water that settled near the scuppers and trying to probe the spaces between the deck planks.

Wherever found the species breeds and many nests were examined. A small series of eggs was collected and several downy young of various ages were obtained. Young just from the shell were noted as early as June 10.

#### LIMOSA LAPPONICA BAUERI

Pacific Godwit

As a person walks about over the tundra these birds are rather frequently seen. They are not exactly abundant, but are pretty evenly distributed and the total number of individuals must be large. They were most abundant at the mouth of the Yukon and none were seen north of Nome. A fair series was obtained including the young in down.

#### HETERACTITIS INCANUS

Wandering Tatler

Although constantly on the watch for the Wandering Tatler, the species was encountered but once. On May 18 a Tatler came aboard the *Bear* and for several minutes rested on the deck. We were at the time in the North Pacific, one day out from Dixon's Entrance.

#### NUMENIUS HUDSONICUS

Hudsonian Curlew

The day that the Wandering Tatler came aboard, two of these Curlews circled about the ship several times and apparently wished to alight and rest. They finally flew away to the westward. A few were noted at the Yukon mouth but were never plentiful.

The Bristle-thighed Curlew was not met with.

**SQUATAROLA SQUATAROLA**

Black-bellied Plover

Observed only at St. Michael and the Yukon and not common at either place. They doubtless breed there, but I did not find their nest.

**CHARADRIUS DOMINICUS FULVUS**

Pacific Golden Plover

A single bird taken at Point Hope on August 7 is referred to this form. No others were seen.

**ARENARIA INTERPRES MORINELLA**

Ruddy Turnstone

South from Norton Sound to the delta of the Yukon these birds were met with in small numbers. At the latter locality a specimen was obtained in natal down. Two adults, the only specimens secured, were submitted to Dr. Bishop for identification and proved to be of this form.

At Point Hope quite a number were found feeding about the native houses. Considerable care was required to shoot specimens without endangering the lives of the people. After much trouble I managed to shoot five or six of them, only to have some half-fed native dog appear at the sound of each shot and instantly swallow the birds before I could reach the spot and prevent the animal from doing so.

Had I secured any of these it is not improbable that they would have proved to be *interpres*.

**ARENARIA MELANOCEPHALA**

Black Turnstone

Noted both at St. Michael and the Yukon mouth. Only at one or two points where rocky beaches occur about St. Michael Bay were they at all numerous.

**LAGOPUS LAGOPUS LAGOPUS**

Willow Ptarmigan

Very common wherever stops were made until Cape Espenberg was reached. North of this point none were seen. Many nests were found and a series of photographs secured of incubating birds on their nests. The first broods of young were seen June 20, and July 2 some barely able to fly were found. During this time the males collected were in very ragged plumage with large patches of pin



feathers about the neck and upper breast and much difficulty was experienced in making good skins. Up to September 8, when I sailed for Seattle, no birds were seen with white appearing in their plumage.

#### **LAGOPUS RUPESTRIS RUPESTRIS**

Rock Ptarmigan

First seen at Cape Lisburne where a specimen was taken. Early in September the natives about Nome occasionally brought a few Rock Ptarmigan into town, with larger bags of Willow, and offered them for sale. All those seen at this time showed considerable white among the feathers of the back and head.

#### **LAGOPUS RUPESTRIS NELSONI**

Nelson's Ptarmigan

Two specimens, both males, were secured at Unalaska.

#### **ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS SANCTI-JOHNIS**

Rough-legged Hawk

At Unalaska a pair were found nesting on the face of a cliff. One of the parents was secured. It was a dark colored bird and does not appear to differ greatly from specimens from various parts of the United States.

#### **HALIÆTUS LEUCOCEPHALUS ALASCANUS**

Northern Bald Eagle

Eagles are abundant at Unalaska and even more so at Ketchikan. At the latter place ten were counted in sight at one time and about an hour later six were seen perched in one tree. They were exceedingly tame and allowed me to walk under them as they sat about in the tree tops.

#### **FALCO RUSTICOLUS RUSTICOLUS**

Gray Gyrfalcon

About Deering are several high cliffs and here were seen five Gyrfalcons. Two birds, an adult and young, sitting together on a rocky projection, were shot. The adult was secured, but the young bird remained on the ledge and was inaccessible.

I was told that these hawks were quite plentiful in late fall and early winter, and were known to the residents as Ptarmigan Hawks.

**FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM**

Duck Hawk

One or two were seen about the Aleutians (Dutch Harbor and Akutan Pass) on September 12, and a pair were shot at Chamisso Island, August 1. The Aleutian birds may have been *pealei*, but they did not appear to be different from the pair taken. They were probably migrants from some part of the mainland.

**SCOTIAPTEX NEBULOSA (Subsp?)**

June 24, while pushing my way through a willow thicket, a Great Gray Owl was flushed. The density of the thicket prevented the use of the gun. Two days later the same bird was again seen, this time on a little mound in a patch of very wet tundra. A mob of Redpolls, Longspurs and Arctic Terns were darting about his head and he soon took wing. As Mr. L. M. Turner took a specimen of *lapponica* in this locality (the mouth of the Yukon), there is a possibility of the bird seen by me being also this subspecies. When seen on June 26, the bird was watched for a few minutes through a glass, but nothing diagnostic was observed about its plumage.

[A day or two before leaving Nome a Hawk Owl was reported as having been seen back of the town.]

**SELASPHORUS RUFUS**

Rufous Hummingbird

A single male was taken at Ketchikan, May 16.

**CORVUS CORAX PRINCIPALIS**

Northern Raven

At Ketchikan and Unalaska these birds are very abundant and exceedingly tame. Still they were not easy birds to collect and I got but two or three. They seemed to be able, without apparent effort, to keep just beyond gun range and could carry off a surprising amount of shot.

North of the Aleutian Islands they are not common. Two or three were seen at Cape Serdze where they were very shy.

**PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR (Subsp?)**

While we were at Unalaska, May 24, I was told a small flock of "Robins" had been seen in the village. From the descriptions given they were apparently Pine Grosbeaks. The next day I had two of

the birds pointed out to me and, as I had surmised, they were *Pinicola*. They were perched on the roof of one of the houses, where they remained but a few seconds before taking flight.

While at Golovin Bay, July 13, another bird was seen in a tangle of dwarf willows. After a half hour spent in fruitless attempts to get close to it, I finally shot it at long range. It fluttered into another thicket and was lost.

These birds may have been *alascensis* or *flammula* or perhaps both forms were represented.

#### LEUCOSTICTE GRISEONUCHA

Aleutian Rosy Finch

This beautiful finch was found to be common about the patches of snow on the mountain-tops at Unalaska, and Amaknak Islands. A number were taken.

#### ACANTHIS HORNEMANNI EXILIPES

Hoary Redpoll

This species was very abundant about St. Michael and the Yukon, greatly exceeding in numbers the common Redpoll. Several nests were found. Newly hatched young were noted as early as June 17, while perfectly fresh eggs were taken as late as June 19. None were met with north of Kotzebue Sound.

#### ACANTHIS LINARIA LINARIA

Redpoll

In nearly every flock of *exilipes* one or two birds of this species were seen. Their crimson breasts—much brighter than in any winter birds I have ever seen—distinguish them from the Hoary Redpoll at a long distance.

#### PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS NIVALIS

Snow Bunting

On the Alaskan side this species was seen only at Point Hope and Point Franklin. At the former locality only two birds were observed, but at Point Franklin they were rather common. On the Siberian side they were more abundant and several were taken including the young.

In juvenal plumage they bear considerable resemblance in size and general color to a Junco. At this date, August 28, all the adults had about completed the post-nuptial moult.

**PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS TOWNSENDI**

Pribilof Snow Bunting

At Unalaska several Snow Buntings were collected.\* All were in breeding plumage and were (presumably) breeding there at the time. Most of them are more or less intermediate between this form and *nivalis*.

It appears to me that the bill of *townsendi* is blacker than in the common Snow Bunting. I have seen specimens of *nivalis* from Labrador, in full nuptial plumage, which still retain a trace of yellowish at the base of the lower mandible, but all skins of *townsendi* that I have examined show the entire bill solid black.

**CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS ALASCENSIS**

Alaska Longspur

This hardy bit of Arctic bird life is one of the first species whose acquaintance one makes in northern Alaska. Wherever one goes dozens of them will be seen walking about over the tundra or standing on little raised mounds of moss or grassy tussocks. They are very attractive in their nuptial plumage and their song, usually given on the wing and frequently by three or four birds at the same time, is a joyous melody that wins them a place in the hearts of all who hear it. About St. Michael they are called larks or, occasionally, skylarks.

They breed early, as young just able to fly were seen June 21, and several broods were seen on the wing a few days later.

**PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS SANDWICHENSIS**

Aleutian Savannah Sparrow

These birds were common at Ketchikan, May 16, where specimens were taken. During our brief stop at Unalaska they were also very abundant.

**PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS ALAUDINUS**

Western Savannah Sparrow

Common at the Yukon and about St. Michael where it breeds.

**ZONOTRICHIA LEUCOPHRYS GAMBELI**

Gambel's Sparrow

A common bird about St. Michael where they are frequently heard singing from the roof of some building.

**ZONOTRICHIA CORONATA**

Golden-crowned Sparrow

In the clumps of willows and alders about Golovin Bay a single specimen of this sparrow was obtained on July 13.

**SPIZELLA MONTICOLA OCHRACEA**

Western Tree Sparrow

Wherever patches of willow bushes occur on the tundra or hillsides about St. Michael and the Yukon Delta the sweet notes of this species may be heard. They are rather shy and slip away through the shrubbery at the approach of a stranger, but if the observer sits quietly down and partially conceals himself, the singer will soon return to its perch on the topmost twig of a nearby bush and resume its simple song.

Where song birds are in the minority, and the air is filled with the harsh cries of gulls and terns, the quacking of ducks, and the weird call notes of loons, even the simplest of melodies is appreciated. While the vocal efforts of the Tree Sparrow probably would attract but scant notice in a locality frequented by more brilliant songsters, they would be sadly missed were the species to forsake its accustomed haunts in these cheerless regions.

**MELOSPIZA MELODIA SANAKA**

Aleutian Song Sparrow

This bird was seen at Unalaska but was not common. It was most often seen about the dock where it hopped about like a catbird or thrasher, which it strongly reminded me of. Its song was like our eastern bird, but in other respects it seemed to me to resemble it but little.

**PASSERELLA ILIACA ILIACA**

Fox Sparrow

The Fox Sparrow is rather common as far north as Golovin Bay. They are very shy when on their breeding grounds—much more so than during their migrations. At the mouth of the Yukon I have seen them, at times, come close up to the house and feed beneath our windows, but only when everyone was in the house. At such times the sound of a movement within doors or an attempt to watch the bird from the window always resulted in a hasty retreat to the nearest thicket.



**HIRUNDO ERYTHROGAстра**

Barn Swallow

In the vicinity of St. Michael Barn Swallows are rather common, and were suitable nesting places more numerous I have little doubt they would increase. Several birds were building in an empty house near St. Michael while I was there, and a finished nest, without eggs, was found June 10. It was built in a deserted and more or less delapidated Eskimo sod house.

**IRIDOPROCNE BICOLOR**

Tree Swallow

Common about St. Michael. A pair built a nest and raised a brood in the space between the inner and outer walls of the wireless station at the Yukon Delta. A hole had been cut in the wall for the exhaust pipe of the engine and the nest was directly below this pipe. While the engine was running this pipe became very hot and at such times the nest must have been very uncomfortable.

**WILSONIA PUSILLA PILEOLATA**

Pileolated Warbler

A number of birds were seen and one secured at Golovin Bay, July 13.

**MOTACILLA OCULARIS**

Swinhoe's Wagtail

Although this bird has been considered merely a straggler to Alaska, there are reasons for believing that the species is slowly extending its range and becoming established on our coast. During the northern cruise a number of individuals were seen between Kotzebue Sound and Cape Lisburne.

At Chamisso Island, on August 1, a pair of birds were carrying food into a crevice in the rocks at an inaccessible point on the cliff. One or two were also seen at other points, and at Cape Lisburne I succeeded in shooting a bird which, unfortunately, fell on the farther side of a creek where it could not be found.

My failure to secure specimens was due to the excessively restless habits of the birds. When on the ground they were largely concealed by intervening clumps of moss and the general character of the tundra, while they were liable to take wing at a moment's notice and usually flew long distances. Their flight was so erratic that it was exceed-

ingly difficult to shoot them on the wing and, as I repeatedly found from experience with the Yellow Wagtail, a small bird which fell on the tundra could scarcely ever be found, no matter how carefully the spot was marked.

On the Siberian side this species was not uncommon, both at St. Lawrence Bay and Cape Serdze.

#### **BUDYTES FLAVUS ALASCENSIS**

Alaska Yellow Wagtail

A common bird from the Yukon Delta to Nome and probably as far as Kotzebue Sound, although, except at Cape Espenberg, I did not meet with it north of Bering Strait. This was on account of my attention being given to other species and very little time spent in localities suitable to this bird.

A small series was obtained at the mouth of the Yukon, all being in adult nuptial plumage. No young were seen up to July 2, from which I infer that they nest later than most of the small land birds do in this region.

#### **ANTHUS RUBESCENS**

Pipit

Seen only at Unalaska where it was very common.

#### **HYLOCICHLA ALICIE ALICIE**

Gray-cheeked Thrush

About the mouth of the Yukon, in June, the song of this species may be heard from practically every extensive patch of dwarf willows and alders. If it were not for its song the Gray-cheeked Thrush would long remain undiscovered in these dense thickets, for they are among the shyest of birds. No amount of "squeaking" ever succeeded in bringing one of them into view, although from their calls I often knew that two or three birds were moving about within a dozen yards of me. Only by sitting motionless for a considerable period did I ever get a glimpse of them.

The swarms of mosquitos that infest these localities, at this season, render it difficult to sit motionless for more than a few minutes at a time, but the slightest movement of any kind is sufficient to send this shy thrush into the shelter of the heaviest part of the thicket, from which nothing could induce it to return.