THE BIRDS OF GAMBELL AND ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, ALASKA

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PREFACE

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INTRODUCTION

Gambell, Alaska, is a village of some 680 mostly (St. Lawrence Island) Yupik people located at the northwest tip of St. Lawrence Island in the northern Bering Sea (63.78° N, 171.74° W). It lies approximately 315 km (195 mi) west-southwest of Nome and only some 73 km (45 mi) from the closest point on the Russian mainland at the Chukotskiy Poluostrov—the Chukchi Peninsula (also written as Chukotski, Chukotskiy, and Chukotsk). The village of Savoonga, 62 km (40 mi) east of Gambell and home to approximately 670 residents, is the only other permanent settlement on this large, mostly volcanic island, which measures just slightly over 160 km (100 mi) in length and 15–65 km (10–40 mi) in width, encompassing roughly 5200 km² (2000 mi²).

“Gambell” derives its name from Sylvenus C. “Vene” Gambell, a Presbyterian reverend and schoolteacher who lived in the village during the 1890s but who died in a shipwreck off Washington State while returning to the island with his family in 1898. The original, Yupik name for the village is variously written as Sivuqaq, Chibuchack, Sevuokok, and Sevuokuk.

“Gambell” is defined here as that area which can be visited with a standard land-crossing permit: from the tip of Northwest Cape (“the point”) eastward to the slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain and south to the first major coastal headland, Ooynik Point, approximately 8 km (5 mi) south of the village.

This work summarizes what is known about the avifauna at Gambell and the rest of St. Lawrence Island and surrounding waters through January 2018. Some 283 species have been recorded at Gambell, with an additional 4 species found only elsewhere on the island, for a total island list of 287 species. Most data come from the 1970s to the present, when birding tour groups have visited Gambell annually, though a substantial amount of other important information dates back to the 1930s, and further additional sightings have been gathered since the 1880s. St. Lawrence Island has hosted 19 first North American records, 7 during the spring and 12 during the fall, plus many additional second and third sightings as well as records of a number of North American species previously unrecorded in the Bering Sea region. In

PHYSICAL SETTING

Located between northeasternmost Russia and western mainland Alaska, St. Lawrence Island is surrounded by the biologically rich, shallow waters of the continental (Bering-Chukchi) shelf. Despite its great distance from shelf-edge habitat, this inner shelf area from St. Lawrence Island to the Bering Strait supports a surprisingly large number of nesting seabirds (ca. five million), including both planktivores and piscivores. This high abundance is partly explained by the presence of a current known variously as the Anadyr Current, Anadyr Green Belt, or Anadyr Stream (Piatt and Springer 2003, Stephensen and Irons 2003). It advects, conveyor-belt style, very high concentrations of nutrients and plankton northward over 1200 km (750 mi) from the outer Bering Sea shelf-edge to the southern and central Chukchi Sea. Its effects are further enhanced by local turbulent upwelling. The waters west and north of SLI may be particularly rich in food such as zooplankton relatively close to the surface as a result of this advection (Gall et al. 2006).

St. Lawrence Island was part of the Bering Land Bridge that connected Eurasia with North America during parts of the Pleistocene, until approximately 10,000 years ago. Partly because of the proximity of both continents and of the geologically recent connection between the two, the island hosts a flora and fauna with both Palearctic and Nearctic, as well as Holarctic, components (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971). Fay and Cade (1959) noted a fourth element, known as Beringian or “Aleutican,” to emphasize the distinctiveness of the avifauna of the Bering Sea region.

Three principal areas of low mountains reach elevations of over 500 m (1500–2000+ ft), the highest (673 m [2207 ft]) just south of Savoonga. The only mountain near Gambell, Sevuokuk Mountain, lies immediately east of the village and reaches an elevation of 187 meters (614 feet). It and other higherland areas above 60 m (200 ft) are characterized by lichen- and moss-covered volcanic rock and patches of low tundra vegetation. The lower slopes and lowlands are typically covered in wet tundra. Numerous ponds, lakes, and small rivers occupy approximately one-third of the surface area of the island and are productive nesting areas for waterfowl and shorebirds (Fay and Cade 1959). Rocky sea cliffs along the southwestern, northwestern, and north-central shores are home to immense numbers of nesting seabirds. Several large coastal lagoons, particularly those running along the south side of the island (e.g., Koozata Lagoon), are rich environments of varying salinity that support large numbers of breeding and migrant waterbirds. Sand and gravel beaches and bars are extensive. Gambell village is located on a gravel bar at the island’s Northwest Cape.
The climate at St. Lawrence Island is arctic maritime, with temperatures strongly moderated by the waters of the Bering Sea, at least when pack ice is absent. Summer temperatures average about 7 °C (45 °F) and rarely exceed 13 °C (55 °F)—maximum ca. 18 °C (65 °F)—whereas those in mid-winter average near -14 °C (7 °F) and may fall to -23 °C (-10 °F) or below—minimum ca. -34 °C (-30 °F). Moderate and strong winds blow regularly. Ocean temperatures remain between 0 and 4 °C (32–40 °F) throughout the year. At Gambell, temperatures in late May and early June are typically 0 to 6 °C (32–42 °F), whereas in late August and early September, daytime temperatures are typically 6 to 10 °C (42–50 °F), although by the end of September they usually are between 1 and 4 °C (34–40 °F). Some interior sections of St. Lawrence Island, as well as stretches of protected coastline, are often warmer in the summer and colder in the winter than Gambell. The growing season stretches from approximately early June through late August (Fay and Cade 1959). Annual precipitation averages about 38 cm (15 in). Most rain falls during July and August. Late September often brings the first snowfall to the mountains of the island and the nearby Chukchi Peninsula. But cycles of freezing/snowing and thawing/melting are typical through much of November, after which snow is on the ground until spring. Annual snow accumulation on the island may range from 75 to 480 cm (30–190 in; Fay and Cade 1959), but with the higher amounts resulting from much blowing and drifting. Pack ice does not form until December or January. The dominant wind direction in summer is from the south and southwest, often accompanied by fog, whereas the wind in winter is predominantly from the north to northeast and is stronger. Thus, the spring and autumn seasons are transition periods in which some years southwesterly winds dominate, other years see more variable wind directions, and sometimes northerly or northeasterly winds last for many days in a row. This variation in wind direction is an important factor in determining the species composition and abundance of birds seen from year to year during both spring and fall.

Vegetation on St. Lawrence Island is characteristic of the circumpolar tundra biome, the most homogeneous major terrestrial biotic community in the world (Fay and Cade 1959). The island’s flora, overall, is depauperate, likely the result of limited warmth available during the relatively short growing season (Young 1971). There are few shrubs, and the only ones that might be termed arborescent (e.g., willows) are found in some protected interior locations, where they attain a height of still under a meter (1–2+ ft). There are reportedly a few very localized sites supporting even taller vegetation on south-facing mountain-slopes on the east side of the island, but the breeding avifauna of such areas has not been studied. Most of the shrubby plants on the island, such as the widespread Diamond-leaved Willow (*Salix pulchra*), are low growing or prostrate, the result of the persistent winds or thin soils. This lack of taller woody vegetation is a major distinction between the island and adjacent mainland areas, such as the Seward Peninsula. Young (1971) lists four major native vegetation habitat types on St. Lawrence Island: bog and wet tundra (most widespread), alpine and fell-field, mesic tundra, and aquatic habitats. In the area around Gambell, some of the ground is covered by very low tundra vegetation made up of forbs, grasses and sedges, mosses, and lichens, especially on the lower slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain. Much of the village itself is characterized by bare or sparsely vegetated gravel. The local beaches are composed of gravel and are relatively sterile. A few small marshy areas and seasonal puddles may attract shorebirds and a few waterfowl. The large Troutman Lake is found immediately south of the village. It remains largely frozen until early June. Most of its shores are relatively sterile gravel, and the lake itself supports only a few waterfowl, but many roosting and
bathing gulls, and good numbers of loafing Horned Puffins in late summer and early autumn, which nest on the cliffs of adjacent Sevuokuk Mountain.

Bordering the village are three major midden sites, known collectively as “the boneyards” for the large number of marine mammal bones found there. Birders refer to them as the “Near Boneyard,” “Far Boneyard,” and “Circular Boneyard.” Several other areas of disturbed ground are found, including in the “Old Town” (western) section of the village (also referred to as “the boatyard”) and in an excavated area below Troutman Lake (sometimes referred to as “the revetments”). During late summer and autumn, these areas are characterized by relatively lush vegetation dominated by at least two species of Artemisia (known variously as types of wormwood, sagebrush, or mugwort), which grow to a maximum height of slightly more than a half meter (2 feet). The rich soil and vegetative growth—combined with the vertical relief and partial protection from wind provided by the digging pits—are a magnet for passerines in autumn. In late spring, however, only the shriveled, compacted remains of the previous year’s growth exist, although even this habitat is attractive to many migrant passerines, particularly when there is lingering snow cover. The list of regularly occurring avian species found here includes a number with primarily Old World distributions that also nest on mainland Alaska—a few in small numbers on St. Lawrence Island as well—but which migrate back and forth to southeast Asia, India, the Middle East, or Africa. These “trans-Beringian” species include Arctic Warbler, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, and Red-throated Pipit. Another trans-Beringian migrant, the Gray-cheeked Thrush, has populations that nest in extreme northeastern Russia and migrate east back into North America in fall. The boneyards are also attractive to most of the vagrant landbirds from both Asia and mainland North America. The Far and Circular Boneyards are located near the base of Sevuokuk Mountain, which can act as a barrier to some landbirds that might otherwise continue moving farther east. Other migrants probably arrive elsewhere on the island and work their way to the northwest tip at Gambell.

Many of the migrant passerines—including both Asian and North American wanderers—are flighty or furtive. Also, a few birds in the Far and Circular Boneyards fly up onto the slopes of adjoining Sevuokuk Mountain and may disappear for periods of time, or forever. Many newly-arrived passerines are not discovered until the afternoon or early evening. It also is clear that some rarities are present on-site only for a few minutes or for an hour or two and then disappear. Whether these birds are simply moving about locally during the day, or are ranging much farther afield on the island and to or from offshore even late in the day, is unknown. Also apparent is that at least a few birds may move between the Far and Circular Boneyards and from the Near Boneyard to the Far Boneyard (or vice versa) and may disappear for a day or two and then reappear, making it sometimes difficult to determine if one or more individuals are involved.

**ORNITHOLOGICAL HISTORY**

Continuous human occupation of the Gambell area dates back approximately 2000 years. Midden deposits from at least the past two centuries have revealed some important records involving bird bones (e.g., see Friedmann 1932a, 1934a, Murie 1936). The discovery of St. Lawrence Island by Europeans is credited to the Danish explorer Vitus Bering in August 1728,
but the island remained little explored by non-natives until the late 19th century. Several mostly Russian expeditions that briefly visited the island or its surrounding waters between 1779 and 1881 collected a number of bird specimens and made casual mention of some of the birds encountered (Portenko 1981).

The first detailed ornithological and natural history notes on the island were taken by Edward W. Nelson in June 1881 (Nelson 1883). Additional brief visits by investigators followed, including those of W. Sprague Brooks and Joseph S. Dixon in June 1913, of Russell W. Hendee and Alfred M. Bailey in June–July 1921 (who collected specimens for the Colorado [Denver] Museum of Natural History; Bailey 1925, 1926), and of Henry B. Collins Jr. in summer and fall from 1928 to 1930. Herbert Friedmann (1932a) was the first to summarize (through 1930) the island’s avifauna. He also published additional notes through the 1930s detailing a number of first records for the island, largely based on specimens sent to him at the U. S. National Museum (Smithsonian Institution) by Gambell resident Paul Silook (see below). Otto W. Geist excavated many bird bones near Savoonga between 1926 and 1935, and this information was processed by Olaus J. Murie (1936), whose wife, Margaret (Mardy), visited the island in 1937. Fieldwork followed by Grenold Collins in 1937, very briefly by Ira N. Gabrielson in 1946, and by Robert L. Rausch and Everett L. Schiller between 1949 and 1959. Francis H. Fay carried out fieldwork for a total of 19 months between 1952 and 1954, and also sporadically in 1956 and 1957, at a variety of sites around the island. This information, combined with that accumulated by Tom J. Cade and George O. Schumann in 1950, as well as that by Friedmann and Murie, was summarized by Fay and Cade (1959). Most of Fay and Cade’s work took place during the late spring and summer months, with little investigation during the autumn. Also in 1959, *The Birds of Alaska* by Gabrielson and Frederick C. Lincoln was published, which contains a fair amount of material dealing with St. Lawrence Island, much of it briefly summarized from earlier authors. E. G. Franz Sauer and Emil K. Urban studied birds along the western and southwestern sides of the island, primarily in the Boxer Bay region, during the summer of 1960. Extensive fieldwork was carried out by Fay, Spencer G. Sealy, and Jean H. Bédard between 1958 and 1969, which, along with material from earlier publications, was summarized by Sealy et al. (1971). Again, most of their work was carried out between late spring and late summer, with only brief, intermittent coverage at other seasons. A detailed two-volume treatise by Leonid A. Portenko on the avifauna of the nearby Chukchi Peninsula in Russia, and which also includes much detail on St. Lawrence Island, was published in 1972/1973 (English translations in 1981/1989); however, most of the Russian data in that treatise were recorded only through the 1930s, with some into the 1950s. The detailed work of Kessel (1989) covers the avifauna of the Seward Peninsula on the adjacent Alaska mainland. It contains valuable information on the seasonal status of, especially, many waterbirds in the Bering Sea region.

Thus, at the conclusion of the 20th century, the published works containing substantial information on the avifauna of the St. Lawrence Island region were Friedmann 1932a, Murie 1936, Fay and Cade 1959, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Sealy et al. 1971, Kessel and Gibson 1978, Portenko 1981/1989, and Kessel 1989. Also extremely important is the journal *North American Birds* (and its predecessors *National Audubon Society Field Notes*, *American Birds*, and *Audubon Field Notes*), as well as the extensive bird-records logs (notebooks) compiled by D. D. Gibson through the early 1990s and housed at the University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAM) in Fairbanks. More recent, important sources of information for areas farther afield but still of substantial relevance to St. Lawrence Island include Winker et al. (2002)—St. Matthew...
Island), Gibson and Byrd (2007—Aleutian Islands), Schwitters (2015—Shemya Island), and Schuette (unpubl. data—Pribilof Islands).

Several local Gambell residents stand out in their supplying a number of important bird specimens and providing valuable information to researchers visiting between the late 1920s and 1970s; they include Jimmie Otiyohok, Paul Silook, and Vernon K. Slwooko Sr. Since the 1990s, local residents Sue Bryer, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Hansen Irrigoo, Chris Koonooka, the late Gerard Koonooka, and Rodney Ungwiluk Jr. have contributed many important records and photos.

During the late spring (late May through early June), birders have visited Gambell since the mid-1970s. Drawn by the western Alaska species, seabirds, trans-Beringian migrant landbirds, and regular strays from Asia (and North America), many observers have visited the village area at this season for approximately up to a week, rarely more, as participants on scheduled birding tours or as “independent” birders. In contrast, tour groups have not surveyed Savoonga, where avian migrants are not nearly as concentrated, and vagrant species are less likely to be found. Extensive data now exist on the spring migration at Gambell, although the periods from April to mid-May and from mid- to late June (i.e., outside the normal tour dates) have been only minimally covered. Observers—primarily tour leaders—who have repeatedly visited Gambell in late spring and have contributed much to our knowledge of the area’s avifauna at that season include: Brad Benter, Gavin Bieber, Phil Davis, Bob Dittrick, Jon L. Dunn, Bruce Hallett, James Huntington, Aaron J. Lang, myself, David Mackay, Kim Risen, Gary H. Rosenberg, David Wolf, and Kevin J. Zimmer. Additional important spring contributions were made by Lucas H. DeCicco, Nicholas R. Hajdukovich, Steve N. G. Howell, Rich Hoyer, Marshall J. Iliff, Dave Krueper, Stephan Lorenz, and Dave Porter.

Summer data from Gambell are sparse. Some of the limited information from there and the Savoonga area at this season comes from several years of primarily alcid fieldwork carried out between late spring and early autumn by Spencer G. Sealy (1966, 1967) and Lisa Sheffield Guy (2002–2004, 2006).

Autumn coverage following the limited fieldwork summarized by Sealy et al. (1971) was renewed in 1975 with a brief visit by Philip D. Martin for a week in early September. It was almost 15 years later that more regular early-autumn exploration at Gambell commenced when in early September 1989 M. E. “Pete” Isleib and David W. Sonneborn paid a brief visit. After this, trips of up to a week’s duration were typical in the early fall, beginning with a tour I led for Wings, Inc. in late August 1992. Bird photographer Don Cunningham visited Gambell between early August and early October in seven years between 1993 and 2003 and documented some notable records. My annual week-to-ten-day-long tours in late August and early September resumed in 1997 and continued through 2012 when I retired from tour leading. Other tour groups began visiting Gambell as well during the early autumn beginning in the 2000s, and they have continued to the present. In 1999, I stayed a total of 45 days, until early October. I returned in subsequent years for extended stays of over a month’s duration, between late August and the end of September or early/mid-October, annually from 2001 through 2017. Earlier, mid-August arrivals took place during four of those years. By the end of 2017, I had spent a total of 811 days at Gambell in fall. Repeated autumn visits also have been made by tour leaders Gavin Bieber, Phil Davis, Bob Dittrick, James Huntington, Aaron J. Lang, and David Mackay. Additional particularly important autumn contributions have been made by Chris Feeney, Gary H. Rosenberg, David W. Sonneborn, and Paul W. Sykes. Research on Yellow-billed Loons during three seasons, 2010–2012, brought a number of observers to Gambell and Savoonga through to mid-October and provided the first detailed censusing of the latter area after August. These were
Andrew Bankert (Savoonga), Lucas H. DeCicco (Gambell), Garrett MacDonald (Savoonga), David Pavlik (Gambell), and Peter Scully (Gambell). Many late-season records of note have been documented between mid-October and December, between 2011–2017 by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and during 2016–2017 by Sue Bryer. These same two photographers also have documented a number of important winter-season records.

Observer coverage at Gambell has involved seawatching from the point for at least several hours daily in spring and for about two hours after dawn and sometimes one or more hours later in the day during fall; multiple visits through the day to each of the boneyards and Old Town (boatyard); searches of the lower slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain; and almost-daily trips along the base of the mountain or runway beyond Troutman Lake to the pools, wetlands, revetments, and shoreline as far south as Ooynik Point.

Almost all birders visiting in spring, summer, and fall since the 1970s have restricted their activities largely to within a few miles of Gambell, with little exploration of other areas on St. Lawrence Island. The island is privately owned by Sivuqaq, Inc., and Savoonga Native Corporation—entities born out of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Visitors to Gambell must purchase a land-crossing permit upon arrival, which gives them access to areas within several miles of the village. Additional permits, special permission, and the hiring of guides are needed for forays farther away from town. For additional logistical and bird-finding information, see West (2008).

MIGRATION, VAGRANTS, AND WEATHER

Weather plays a major role in determining the composition and timing of migrants and vagrants at Gambell and at countless other birding sites in North America and around the World. Vagrancy theory lists several mechanisms which play major roles; weather is just one of them (Howell et al. 2014, Lehman and Brinkley 2015). The other factors are misorientation (reverse and mirror-image migration), overshooting, and irregular (irruptive) dispersal resulting from temporary food shortage or other habitat change. Weather comes mostly under the banner of “drift” migration. Some birds may simply fly downwind, whichever way the wind is blowing, even if the weather is not particularly severe. But the addition of inclement weather such as fog, precipitation, and unstable air, will likely cause them even more difficulty, particularly if they are in the midst of a long over-water crossing. Stronger and faster low-pressure systems may facilitate greater numbers of birds reaching islands that are farther offshore. But given the paucity of particularly strong weather systems crossing the northern Bering Sea during much of the peak spring and autumn birding seasons, many vagrants arriving at Gambell in fall probably do so as a result of misorientation, whereas many spring vagrants are probably overshoots.

Weather does add another ingredient by possibly affecting the exact timing of arrival by whatever vagrancy mechanism is primarily at work, and sometimes inclement weather results in large groupings of regular migrants. In contrast, islands farther to the south and farther offshore from the mainland, such as the Pribilofs and Aleutians, are often in the main storm track during parts of the fall and spring birding seasons, and thus drift migration (weather-induced vagrancy) plays a larger role at such sites.

The number and variety of migrant shorebirds and landbirds found at Gambell, as well as the numbers of seabirds visible off the point, are, however, at least somewhat dependent on
weather. Local weather data covering wind speed and direction, temperature, and cloud cover have been collected by me and others on a daily basis during autumn visits between 1999 and 2017. Low overcast and rain or snow tend to ground shorebirds and trans-Beringian migrants. Rain falling in the late-night and early-morning hours appears to be associated with good counts of landbirds and the appearance of vagrants. North-to-northeast winds during both spring and fall often produce the largest numbers of seabirds close to shore. But those same winds tend to suppress the occurrence of most Asian strays, unless such winds are associated with a storm and accompanied by precipitation.

In spring, the presence or absence of sea-ice likely plays an important role in the number and composition of seabirds visible from the point at Gambell. Extensive ice with limited open water may concentrate many birds, resulting in larger numbers of some select species. The lack of ice typically results in few or no Ivory Gulls present, fewer Black Guillemots, and lower counts of eiders and Long-tailed Ducks.

The favored wind directions during late spring for producing Asian landbirds and shorebirds are from the southwest and south (west winds in spring are extremely rare), whereas the favored winds in autumn are from between the west and southwest. Storms with precipitation and strong easterly winds have resulted in fallouts of trans-Beringian passerine migrants in both spring and fall, including record spring counts of eastward-bound Northern Wheatears and presumably westward-bound Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Precipitation events also have produced several of the better shorebird fallouts in spring and, especially, in early fall. Most autumns, bouts of prolonged north-to-northeast winds may last for five to eight, occasionally more, days and occur once or twice during September and early October annually. During this time, relatively few vagrant landbirds are found. But often when these winds finally lessen and/or reverse, interesting passerines often have been found during the following one to three days.

Winds from between the southeast and east are likely favorable for many strays from the North American mainland, which are much more numerous in fall than in spring. For example, several multi-day periods characterized by such winds during autumn 2004 were associated with multiple, substantial fallouts of these vagrants, including an early-season event already in mid-August that produced large numbers of swallows, warblers, and Savannah Sparrows. Several periods of southeast-to-east winds during September 2005 produced a large volume of several mainland warblers and sparrows, as well as such far-flung vagrants as Warbling Vireo, Townsend’s and Palm Warblers, American Redstart, and Black-headed Grosbeak. A prolonged period of flow from between the south and east during late August and the first half of September 2010 produced a fair number and variety of mainland strays. Similar southeast-to-east winds during September 2014 produced Alder and Least Flycatchers, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Northern Mockingbird, Rusty Blackbird, and Mourning, Townsend’s, and _lutescens_ Orange-crowned Warblers. Again, similar winds on 04 October 2016 produced Hermit Thrush; American Robin; Lincoln’s and several additional, regularly occurring sparrows; and Tennessee, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray’s, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Probably the most impressive single day was 07 October 2015, which culminated a four-day period of southeast and east winds and rain with the recording of Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet (Savoonga), American Robin, Lincoln’s Sparrow, two Northern Waterthrushes, and Palm Warbler, as well as an impressive total of more regularly occurring mainland strays (several of which set new late dates): Ruby-crowned Kinglet; “Red” Fox, “Sooty” Fox, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows; and Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson’s Warblers—as well as two Rustic Buntings and a Brambling—with the other days during this period also producing two Pine
Siskins and single MacGillivray’s, Yellow, and Townsend’s Warblers, as well as two additional Bramblings and a Little Bunting.

Some rarities turn up in just about any weather. A fair number of Old World species have been discovered on days with or immediately following easterly or southeasterly winds. Several Asian passerines were found in fall under such conditions concurrent with major fallbacks of North American passerines (e.g., on 07 September 2004, 04 September 2014, and 07 October 2015). A few Asian strays have even been discovered during or following storms with stronger northeasterly winds and rain or sleet (e.g., Jack Snipe). And some North American vagrants have turned up on days with westerly or northerly winds. Sometimes “ideal” overcast conditions with light and variable winds, including southwesterlies, have produced few migrants or vagrants.

There are, of course, factors other than the local weather at work that may shape a given week’s, month’s, or season’s migration. These include:

- the timing and success of the nesting season, which can vary greatly from year to year in the Arctic;
- whether local wind conditions cover a large or relatively small area (e.g., does a northerly wind at Gambell cover a substantial part of the Bering Sea region, or is it more restricted to a relatively narrow band caused by the funneling effect of the Bering Strait immediately to the north);
- storm activity in eastern Russia and elsewhere in the Bering Sea region (e.g., are birds entrained or displaced by the storms, and what are the origination, track, size, and strength of such weather systems); and
- such intangibles as chance and observer luck.

My visit to Gambell during the autumn of 1999 saw 29 of 45 days characterized by unfavorable north-to-northeast winds, and only four Asian landbirds were found: Oriental Cuckoo, Yellow-browed Warbler (the first recorded in North America), Siberian Accentor, and Little Bunting. North-to-northeast winds were also dominant in 2008, 2011, and 2012 after late August or early September, and the volume and variety of landbird migrants found during long stretches in September were relatively poor. Even stronger north winds during the same period in 2009 resulted in an even poorer landbird month (following a good first week), in fact, the poorest one—along with 2012—during the 17 years beginning in 1999. Much of 2016 was another poor year with early-season north or northeast winds, as well as non-producing light and southerly flows; but the later season (i.e., all of October) was dominated by stronger south to east winds and a number of storms with regular rain, and the birding was much more interesting. More favorable westerly to southwesterly winds dominated on almost half the days in the fall of 2002, and that year produced an exceptional number and variety of stray Asian landbirds, including three first records for North America—Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, and Spotted Flycatcher—as well as Oriental Cuckoo, Eurasian Skylark, four Dusky Warblers, Yellow-browed Warbler, three Siberian Accentors, Tree Pipit, two Little Buntings, and Reed Bunting. These same winds probably also played a role, however, in a below-average season for seabirds and shorebirds. The autumn of 2007 was also exceptional for Asian landbirds, including two firsts for North America—Sedge Warbler and Yellow-browed Bunting—as well as Brown Shrike, four Willow and three Dusky Warblers, three Siberian Accentors, three Pechora Pipits, nine Bramblings, Common Rosefinch, ten Little Buntings, and Pallas’s Bunting, yet westerly and southwesterly winds were not nearly as dominant as in 2002. Fall 2014 was characterized by relatively little in the way of westerly winds, yet the list of Asian strays included Eurasian
Hobby, two Brown Shrikes, two Willow Warblers, two Yellow-browed Warblers, Red-flanked Bluetail, two Siberian Accentors, two Tree Pipits, two Olive-backed Pipits, Pechora Pipit, fifteen Bramblings, Common Rosefinch, two Little Buntings, and Rustic Bunting. Westerlies were also relatively scarce in 2015, but that season produced Brown Shrike, Eurasian Skylark, Common Chiffchaff, Wood Warbler, Blyth’s Reed Warbler, Lanceolated Warbler, Dusky Thrush, eight Siberian Accentors, two Olive-backed Pipits, Pechora Pipit, five Bramblings, Common Rosefinch, three Little Buntings, and two Rustic Buntings. And in 2017, the second half of August and the beginning of September were dominated by unusually persistent early-season northerlies, and generally slow birding (mediocre shorebirding and almost no North American mainland strays); but variable conditions after that until mid-October were coupled with probably the best autumn showing ever for Asian strays: first North American records of Red-backed Shrike, Thick-billed Warbler, and Eurasian River Warbler, as well as Common House-Martin, Common Chiffchaff, two Wood Warblers, five Dusky Warblers, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Siberian Rubythroat, Red-flanked Bluetail, Taiga Flycatcher, five Siberian Accentors, Gray Wagtail, Olive-backed Pipit, Pechora Pipit, three Bramblings, five Little Buntings, and Rustic Bunting. Thus, the best five autumns at Gambell for rare migrants—2002, 2007, 2014, 2015, and 2017—were not all characterized by the same weather conditions, although they did all share in not having excessive strong northerlies for more than about a week.

**FALL MIGRATION AT GAMBELL AND SAVOONGA**

For many years, the fall migration at Gambell and in most of western Alaska received less attention than did the spring migration. Fall migration is more protracted than the shorter, more concentrated “pulse” in spring. In spring, the “window” of passage is narrow; birds must not arrive on the arctic breeding grounds so early that conditions are still too cold and frozen, or so late that the best breeding sites are all taken, or their broods would fledge too late. In spring, the peak seasons for waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines overlap substantially, but in fall the peak of southbound shorebirds (July through early September) is largely over before most vagrant passerines occur (late August through mid-October). Another factor is the increased difficulty in finding migrants and vagrants at low density in the relatively lush vegetation of early fall. In spring, there is only sparse cover provided by dead plants, and remaining snow further concentrates migrants in those open patches already thawed. In the Bering Sea region, birders and ornithologists on occasion visited and conducted studies into the fall period. Yet, Gambell’s recent, regular, and extensive autumn coverage did not begin until the 1990s. Such coverage did not begin at the Pribilofs until the 2000s.

This recent autumn birding at Gambell has not commenced in earnest earlier than 14 August, except when it began on 11 August 2006. Thus, the early fall migration period is still poorly known. Shorebirds (particularly failed breeders) may begin flocking and departing south already during late June. July and August is the peak period for southbound shorebirds, and most adults have departed by early August. Some species poorly represented in the existing data are probably regular migrants during this period. Several shorebirds that have occurred multiple times in spring, some almost annually, are unrecorded or represented by very few records in fall. These include Eurasian Dotterel, Great Knot, Ruff, Temminck’s and Long-toed Stints, Little Stint, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Lesser and Greater
Yellowlegs, Common Greenshank, and Wood Sandpiper. This difference is probably the result of the combination of the poor coverage of the island from July to mid-August and the overall lower numbers of several of these species in western Alaska in fall versus spring. Several other shorebirds, however, including Gray-tailed Tattler and, especially, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, occur more regularly in autumn than in spring. Several other waterbird species—such as some waterfowl, jaegers, Sabine’s Gull, and Arctic Tern—are already on the move in substantial numbers during July. Among landbirds, a substantial percentage of the early trans-Beringian passerines, including Arctic Warbler, Northern Wheatear, and, especially, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, is missed by observers arriving in late August.

There also has been only limited recent autumn coverage after the first several days in October. As a result, accurate departure dates for a substantial number of species, particularly waterbirds, are incompletely known, the late-autumn seabird migration remains poorly studied, and late-fall lingering and vagrant passerines remain largely undiscovered. However, in 2010, Lucas H. DeCicco remained at Gambell until 14 October; in 2011, Peter Scully remained until 12 October; in 2012, David Pavlik remained until 11 October, in 2014, Chris Feeney stayed through 07 October; and in 2015, 2016, and 2017 I remained until 08 October, 10 October, and 12 October, respectively. These extended stays produced a good—perhaps surprising—number of record late dates and high-quality vagrants from both Asia and North America (despite dominant north-to-northeast winds during 2010–2012). Coverage after mid-October has been especially limited, although a good number of late-season records of note have been documented between mid-October and December 2011–2017 by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and during 2016–2017 by Sue Bryer, especially those involving eiders, alcids, gulls, and loons.

Also in 2011 and 2012, Savoonga received its first detailed fall coverage later than August, when Andrew Bankert was present from 20 September–09 October 2011 and Garrett MacDonald was there from 19 September–10 October 2012. Landbird findings were limited (though they did include the 2011 discovery of the island’s first Golden-crowned Kinglets), but seawatching there was productive.

Autumn seawatching from the point at Gambell has lasted anywhere from one to four hours most days, with the average being about ninety minutes to two hours every morning beginning soon after dawn when the best variety of species tends to occur. Another hour or more is sometimes spent at some time later in the day (usually in the late afternoon or evening early in the fall, when peak numbers of auklets usually occur). As a result, most of the seabird data I report are based on very incomplete, uneven coverage. A full-time seawatch at this season would result in much higher, more accurate totals.

The second half of August and the beginning of September are characterized by the continued presence of large numbers of nesting alcids, a good number and variety of shorebirds, peak numbers of most trans-Beringian passerines, and a variety of eiders and migrant jaegers. The early-autumn flight of Emperor Geese is most likely to take place very late in August or during the first few days of September. A few strays from Asia and the North American mainland are typically found already during late August (with exceptional numbers of the latter tallied in 2004). By the end of the first week of September, the smaller alcids have mostly finished nesting and have departed or moved offshore, most of the smaller shorebirds are gone, many of the trans-Beringian passerines (other than pipits) have passed through, and staging Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings are departing northwest to Russia. Vagrant landbirds from both Asia and North America continue to occur. Shorebird diversity declines further in mid-September, but several seabirds, such as Spectacled Eider, Black Guillemot, and Yellow-
billed Loon are now more likely to be seen. The immense numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters just offshore may reach peak abundance. By late September, passerine diversity declines to just a handful of regular species—Common Raven, both redpolls, Lapland Longspur (a few), and Snow Bunting—but one or a few late-lingering species or vagrants join the list on most days.

Peak periods for Asian landbird strays in autumn vary from year to year. During one year, the “best” period may be during the last few days of August and the first third of September, whereas in another year it may not occur until mid-September, the second half of September, or even early October. The same is true for the timing of many North American strays. Between 1999 and 2017, the overall best autumns for Asian strays have been 2002, 2007, 2014, 2015, and 2017. For quality North American mainland vagrants, such honors are more difficult to bestow, but they would likely go to 2004, 2005, 2007, 2014, and 2015.

Most of the Asian vagrant passerines found at Gambell breed no farther to the northeast than Russia’s Anadyr River basin (also referred to as “Anadyrland”) or Koryak Highlands, located about 800 km (500 mi) west and 950+ km (600+ mi) southwest of St. Lawrence Island, respectively. Very few of these species breed as far north as the Chukchi Peninsula, where several species of Asian waterbirds that have occurred at Gambell do undoubtedly originate. Several vagrants have originated from populations even much farther away, such as the Lesser Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher in September 2002, which nest no closer than the Lena River and Lake Baikal regions, respectively, some 3500 km and 4200 km (ca. 2200 and 2600 mi) distant; the Blyth’s Reed Warblers in September 2010 and 2015, also from the Lake Baikal region; the Sedge Warbler and Yellow-browed Bunting in September 2007, which breed no closer than about the Yenisey River and Yakutsk, respectively, some 4200 km and 2900 km (ca. 2600 and 1800 mi) away; and the Wood Warblers in October 2015, September 2017, and October 2017, and the Red-backed Shrike and Eurasian River Warbler in October 2017, all of which nest no closer than central Russia, some 4800 km (3000 mi) distant.

Some North American strays at Gambell must have originated from at least as far away as southern or eastern Yukon (e.g., two Least Flycatchers; Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos; three Purple Finches; five Brown-headed Cowbirds; and three Mourning, Cape May, three Magnolia, and two Palm Warblers), from even as far away as at least British Columbia, Alberta, or Saskatchewan (e.g., Philadelphia Vireo, Clay-colored Sparrow, four Bullock’s Orioles, Ovenbird, Nashville Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting), and from farther still (e.g., Northern Mockingbird).

Fall birding in coastal Alaska is a pioneering effort, with still much to be learned. An extended autumn trip provides the potential for the thrill of discovery. The composition of rarities in fall is different from that of spring. For example, such landbirds as Willow Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Middendorff’s Grasshopper-Warbler, Siberian Accentor, Pechora Pipit, and Little Bunting are much more likely to occur in Alaska during the fall than in spring. A far greater number of mainland North American breeding species wanders west or northwest out to the offshore islands in autumn than in spring. Also, a good understanding of the sizable fall seabird movements through the Bering Sea is still in its fledgling stage. Autumn visits to western Alaska also provide the opportunity to study and photograph a number of species in juvenal and fresh fall plumages not normally seen by many North American observers.
SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The accounts that follow treat the status and abundance of 287 species recorded at Gambell and elsewhere on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, through January 2018. Only 4 of these species have been found solely away from Gambell (Golden Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Bohemian Waxwing, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch). Typically, the first sentence in each account briefly summarizes the species’ status, primarily in the Gambell area but also for the entire island. The overall status of seabirds in the northern Bering Sea region is also discussed. Status information for the adjacent Alaska mainland and other Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, as well as closest regular breeding range, is often given near the end of the account to help provide a regional context. But given the very rare, sporadic observer coverage of St. Matthew Island (see Winker et al. 2002), the true status of many migrant and vagrant species at that site is poorly known and thus only occasionally mentioned here.

Also included—at the end of the species accounts—are a number of additional species for which there are no definite records. Some of these have been reported in the literature but lack adequate documentation.

One problem that exists with some of the published spring migration data from Gambell since the mid-1970s is that this period of peak birder coverage (mid- or late May through early June) straddles two reporting periods in the journal North American Birds (NAB) and its predecessors. Sometimes records spanning both periods are incompletely reported by observers or published with less-than-complete dates from only one of the two periods. An even bigger problem is that many visiting birders in spring simply do not send in their observations to the Alaska regional editor(s), resulting in the lack of proper documentation, missing records, and the publication of incomplete date-spans. Some of these missing data have been filled in here through the combing of validated eBird data, by examining the UAM data files and notebooks (see below), and through direct communication with some of the observers. Thus, the number of rarity records and some date-spans listed here will exceed those published in NAB.

Seasonal designations roughly follow the following periods:

- **Spring:** April through mid-June.
- **Summer:** mid-June through July.
- **Fall:** August to mid-December.
- **Winter:** mid-December through March.

There is, however, substantial overlap at the edges of each season. For example, a few spring migrants may arrive already during March. Breeding activity is in full swing during mid-June, when a fair number of late-spring migrants are still passing through. “Fall” migration actually commences in late June with the flocking and departure of some adult shorebirds and other waterbirds (probably mostly failed breeders). During July, many waterbirds (e.g., shorebirds and some waterfowl, jaegers, Arctic Tern) and even a few landbirds (e.g., Eastern Yellow Wagtail) are already on the move in numbers.

The following terms designating abundance have been kept flexible so that they more accurately portray relative abundance by species or season:

- **Abundant:** Always encountered in very large numbers (at least several hundred per day).
- **Common:** Always or almost always encountered daily, usually in moderate to large numbers.
• **Fairly common:** Usually encountered daily, generally not in large numbers.
• **Uncommon:** Occurs in small numbers and may be missed on a substantial number of days.
• **Rare:** Occurs or probably occurs annually in very small numbers.
• **Very rare:** Averages about one record annually, but not necessarily recorded every year.
• **Casual:** One to a few records, but thought a likely candidate to occur again within a few years.
• **Accidental:** One record, and future records thought to be unlikely for many years.

Abbreviations for the journal *North American Birds* and its earlier incarnations, in which many of the individual records are published, are as follows: *AB, American Birds* (through volume 47, 1993); *FN, [National Audubon Society] Field Notes* (volumes 48–52, 1994–1998); and *NAB, North American Birds* (volumes 53+, 1999 to 2016+).

Other abbreviations used:

*: specimen
**: multiple specimens
km: kilometers
mi: miles
ph.: photograph(s) or videotape(s)
SLI: St. Lawrence Island
the point: the tip of Northwest Cape, Gambell
UAM files: extensive data files and notebooks listing Alaska avian records compiled by D. D. Gibson through the early or mid-1990s and housed at the Department of Ornithology, University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks
vic.: approximate location
*WB: Western Birds*

Museums:
AHRC: Arctic Health Research Center, Anchorage, AK (former collection site only)
ANSP: Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA
CAS: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA
CMNAV: Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, ON
CRCM: Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
CUMV: Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates, Ithaca, NY
DMNS: Denver Museum of Nature and Science (formerly Denver Museum of Natural History), Denver, CO
MVZ: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California—Berkeley, CA
PSM: Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
SBCM: San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA
SDNHM: San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, CA
UAM: University of Alaska Museum (of the North), Fairbanks, AK
UBC: University of British Columbia Beaty Biodiversity Museum (UBCBBM), Cowan Tetrapod Collection, Vancouver, BC
USNM: U. S. National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C.
UWBM: University of Washington Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, WA
In an attempt to reduce visual clutter and thus make the species accounts more readable, most observer names, NAB citations, and specific specimen numbers are not included in the accounts for records since the 1970s, although citations are given for published photos. Much of this missing information is available via separate databases maintained by the author and on file at UAM. Also, proper finder attributions for a substantial number of the spring records prior to about 2007 are now very difficult or impossible to determine.

Photographs, videotape, and written details for many of the rarer species are on deposit at UAM.

All records involving first Alaska occurrences have been accepted by the Alaska Checklist Committee, or are otherwise noted.

**Family Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans**

**EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus***

- *Uncommon spring and fall migrant at Gambell, but locally common elsewhere on the island, where also a rare breeder.*

  **Spring:** This is a regular spring migrant coastally island-wide between early or mid-May and mid-June, often in small-to-medium-sized flocks. The earliest arrival at Gambell is 09 May 2003 (4), although Ehlrich et al. (1993) list “04 May” [no year] as the earliest [unspecified locality] SLI arrival. (A specimen at CAS labeled as coming from SLI 09 Apr 1915 is likely in error, either as to location or date.) The high mid-season count is 64 birds 25 May 2005. Flocks are seen passing Gambell regularly as late as mid-June, with 64 seen 14 Jun 2010 a high count for late in the season as well; the latest record there involving probable migrants is 20 Jun 2005 (2). Two were near Savoonga 18 Jun 2004.

  **Fall:** Friedmann (1932a), Murie (1936), Fay and Cade (1959), Sauer and Urban (1964), and Geolette and Iknokinok (1997) all noted that many birds—formerly up to 10,000 to 20,000 (Fay 1961)—molted and staged along the south and southeast sides of SLI (see below). Fay and Cade (1959) reported that flocking of these locally summering, molting birds in preparation for migration commences in mid-August and that about half these birds depart by the first week of September. In addition, large numbers from northeast Russia migrate past SLI, with the primary wave typically moving immediately after the passage of a cold front and/or a wind shift to the north during late August or the beginning of September. Under such conditions, 400 or more may pass Gambell in one or two days. High counts are 650 on 26 Aug 2003 and 980 on 01 Sep 2008. (In contrast, none were seen at all at Gambell in 2011.) Many flocks of hundreds of birds stay clear of the village area and arrive farther east and south on the island (e.g., 300+ on 31 Aug 2002 near Savoonga), where they linger for extended periods at scattered coastal lagoons and along rocky shores. Over 180 and 160 birds were near Savoonga already between 13–20 Aug 2003 and 09–26 Aug 2004, respectively; and 10+ at Gambell 21 Aug 2016 were slightly early there. After early September, only a few small flocks and single individuals are seen at Gambell, and the species is typically noted there on only a handful of days during a season. Almost every individual seen flying past Gambell that could be aged was an adult; but on 27 Sep 2010 a family group of 2 adults and 3 juveniles was observed, and a single juvenile was present 03–08 Oct 2017. A large late-season flight of 550 birds passed Gambell 08 Oct 2015 immediately following
a major wind shift to the north. The latest record there is 24 Oct 2017, but Fay (1961) reported that some birds persisted along the island’s south and southeast shores until mid-November and, according to local residents, a few individuals have remained there even until December.

**Breeding and Summer:** Friedmann (1932a) and Fay and Cade (1959) stated that Emperor Geese breed on the island, mostly in moist tundra in the central and eastern parts of the island. Such local breeders may arrive along the coast during May but do not move inland until early or mid-June, depending on ice conditions (Piatt and Wells unpub.). An aerial survey of SLI conducted 09 Jun 1987 by Hogan and Rearden (1987) found only 26 Emperors inland, but this was probably too early in the season to detect most nesting birds. By contrast, an aerial survey on 13 Jul 1984 (King and Derksen 1986) tallied 3837 adults but only 11 juveniles—but a very large percent of those adults were probably molt migrants rather than local breeders. In summer 1987, Piatt and Wells (unpub.) noted 1 nest and just 5 broods. In 1993, Ehrlich et al. termed the Emperor Goose “formerly common but now [an] uncommon breeder.” C. Koonooka and M. Apatiki (pers. comm.) noted that at least a few pairs continued to nest along the island’s south side between 2009 and 2017. Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) noted that despite several reports of common nesting on SLI, there were very few records of confirmed breeding and that most summer records instead involved large mid-summer molt concentrations; for example, they reported “over 100” birds on [unspecified locality] SLI on 25 Jun 1913, but no nests. Portenko (1981) noted that early statements on island nesting vs. molting status were “vague and contradictory.” Many birds probably perform a mid-summer molt-migration to SLI from breeding grounds at the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta (Jones 1972). Friedmann (1932a), Murie (1936), Fay and Cade (1959), Sauer and Urban (1964), and Georgette and Iknokinok (1997) all noted that many birds—formerly up to 10,000 to 20,000 (Fay 1961)—molted and staged along the south and southeast sides of SLI. Fay and Cade (1959) stated that most molt takes place between 20 June and 15 August. In summer, a few birds are along SLI’s north coast—e.g., 7 were near Savoonga 28 Jun 1921 and 5 birds were at Gambell 29 Jun 1921 (Bailey 1925), and Sealy et al. (1971) noted 50 molting Emperors being hunted at Niyarakpak Lagoon east of Gambell on 26 Jul 1966 and that the larger lagoons between Gambell and Savoonga also have been used by numbers of molting Emperors. But much larger numbers of birds used the island’s south shore lagoons. Such south-shore molt concentrations of up to “thousands” annually were noted in July (Murie 1936), and flocks were present in Jun–Aug 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964). On the island’s eastern shore, 9 birds were seen at vic. Maknek River mouth 10 Jul 2017. Local residents have reported, however, that the increased use of all-terrain vehicles has resulted in much more human visitation to the southern and eastern sections of the island, increasing disturbance and reducing the numbers of nesting and molting geese present and forcing those that remain to the least disturbed sites to the east.

**SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens*

- Rare spring and very uncommon fall migrant at Gambell; formerly locally numerous, but declining, in fall farther east on SLI.

**Spring:** Fay and Cade (1959) noted that a few small flocks are noted annually on SLI during the last two weeks of May. Very small numbers are seen passing Gambell most springs during late May and the beginning of June. The earliest arrival there and at nearby Akeftapak Lagoon involved a flock of 30 birds on 14 May 2004 and several flocks on 22 May 1973 (Johnson 1976); elsewhere on SLI 2 birds were near Southeast Cape 15–18 May 1983 (UAM files). The high spring count for the island is 150–200 birds at Akeftapak on the early date,
whereas at Gambell they are of 50 birds on 01 Jun 2001 and 60 on 31 May 2002. The late date at Gambell is 11 Jun 2016 (2).

**Fall:** Fay and Cade (1959) reported that Snow Geese were seen on SLI in large numbers during the last half of August and throughout September. Twenty-four had arrived west of Savoonga 23 Aug 2004. Counts of birds flying over Savoonga have reached 700/day; Murie (1936) thought the species a common migrant there and cites reports of “many flocks” during fall over Kukulik, just to the east. At Gambell, however, this species passes by sporadically (perhaps more often at night, when flocks are sometimes heard overhead), probably the result of local hunting pressure. Small- to medium-sized flocks have been seen there between 26 Aug 2001 and 29 Sep 2003 and 2011. Most season totals are of up to 200 birds, but 600 were counted in 2003, of which 585 passed 26–29 Sep. The species was most numerous on the eastern half of SLI during late September through early October, and many local residents traveled to the southern and eastern parts of the island to hunt them. Until recently, thousands of birds were reportedly present. But local residents report a substantial decline in the numbers of birds feeding there during autumn beginning about 2010 to the present. Late dates for SLI are not known.

**Comments:** Russian-breeding Snow Geese nest primarily on Wrangel Island and along the adjacent mainland coast and depart that area beginning in late August and early September, earlier if the weather turns cold or no young are raised (Portenko 1981, Baranyuk and Takekawa 1998).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** Anser albiifrons

- *Uncommon to rare spring and casual fall migrant.*

  **Spring:** Individuals and small flocks are seen several times each spring. Early and late dates at Gambell are 03 May 2003 (next earliest 14 May 2017 (2)) and 14–16 Jun 1975 and 16 Jun 2017, respectively. Elsewhere on SLI, 4 late or possibly over-summering birds were at Koozata Lagoon 26 Jun 1953 (Fay and Cade 1959). The highest counts are of 12 birds on 05 Jun 1992 and 13 birds on 02 Jun 2017.

  **Fall:** The only definite fall records for Gambell are of an injured bird from summer that remained through 23 Aug 2006, a flock of 10 on 13 Sep 2007, and singles on 04 and 06 Sep 2009 and on 25 Aug 2016. Another bird was seen an unknown number of miles south of the village on 08 Sep 1975 and up to 30 were at Kitnik, near Savoonga, 24–25 Aug 2004. Local hunters report that small numbers occur irregularly in autumn in the flocks of migrant Snow Geese that congregate on the eastern half of the island.

  **Comments:** This species breeds in western Alaska, though only rarely on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), as well as on the Chukchi Peninsula and in the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009).

**TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE** Anser serrirostris

- *Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.*

  **Spring:** The first SLI record was of 1 collected (*DMNS*) at Gambell 08 May 1952 (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971). It was variously published incorrectly as taken 07 April at Gambell (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) or on 08 May at Savoonga (Bailey 1956). Spring records since then have occurred between 05 May and 27 June. Individuals specifically identified as Tundra Bean-Goose are all from Gambell—on 05–06 Jun 1982, 01–03 Jun 1998 (up to 2), 05 May 2007, 26 May 2007, 01 Jun 2011, 31 May 2015 (published incorrectly as a Taiga Bean-Goose [A. fabalis] in NAB 69:467), 18–26 May 2017, and a late bird 14 Jun 2017. Also, reports
of bean-geese sp. from there include 19 May 1958 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 16 or 19 May 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971, Kessel and Gibson 1978), 09 Jun 1978 (UAM files), and a very late bird 27 Jun 2002. [One reported there 27 May 1978 (UAM files) should be deleted (J. L. Dunn in litt.).] Fall: One flew by Gambell 07 Sep 2002, the first fall record for Alaska. Another bean-geese, species uncertain, passed on 16 Sep 2014. Comments: Some past reports of Gambell bean-geese, especially involving small flocks, likely were misidentified Greater White-fronted Geese. Both *A. serrirostris* and *A. fabalis* have been collected in Alaska (Gibson and Kessel 1997). The recent split (in 2007) of these two species has resulted in some level of uncertainty as to their relative status in the state. Tundra Bean-Geese breed northeast to the Gulf of Anadyr and the base of the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981) and also have been recorded on the Aleutian, Pribilof, and St. Matthew Islands (Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl data) and elsewhere in North America. Taiga Bean-Geese have been documented on a few occasions on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands (Gibson and Withrow 2015, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and elsewhere in North America; they breed north to Kamchatka (Brazil 2009).

**BRANT** *Branta bernicla*

- Uncommon to fairly common spring and uncommon fall migrant at Gambell, but locally fairly common to common elsewhere on SLI, where also a rare breeder.

  Spring: This species is uncommon to fairly common passing Gambell in spring. Locally elsewhere along the SLI coast, it is probably a fairly common to perhaps common migrant. Early arrivals of 01 May 1954 (small flock) at Southeast Cape (Fay and Cade 1959) and during the first week of May 1973 at Gambell (Johnson 1976) are exceptional but are similar to the earliest arrivals at the nearby Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989); the next earliest arrival at Gambell is 16 May 2004. By far the largest flight brought a total of 1775 birds past Gambell 06–08 Jun 2010. Flocks may continue to pass well into mid-June, with the latest such groups at Gambell being total of 20 on 16–17 Jun 1993; later records there include 26 Jun 1932 (*MVZ*) and 25–28 Jun 1993 (total 3), as well as 6 at Southeast Cape 22 Jun 1986 (UAM files).

  Fall: Single individuals and small- to medium-sized flocks pass by the point sporadically between late August (earliest record: 17 Aug 2014 (7)) and the end of September (latest Gambell record: 2 on 08 Oct 2016). Forty near Savoonga 27 Aug 2002 was a good count for that month. Only 2 birds were seen at Gambell in autumn 1999, 5 in 2017, and 14 during 2004; but 120–130 were seen in both 2001 and 2002, and 186 were counted in 2003. Late birds elsewhere included 9 at Savoonga 06 Oct 2012 and 1 at Maknek River, eastern SLI, 07 Oct 2006. Portenko (1981) cited 01 Oct 1933 as the latest date for the Chukchi Peninsula.

  Summer and Breeding: Fay and Cade (1959) stated that a few pairs nest on SLI (e.g., at Koozata Lagoon); Sealy et al. (1971) noted the Brant as “scarce” in summer, with rare concentrations of molting birds (e.g., 300 at Aghnaghak Lagoon east of Gambell during summer 1965, with 100 there 29 Jul). Ehrlich et al. (1993) termed it “an uncommon to rare breeder.” Geogette and Iknookinok (1997) stated that local residents reported 40 breeding pairs on a grassy island at a south-side lagoon [probably Koozata Lagoon] and that many birds molt at Sikennaq Lagoon on southeast SLI. C. Koonooka (pers. comm.) noted that at least a few continued to nest on islands in Koozata Lagoon between 2009 and 2017. Three birds were at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017. Some molting birds on SLI may be mainland nesters.

  Comments: All SLI records refer to the “Black” Brant (*B. b. nigricans*).
CACKLING GOOSE  *Branta hutchinsii*

- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.

  **Spring:** First recorded (as “Canada Goose”) on 10 May 1956 and 03 Jun 1957 (Fay and Cade 1959), there are now over 37 spring records (involving ca. 64 individuals) of Cackling Geese in the Gambell area through 2017, between 07 May 2003 and 10 Jun 2016. The high counts are 5 birds on 04 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 03 Jun 1992, and 02 Jun 2002.

  **Fall:** One was seen at Gambell 08 Sep 2013. A late bird was there 15 Oct 2017. Local hunters reported that very small numbers of Cackling Geese occurred among the large Snow Goose flocks that formerly congregated during fall farther east on the island.

  **Comments:** A few Cackling Geese were reported taken on the island sometime between Nov 1995 and Oct 1996 (Georgette and Iknokinok 1997). The subspecies breeding along the western coast of mainland Alaska are *B. h. minima* (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region; Gibson and Kessel 1997) and *B. h. taverneri* (from the Seward Peninsula northward), although the Lesser Canada Goose (*B. canadensis parvipes*) probably occurs there in small numbers as well and there are a very few records of presumed wild Canada Geese from East Asia (e.g., Brazil 2009, Arkhipov et al. 2013)—thus, that species has potential to reach SLI. It has been assumed that most birds at Gambell are probably *taverneri* based on distributional grounds, but some individuals have appeared small overall and with an especially stubby bill (e.g., the Oct 2017 bird), suggesting that they might have been *minima* or, less likely, *leucopareia* (“Aleutian” Cackling Geese). Friedmann (1934a) assigned bones from middens on SLI to *minima*, though *taverneri* was not described until 1951. The taxonomic split of Cackling Goose from Canada Goose did not occur until 2004, so almost all reports from SLI before then involved “Canada” Geese.

TUNDRA SWAN  *Cygnus columbianus*

- Uncommon spring and very rare fall visitor at Gambell; more numerous elsewhere on SLI, where an uncommon breeder. Two spring records of “Bewick’s” Swan.

  **Spring:** Widespread in small numbers on SLI, migrants pass Gambell as individuals and small flocks on a regular basis during spring. The earliest arrival is an unofficial hunter report on 2 May 1992 south of Gambell (Kelly 1992), with the next earliest on 10 May 2015 (2) at Gambell. The high count is 24 birds on 26 May 2004. The last of the migrants are seen at Gambell as late as mid-June (e.g., 17 Jun 2017, 18 Jun 2013). There are two records of “Bewick’s” Swan (*C. c. bewickii*) at Gambell: 03 Jun 2014 and 11 Jun 2015; as well as a sight report of a Whooper/Bewick’s Swan there on 06 Jun 1987 (UAM files).

  **Fall:** Surprisingly, there are only six fall records at Gambell proper, involving 2 birds from 01–08 Sep 2013, 1 from 29 Sep–01 Oct 2013, 2 on 01 and 20 Sep 2014, 2 from 25 Aug–04 Sep 2016, and singles seen 03 Sep and 09 Oct 2017. In addition, 3 were at Akeftapak Lagoon, about 26 km (16 mi) ESE of the village, on 29 Sep 2010, 4 were there 30 Sep 2011, a single individual was taken an unknown number of km south of the village in late Sep or early Oct 2003, as were 2 birds on 09 Sep 2006 and 1 on 30 Sep 2012. On northeastern SLI, a high count of ca. 75 birds were seen between Ivettek and Tamniq (Tomname) Lagoon 01 Sep 2006.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Tundra Swan regularly nested on SLI between 1899 and the 1950s (Friedmann 1932a, Portenko 1981). Fay and Cade (1959) listed a number of nesting records scattered about the island through 1957, Fay (1961) and Sauer and Urban (1964) noted several pairs on the western part of the island, Ehrlich et al. (1993) termed it an “uncommon to
fairly common breeder,” and local residents report that the species continues to breed in many less disturbed sections of the island. At Gambell, the only recent mid-summer record is 12 Jul 2013.

Comments: Almost all reports are assumed to involve the nominate North American subspecies, the “Whistling” Swan, which also breeds on the Chukchi Peninsula (AOU 1998). “Bewick’s” Swan (C. c. bewickii) has been seen in the latter region as well (Karhu 2004), although it nests only farther to the west, as close as north-central Chukotka, where mixed pairs and intergrades occur as well (Arkhipov et al. 2013).

**WHOOPER SWAN  *Cygnus cygnus***
- **Casual spring visitor.**
  
  *Spring:* The first island record of Whooper Swan involved 3 birds at Kongkok Bay, southwestern SLI, 12 Jun 1976 (Gibson and Kessel 1992). There are now 2 additional records, from Gambell: 03 Jun 2001 and 02–03 May 2013. Also a sight report of a Whooper/Bewick’s Swan there on 06 Jun 1987 (UAM files)—see also Tundra Swan.
  
  *Comments:* Whooper Swan nests northeast to the lower Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). It is an uncommon to rare visitor (mostly in winter) to the western and central Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and is casual elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and North America.

**BAIKAL TEAL  *Sibirionetta formosa***
- **Casual summer and fall visitor.**
  
  *Fall:* One was present at Gambell 31 Aug–02 Sep 2013, establishing the second record for SLI.
  
  *Summer:* The first island record involved a pair collected (**USNM) at Savoonga 23 Jul 1937 (Gabrielson 1941), although the pristine alternate condition of the male suggests the date may be incorrect.
  
  *Comments:* This species nests as close as the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). It is a casual visitor elsewhere in Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Byrd 2007, Gibson and Withrow 2015), with most recent records from the western Aleutians in autumn, as well as elsewhere in western North America.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER  *Spatula clypeata***
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  *Spring:* There have been 33 spring records (involving ca. 51 individuals) at Gambell, from 1985–2017, between 04 May (3) and 12 May (2) 2004 and 14 June 1988. In addition, 2 were at Savoonga 02 Jun 1996 and a late bird was at Southeast Cape 22 Jun 1986 (UAM files).
  
  
  *Comments:* The first SLI report of Northern Shoveler is an old, vague Gambell record listed by Fay and Cade (1959) from an unknown date during the “previous 30 years.” This species nests north to interior western Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is an uncommon visitor to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and is rare but regular at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data); in Asia, it breeds north to the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009) and has been recorded north to the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).
GADWALL *Mareca strepera*
- *Casual spring and fall visitor.*
  
  **Spring:** The only records are from Gambell 30–31 May 1998 (2) and 01 Jun 2003.  
  **Fall:** One was seen 20 Aug 2016.  
  
  **Comments:** Gadwall nests north only to southwestern Alaska, although it has recently increased as a visitor to central Alaska. It is a casual spring and summer visitor to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and is very rare in spring and casual in fall at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

EURASIAN WIGEON *Mareca penelope*
- *Rare but regular migrant; somewhat more numerous in fall.*
  
  **Spring:** The first record for SLI is of an undated (pre-1932) specimen from an unspecified locality mentioned by Friedmann (1932a). The next record was of 2 birds at Gambell 23 May 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971). Single individuals, pairs, and small groups occur annually at Gambell in spring, mostly between 22 May 1989 and 14 Jun 2005 (found dead) and through 17 Jun 2017 (pair), but with 1 exceptionally early arrival on 23 Apr 2008 and 3 birds on 29 Apr 2004. The largest single-day count is 7 birds on 04 Jun 1977 (UAM files). The only record elsewhere on SLI is from the Kongkok Basin 21 Jun 1987, which was also late.  
  **Fall:** Records are primarily of single individuals and small flocks passing the point, with a few birds seen at local ponds as well. Between 1999 and 2017, there have been 46 fall records involving 252 individuals at Gambell, between 21 Aug 2017 and 01 Oct 2014; the largest single flocks are of 20 on 01 Sep 2009, 14 on 06 Sep 2011, and 18 on 05 Sep 2012. Also, 12 late birds on 02 Oct 2011 may have involved some of the same 13 birds at Savoonga 30 Sep 2011; 2 more were seen at Gambell 07 Oct 2011.  
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Vaurie 1965, Brazil 2009) and is a rare to uncommon visitor to all the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana*
- *Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.*
  
  **Spring:** First recorded 29 May 1978 (2), there are now approximately 27 records (involving ca. 38 individuals) through 2017 of mostly singles and pairs at Gambell between 12 May 2004 and 08 Jun 2005. The high count is 4 birds on 06 Jun 1978. Most birds are seen flying by the point. The only other record from SLI is of 2 near Southeast Cape 14 May 1983 (UAM files).  
  **Fall:** Singles were at Gambell 08 Sep 2006 and 26 Aug 2012, 2 were there 07 Sep 2016, and singles were seen 10 Sep 2016, 08 Sep 2017, and 28 Sep 2017.  
  
  **Comments:** American Wigeon is common on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989) and is an uncommon to very rare visitor to the other Bering Sea islands and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*
- *Very rare spring and casual summer and fall visitor.*
  
03 May and 27 May (2) 2003, 30 May–06 Jun 2006 (up to 2), 26 May–02 Jun 2016 (up to 2), and 05 Jun 2017.

**Fall:** The only definite fall records are from Gambell 14 Sep 2000 (3) and 22 Aug 2006.

**Summer:** One bird at Aghnahak Lagoon, east of Gambell, 29 Jul 1965 (Sealy et al. 1971)—the first record for SLI—was probably an early fall migrant.

**Comments:** Likely erroneous reports of sizable numbers of birds, including several flocks of up to a dozen, appear in the subsistence harvest literature and in Johnson (1976). This species nests north to interior western Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a rare but regular and increasing (pers. obs.) visitor to the Seward Peninsula, as well as to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data); In Asia it nests north to at least the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009) and has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

**NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

- *Fairly common spring and fall migrant and uncommon breeder.*

  **Spring:** Northern Pintails occur in varying numbers from year to year, with high counts at Gambell of 35–40 birds on several dates and of 42 birds on 23 May 2008, plus up to 40 birds near Southeast Cape 14–18 May 1983 (UAM files). At Gambell, a count of 20 birds on 13 Jun 2016 and 26 on 13 Jun 2017 were high for so late in the season. The earliest arrivals are 14 Apr 2017 (5) and 23 Apr 2008, and the latest date for likely non-local breeders is 21–25 Jun 1993 (3).

  **Fall:** Most annual totals in the Gambell area vary between 90 and 150 birds, with most seen between mid-August and mid-September. The high counts at Gambell are of 77 individuals on 17 Aug 2014, 90 on 22 Sep 2014, and 91 on 21 Aug 2017; 69 were counted just west of Savoonga 20 Sep 2011. In contrast, only 30–35 birds were seen all season at Gambell in 2011. The latest record is 10 Oct 2016.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Pintails nest in small to moderate numbers on SLI, including at Gambell in at least 1953 (Fay and Cade 1959) and mid-Jun 2013 and 2017. Fay (1961) noted that pintails nest in highly variable numbers, sometimes up to 1000+ birds. More recently, numbers of birds were said to be breeding on the south side of the island (Georgette and Iknokinok 1997), and local residents report that this species is still a widespread breeder on SLI.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas crecca*

- *Uncommon spring and uncommon to rare fall migrant. Both “American” and “Eurasian” Green-winged Teal occur.*

  **Spring:** Both subspecies are uncommon spring migrants at Gambell, with “American” Green-wingeds outnumbering “Eurasian” or “Common” Teal. Definite American Green-wingeds have arrived at Gambell as early as 16 May 1936 (Friedmann 1938), Eurasians as early as 07 May 2003, and uncertain subspecies on 10 May 2017; whereas late departure dates are 15 Jun 2016 and 10 Jun 2017 for the two taxa, respectively—plus 15 Jun 2013 (3) for uncertain subspecies. The high counts are (American) 10 on both 26 May 2007 and 28 May 2011, with a total of 30 for the latter season; and (Eurasian) 10 on 03 Jun 1994.

  **Fall:** At least a few individuals are seen most years in the Gambell area, with records between 16 Aug 2014 and 24 Sep 2007, and with a maximum total of 15 birds in 2003 and 17 in 2010. The largest flock is of 12 birds on 22 Sep 2010. Two were at Savoonga 25–28 Aug 2004. Because all the birds are in eclipse, female, or immature plumage, their subspecific identity at this season is uncertain.
**Summer and Breeding:** There is only one definite nesting record for SLI, and that involves uncertain subspecies: a family group at Savoonga 28 Jun 1996. In addition, a pair was at ne. SLI 25 Jun 1964 (Thompson 1967), and a pair of Americans was at Savoonga 20 Jun 2002.

**Comments:** American (A. c. carolinensis) and Eurasian (A. c. crecca) Green-winged Teal, as well as intergrades, occur on SLI, on the other Bering Sea islands, and in northeast Russia.

**COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

- **Casual spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** The two records are of a male first seen alive 01 Jun and then found dead 06 Jun 1989 (*UAM) and of a female 17 May 2006, both at Gambell.

  **Comments:** In East Asia, this species nests no farther east than Transbaikalia and no farther north than Sakhalin (Brazil 2009). It is a very rare to casual visitor to the Aleutians, Pribilofs, and St. Matthew Island, mostly in spring (Gibson and Kessel 1978, Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there are also several mainland records south to California.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  

  **Fall:** One at Gambell 29 Oct 2014 is the only fall record.

  **Comments:** Tufted Duck breeds as close as the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009) and perhaps to the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008), and it is a regular visitor (mostly in spring) farther south in western Alaska; it is very rare (mostly in winter) elsewhere in North America.

**GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

- **Uncommon spring and casual fall migrant; casual summer visitor and breeder.**

  **Spring:** Singles and small flocks occur regularly during the spring at Gambell and presumably on much of SLI. Arrival and departure dates at the former site are 12 May 2004 and 16–19 Jun 2013 (up to 3), respectively; and the high counts there are 30 birds on 05 Jun 1993 and 43 tallied 02 Jun 1999.

  **Fall:** Single birds that probably over-summered locally were present at Gambell 16 Aug–03 Oct 2004 and 21 Aug–24 Sep 2009. Others were 1 on 26 Sep 2005, 2 there 24 Sep 2010, 1 on 28 Sep 2010, and 1 on 03 Sep 2017. One was at Savoonga 26 Sep 2011 and 2 were there 30 Sep 2011. A late specimen (*UAM) was taken at “Camp Collier” west of Savoonga 28 Oct 1935 (Murie 1936).

  **Summer and Breeding:** A pair was at Koozata Lagoon 17 Jun 1954, and 2 pairs and courtship displays were noted on a small lake near Koozata Lagoon 23 Jun 1954 (Fay and Cade 1959), and 2 pairs were on ponds at the northeast end of SLI 25 Jun and 18 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967). Four birds were seen at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017. A female with 6 young at Gambell 09 Aug–23 Sep 2012 established the first definite nesting record for SLI.
Comments: Greater Scaup is a common breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989), and in Asia, it nests north to the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009).

LESSER SCAUP  *Aythya affinis*  
- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**

  *Spring:* There are two spring records at Gambell: 14 Jun 1975 (UAM files) and 02 Jun 2009.

  *Fall:* Two birds were at Gambell 04 Sep 2005 (ph. NAB 60:120).

Comments: Lesser Scaup nests west to central Alaska; and it is a rare visitor on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), very rare to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and casual to the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

STELLER’S EIDER  *Polysticta stelleri*  
- **Uncommon and declining migrant and visitor. Former rare breeder.**

  *Spring:* Steller’s Eiders are uncommon to sometimes fairly common in spring, although numbers at that season have declined recently most years in comparison to those until the early 1990s (J. L. Dunn and K. J. Zimmer in litt.). High counts during that earlier period included up to 100+/day between 30 May–03 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 150 on 27 May 1978, 250–300 on 31 May–01 Jun 1984, and 280 on 02 Jun 1991. More recently, most of the higher daily counts have been of only up to 35/day, but 75 were counted 03 Jun 1996, 85 were noted 31 May 1998, 188 were tallied 03 Jun 2010, and 125 were seen 28 May 2014. Steller’s Eiders first arrive much later in spring than do the other eider species, with 17 May 2003 being the earliest definite date at Gambell; the listing of the “first week of April” in Ehrlich et al. (1993) is likely in error. Presumed late migrants there have occurred through mid-June, with the latest on 20 Jun 1967 and 1993. Most birds in spring are seen passing the point, but sometimes aggregations occur in protected waters near Ooynik Point, just south of the village. Spring data from elsewhere on SLI are lacking.

  *Fall:* Single birds and small flocks pass by the point irregularly throughout the fall. Numbers in late August typically surpass those of September and early October, at least formerly. The species may occur in small numbers for several days in a row, but then a week or more may pass until the next sighting. The highest one-day totals at Gambell are of 60 on 17 Aug 1994 and 54 birds, including a flock of 32, on 22 Aug 1999; later in the season, 16 were present 04 Oct 2013. Most seasonal totals range from 44 to 104 individuals, but numbers have declined since the early 2000s, with only 6 birds seen in 2004, 7 in 2006, a mere 1 in 2012, and 5 in 2015—but ca. 55 birds in 2016. At Savoonga, 13 birds were present 19 Aug 2004. Late dates are of 3 birds taken along the island’s south shore on 06 Nov 1964 (Kessel 1989) and a specimen taken on [unspecified locality] SLI 07 Nov 1935 (Murie 1936). Local residents report Steller’s as being present along the south side of the island in November (Georgette and Iknokinok 1997), but this needs confirmation. This species winters no farther north in Alaska than the Pribilof Islands (NGS 2017).

  *Summer and Breeding:* This species was found breeding on the island on several occasions (Nelson 1883, Friedmann 1932a), as late as 1954 when a female with 2 young were at Naskak Lagoon, east of Gambell, on 07 Jul (Fay and Cade 1959). More recently, Quakenbush et al. (2002) reported no nesting records on SLI since then and that the species was never more than a sporadic breeder there. Good numbers of eiders are known to molt in late summer along the south shore of SLI, although it is not known how many of these may be Steller’s, but summer
flocks were reported there by several sources (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), including “large flocks, mostly of males” along the south shore 25 Jun 1913 (Portenko 1981) and small groups offshore at Boxer Bay during June (Sauer and Urban 1964). Along the island’s east coast, a flock of 30 birds were at vic. Maknek River mouth 10 Jul 2017. Summer specimens come from Gambell 01 Jul 1929 (*MVZ), from Savoonga 02 Aug 1928 (*MVZ) and 27 Jul 1950 (2: **DMNS), and from [unspecified locality] SLI [no date] Jul 1965 (*UBC). Three birds were seen at Gambell 27 Jun 1978 (Tolman 1979), 8 were there 05 Jul 1986, and 18 were found 04 Jul 2000 (UAM files).

**SPECTACLED EIDER** *Somateria fischeri*

- Uncommon spring and fall migrant, with occasional large flocks noted. Uncommon to fairly common during late summer elsewhere on SLI. Rare breeder. Winters in Bering Sea south of SLI, rare near island.

**Spring:** Presumed spring migrants have been found on 13 Apr 2016 and 15 Apr 2017 at Gambell and on 25 Apr 1978 from a ship near Gambell (UAM files), although Ehrlich et al. (1993) list the “first week of April” [year?]. Most birds at Gambell are seen passing the point, but sometimes aggregations occur in protected waters near Ooynik Point, just south of the village. High counts include 110 on 01 Jun 1985, 120 on 05 Jun 2000 and season total of 222, 225 on 05 Jun 2005, 150 on 30 May 2010, and 125 on 11 Jun 2012 (a late high). But in some years, only a very small number (<6) are seen. Offshore, a “mass migration” was observed ca. 65 km (40 mi) south of SLI on 29 May 1973 and again in the same general area on 17 May 1980, involving flocks of hundreds/low thousands, and mostly females, flying east toward the Yukon Delta (Kessel 1989), perhaps birds returning from the principal wintering site in the central Bering Sea (see below). At Southeast Cape, several flocks were noted 13–18 May 1983 and a high count of 500+ was noted there in a single raft 06 Jun 1986 (UAM files). A few migrants continue to pass the point at Gambell into mid-June.

**Fall:** At Gambell, Spectacled Eider is an uncommon to rare visitor and migrant in early fall, becoming somewhat more numerous by late September; may be common later in the season, with several major flights between late September and mid-October. Most birds are seen from the point, but a few are found on local lakes. A few individuals typically are seen on only a handful of days between August (earliest: 02 Aug 2013) and mid-September; sightings increase in frequency after that. The highest count in early autumn is of 14 on 07 Sep 2002. Between 2007–2012, R. Ungwiluk Jr. photographed flocks of 50–200+ birds along the north shore about 10 km (6 mi) ESE of Gambell, as early as 26 Sep 2009 but mostly during Oct. In 2010, a spectacular flight took place between 27 Sep–13 Oct, which produced a total of 18,100 birds at Gambell and nearby Akeftapak Bay, with peak numbers from 27–29 Sep of 4375, 3520, and 6210 individuals, respectively (ph. Lehman 2017), some 95+ percent of which were adult males; single flocks containing up to 500 individuals were seen. Numbers dropped subsequently, and the ratio of males:females dropped to 60:40 and then to about 50:50; high counts then included 715 on 04 Oct, 1008 on 08 Oct, and 621 on 12 Oct. In 2011, a major westbound flight again commenced on 27 Sep, which produced a total of 1680 birds at Gambell through 12 Oct and 12,200 birds at Savoonga through 09 Oct; high one-day counts were 585 at Gambell 28 Sep, and 4400 and 3620 at Savoonga on 30 Sep and 07 Oct, respectively, plus 2840 at Akeftapak Bay on 30 Sep. Some amount of duplication between the sites was likely. In 2012, 95 males passed the point at Gambell already on 22 Sep, but the major flight did not occur until 06–11 Oct when 1410 birds were tallied; but this paled in comparison to the total of 13,210 birds which passed
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Savoonga between 06–10 Oct. In 2014, 950 passed Gambell on 30 Sep–01 Oct, and the total through 08 Oct was 1100. In 2015, 1400 were tallied at Gambell 28 Sep. In 2017, 4300 were seen passing Gambell on 12 Oct, including single flocks of 900, 800, and 500 birds. Local residents reported that many hundreds or even thousands of birds—many of them having completed molt in northeast Russia or eastern Norton Sound—pass Gambell and SLI during the late autumn, usually between the end of September and November. Farther offshore, a total of 144 birds were seen from a ship south of SLI on 03 Oct 1985 (UAM files). Portenko (1981) cited 23 Oct 1933 as the latest date for the Chukchi Peninsula. In contrast, good numbers of lingering birds may use the SLI coast as late fall/early winter foraging sites before moving slightly farther south to the major wintering area (M. Sexson in litt.); thousands were at Gambell 27–29 Nov 2016.

**Summer and Breeding:** Only a very small number of Spectacled Eider nests have ever been found on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). Stephensen et al. (1998) noted that one such nest was near Naskak, along the north shore east of Gambell, 07 Jul 1954, “many” birds were observed at island wetlands during summer survey work in 1997 yet only a single nest was discovered—near Poowoooliak, southwestern SLI, on 22 Jun—but that only a small portion of available potential nest habitat was ever surveyed. They also stated that no local island resident whom they interviewed said that they had ever found a nest. Numbers of Spectacled Eiders are also reported to linger along the south side of the island in summer and early autumn during molt. Small numbers were there Jun–Jul 1913 and 1914, and 4+ were present 18–22 Jun 1954 (Portenko 1981). A flock of 500–1000 molting males was reported there on 18 Sep 1980 (Kessel 1989). Surveys during Jun 1997 found small non-breeding flocks of 10–15 birds, mostly females, along the island’s south shore and to the east at the Punuk Islands, with a high of 60 at Koozata Lagoon 15 Jun (Stephensen et al. 1998). Single birds were at Gambell 08 Jul 1976 (UAM files), 05 Jul 1986 (UAM files), 06 Jul 2011, 12 Jul 2013, and 06–07 Jul 2014; and 11 were tallied there 04 Jul 2000 (UAM files). According to Petersen et al. (1999), most Spectacleds that breed in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region molt in either eastern Norton Sound (females) or along the eastern shore of the Chukchi Peninsula (males); some of these birds may stop at SLI on their way, between mid-June and August (M. Sexson in litt.).

**Winter:** A large percent of the species’ overall population has been found recently wintering in openings in the pack ice in the Bering Sea approximately 130 km (80 mi) south of SLI, where up to ca. 363,000 birds were tallied in early Mar 1997 (Petersen et al. 1999). Some 350,000 birds were reported ca. 84 km (52 mi) SSW of Southwest Cape 24 Mar 2008 (Drew et al. 2015). At Gambell proper, 3 were seen 23 Dec 2017, up to 3 remained 18 Dec 2016–09 Jan 2017, 1 was present 08 Feb 2017, and 1 was noted 27 Feb 2011.

**KING EIDER Somateria spectabilis**

- *Fairly common to common migrant and visitor. This is the most numerous eider in both fall and spring. Uncommon in winter. Uncertain nesting status.*

**Spring:** Given that King Eiders often winter locally (see below), it is very difficult to determine accurate arrival dates for migrants, although Sealy (1967c) noted migrants during “April,” Ehrlich et al. (1993) mention that a migratory movement was evident in “late April,” and 150 were at Gambell 27 Apr 2017; earlier in the month, 12 were at Gambell 02 Apr 2015. High counts at Gambell—mostly from protected waters near Oonyik Point just south of the village—include 1200 on 04 Jun 1981, 1050 on 02 Jun 2000, 2000 birds on 30 May 2010, 1100–2500 from 25 May–05 Jun 2011, and 2500 during late May 2012. In contrast, very low numbers
in 2016 and 2017 did not exceed 33 and 65 birds/day, respectively. Numbers rapidly drop off by mid-June.

**Fall:** The maximum one-day counts in early autumn at Gambell are 190 on 24 Aug 2003 and 210 on 02 Sep 2011. Some 200 were near Savoonga 11 Aug 2003 and 190 were there during Aug 2004. Maxima during the late fall from the point at Gambell are 775 on 27 Sep 2010, 750 on both 02 and 06 Oct 2012, 750 on 06 Oct 2017, and 1625 on 08 Oct 2012; 550 were off Ooynik Point 24 Sep 2012. Counts of up to 375/day have been made during the same period at Savoonga. During November, King Eiders are irregular in occurrence, with at least small numbers likely present most years.

**Summer and Breeding:** Cade (1950), Fay and Cade (1959), and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) noted that King Eider might nest on the island, particularly along the south shore, but no direct evidence for local breeding exists, and Murie (1936) wrote that most summering birds are likely nonbreeders. There is an undated egg set from [unspecified locality] SLI at USNM which needs verification. Of the numerous reports of King Eiders during summer, the highest counts include “groups of varying numbers” along the south shore at Boxer Bay Jun–Jul 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964), 20–30 birds near Northeast Cape 12 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967), 40 in the Savoonga area 24 Jul 2003, 18 there 15 Jul 2004, 15+ and up to 10 at Gambell during early Jul 1976 (UAM files) and 06–08 Jul 2014, respectively, and a flock of 75 at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017.

**Winter:** This species is probably regular in numbers when open water is present. Portenko (1981) stated that, depending on ice conditions, it may winter in good numbers north to the Diomedes and that it winters in small numbers along the south shore of the Chukchi Peninsula, such as at the Sireniki polynya (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Fay and Cade (1959) and Fay (1961) wrote that 15,000+ King Eiders were present in the waters along the south shore of SLI during Feb 1953. At least 10 birds were present at Gambell 25 Dec 2013–10 Feb 2014, ca. 500 were there 01 Dec 2016, and up to 100+ remained through 04 Feb 2017. Several small rafts were 16+ km (10+ mi) south of SLI 12–15 Feb 1970 (UAM files).

**Comments:** A female banded at Gambell on an unspecified date was recovered at Barrow, Alaska, nineteen years later (Ehrlich et al. 1993).

**COMMON EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

- Fairly common to common spring and uncommon to fairly common fall migrant; uncommon to fairly common breeder on SLI; uncommon to common in winter.

**Spring:** Given that Common Eiders often winter locally (see below), it is very difficult to determine accurate arrival dates for migrants, although Johnson (1976) and Ehrlich et al. (1993) noted substantial numbers of apparent migrant arrivals during late April. At Gambell, 70 were seen on 02 Apr 2015, 200 were present 13 Apr 2016, and they were “abundant” 22 April 2003. Most birds there in late spring are seen passing the point, but sometimes small aggregations occur in protected waters near Ooynik Point, just south of the village. High counts typically do not exceed 100/day, with 200 on 02 Jun 1991, 125 on 03 Jun 1998, and 130 on 30 May 2000. Presumed late migrants occur at Gambell into mid-June, with the latest on 16 Jun 2013 (9).

**Fall:** Numbers are reported to spend the late summer and early autumn, during molt, along the south side of the island—sometimes commonly (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). Up to 15 were along the coast near Savoonga 07–24 Aug 2004. At Gambell, Common Eider is an uncommon migrant and visitor in early fall, becoming fairly common later in the period. Daily counts there between mid-August and early September are usually of fewer than 5 birds, and the
species is not seen at all on many days. By mid- or late September, it is of daily occurrence, with up to 45–60 per day, and up to 100 per day in very late September and early October. The maximum one-day counts are of 207 on 04 Oct 2010, 210 on 02 Oct 2012, and 250 on 06 Oct 2017. A total of 465 were just east of Gambell on 06 Oct 2010. Counts at Savoonga range up to 80/day, with 124 there 06 Oct 2012. Late fall and early winter abundance is not well known, but up to multiple thousands were at Gambell 27 Nov–02 Dec 2016.

**Summer and Breeding:** This species bred widely on SLI in the past (Fay and Cade 1959), with an estimate of 3500 birds (Fay 1961), but of only 350 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). Birds breeding in the island’s interior disperse inland during the first two weeks of June (Fay and Cade 1959). About ten nests were found on the eastern shore’s Punuk Islands 12 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1965), although Stephensen et al. (1998) found some 160 nesting birds there in 1996–1997; the next highest nesting densities were less than a third of that at Koozata Lagoon. According to local residents, nesting continues to the present in the Koozata Lagoon area. Fay and Cade (1959) also noted summer gatherings at lagoons along the southern and eastern shores, Common Eiders were termed “abundant” at south shore’s Boxer Bay during Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964), and 40 were counted at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017; many of these birds were likely non-breeders. Some 8+ birds at Gambell 06–07 Jul 2011 and 5–6 birds there 05–08 Jul 2014 were presumed non-breeders or post-breeding dispersers.

**Winter:** Fay and Cade (1959) noted that a few birds winter along the island’s south shore, and Fay (1961) wrote that it might winter in “considerable numbers” in leads and polynyas [open areas]. Single [unspecified locality] SLI specimens (**MVZ) exist for 31 Dec 1928 and 08 Feb 1932. Two were noted at Gambell 06 Feb 2011; up to 45+ were present 25 Dec 2013–10 Feb 2014; large flocks totaling 1500–2500 birds remained there sporadically after Dec 2016 (see above), with ca. 5000–10,000 birds on 19 Jan and 02–03 Feb and 50–300 from 22–28 Feb 2017; and ca. 600–700 were present 07–23 Dec 2017. Kessel (1989) stated that ice conditions determine the species’ departure dates from the Seward Peninsula and that it overwinters rarely as well. Konyukhov et al. (1998) noted that this species wintered at the Sireniki polynya along the south shore of the Chukchi Peninsula.

**Comments:** The subspecies occurring regularly in Alaska is S. m. v-nigrum (Gibson and Kessel 1997).

**EIDER SP.**

**Winter:** Flocks of up to several thousand Spectacled/Common Eiders were off Gambell from late Nov 2016–09 Jan 2017, a period with no sea-ice.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

- Fairly common spring and summer and common fall visitor. Possibly declining. No nesting records. Casual in winter.

**Spring:** The earliest arrival date at Gambell is 10 May 2004. High counts there include ca. 200 on 29 May 1996 and 150 on 15 Jun 2005. In contrast, numbers did not exceed 35/day in 2016. Fifty-five were still present 20 Jun 2005. At Gambell, most birds are seen passing the point and as flocks on the water near Ooynik Point, just south of the village.

**Fall:** This species is seen daily passing the point and, especially, feeding and loafing off the rocky headlands to the south (e.g., Ooynik Point). Many of the birds passing Gambell are apparently making local feeding forays, so obtaining a seasonal total is virtually impossible.
Most counts through about 2010 ranged up to 100–150 per day, with high counts of up to 250 per day, and 300 seen on 02 Sep 1998 (mostly at headlands south of the village). But many daily totals in recent years do not exceed 50–65 birds, although a count slightly farther south along the coast between Ooynik and the Kitnepaluk area on 03 Sep 2017 totaled 150 birds. Departure dates in late fall are poorly known; 35–52 were still present at Gambell 06–07 Oct 2014, small numbers remained through 13 Oct 2010, 1 was present 21 Oct 2012, a specimen (*UAM) was taken at “Camp Collier” west of Savoonga 19 Oct 1935 (incorrectly noted as “1936” in Murie 1936), and another (*DMNS) was taken at Savoonga 04 Nov 1953.

Summer: Fay and Cade (1959) noted that SLI is a major molting site, particularly for males. Some early authors (e.g., Murie 1936) thought the species bred on the island, but such has never been proven. Suggestive were a female along the Ikalooksik River 25 Jul 1950 and 2 “families” in Boxer Bay that fall (Fay and Cade 1959). Rafts of males were noted in summer along the south shore near Boxer Bay (Cade 1950). A high summer count is not known, although Fay and Cade (1959) noted that it was “common” at Boxer Bay 08 Jul–08 Aug 1950, with 50–75 birds on one pond there during a storm 27–28 Jul 1950, and over 48 birds were at the Punuk Islands 12 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1965); 20 birds were at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017.

Winter: There is an anecdotal winter report of a live bird found sitting on lake ice after being wounded by a Gyrfalcon (Murie 1936). The only certain record is of a pair at Gambell 28 Feb 2017.

Comments: This species winters north to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and probably regularly to St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002).

**SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata*

- **Very rare spring visitor.**

  Spring: All SLI records to date are from Gambell. The first was on 10 Jun 1973 (Morrin 1978), followed by 2 birds on 02 Jun 1978 (J. L. Dunn in litt). There now total 19 records (involving 33 individuals) through 2017, between 24+ May 2002 and 10 June 1973. The high count is a flock of 4 birds on 05 Jun 2014. Almost all individuals have been seen flying by the point.

  Comments: This species nests in mainland Alaska, but it is primarily a migrant on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). It is a casual visitor to St. Matthew Island, the Pribilofs, and the western Aleutians (Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

- **Uncommon spring and rare to uncommon fall migrant; casual summer visitor.** *M. f. stejnegeri* is a very rare spring visitor.

  Spring: At Gambell, most birds are seen passing the point and as flocks on the water near Ooynik Point, just south of the village. The earliest arrival date is 18 May 2004. There are a number of counts up to as high as 36 individuals, with 40 each on 04 Jun 1986, 02 Jun 2002, and 04 Jun 2015, and 95 on 26 May 2011. Small numbers continue to pass by into mid-June, with the latest record of likely migrants being 17 Jun 1951 (2 birds; Sealy et al. 1971) and 17 Jun 2005 (8). Records of Asian *stejnegeri*, all from Gambell, are: 01–03 Jun 2002 (incorrect dates in Garner et al. 2004), 26 May 2005, 10 Jun 2005, 31 May 2007, and up to 4 from 1–6 (not 5) Jun 2009 (Dunn et al. 2012); and 3 on 02–03 Jun 2013, up to 2 from 30 May–07 Jun 2014, total of as many as 7 between 31 May–04 Jun 2015, and total of as many as 10 between 31 May–11 Jun
2016. This subspecies undoubtedly was overlooked prior to 2002, although a very few sight reports exist at Gambell from earlier years (e.g., 04 Jun 1995). Many of the recent records have been made via the study of large numbers of digital photographs taken of White-winged Scoters flying by the point.

Fall: Five or 6 were reported near Gambell 2–3 Aug 1946 (Fay and Cade 1959). More recently, this species has proven to be rare but regular there in early autumn, but uncommon to fairly common some years in October. A few birds are seen sporadically through September, with an increase beginning at the end of that month. High counts include single flocks of 21 on 3 Oct 2004 and of 28 on both 07 and 10 October 2011, and one-day totals of 76 birds on 07 Oct 2011 and 78 on 11 Oct 2012. Dates range from 22 Aug 2017 to 24 Oct 2017. The subspecies involved—American *deglandi* or Asian *stejnegeri*—was not determined for most birds, although at least some appeared to be *deglandi*. Small-to-moderate numbers were also seen in the Savoonga area in late Sep and early Oct 2011 and 2012, with a high count of 33 on 09 Oct 2011.

Summer: The only mid-summer record is from [unspecified locality] SLI 02 Jul 1929 (*UAM; Fay and Cade 1959).

Comments: White-winged Scoters winter north to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). *M. f. stejnegeri*—which breeds northeast to the northern Anadyr River basin (Vaurie 1965)—has been documented also in late spring at least twice from the Nome area (Garner et al. 2004, Dunn et al. 2012), as well as once in fall at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). Note: In early autumn, eclipse male King Eiders in flight have been misidentified as White-winged Scoters on some occasions.

**BLACK SCOTER** *Melanitta americana*

- *Uncommon to rare spring and rare fall migrant; casual in summer.*

Spring: At Gambell, most birds are seen passing the point as singles or pairs. The early arrival dates are 12 and 19 May 2004, and small numbers continue to move through into mid-June, with 16 Jun 2005 the latest. The single-day maximum is 15 birds on 29 May 1996.

Fall: A total of 30 individuals were counted from the point between 1997 and 2017, with dates ranging from 19 Aug 2014 and 27 Aug 1998 and 2003 to 10 Oct 2010. Two were at Savoonga 24 Sep 2011.

Summer: The only summer records are from Koozata Lagoon 25 Jun 1954 (2 birds; Fay and Cade 1959) and near Gambell 05 Jul 1966 (*UBC; Sealy et al. 1971).

Comments: This species nests in mainland Alaska and in eastern Russia northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1981). Black Scoters winter north to the Pribilofs (NGS 2017).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*

- *Common spring and uncommon to fairly common fall visitor; may be common to abundant in winter. Uncommon to fairly common breeder.*

Spring: Very large numbers may winter in the Gambell area (see below), so determining arrival dates for migrants from the south is impossible. Large numbers (up to 600/day) are still present many years into late May, particularly during years with much sea-ice present, but then they rapidly decline after that, and a few may linger into mid-June. High counts include 1000 on 31 May 1981 and 2500 on 01 Jun 1985. On southwest SLI, by mid-June pairs separated out from ocean flocks and went inland (Sauer and Urban 1964).

Fall: Uncommon migrant at Gambell in early and mid-autumn, becoming fairly common to common later. The Long-tailed Duck is more numerous elsewhere on the island early
in the autumn (e.g., 150 on 30 Aug 1993 well south of Gambell, and some 200 near Savoonga 11 Aug 2003 and 190 there during Aug 2004). This species passes the point at Gambell sporadically for most of the autumn, with an increase in numbers beginning in mid- or late September.

Through the first week of October, several single-day maxima are of up to 25–33 birds, and season totals range from 30 to 125. Coverage through the second week of October in 2010 resulted in a total of some 320 being tallied from the point between 09–13 Oct; several daily counts at Savoonga during late Sep and early Oct 2011 and 2012 reached 55–80 individuals, with 187 counted 06 Oct 2012 and 174 on 10 Oct 2012.

Summer and Breeding: This species is known to breed on SLI. It was said to be the most numerous breeding duck on the island by Cade (1950), with a dozen broods noted from Gambell south to Boxer Bay 08–09 Aug 1950 (Fay and Cade 1959). A single brood was near Gambell during Sep 2013 and Aug 2014. Local residents report continued nesting along the island’s south side. Also, up to hundreds of nonbreeding, molting birds summer at lakes and lagoons on SLI; such summering nonbreeders were termed numerous by Fay and Cade (1959).

Winter: Local residents, as well as Murie (1936), Fay and Cade (1959), and Konyukhov et al. (1998) all note that very large numbers of Long-tailed Ducks overwinter locally in leads and polynyas in the pack ice. Fay and Cade (1959) reported an evening flight over Gambell in Jan 1956 of 20,000+ birds and that aerial surveys during Jan and Mar 1956 and 1957 estimated 100,000s. Fay (1961) estimated that ca. 500,000 might winter in the region, mostly off the southern and western shores, with these birds constantly seeking open water, and that they provide a major food source for Gyrfalcons, Snowy Owls, and Arctic Foxes. Fay also stated that when winds would swing suddenly to the south, opening up a polynya on the north side of the island and closing the one on the south side, that up to several hundred thousand or more seaducks would cross the island to get to the open water (R. H. Day in litt.). Winter flocks start dispersing beginning in mid- or late April (Fay 1961).

**BUFFLEHEAD** *Bucephala albeola*

- **Very rare spring visitor.**

  **Spring:** First recorded 05 Jun 1978, there are now 12 records (involving 21 individuals), all from Gambell, through 2017, between 21 May 2004 and through 11 Jun 2006, plus an additional, late bird on 26 Jun 1980 (UAM files). Almost all records are of female-plumaged birds, except for 1 adult male on 04 Jun 1995.

  **Comments:** Buffleheads nest north to central Alaska, are rare visitors to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), and has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015). They are uncommon at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

- **Very rare spring and casual summer and fall visitor.**

  **Spring:** The first known SLI record is from Gambell on 09 Jun 1987, although it is likely there were sightings from earlier years. Individuals and small flocks have now been recorded there in 13 different years through 2017, between 25 May 2004 and 25+ May 2016 (2) and through 16 June 2005, totaling 63 individuals. The high counts are 12 birds on 14 Jun 2005 and a flock of 16 on 06 Jun 2016, with 24 seen during the latter season. In addition, 4 late individuals were found 26 Jun 2002. Elsewhere on SLI, 2 late birds were on Kongkok Lake 17 Jun 1987.

  **Fall:** Two were seen at Gambell on 05 Sep 2007 and singles were present there from 14 Aug–12 Sep 2012 and on 09 Sep 2017.
Summer: Very unusual was a mid-summer bird at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017.

Comments: Common Goldeneye nests as close as interior Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a rare but regular visitor to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989); in Asia, it breeds no closer than western Chukotka (Brazil 2009) and the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008). It is uncommon at the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

BARROW’S GOLDFEYE  *Bucephala islandica*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  
  Spring: One was seen at Gambell 31 May 2010.

Comments: This species nests west to the Alaska Peninsula but is casual farther west and north (Gibson and Byrd 2007, NGS 2017), including on the Seward Peninsula and the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

SMEW  *Mergellus albellus*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  
  Spring: A pair was present at Gambell 24 May 2009.

Comments: Smew nests northeast to the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). It is a rare to casual visitor, mostly in spring, to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Kessel and Gibson 1978, S. Schuette unpubl. data), and it is casual elsewhere in North America.

HOODED MERGANSER  *Lophodytes cucullatus*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  
  Spring: One was found at Gambell 08 Jun 1999.

Comments: This species breeds no closer than southeast Alaska (NGS 2017) and is a casual to accidental visitor to central and western Alaska.

COMMON MERGANSER  *Mergus merganser*
- **Very rare spring and casual summer, fall, and early-winter visitor.** Almost all records involve M. m. americanus or are undifferentiated; only several spring and summer reports of nominate M. m. merganser.
  
  Spring: First reported on 11 Jun 1975, this species has occurred as individuals, pairs, and very small flocks during about half the years at Gambell. Most birds have not been identified to subspecies, but at least 27 were identified as North American *M. m. americanus* (including 1 found dead south of the village 15 Jun 1988), and at least 2 were identified as nominate, Old World *M. m. merganser*, the “Goosander” (both 07 Jun 2006). The high season count is a total of 11 birds (subspecies uncertain) between 01–10 Jun 1988, with a flock of 6 on 04 Jun; and another flock of 6 was seen 01 Jun 1978. The early arrival date is 24 May 2011 (*americanus*), and the late date is 17 Jun 2005 (4 birds; subspecies uncertain).

  Fall: An individual *M. m. americanus* was seen at Gambell 11 Sep 2008, and a flock of 6 *americanus* were there 09 Sep 2017. Three late birds were found 24 Nov 2017.

  Summer: Three birds (subspecies unknown) were at Savoonga 30 Jun 1996. A very unusual summer record of a male Goosander comes from the Punuk Islands off eastern SLI where found dead and photographed 29 Jun 1979 (Kessel 1989).
Winter: An exceptionally late individual was with Common Eiders at Gambell 18 Dec 2016.

Comments: Subspecies americanus nests in interior Alaska and is an uncommon visitor and local breeder west to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989); it also has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Antipin 2015). Nominate merganser nests as close as the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009) and occurs regularly in the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) but very rarely or casually in the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*
- Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Summer status unclear.

  **Spring:** Most birds at Gambell are singles and small groups seen passing the point. Two on 01 May 2003 were especially early, as the next earliest date is 13 May 2004. The high count is 35–37 birds from 30 May–04 Jun 2017, and late highs include 16 individuals on 21 Jun 2005. Lingering birds have remained as late as 28 Jun 1993 (2).

  **Fall:** A specimen was collected in Sep 1930 (Friedmann 1932a), and an unknown number of birds were seen south of Gambell 08 Sep 1975. Single individuals and small flocks (as large as 18 birds—on 18 Sep 2014) passed the point between 30 Aug (in 2015) and 12 Oct, 2000–2016, totaling 210 individuals, and most after mid-September. The high count was of 23 birds on 29 Sep 2003. One was still present 23 Oct 2011. Approximately 32 were at Savoonga between 20 Sep–5 Oct 2011, with a high count of 15 birds on 30 Sep; the total there in 2012 was just 11 individuals. Late departure dates on SLI are not known; a merganser sp. was seen at Gambell 29 Nov 2016 and another was there 18 Dec 2016. The last observations on the Seward Peninsula correspond closely with dates of freeze-up (Kessel 1989).

  **Summer and Breeding:** Nelson (1887) reported this species breeding on SLI in 1881, and Sealy et al. (1971) noted that it is a possible nester on the island, with several pairs seen on SLI rivers during summer. Nonbreeding and molting Red-breasted Mergansers probably occur regularly at favored sites, such as Koozata Lagoon where 30 birds were found 14–18 Jul 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971); 5 were at Gambell 06 Jul 2011, and 3 individuals were at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017.

  **Comments:** This species winters north to the Aleutians (NGS 2017), possibly to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**Family Phasianidae:** Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail

**WILLOW PTARMIGAN** *Lagopus lagopus*
- Accidental spring visitor.

  **Spring:** One was at Gambell 31 May 2012.

  **Comments:** Willow Ptarmigan nests in adjacent mainland Alaska and on the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009, NGS 2017).

**ROCK PTARMIGAN** *Lagopus muta*
- Rare to very rare winter visitor on SLI; casual in spring at Gambell.

  **Spring:** Two were at Sevuokuk Mountain, Gambell, 29 Apr 2004.

  **Winter:** Local residents have reported ptarmigan at Gambell and elsewhere on SLI (mostly in the mountains) during the late fall and winter. Murie (1936) wrote that according to
O.W. Geist, “Occasionally, and practically during every winter I spent on the island, ptarmigan appeared. I believe they were blown there during heavy snowstorms, either from the Alaskan mainland, or, more likely, from the near Siberian points.... Several ptarmigan were killed by trappers last winter.” Fay and Cade (1959) thought that ptarmigan were rare winter visitors, not found in summer, and that “the upland habitat where these birds were found suggests that the species may be...Rock Ptarmigan.” But, there is a recent spring record of a Willow Ptarmigan at Gambell (see above).

Comments: Rock Ptarmigan nests in adjacent mainland Alaska and on the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009, NGS 2017).

Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

**HORNED GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*
- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.

Spring: There are 13 spring and early-summer records for SLI through 2017, the first two of which occurred at Niyarkpak Lagoon, east of Gambell, 03 Jun 1968 and at Poowooilaak, southwestern SLI, 29 Jun 1968 (2 birds; Sealy et al. 1971). The remaining 11 are from Gambell as follows: 28 May–02 Jun 1989 (up to 2) and 10 additional records (involving 17 individuals) between 24 May 2003 (2) and 10 Jun 2012, and with a high of 5 birds on 25 May 2013.

Fall: Singles were present at Gambell 23 Sep 2004, 27–30 Sep 2012, and, early, 03–04 Aug 2016.

Comments: In North America, this species breeds west to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a very rare visitor on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989); in Asia, it nests northeast to the southern Anadyr River basin (Vaurie 1965).

**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*
- Rare spring and fall visitor. Casual breeder on SLI.


Fall: Since 1992, at Gambell, there have been at least 64 fall records involving a minimum of 74 birds, between 26 Aug 2004 and 2009 and 12 Oct 2017 (2), plus up to 2 late birds 27 Oct–05 Nov and 1 still present 19 Nov 2016. The maximum is 3 birds on several dates. Some birds linger for extended periods, so exact seasonal totals are difficult to obtain. Also, I was collected (*DMNS) near Savoonga 03 Oct 1953 (Bailey 1956), another was near there 24 Sep 2006, and as many as 5 total were seen there during both 24–30 Sep 2011 and 29 Sep–03 Oct 2012. An early individual was at Kilughnaaq, east end SLI, 21 Aug 2006.

Summer and Breeding: There is one confirmed breeding record, from the eastern interior of SLI in summer 1940 (Sealy et al. 1971). Four birds were east of Siknik Camp, southeastern SLI, 16 Jul 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971).

Winter: One bird was at Gambell 07 Dec 2017, probably the only winter-season record for the northern Bering Sea.
**Comments:** Red-necked Grebe breeds in western Alaska, and in Asia northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Brazill 2009); it has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

**Family Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves**

**ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE** *Streptopelia orientalis*
- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 07–22 Oct 2011 (ph. NAB 66:194, Lehman 2017).
  - **Comments:** There were six previous Alaska records, mostly from spring and summer, north to near the Pribilofs. There are also several records elsewhere in western North America. This species nests northeast only to northern Japan and the western Sea of Okhotsk (Brazil 2009).

**Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos, Roadrunners, and Anis**

**COMMON CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*
- **Casual spring visitor.**
  - **Spring:** All SLI records are from Gambell: 31 May 1994, 31 May 1996, 2 birds on 04–05 Jun and up to 4 from 06–13 Jun (same birds?; high 4 on 06 Jun) 1999, 31 May–01 Jun 2004, and 02–03 Jun 2014.
  - **Comments:** Interestingly, almost all late-spring cuckoos at Gambell and throughout western Alaska identified to species have been Common Cuckoos, whereas those from mid-summer and fall mostly have been Orientals. Commons are very rare visitors to the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), primarily in late spring, and are casual to accidental elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and western North America. The frequency of occurrence in the state appears to have declined during the past 20 years. Common Cuckoos breed north to the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008).

**ORIENTAL CUCKOO** *Cuculus optatus*
- **Casual late spring, summer, and fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** Late spring migrants were found at Gambell 13 Jun 1996 (*UAM) and 23–26 Jun 2005 (not just “25” Jun—NAB 59:641; ph. NAB 59:641).
  - **Summer:** There are two July specimens (**USNM) from Gambell. Although originally identified as Common Cuckoos, *C. c. bakeri* (Friedmann and Riley 1931, Friedmann 1932a, Murie 1936), both subsequently proved to be Oriental Cuckoos of subspecies *C. o. horsfieldi*: 01 Jul 1930 (Deignan 1951, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and 14 Jul 1935 (Murie 1952).
  - **Comments:** Interestingly, almost all late-spring cuckoos at Gambell and throughout western Alaska identified to species have been Common Cuckoos, whereas those from mid-summer and fall mostly have been Orientals. Oriental Cuckoo has been recorded casually also on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and there is one
mainland July record from Wales on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). It breeds north to the western Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998).

**Family Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers**

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** *Chordeiles minor*
- **Accidental late summer and early fall visitor.**
  - **Summer and Fall:** One was present at Gambell from mid-/late Jul (exact date uncertain) through 15 Aug 2006 (ph. *NAB* 61:124); thus, it likely “summered” locally. This establishes the first record for the Bering Sea region.
  - **Comments:** This species nests sparingly in southeast Alaska and is a casual visitor to central and northern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

**Family Apodidae: Swifts**

**FORK-TAILED SWIFT** *Apus pacificus*
- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One was photographed alive in a box at Gambell 15 Sep 1993 (ABA 2008). This is the only record for the northern Bering Sea.
  - **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the Koryak Highlands (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1951, Vaurie 1965) and possibly the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008). There are a number of records in both spring and fall from both the Pribilofs and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and in fall off south-coastal Alaska (DeCicco et al. 2017) and from mainland Alaska and Yukon. All Alaska specimens refer to nominate *A. p. pacificus* (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds**

**HUMMINGBIRD SP.**
- **Casual fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** There are at least three unconfirmed reports by local residents of unidentified hummingbirds seen elsewhere on SLI, including 2 undated, obscure reports (Fay and Cade 1959) and 1 of a probable Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) in [no date] Sep 1960 (Sealy et al. 1971).
  - **Comments:** Some Gambell residents report a variety of small birds seen briefly hovering as “hummingbirds.” Rufous Hummingbird breeds north to south-coastal Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). There are two hummingbird records from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**Family Gruidae: Cranes**

**SANDHILL CRANE** *Antigone canadensis*
* Fairly common spring and very rare fall migrant at Gambell. Uncommon breeder elsewhere on SLI.

**Spring:** This species does not breed in the immediate Gambell area, so all birds seen there are assumed to be migrants, many likely heading to Russia. Flocks are regularly seen approaching the point, only to turn around and retreat back south, then to try to make the crossing again—sometimes taking several days to finally do so. The earliest arrivals at Gambell are 03 May 2017 (28) and 04 May 2004. Small numbers were already scattered about SLI on 14 May 1983 (UAM files). High counts at Gambell include one-day totals of 126 on 07 Jun 1980 (UAM files) and 120 on 29 May 2007, and single flocks of 110 on 30 May 2000 and 113 on 07 May 2017. Small flocks of migrants have been noted there through mid-June, and as late as 21 Jun 1993.

**Fall:** Surprisingly, Sandhill Crane is a very rare fall migrant at Gambell. There are only 17 recent autumn records (involving 67 individuals) from Gambell proper, between 12–13 Aug 2014 (2) and 26 Sep 2005 (20—a high fall count) and 02 Oct 2017, two of which involved single long-staying pairs from 24 Aug–08 Sep 2013 and 17 Aug–03 Sep 2017. This species is of more regular occurrence in fall farther east and south on SLI. For example, a total of 74 were seen in the Savoonga area during Aug 2004, including flocks of up to 25 likely migrants in late Aug; 25 were near there 23 Sep 2011; and 2 remained at Apavaghu, east end SLI, 27 Sep 2006. Single late birds were at Savoonga 02 Oct 2006 and near there 09 Oct 2010.

**Summer and Breeding:** Small but widespread numbers breed elsewhere on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Sauer and Urban 1964, Sealy et al. 1971, Ehrlich et al. 1993), especially in the island’s riverine valleys (Portenko 1981). Local residents report that this species is a fairly widespread but uncommon nester. One was at Gambell 14 Jul 2015.

**Comments:** All birds are assumed to involve nominate A. c. canadensis, the “Lesser” Sandhill Crane. The breeding population in northeastern Russia recently has increased and spread (A. Bräunlich in litt.), so the numbers of migrants on SLI may have increased as well. Many of the nesting birds on the Chukchi Peninsula depart eastward for the Seward Peninsula during late August and the first week of September (Portenko 1981), where large flocks may be seen passing over Nome.

**Family Charadriiidae: Lapwings and Plovers**

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

- Very rare spring and casual fall migrant.

  **Spring:** First recorded in spring on 01 Jun 1974 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), there are now 14 records (involving 18 individuals) at this season through 2017, all from Gambell, mostly in the narrow seasonal period of 28 May 1995 and 2010 to 04 Jun 1980, except for singles seen 17 Jun 1975 and 08 Jun 1994.

  **Fall:** The only fall records are of 1 on 20 Aug 1967 (Sealy et al. 1971)—the first for SLI—1 on 07 Sep 1997, and a flock of 7 on 04 Sep 2011—all at Gambell.

  **Comments:** This species is a very rare migrant in the offshore Bering Sea region (Kessel and Gibson 1978), though it nests very locally on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and locally on the western Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981).

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica*
- **Casual spring and fall migrant.**

  *Spring:* Determining an accurate number of records is very difficult due to the American and Pacific (*P. fulva*) Golden-Plovers being considered conspecific until 1993 and continuing identification issues clouding some reports. There are perhaps only some six or seven spring records of American, all at Gambell, that have been adequately documented: 01–05 Jun 1988 (total of 3–4), 30 May 1992, 04 Jun 2002, 26–27 May 2003, 29–31 May 2006, and 06 Jun and 13 Jun 2016.

  *Fall:* A record of up to 2 birds at Gambell 23–25 Aug 1992 was followed by an additional seven records there between 21 Aug 1999 and 08 Sep 2001, including a surprising 6 birds on 21 Aug 1999. All fall records are of juveniles. There are no records in recent years, however. A specimen reportedly taken on [unspecified locality] SLI on the late date of 26 Sep [year?] (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) is presumably in error and likely refers to a Pacific Golden-Plover.

  *Comments:* American Golden-Plover nests to western Alaska (Kessel 1989), and there is also at least one nesting record for northern Chukotka (Arkhipov et al. 2013). This species was not split from Pacific Golden-Plover until 1993; before that time many birders did not attempt to separate these two taxa in the field.

**PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER  *Pluvialis fulva***

- **Uncommon spring and fairly common to common fall migrant. Uncommon breeder on SLI. Probably declining.**

  *Spring:* The earliest arrival date at Gambell is an exceptional 03 May 2013 (2), followed by 13 May 2015 (3); also, 6 birds were near Southeast Cape 14 May 1983 (UAM files). Numbers in spring vary from year to year but appear to show a general negative trend. An earlier high count was of up to 35/day during 30 May–03 Jun 1976 (UAM files), whereas in most recent years only single digits—up to perhaps 10 birds—may be found daily, except for the exceptional 75 counted on 25 May 2010 (a very strong day for several species of migrant shorebirds); and recent spring season totals have been as low as only 8 birds in 2011, 9 in 2016, and 7 in 2017. The latest date of a probable migrant is 19 Jun 2005.

  *Fall:* The highest one-day count at Gambell in fall is of 95 birds on 03 Sep 2003. Most seasonal totals there range from 100 to 220 individuals, with (mostly flyovers) 345 birds in 2003 and 320 birds in 2010, but only 74 individuals in 2011 and a mere 36 in 2008 and 45 in 2017. Adults move south between July and early September, with 13 Sep 1999 the latest date for that age class. Juveniles occur throughout the period at many sites on the island and regularly linger in small numbers to the beginning of October and sometimes beyond (e.g., 28 still present 02–03 Oct 2007; 13 on 03–04 Oct 2003, with 5 remaining on 05 Oct; 4 on 06–07 Oct 2014; 3 birds remaining 07 Oct, with 15 seen 09 Oct 2011; 5 birds through 08 Oct, with 2 remaining 14 Oct 2010; 1 on 15 Oct 2017; and 1 on 20 Oct 2014—all at Gambell). Away from Gambell, 30+ birds were over a 20-km transect east of Savoonga 05 Aug 2004 and a total of at least 7 late individuals were at Apavaghu (also written as Apavgu and Apavawook), east end SLI, 07 Oct 2006.

  *Summer and Breeding:* This species breeds uncommonly on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993). Numbers of nesting birds may have been more numerous in the past. The species was noted as being formerly a more common but irregular breeder by Fay and Cade (1959); 8 pairs were thought to nest on Sevuokuk Mountain 06 Jun 1973, where only 1 or a few pairs would be found today.
**COMMON RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

- Rare to uncommon spring migrant and breeder, and very rare fall migrant.

**Spring:** Following the 1960 nesting record at Koozata Lagoon (see below), all of the many subsequent records have come from the Gambell area. The island’s second and third were there 31 May and 03 Jun 1974. Since then, Common Ringed Plovers have proven to be of annual occurrence, with from 1–4 individuals being found many seasons, up to 7 being discovered during several years, and seasonal totals of 8 in 2011 and 11 in 2016. A high one-day 10 birds were seen 03 Jun 2016. The earliest arrival date is 23 May 2007 and 2010. Given that the species nests locally, many—though not all—of the individuals found remain for a lengthy period of time. Published photos taken 03 Jun 1991 and 28 May 1992 appear in *AB* 45:513 and *AB* 46:464, respectively, and a specimen (*UAM*) exists for 03 Jun 2008.

**Fall:** There are 18 records at Gambell involving 30 individuals—all juveniles—between 06 and 29 Aug, with high counts of 5 birds from 23–25 Aug 2014 and a total of 7 between 16–28 Aug 2014, and 4 birds on 19 Aug 2016. An earlier juvenile was photographed 30 Jul 2014. As with several other shorebirds, this species almost certainly would prove to be of regular occurrence in early autumn if the island received better coverage from July to mid-August.

**Summer and Breeding:** The first report for SLI actually involved a nesting record at the west end of Koozata Lagoon, along the south shore of SLI, on 16 Jul 1960, where a pair with
chick were discovered (**USNM; Sealy et al. 1971; incorrectly noted as being in 1970 in Kessel and Gibson 1978). The species is thought to nest almost annually in the Gambell area, with definite nest records there in Jun 1997, 2002, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2016, as well as in Jul 2011 and 2014—mostly at the south end of Troutman Lake. Also, 1 was at Gambell 19 Jul 1989 (UAM files), 2 pairs were present 02–04 Jul 2000 (UAM files), and an adult was found 21 Jul 2004. Some Common Ringed Plovers attempting to set up nesting territories are regularly chased off by Semipalomed Plovers.

**Comments:** This species is a common breeder on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981). It is casual in mainland western and northern Alaska in early summer, and in fall on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and elsewhere in North America.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** *Charadrius semipalmatus*

- *Uncommon to fairly common spring and uncommon fall migrant and breeder.*

**Spring:** The first definite SLI record is from the Moghoweyik River, southwestern SLI, 28 May 1956 (*UBC; Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971). Migrants and particularly local breeders have occurred regularly in small to moderate numbers beginning in mid-May since the mid-1970s when regular spring coverage at Gambell commenced. The earliest spring arrivals at Gambell are 10 May 2015 and 11 May 2017. The high counts are 20 birds on both 04 Jun 1982 and 28 May 2014. Prior to the 2000s, Semipalomed Plovers outnumbered Common Ringed Plovers by about 2:1 or 3:1, but now they do so by up to 4:1.

**Fall:** Six or fewer individuals are seen during mid- and late August most years in the Gambell area; the highest count is 10 birds on 16 Aug 2014. The late date is through 08 Sep 2009. As with several other shorebirds, this species certainly would prove to be more numerous if the island received better coverage in early autumn from July to mid-August.

**Summer and Breeding:** The numbers of nesting Semipalomed Plovers have increased at Gambell. Twelve birds were present 07 Jul 2014, but this count may have included some fall migrants. Two “probable breeders” were at Southeast Cape 22 Jun 1986 (UAM files), and a pair of Common Ringed/Semipalomed Plovers with 1 downy chick were at the air base near Northeast Cape 22–23 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967).

**Comments:** It is uncertain whether Semipalomed Plovers have bred for a very long time on SLI or whether they arrived as late as the latter 1900s. The species was reported by Nelson in the late 1800s, but he probably did not consider Common Ringed Plover. This species may only have begun nesting on St. Matthew Island in the 1970s (Winker et al. 2002). Breeding in adjacent Russia was confirmed beginning in 1993 on the Chukchi Peninsula, where the population has recently increased as well (Karhu 2004, Lappo et al. 2012).

**KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus*

- *Accidental spring visitor.*

**Spring:** The sole record is from Gambell 01–03 Jun 1980.

**Comments:** This species nests no closer than south-coastal Alaska (NGS 2017), rarely to central Alaska (Gibson 2011), and is a casual visitor to western and northern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*

- *Formerly a rare spring visitor and probable breeder.*
Spring: There are approximately 15 records from the Gambell area during the late spring, though none since 2000. The first two (**USNM) were from [no date] May 1931 and [no date] June 1931 (Friedmann 1932b, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). The next record was of a pair on 06 Jun 1968 (*UAM; Sealy et al. 1971), followed by 3 birds on Sevuokuk Mountain 01 Jun 1974 (**SBCM) and then by 1 bird on 10–11 June 1975. Between 1976 and 2000, 1 to 3 dotterels were found between 01 and 09 June in 1979, 1986, 1991, 1995 (ph. FN 49:292), and 2000 (6 Jun); with 4–5 birds on 07 Jun 1980, 2 pairs on 06 Jun 1981, and up to 4 from 04–09 Jun 1992 (ph. AB 46:1195). Away from Gambell, a pair was on a rocky terrace on “West Slope” near Boxer Bay 07 Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964)—a potential nesting area.

Summer and breeding: This species may have nested casually on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell, and elsewhere on SLI, in the past (Kessel and Gibson 1978)—see above.

Comments: Eurasian Dotterel is a casual visitor, mostly in fall, elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and western North America. It nests as close as the interior Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009, Lappo et al. 2012) and also probably bred in the past on the western Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). Recently, Eurasian Dotterels have been noted as likely declining in the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008) and having suffered a “considerable decline” and “shrinkage” throughout much of Chukotka, as well as in the rest of its range (Lappo et al. 2012). The latter authors also note that dotterels may undergo large-scale, annual re-distributions in population within the breeding range in response to varying weather conditions at the start of the breeding season.

Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies

**BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW** *Numenius tahitiensis*

- **Casual spring and fall migrant.**
  
  
  *Fall:* There are five records at Gambell: 2 on 25 Aug 1997, 1 on 28 Aug 1997, 2 on 13 Aug 2006, 1 on 24 Aug 2006, and 1 on 26 Aug 2011. Also, a juvenile male was collected (*UBC) at the western end of Koozata Lagoon 24 Aug 1957 (Fay and Cade 1959)—the first record for SLI—and 2 were reported from the Kongkok Basin 20 Aug 1987 (not “29 Aug,” as in Konyukhov and McCaffery 1993—J. F. Piatt in litt.).
  
  *Comments:* Bristle-thighed Curlew is an uncommon and local breeder on the nearby Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and interior Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It occurs as a rare or very rare spring and casual fall migrant at the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there is just one record in spring from the adjacent Chukchi Peninsula (Konyukhov and McCaffery 1993).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

- **Rare to very rare spring and fall migrant.** Both New World N. p. hudsonicus and Old World N. p. variegatus occur.
  
  *Spring:* The first island records came from [unspecified locality] SLI 25 May and 29 May (3 birds) 1956 (Fay and Cade 1959) and involved uncertain subspecies. These were followed by several birds at Gambell during spring 1973 (Johnson 1976), which included a
specimen (*UAM) of Old World N. p. variegatus on 28 May. Since then, this species has been recorded almost annually in the Gambell area, although about a third of the records were not differentiated as to subspecies. Of the remaining 32+ records, variegatus outnumbers New World N. p. hudsonicus by almost 2:1—the opposite of the fall status of the two taxa. The early arrival and late departure dates for variegatus are 23 May 1989 and 08 Jun (several years), respectively; and by far the highest one-day count is 7 birds on 30 May 1994, with a total of 10 found that year between 30 May—4 Jun. For hudsonicus, the early and late dates are 24 May 2003 and 09 Jun 2005, and the high count is 3 birds on both 03 Jun 2005 and 27 May 2007.

Fall: At Gambell, there are 18 fall records involving 29 individuals of hudsonicus, all since 2000, between 05 Aug 2014 and 2015 and 07 Sep 2000; one involved a flock of 6 birds 27 Aug 2012. Also, 1 was at Siknik (Sikneq), east end of Koozata Lagoon, 22 Aug 2009. There are six fall records from Gambell of variegatus. Six specimens (5 at UAM, 1 at USNM) have been collected on SLI, 3 at Gambell—11 Aug 1933, [no date] Jul 1935, and 03 Aug 1935—2 at Kukulik (near Savoonga) 02 and 05 Aug 1935, and 1 at Savoonga 23 Jul 1937 (Murie 1936, Gabrielson 1952, D. D. Gibson in litt.). In addition, single variegatus were seen at Gambell 27–28 Aug 1993, 15 Aug 2000, and 30 Aug 2014.

Comments: N. p. variegatus breeds as close as the Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1981, Lappo et al. 2012), whereas N. p. hudsonicus is a fairly common migrant and breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). Whimbrels are rare but regular migrants through the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), where both subspecies occur as well.

LITTLE CURLEW Numenius minutus

- Casual spring visitor.

Spring: The only 2 Alaska records are provided by single individuals at Gambell 07–08 Jun 1989 (*UAM, ph. AB 43:395) and (sight record) 07 Jun 2013 (not “10 Jun”—AB 67:639).

Comments: This scarce species does not breed any closer than extreme western Chukotka at ca. 163° E (Lappo et al. 2012). There are also several fall records in California.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

- Very rare spring and casual fall migrant.

Spring: The first spring records at Gambell come from [no date] June 1932 and [no date] May 1935 (**USNM), and there is an additional specimen (*MVZ) from “1932.” Since the late 1970s, 1 or rarely several Bar-tailed Godwits have been found about 75 percent of springs at Gambell, with much higher counts of 30+ birds on 31 May 1976 (UAM files), 17 counted 01 Jun 1984, a season total 12 in 1989, and 15 birds on 20 May 2003. The earliest arrivals are 09–14 May 2015 (up to 2) and 14+ May 2013, and the latest departure is 15–16 Jun 2013.

Fall: Single specimens of the subspecies L. l. baueri were collected (**USNM) at Gambell on 01 and 23 Aug 1930 (Friedmann 1932a) and 2 were collected (**USNM) during Sep 1931. Other individuals were collected on [unspecified locality] SLI 16 Aug 1929 (*MVZ, juvenile) and near Savoonga 31 Aug 1935 (Murie 1936). Perhaps surprisingly, the only fall records at Gambell since then are of single, separate juveniles 24, 26, and 29 Aug 2003 and on 30 Aug 2005, a flock of 7 on 02 Sep 2010, and 4 on 12 Aug 2012.

Comments: All records are presumed to involve the subspecies L. l. baueri. Bar-tailed Godwit breeds in western Alaska (baueri) and across much of northeastern Russia (menzbieri), although Tomkovitch (2010) and Lappo et al. (2012) show that it nests in Russia only as far east
as extreme western Chukotka, with an isolated population (subspecies *anadyrensis*) in the lower Andyr River basin. It is an uncommon-to-rare transient on other Bering Sea islands (Preble and McAtee 1923, Fay and Cade 1959, Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007) and locally along coastal mainland Alaska.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*
- **Casual spring visitor.**
  - *Fall:* Fay and Cade (1959) reported 1 bird on 05 Aug 1957 from the Boxer River valley; but Kessel and Gibson (1978) did not believe that this report unequivocally eliminated Hudsonian Godwit (*L. haemastica*), which has yet to be recorded on SLI.
  - **Comments:** This species nests north to the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). Most Alaska records are from the Aleutians (especially) and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), where very rare in spring.

**MARBLED GODWIT** *Limosa fedoa*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  - *Spring:* One was seen at Gambell by multiple observers on 05 Jun 1995. Yet, the sighting has remained largely undocumented.
  - **Comments:** This species has a small, very isolated breeding population on the Alaska Peninsula bordering Bristol Bay and is a rare to very rare visitor at scattered other sites in southern Alaska, mostly in Southeast (Kessel and Gibson 1978); otherwise it breeds no closer than central Alberta (NGS 2017).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*
- **Uncommon fall and rare spring migrant. Rare breeder on SLI.**
  - *Spring:* Mostly a through-migrant on SLI, a small number likely remain to nest locally. At Gambell, the earliest arrivals were 2 flocks on 17 May 1982, but elsewhere on the island ca. 10 birds were near Southeast Cape 14+ May 1983 (UAM files), and Ehrlich et al. (1993) listed “15 May” [no year] as the earliest date. High counts at Gambell include up to 60/day from 30 May–03 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 75 on 02 Jun 1985, and 40–51 birds from 25–27 May 1989, plus 65 birds on 28 May 1976 at Kongkok Bay (UAM files); but numbers have declined substantially in recent years. Probable spring migrants at Gambell may occur into the third week of June, although it is uncertain whether even later records (e.g., 4 birds on 25 Jun 1993) refer to late northbound or early southbound individuals.
  - *Fall:* Southbound transients may appear already in early July (see below). There are two specimens (**USNM) from [no date] Jul 1931 and Fay and Cade (1959) list 4 specimens (**UBC) collected between 10–14 Jul 1953, all at Gambell; and they noted that “flocking began in the first week of August, and large flocks of winter-plumaged birds moving in a southeasterly direction were frequently seen near Siknik Camp [east end of Koozata Lagoon] in the last week of that month.” One bird collected at Gambell 21 Jul 1966 had been banded in Hawaii (S. G. Sealy in litt.). The species is present later in autumn at Gambell in numbers that vary from year to year. Only 5 were seen there in 1999, 4 in 2002, none in 2008, and 3 in 2011, but 61 were counted in 2001 and 75 were tallied in 2012. The maximum one-day count at Gambell is 32 birds on 29 Aug 2016. Adult birds at Gambell are very rare after early August, and the latest is on 03
Sep 2006. The latest records of juveniles are through 26 Sep 2005 (up to 4), through 27 Sep 2013, and through 30 Sep 2016. Five birds were about 15 km (9 mi) to the ESE at Akeftapak Bay on 29 Sep 2010.

**Summer and Breeding:** Breeding was noted in the past at several sites on SLI (Friedmann 1932a, Fay and Cade 1959, Sauer and Urban 1964, Portenko 1981), though none recently. Nesting was documented at Gambell in Jun 1921 (Portenko 1981) and at Gambell and Boxer Bay during Jun 1950 (5 pairs total, 1 nest at Gambell; Fay and Cade 1959). Turnstones were termed common breeders in the Boxer Bay area in Jun 1960, and which subsequently all moved to lower, wetter tundra and then to the coastline by late Jul (Sauer and Urban 1964). A few individuals were near Gambell 27 Jun 1978 (Tolman 1979). Two birds thought “probably breeding” were at Southeast Cape 22 Jun 1986 (UAM files). “Territorial behavior” was observed in the Nekeelit Point mountains, south of Gambell, 02 Jun 1988 (de Roo 1991). Other reports suggestive of possible local breeding involve a specimen (*DMNS) from [unspecified locality] SLI 29 Jun 1921 and 1 bird near Northeast Cape 25 Jun 1964 (Thompson 1967). One at Iviktook Lagoon southeast of Savoonga 7 Jul 1931 (*MVZ) may have been an early fall transient. Fall migrants are likely fairly numerous by mid-July (see above).

**BLACK TURNSTONE** *Arenaria melanocephala*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** First recorded in spring at Gambell 07 Jun 1982, there are now some 18 spring records there, all involving single individuals, through 2017. These records range between 17 May 2017 and 07 Jun 1982.
  - **Fall:** The first records for SLI were of 1 reported near Southwest Cape 03 Aug 1942 and 2 at Savoonga 13 Jul 1955, with 1 of these birds collected (Fay and Cade 1959).
  - **Comments:** This species is casual in spring and summer on other Bering Sea islands (Winker et al. 2002) and on the Chukchi Peninsula (Karhu 2004, Tomkovich 2016). It nests as close as western mainland Alaska (Kessel 1989). Note: Dark juvenile Ruddy Turnstones in early autumn have been misidentified as Black Turnstones on several occasions.

**GREAT KNOT** *Calidris tenuirostris*
- **Very rare spring and accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** There are approximately 11 spring records (involving 15 individuals) through 2017 involving 1 or 2 birds at Gambell between 22 May 1989 (2) and 12 Jun 1981, with the first on 08 Jun 1977. In addition, single flocks of 6 birds on 07 Jun 1993 and an exceptional 19 birds on 30 May 1994 were seen. Also, a pair in appropriate nesting habitat on the top of Sevuokuk Mountain 16 Jun 1973 included the male seen hovering overhead. Published photos from 03 Jun 1987 and 30 May 2003 appear in *AB* 41:380 and *NAB* 57:431, respectively.
  - **Fall:** A juvenile was seen at Gambell 22 Aug 1997, the first fall record for Alaska and only the second fall record at the time for North America (ABA 2008).
  - **Summer:** See above.
  - **Comments:** Great Knot is a very rare breeder as close as the alpine zone of the western Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981). There are a number of spring records from the Nome area, it is a casual spring visitor to the Pribilofs and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and there is a single autumn record from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), as well as from Oregon, Maine, and West Virginia (NGS 2017).
**RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus*
- Very rare spring and casual fall migrant.
  *Spring:* The first SLI record was at Gambell on 01 Jun 1974 (*SBCM; Kessel and Gibson 1978), and there is now a total of 17 records (involving 24 individuals) there between 27 May 1978 (UAM files) and 08 Jun 1989. One of these involved a displaying male on Sevuokuk Mountain 05 Jun 1980 (UAM files).
  *Fall:* Single juveniles were found at Gambell 26 Aug 1998, 26–30 Aug 2000, 30-31 Aug 2008, and 28 Aug 2011, and 2 were present 20 Aug 2016.

  *Comments:* All Alaska specimens involve the mainland nesting *C. c. roselaari* (Gibson and Kessel 1997), although *C. c. rogersi* (presumably) breeds in small numbers on the Chukchi Peninsula (Karhu 2004). This species is a casual migrant on the other Bering Sea islands and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**RUFF** *Calidris pugnax*
- Rare spring and casual fall visitor.
  *Spring:* There are many late-spring and early-summer records at Gambell, though only 1 from elsewhere on SLI. The first five records are all specimens: 07 May (very early, if correct), 12 May, and 14 May 1933 (**UAM; Murie 1936, Kessel and Gibson 1978); and [no date] June 1933 (Friedmann 1934b) and 17 Jun 1961 (**USNM). The sixth is from just to the east at Akeftapak 03 Jun 1968 (*UAM; Sealy et al. 1971). The 17 Jun 1961 record is getting late, involved 5 birds, and might conceivably have represented local nesting. Since 1974, Ruffs have been recorded almost annually as singles and small flocks, with most years from 1 to 7 individuals found; particularly high counts were made of a total of 40+ birds between 01–07 Jun 1979, 14 on 29 May 1997, an impressive 31 individuals on 31 May 2006, and 19 birds on 25 May 2012. The total count of individuals at Gambell between 1974 and 2017 is approximately 167. The next earliest date after the three specimens listed above is 25 May 2012, and the latest dates are 14 Jun 1975 (UAM files), 16 Jun 2006 (2), and the 17 Jun 1961 record listed above. Additional specimens exist (*SBCM) for 01 Jun 1974 and (**UAM) for 02 Jun 2003 and 26 May 2013.
  *Fall:* Very surprisingly, there is only a single SLI record at this season, of a juvenile at Savoonga 25 Aug 2004.

  *Summer and Breeding:* See above.

  *Comments:* This species nests regularly northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Vaurie 1965) and casually to the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981) and in northwestern Alaska (Gibson 1977). It occurs much more regularly in fall on the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) than it does on SLI. Very rare to casual elsewhere in much of coastal Alaska and throughout much of North America.

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** *Calidris acuminata*
- Uncommon to fairly common fall, and casual spring, migrant.
  *Spring:* The only records at this season are from Gambell: 2 birds on 31 May 1976, singles on 01 Jun and 09 Jun 1977, and 1 on 31 May 1998.
  *Fall:* The first SLI records were of eight specimens (**USNM) taken east of Savoonga between 27 Aug and 24 Sep 1935 (Murie 1936). An adult was present at Gambell 18 Aug 2006 and another was there 02 Sep 2013. All other birds have been juveniles (ph. Lehman 2017), with dates there ranging from 17 Aug 2014 (3) to 01 Oct 2017 and 03 Oct and 08–10 Oct (up to 3)

**Comments:** Sharp-tailed Sandpiper breeds west of the Chukchi Peninsula, where it is a fall migrant only (Portenko 1981). Also fairly common in fall (and casual in spring) on the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), as well as in coastal mainland western Alaska; very rare to casual elsewhere in Alaska and North America.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*
- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** Single individuals were at Gambell 29 May 1985 and 07 Jun 1996, and a flock of 5–6 birds flew by on 29 May 1997 associated with a major movement of shorebirds that day. A report from 08 Jun 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Roberson 1980) lacks adequate documentation.
  
  **Fall:** A juvenile was present at Gambell 15 Aug 2006.

  **Comments:** Curlew Sandpiper breeds east to the western Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009). It is also a casual migrant on St. Matthew Island, the Aleutians, and the Pribilofs (Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and elsewhere in coastal western and northern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and it is a very rare to casual visitor elsewhere in North America.

**TEMMINCK’S STINT** *Calidris temminckii*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall and summer visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** All island records are from Gambell, the first on 02 Jun 1974. There now total 26 spring records through 2017, all involving single individuals, except for 3 birds on 04 Jun with 2 remaining 05 Jun 1999. Most of these are clustered during the first week of June. The earliest is 25 May 1987, the latest 09 Jun 1975 and 1997 and 13 Jun 2016 (one-year-old).
  
  **Fall:** There are two fall records of juveniles at Gambell 28 Aug 1999 and 24 Aug 2012.
  
  **Summer:** One was reported at Gambell 02–04 Jul 2000 (UAM files). This bird was either a summer wanderer or an early fall migrant.

  **Comments:** Temminck’s Stint nests north to the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981). Of similar status on the Aleutian Islands—where very rare in spring but casual in fall (Gibson and Byrd 2007)—it is more often found in autumn on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). It is accidental south to the Pacific Northwest (NGS 2017).

**LONG-TOED STINT** *Calidris subminuta*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**

  **Spring:** The exact number of records is imprecise, owing to some level of observer confusion with Least Sandpiper, especially concerning several of the early reports (e.g., 29–31 May 1978). The first records were 06–09 Jun 1975 and 31 May 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). There now total 12 spring records, all at Gambell, through 2017, with the earliest on 24+ May 2006 and the latest 09–10 Jun 1994 (UAM files).
  
  **Fall:** The two records are both from Gambell: 21 Aug 1999 and 18 Aug 2006.

  **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the southern Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998). At the Pribilofs, Long-toed Stints are very rare in both spring and fall (S. Schuette unpubl. data); while on the Aleutians there are far more spring records, when bordering on rare to uncommon (Gibson and Byrd 2007). It is accidental in fall south to California (NGS 2017).
**RED-NECKED STINT** *Calidris ruficollis*

- Rare spring and fall migrant and possible breeder.

  **Spring:** This is a regular spring migrant in very small numbers, and it possibly nests locally as well. Almost all records are from Gambell. The first for SLI was of a total of 6 birds 01–03 Jun 1974, followed by annual reports ever since. Almost all involve 1 to 3 individuals; higher counts include 5 individuals on several dates, 6 on 09 Jun 1992, and 10 birds on 31 May 1988 (with the 1988 season total of 11 birds). The total number of spring individuals through 2017 was approximately 170. Early arrival dates are 22 May 1989 and 24 May 2010. Likely spring migrants may occur through the second week in June (but see below). The only SLI spring report away from Gambell is from Kongkok Bay 28 May 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

  **Fall:** Since 1992, a total of 28 juveniles (ph. Lehman 2005, 2006, UAM) have been seen at Gambell between 12 Aug 2006 and 04 Sep 2006 and 2009. The single-day maximum is 3 birds (on three different dates). Also, an adult was at Kongkok Bay 28 Jul 1972 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Small numbers of early-fall migrants would likely prove regular during July and early August. On the Chukchi Peninsula, the latest record of an adult is 06 Aug 1938 and of a juvenile is 28 Aug 1933 and 1961 (Portenko 1981).

  **Summer and Breeding:** This species is a possible or probable breeder on the island (Kessel and Gibson 1978). A male in display flight was present at Gambell 6–7 Jun 1991, others were displaying 09 Jun 1992 and 05–06 Jun 1994, 1 was there 25 Jun 2002, a male made an extended stay from 30 May–09+ Jun 2012, up to 2 birds were present from 13–21 Jun 2005, several were present during the first two weeks of Jun and a male was seen in display to a female 13 Jun 2016, up to 2 were still present 15–16 Jun 2017, and later still, 1 was there 03 Jul 2000 (UAM files). Two birds at the upper Moghoweyik River, southwestern SLI, 24 Jun 1987 included 1 in display flight. Two observed at Gambell 19 Jul 1989 (UAM files) and single adults there 20 Jul and 24 Jul 2016 could well have been fall migrants.

  **Comments:** There are only about a dozen breeding records for Alaska (DeCicco et al. 2013). Red-necked Stint breeds regularly on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981). They are also rare but regular in both spring and fall on the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpbl. data) and are very rare to casual along the adjacent Alaska mainland coast (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and elsewhere in North America.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

- Rare fall and casual spring migrant.

  **Spring:** There are a mere seven spring records, all at Gambell: 31 May 1976 (UAM files), 30 May 1985, 01 Jun 1992 (2), 02 Jun 1993, 02 Jun 2002, 26 May 2004, and 03 Jun 2012.

  **Fall:** A total of 100 individuals, all juveniles, have been seen in autumn at Gambell between 1975 and 2017, with the highest counts being a season total of 18 birds in 2016 and a single-day maximum of a flock of 14 on 29 Aug 2016. Most of the records fall between 20 Aug 2017 and 25 Sep 2003. Two birds were at the east end of SLI at Apavaghun on 27 Sep 2006. An exceptionally late individual was present at Gambell 19–30 Nov 2011.

  **Comments:** This species is also a rare fall and casual spring migrant on the other Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*
- **Fairly common spring and uncommon to fairly common fall migrant. Fairly common to common breeder on SLI. Possibly declining.**

  **Spring:** This fairly common migrant and breeder typically arrives on SLI beginning the third week of May, with earlier dates of 13 May 1983 at both Savoonga (6) and near Southeast Cape (“common”) (UAM files); the earliest at Gambell are 18 May 1994 and 2003. Most daily maxima are between 30–50 individuals, with a few counts up to ca. 100, 125 seen 28 May 1989, and 130 present 24–25 May 2010 (a very strong year for several species of shorebirds), all at Gambell. Most maxima in recent years have been substantially lower. The highest count away from Gambell is of 50 at Savoonga 30 May 1989.

  **Fall:** Most birds by mid-to-late August are juveniles, but some adults remain then as well. Flocks begin to form by late July, and 75–100 birds have been noted in late August along the south shore of SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Sauer and Urban 1964). Numbers at Gambell vary substantially from fall to fall, with 180 in 2001 but only 6 in 2008, ca. 15 in both 2014 and 2015, and ca. 10 in 2016. The one-day maximum is 50 on both 27 Aug 2000 and 24 Aug 2001; and the latest record is 26 Sep 2001. Later still, 24 birds were about 14 km (9 mi) to the ESE at Akeftapak Bay on 29 Sep 2010, 3 were there 30 Sep 2011, and 1 was at Apavaghu, east end SLI, 03 Oct 2006. The latest record for the Chukchi Peninsula is 01–03 Oct 1933 (Portenko 1981).

  **Summer and Breeding:** Dunlin is a fairly common to common nester on much of SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Sauer and Urban 1964, Ehrlich et al. 1993). During the mid-1900s, Fay and Cade (1959) termed it the most common shorebird on SLI, with up to 20 pairs found around Gambell in 1950. On 22 Jun 1986, it was termed a common breeder at Southeast Cape (UAM files). Nests were found in “very wet tundra with dense grass” near Nekeelit Point, south of Gambell, in Jun 1988 (de Roos 1990). It is presently an uncommon breeder around Gambell. A flock of 60 adults at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017 was likely a post-breeding concentration.

**ROCK SANDPIPER* Calidris ptilocnemis**

- **Now uncommon in spring, uncommon to fairly common in fall, and an uncommon breeder. Probably declining. One record involving the nominate subspecies.**

  **Spring:** This species occurs uncommonly now in spring in the immediate Gambell area, where formerly apparently more numerous, at least into the 1970s. Some recent seasons have not recorded more than 5 or 6 individuals near the village, although recent maxima have included 25 from 05–09 Jun 1989 and 14 birds on 01 Jun 2002. The earliest arrival date at Gambell is 08 May 2014. Abundance elsewhere on SLI is poorly known.

  **Fall:** Small-to-moderate numbers of Rock Sandpipers, both adults and juveniles, are present through mid-September, but the species is uncommon in late September and rare in early October. Numbers in the immediate Gambell area have declined noticeably during the past decade. The largest numbers and later records come from the rocky headlands south of the village (e.g., Ooynik Point); 40 birds were counted 08 Sep 1975 and 33 were seen 08 Sep 2010. Some 40 birds were even slightly farther south, between Ooynik and the Kitnepaluk area 25 Sep 2011, and 30 were there 03 Sep 2017. The latest records are of singles at Gambell 09 Oct 2016, 11 Oct 2010, and 11 Oct 2012; elsewhere, up to 6 were at Apavaghu, east end SLI, 03–05 Oct 2006 and 1 was still at Savoonga 07 Oct 2011. One individual of the nominate subspecies *C. p. ptilocnemis*, which breeds on St. Matthew and the Pribilof Islands and winters primarily in the Cook Inlet area (NGS 2017), was present 25–26 Sep 2005 (ph. Lehman 2006), probably the first record well north of that subspecies’ normal range.
Summer and Breeding: Rock Sandpipers are apparently declining in numbers, at least recently, on SLI, although formerly they were termed fairly common to common (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993). Only 1 or 2 nesting pairs have been found annually in the Gambell area in recent years.

Comments: The local subspecies is C. p. tschuktschorum (Gibson and Kessel 1997).

Baird’s Sandpiper  Calidris bairdii
- Rare to very rare spring and very rare fall migrant; casual breeder.

Spring: This species is recorded at Gambell a little over half the springs, with just 1 or 2 individuals seen most years. The maximum counts are of up to 4 birds between 31 May–11 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 4 on 02 Jun 1984, 6 birds on 08 Jun 1988, and 4 on 28 May 1989. The earliest arrivals are 11 May 2003 (exceptional) and 20 May 2004. Late dates for presumed migrants are through 10 Jun 1989 and through 11 Jun 1976.

Fall: Fay and Cade (1959) reported that “in August flocks of 2 to 6 birds...were sometimes seen near Gambell and on the beaches of the south coast,” and that “three adult males taken on the north shore of Troutman Lake, August 8, 1953, are in the UBC collection.” One juvenile was photographed at Gambell 01 Aug 2010 (R. Ungwiluk Jr). The other recent sightings are of a total of 5 birds there between 23 Aug–03 Sep 2003, 6 between 15 Aug–07 Sep 2004, 1 from 15–17 Aug 2006, 3 between 27 Aug–09 Sep 2007, and singles on 02 Sep 2011 and from 24–27 Aug 2013; all were juveniles.

Summer and Breeding: Fay and Cade (1959) believed that this species possibly nested on SLI and reported individuals and pairs during June and July. Sauer and Urban (1964) reported perhaps the first confirmed breeding record for SLI in 1960 when 3 adults and a nest with eggs were found in the Boxer Valley 22–30+ June, plus an adult giving a distraction display, 12 Jul, in Wanmayee Valley near Boxer Bay. At Gambell, a pair with downy young were seen sometime between 06 and 09 Jul 1976 (UAM files), 1 was giving song flights 07 Jun 1978, 2 pairs and a nest with 4 eggs were found 06 Jun 1986, a nest with 5 eggs was found there in Jun 1987 (de Roos 1990, 1991), and several birds giving song flights and displays were noted 08–09 Jun 1988.

Comments: Small numbers breed west to the Chukchi Peninsula (Karhu 2004). It is a rare but regular fall migrant on the Aleutians and Pribilofs, where casual in spring (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Little Stint  Calidris minuta
- Casual spring visitor.


Comments: This species breeds eastward across northern Russia to western Chukotka (Gibson and Byrd 2007, Brazil 2009) and irregularly to the northeastern Chukchi Peninsula (Lappo et al. 2012). Whereas Gambell’s records are all of adults in spring, the records from St. Matthew Island, the Aleutians, and Pribilofs are mostly of juveniles in fall (Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Also casual in northern Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and elsewhere in North America.

Least Sandpiper  Calidris minutilla
- Very rare spring visitor.
**Spring:** The first records were 29–31 May 1978 (identified at the time incorrectly as a Long-toed Stint—J. L. Dunn in litt.) and 04–06 Jun 1978. There now total some 31 reports through 2017, all from Gambell and all involving single individuals except for five records of 2 birds. The earliest arrival is an exceptional 05–06 May 2004, and 20 May 2014; the latest departures are 06 Jun 1978, 1990, and 1999.

**Comments:** Least Sandpiper nests west to the central Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), as well as to the eastern Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and in small numbers to St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002). They have been recorded on multiple occasions on the Chukchi Peninsula, where they also probably have bred (Zagrebin and Kosyak 2015).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Calidris subruficollis*

- *Casual spring and fall visitor.*

  **Spring:** The four spring records are from Gambell 29 May 1985, 01 Jun 1987, 03 Jun 1994, and 29 May 1995.


  **Comments:** This species nests west to northern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and to the arctic coast of Chukotka (Lappo et al. 2012). It is a very rare fall migrant to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), as well as to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

- *Fairly common to common fall and uncommon spring migrant. Breeding status unclear.*

  **Spring:** This species occurs as a migrant in highly variable numbers from year to year, with only a handful seen some seasons, many one-day highs at Gambell of up to 35 birds, 78 counted on 28 May 1983, and major flights bringing 525 birds there on 25 May 2010 (a very strong day for several species of migrant shorebirds) and a single flock of 170 and a total of 225 on 29 May 2014. The earliest arrivals at Gambell are 17 May and 20 May (3) 2017 and 21 May 2016 (flock of 125+); the late date there is 07 Jun 2008.

  **Fall:** Migrant adults probably first appear in July (see below). Mainly juveniles, with only a few adults, occur during mid-to-late August, although more of the latter would be seen in July and early August if there was coverage then. Only juveniles have been found in September. Most birds have passed by mid-September. Seasonal totals at Gambell range from 31 in 2002, 32 in 2007, and a mere 17, 25, and 24 birds in 2014, 2015, and 2017, respectively, to 375 in 1999 and 460 in 2003. The maximum one-day counts are of 300 on 26 Aug 2003, 100 on 28 Aug 2013, and 105 on 11 Sep 2013. Up to several hundred were seen daily around Savoonga during Aug 2003, with the earliest individual on 05 Aug. The latest records involve 4 birds at Gambell on 28 Sep 2007, 3 on 28 Sep 2013, and singles on 29 Sep 2001 and 30 Sep 2016.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Fay and Cade (1959) reported “a few pairs, apparently nesting” on the island in 1956, although evidence for actual breeding seems weak. Two birds on 10 Jun 1960 near Boxer Bay (Sauer and Urban 1964) might have been local breeders. Pairs showing “courtship behavior” were observed at Gambell and to the south near Nekeelit Point between 01–04 Jun 1988 (de Roos 1990). Friedmann (1932a) cited a [unspecified locality] SLI specimen (*USNM) from 13 Jul 1899, and Fay and Cade (1959) also mentioned an [unspecified locality]
SLI specimen from 27 Jul 1950 as well as a report of multiple birds on 29 Jul [year?]—some or all of these July birds could easily be fall migrants.

Comments: Numbers may fluctuate substantially from year to year in both spring and fall.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** *Calidris pusilla*

- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.

  Spring: First recorded 31 May 1976 at Gambell, there are now 30 spring records through 2017, all involving single individuals except for up to 2 birds from 13–14 Jun 1988. A majority of these have occurred between 31 May–07 June. The earliest arrivals are 20 May 2003 and 24 May 2017. The latest records are 10–12 Jun 2013 and the 1988 record, above.

  Fall: The sole fall record is of a juvenile at Gambell on 23 Aug 1992.

Comments: This species is a common breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It also has been found nesting since the 1980s in northern Chukotka (Lappo et al. 2012, Arkhipov et al. 2013). It is a very rare spring and casual fall migrant on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and it is casual on the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** *Calidris mauri*

- Fairly common to common spring migrant and breeder, uncommon to fairly common fall migrant.

  Spring: This numerous breeder and migrant has arrived at Gambell as early as 10 May 2015 and 2017 and 11 May 2003 (2); elsewhere on SLI, several birds were present already 13 May 1983 at both Savoonga and near Southeast Cape (UAM files). Gambell maxima are 150 birds on 05 Jun 1993 and 130 on 25 May 2010 (a very strong day for several species of shorebirds).

  Fall: Most birds have probably departed by early August, and all Western Sandpipers seen from mid-August onward have been juveniles, except for 1 adult at Gambell on 29 Aug 2007. Numbers during fall vary substantially from year to year. A fairly common to common migrant through August, it is uncommon in early September, and rare in mid-September. The maximum one-day counts at Gambell are 80 on both 20 Aug 1999 and 15 Aug 2004, although most daily maxima are of 10–25 birds. No birds seen during late Aug–early Sep 2008 was probably indicative of poor nesting success, and fewer than 30 found in both 2014 and 2016 despite observer arrival on 15 Aug and 19 Aug, respectively, suggested early departure and/or poor nesting success. Singles through 15 Sep 2006 and through 22 Sep 2010 are the latest. A late, unidentified peep was seen there in flight 22 Sep 2001.

  Summer and Breeding: Breeds commonly on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993). Post-breeding flocking (involving failed nesters?) commences already in late June (e.g., 21 Jun 2005 at Gambell).

Comments: This species nests in large numbers in adjacent coastal western Alaska (Kessel 1989), as well as westward to western Chukotka (Brazil 2009, Arkhipov et al. 2013).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

- Uncommon spring migrant and breeder, uncommon to fairly common fall migrant. Possibly declining.

  Spring: This species is an uncommon spring migrant and local breeder, with most one-day totals of fewer than 10 individuals, a few counts of up to about 100, and an exceptional 190
birds at Gambell on 25 May 2010 (a very strong day for several species of shorebirds). A very early individual was at Gambell 09 May 2015, whereas the next earliest dates are 16 May 1983 near Southeast Cape (3 birds; UAM files) and 17 May 1973 at Kavalghak Bay, south of Gambell (Johnson 1976).

Fall: Most adults probably depart during July. Seasonal totals at Gambell between mid-August and late September vary substantially from year to year, e.g., 115 in 2003 and 185 in 2010, but only 17 in 2002 and 22 in 2014. The highest one-day counts are of 40 on 29 Aug 2000, 02 Sep 2007, and 07 Sep 2010, and the largest flock is of 35 on both 24 Aug 2009 and 31 Aug 2013. All birds to date in autumn around Gambell have been juveniles, but 2 adults were collected as late as 14 Aug 1957 along the south shore at Koozata Lagoon (Fay and Cade 1959), and migrant adults are likely regular in at least small numbers during July. The latest records are through 24 Sep in 1999, 2005 (2), and 2010.

Summer and Breeding: Although Fay and Cade (1959) stated that the Long-billed Dowitcher was a fairly common summer resident in the island’s wet interior, Sealy et al. (1971) reported SLI’s first definite nesting record only in 1960. A copulating pair was observed near Gambell on 01 Jun 1988 (de Roos 1990). The greatest numbers probably do indeed breed in mesic tundra in the central and eastern sections of the island (Ehrlich et al. 1993), whereas numbers in the Gambell area appear to have declined, with at best only 1 or 2 pairs there annually.

Comments: Long-billed Dowitcher is also a regular breeder on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981, Karhu 2004).

JACK SNIPE Lymnocryptes minimus
- Accidental spring visitor.
  Spring: One was present at Gambell from 04–07 Jun 2008 (ph. NAB 63:184).
  Comments: This species breeds in northeast Russia east to near the Kolyma River (Brazil 2009); recently, displaying birds have been found east to western Chukotka and south of Anadyr (Lappo et al. 2012). Most of the few Alaska records are from the Pribilofs in autumn (S. Schuette unpubl. data). Casual visitor elsewhere in North America.

PIN-TAILED SNIPE Gallinago stenura
- Accidental spring visitor.
  Spring: One was at Gambell 26–27 May 2016.
  Comments: This species breeds northeast to the western Anadyr River basin and northwest Chukotka, possibly as close as north of Anadyr city (Lappo et al. 2012). Previous Alaska records come from the western Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Swinhoe’s Snipe (G. megala), which breeds north to southern Russia and is as yet unrecorded in North America, was not conclusively eliminated from consideration with most of the Alaska records without a specimen, including the Gambell bird.

COMMON SNIPE Gallinago gallinago
- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.
**Fall:** There are six fall records at Gambell: 04–13 Sep 2000, 25 Sep 2001, 03 Sep 2008, 27 Aug 2011, 14 Sep 2013, and 31 Aug 2014. The 2001 record is probably late for this latitude.

**Comments:** Additional records of “snipe sp.” are given below. Given the recent taxonomic split of Wilson’s and Common Snipe, as well as field identification issues, the number of definite records of both species is difficult to determine. Common Snipe breeds northeast to the interior of the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981) and has been recorded on the eastern Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015). It is found annually in small numbers, primarily during migration, on the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Accidental elsewhere in North America.

**WILSON’S SNIPE** *Gallinago delicata*
- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** This species has occurred at Gambell casually in spring, including in display flight on several occasions. The records are 29–30 May 1989, 31 May 1994, 01–04 Jun 1998, 03 Jun 2000, 03 May 2003 (early), and 25–27 May 2013; plus 1 or 2 birds observed winnowing at a marsh below Troutman Lake for from one day to two weeks annually in late May and/or early June between 2005 and 2010.

  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 01–04 Sep 2005, and 1 or 2 were seen there 09 Sep 2007.

  **Comments:** Additional records of “snipe sp.” are given below. Given the recent taxonomic split of Wilson’s and Common Snipe, as well as field identification issues, the number of definite records of both species is difficult to determine. Wilson’s Snipe is found on the nearby Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is a rare or very rare migrant on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). There is one record at Anadyr (Arkhipov 2009).

**COMMON / WILSON’S SNIPE**

**Spring:** There are 14 spring records—between 23 May 2011 and 08 June 1988—at Gambell of snipe identified only to Common/Wilson’s. The first was early Jun 1976. Two of these reports involved a total of 3 birds on 04 Jun 1982 and up to 5 individuals from 27–29 May 1991.

**Fall:** An unidentified snipe was seen at Gambell 28 Aug 2006 and another was at Savoonga 25 Aug 2004.

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Xenus cinereus*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**

  **Spring:** The first SLI record involved up to 2 birds at Gambell 31 May–08 Jun 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). This was followed by 1 on 06–07 Jun 1979 and then by 13 additional records (involving 15 individuals) during 11 different years between 1983 and 2017; the earliest was 22 May 2016 and the latest 09–10 Jun 1987. In addition, an exceptional year in 1994 brought an incredible 23 birds on 29 May, with 5 individuals seen on several subsequent dates, 30 May–10 Jun.

  **Fall:** An adult was present at Gambell 25–26 Aug 1994. Also, 1 was at “Booshu Camp,” ca. 29 km (18 mi) south of Gambell, 08 Sep 1975 (not “07 Sep”—AB 30:111).

  **Comments:** Terek Sandpipers breed northeast to the Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998, Arkhipov et al. 2008) and at least occasionally north to the north shore of western Chukotka (Tomkovich 2007). They are casual visitors to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd
2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and elsewhere in coastal Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and North America.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** First recorded on SLI when 2 birds appeared at Gambell 06 Jun 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), followed by up to 3 birds there from 30 May–10 Jun 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978, UAM files). Since then, there have been approximately 26 additional records (involving 38 individuals) through 2017 (ph. NAB 57:391)—mostly of single individuals, a few involving up to 2 birds, 3 birds on 26–27 May 2016, 4 individuals on 03 Jun 1983, and 6–7 birds on 01–02 Jun 1994. The dates range between 19 May 2003 and 17–18 Jun 2005. Away from Gambell, singles were reported at Kongkok Bay/Basin 31 May and 12 Jun 1987 (UAM files).
  
  **Fall:** The only autumn record is of a juvenile present at Gambell 29 Aug–02 Sep 2012.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds north to the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009) and was recently found nesting on the Chukchi Peninsula (Antipin 2016). It is a very rare visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is casual or accidental on the Seward Peninsula.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** One was seen at Gambell 05 Jun 2009.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds west through interior Alaska to the central Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). It is also accidental at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

*Casual spring visitor.*

**Spring:** The three records are 05–07 Jun 1982, 22–24 May 2009 (not just “22–23” May—NAB 63:485), and 13 Jun 2016—all at Gambell.

**Comments:** Green Sandpiper nests no closer than the Kolyma River and Amurland (Gibson and Byrd 2007). It is also casual at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria*
- **Accidental spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** One was present at Gambell 31 May–01 Jun 2000.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds through interior Alaska, is a very rare visitor to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), and is casual to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes*
- **Rare but regular fall and very rare spring visitor; casual in summer.**
  
  **Spring:** First recorded in spring at Gambell on 02–03 Jun 1974, this species has proven to be of almost annual occurrence, with a total of over 39 records (involving ca. 61 individuals) through 2017. The earliest arrival is 24 May 2017, and the latest departures are 14 Jun 1996, 17 Jun 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and 18 Jun 2004. High counts include single-day totals of 4

Fall: A total of 90 juveniles (ph. WB 31(3): rear cover, Lehman 2006, Lehman 2017) have been found in fall at Gambell since 1996 between 16 Aug 2006 and 19 Sep 2005. Seasonal totals range up to 10 (in 2006), with a one-day high of 5 birds on 05 Sep 2009. In addition, a very late individual was present 30 Sep 2017. An adult was found 25–27 Aug 1998. Rare fall-migrant adults are fairly likely to appear beginning in mid-July (see below).

Summer: The only true summer record is of 1 present at Gambell 02–03 Jul 2000 (UAM files). One bird collected (*USNM) at Gambell in [no date] Jul 1932 (Friedmann 1933) was almost certainly a southbound adult.

Comments: Some early SLI reports of Wandering Tattler may have pertained to Gray-tailed, and vice versa. Gray-tailed Tattler breeds northeast to the northern Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998), and it has been recorded north to the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015). On the Aleutians and Pribilofs it is an uncommon to rare migrant (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), and as at SLI, more numerous in fall than in spring. Casual visitor elsewhere in coastal Alaska (Kessel 1989, DeCicco et al. 2017) and North America.

WANDERING TATTLE Tringa incana

• Very rare spring and rare fall migrant. Possible breeder on SLI.

Spring: This species is probably slightly rarer than Gray-tailed Tattler, yet an approximate number of records for Gambell and elsewhere on SLI in spring is not known. Early arrival and late departure dates are 16 May 2006 and 12 Jun 2017, respectively. The high counts are 4 birds during both spring 2001 and 2011. A pair lingered in appropriate nesting habitat at Gambell from 29 May–09 Jun 2012 but departed thereafter.

Fall: Only 24 individuals—all juveniles but one—have been recorded at Gambell since the 1990s between mid-Aug and 09 Sep (2015), plus 1 later bird on 14 Sep 2007. A specimen (*USNM) comes from Sep 1934. The only record there of an adult is from 20 Aug 2011. Also, single specimens (*UBC) were collected elsewhere on the island 16 Jul 1955 and 08 Aug 1957 (Fay and Cade 1959). Two tattlers sp. were at Boxer Bay 05–07 Aug 1950 (Cade 1950) and a single Wandering was at Savoonga 25–27 Aug 2004. As with several other shorebirds, this species likely would prove to be more regular if the island received better coverage from July to mid-August.

Summer and Breeding: According to Fay and Cade (1959), “some Yupik think it breeds in island’s mountains,” but this has not been further investigated.

Comments: Wandering Tattler nests in the interior Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and eastern Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1981). It is an uncommon migrant on St. Matthew, Aleutian, and Pribilof Islands (Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Some early SLI reports of Wandering Tattler may have pertained to Gray-tailed, and vice versa.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS Tringa flavipes

• Casual spring and fall visitor.

Spring: Although only a casual visitor, the mere five records obtained appear to be low. All are from Gambell as follows: “spring” 1984, 04 Jun 1990 (originally misidentified as a Greater Yellowlegs), 23 May 2007, 25 May 2010 (with a Greater), and 25–26 May 2012.

Fall: The sole record is of a juvenile at Gambell 14–16 Sep 2010.
Comments: Reports of a Lesser Yellowlegs “singing” in a marshy area near Northeast Cape on 5 and 18 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967) and of a bird flushed from a nest between Gambell and Kavalghak Bay on the very unusual, late nest-date of 23 Jul 1971 (Johnson 1974, Ehrlich et al. 1993—see Wood Sandpiper, below) both lack proper documentation and seem unlikely. Lesser Yellowlegs breeds north to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a rare but regular spring and early summer visitor to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), very rare to casual to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

COMMON GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia
- **Very rare spring visitor.**

*Spring:* The first island record was from Gambell on 31 May–01 Jun 1984. There are now 17 records of single birds from there through 2017, falling between 19 May 2004 and 11–12 Jun 2005, plus 2 birds together 26 May 2016. A photo of the bird on 04 Jun 1995 was published in *FN* 49:292, and there is a specimen (*UAM) from 29 May 2009.

*Comments:* Common Greenshank breeds north to the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). It is a rare spring and casual fall migrant at the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Accidental elsewhere in North America.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS Tringa melanoleuca
- **Casual spring visitor.**

*Spring:* First recorded at Gambell on 17 Jun 1975, there are 5 additional records since then: “spring” 1984, 30 May–07 Jun 1987, 27 May 1997, 31 May 1998, and 25 May 2010 (with a Lesser). One Gambell report of a Greater Yellowlegs on 04 Jun 1990 was determined to be a Lesser Yellowlegs.

*Comments:* This species breeds north and west only to the Alaska Peninsula and is a rare to casual visitor to western Alaska (Kessel 1989, Gibson and Byrd 2007); there is also a record for the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**

*Spring:* The first records were at Gambell, with a total of 3 individuals there 30 May–08 Jun 1976, and another bird at Kongkok Bay on 08 Jun 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). (One listed as occurring at Gambell in “late May” 1975 [Morrin 1978] is almost certainly in error and likely refers to the first bird found in 1976.) In subsequent years, this species has proven to be an almost-annual spring visitor to Gambell, with a total of approximately 55 records (involving at least 93 individuals) through 2017. The earliest arrivals are 14 May 2006 and 19 May 2003 and 2004, and the latest departures are 12–13 Jun 1988 and 13–14 Jun 2016. The single-day highs are 12 birds on 26 May 2006 and 9–10 birds on 25–26 May 2016, with the next-largest maximum being up to 5 individuals between 04–07 Jun 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). The high season total is 15 birds between 22 May–14 Jun 2016. A specimen (*UAM) from Gambell exists from 25 May 2016.


*Comments:* There is a published report of a “Lesser Yellowlegs” with a nest, eggs, and distraction display, east of Gambell on the very late date of 23 Jul 1971 (Johnson 1974, Ehrlich et al. 1993—see Lesser Yellowlegs, above). If the bird was truly a *Tringa*, the observer might not
have considered the possibility of it being a Wood Sandpiper, which is probably more likely on SLI. But, in any case, this report should remain hypothetical. Wood Sandpiper breeds northeast to the western Chukchi Peninsula and north shore of western Chukotka (AOU 1998, Tomkovich 2007), and it has been recorded on the eastern Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015). They are more numerous at the Pribilofs and especially Aleutians compared to at SLI, but those other sites share in the spring dominance in records (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). The species is casual elsewhere in Alaska and North America.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus*
- *Fairly common spring migrant, uncommon breeder, and uncommon fall migrant.*
  
  **Spring:** This migrant and breeder is found both onshore and offshore in small to medium numbers daily. A few counts at Gambell have been as high as 50–82 birds and the maximum is 150 on 24 May 2008. An early individual arrived there 08 May 2003; the next earliest date is 13 May 1973 (flock) south of Gambell (Johnson 1976).
  
  **Fall:** Post-breeding females may begin flocking already by late June. Transients are probably fairly numerous by early or mid- July. The counts between mid-August and early September represent the tail end of the migration; only 1–15 birds are seen most years in the Gambell area. There are no records after 08 Sep 2006. Reports of large numbers of this species from the northern Bering and southern Chukchi Seas in late September (Kessel 1989) certainly refer to Red Phalaropes. The latest record for the Chukchi Peninsula is 02 Sep 1932 (Portenko 1981).

  **Summer and Breeding:** Red-necked Phalaropes are known to nest in numbers on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993). Noted as “very common” around Southeast Cape 27 Jun 1913 (Portenko 1981), many of these birds were likely post-breeding females and/or failed breeders.

**RED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius*
- *Uncommon to abundant fall and uncommon spring migrant; rare breeder.*
  
  **Spring:** Small numbers are seen onshore, with the largest counts made of birds passing or feeding off the point at Gambell. This species occurs in highly variable numbers from year to year. Some years only a few are noted all season, whereas 1000+ were seen 02 Jun 1973 (Johnson 1976), 2000 were noted 31 May 2000, and 915 were counted 04 Jun 2007. The earliest dates are 16 May 2006 and 20 May [year?] (Fay and Cade 1959). Multiple flocks between Boxer Bay and “Kangee” (west end Koozata Lagoon) 14–15 Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964) and 40 birds at Gambell on 15 Jun 1988 were good counts for that late in the season. A few migrants may straggle through into the third week of June, and 8 were still present at Gambell 25 Jun 1993.

  **Fall:** Post-breeding females may begin flocking already by late June. Migrants likely arrive in numbers already during July. The species was very numerous on SLI during the first week of Jul 1921 (Bailey 1925). Large concentrations have been noted already by the second week of the month at St. Matthew Island and the Pribilofs (Winker et al. 2002, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Large numbers of Red Phalaropes have been found along the east coast of the Chukchi Peninsula in July and August (Portenko 1981). There are at least 8 older Gambell and [unspecified locality] SLI specimens and a number of additional sight-records from July, but it is uncertain whether these birds were early transients or local breeders (see below). One bird was at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017. The waters off Gambell appear to be a major
autumn staging area for this species during some years. As many as 20 Gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) and several Humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) Whales have been seen here daily some years, illustrating an abundance of plankton, their shared food source (see Piatt and Springer 2003). The largest concentrations are noted close to shore at Gambell on days with strong winds. Small-to-moderate numbers are seen from mid-to-late August, but these often build during September. Most birds in September and October are juveniles, but some molting and basic-plumaged adults remain then as well; 1 in full alternate on 13 Sep 2008 was unusual. In 1999, a total of 34,500 birds were seen there, with 25,000 on 30 Sep. In 2001, 40,000 were counted during a storm on 09 Sep, and 20,000 were seen 18 Sep. On both 10 Sep 2003 and 14 Sep 2016, 15,000 were counted. In contrast, a mere 21 were seen between late Aug and early Oct 2002, and only 38 were counted between mid-Aug and early Oct 2004. Some 500–850 were still present 11–13 Oct and 3800 were seen on 14 Oct 2010. Good numbers of phalaropes were present during very strong winds in mid-Oct 2002 and 2004, with about 100 birds remaining 30 Oct 2004; 1 was at Esneghak, north shore SLI, 26 Oct 2013; and up to 50 continued at Gambell through 02 Nov 2016, with 10 still present 10 Nov, and 2 on 21 Nov. A few have remained near Provideniya up to the first few days of November, with 5 there 06 Nov 1937 (Portenko 1981). An exceptionally late bird was at Gambell on 05 Dec 2013.

**Summer and Breeding:** There are nesting records from SLI in late Jun 1913 and early Jul 1921 (Bailey 1925, Portenko 1981); Fay and Cade (1959) listed single breeding records near Boxer Bay in Jul 1950 and at Kavuk, south-central SLI, in late Jun 1954; and Sauer and Urban (1964) found several pairs and a nest with eggs at Little Lake near Boxer Bay during late Jun–early Jul 1960; but Friedmann (1932a) and Ehrlich et al. (1993) thought the species more numerous in wet tundra on central and eastern SLI. “A few” were just south of Gambell 27 Jun 1978 (Tolman 1979). “Territorial behavior” was observed at the Nekeelit Point mountains, south of Gambell, 04 Jun 1988 (de Roos 1990, 1991). Recently, nesting was documented 20 Jun 2004 at Savoonga. Local post-breeders and migrants are on the move, however, already by early July (see above).

**Comments:** Red Phalaropes occur in highly variable numbers from year to year.

**Family Glareolidae: Coursers and Pratincoles**

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** *Glareola maldivarum*

- *Accidental spring visitor.*
  
  **Spring:** One was present at Gambell 05 Jun 1986.

  **Comments:** This Asian species breeds no closer than interior extreme southeastern Russia (Brazil 2009). The only other Alaska record is from the western Aleutians, also in spring (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**Family Stercorariidae: Skuas and Jaegers**

**POMARINE JAEGER** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

- *Fairly common to common fall and fairly common spring migrant; uncommon in summer.*
**Spring:** As a spring migrant, this species is fairly common, though it occurs in varying numbers from year to year. Most birds are seen flying by the point at Gambell, where multiple one-day high counts approach 50 individuals, 192 were seen 30 May 1990, 240 were noted 31 May 1995, 125 were counted 25 May 2011, and a season total 580 birds were tallied in 2011. In contrast, only 58 birds were noted there all season in 2012, and a mere 20 were tallied in 2016. The earliest arrival dates are “mid-May” [year?] (Fay and Cade 1959), 13 May 2004, and 16 May 2003; whereas 16 Jun 2013 was a late departure. Elsewhere, 105 jaegers, mostly Pomarines, were seen flying up the Moghoweyik River Valley, southwestern SLI, over an eight-hour period in late May 1956 (Fay and Cade 1959).

**Fall:** Fairly common to common fall migrant through mid-September, uncommon to fairly common through early October. Failed breeders are likely already on the move by July. One was at Gambell 02 Jul 1993, 3 were there 07 Jul 1972, several were seen during early Jul 1976 (UAM files), 1 was collected (*USNM) at Gambell on 10 Jul 1930 (Friedmann 1932a), several birds were seen on [unspecified locality] SLI 13 Jul 1899, 2 were taken (**MVZ) at Savoonga 17 Jul 1932 (Fay and Cade 1959), and 2 were collected (**USNM) at Gambell during [no date] Jul 1931. In early August, 1 was collected (*USNM) at Gambell 06 Aug 1930 (Friedmann 1932a); large numbers of birds were seen around the east end of SLI on 06 Aug 1942, “straggling along the coast singly and in groups of five or six”; “a number” were there 06 Aug 1946; and “during August 1956 and 1957, a continual overland flight of all three species of jaegers was observed in the Koozata Lagoon and River area, the direction of movement being from northeast to southwest for the first three weeks and northwest to southeast in the last week of the month” (Fay and Cade 1959, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). Small numbers are seen most days during autumn at Gambell, with occasional substantial flights of migrants past the point, establishing some of the highest counts for western Alaska. Up to 500 birds were seen there on both 25 Aug 1992 and 06 Sep 1999; the season’s total in the latter year was 625. A total of 770 were counted during the evening of 29 Aug and morning of 30 Aug 2004. The next largest counts include a total of 285 on 06 and 07 Sep 2000 and 325 on 22 Aug 2014. No major pushes were noted several years when daily maxima did not exceed 20 birds; 2008 and 2010–2013 were particularly poor years, with grand totals of only 8, 40, 31, 8, and 17 individuals, respectively; in contrast, the season total in 2014 was ca. 1000 birds. Juveniles have not been seen most years until the third week of September, but 2 arrived 05 Sep 2003, as did 2 birds—exceptionally—on 25 Aug 2007. Flights of 35 birds on 25 Sep 2002, 150 birds passing on 25–26 Sep 2005, and a total of 255 between 28 Sep–02 Oct 2014 were unusual for so late in the season. Small numbers (up to 9 per day, including adults) are still present sporadically at both Gambell and Savoonga later in early October, with high counts at Gambell of 32 individuals on 02 2017, 22 birds on 06 Oct and 11 on 07 Oct 2003, and 9–10 individuals still present on both 12 Oct 2017 and 13–14 Oct 2010. Two were collected (*MVZ, *UAM) at Gambell 15 Oct 1928 (Fay and Cade 1959), 1 was seen in the Bering Strait area 18 Oct 1970 (Watson and Divoky 1972), and a specimen (*MVZ) from Gambell is labeled 28 Oct 1928.

**Summer:** Pomarine Jaegers nest north of the Bering Strait. In 1953, a pair was present daily at Gambell from [no date] Jul to Aug, and another pair was present in [no date] Jun west of Kawook Camp on south-central SLI, but nesting was not confirmed at either site (Fay and Cade 1959). Two were collected (**MVZ) near Savoonga 26 Jun 1931 and 2 were seen at Gambell 28 Jun 1993, all of which could have been very late northbound migrants, returning failed breeders, or summer wanderers.
PARASITIC JAEGGER *Stercorarius parasiticus*

- Fairly common to common fall and fairly common spring migrant. Casual breeder.

**Spring:** Spring migrants are regularly seen both inland and offshore. At Gambell, the earliest arrivals are 07 May 2004 and 16 May 2003. High counts are much lower than for Pomarine Jaeger and very rarely exceed 10 individuals per day, with 15 on 01 Jun 2005 and 18 seen 24 May 2011. In contrast, as few as 10 individuals have been seen in an entire season (2012). Late migrants straggle into mid-June, with 2 birds on both 20 Jun and 21 Jun 2005.

**Fall:** Fairly common to common fall migrant through early September, uncommon in mid-September, and very rare in late September. Failed breeders are likely already on the move by July (see below). The single-day maxima at Gambell are of 22 birds on both 27 Aug 2002 and 11 Sep 2003. The highest seasonal totals there are of ca. 70 in 2002, 2003, and 2004, and of 90 in 2014. In contrast, only ca. 15, 11, 7, and 15 birds were tallied in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2016, respectively. All age classes occur. Ten birds on 19 Sep 2005 and 6 on 24 Sep 2014 are high counts for so late in the month. The only records after 25 September are of single adults on 26 Sep 2007, through 29 Sep 2014, and on 01 Oct 2014; and single juveniles 26 Sep 2005, 26–28 Sep 2014, 28 Sep 2011 and 2015, 01 Oct 2004, and 03 Oct 2010; the October dates are probably the latest for the northern Bering Sea. One adult was at Akeftapak Bay, about 15 km (9 mi) ESE of Gambell, on 29 Sep 2010 and 3 birds (one adult, 2 juveniles) were there 30 Sep 2011.

Portenko (1989) reported 1 from the eastern tip of the Chukchi Peninsula 27 Sep 1933; Watson and Divoky (1972) reported another from the Chukchi Sea 30 Sep 1970.

**Summer and Breeding:** Most sources state that Parasitic Jaeger is not known to breed on the Bering Sea islands (e.g., Winker et al. 2002), although several pairs were discovered near Boxer Bay 7+ Jun 1960 and 1 active nest w/eggs was photographed 27 Jun (Sauer and Urban 1964). Pairs performing courtship displays and/or present for extended periods have been seen several times during June at Gambell just south of Troutman Lake, including a pair present from late May–early Sep 2017. A summer 1884 report of Parasitic Jaeger from SLI by Nelson actually involved Long-tailed Jaeger per Friedmann (1932a). There are also single reports from [unspecified locality] SLI 01 Jul 1896 (Portenko 1989) and early Jul 1921 (Friedmann 1932a), from Boxer Bay 10 Jul 1950 (Cade 1950, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), of “several” at Gambell during early Jul 1976 (UAM files), and of 2+ off the point at Gambell 06–07 Jul 2011, although some of these July birds could well be southbound failed breeders.

LONG-TAILED JAEGGER *Stercorarius longicaudus*

- Uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder.

**Spring:** At Gambell, most individuals flying by the point are assumed to be migrants, whereas it is much more difficult to differentiate migrants from local breeders when they are over land. Early dates are 15 May 1983 (2) near Southeast Cape (UAM files), 20 May [year?] on [unspecified locality] SLI (Ehrlich et al. 1993), and 20 May 2017 Gambell. Small numbers of migrants continue to pass the point at Gambell until mid-June (e.g., 14 Jun 2005). High spring counts include up to 35/day between 30 May–03 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 18 birds on 28 May 1988, and 25 on 07–08 Jun 1989. In contrast, only 11 birds were seen the entire season in 2016.

**Fall:** Failed breeders are likely already on the move in July (see below). Clearly, more birds would be found if observers were present earlier in the season; for example, 50–75 adults were migrating over the waters between King and St. Lawrence Islands between 15–21 Aug 1986 (Kessel 1989). Seasonal totals at Gambell between mid-August and mid-September include 18 in 1999 and 17 in 2002 but only 4 in 2003, 3 in 2008, and none in 2012, 2014, or 2016. The
maximum one-day count there is of 15 on 27 Aug 2002. Two adults on 16 Sep 2010 were late. An adult at Akeftapak Bay, 15 km (9 mi) ESE of Gambell, on 29 Sep 2010 was exceptionally late. The latest dates for the Chukchi Peninsula are 17 and 18 Sep 1933 (Portenko 1989). Since 1997, almost all birds at Gambell in late August and September have been adults, a few have been subadults (two years old), but—surprisingly—none has been juveniles.

Summer and Breeding: Sauer and Urban (1964) documented nesting Long-tailed Jaegers near Boxer Bay in 1960, Sealy et al. (1971) termed this species a “known or probable breeder” on SLI, and Ehrlich et al. (1993) called it a “fairly common breeder.” There are many July specimens collected on SLI (e.g., see Portenko 1989), some of which, however, likely represent early southbound migrants.

Family Alcidae: Auks, Murres, and Puffins

Seabirds

St. Lawrence Island supports about 10 percent of Alaska’s breeding seabirds (Stephensen et al. 1998), with a 1996–1997 survey estimate of 3.65 million birds of 16 species (USFWS unpub.), mostly alcids but also numbers of eiders, cormorants, gulls, and terns. By comparison, the nearby Chukchi Peninsula in Russia was estimated to support 3.30 million birds of 13 species between 1983–1991 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Least and Crested Auklets account for almost 90 percent of the total seabird population on SLI (Stephensen et al. 1998). Previous SLI seabird surveys took place between the 1950s and early 1980s, but comparison of numbers is not safe due to substantial differences in coverage and sampling techniques, and the censuses themselves have been too irregular to determine accurate population trends (Stephensen et al. 1998). In general, the principal murre colonies are located on southwestern SLI and both west and east of Savoonga, whereas the auklets are concentrated at southwestern SLI, east of Savoonga, and at Gambell (Sevuokuk Mountain). Most seabirds commence nesting on SLI about 7–10 days later than those on St. Matthew Island, and about two to three weeks later than those on the Pribilofs (Piatt et al. 1990b).

Several recent studies suggest that a general warming trend in the Bering Sea since the 1990s and the resultant shift in favored planktivorous resources northward may result in declining reproduction in several auklet species on SLI (Sheffield Guy et al. 2009, Dragoo et al. 2012, Kuletz et al. 2015). Visible declines in the numbers of Dovekies and the three auklet species have been noted some years during the past decade on the west slope of Sekuokuk Mountain at Gambell (pers. obs.). Interannual variation in the strength and direction of the Anadyr Current and the extent and timing of sea-ice formation may have strong influences on copepod and other zooplankton production, timing, and distribution (Gall et al. 2006), which are major food sources for auklets and several other seabirds. Shifts in prey and changing sea-ice patterns may also result in post-breeding seabirds from farther south dispersing in greater numbers, as well as arriving earlier and lingering later, to the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas during the summer, fall, and even early winter (Day et al. 2013, Kuletz et al. 2015).

DOVEKIE Alle alle

- Uncommon breeder; very rare in early fall.

Spring: Dovekies nest in small numbers on SLI, and virtually all birds seen at Gambell are thought to be local breeders. Beginning in 1965 there were occasional sightings of birds
(including strong evidence of nesting—see below) within the large auklet colony on the western slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain. But a consistent area in which to find them within that colony was not discovered until about 1995, and since that time the species has proven to be of regular spring and early summer occurrence. Before then, Dovekies were seen primarily flying by the point with other alcids on a rare but regular basis; 8 birds seen 07 Jun 1994 was a very high count there. Birds do not appear on the mountain slope until late May (earliest: 24 May 1965 [Bédard 1966] and 25 May 2004 and 2012 (5)). Many of the recent peak counts of individuals are in the 5 to 7 range, with slightly higher annual totals of 8–9 individuals between 2002–2009, and the highest being 11 birds on 29 May 2003; but only 2 to 4 could be found during spring 2016 and 2017.

**Fall:** Very rare into early fall. One remained at Gambell through 08 Aug 1965 (Bédard 1966). Up to 3 birds remained on the Sevuokuk Mountain slopes daily from 12–18 Aug 2006. But the species has presumably departed the Sevuokuk nesting area before most fall observers arrive in late August, and the only recent sightings from then onwards were of single birds off the point 05 Sep 1992, 28 Aug 1993, 22 Aug 1994, and 31 Aug 1998. One was 24 km (15 mi) south of Gambell 09 Sep 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

**Summer and Breeding:** This species breeds uncommonly at Gambell and also probably in the huge auklet colonies elsewhere on SLI (L. S. Guy pers. comm.). Bédard (1966) noted 1–5 Dovekies near and on Sevuokuk Mountain between 24 May–Jul 1965. Specimens from there exist for 04 Jul 1965 (*UBC), 28 Jun 1967 (*UBC), and 29 Jun 1968 (*USNM), and single individuals were seen 24 Jul 1967 (Sealy et al. 1971) and 08 Jul 1976 (UAM files). Eleven presumed breeding birds were counted on SLI in 1996 and 1997, of which 9 birds and a copulating pair were seen on Sevuokuk Mountain in summer 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). Later in the season, 3–4 were seen there 21 Jul 2004, 1 was seen 06 Jul 2014, and see above. Elsewhere on SLI, a pair of Dovekies were on a Singikpo Cape talus slope, east of Savoonga, 27 Jul 1996 (Stephensen 1997, Stephensen et al. 1998), up to 4 were reported at Northeast Cape 03–04 Jul 2001 (UAM files), 1 was at the Kitnik Least Auklet colony southeast of Savoonga 11–19 Jul 2002, and 1 was at Owalit Mountain on southwestern SLI 16 Jul 2002.

**Comments:** The 04 Jul 1965 specimen was said to involve the Asian subspecies *A. a. polaris* (Sealy et al. 1971), but this identification was countered by Day et al. (1988). Dovekies probably breed at auklet colonies at the Diomede islands in the Bering Strait, and at at least one site on the southeastern Chukchi Peninsula, 1985–1990 (Konyukhov et al. 1998); they perhaps nest at least irregularly at St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002). Farther south, they are very rare visitors at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and are casual in the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). Caution in identifying this species in autumn is warranted because of possible confusion with juvenile Least Auklets.

**COMMON MURRE** *Uria aalge*

- **Abundant breeder and spring and early fall visitor, uncommon later in fall. Winter status uncertain.**

  **Spring:** Given that small numbers may winter in SLI waters some years, spring arrival dates are best determined by the appearance of flocks of birds. They were noted as numerous by mid- or late April by Fay and Cade (1959), on 18 April [year?] by Ehrlich et al. (1993), and certainly by 22 Apr 2003 at Gambell, which is somewhat later than for many arriving Thick-billed Murres. On the Chukchi Peninsula, Konyukhov et al. (1998) stated that Common Murres
arrive in late April. Several peak spring totals of birds passing the point at Gambell have reached ca. 5000/day, with 8000 on 10 Jun and 10,000 on 15 Jun 2017.

**Fall:** Common to abundant through early September, uncommon to rare after that. Up to 25,000 fly past the point daily through the end of August. A total of 75,000 birds were estimated there 15 Aug 2004, and up to 100,000 were seen daily during Aug 2006. Fay and Cade (1959) noted 100,000 total murres on 02 Aug 1957. Numbers decline fairly rapidly as young fledge in early September, and by mid-September the maximum daily counts are of fewer than 100 birds. By late September, in most years, only the occasional individuals are seen. In 2003, numbers increased rapidly again in late Sep and peaked at up to 2500 per day from 29 Sep–07 Oct. During at least half the years, numbers began to increase after 23–26 Sep, with up to 2000/day several days, 3300 on 30 Sep and 4320 on 06 Oct 2010, 3060 on 10 Oct 2012, and up to 65/day still passing through 14 October 2010. Almost all late-season birds are in basic plumage and are heading north past the point into the wind on days with strong northerly winds. According to murre researcher D. Roseneau (in litt.), it is possible that breeding adults and their chicks disappear from the Gambell area in September, are replaced in part by prospecting subadult non-breeders (and by post-breeding dispersers from the south), and all birds subsequently spread out to more distant foraging areas by late in September. Large numbers of flight-capable chicks and adults (presumably mostly males, which is the sex that accompanies the two-thirds-sized young) begin moving back south past Gambell in early to mid-November (this southward movement is ahead of the ice advance and also includes the young birds and adult males from the Chukchi Sea colonies—e.g., Capes Thompson and Lisburne, Wrangel Island). Late records at Gambell are of 4–20 birds on several dates between 10–21+ Dec 2016 (and see below).

**Summer and Breeding:** Large numbers of Common Murres breed on SLI, with an estimate of 162,000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003) at a total of as many as 11 sites. The major nesting sites include Owalit Mountain, Iveykan Mountain, and Southwest Cape on southwestern SLI, the Pinaapuk (Pennaghpuk) area west of Savoonga, and between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kitnik southeast of Savoonga (Stephensen et al. 1998). Murres do not breed, however, at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell. Murres may fly over 70 km (40 mi) each way between breeding sites at Southwest Cape and foraging areas north of Gambell. The breeding population of murres at several SLI sites showed substantial declines from 1987 to 1996–1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998). The number of nesting Common and Thick-billed Murres, combined, on the Chukchi Peninsula was estimated at ca. 200,000–220,000 birds, 1983–1991 (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

**Winter:** This species winters north to the edge of the pack ice (Kessel 1989), and Fay and Cade (1959) suggested that small numbers may winter around SLI. Large numbers lingered off Gambell through late 2016, with up to 500+ from 03–05 Jan 2017, and 20–65 birds on a number of days between 08 Jan–04 Feb—many dates which lacked substantial sea-ice. These establish the only definite mid- or late winter records.

**THICK-BILLED MURRE** *Uria lomvia*

- **Abundant breeder and spring and early fall visitor; uncommon thereafter. Probably uncommon in winter.**

**Spring:** Given that this species is thought to winter in uncertain numbers near SLI, spring arrival dates are best determined by the appearance of larger flocks of birds, probably during early and mid- April. Thick-billed Murres were termed “abundant” on 22 Apr 2003, “large flocks” were seen 23 Apr 2004, and 3000 were tallied by 30 Apr 2013. This species outnumbers
Common Murres at Gambell until early June. High counts of birds passing the point are of ca. 10,000 on 24 May 2010 and 25,000–35,000 on a number of days between 20 May–15 Jun 2017, with 80,000 in three hours on 15 Jun.

Fall: Common to abundant through early September, uncommon to rare after that. Up to 20,000 fly past the point daily through the end of August; maxima included up to 30,000 seen daily during Aug 2006. Fay and Cade (1959) noted 100,000 total murres on 02 Aug 1957. Numbers decline fairly rapidly in early September as young fledge, and daily counts after 15 September at Gambell typically do not exceed 10 birds. During several years, a late surge in numbers after 25 Sep has brought up to several hundred per day passing the point; peaking at 1450 birds on 02 Oct 2003, 990 on 10 Oct 2012, and with some 25,300 seen 23 Sep–14 Oct 2010, including 2600 on 26 Sep, 4000 on 27 Sep, 2880 on 06 Oct, and 2665 on 10 Oct; almost all are seen flying north into the wind on days with strong northerly winds, and these include birds in both alternate and basic plumage. Some of these birds could well be post-breeding dispersers from the south as well as prospecting subadult non-breeders. An avian cholera event in late Nov 2013 resulted in an unknown number of dead individuals along the Savoonga and Gambell shorelines.

Summer and Breeding: Large numbers of Thick-billed Murres breed on SLI, with an estimate of 104,000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003) at a total of as many as 11 sites. The major nesting sites include Owalit Mountain, Ivenek Mountain, and Southwest Cape on southwestern SLI, the Pinaapuk (Pennaghpuk) area west of Savoonga, and between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kittik southeast of Savoonga (Stephensen et al. 1998). Murres do not breed, however, at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell. Murres may fly over 70 km (40 mi) each way between breeding sites at Southwest Cape and foraging areas north of Gambell. The breeding population of murres at several SLI sites showed substantial declines from 1987 to 1996–1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998).

Winter: This species is known to winter at the southern edge of the pack ice, with a few farther north in open leads and polynyas (Kessel 1989); it is the only murre occurring regularly along the SLI coast in winter (Fay and Cade 1959). Most counts are under 100 individuals. Over a thousand at Gambell 31 Dec 2015 was perhaps a very large total in winter. “Hundreds” were there 14 Feb 2017. There are also December records from the Provideniya area and additional winter reports from the north shore of the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989); it winters regularly at the Sireniki polynya along the Peninsula’s south shore (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

BLACK GUILLEMET Cephus grylle

- Uncommon to fairly common spring and rare early-fall visitor; uncommon in late fall and winter. Several summer records but no definite breeding.

Spring: Given that this species winters in numbers in SLI waters, determining spring arrival dates of migrants from the south is difficult. Many birds move northward out of the Bering Sea during late Apr and early May (Divoky et al. 2016). On the Chukchi Peninsula, 1–2/day may be seen at the Sireniki polynya during April–May, and spring “migration” occurs from May–early June (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Small to sometimes moderate numbers are seen annually at Gambell later in spring through at least early June. Almost all birds there are seen from the point and along the western shore. High counts at Gambell include several dates with 24–26 birds, 30–50 seen daily 06–08 Jun (high on 06 Jun) 1998, and a season total of 130 birds from 22 May–11 Jun 2011. Most maxima occur when there is widespread sea-ice present.

Numbers diminish rapidly during early June, though late counts include the 1998 totals above,

**Fall:** Rare visitor through early October; probably more numerous in late fall. One or 2 birds are seen most years at Gambell by the end of September. One on 17 Aug 1994, 1 found freshly dead in late Aug 1992, 1 from 23–25 Aug 1999, 2 on 30 Aug 2000, and singles on 27 Aug 2004, 31 Aug 2017, 01–04 Sep 2007, and 02 Sep 2005 were early. A total of 4 birds between 17–30 Sep 1999 is the high count before November. Some of the birds are adults still in full or almost full alternate plumage. One arrived at Savoonga 03 Oct 2011. Up to 25 birds at Gambell 16–27 Nov and 30–45 there 29 Nov–10 Dec 2016 are high counts late in the season. Two specimens (**UAM) were taken in the Gambell area 28 Nov 1929 (Kessel 1989), and 1 was collected (*USNM) there 23 Nov 1930 (Friedmann 1932a).

**Summer:** Bédard (1966) obtained two specimens (*UBC) from the cliffs on Sevuokuk Mountain on 31 Jul 1965—both alternate females. He stated that sexually immature birds may be found in summer around “Providence Bay” (Provideniya) and that the species breeds on the north shore of the Chukchi Peninsula. No suggestion of breeding has been documented on SLI since 1965 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003), except for the presence of an alternate bird on shore near Kangee Camp, west of Savoonga, 28 Jul 2003. A few Black Guillemots were noted along the Chukchi Peninsula coast in summer by Konyukhov et al. (1998), including several attempted Black X Pigeon Guillemot pairings.

**Winter:** This species winters in leads and polynyas in the pack ice in the northern Bering Sea (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Konyukhov et al. 1998, NAB 63:486), especially in areas with 30–60 percent sea-ice concentration (Divoky et al. 2016). It occurs regularly around SLI once advancing sea-ice forces most birds out of the Chukchi Sea, usually between late Nov and late Dec. A study of birds breeding near Barrow and tagged with geolocators found that small numbers were present in SLI waters by late Oct and were relatively numerous there by late Nov or early Dec (Divoky et al. 2016). This study also found that the numbers of birds found in SLI waters during early Jan 2012–2015 varied substantially from year to year, presumably depending on ice cover. Some years the birds were relatively numerous throughout much of the northern Bering Sea, whereas during other years they were found somewhat farther south, in the central Bering. A recent mid-winter high count was of 15 birds at Gambell 09 Jan 2017. In late winter, Black Guillemots were numerous during Mar 1973 in areas with up to 95 percent ice cover between St. Lawrence and St. Matthew Islands, including flocks of up to 40 birds on 04 Mar (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Winker et al. 2002).

**Comments:** Black Guillemots likely winter south to the limits of the pack ice, at least some years around the Pribilof Islands (S. Schuette unpubl. data); accidental farther south.

**PIGEON GUILLEMET** *Cepphus columba*

- **Common breeder and spring and fall visitor.**

**Spring:** Some older spring arrival data are clouded by misidentifications with Black Guillemot. Arrivals on the Chukchi Peninsula appear as early as early April, but most commence in late April (Konyukhov et al. 1998), when the earliest definite dates from Gambell have been made: 23 April 2004 (“several groups”), 26–27 Apr 2017 (up to 3), 30 Apr 2013 (flocks passing the point totaling 275), and 30 Apr 2014 (270). High counts of 400 birds on 03 Jun 1995 and 300 birds on 05 Jun 2012 was eclipsed by the ca. 2000 birds seen 18 May 2013. In contrast, only up to 25/day were seen during 2016.
Fall: Autumn counts at Gambell typically range from 50 to 200 per day, with 300 on both 30 Aug 2011 and 23 Aug 2013 and 520 on 22 Aug 2016 (under strong north winds) being high counts for early in the season. This species molts into basic plumage earlier than does Black Guillemot, although single individuals in full alternate plumage were seen 28 Sep 2001 and 27 Sep 2012. An alternate adult carrying fish on 18 Sep 2014 was late nesting. Substantial numbers pass by the point during the latter half of September and through early October, flying north into the wind on days with strong northerly winds. Such counts include 325 individuals on 27 Sep 2001, 650 on 26 Sep 2010, 875 on 30 Sep 2010, and 1080 on 02 Oct 2010. At least some of these birds may be post-breeding dispersers from the south. The late dates are 27 Oct 2016, 12 Nov 2016, and, exceptionally, 2 or 3 birds on 02 Dec 2016.

Summer and Breeding: This species nests at many sites on SLI, with an estimate of 5100 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). The largest numbers are at Gambell, along the southwestern SLI coast, both west and southeast of Savoonga, and at the Punuk Islands. An estimated 25,000 individuals nested on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991, a particularly large concentration (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

Comments: This species winters south of the pack ice (Kessel 1989). Two specimens (**UAM) reportedly taken 28 Nov 1929 (Fay and Cade 1959) are, in fact, the two Black Guillemot specimens noted above. A substantial percentage of the young Pigeon Guillemots at SLI in fall (which fledge beginning in mid-August) have at least one-third of their underwing whitish, causing some of them to be misidentified as Black Guillemots.

**MARBLED MURRELET** Brachyramphus marmoratus

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**

  Spring: The only spring reports are of 1 individual at Gambell 03 Jun 1997, 3 birds there 31 May 2003, and 1 on 31 May 2017.

  Fall: One was at the point 05 and 07 Oct 2003, 1 was there 02 Oct 2010, and another (late?) was found 01–03 Nov and again 21–27 Nov 2016. This species was also reported “off Kavalghak Bay,” ca. 15 km (9 mi) south of Gambell, 29 Jul 1964 (2 birds, 1 collected [*UBC]; Bédard 1966). Also, offshore, there were reports from 01 Aug 1986 of 3 birds well off the eastern end of the island (Kessel 1989), from 02 Aug 1986 ca. 37 km (23 mi) SE of Southeast Cape, and from 04 Sep 2007 ca. 65 km (40 mi) NNE of Northeast Cape (K. Kuletz unpubl. data).

  Comments: It is possible that some reports of this species involved misidentified Kittlitz’s Murrelets or vagrant Long-billed Murrelets (*B. perdix*). Marbled Murrelets are not known to nest north of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and they are casual visitors to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**KITTTLITZ’S MURRELET** Brachyramphus brevirostris

- **Rare fall and very rare spring visitor. Possibly breeds on SLI, and may winter nearby.**

  Spring: The first reports were of a total of 8 birds several miles off Gambell between 22–26 Apr 1953 (Fay and Cade 1959) and singles at Gambell 04 Jun 1966 (*UBC) and in early Jun 1976. There are now 16 spring records (involving 30 individuals) in the Gambell area through 2017, between 14 April 2010 (2) and 13 June 2017. The earliest arrival date on the Chukchi Peninsula is 08 Apr 1989 (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

  Fall: Fall records since the 1990s at Gambell total 84 individuals between 20 Aug 2006 and 2017 and 02 Nov 2016. The high one-day count is of 5 birds on 06 Oct 2017, and the highest season total is of 14 in 2017. Fay and Cade (1959) reported that “in 1950 about 50 birds in small
flights were seen passing Chibukak Point [i.e., the point] between August 10 and 15.” This count is exceptional, if accurate. Elsewhere, 2 birds were reported from Poowoooliaq (Povuiiliyak), southwestern SLI, 10 Aug 1957 (Portenko 1989), 2 were at “Murphy Bay” 01 Aug 1981 (UAM files), 2 were between Savoonga and Tamnig (Tomname) Lagoon, northeast SLI, 17 Aug 2004, and singles were at Savoonga 28 Sep and 08 Oct 2011 and 07 Oct 2012.

Summer and Breeding: SLI residents say that Kittlitz’s Murrelets may nest on some of the island’s higher mountains—Kinipagul’gat and Kookooligit (Kukulgit) Mountains (e.g., on south slope of Atuk Mountain)—“especially along dry stream banks and low rocky cliffs,” and near the headwaters of the Boxer River (Fay and Cade 1959, Portenko 1989). There is 1 midsummer report at Gambell from 09 Jul 1976 (UAM files). Single juveniles swimming close to shore in the Gambell area 29 Aug 1967 (S. G. Sealy in litt.), 25 Sep 2014, and 27 Aug 2016 also suggest local (SLI) nesting.

Winter: Recent shipboard surveys found moderate numbers during Mar 2009 and Mar 2010 at polynyas to the south of SLI (NAB 63:486, Drew et al. 2015), suggesting that the species may winter locally. Specifically, a total of 19 birds were 54 km (33 mi) SE of Southeast Cape and 63 km (39 mi) SSW of Southeast Cape 23–26 Mar 2009 and a total of 53 birds were between 117 km (73 mi) S of Southwest Cape and 50 km (31 mi) S of Southeast Cape 22–30 Mar 2010.

Comments: Kittlitz’s Murrelet breeds locally in mountain tundra along the Bering and Chukchi Sea coasts. Portenko’s (1989) termed it a rare breeder on the Chukchi Peninsula, with most sightings in August. Konyukhov et al. (1998) and Artukhin et al. (2011) stated, however, that this species occurs during the breeding season in much more substantial numbers along the southeastern Chukchi Peninsula coast—not far from Gambell—since at least 1910, with a total of ca. 250 birds seen between 1985–1991. Numbers in the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas may well be augmented by post-breeding dispersers from the south during the latter summer and fall. Offshore northern Bering Sea Alaska databases contained over 30 at-sea records of Kittlitz’s during spring and late summer through 2013 (M. Renner in litt.). Day et al. (2010) and Kuletz et al. (2015) found larger numbers than previously thought in the Chukchi Sea during summer and fall, and with nesting well west along the north shore of the Chukchi Peninsula. Artukhin et al. (2011) also stated that this species winters north in Russian waters to the Sireniki polynya along the south coast of the Chukchi Peninsula.

ANCIENT MURRELET Synthliboramphus antiquus

- Uncommon fall and very rare spring and summer visitor.

Spring: Gambell’s first spring records were 17 Jun 1975 and 03 Jun 1978. There now total at least 22 reports (involving 40 individuals) at this season through 2017. The earliest is 23 May 2004 (3), and the latest are 16 Jun 2013 and 17 Jun 1975. The high counts are 6 individuals on 04 Jun 2002 and 7 birds on 25 May 2004.

Late Summer and Fall: Early-arriving birds include 1 at Southeast Cape 03 Aug 1946 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; first SLI record); 2 birds each on 29 Jul 1964 (*UBC) and 27 Jul 1966 from Kavalghak Bay and Kitnepaluk, respectively, south of Gambell (Bédard 1966, Sealy et al. 1971); 2 at Kongkok Bay 21 Jul 1981 (UAM files); 3 off Booshu Camp, western SLI, 21 Aug 1987 (J. Wells in litt.); and 2 at Gambell 25 Jul 2013. Two were near SLI on 06 Sep 1976 (Gould et al. 1982). In Sep 1985, shipboard censuses in the northern Bering Sea found the species “very common up around St. Lawrence Island and all the way to the Bering Strait…concentrated primarily near oceanographic fronts” (R. H. Day in litt.), and another ca. 40 birds were tallied from a ship in vic. SLI 02–06 Oct 1985 (UAM files). Since 1994, this species
has been seen fairly regularly in autumn at Gambell, where mostly seen passing the point, between 18 Aug 2013 and 12 Oct 2017 (12), 30 Oct–03 Nov 2016, and 21 Nov 2016. The largest one-day counts are 91 on 23 Sep 2011, and a surprising 127 individuals on 14 Sep 2008, 144 on 13 Sep 2009, 226 on 24 Sep 2010, 265 on 24 Sep 2011, and 150 on 16 Sep 2016. A total of 20 were at Savoonga 22 Sep–08 Oct 2011. Shipboard surveys found 9 birds ca. 84–85 km (52–53 mi) N of Northeast Cape 07 Oct 2012 (Drew et al. 2015).

Comments: Ancient Murrelet breeds north to the Aleutians (Sowls et al. 1978) and almost certainly nests, at least irregularly, at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). After breeding, many birds from as far south as British Columbia disperse west and north, into the Bering (beginning in July) and Chukchi Seas; they are in SLI waters mostly between mid-August and mid-October (Kessel 1989, Konyukhov et al. 1998, Day et al. 2013, Kuletz et al. 2015, T. Gaston in litt.).

PARAKEET AUKLET *Aethia psittacula*

- *Common to abundant breeder and visitor through early fall; uncommon late fall visitor, and very rare until early winter.*

*Spring:* Typically there is a delay of 10–14 days from the time all three of the auklet species arrive in offshore waters to when they finally come onshore to begin prospecting nest sites. Parakeet Auklets often appear a few days before the other two species, with 04 May 1967 and 09 May 1966 the local arrival dates offshore (Sealy and Bédard 1973) and 05 May 1989 the offshore arrival at the Chukchi Peninsula (Konyukhov et al. 1998); the early date onshore at Sevuokuk Mountain is 14 May 2004. Spring maxima from the point at Gambell are ca. 2000 birds on five different dates.

*Fall:* Common to abundant through late August, uncommon to rare through early October. Numbers drop off fairly rapidly as adults depart and young fledge, and as birds move south or locally offshore. From mid-August to the beginning of September counts at Gambell typically range from several hundred to 1000 per day, with 3000–5000 seen daily during mid-Aug, and 10,000 on 14 Aug 2006 and 6000 on 20 Aug 2007. The occasional juvenile making its first flight to the sea is found crash-landed around the village. The species is rare during the latter half of September and early October, when on most days none is seen. High counts late in the season include a total of 35 from 24–28 Sep 2003 and 15 on 05 Oct 2003, which probably include some post-breeding dispersers from well to the south. The latest date for Gambell is 10 Oct 2012 (4). Two were still at Savoonga 09 Oct 2011. Individuals from the Aleutian Islands fitted with geolocators occurred in waters between the Gulf of Anadyr (most) to near and well southwest of SLI between August and October, a few through much of November, and several into December, as late as 22 Dec 2013; different individuals known to have occurred close to SLI included singles just west or southwest of the island through 08 Nov 2014 and 13 Nov 2014 and farther offshore southwest of SLI through ca. 10 Dec 2014 (Schacter 2017, C. Schacter in litt.).

*Summer and Breeding:* This species nests on SLI, with an estimate of 4000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003), though these totals seem low currently (pers. obs.). The largest colonies are at several sites on southwestern SLI, at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell, and at several sites between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kitnik southeast of Savoonga, as well as at the Punuk Islands. The breeding population on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1987, was estimated at ca. 13,000 individuals (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Young fledge beginning in mid-August (Fay and Cade 1959).
Comments: After breeding, some Bering Sea birds disperse north, as far as the Chukchi Sea, mostly between August and October (Sealy and Carter 2012). A 2012–2015 study of Parakeet Auklet dispersal from Buldir and Gareloi Islands in the western and central Aleutians using geolocators also discovered that there is a substantial post-breeding dispersal of birds northward into the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas (Schacter 2017—see above). Watson and Divoky (1972) saw 1 Parakeet Auklet in the Bering Strait area 18 Oct 1970. This species winters north to the Pribilof Islands region (Kessel 1989).

LEAST AUKLET *Aethia pusilla*

- Abundant breeder and visitor through early fall. Uncommon late fall visitor; casual to early winter.

**Spring:** Typically there is a delay of 10–14 days from the time all three of the auklet species first arrive in offshore waters to when they finally come onshore to begin prospecting nest sites. The earliest date offshore at Gambell is 09 May 2015, and that on the Sevuokuk mountainside is 16 May 2003. At the Chukchi Peninsula, Least Auklets arrive several days after the first Cresteds, and both species begin visiting colonies 24+ May (Konyukhov et al. 1998). High totals of birds passing the point at Gambell typically do not exceed 20,000/day, but 50,000 were estimated 05 Jun 2012, as were 100,000+ on both 25 May 2004 and 31 May 2013, and on 03 Jun 1995 between ca. 750,000–1,000,000 birds were tallied.

**Fall:** Numbers drop off fairly rapidly as adults depart and young fledge, and as birds move south or locally offshore. Fall counts from the point at Gambell range up to 60,000 per day in mid-August (high count: 75,000 on 12 Aug 2006) and up to 20,000 per day in late August, although in some years many birds apparently fail or finish nesting earlier and the maximum counts per day then are mostly under 75 birds. In 1998, exceptional numbers were present during late August, with 100,000–200,000 seen daily from 26 Aug–01 Sep. Near Savoonga, ca. 1,000,000 were estimated 26 Aug 2004. Each year at Gambell a few juveniles making their first flight to the sea are found crash-landed around the village. By early September, numbers decline substantially, and overall counts into mid-September usually do not exceed 100–200 per day, although rarely up to 3000 have been counted. On most days during the latter half of the month, only a few or none are seen. Although most Least Auklets probably head south for the winter during the first half of September, moderate numbers may remain offshore later into the season, as they are seen off the point on some days, most often flying north into the wind on days with northerly winds (e.g., 12,000 and 18,000—mostly juveniles—on 07 Sep and 18 Sep 2016, respectively, 5350 on 23 Sep 2012, 2500 on 29 Sep 2007, 1830 on 30 Sep 2010, 1680 on 02 Oct 2010, 480 on 04 Oct 2010, and 300 on 05 Oct 2003). At least some of these birds are probably post-breeding dispersers from well to the south. Farther offshore, a shipboard census up to 32 km (20 mi) north of SLI found Least Auklets numerous on 02 Oct 1985 (UAM files). Twenty-four birds were still at Gambell 10 Oct 2010, 9 were there 10 Oct 2012, 15 were counted 12 Oct 2017, and 93 were still at Savoonga 10 Oct 2012. Shipboard surveys tallied some 211 birds ca. 72–82 km (44–51 mi) N and 16 km (10 mi) E of Northeast Cape 12 Oct 2007, and single individuals ca. 75 km (46 mi) SE of Southeast Cape 25 Oct 2011 and ca. 14 km (9 mi) ENE of Northeast Cape 12 Nov 2011 (Drew et al. 2015). Portenko (1989) cites a record of a bird that came aboard ship off the Chukchi Peninsula 03 Nov 1878. Singles at Gambell 18 Nov 2013 and 24 Nov 2017 were late.

**Summer and Breeding:** Huge numbers nest on SLI, with an estimate of 1,800,000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). The largest colonies are at several
sites between Cape Myaughee and Myaugh southeast of Savoonga, at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell, and at two or three sites on southwestern SLI. Combined totals of nesting Least and Crested Auklets along the south coast of the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991, were estimated at 3,500,000 birds (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Fay and Cade (1959) noted that all of the auklets are relatively late breeders and that there are no fledglings until mid-August or later. Gall et al. (2006) found that at a colony near Savoonga during 2000–2002 that both Least and Crested Auklets had egg-laying dates mostly during the last week of June, hatching dates in late July and the beginning of August, and fledging dates mostly during late August and the beginning of September.

Winter: One present at Gambell 21 Dec 2016 was exceptionally late.

Comments: Least Auklets may forage up to 55–150 km (35–90 mi) from their nest sites on SLI; most of them feed north and northwest of Gambell, some to the west, and some from south of Kongkok Bay southwards (Piatt et al. 1988, Piatt et al. 1990a, Ehrlich et al. 1993, Gall et al. 2006). After breeding, many Bering Sea birds disperse north, as far as the Chukchi and far western Beaufort Seas (Johnson and Herter 1989). This species is known to winter north to the Pribilof Islands region (Kessel 1989).

WHISKERED AUKLET *Aethia pygmaea*
- Accidental summer visitor.

Summer: There are several SLI reports, but only one of them is properly documented. Two specimens allegedly obtained from natives on SLI in 1817 were subsequently questioned by R. Ridgway re: proper locality (Friedmann 1932b). A confirmed specimen (*USNM*) was obtained at Gambell on 09 Jul 1931 (Friedmann 1932b, Fay and Cade 1959). One bird was reported without details at Tatik Point near Kongkok Bay 20 Jul 1971 (Johnson 1974, Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Comments: This species’ normal Alaska range is restricted to the Aleutian Islands region (Gibson and Byrd 2007). It shows very limited migratory tendencies (it is a casual visitor north to the Pribilofs [S. Schuette unpubl. data]), although many individuals of other auklet and murrelet species have been shown to move long distances northward following the nesting season.

CRESTED AUKLET *Aethia cristatella*
- Abundant breeder and visitor through early fall. Uncommon fall visitor; rare through early winter.

Spring: Typically there is a delay of 10–14 days from the time all three of the auklet species first arrive in offshore waters to when they finally come onshore to begin prospecting nest sites. The earliest date offshore at Gambell is 09 May 2015; from the point, 5000 passed on 14 May 2013; and on the Sevuokuk mountainside birds appeared as early as 16 May 2003. At the Chukchi Peninsula, the first Crested Auklets do not arrive offshore until the second half of May, and the species begins visiting colonies 24+ May (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The highest spring counts from the point at Gambell are mostly gross estimates, given the huge volume: 1,200,000 on 02 Jun 1989 and 1,500,000 on 07 Jun 1989, 1 million in just three hours on 14 Jun 2010, and 2 million in just three hours on 08 Jun 2011.

Fall: Numbers drop off fairly rapidly as adults depart and young fledge, and as birds move south or locally offshore. Counts from the point between mid-August and the beginning of September are often in the range of 100,000–400,000 per day, with 500,000 in four hours on 01
Sep 1957 (Ehrlich et al. 1993), up to 600,000 per day estimated during late Aug 1999, up to 800,000 per day in mid-Aug 2004 and on 03 Sep 2005, and a million or more on both 27 and 28 Aug 2010 and daily from 15–20 Aug 2017, with ca. 1.5 million on 19 Aug. The largest numbers of birds typically pass by during the late afternoon and evening hours; large early-morning flights are fewer, but they have peaked at 600,000 in ninety minutes on 03 Sep 2005, 600,000 in two hours on 27 Aug 2006, and 600,000–800,000 in two hours daily from 15–23 Aug 2017. These birds are transiting between the huge colonies on southwest SLI and their primary feeding areas north of the island. Near Savoonga, hundreds of thousands were still present 26 Aug 2004. A few juveniles are found crash-landed around Gambell village annually. Beginning mid-September, totals often are less than 50 per day and the species is missed many days; by late in the month, it is often absent. Late nesting in 2006 and 2012 resulted in higher-than-normal numbers into mid- and late Sep, with 6300 counted on 21 Sep 2006. Occasional late flights (mostly northbound) bring brief surges in numbers, such as 4000 on both 24 and 27 Sep 2010, 25,000 on 26 Sep 2010, 4300 on 29 Sep 2013, 7200 on 04 Oct 2010, 840 on 05 Oct 2010, 1200 on 07 Oct 2015, and 960 on 10 Oct 2012. At least some of these birds are presumed to be post-breeding dispersers from well to the south. At Savoonga, 586 were tallied 10 Oct 2012. Shipboard surveys recorded a single bird ca. 15 km (9 mi) NE of Northeast Cape 12 Nov 2011 (Drew et al. 2015). An avian cholera event around Sakanau during mid-Nov 2013 resulted in hundreds of dead individuals along the Savoonga and Gambell shorelines (Bodenstein et al. 2015, K. Kuletz unpubl. data). From several to hundreds were at Gambell many days between 02 Nov–22 Dec 2016; and in late 2017, 2 birds were seen 29 Nov and 6 were found 07 Dec, increasing to ca. 75–100 from 13–16 Dec. (And see below.) Birds were found at sea near Provideniya throughout Nov 1937, with the latest on 30 Nov (Portenko 1989).

**Summer and Breeding:** Huge numbers nest on SLI, with an estimate of 1,500,000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). By far the largest colony is at Iveyan Mountain on southwestern SLI, with other major sites at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell and between Cape Myaughee and Myaugh southeast of Savoonga. Combined totals of nesting Crested and Least Auklets along the south coast of the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991, were estimated at 3,500,000 birds (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Fay and Cade (1959) noted that all of the auklets are relatively late breeders and that there are no fledglings until mid-August or later. Gall et al. (2006) found that at a colony near Savoonga during 2000–2002 that both Least and Crested Auklets had egg-laying dates mostly during the last week of June, hatching dates in late July and the beginning of August, and fledging dates mostly during late August and the beginning of September.

**Winter:** Presumed unusual were the up to 75+ birds at Gambell 31 Dec 2015–09 Jan 2016 and 75+ there 11 Jan 2017.

**Comments:** Crested Auklets may forage up to 60–150 km (35–90 mi) from their nest sites on SLI; most of them feed between north and west of Gambell, and some from south of Kongkok Bay southwards (Piatt et al. 1988, Piatt et al. 1990a, Ehrlich et al. 1993). After breeding, many Bering Sea birds disperse north, as far as the Chukchi and far western Beaufort Seas, mostly between August and October (Johnson and Herter 1989, Sealy and Carter 2012, Kuletz et al. 2015). A 2011–2014 study of auklet dispersal from Buldir and Gareloi Islands in the western and central Aleutians using geolocators discovered that there is likely a substantial post-breeding dispersal of birds northward into the northwest Bering and Chukchi Seas, with several tagged birds occurring in the very productive waters between the Gulf of Anadyr, SLI, and points southwest of the island, between, for example, early Aug and late Oct to mid-Nov 2011.
These several birds then moved southwest, departing between 29 Oct and 14 Nov 2011, coincident with the advance of pack-ice, to winter in the northwest Pacific off the Kuril Islands and Hokkaido (Robbins et al. 2014, Robinson 2015, Schacter and Robbins 2016). Some birds may linger even later in the northern Bering Sea during years with delayed ice formation. This species winters north regularly to at least the Pribilof Islands region (Kessel 1989).

RHINOCEROS AUKLET Cerorhinca monocerata
- Accidental fall visitor.
  
  Fall: One bird flew by the point on 28 Aug 2008.
  
  Comments: This species nests no farther north than the Aleutians (NGS 2017), is very rare north to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there are single records from St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002), the Chukchi Peninsula (Konyukhov et al. 1998), and Kotzebue Sound (Day et al. 2013).

HORNED PUFFIN Fratercula corniculata
- Abundant breeder and visitor through early autumn; fairly common to common to mid-autumn.
  
  Spring: This species is often the last alcid to arrive at Gambell in spring. Exceptionally early dates offshore, which need verification, include 05 May 1961 (Sealy 1973, Kessel 1989) and ca. 08 May 1973 (Johnson 1976). More typical early dates are 15 May 1953 (Sealy 1973) and between 15–20 May [year?] (Kessel 1989). Some years, the first Horned Puffin is not seen from the point at Gambell until as late as 29 May 2012. At the Chukchi Peninsula, Horned Puffins are the last alcid to arrive at nest sites, typically “near the end of May” (Konyukhov et al. 1998). High counts at Gambell include 800 on 02 Jun 2002 and 700 on 09 Jun 2010; numbers often increase substantially between 05–10 June.
  
  Fall: Abundant through early September; common to uncommon through early October. Counts often reach up to 5500 per day (particularly when the north end of Sevuokuk Mountain is censused), with 7000 estimated on 04 Sep 2009. During most years, only a small number of immatures and birds in nonbreeding plumage are seen from the point until late September. Numbers of birds at Gambell typically do not begin to decline substantially until fairly late in September; the two puffin species are the last alcids to fledge young, and moderate numbers of birds may be seen some years into late September flying past the point, many still carrying fish. In late September, daily maxima are often of 10–50 birds. In some years, many alcids appear to fledge early, and few Horned Puffins are seen after mid-September. Years with later nesting see more birds lingering later in the season when 100–250 birds might be seen daily through the end of the month. Late-season, post-breeding northward flights of puffins are not as well documented locally as those involving murrelets and auklets; however, 400 northbound Horned Puffins were tallied from the point 23 Sep 2017 and 370 passed on 06–07 Oct 2017; and see below. Other high counts in early October include 70 at Gambell on 06 Oct 2015 and 49 birds at Savoonga on 02 Oct 2012. Later still, 150 birds passed Gambell—many heading north—on 12 Oct 2017. The latest dates at Gambell are through 13 Oct 2010 and up to 2 very late birds from 31 Oct–03 Nov 2016. One was in the Bering Strait area 18 Oct 1970 (Watson and Divoky 1972), and 2 were in Kotzebue Sound 28 Oct 1984 (Kessel 1989).
  
  Summer and Breeding: Large numbers nest on SLI, with an estimate of 5000 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). The largest colonies are at several sites between Owalit Mountain and Poowooiliak on southwestern SLI, at Sevuokuk Mountain at
Gambell, and at several sites between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kitnik southeast of Savoonga. The breeding population on Sevuokuk Mountain increased visibly since the 1990s, however (pers. obs.). The breeding population on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991, was estimated at 45,000 individuals (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The two puffin species are the latest nesting alcids on SLI, and Horned typically is the latest, with a few individuals seen still carrying fish in late September.

Comments: In contrast to the three breeding auklets, Horned Puffins often forage within just a few miles of the nest sites (Sealy 1973), although some birds move much farther. This species winters north to the Pribilof Islands region (Kessel 1989).

**TUFTED PUFFIN** *Fratercula cirrhata*
- Abundant breeder and visitor through early autumn; fairly common to common to mid-autumn; casual to early winter.
  
  **Spring:** Early arrival dates offshore at Gambell are 17 May 1976 (Kessel 1989, Ehrlich et al. 1993) and 18 May 2003 and 2013 (3); and on the mountainside, it is 23 May 1966 (Sealy 1967c). At the Chukchi Peninsula, Tufted Puffins arrive at colonies during the second half of May, about one week earlier than the Horned Puffins (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The maximum spring counts at Gambell are ca. 500 birds on several dates.
  
  **Fall:** Abundant through early September, common to uncommon to early October. Numbers at Gambell stay fairly constant from mid-August until early or mid-September. Most daily maxima are in the 250–1000 range, with 3000 on both 10 Sep 2001 and 15 Aug 2004, but only 50–300/day during several years. During most years, only a few immatures and birds in nonbreeding plumage are seen from the point, although 20 such individuals were counted 25 Aug 2004. From mid- through late September, daily counts typically range between 10 and 50 birds but go to zero as well, particularly if the nesting season is early. Years with later nesting see more birds lingering later in the season when 25–75 birds were seen daily through late in the month, many still carrying fish. Counts at Gambell and Savoonga in early October have not exceeded 30 individuals per day, except for an exceptional 140 birds at the former 01 Oct 2014. One at Gambell 14 Oct 2010 was still carrying fish. Latest was a bird on 08 Nov 2016 and, exceptionally, 29 Nov 2016, 1 found dead in fairly good condition on 22 Dec 2016 which likely had perished within the previous week or so, and a live bird 23 Dec 2016. In 1931 this species lingered near Provideniya “until the bay froze” (Portenko 1989).

  **Summer and Breeding:** Large numbers of Tufted Puffins nest on the island, with an estimate of 8250 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). The largest colonies are at the Punuk Islands, at several sites between Owali Mountain and Poowoooliaqak on southwestern SLI, at Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell, and at several sites between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kitnik southeast of Savoonga. The total population nesting on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991, was estimated at 30,000–35,000 individuals (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The two puffin species are the latest nesting alcids on SLI, not fledging young until as late as late September.

  **Comments:** Tufted Puffins may forage up to 15+ km (10+ mi) from Gambell nest sites (Sealy 1973). Most Tufted Puffins from the Bering Sea winter in the North Pacific, with small numbers as far north as the southern Bering Sea (Kessel 1989).

**Family Laridae:** Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers
**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

- **Common to abundant breeder and visitor; very rare through early winter.**

  **Spring:** Small flocks had arrived at Gambell 22 Apr 2003, “100s” were seen 23 Apr 2004, medium-sized flocks were there 27 Apr 2014, and 60 were tallied 27 Apr 2017. Black-legged Kittiwakes begin arriving at the Chukchi Peninsula during late April, with the bulk of the birds doing so during early May (Konyukhov et al. 1998). High counts at Gambell in spring include 4000 birds on both 30 May 2007 and 07 Jun 2010, and 5000 on 05 Jun 2001.

  **Fall:** Before 2005, for much of the fall, daily counts at Gambell ranged from 1000 to 3000, with occasional counts of up to 4000, and a few over 5000. Up to 5 percent of the birds are one- and two-year-olds; with up to 20–30 percent being that age during 2014–2017. The first juveniles do not usually appear off the point until early September (earliest arrival 26 Aug 2016), but not until 19 Sep in 2009 and 20 Sep in 2011. Overall numbers of kittiwakes off the point have declined most years after 2005, and high counts typically have not exceeded about 3000 birds. In 2011 and 2012, numbers were depressed early in the season, with fewer than 200/day on most days. The species still may be very common through early October; in fact, some of the largest counts come from this part of the season, including several days with 20,000 birds, 30,000 on 02 Oct 2004, and 25,000 on 01 Oct and 30,000 on 02 Oct 2016. At Savoonga, ca. 16,400 were seen 26 Sep 2011, and up to 10,000 were in the Akeftapak Bay area 30 Sep 2011. Smaller numbers probably remain into late October or early November; in 2011, a high of ca. 1000 (mostly juveniles) remained through 31 Oct. Fay and Cade (1959) reported “several immatures seen near Gambell” 10 Nov 1957. Shipboard surveys found 17 birds from ca. 86 km (53 mi) SE of Southeast Cape to 17 km (11 mi) NE of Northeast Cape 12 Nov 2011, 1 bird ca. 41 km (25 mi) N of Northeast Cape 13 Nov 2011, and 1 bird ca. 65 km (40 mi) W of SLI 23 Nov 2008 (Drew et al. 2015). An avian cholera event in mid-Nov 2013 deposited 2 dead individuals along the Savoonga and Gambell shorelines (Bodenstein et al. 2015, K. Kuletz unpub. data). Up to 30 birds were at Gambell 02–29 Nov 2016, with ca. 160 seen on 01 Dec—a high count for so late—and just 3 individuals on 02 Dec (but see below). As many as 75 birds were tallied at Gambell 15–22 Nov and 1 lingered 29–30 Nov 2017. Portenko (1989) cited a late record of 25 Nov 1937 near Provideniya.

  **Summer and Breeding:** This species breeds in large numbers on the island’s sea cliffs (Fay and Cade 1959). Pre-nesting surveys of SLI during the 1970s estimated ca.76,000 birds (Ehrlich et al. 1993), and in 1996 and 1997 the nesting population was estimated at 47,000 birds (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). An additional ca. 60,000 nesting birds were estimated on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1991 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The largest colonies on SLI were found between Owalit Mountain and Southwest Cape on southwestern SLI, between Cape Myaughee and Cape Kitnik southeast of Savoonga, and on cliffs west of Savoonga (Stephensen et al. 1998). Ehrlich et al. (1993) noted that it was a “boom-and-bust species mainly with an abundance of Sand Lance and other fish and invertebrates.” For example, several poor nesting seasons in a row through 2013 were followed by an excellent year in 2014. Georgette and Iknokinok (1997) quote several residents at Savoonga who noted a decline in numbers, and Stephensen et al. (1998) noted substantial declines at two major colonies between 1987 and 1996–1997.

  **Winter:** The first certain winter records for the area were established by a bird at Gambell 16–17 December 2015, up to 2 there 05–09 Jan 2016, 2–10 individuals from 22 Dec
2016–05 Feb 2017, and singles on 12 Jan and 10 Feb 2018. Exceptional were the up to ca. 300 individuals seen 16–23 Dec 2017.

Comments: This species winters primarily in the North Pacific, with some north to the southern Bering Sea (Kessel 1989).

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa brevirostris*

- *Apparently regular well offshore in late fall and early winter; casual spring and early fall visitor from shore.*

*Spring:* Only two documented spring records of single adults at Gambell 01 Jun 1992 and 02 Jun 2017. In addition, there are single unconfirmed and poorly detailed reports at Taphook Point, east of Gambell, 04 Jun 1953 and from Gambell [no date] Jun 1966 (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971).

*Fall:* A second-cycle bird was seen from the point at Gambell 19–20 Aug, a total of 10 adults and second-cycles were there 28 Sep, and 8 were present 30 Sep, all in 2014. In 2015, an adult was seen 24 Sep. Offshore, 1 was ca. 88 km (55 mi) S of SLI 27 Sep 2010 (A. J. Lang in litt.). A recent study (Orben et al. 2012, 2015, 2018a) of 59 birds from the Pribilof Islands fitted with geolocators over four years found that 23 of these traveled far to the north to the northern Bering Sea region, especially to the southwest of SLI between the island and Cape Navarin, Russia, during October–December. They then traveled southwest to waters off eastern and southern Kamchatka and the northern Kuril Islands during December–February.

Comments: Mandibles from Red-legged Kittiwake were reportedly found in midden deposits on SLI (Friedmann 1934a). This species nests very locally only in the Pribilof, Aleutian, and Komandorski (Commander) Islands (NGS 2017).

IVORY GULL *Pagophila eburnea*

- *Uncommon winter and spring visitor. Probably declining.*

*Spring:* Fay and Cade (1959) wrote that Ivory Gulls were regular offshore in early spring…but never common.” Konyukhov et al. (1998) wrote that there is an early-spring influx to the Chukchi Peninsula typically in early May, but beginning already in early Apr in 1989, that “intensive” spring movements have been detected between late May–early June, and that only adults were observed during early migration, but by late May both “subadults” and adults were present. There are sightings and specimens (**MVZ**) from [unspecified locality] SLI on 06 May 1928 and 06 May 1930 (2 birds; Murie 1936). At Gambell, this species is an uncommon visitor during March, April, and much of May, but it has become more irregular in occurrence during recent years in late spring, although it still sometimes lingers through early June—largely depending on the presence or absence of sea-ice. Most daily counts are in the single digits, with a few totals of up to 22 birds; larger tallies include a total of 43 during late May 1975 (Morrin 1978), 26 birds on 29 May 1985, and an impressive 122 birds (mostly adults) counted on 13 May 2005 (ph. B. Benter). Elsewhere on SLI, 1 was near Savoonga 25 May 1951 (*DMNS; Bailey 1956) and “several” birds were on an ice floe at Northeast Cape 06 Jun 1964 (Thompson 1967). During June, there are many records at Gambell through ca. 07 June, a few to 11 June, 1 on 14 Jun 1990, 2 birds on 16 Jun 1988, 6 on 19 Jun 1970 (UAM files), 3+ between 17–20 Jun 1973 (UAM files), and 1 individual on 21 Jun 2006. A published photo from “June” 1983 appears in AB 37:1018.

*Fall:* Despite the statement by Fay and Cade (1959) that this species “occurs regularly offshore in…late fall,” there are no definite records at this season from SLI or nearby offshore
waters. [Some 30+ birds were seen at sea at the edge of pack ice from a research vessel in the northern Bering Sea 4 Nov 2011 (D. Pavlik in litt.).]

Summer: No true summer record of Ivory Gull exists for SLI, although 1 was in the Gulf of Anadyr 15 Jul 1987 (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

Winter: Bailey (1956) wrote that Ivory Gulls winter along the rim of the pack ice in the exposed sections of the Bering Sea north of SLI. Konyukhov et al. (1998) stated that it “winters in the pack ice of the Gulf of Anadyr and adjacent waters.” Local Gambell residents report that this species does not arrive until the pack ice forms and hunters kill seals on the nearby floes, usually during the latter winter and in spring. A certain arrival date there is up to 10 birds between 22 Jan–10 Feb 2018 and 1 individual on 05 Feb 2017.

Comments: A high count is of 50–100 birds near St. Matthew Island 26–27 Mar 1968 (Winker et al. 2002). This species nests very locally in the High Arctic and is likely declining in most areas due to the retreat of sea-ice.

SABINE’S GULL Xema sabini

- Uncommon to rare and somewhat irregular spring and fall migrant. Very rare in summer.

Spring: A very early bird was photographed at Gambell 14 May 2015; the next earliest date is 23 May 1990 and 2013. The number of migrants seen passing the point is typically quite low—single digits for the season—with 8 tallied on 05 Jun 2008 the highest. The latest dates of presumed migrants are 17 Jun 1993, 18 Jun 2013, and 21 Jun 1993.

Fall: Migrants and failed breeders appear beginning in July and early August. Friedmann (1932a) reported that five specimens (*USNM) had been taken at Gambell in [no date] Jul and Aug 1930, 1 was obtained (*MVZ) near Savoonga 09 Jul 1931, 2 were collected (**USNM) at Savoonga 22 Jul 1940, Cade (1950) reported a dozen offshore between Gambell and Boxer Bay on 10 Aug [year?], Fay and Cade (1959) noted “a few individuals and small groups near Gambell, mostly in August,” Bédard collected a bird (*UBC) at Gambell 07 Aug 1964, a concentration of 25 adults were at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017, and a single juvenile arrival was at Gambell 18 Jul 2017. Most years since the 1990s, <16 birds have been seen at Gambell between mid-August and early October, and none at all were found in 2002, 2003, and 2004. In late Aug 1994, the species was seen daily at Gambell, with 20 birds noted 24 Aug. In 2001, a total of 48 were tallied, with several birds feeding around the point for extended periods. The latest records of adults are of 1 continuing through 23 Sep and with 2 on 24 Sep 2007, 1 from 22–24 Sep 2011, and see below. Juveniles remained 28 Sep 2007 (2), 29 Sep–01 Oct 2010 (up to 4), and 01 Oct 2001; a surprising 6 remained at Savoonga 28 Sep 2011. And in 2016, up to 4 juveniles 06–07 Oct increased to 7–10 juveniles and 1 alternate adult from 08–10 Oct. (An unspecified “old reference of Sabine's Gulls feeding in the Gambell surf in December” [FN 49:86] is almost certainly in error.)

Summer and Breeding: Bent (1921) and Fay and Cade (1959) believed that the species nested on SLI, but direct evidence is lacking. Up to 20 birds were seen daily at Siknik Cape, east end of Koozata Lagoon, during June in both 1953 and 1954 (Fay and Cade 1959). Most July birds (see above) probably involve early fall transients.

Comments: Known breeding sites are widespread along coastal mainland Alaska (NGS 2017) and in the Anadyr area (Brazil 2009).

BONAPARTE’S GULL Chroicocephalus philadelphia
• Casual spring visitor.
  
  Spring: Only 3 certain records, all from Gambell: 28 May 1990, 02–03 Jun 1994, and 29 May 1996. There are also several undocumented reports (e.g., 27 Jun 1978, 11 Jun 1982), some of which may refer to misidentified Black-headed Gulls.
  
  Fall: One reported by Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) on [unspecified locality] SLI 06 Aug 1946 includes no details, and it is unlikely that Black-headed Gull was adequately considered at the time.
  
  Comments: This species breeds in taiga in interior and southwestern Alaska, to the base of the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), and is rare farther west. It is also a casual visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

BLACK-HEADED GULL  *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

• Very rare spring and casual fall and summer visitor.
  
  Spring: The first SLI record was of 2+ birds at Gambell from 03–06 Jun 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). There are now 36 spring records at that site (involving 47 individuals) through 2017, from 14–17 May 2006 (up to 6 birds—on 17 May, also the single-day maximum) through 14 Jun 1996, with a later bird on 26 Jun 1981 (UAM files). Also, 5 birds were at Savoonga 17 May 2006 —clearly a good day for this species on SLI.
  
  Fall: An adult at Gambell 26 Aug–04 Sep 2001 was the first in fall for the northern Bering Sea. Another adult was present there 05–07 Sep 2009. A late immature was found 27–29 Oct 2016.
  
  Summer: An adult was reported at Gambell 15 Jul 1981 (UAM files).
  
  Comments: This species breeds northeast to the Kolyma River and southern Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009) and is a rare to very rare visitor elsewhere in western Alaska, primarily in spring and early summer; it is casual elsewhere in coastal Alaska, and it has been recorded on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

LITTLE GULL  *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

• Accidental fall visitor.
  
  Fall: A juvenile fed in the surf at Gambell during gale winds on 12–13 Sep 2010. This was the second record for the Bering Sea and the eleventh for the state.
  
  Comments: This species breeds no closer than west of Magadan in Russia (Brazil 2009) or in small numbers in the Hudson Bay area in central Canada, although it is possibly a rare, sporadic breeder in northwestern Canada (C. D. Eckert in litt.).

ROSS’S GULL  *Rhodostethia rosea*

• Rare but regular late-fall and early-winter migrant and visitor; very rare in late spring and casual in early fall.
  
  Spring: This species is very rare in late spring, and it is actually more likely to occur during June than it is in May. The total of 18 spring records—all but one from Gambell—through 2017 involve 50 individuals, between 17 May 2003 and 20 Jun 1973. Most records involve from 1–3 individuals; higher counts are of up to 7 between 10–20 Jun 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978, ph. Morrin 1978), up to 5 from 05–08 Jun 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 13 birds on 11 Jun 1979, 4 on 07 Jun 1996, and 5 on 01–02 Jun 2001. The one non-Gambell record is of 2 birds several kilometers off southwest SLI 15 May 2016.
Fall: Up to 4 adults were foraging around the point at Gambell from 28 Sep–10 Oct 2001 (ph. Lehman 2005, UAM), following the passage of an arctic front. One adult was in the surf at Akeftapak Bay, about 14 km (9 mi) ESE of the village, on 29 Sep 2010. A juvenile was at Gambell 29 Sep 2013 and another juvenile was there 29 Sep 2015. These birds were almost record-early for anywhere south of the Bering Strait. Up to 3 birds were present at Gambell between mid-Nov and early Dec 2006; and up to 5 were there 13–30 Nov increasing to 12–13 birds from 22–26 Nov 2017. Gambell residents report that this species occurs in small numbers (up to a dozen or so) in the surf near the point some time in November and/or December of most years. Fay and Cade (1959) noted that, according to hunters, the species is “not seen every year” but that its “usual time of arrival [is] in late November and December when great chunks of polar pack ice drift down from the Chukchi Sea.” Sealy et al. (1971) saw several near Gambell in early Dec 1966, and a specimen was collected there (*UAM) in [no date] Dec 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). At sea, 20–25+ birds were seen from a research vessel ca. 120 km (75 mi) S of SLI 3 Dec 2011 (D. Pavlik in litt.).

Comments: Most Ross’s Gulls nest along the arctic coast of Russia between the Kolyma River delta and the Taymyr Peninsula. The primary winter range is thought to be in the Arctic Ocean and possibly south to the Sea of Okhotsk, although recent geolocator research found that at least some birds nesting much farther east—in the Canadian Arctic—winter in the Labrador Sea in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean (Mafte et al. 2015). Substantial numbers are seen during fall migration at Barrow, Alaska, and the species is also a regular migrant inland along the Anadyr River (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1951, Divoky et al. 1988, Portenko 1989). Elsewhere in the Bering Sea region, Ross’s Gull is a casual visitor south to the Pribilofs and Aleutians (S. Schuette unpubl. data, Gibson and Byrd 2007).

BLACK-TAILED GULL  *Larus crassirostris*

- Casual spring visitor.


  Comments: Black-tailed Gulls breed north only to Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands (Brazil 2009). They also occur casually on the Pribilof (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and elsewhere in coastal Alaska.

MEW GULL  *Larus canus*

- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor. Both Asian L. c. kamtschatschensis and North American L. c. brachyrhynchos occur.

  Spring: Overall, this species is a very rare visitor in spring, although some half the birds were not identified to subspecies and remain “Mew Gull ssp.,” including all birds reported before 1998. The first definite SLI records of Mew Gull ssp. were of 1 at Gambell 28 May 1978 and 2 birds there 04 Jun 1980. Through 2017, there now total eight records of kamtschatschensis (all single birds) between 15–16 May 2006 and 05 Jun 2007 (*UAM), six records (involving 7 individuals) of brachyrhynchos between 25 May 2017 and 07–13 Jun 2017, and seven of Mew Gull ssp. between 26 May 1996 and 04 Jun 1980—all at Gambell. (A report of 7 Mew Gulls on 21 May 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971) would need corroboration.)

  Fall: There are five records at Gambell involving L. c. kamtschatschensis: single juveniles on 25–26 Aug 1997 (ph. FN 52:141) and 24–27 Aug 2002, a second-cycle bird on 23–
24 Sep 2006, an adult on 26 Sep 2014, and a juvenile on 09–10 Oct 2016. There is only one fall record of *L. c. brachyrhynchos*, involving a juvenile at Gambell 21 Aug 1999.

**Comments:** Some early reports of Mew Gull on SLI by Cooke (1915) and Bent (1921) were (presumably) misidentified (Portenko 1989). *L. c. kantschatschensis* breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998). *L. c. brachyrhynchos* breeds commonly on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). Both subspecies are also very rare visitors to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and rare on the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

- **Subspecies** *L. a. vegae,* “Vega Gull,” *is a common visitor and a fairly common breeder on SLI; casual in winter.* *L. a. smithsonianus* *is a very rare fall visitor.*

**Spring:** “Vega” Gulls have arrived at Gambell as early as 24 Apr 2003, 24 Apr 2004 (3), and 25 Apr 2014; and on the Chukchi Peninsula beginning in mid-April (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Some daily counts have reached 100 individuals, with 200 tallied at Gambell on 29 May 2012. Some 200 birds were also reported at Northeast Cape 10 May 1964 (Thompson 1967). In contrast, only up to 15/day were at Gambell in 2016. Daily totals at Gambell decline after early June, presumably as adult birds spread out on the island to nest.

**Fall:** In fall, the species occurs at Gambell daily in moderate numbers, with some counts up to 50–75 birds per day; 80 were tallied on 21 Sep 2006, 90 were on 28 Aug 2012, and 100 on 04 Sep 2017; but fewer than 15–30/day on many days in 2014 and 2015. All age classes occur regularly. Numbers decline after mid-September, with high counts in late September and early October typically around 5–15 birds per day, although 75 were at Akeftapak Bay, ESE of Gambell, 30 Sep 2011. An apparent exodus of large gulls 03–04 Oct 2003 brought 139 Vegas heading west past Gambell. Small numbers are likely of regular occurrence through late October (e.g., 3+ on 29 Oct 2016). The latest fall records are of a first-cycle on 15 Nov 2014 (subspecies uncertain) and 1 or 2 adults and a first-cycle between 19 Nov–03 Dec 2017. There are at least 13 fall reports of North American *L. a. smithsonianus* at Gambell: a subadult 04–10 Sep 2000 and mostly adults 27 Sep 2001, 09 Sep 2002, 27 Aug 2003, 24 Sep 2004, 14–16 Sep 2005, 16 Sep 2006, 31 Aug and 19 Sep 2008, 07–08 Sep 2010, 04–05 Sep 2013, and 31 Aug, 16–17 Sep, and 28 Sep 2016.

**Summer and Breeding:** Vega Gulls nest at many sites elsewhere on SLI, away from Gambell (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993), with 860 breeding birds estimated in 1996 and 1997, a likely increase in true abundance from previous studies (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003). The largest concentrations of breeders were found at the Punuk Islands and at Koozata Lagoon (Stephensen et al. 1998). Approximately 500 birds nested on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1987 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Small numbers of non-breeders likely remain through the summer in the immediate Gambell area.

**Winter:** A first-cycle bird was photographed at Gambell 03 Jan 2017, probably the first mid-winter record for the northern Bering Sea. Another first-cycle (subspecies uncertain) remained 21 Dec 2017–08 Jan 2018.

**Comments:** Vega Gulls also nest along the coast in northeastern Russia (Brazil 2009) and are uncommon visitors on other Bering Sea islands to the south as well as on the adjacent Alaska mainland. North American *L. a. smithsonianus* breeds in interior Alaska but is very rare in the offshore Bering Sea. Several additional sightings of probable juvenile and subadult *smithsonianus* at Gambell are fraught with the uncertainties associated with hybrid gulls. Some authors (e.g., Yésou 2002, Olsen and Larsson 2003) have ranked *vegae* as a full species.
ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

- Very rare fall and casual spring visitor. All records refer to *L. g. thayeri*, “Thayer’s” Gull.

  **Spring:** A first-cycle bird was at Gambell 28 May–01 Jun 2016 and another was there 31 May–14 Jun 2017.


  **Comments:** Thayer’s Gull was lumped with Iceland Gull in 2017 (Chesser et al. 2017). This species is a very rare fall and casual spring and summer visitor elsewhere in western Alaska, although it is an uncommon visitor farther south in the state (NGS 2017). It nests in Arctic Canada.

SLATY-BACKED GULL *Larus schistisagus*

- Uncommon fall, rare to uncommon spring, and very rare summer visitor.

  **Spring:** Seen at least several times each spring at Gambell, sometimes on over half the days, this species is found in very small numbers. Often, just 2 to 3 birds are noted per season, with some counts of up to 5 individuals, 6 seen on 06 Jun 1989, 7 during mid-May 2013, and 8 reported 05 Jun 2005. The number of reports is probably higher than the actual number of birds, the result of both some duplication and observers misidentifying dark-backed Vega Herring Gulls (see below). The early arrival date at Gambell is 10 May 2006; elsewhere on SLI, 1 was reported near Southeast Cape 14 May 1983 (UAM files). A high count late in the season was 4 birds at Gambell 19–21 Jun 2005, with 1 remaining 22 Jun. Other records away from Gambell are from Savoonga 06 Jun 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and Kongkok Lake 20 Jun 1987. There is one specimen record (*UAM) from Gambell 31 May 1989.

  **Fall:** Slaty-backeds are seen on about half the days in fall in the Gambell area beginning already in August, with seasonal totals varying from 9 to 17 individuals and some birds present for extended periods. The highest one-day count is of 7 on both 03 Sep 2006 and 24 Aug 2013. All age classes except juvenile are seen, but only several one-year-old birds have been identified to date. The species is less regular in late September and early October (high count: 5 birds on 28 Sep 2006) than earlier in the fall. The latest date is 14 Oct 2010. The only records away from Gambell in fall are from Kitnik, east of Savoonga, 16 Aug 2003 and 25 Aug 2004, and from the Savoonga area 02–16 Aug 2004.

  **Summer:** The only mid-summer records are from Northeast Cape 17 Jul 2001 (UAM files); from Gambell 08–11 Jul 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 18 Jul 1989 (UAM files), and 05–07 Jul 2014 (2); and of 4 birds at a whale carcass at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017.

  **Comments:** Adult Vega Gulls are regularly misidentified as Slaty-backeds, especially in spring when standing on ice and they appear darker mantled than they actually are. Slaty-backed Gull breeds along the Russian coast to the northeastern Koryak Highlands (Vaurie 1965); there is one definite (McCaffery et al. 1997) and a few possible (e.g., Winker et al. 2002) nesting records in Alaska. It is also a rare to uncommon visitor to the Seward Peninsula, other Bering Sea islands, and the Aleutians (Kessel 1989, Winker et al. 2002, Gibson and Byrd 2007).
GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL  
Larus glaucescens

- Fairly common fall and uncommon spring visitor; rare in summer and very rare in winter. Recently increased in numbers.

Spring: Numbers have increased somewhat in spring since about 2000, and the species is now an uncommon spring visitor. The early arrival dates at Gambell are 23 Apr 2003 and 25–27 Apr 2017 (2). A first-cycle bird there 03 Apr 2017 had probably wintered locally (see below). Most daily counts in spring are of fewer than 10 individuals; maxima are of 15 birds on 04 Jun 2003 and 30 birds from 2–4 Jun 2004. Numbers decline by mid-June; 7 individuals on 21 Jun 2005 was a late-season high.

Fall: Most fall birds on SLI are juveniles; a substantial number of adults are present as well, with far fewer subadults. Fay and Cade (1959) reported several “young of the year” in Aug 1957 and that “six immature specimens” were taken in earlier years. Sealy et al. (1971) noted that first-cycle [juvenile] birds were numerous from September to November along the southern and western coasts of the island. In recent years, Glaucous-wingeds are seen daily at Gambell, mid-August to late October, with many counts of up to 30 birds and a few tallies of up to 55, with 74 birds on 10 Sep 2002, 65 seen 01 Oct 2006, 70 on 11 Sep 2014, and 80–100 daily from 04–07 Sep 2017. Most of the higher counts are from mid-September to early October. In 2003, an apparent exodus of large gulls brought a then-record count of 104 and 89 Glaucous-wingeds, respectively, heading west past Gambell on 03 and 04 Oct. In 2016, 60–100 were tallied 06–07 Oct, with a record 210 birds on 08 Oct, 150–180 on 09–10 Oct, and at least 80 present 29 Oct. Small to moderate numbers remain through at least early November (e.g., 15 birds on 08 Nov 2017). Later records include 1 seen on 15 Nov 2014, up to 12 from 15 Nov–03+ Dec 2017, and up to 3–8 through 18 Dec and up to 2 through 23+ Dec 2016 (and see below).

Summer: The only certain records on the island between 25 June and early August are of single individuals at Gambell 06 Jul 2011 and at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017, although the species presumably occurs at that season in small numbers. The relatively large numbers of early-autumn juveniles around Gambell suggests that the species might now be nesting somewhere on SLI (but see below).

Winter: A first-cycle bird was photographed at Gambell 25 Dec 2013 and another was there 12–19 February 2016, perhaps the first winter records for the northern Bering Sea. Small numbers remained through much of the winter in 2016–2017 and 2017–2018, with high counts of 7 birds on 03 Feb and up to 4 still present 26–28 Feb 2017, and ca. 18 birds found 08 Jan 2018.

Comments: Early reports of Glaucous-winged Gull nesting on SLI (e.g., Friedmann 1932a, Murie 1936) were almost certainly in error and were properly questioned by subsequent authors (e.g., Fay and Cade 1959). More recently, this species has indeed expanded its breeding range northward in the Bering Sea, and since 1966 it has nested on St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002). It winters north to the southern or central Bering Sea (NGS 2017).

GLAUCOUS GULL  
Larus hyperboreus

- Common breeder and visitor. Uncommon to fairly common in winter.

Spring: Given that this species winters around SLI, determining accurate arrival dates of true spring migrants is difficult or impossible. However, both Ehrlich et al. (1993) and Konyukhov et al. (1998) noted a spring influx beginning in early April; 100 were present at Gambell 13 Apr 2016. High spring totals at Gambell are early-highs of 300+ on 23 Apr 2004 and 450 on 25 Apr 2017, ca. 350 birds on both 29 May and 08 Jun 2011, and a late-high of 180
present 14 Jun 2010; but only up to 80/day were seen in 2016. As with Vega Herring Gulls, daily maxima at Gambell decline after early June, presumably as adult birds spread out on the island to nest.

**Fall:** At Gambell this species is present daily in numbers typically ranging between 100–300 individuals, occasionally up to 400, and very rarely to 500. The highest counts are of 750 on 24 Aug 1999 and 600 on 15 Sep 1999; some 800 were at Akeftapak Bay, 15 km (9 mi) ESE of Gambell, 30 Sep 2011. The high late-season totals are 300–400 at Gambell 27 Nov–18 Dec 2016 and ca. 200 from 03–16 Dec 2017. Small numbers remain on the Seward Peninsula into November, with other late records on 21 Nov and 07 Dec 1912 in the Bering Strait (Kessel 1989, Portenko 1989).

**Summer and Breeding:** This species nests on sea cliffs on the island (Fay and Cade 1959), and in 1996 and 1997 the nesting population was estimated at 650 birds (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003), with an additional 2000 breeders on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1987 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). On SLI, the largest concentrations of breeders were found at Southwest Cape and at Koozata Lagoon (Stephensen et al. 1998).

**Winter:** Glaucous Gulls linger through the winter as long as some water remains open, including at polynyas around SLI (Kessel 1989) and off the south shore of the Chukchi Peninsula (Konyukhov et al. 1998). Approximately 70+ were counted during an aerial survey around the western half of SLI 16 Dec 2013 (P. Bente in litt.), and between 60+ and “hundreds” were at Gambell 04 Feb–01+ Apr 2017.

**Comments:** Glaucous Gulls nesting on SLI are *L. h. pallidissimus*, although *L. h. barrovianus*, breeding on the Alaska mainland, probably occurs as a rare visitor.

**Hybrid Gulls**

Gulls of all ages that appear to be hybrids between any of several combinations of large *Larus* species are regularly seen in small numbers at Gambell and elsewhere in the (northern) Bering Sea. Such birds are most apt to be found around SLI during the late summer, fall, and early winter, when a few such individuals may be seen daily. Fewer are seen in spring and early summer. Such hybrid combinations include, at least, what are likely Glaucous-winged X Herring (Vega), Glaucous X Herring (Vega), Glaucous-winged X Glaucous, and possibly Glaucous-winged X Slaty-backed. The presence of such individuals makes the identification of Thayer’s Gulls and of juvenile and first-cycle *smithsonianus* Herring and Slaty-backed Gulls at Gambell even more difficult. Apparent hybrids involving likely Glaucous-winged X Herring (?) have been seen as late in the season as early Jan 2017 and possibly in early April 2017.

**ALEUTIAN TERN** *Onychoprion aleuticus*

- **Casual spring migrant. One breeding record on SLI.**

  **Spring:** The spring records from Gambell are of 2 birds on 04 Jun and up to 5 birds from 05–07 Jun 1982, 1 on 31 May 1996, singles on 05 & 06 Jun 1997, and 1 on 08 Jun 2010. Also, 5 were reported from Southeast Cape 06 Jun 1986 (UAM files).

  **Summer and Breeding:** Two Aleutian Terns at a nest in an Arctic Tern colony on Tekiyeauk Island at the eastern end of Koozata Lagoon, south shore SLI, 15 Jun 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, S. W. Stephensen in litt.) established the first and only breeding record for the island.

  **Comments:** This species nests on the Seward Peninsula and locally in much of coastal western Alaska and the Aleutians (Kessel 1989). In Asia, it breeds along the coast north only as
close as the city of Anadyr (Dinets 1992). Aleutian Tern is a very rare to casual visitor to St. Matthew Island and the Pribilofs (Winker et al. 2002, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*
- Very rare to casual spring visitor. All records refer to Asian *S. h. longipennis*.
  - **Spring**: First recorded 04 Jun 1976 and 05–07 Jun 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), there now total 12 records (involving 24 individuals)—all at Gambell—through 2017. Early and late dates are 23+ May 1989 and 07 Jun (several years), respectively, although a large majority of the records are from the first week of June. The high count, by far, is 8 birds on 01 Jun 1996.
  - **Comments**: *S. h. longipennis* nests in taiga northeast to the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009). This subspecies is found very rarely on the Pribilofs and Aleutians, mostly in spring and summer (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is casual on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989).

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*
- Rare to uncommon spring and fall migrant; uncommon breeder elsewhere on SLI.
  - **Spring**: Arctic Tern is an irregular migrant in spring at Gambell, where mostly seen flying by the point. It may go unrecorded there some seasons, whereas up to 8 birds have been seen in a day several different years and 12–14 birds were counted on several dates between 29 May–03 Jun 2015; an additional seasonal high is the total of 29 seen between 29 May–05 Jun 2011. Ehrlich et al. (1993) list the arrival date for [unspecified locality] SLI as 22 May [year?], and the earliest certain record at Gambell is 24 May 2011. Late dates for spring migrants are uncertain (ex., 13 June 2016). Arrival dates and spring maxima at sites on SLI where this species still nests (see below) are not known.
  - **Fall**: Fall migrants at Gambell likely appear beginning already in early or mid-July. They were noted as “common” there in early Jul 1976 (UAM files). Two were seen at vic. Maknek River mouth, eastern SLI, 10 Jul 2017. Numbers between mid-August and mid-September vary substantially from year to year—from highs at Gambell of over 50 birds in 1994 (with 20 on 16 Aug and ca. 50 on 22 Aug) and 25 in 2001, to just 2 in 2004 and 2016, 1 in 2008, 2014, and 2017, and none in 2002 or 2012. Some birds feed around the point area for many days. Most are juveniles, but a few adults are seen as well (as late as 13 Sep 2007). Records of juveniles after 15 September are of 3 remaining to 17 Sep, 2 to 18 Sep, and 1 to 19 Sep 2001, 1 on 18–19 Sep 2007, and 1 on 25 Sep 2007; 1 found dead in good condition 05 Oct 2011 had probably died in late Sep. At Savoonga, single juveniles 01 Oct and 07 Oct 2012 were exceptional.
  - **Summer and Breeding**: Arctic Terns were thought nesting by mid-June at scattered sites around SLI through the mid-1900s (Fay and Cade 1959), including at Gambell and Savoonga (Murie 1936). Small to moderate numbers were found during Jun 1960 along the south shore between Boxer Bay and “Kangee,” at the west end of Koozata Lagoon (Sauer and Urban 1964). The largest numbers continue to nest along the south shore, but the species was extirpated as a breeder from Gambell and Savoonga following the introduction of ATVs in the 1970s and the resulting increased human disturbance (Ehrlich et al. 1993). Some 195 birds were estimated still nesting on SLI in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003), almost all at Tekiyeauk Island at the east end of Koozata Lagoon. Away from there, 2–5 birds were reported at Gambell 25–28 Jun 1993. Many birds seen at non-breeding sites beginning in July are likely fall migrants (see above).
Family Gaviidae: Loons

**RED-THROATED LOON**  *Gavia stellata*
- *Uncommon to fairly common spring and uncommon fall migrant. Fairly common breeder on SLI. Accidental in winter.*
  
  **Spring:** Most birds at Gambell are seen flying by the point. The early arrival date is 23 May 2004. High one-day counts are of 25 birds on 04 Jun 1992 and 18 individuals on 06 Jun 1993—two of the best days for migrant loons ever at Gambell in spring. Some other high counts of Red-throated are probably referable to misidentified Pacific Loons, at least in part. Presumed late migrants were still passing by 16 Jun 1993 (4) and 22 Jun 2005.
  
  **Fall:** Totals passing the point range from 4 to 17 individuals most years from late August (earliest: 21 Aug 1999 and 2003) through the second week of October, with a high 30 birds in both 2012 and 2016. An earlier record of 1 found dead on a lake near Gambell 16 Aug 1935 (Murie 1936) may have been a local breeder. The one-day maxima are 6 on 11 Sep 2007 and 9 on 02 Oct 2012. The latest records are of 2 collected (**MVZ**) at Gambell 14 Oct 1928 and 1 collected (*UAM*) at “Camp Collier” west of Savoonga 24 Oct 1935 (Murie 1936).
  
  **Summer and Breeding:** Fay and Cade (1959) and Ehrlich et al. (1993) reported this species as a common breeder on SLI. Current summer abundance is uncertain.
  
  **Winter:** Exceptional at this season was an individual at Gambell 11 Jan 2017.
  
  **Comments:** A satellite-telemetry study showed that two tagged juveniles from Point Lay on Alaska’s North Slope later passed by Gambell toward Asian wintering grounds at the Commander Islands and central Kamchatka Peninsula (B. Uher-Koch in litt.).

**ARCTIC LOON**  *Gavia arctica*
- *Uncommon spring and rare fall migrant.*
  
  **Spring:** This species is seen almost exclusively at Gambell flying by the point. It has been recorded in small to moderate numbers every spring since identification criteria were finally worked out in about 1989. The few reports before then are largely clouded by identification uncertainty. They were largely lacking due to *arctica* having been treated as conspecific with *G. pacifica* prior to 1985. The earliest spring date for Arctic Loon is 22 May 2004, and the latest is 11 Jun 1989, 1999, 2011, and 2012. Several one-day high counts are of up to 15–16 birds, with 28 on 04 Jun 1992, and with an exceptional season total of 63 birds between 31 May–09 Jun 1993. Other high seasonal totals include 37 birds in 1992 and 35 in 1995.
  
  **Fall:** The fall sightings— all at Gambell—are of single early individuals on 23 Aug 1994 and 31 Aug 2003 and 2011, and a total of 38 birds between 05 Sep 2006 and 2011 and 12 Oct 2010, 7 of which were seen between 05–12 Oct 2010. In addition, a total of 6 were in the Savoonga area during late Sep and early Oct 2011, and 4 birds were there during the same period in 2012. Given that this species is a regular spring migrant, it is uncertain whether most fall birds take a different route or pass by later in the season.
  
  **Comments:** As a result of old taxonomy prior to 1985 or incorrectly identified birds, some of the literature (e.g., Friedmann 1932a, Cade 1950, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) noted this species as being a common local breeder. An 08 Jun 1953 specimen (*DMNS*) cited by Bailey (1956) as an Arctic Loon (*sensu stricto*) was re-identified as a Pacific Loon by Gibson and Kessel (1997). Arctic Loons nest from the Chukchi Peninsula south to Sakhalin Island.
(Dement’ev and Gladkov 1951) and in very small numbers on the Alaska mainland from Kotzebue Sound south to the Seward Peninsula (Douglas and Sowl 1993). They are rare to very rare visitors farther south on the other Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**PACIFIC LOON** *Gavia pacifica*

- *Common spring and fairly common to common fall migrant. Breeds on SLI.*

  **Spring:** A very large percent of the Pacific Loons at Gambell are seen flying by the point. The early arrival date is 21 May 2004. High one-day totals are 300+ on 04 Jun 1992 and 370+ on 06 June 1993 (both were large flight days for several loon species), 321 on 05 Jun 1997, 392 on 05 Jun 2001, and 366 on 05 Jun 2007; a count of 165 on 10 Jun 1987 (UAM files) was high for that late in the season. In contrast, only ca. 290, 305, and a mere 150 birds were tallied during the entire seasons in 2012, 2016, and 2017, respectively. Migrants continue to pass in numbers into mid-June, and 1 was noted 21 Jun 2005. The status—migrant versus non-breeder versus local breeder—of 7 birds on 28 Jun 1993 and 2 present 02 Jul 1993 is uncertain. One was collected (*DMNS) at Savoonga 22 Jun 1951 (and see below).

  **Fall:** This species is an uncommon migrant along the coast by late August and is fairly common in some years by early September, becoming common after mid-September. Two at the point 04 Aug 2013 were early. Through early or mid- September daily counts at Gambell are usually <10, but after that, they often increase to up to about 100–125 per day, with maxima of 279 on 10 Oct 2010, 334 on 11 Oct 2010, 305 on 02 Oct 2012, and 510 on 03 Oct 2012. Seasonal totals range from 190 to 1800 (in 2012) birds. At Savoonga, the maximum was 289 on 06 Oct 2012. The latest records are of 1 collected (*DMNS) at Savoonga 24 Oct 1950, 2 at Gambell 24 Oct 2017, 2 collected (**UAM) at “Camp Collier” west of Savoonga 29 Oct 1935 (Murie 1936), and up to 3 birds at Gambell 31 Oct–21 Nov 2016.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Pacific Loon nests in uncertain numbers on the island. Ehrlich et al. (1993) termed it a fairly common breeder but provided little evidence. Fay and Cade (1959) also thought it a numerous nesting species on SLI but cite only two certain breeding records. There are four specimens (**MVZ) from the Savoonga area between 7–25 July in 1928 and 1931. See above for early-summer dates at Gambell. Pacific Loon breeds commonly on the Alaska mainland and in smaller numbers in coastal northeastern Russia (Brazil 2009).

  **Comments:** A satellite-telemetry study of nesting Pacific Loons from both Alaska’s North Slope and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (http://www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/paloak.html) showed that migrants transiting through the waters between SLI and the Chukchi Peninsula in both fall and spring to and from Asian wintering grounds include North Slope birds. In contrast, individuals tagged at the Y-K Delta ultimatelywintered along the North America West Coast, but one individual tagged there on 11 Jun 2016 first wandered northwest to Gambell and other sites on SLI, even to the Chukchi Peninsula, from approximately 7–23 Aug 2016 (B. Uher-Koch in litt.).

**COMMON LOON** *Gavia immer*

- *Casual spring, summer, and fall visitor. A fair number of additional erroneous and undocumented reports.*

  **Spring:** There are several spring sight reports at Gambell, but perhaps only two are adequately documented, and most of the others are probably erroneous. The acceptable spring records are 28 May 2005 and 13 Jun 2016.
**Fall:** The only fall records—all from Gambell—involve 1 on 23 Sep 2004, 2 together 02 Sep 2015, and singles on 03 Sep and 26 Sep 2015 and on 09 Sep 2016. One account of some 93 birds believed to have been shot on SLI in autumn 1996 (Georgette and Iknokinok 1997) is certainly in error and likely referable simply to a common type of loon.

**Summer:** An alternate-plumaged adult was collected (*MVZ) along the island’s north shore between Savoonga and Naskak 11 Jul 1931 (Fay and Cade 1959) and an adult was reported in the Savoonga area on several occasions between 22 Jun–15 Jul 2004. 

**Comments:** There are a fair number of erroneous or undocumented reports of Common Loon at various seasons from SLI. This species is a scarce visitor to the adjacent mainland coast on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), occurring most regularly during the late summer and early fall, when it can be found daily in small numbers (pers. obs.). Elsewhere in the offshore Bering Sea region, it is very rare (Pribilofs; S. Schuette unpubl. data) to uncommon (Aleutians; Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** *Gavia adamsii*

- **Uncommon to fairly common fall and uncommon spring migrant. Rare breeder on SLI.**

  **Spring:** A very large percent of the Yellow-billed Loons at Gambell are seen flying by the point. The earliest dates are 07 May 2017 and 09 May 2003 (3). Single-day maxima include 23 birds on 31 May 1995, 36 on 02 Jun 1995, 25 individuals on both 27 May 1996 and 01 Jun 2000, and 22 on 24 May 2008; a total of 50+ were tallied 27–31 May 1996, as were 38 between 26–30 May 1997. High seasonal totals include 79 in 2010, 121 in 2011, and 86 in 2012. A few migrants may continue to pass by through mid-June, and the latest record of a likely transient there is 22 Jun 2005.

  **Fall:** Two at Tamniq (Tomname) Lagoon, northeast SLI, 17 Aug 2004 may have bred nearby or were early migrants. Few Yellow-billed Loons occur early in the season at Gambell, with <10 seen annually between mid-August (e.g., 15+ Aug 2006) and mid-September, except for 30 birds in 2004 and ca. 60 in 2016, with 12 on 11 Sep 2016 alone. Two specimens (**MVZ) come from Savoonga 19 Aug 1932. Numbers increase thereafter, with peak counts at Gambell occurring annually between 19 September and 04 October. High one-day totals are often 20–40 birds, with 92 there on 26 Sep 2005, 64 on 25 Sep 2007, 59 on 29 Sep 2007, 157 on 04 Oct 2010, and 110 on 22 Sep 2016. High seasonal counts are 225 between 17–29 Sep 2005, 251 between 20 Sep–03 Oct 2007, and 316 between 25 Aug–9 Oct 2010; yet only 68 and 129 were tallied in 2011 and 2012, respectively, despite extended coverage and concentrated seawatching (Naves and Zeller 2013). Almost all birds are adults in full alternate plumage, and most are flying southwest to northeast. A mere 17 and 18 were tallied at Savoonga in 2011 and 2012, respectively. A specimen was collected (*USNM) at Gambell 14 Oct 1930 (Friedmann 1932a). According to Murie (1936), many young birds feed along the northern shore of the island during October, whereas Fay and Cade (1959) thought the species most numerous along the eastern and southern shores. Satellite telemetry studies (Schmutz et al. 2010, Wright et al. 2010) have shown that the waters off the north side of SLI are an important autumn stop-over site for this species on their way from nesting areas in Alaska (particularly the Seward Peninsula) and extreme northwestern Canada to wintering grounds in Asia (e.g., northern Japan [especially] and Yellow Sea) and the Aleutians. Tagged birds have been tracked in the SLI area between 25 August and mid-October, with the latest just off Gambell on 18 Oct 2010 and 21 Oct 2009 (J. Schmutz in litt.). Even later individuals were at Gambell 02–16 Nov 2016 and 28 Nov 2017.
Summer and Breeding: Yellow-billed Loon nests sparingly on the island. Numbers of birds and at least 1 nest (egg to UBC) were along the island’s south shore at Koozata Lagoon during mid-/late Jun 1953 and 1954, 7 birds were there in Aug 1956 with 4 pairs with young nearby (Fay and Cade 1959), and a nest was along the nearby Koozata River in the 1980s (M. Apatiki pers. comm.). One was near Savoonga 22 Jun 1921 (Bailey 1925), 2 pairs were there 07–15 Jun 1932 (*MVZ; Fay and Cade 1959), and 1 was there 25 Jun 1980 (*CRCM). Singles were near Northeast Cape 06 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967), at Akeftapak Lagoon east of Gambell 28 Jun–7 Jul 1965 (UAM files), and at Gambell 25 Jun–01 Jul 1993 and 03 and 05 Jul 2000 (UAM files).

Family Diomedeidae: Albatrosses

SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS *Phoebastria albatrus*

- Casual summer and early-fall visitor.

Summer and Fall: Piatt et al. (2006) map at least three records from the period 1940–2004 in the northern Bering Sea, including 1 bird right at Gambell on 13 Jun 2003 as recorded from the ship World Discoverer—although the location of the sighting is said to be “imprecise.” A study of the dispersal of juvenile Short-tailed Albatrosses fitted with satellite tags from the breeding grounds on Torishima off southern Japan between 2009 and 2012 found that 7 individuals occurred in waters within 60 km of the western half of SLI, all during their first year at sea (Orben et al. 2018b, R. Orben in litt.). Three of these birds occurred within just 2-1/2 km of shore. Dates of occurrence within 60 km of the island and the closest approach for each of these individuals are as follows: 21–22 Aug 2009 to 20 km (12 mi) off sw SLI on 21 Aug, 03 Aug 2009 to just 2-1/2 km (1-1/4 mi) SW of Gambell, 6 & 11 Jul 2009 to just 1 km (< 1 mi) off Gambell on 11 Jul (and traveling north to the Bering Strait between these two dates), 03 Aug 2010 to 10 km (6 mi) NW of Gambell, 29 Aug 2011 to 56 km (35 mi) W of sw SLI, 25 Aug 2012 to just 0.3 km (0.2 mi) off sw SLI, and 28–29 Aug 2012 to 25 km (17 mi) N of Gambell on 28 Aug.

Comments: Before these reports, the last published records from the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas were of 8 birds seen, with 2 collected, off the north shore of the Chukchi Peninsula in Sep 1939 (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1951); however, these specimens cannot be verified, and Alaska reports during the first half of the 20th century are complicated by the fact that all white-bodied albatrosses then were assumed to be albatrus (D. D. Gibson in litt.). More than 100 years ago, when the species was much more numerous and widespread, Nelson (1883, 1887) reported that in late summer 1881 “adults of this species [were] seen between St. Lawrence Island and Plover Bay [Provideniya], Siberia” and that they were “common around Bering Straits in summer. A number were seen about the Diomede Islands, and others about St. Lawrence Island and the opposite Siberian shore.” The species is also known by bones from middens at Gambell and near Savoonga (Friedmann 1932a, Murie 1936; *MVZ). Recently, Short-tailed Albatrosses have proven to occur regularly in numbers in the central Bering Sea, including as close as at the shelf edge west of St. Matthew Island (Piatt et al. 2006). Farther north, 1 was in the Chukchi Sea during Aug 2012 (Day et al. 2013).

Family Procellariidae: Shearwaters and Petrels
NORTHERN FULMAR  *Fulmarus glacialis*

- Fairly common to common spring and uncommon to common summer and fall visitor and migrant. Does not breed on SLI. Dark-morph birds are rare fall and casual spring visitors.

  *Spring:* The earliest known arrival dates are not until April. Fulmars arrive in Chukchi Peninsula waters usually during early April, with an early date of 31 Mar 1989 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). They have been noted as being especially abundant in SLI waters during April amongst ice floes (Fay and Cade 1959). High counts later in spring at Gambell include 250 on 01 Jun 1983, 500 on 04 Jun and 600 on 07 Jun 1987, and 200–300 daily between 31 May–04 Jun 2011. In contrast, only low numbers may be present some years (e.g., fewer than 5/day). Spring records of dark-morph individuals are from 03 Jun 1995, 03 Jun 2011, 03 Jun 2012, and 03 Jun 2017.

  *Fall:* Uncommon to common off the point through early September, uncommon to rare thereafter. Counts vary substantially from year to year, and during late August and early September range from only 5–20 per day in one year to up to 500 per day (e.g., 27 Aug 2003) in another. Wind conditions play an important role, with the largest numbers usually counted during stronger northerly or northeasterly winds. Numbers rapidly decline beginning in September; and in some years, few or no birds are seen after mid-September. In 2011, none was seen the first week of October, but then 38 were counted 09 Oct followed by a high total of 500 on 11 Oct. Hundreds were seen off SLI from a ship during the first week of Oct 1985 (UAM files). The latest date involving live birds at Gambell is 14 Oct 2010 (2); although shipboard surveys found a total of 8 fulmars 12–13 Nov 2011 between ca. 74 km (46 mi) SE of Southeast Cape and 25 km (16 mi) NNE of Northeast Cape (Drew et al. 2015), and an avian cholera event in mid-Nov 2013 deposited an unknown number of dead individuals along the Savoonga and Gambell shorelines (Bodenstein et al. 2015, K. Kuletz unpubl. data). Watson and Divoky (1972) noted them as common in the Bering Strait area 18 Oct 1970. Some birds have lingered through late October off the Chukchi Peninsula (Murie 1936, Portenko 1981). Dark-morph individuals are rare autumn visitors to SLI waters. Fay and Cade (1959) reported “several” in “dark plumage” from unknown season(s) near Gambell, a dead dark-morph was at Kongkok Bay 06 Aug 1981 (UAM files), and between 2002–2017 a total of 30 dark-morph individuals were seen off the point at Gambell between 15 Aug 2004 and 14 Sep 2007, with a later bird on 20 Sep 2015.

  *Summer:* Fulmars are not known to breed on SLI, but they do nest commonly on St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002) and on the adjacent southeast coast of the Chukchi Peninsula (81,000 birds in 1983–1987 [Konyukhov et al. 1998]). Summer maxima in SLI waters are poorly known, although 170 were at Gambell 06 Jul 2011.

  *Winter:* This species winters north to the edge of the pack ice (Kessel 1989), although there are no winter records at SLI other than of 1 bird at Gambell 06 Mar 2007 (B. Benter in litt.), which might have been an exceptionally early spring arrival.

  *Comments:* Almost all fulmars in the northern Bering Sea are of the light morph. Dark-morph birds predominate as breeders farther to the south.

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER  *Ardenna tenuirostris*

- Common to abundant fall visitor and migrant; casual in spring, early summer, and early winter.
Spring and Early Summer: There are only several late-spring records, and some of those reports as well as those involving more typical local arrival dates in summer are complicated by the potential confusion with dark-morph Northern Fulmars, which are also casual in spring. One such uncertain report is of a bird 8 km (5 mi) off Gambell 13 May 1954 (Fay and Cade 1959). A specimen (*DMNS) of Short-tailed, however, comes from near Savoonga 12 Jun 1951 (Bailey 1956, Fay and Cade 1959). More recently, Morrin (1978) reported ca. “a dozen” Short-taileds with fulmars at Gambell 10 Jun 1973, and other individuals were seen there 02 Jun 1978 (2 birds; UAM files), 06 Jun 1980, 02 Jun 1998, and 27–29 May 2015 (2–3 birds). Probably more typical, 1 was at Gambell 06 Jul 2011 and some 300 birds were tallied just off the northern and eastern shores of SLI on 10 Jul 2017.

Late Summer and Fall: The waters off SLI are important feeding grounds for this species. Konyukhov et al. (1998) noted good numbers moving off the Chukchi Peninsula beginning in late July, and small numbers were seen off SLI during the first few days of August (Fay and Cade 1959). Thousands were off Savoonga 14 Aug 1986. Spectacular numbers of birds arrive off Gambell by late August or early September. The largest numbers are seen during stronger winds, particularly those from the north or northeast, when hundreds of thousands of birds pass by and feed offshore. The species is noted daily, no matter the weather, at least in small numbers. Some high counts include 700,000 on 05 Sep 2000 (incorrectly noted as off Gambell’s “Northeast Pt.” in NAB 55:89); some 800,000+ feeding close to shore 17–21 Sep 2003, peaking at an estimated 1,200,000 birds on 20 Sep; 800,000 on 16 Sep and 1,600,000 on 17 Sep 2006; 800,000 on both 07 Sep and 17 Sep 2009; ca. 1,000,000 on 28 Sep 2014; and 800,000 on 12 Sep 2016. One aggregation near the Chukchi Peninsula measured 74x30 km (45x18 mi) in size, and other flocks were longer than 100 km (60 mi) (Konyukhov et al. 1998)!

This species begins moving back south toward the nesting grounds during late September or early October (Yamamoto et al. 2014). Large numbers often remain, however, off Gambell and Savoonga in early to mid-October (e.g., at Gambell, 400,000 on 06 Oct 2014; 500,000 on 08 Oct 2011; 100,000 on 10 Oct 2011; and 29,000 on 14 Oct 2010); and ca. 5000 were still present at the former 22 Oct 2011. The species was still common in the Bering Strait area on 18 Oct 1970 (Watson and Divoky 1972); and 150 birds were ca. 70–95 km (43–59 mi) SE of Southeast Cape 25 Oct 2011 (Drew et al. 2015). According to Gambell residents, Short-tailed Shearwaters linger into November, with, for example, ca. 400 still there 02 Nov, up to 40 remaining 06–08 Nov, and 1 on 16 Nov—all in 2016—as well as 2–3 there from 15–28 Nov 2017. Three there on 01 Dec 2016 were even later, while 1 on 23 Dec 2016 was exceptionally so. There are records to 19 November at Barrow (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and into December north to the Bering Strait.

Comments: Kessel (1989) states that Short-taileds arrive in the Bering Sea off the Seward Peninsula as early as the third week of June, and Portenko (1981) gives mid-June as the early arrival off Anadyr, but a more typical arrival of 10 July off Provideniya. Up to several thousand have been noted on a few occasions already in mid-May at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and in mid-June at St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002). Yamamoto et al. (2014) showed that substantial percentages of the species’ population likely stage off either eastern Japan and the southern Sea of Okhotsk or near the Aleutians and the southeastern Bering Sea from May–August, and that many (though far from all) of these birds then move north and are found during August–September in the northern Bering and southern Chukchi Seas. It is possible that there has been and will continue to be a northward shift in large numbers of shearwaters, as there has been in several species of whales and alcids in response to a general
warming of regional ocean temperatures and the resultant shift in the favored planktivorous prey (Kuletz et al. 2015). Short-tailed Shearwaters breed in southern Australia.

Family Hydrobatidae: Storm-Petrels

FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma furcata*
- **Very rare fall and casual spring and summer visitor.**
  - **Spring:** One record of a bird found dead at Gambell 07 Jun 1978 (UAM files).
  - **Fall:** There are anecdotal records of small numbers of birds from “about St. Lawrence Island” in 1881 (Nelson 1887, Fay and Cade 1959), although such reports may have involved Red Phalaropes. Murie (1936) cited a specimen (*UWBM*) taken at Gambell on the very late date of 02 Nov 1932, though it is very doubtful that it was part of a “large flock” as originally reported. A specimen (*UAM*) comes from the Mghowejak River mouth, southwestern SLI, 04 Oct 1972. Two were seen from a ship off SLI 02 Oct 1985 (UAM files). Recent records include up to 3 seen off the point at Gambell 06–07 Sep 2000, single individuals there 06–07 Sep and 18 Sep 2001, 1 on 17 Sep 2005, and 1 on 13 Sep 2006. In 2007, at least 6 were seen 10 Sep, with 1–8 seen almost daily through 03 Oct, and with an unexpected 22 birds on 20 Sep and 10–12 daily from 23–25 Sep. One bird seen flying amongst the houses in “Old Town” in rain (but no fog or wind) on 16 Sep 2007 and 1 flying amongst roosting gulls on Troutman Lake on 24 Sep 2007 were bizarre sights. Given that many birds in 2007 remained for many days, determining a grand total for that year was impossible. Singles were seen 29 Aug and 08 Sep 2009, a total of 4 were present 12–18 Sep 2010, singles were noted 01 Oct and 12 Oct 2010, a total of 3 were seen 30 Aug–10 Sep 2012, 1 was present 06 Oct 2012, singles was seen 10 Oct and 30 Oct 2016, and 2 were noted 12 Oct 2017. Shipboard surveys found single birds ca. 15 km (10 mi) E of Northeast Cape 12 Oct 2007, ca. 73 km (45 mi) SE of Southeast Cape 25 Oct 2011, and (late?) ca. 41 km (26 mi) NNE of Northeast Cape 13 Nov 2011 (Drew et al. 2015).
  - **Summer:** A total of 6 birds were seen during a shipboard survey between ca. 60 km (35 mi) off southwestern SLI and 23 km (14 mi) WNW of Gambell 13 Jul 2016, and 2 were seen just off the island’s northeast coast 10 Jul 2017.
  - **Comments:** This species is not known to nest north of the Aleutians (Sowls et al. 1978); it occurs regularly in numbers, however, in the southern and central Bering Sea at least to the latitude of the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and it is very rare to the northern Bering Sea between July and October.

Family Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax auritus*
- **Casual spring visitor.**
  - **Spring:** One flew by the point at Gambell 28 May 2011 and another was there 02 Jun 2017.
  - **Comments:** This species is slowly spreading north and now breeds in southwestern Alaska (NGS 2017). It has occurred in late spring during several recent years in the Nome area. Elsewhere offshore in the Bering Sea, it has been recorded at St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002) and at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), where very rare.
PELAGIC CORMORANT  *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*

- **Common breeder and spring and fall visitor. Uncommon to rare in winter.**

  **Spring:** Given that the species may occur in winter at least rarely in SLI waters, accurate spring arrival dates are difficult to determine. Fay and Cade (1959) noted spring arrivals during late April, and Potenko (1981) gives mid-April as the arrival of migrants around the Chukchi Peninsula; similar records at Gambell are 13 Apr 2016 (9) and 22 Apr 2003. High totals later in the season at Gambell include 200–250 on multiple dates, 400 on 04 Jun 1987, and 500 on 02 Jun 1989.

  **Fall:** Numbers at Gambell typically range up to 75 per day through early September (high count 220 on 07 Sep 2016), then increase as young fledge and migrants pass by, with totals of up to 100–300 per day the rest of the month. Flocks of migrants pass south offshore at moderate altitude during the latter half of September and early October. Maxima are of 575 on 19 Sep 2009 and 450 on 06 Oct 2017. The maximum count at Savoonga is of 312 birds on 06 Oct 2012. Counts at both sites are complicated by locally feeding birds flying in every direction. An avian cholera event in the SLI area during late Nov 2013 deposited an unknown number of dead individuals along the Savoonga and Gambell shorelines. Elsewhere around SLI, 1 was off Northeast Cape 19 Nov 1964 (Thompson 1967), ca. 30 were along the south shore of SLI 20 Nov 2012 (P. Bente in litt.), and several were at North Punuk Island 04 Dec 1981 (Kessel 1989). In 2016, small numbers remained at Gambell through 10 Dec, with a high of 24–25 birds on 21 and 29 Nov; and 1 was still present 21+ Dec (and see below).

  **Summer and Breeding:** The nesting population on SLI was estimated at 3750 birds in 1996 and 1997 (Stephensen et al. 1998, USF&WS 2003) and at some 16,000 individuals on the Chukchi Peninsula, 1983–1987 (Konyukhov et al. 1998). The principal nesting sites on SLI are at Southwest Cape, Ivekan Mountain, Owalit Mountain, and Poowooiliak on southwestern SLI, and at South Punuk Island off eastern SLI (Stephensen et al. 1998).

  **Winter:** The species regularly winters north to the Pribilof Islands (S. Schuette unpubl. data), with some birds as far north as leads and polynyas in the pack ice allow (Kessel 1989). Fay and Cade (1959) reported that local SLI residents said that a few birds may winter along the south shore of the island. At Gambell, 1 was present 26 Dec 2015, 4 were counted 18 Feb 2016, up to 10 lingered from late 2016 through 11 Jan 2017, and then a high ca. 120 were seen 02 Feb and 30 birds on 26 Feb 2017. Portenko (1981) cited multiple records on the Chukchi Peninsula near Provideniya in November, with 1 late bird 22 Dec 1937. More recently, the species is known to winter at the Sireniki polynya along the south shore of the Chukchi Peninsula (Konyukhov et al. 1998).

  **Comments:** Note: Some individuals may appear some 10 percent larger than others and should not be identified as Red-faced Cormorant based on this one feature.

**Family Ardeidae: Herons, Bitterns, and Allies**

**CHINESE POND-HERON  *Ardeola bacchus***

- **Accidental summer visitor.**

  **Summer:** One was present at Gambell 14–15 Jul 2011 (ph. NAB 65:713—where date incorrectly noted as June).
Comments: This Asian species breeds no closer than northeastern China (Brazil 2009). The two previous Alaska records are from the Pribilofs and western Aleutians (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

Family Pandionidae: Osprey

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
- **Casual spring and summer visitor.**
  - **Spring:** There are six or seven spring records at Gambell: 03 and 08 Jun 1987 (1 or 2 birds?), 06 Jun 1990, 17 Jun 1996, 02 Jun 2002, and 28 May and 17 Jun 2013 (presumed different).
  - Summer: One bird was at Gambell 07 Jul 2015.
- **Comments:** A few Osprey reports not included here probably involved misidentified Rough-legged Hawks. This species breeds west in small numbers through interior Alaska to the eastern Seward Peninsula (NGS 2017). It is casual to the offshore Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and to northern Chukotka (Arkhipov et al. 2013).

Family Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
- **Accidental spring and fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** An adult was videotaped by local residents at Gambell 26 May 2005 (ph. R. Koonooka).
  - **Fall:** A first-cycle immature was present at Gambell 26 October 2008 (ph. R. Ungwiluk Jr.).
- **Comments:** This species breeds west through interior Alaska, including to the eastern Seward Peninsula, and to the central Aleutians. It is a very rare visitor to the central Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*
- **Casual spring visitor.**
  - **Spring:** Six individuals have been recorded at Gambell as follows: 29 May 1991 (immature), 02 Jun 2007 (adult; ph. NAB 61:628), 29 May 2008 (immature), 24 May 2012 (immature), 04 Jun 2012 (adult; ph. NAB 66:540), and 29 May–01 Jun 2016 (immature). Also, an immature sea eagle sp. was seen 05 Jun 1983.
- **Comments:** This Old World species nests as close as the lower Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). It is also a casual visitor (and former summer resident) on the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*
- **Rare to uncommon breeder and migrant.**
  - **Spring:** This species has become a regular spring resident at Gambell since local nesting commenced on Sevuokuk Mountain and vicinity no later than in 2007 (see below). Before then, the species occurred more infrequently, and determining which individuals were through-
migrants rather than local, SLI breeders has been difficult to impossible. One was present 02–04 Jun 1974 and 1 or 2 birds were seen about two-thirds of the springs between 1981 and 2006. The earliest arrivals at Gambell are 30 Apr 2017 and 05+ May 2013 (at nest site). The maximum count is 4 individuals (2 pairs) during late May 2016.

**Fall:** One collected at Gambell 20 Sep 1934 and another there “a few days later” provided the first island records. Other fall records at Gambell, pre-2007, are of 1 on 11 Sep 1975, 1 seen flying in off the ocean from the north 06 Sep 1998, and a total of 7 other records between 1999–2006, including single family groups in 2002 and 2003. Eight birds were noted on both 08 Sep 2010 and 08 Sep 2016, and 10 and 11 were seen simultaneously thermaling over Gambell 20 Sep 2016 and 29 Aug–05 Sep 2017, respectively. Four birds flying in from well offshore to the west on 22 Sep 2010 were probably local Gambell birds which had failed in their attempt to depart for the season. Another failed attempt involving 2 birds was noted on 24 Sep 2010. Lingering birds remained through through 02 Oct 2016 and 03 Oct 2017; 1 was present 02–03 Oct 2012 and 2 new arrivals were seen 08 Oct 2011.

**Summer and Breeding:** There are only a few summer/nesting records from SLI. Single nests were near Boxer Bay, southwestern SLI, during summer 1949 and in Aug 1956, a pair was there in Jun 1954, and single adults were seen twice in Jun 1960 (Fay and Cade 1959, Sauer and Urban 1964, Ehrlich et al. 1993). One bird was seen somewhere between Kongkok Bay and Savoonga 17 Jul 2002. A pair raised young on Sevuokuk Mountain, Gambell, from May to September annually from 2007–2015, and 2 pairs were there in late May 2016.

**Comments:** Murie (1936) ascribed SLI’s Rough-legged Hawks to the Asian race *B. l. kamtschatkensis*, which breeds east to the Chukchi Peninsula and Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1981), but Fay and Cade (1959) questioned this determination. Gibson and Kessel (1997) listed all Alaska breeding birds as *B. l. sanctijohannis*. Three recent specimens (**UAM) from the Gambell area—from 04 Jun 2007, 09 Sep 2008, and 23 May 2010—are most likely *kamtschatkensis* or are intergrades (J. J. Withrow in litt.).

**GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila chrysaetos**
- Accidental winter visitor.

**Winter:** A Golden Eagle was trapped and died near “East Cape,” SLI, during the winter of 1934–1935 (Murie 1936).

**Comments:** This species nests on the adjacent Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). In Asia, it is found as close as the Anadyr River basin or possibly to the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009).

**Family Strigidae: Typical Owls**

**SNOWY OWL Bubo scandiacus**
- Uncommon fall and winter visitor; rare to uncommon and irregular breeder in interior, very rare at Gambell in late spring and summer.

**Spring:** Ehrlich et al. (1993) tallied six late-spring sightings in the Gambell area, and through 2017 that total probably is still no more than about 20 reports, with the latest on 14 Jun 1975. Most birds return to nesting areas elsewhere on SLI or off-island no later than late May (Fay and Cade 1959), thus the species is noted only very rarely at Gambell by most spring observers.
Fall: The first individuals typically arrive in the Gambell area beginning in late September or early October; records before mid-September include 1 from 23–26 Aug 1994, 2 from 04+ Sep 2012, up to 3 from 06–08 Sep 2013, increasing to a high count of up to 10–13 birds from 09–30+ Sep, 1 from 02+ Sep 2015, 1 on 29 Aug increasing to 4 on 09 Sep 2016, and 1 from 28+ Aug increasing to up to 6 from 03+ Sep 2017. One was seen flying in off the ocean 10 Oct 2011. Following local nesting in 2007, adults and up to 4 juveniles were seen through early Oct; additional family groups were seen below Troutman Lake in 2008, with a total of 7 birds between 29 Aug–19 Sep. An early individual was at Savoonga 15 Aug 2003. Three were at Apavaghu, east end SLI, 26 Sep 2006. Eight birds in the Savoonga area 29 Sep 2012 was a high count away from Gambell. One was still present at Northeast Cape 06–19 Nov 1964 (Thompson 1967). Specimens exist (**MVZ) from [unspecified locality] SLI 19 Nov 1928 and 01 Sep 1931 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Summer and Breeding: Snowy Owl nests usually in the island’s interior, between June–September, rarely along the coast (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993), and family groups may be found into the early autumn (e.g., adults with young 24 km [15 mi] north of Boxer Bay 19 Aug 1960; Sauer and Urban 1964). One was coastal at Kukulik Point in late Jul 1987. Snowy Owl very rarely summers or breeds near Gambell; in 1965, 1 was on Sevuokuk Mountain from 28 Jun–07 Jul (UAM files); in 1989, a total of 2 birds were at Gambell 18–22 July (UAM files); and in 2007, 2 pairs bred on top and just south of Sevuokuk Mountain.

Winter: Snowy Owls winter regularly around SLI. “From October to May these birds are rare inland and on the north coast, but they are common on the western and southern coasts where they prey almost exclusively on waterfowl... Throughout this period they range far out on the sea-ice wherever there is open water” (Fay and Cade 1959). Local residents also state that this species occurs around Gambell many years during the late fall and winter.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

- Rare to very rare spring and fall visitor. Very rare to casual breeder on SLI.

*Spring:* Between 1954–1959 there were 13 sightings (probably including some duplication) on SLI—2 at Gambell 24 May 1954, 9 along the Moghoweyik (Mogouveik) River, southwestern SLI, 24-28 May 1956, and 2 near Kavalgahk Bay south of Gambell 29 May 1956; no nests were found (Fay and Cade 1959). More recently, Short-eared Owls have been recorded as migrants at Gambell almost annually since the 1970s, with typically 1 or 2 birds found per season. The earliest arrivals are 26 April 2004 and 30 Apr 2003. In 2013, a high total of 6+ birds were present between 25 May–15 Jun—with 6 birds on 02 Jun and 2 remaining 15 Jun (a late date), which were thought possibly territorial. A specimen (*UAM) exists from 27 May 1973.

*Fall:* There are 18 records since 1992 at Gambell, involving 26 individuals, between 29 Aug 1996 and 10 Oct 2011, plus an additional, very late bird on 31 Oct–01 Nov 2017. Murie (1936) noted that a specimen “was obtained from an Eskimo boy at Gambell on 23 Nov 1934”; this would be an exceptionally late date, if accurate. In addition, single individuals were in the Savoonga area 02 Sep and 07 Sep 1934 (Murie 1936), 20 and 25 Sep 2006, and 25 Sep 2011; and up to 3 birds were seen at the east end of SLI at Apavaghu 26 Sep–03 Oct 2006.

*Summer and Breeding:* Sealy et al. (1971) mentioned very rare breeding records for the island, including several nests at Gambell in 1959 and 1960, and Georgette and Iknokinok (1997) quote residents who report nesting behind Savoonga. See 2013 spring records above. In 2016, 2 birds at Gambell during Jun were at the same site as up to 7 birds (family group?) during late Aug–mid-Sep, strongly suggesting local nesting.
Comments: Short-eared Owl nests on the adjacent mainland in both Russia and Alaska (Brazil 2009, NGS 2017). It is also a rare migrant on the other Bering Sea islands.

**BOREAL OWL** *Aegolius funereus*

- **Casual fall and winter visitor.**

  **Fall:** A specimen of the North American subspecies *A. f. richardsoni* was collected (*UBC*) at Gambell 10 Nov 1955 (Fay and Cade 1959). Another Boreal was there 13 Oct 2016; in-hand photos suggest it, too, was *richardsoni* (J. L. Dunn, J. J. Withrow, in litt.). Local residents report several small owls—probably this species—since the 1990s having taken refuge in abandoned buildings during and immediately following severe weather in November and December.

  **Winter:** Two late-season specimens of *A. f. richardsoni* exist, 1 at Gambell in “early March” 1951 (*USNM*) and 1 at Savoonga 01 Mar 1952 (*DMNS*; incorrectly given as “1953” in Bailey 1956 and Fay and Cade 1959). One bird was photographed in Savoonga in [no date] Jan 2016.

  **Comments:** This species nests regularly to central, possibly interior western, Alaska (NGS 2017); in Asia, it is found as close as the western Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). It is also a casual visitor to the Pribilofs, where there is a winter specimen of Old World *A. f. magnus* (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** *Aegolius acadicus*

- **Accidental fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** One individual of the nominate race was found dead (*UAM*) at Gambell 16 Oct 1972 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

  **Comments:** This species is not known to nest north of south-coastal Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). There is also a single autumn record from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

**BELTED KINGFISHER** *Megaceryle alcyon*

- **Accidental visitor.**

  **Spring/Summer:** One undated record from the eastern end of SLI “about 1946” (Fay and Cade 1959) was probably from late spring or summer, when almost all fieldwork on the island away from Gambell and Savoonga has occurred.

  **Comments:** Belted Kingfishers nest north to central and southwestern Alaska, possibly to the base of the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). This species is a casual visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Family Picidae: Woodpeckers and Allies

**EURASIAN WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*

- **Accidental fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 02–05 Sep 2003 (ph. *NAB* 58:175, *WB* 36:front cover, Lehmana 2017).
Comments: There is just one prior Alaska record, a specimen of *J. t. chinensis* found dead at Wales 8 Sep 1945 (Bailey 1947), as well as a fall record from California. This species breeds no closer than the shores of the northwestern Sea of Okhotsk, possibly to the western Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009), and perhaps to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008).

**NORTHERN FLICKER** *Colaptes auratus*
- Casual spring and fall visitor.
  
  *Spring:* There is one spring record at Gambell: 09–11 Jun 2006.
  
  *Fall:* Single birds were present at Gambell 07–14 Sep 2006 and 12 Sep 2012.

Comments: This species breeds northwest to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a casual visitor farther north and west. The SLI records are of the more expected “Yellow-shafted” Flicker (*C. a. auratus*).

**Family Falconidae:** Caracaras and Falcons

**KESTREL SP.** *Falco tinnunculus* or *F. sparverius*
- Casual spring visitor.
  
  *Spring:* There have been several reports of Eurasian Kestrels (*F. tinnunculus*) at Gambell over the years, but none of them were adequately documented, and there are also one or two reports of probable American Kestrels (*F. sparverius*). Yet, the only reports that have been documented even to “kestrel sp.” are from 25 May 1992 (“Eurasian Kestrel, but not positive”), on two uncertain dates in early Jun 1995 (UAM files), and from 01 Jun 2004 (probably an American Kestrel—J. L. Dunn in litt.).

Comments: American Kestrel nests to central Alaska and is a casual visitor to western and northern Alaska. Eurasian Kestrel nests north and east only to the Magadan region (Brazil 2009) and is a casual visitor to western Alaska.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*
- Casual spring and fall visitor.
  
  *Spring:* There are several spring records at Gambell, 2 of which involved pale-looking birds that may have been one of the Asian subspecies: 02–03 Jun 1989 and 04–05 Jun 2003. Other, more vague reports of Merlins there are from spring 2007 and on 01 Jun 2013.

Comments: This species is strictly casual on Alaska’s offshore islands. Merlins breed throughout Alaska’s taiga to the base of the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), and in Asia northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009).

**EURASIAN HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  
  *Fall:* One was present at Gambell 03–04 Sep 2014.

Comments: This species nests only as far north as the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Brazil 2009). It is a very rare visitor to the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), mostly in fall, there are several summer and fall records from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and it is a casual visitor elsewhere in coastal Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and North America.
GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*

- *Uncommon to rare fall migrant and winter visitor, casual in late spring.*

  **Spring:** Gyrfalcons typically have departed the Gambell area by the time most spring observers arrive, and some late-spring reports there likely involve misidentified large, dark Peregrine Falcons. Late dates are 01 Jun 1966 (Sealy 1967b) and 02 Jun 2000. The only white birds reported at Gambell in late spring were singles on 21 May 1952 (Fay and Cade 1959) and 28 May 1995 (UAM files).

  **Fall:** From 1 to 4 birds are seen annually at Gambell through early October, with records as early as 27 Aug 1993 but most after early September. Two earlier birds were reported there on 22–24 Aug 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964), and 1 early bird was at Savoonga 24 Aug 2004. According to Gambell residents, Gryfalcons are also regular in occurrence later in the fall, and there is a specimen (*MVZ*) from Savoonga 30 Oct 1932. White or whitish birds have been seen on at least 20 occasions since 1999 at Gambell, although a number of these were returning individuals for multiple years.

  **Winter:** Local residents report that this species occurs annually during the fall and winter, and there are numerous sight reports, photos, and several specimens taken on the island between October and March, with most winter birds found along the island’s southern and western shores (including at Gambell) near polynyas, where they hunt ducks and possibly alcids (Fay and Cade 1959, Ehrlich et al. 1993). Murie (1936) also reported Gyrfalcons wintering around Gambell, hunting Long-tailed Ducks.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

- *Rare spring and fall migrant and breeder.*

  **Spring:** There were only several records at Gambell in spring through the 1980s, with 1 on 05 Jun 1977 thought to possibly involve *F. p. pealei* (UAM files). Recorded most years during the 1990s and annually since about 2001, this species has arrived as early as 23 May 2012. The seasonal high total is 4 birds between 30 May–02 Jun 1991. A pair has nested since about 2008 on Sevuokuk Mountain (see below), so up to 2 birds are now seen in spring on a regular basis, with 3 on 30 May 2017.

  **Fall:** An early bird was near Savoonga 01–09 Aug 2003. From 1 to 4 birds—presumably *F. p. tundrius*—are seen most years, and mostly since 2001, in the Gambell area between mid-August and late September. Since 2008 these presumably involve mostly the local breeders (see below), some of which have remained through 25 Sep in several years, to 26 Sep 2014, to 29 Sep 2015 and 06 Oct 2015 (different birds), and to 05 Oct 2016. Another late individual was slightly to the east at Akeftapak Bay on 29 Sep 2010. Especially large and dark juveniles at Gambell from 09–16 Sep 2005, on 08 Oct 2010—the latest record for SLI—and from 21–25 Sep 2014 may have been *F. p. pealei*, which are known to wander widely from the Aleutians in fall (W. S. Clark pers. comm.). A specimen (*DMNS*) reportedly involving *F. p. anatum* was taken near Savoonga on 15 Sep 1950 (Bailey 1956).

  **Summer and Breeding:** A specimen (*CMNAV*) comes from near Gambell 21 Jul 1967. A pair successfully bred near Savoonga in summer 2005. A pair likely nested on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell between May–Sep 2008–2016, with up to 2 juveniles present with adults most years in late Aug–early Sep.

  **Comments:** Peregrine Falcons of the arctic-nesting subspecies *F. p. tundrius* breed on the adjacent mainlands of Alaska and Russia. Most birds seen on SLI are presumed to be *tundrius.*
“Peale’s” Peregrines (*F. p. pealei*) nest along the Pacific coast as close as the Aleutians. *F. p. anatum* nests to interior Alaska and is known to intergrade with *tundrius* (Wheeler 2003, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers**

**OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** *Contopus cooperi*
- *Casual spring and fall visitor.*
  - *Spring:* One was seen at Gambell 05 Jun 2000.
  - *Fall:* One was collected (*UAM*) at Gambell 31 Aug 1989.
- *Comments:* There are only a few other records for islands in the Bering Sea. This species nests west only to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax flaviventris*
- *Accidental spring visitor.*
  - *Spring:* One was present at Gambell 05–06 Jun 2011 (ph. *NAB* 65:709).
  - *Comments:* This species nests west locally to east-central Alaska (NGS 2017). It has been found twice at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) in early fall.

**ALDER FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax alnorum*
- *Accidental fall visitor.*
  - *Fall:* One present at Gambell 04 Sep 2014 was only the second offshore Bering Sea record.
  - *Comments:* This species breeds as close as the interior Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). There is a single autumn record for the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**WILLOW FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax traillii*
- *Accidental fall visitor.*
  - *Fall:* One was present at Gambell 06 Sep 2008. This species is casual anywhere in Alaska, with previous records no closer than south-coastal. Given the absence of heard calls or a specimen, the record was published as pertaining to an Alder/Willow Flycatcher (*NAB* 63:140).
  - *Comments:* Willow Flycatchers breed north only to central British Columbia (NGS 2017) and are casual visitors north to south-coastal Alaska.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax minimus*
- *Casual fall visitor.*
  - *Fall:* One at Gambell on 19 Sep 2001 provided the first record for the Bering Sea. Another was found 07 Sep 2014.
  - *Comments:* This species is a rare visitor and possible breeder in southeast and east-central Alaska (Gibson and Kessel 1992, Kessel and Gibson 1994), regularly north to central Yukon (NGS 2017).

**“WESTERN” FLYCATCHER** *Empidonax difficilis/occidentalis*
- *Casual fall visitor.*
Fall: Single Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatchers were found at Gambell on 26 Aug 1992, 01–02 Sep 2001 (ph. NAB 56:128), 21 Aug 2007, and 07 Sep 2007. These records are the only 4 for the Bering Sea region.

Comments: Pacific-slope Flycatcher breeds north through southeast Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and almost certainly is the species involved here.

SAV’S PHOEBE Sayornis saya
- Casual spring visitor.
  Spring: The two records are both from Gambell: 28 May 1987 and 10 Jun 2005.
  Comments: This species breeds locally as close as the interior of the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). Two records from the Pribilofs are both in fall (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Family Laniidae: Shrikes

BROWN SHRIKE Lanius cristatus
- Casual fall and accidental spring visitor.
  Spring: One spring record at Gambell established the first for Alaska and North America: 04–06 Jun 1977 (King et al. 1978).
  Fall: Single birds were seen at Gambell 22 Aug 2007, 02–04 Sep 2008, 29 Aug and 01–05 Sep 2014, and a long-staying bird from 07–17 Sep 2015.
  Comments: There are several additional fall records from elsewhere in Alaska, both offshore and on the mainland. It is casual to accidental elsewhere in North America. Brown Shrike breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (ABA 2008).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE Lanius collurio
- Accidental fall visitor.
  Fall: The first record of a pure-looking Red-backed Shrike for North America was established by a long-staying individual at Gambell from 03–22 Oct 2017 (ph. Lehman 2017).
  Comments: A late-winter bird belived to be a Red-backed Shrike X Turkestan (Red-tailed) Shrike (L. phoenicuroides) hybrid was present in Mendocino County, California, in early 2015 (Pyle et al. 2015). Red-backed Shrike breeds no closer than the Russian Altai in central Siberia, west of Lake Baikal, and it winters in eastern and southern Africa (Worfolk 2000). There are a small number of records for both Japan (OSJ 2012) and Korea (N. Moores in litt.).

NORTHERN SHRIKE Lanius borealis
- Casual spring and fall visitor.
  Spring: There are three spring records, all from Gambell: 29 May 1992, 03 May 2012, and 26–27 Apr 2017.
  Fall: The only fall records are from Gambell 27 Sep 1999 and 26–27 Oct 2014. (One noted as being at Gambell on 27 Sep 2004 in NAB 59:131 was actually on St. Paul Is.)
  Comments: This species breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989), and in eastern Asia northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008); Portenko (1989) cited only a single record for the Chukchi Peninsula. It is a casual visitor to the Pribilofs in fall and winter (S. Schuette unpubl. data).
Family Vireonidae: Vireos

BLUE-HEADED VIREO  *Vireo solitarius*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One was present at Gambell on 07 Oct 2015, the first record for the Bering Sea region and only the second for the state.
  *Comments:* This species nests no closer than extreme southeastern Yukon and northeastern British Columbia (NGS 2017).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO  *Vireo philadelphicus*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One was present at Gambell 18 Sep 2006 (ph. NAB 61:178), the first record for the Bering Sea region.
  *Comments:* This species breeds no closer than extreme southeastern Yukon (NGS 2017) and is casual anywhere in Alaska (DeCicco et al. 2017).

WARBLING VIREO  *Vireo gilvus*
- Casual to very rare fall visitor.
  *Comments:* A previous record for the Bering Sea region was of 1 photographed on the adjacent mainland at Wales 04 Oct 1995 (ph. D. Cunningham). This species is also casual in fall on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). It breeds north through southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and southern Yukon (NGS 2017).

RED-EYED VIREO  *Vireo olivaceous*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One was seen at Gambell 04 Sep 2014. This is the first record for the Bering Sea region.
  *Comments:* This species is a very rare visitor and exceptional breeder in southeast Alaska; it nests north to adjacent British Columbia (NGS 2017).

Family Corvidae: Jays and Crows

COMMON RAVEN  *Corvus corax*
- Permanent resident on SLI. Uncommon at Gambell in late spring and summer, fairly common to common from fall through early spring.
  *Spring:* Birds flocking at winter concentration sites (see below) disperse by late May to breeding territories, the exact timing possibly determined by snow cover. High counts at Gambell by date—mostly pre-dispersal—include 125 birds on 31 Mar 2015, 90 on 13 Apr 2016, 84–117 birds on 29–30 Apr 2013, up to 40 from 14–18 May 2013, and 20 birds on both 24 May
2008 and 26 May 2016. Most daily counts thereafter in the Gambell area are of only 2–4 individuals. Offshore, 2 birds were at the Punuk Islands, off se. SLI, 07 Jun 1986 (UAM files).

**Fall:** Counts in August average 3–12 individuals per day. Numbers increase during September as birds probably breeding elsewhere on SLI congregate around Gambell during the late fall, winter, and early spring, when the best foraging on the island is found there (e.g., garbage dump, marine mammal carcasses). On several occasions in fall, small groups have been seen heading northwest from the point toward the Chukchi Peninsula, some only to turn around after up to a mile or more at sea. Others sustained such a heading, at moderate altitude, until they were out of sight. In late September and the first half of October daily maxima at Gambell are up to 45, with high counts of 57 from 27 Sep–02 Oct 2016, 52 on 30 Sep 2017, and 70 on 12 Oct 2017. Later in the season, 50 were seen 22 Nov 2017. At Savoonga, fall counts are under 10 individuals per day.

**Summer and Breeding:** Perhaps 2 pairs breed annually on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell. Abundance elsewhere on SLI not certain though presumed to be widespread in small numbers in and near most mountainous terrain.

**Winter:** In winter, ravens concentrate along the shore, in villages, and at trapping camps (Fay and Cade 1959). The high counts at this season are of 70 at Gambell 01 Dec 2016, 75 there 11 Dec 2017–08 Jan 2018, 55 on 26 Jan 2018, and 35 birds from 28 Feb–08 Mar 2017.

**Comments:** A large concentration away from Gambell involved 30–50 birds on unspecified dates in 1964–1965 at the Northeast Cape airbase garbage dump (Thompson 1967).

**Family Alaudidae: Larks**

**EURASIAN SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** All records are from Gambell, where the first bird was found 29 May 1978. There now total 17 or 18 spring records (involving 19 or 20 individuals) through 2017. The earliest arrivals are 03 May 2012 (2) and 12–14 May 2015 (2); the latest records are 08 and 15 Jun 1999 (same bird?). There is one specimen (*UAM) from 03 Jun 1988.
  
  
  **Comments:** This species (*A. a. pekinensis) breeds northeast to the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009) and is a rare to very rare spring and fall visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is casual elsewhere in coastal Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and western North America.

**HORNED LARK** *Eremophila alpestris*
- **Very rare fall and casual spring visitor. Both North American** *E. a. arcticola* and **Asian E. a. flava have occurred.**
  
  **Spring:** The first SLI record of Horned Lark involves a specimen (*UBC) of *E. a. arcticola* from 14 May 1958 (Sealy et al. 1971). There are now 11 spring reports through 2017, one of which involved 7 birds on 31 May 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971). Nine or 10 of the records appeared to involve North American *arcticola*, and at least 1 appeared like northern Palearctic *E. a. flava*. 18 May 2013. A second specimen of *arcticola* was taken 04 Jun 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971). The earliest arrival is 04–08 May 2003, and the latest record is 09 Jun 1986 (UAM files).
Fall: *E. a. flava* was first recorded at Gambell on 25 Aug 1967 when 2 were collected (**UBC**) from a flock of 6 (Sealy 1968, Sealy et al. 1971). Additional sightings of presumed *flava* from there are of 1 from 04–10 Sep 1999, 1 on 01 Sep 2002, 1 on 12 Sep 2003, 1 on 19–20 Sep 2007, 1 on 07–08 Sep 2008, 1 on 31 Aug 2012, a flock of 3 (*flava*, 1 uncertain) on 08 Sep 2012 and up to 4 (*flava*, 1 uncertain) at the same site on 08–09 Sep 2013, 2 on 04–05 Sep 2016, and 1 on 16 Sep 2017; as well as a late individual on 09 Oct 2010. One white-faced bird present 22 Aug 2016 was not *flava* and was likely *arcticola*. In addition, single Horned Larks not identified to subspecies were seen 24 Aug 1994, 20 Aug 2007, 30 Sep 2012, and 10 Oct 2016 (late).

Comments: *E. a. arcticola* is a white-faced and white-throated subspecies that breeds on the Alaska mainland, whereas northern Palearctic *E. a. flava* has a yellow face and throat and breeds east locally to the central Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989). Horned Lark is a casual visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**Family Hirundinidae: Swallows**

**PURPLE MARTIN** *Progne subis*

- **Accidental spring visitor.**

  *Spring:* One was seen at Gambell 27 May 1990.

  *Comments:* This long-distance migrant is casual anywhere in Alaska and there are additional Alaska Bering Sea records (Kessel and Gibson 1978), as well as one record from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016). It nests no closer than southern British Columbia and central Alberta (NGS 2017).

**TREE SWALLOW** *Tachycineta bicolor*

- **Very rare spring and casual summer and fall visitor.**

  *Spring:* The first reports of Tree Swallow at Gambell come from 27 May 1952 (*UAM; Fay and Cade 1959), 05 Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964), and 30 May 1964 and 19 Jun 1967 (Sealy et al. 1971). There are now approximately 21 spring records (involving 26 or 27 individuals) there through 2017. The early date is 18 May 2015, and late reports come from 07 Jun 1989 and 19 June 1967 (Sealy et al. 1971). The high count is 6–7 birds on 25 May 1993. One of the records is a specimen (*UAM) 27 May 1952 (Fay and Cade 1959). Also, 2 individuals were reported along the Moghoweyik River, southwestern SLI, 25 May 1956 (Fay and Cade 1959) and 2 were at Savoonga 30 May 1989.

  *Fall:* A mummified bird (from late spring?) (*USNM) was found at Gambell 02 Aug 1968 (Sealy et al. 1971), up to 3 individuals were there 18–19 Aug 2004, and 1 was seen 30 Aug 2015. Elsewhere, 1 was reported at Boxer Bay 05 Aug 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964), 3 were at Kongkok Bay 06 Aug 1976 (UAM files), 3 were there 02 Sep 1976 (UAM files), and 1 was near Savoonga during mid-Aug 2004.

  *Summer:* One was at Savoonga [no date] Jul 1963 (Sealy et al. 1971) and 1 was at Kongkok Bay 29 Jul 1976 (UAM files).

  *Comments:* Tree Swallow breeds on the western Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is also a very rare to casual visitor on the other Bering Sea islands and to Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW *Tachycineta thalassina*

- **Casual spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** Two records, both from Gambell: 01 Jun 2005 (ph. *NAB* 59:691) and 29–31 May 2006 (ph. *NAB* 60:422).
  
  **Comments:** Violet-green Swallows breed north to central Alaska (NGS 2017) and are casual [and likely over-reported, with some individuals confused with Tree Swallows] visitors to the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989), as well as to northern Alaska and the offshore islands.

BANK SWALLOW *Riparia riparia*

- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** The first spring record comes from Gambell during “spring” 1978. There are now 14 or 15 records, all of single individuals. Dates range from 30 May 2008 to 14 Jun 1996.
  
  **Fall:** The first SLI record involved 1 at Gambell 11 Aug 1950 (Fay and Cade 1959). Another was there 22 Aug 1992, and a total of 12 birds were found 15–19 Aug 2004, including 10 together 16 Aug. Also, 2 were near Savoonga 19 Aug 2004. A mummified bird (*UAM*) found at Gambell in Aug 2008 had likely died in late spring.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds on the western Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989), and it is a very rare but regular visitor to the other Bering Sea islands and is casual to the central and western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

CLIFF SWALLOW *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

- **Very rare spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** The first SLI record (*USNM*) was from Gambell 31 May 1962 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), rather than the up to 2 birds reported as the “first record” there 12–18 Jun 1966 (Sealy 1967a, Sealy et al. 1971). There now total 19 records (involving 21 individuals) through 2017. Dates range from 21 May 2016 to 17 Jun 1996 and through 18 Jun 1966.
  
  **Comments:** Cliff Swallows nest locally as close as the interior Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and are casual visitors to the Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and to Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016), primarily in spring and summer.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

- **Very rare spring and summer and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring and Summer:** Asian *H. r. gutturalis* and North American *H. r. erythrogaster* have both been recorded at Gambell and elsewhere on SLI in late spring and summer (Kessel and Gibson 1978). The first SLI record (*UAM*) involved *gutturalis* and was documented during “spring” 1934 (Murie 1936, Friedmann 1939). This was followed by another bird identified by Friedmann as *gutturalis* (*USNM*) during “spring or summer” 1938 at Gambell (Friedmann 1939); but this specimen was subsequently re-identified as *rustica* by A. R. Phillips and more recently shown to not have pure whitish underparts and thus should be left as subspecies uncertain (Robinson and DeCicco 2017). The first examples of *erythrogaster* occurred 25 Jun 1950 (*UAM*), and 12 Jun 1953 and 01 Jun 1954 (Fay and Cade 1959)—all at or near Gambell. A specimen of *erythrogaster* reported to have been found near Gambell 14 or 15 Aug 1950 (Fay and Cade 1959, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) is almost certainly the bird salvaged (*UAM*) 25 Jun 1950, according to the specimen label (D. D. Gibson in litt.). The spring and early-summer total of *gutturalis/rustica* at Gambell now stands at 15 records (involving 19 individuals), and that of *erythrogaster* at just 5 records (the 3 above, plus 02 Jun 2004 and 31 May 2016), with an
additional 2 reports being undifferentiated. The earliest arriving Barn Swallow is 26+ May 2007 (gutturalis/rustica). There are several records into late June, with the latest on 25 Jun in both 1950 (above) and 2002 (undifferentiated).

**Fall:** Single birds, involving Asian *H. r. gutturalis* or *H. r. rustica*, were seen at Gambell 28 Aug 1993 and 03–04 Sep 2009.

**Summer and Breeding:** There are several records into late June (see above), and an earlier one on 09 Jun 2001 involved 2 birds (gutturalis/rustica) thought “possibly breeding.”

**Comments:** Asian *H. r. gutturalis* and *H. r. rustica* are white-bellied and at least one of those subspecies has bred as close as the lower Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1989). Uncertain subspecies have also nested very irregularly north all the way to the Chukchi Sea coast (Arkhipov et al. 2013). North American *H. r. erythrogaster* is very rare anywhere north or west of south-coastal Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1994).

**COMMON HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor:**
  
  **Spring:** There are at least eight records at Gambell: 01 Jun 1990 (UAM files), early Jun 1991 (UAM files), 12 Jun 1996, 02 and 06 Jun 2004 (probably same bird), 28 May 2010, 05 Jun 2014, 05 Jun 2015, and 13 Jun 2015. There are several additional undocumented and unpublished reports.

  **Fall:** There is only a single fall record at Gambell 14 Sep 2017.

  **Comments:** This species regularly breeds as close as the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Tomkovich 2008) and at least irregularly all the way to the north shore of western and central Chukotka (Tomkovich 2007, Arkhipov et al. 2013). Whereas the Gambell records are all from late spring, the one St. Matthew Island record (Winker et al. 2002) and most of the several Pribilof records are from later in summer and from early autumn (S. Schuette unpubl. data). Also recorded on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and on the Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015).

**Family Sittidae: Nuthatches**

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** *Sitta canadensis*

- **Very rare fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** A juvenile male was collected (*USNM*) at Gambell 28 Sep 1969 (Sealy et al. 1971), in an irruption year for the species. One was seen there 23 Sep 1999; in addition, a local resident reported 1 about 8 km (5 mi) from Gambell a few days earlier. An early individual was seen 19 Aug 2003 (ph. C. Koonooka). In 2004, an irruption year outside Alaska, 2 birds on 06 Sep increased to 8 on 07 Sep, with 5 still present 09 Sep and 1 remaining 11 Sep; additional single individuals were seen 13 Sep and 15 Sep. Singles were seen on 28 Aug 2006; on 14, 21, and 23–26 Sep 2007; and on 11 Sep 2008; a total of 4 were found 12–14 Sep 2011; 1 was present 10–12 Sep 2012; up to 2 were seen 02–04 Sep 2015; and singles were found 18 Sep, 19–24 Sep, and 09 Oct 2017. Also, another early individual was along the north shore of SLI, 42 km (26 mi) east of Gambell, on 16 Aug 2000 (ph. C. Koonooka).

  **Comments:** This species breeds regularly north only to south-coastal Alaska, rarely to central Alaska (Gibson 2011). It occurs very rarely and irregularly in fall to northern and western Alaska, including offshore (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
Family Regulidae: Kinglets

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET  *Regulus satrapa*
- Casual fall visitor.
  
  **Fall:** Two birds were present at Eevwak Point, west of Savoonga, 01 Oct 2011, singles were at Gambell 09 Oct (ph. *NAB* 66:147) and 22–23 Oct 2011, 1 was at Savoonga 07 Oct 2015, and singles were at Gambell 12 Oct 2015, 11 Sep 2016, and 19 Sep and 06 Oct 2017.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds no closer than southwestern Alaska and is a rare to casual fall visitor north to central Alaska and west to the eastern Aleutians and Pribilof Islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson 2011, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET  *Regulus calendula*
- Rare fall visitor.
  
  **Fall:** The first bird was found 24 Sep 1999 at Gambell. There are now records totaling 41 individuals from there between 02 Sep 2015 and 07 Oct 2010 and 2015 and 15 Oct 2017, with a flock of 3 on 28 Sep 2015 and a total of 9 individuals in 2004; as well as an additional, late bird on 22 Oct 2014. Also, 1 was reported at sea from a ship ca. 31 km (19 mi) N of Northeast Cape 12 Oct 2007 (Drew et al. 2015).
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds on the western Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989) and is a rare to casual fall visitor to the Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007). There is one fall record for Wrangel Island (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

Family Phylloscopidae: Leaf Warblers

WILLOW WARBLER  *Phylloscopus trochilus*
- Very rare early fall visitor.
  
  **Fall:** Since 2002, as many as 17 different individuals have been found at Gambell. Probably 3 different birds present 25–30 Aug 2002 (first records for North America; ph. Lehman 2003, 2005) established the first record for North America; the sightings on 25 Aug, 26 Aug, and 29–30 Aug came from 3 separate areas up to 3 km (2 mi) apart, so it is likely that more than 1 bird was involved. In 2007, single birds were found at widely scattered locales up to 4 km (2-1/2 mi) apart on 23 Aug, 26–27 Aug, 03 Sep, and 11 Sep (ph. *NAB* 62:131); again, the exact number of individuals involved was uncertain though likely that 4 separate individuals indeed occurred. In 2008, singles were present 26 Aug and 03 Sep. In 2011, singles were seen 23 Aug and 28–30 Aug. In 2012, 1 was found 24 Aug. In 2013, singles were present 28 Aug and 29 Aug. And in 2014, singles were found 21 Aug and 04 Sep (ph. *NAB* 69:38 [not “02 Sep”], Lehman 2017).
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds as close as the Anadyr area (Karhu 2004, eBird) and northwards all the way to northwestern Chukotka near Pevek (Tomkovich 2007); it winters in eastern and southern Africa (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1954, Vaurie 1959). The only other North American records are of several birds in autumn at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF  *Phylloscopus collybita*
- Casual spring and fall visitor.

Fall: A dull Phylloscopus warbler present and photographed at Gambell between 30 Sep–03 Oct 2011 (ph. Lehman and Zimmer 2013) appears to have been this species and was endorsed as such by several authorities, but the photos were believed by some to be inconclusive and the record was not published except in Howell et al. (2014). This would have established the first North American record of this species. Additional Common Chiffchaffs were found there 22–23 Sep 2013 (ph. NAB 68:167), from 01–04 Sep 2015 (early; ph. Lehman 2017), and on 13 Sep 2017. These birds also appeared to be “Siberian” Chiffchaffs.

Comments: This species breeds northeast to the northern Sea of Okhotsk and western Chukotka (Brazil 2009). There is also a single Pribilof record in fall (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

- Casual fall visitor.

Fall: One very long-staying bird was present at Gambell from 03–16 Oct 2015 (ph. Lehman 2017). A second, early bird was found 13 Sep 2017. And a third was present 16–21 Oct 2017, the latest record for Alaska.

Comments: This species nests no closer than vic. Ob’ River in central Russia (BirdLife International 2012). There are fewer than a dozen North American records, all from Alaska islands and all in fall and mostly in late September and especially early October (Gibson and Withrow 2015, DeCicco et al. 2017). There are also several autumn records from Japan (OSJ 2012), at least two for Korea (N. Moores in litt.), and one from Taiwan (L. Ohtsuki in litt.).

DUSKY WARBLER Phylloscopus fuscatus

- Very rare fall and casual spring visitor.

Spring: There are two records in spring, both from Gambell: 06 Jun 1977 (King et al. 1978)—the first North American record—and 05–06 Jun 1983.

Fall: Twenty-eight records at Gambell since 1997 between 19 Aug and 22 Sep. One was present 21–24 Aug 1997. A total of 4 birds were found in 2002 between 29 Aug–19 Sep. One was seen 14 Sep 2003, 1 was present 03–04 Sep 2004 (ph. NAB 59:186, Lehman 2017), and 1 was found 18 Sep 2005. Four more birds were present in 2007 between 27 Aug–22 Sep 2007. A total of 5 birds were seen between 03–12 Sep 2008. Singles were present 01 Sep 2009, 10 Sep 2010, 03–07 Sep 2011, 24 Aug 2012, 22 Aug 2013, and 21 Aug 2016. And a total of 5 birds were discovered in 2017 between 19 Aug–20 Sep.

Comments: This total constitutes well over half of Alaska’s fall records of Dusky Warbler. This species breeds as close as the Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998). It is also casual in fall in south-coastal Alaska (DeCicco et al. 2017) south to Baja California.

PALLAS’S LEAF WARBLER Phylloscopus proregulus

- Accidental fall visitor.

Fall: The only North American record was established by a bird at Gambell 25–26 Sep 2006 (ph. Lehman and Rosenberg 2007, ABACLC 2007).
Comments: This species breeds no closer than just to the north of the Sea of Okhotsk near the city of Magadan (Andreev et al. 2005).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER  *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
- Casual fall visitor.
  

  Comments: This species nests as close as the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). There are several additional fall records from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and singles from the western Aleutians and Middleton Island as well as from Baja California Sur (DeCicco et al. 2017).

ARCTIC WARBLER  *Phylloscopus borealis*  
- Fairly common fall and uncommon to rare spring migrant. Possible breeder on SLI.

  **Spring:** This species is an uncommon to rare late-spring migrant, with the earliest record at Gambell on 02 Jun 2005. Late dates are 15 Jun (several years) and 20 Jun 2005. A presumed spring migrant was at Savoonga 14 Jun 1932 (*MVZ*). Twenty birds on 06 Jun 2009 is the high spring count.

  **Fall:** This species presumably occurs island-wide during migration. Fay and Cade (1959) noted this species at Gambell already on 08 Aug 1953 (*UBC*), and 1 was there 10 Aug 2013. It is present almost daily in small to moderate numbers from at least mid-August through early September, with high counts of 74 birds on 20 Aug 2006, 60 on 23 Aug 2011, 52 on 04 Sep 2012, and 74 on 23 Aug 2016 (also high numbers of Bluethroats and Northern Wheatears). Seasonal totals range from only 3 birds in 2000 and 14 in 2001 to 109 individuals in 2006. The latest records are of 8 birds 15 Sep 2002 and 1 remaining 16 Sep, and singles on 15 Sep 2007, 15–16 Sep 2003, 16 Sep 2005, and, exceptionally, 24 Sep 2016 and 25 Sep 2015.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Although the Arctic Warbler is not definitively known to breed on SLI, Fay and Cade (1959) mentioned a 01 Jul 1953 sighting at Gambell of a bird entering a small hole beneath some rocks and so thought possibly to be nesting. There is also a report of a bird collected at Gambell in “July” 1936 (Friedmann 1937).

  Comments: This species is one of the trans-Beringian passerines that migrate between the Old World and the Alaska part of their breeding range. Arctic Warbler is now treated as being monotypic (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Presumably, almost all Arctic Warblers at Gambell are Alaska-breeding birds formerly treated as *P. b. kennicotti*. But the former nominate *P. b. borealis*, which breeds east across northern Eurasia to the interior Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989; called *hylebata*), should occur at least casually as well. Winker et al. (2002) reported a July specimen (*UAM*) of this latter subspecies on St. Matthew Island, and there is another similar July specimen (*UAM*) from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area (Gibson and Withrow 2015). But both these specimens are now treated as belonging to the recently split Asian species Kamchatka Leaf Warbler (*P. examinandus*), which nests north to Kamchatka. In Alaska, this taxon has been recorded to date otherwise only in the western and central Aleutians (Withrow et al. 2016).
Family Sylviidae: Sylviid Warblers

LESSER WHITETHROAT  *Sylvia curruca*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Comments:* This Old World species is not known to breed farther east than the Lena River and just east of Lake Baikal (Baykal); it winters from India to sub-Saharan Africa (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1954, Vaurie 1959, Gibson et al. 2003). There are a dozen or more records from both Japan (OSJ 2012) and Korea (N. Moores in litt.).

Family Acrocephalidae: Reed Warblers

THICK-BILLED WARBLER  *Iduna (Phragamaticola) aedon*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One bird present at Gambell from 08–13 Sep 2017 (ph. Lehman 2017) established the only record for North America.
  *Comments:* This species breeds no closer than the Amur River basin, Ussuriland, and Khabarovsk in southeast Russia, westward to central Siberia, and it winters in southeast Asia and India (Kennerley and Pearson 2010).

SEDGE WARBLER  *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
- Accidental fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One bird photographed at Gambell on 30 Sep 2007 established the only record for North America (ph. Rosenberg and Lehman 2008, ABACLC 2008).
  *Comments:* This Old World species breeds no farther east than about 80°E—to about the Yenisey (also, Enisey or Yenesei) River—and it winters in sub-Saharan Africa (del Hoyo et al. 2006). There are single records from both Japan (Shoushima et al. 2013) and Korea (N. Moores in litt.).

BLYTH’S REED WARBLER  *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
- Casual fall visitor.
  *Fall:* One bird photographed at Gambell on 09 Sep 2010 was the first record for North America (ph. Lehman and Ake 2011, *Birding* 42(6):24). A second was photographed there from 18–21 Sep 2015 (ph. Lehman 2017). Yet another similar-looking *Acrocephalus* sp. was seen briefly there on 26 Sep 2005.
  *Comments:* This Old World species nests as far east only as the Lake Baikal region near Irkutsk, and it winters primarily on the Indian subcontinent (Vaurie 1959, del Hoyo et al. 2006, Kennerley and Pearson 2010). There are several records from Japan (OSJ 2012). The Alaska Checklist Committee initially placed the 2010 bird on the state’s “unsubstantiated” list (Gibson et al. 2013), although several other sources since that time (e.g., Howell et al. 2014, Chesser et al. 2017) have fully accepted the identification.
Family Locustellidae: Grassbirds

MIDDENDORFF'S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER *Locustella ochotensis*

- **Casual fall and summer visitor.**
  

  **Summer:** There is one Gambell record of a presumed late-spring vagrant on 07 Jul 1979 (*SBCM*).

  **Comments:** This species breeds only as close as Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk (AOU 1998, Brazil 2009). Most of the other western Alaska records are likewise from summer and fall (ABA 2008).

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata*

- **Casual fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** One was seen at Gambell 24 Sep 2013, the first Alaska record in fall, and the first away from the western Aleutians. A second individual was discovered there 08 Oct 2015.

  **Comments:** Lanceolated Warbler breeds north to Kamchatka and the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Kennerley and Pearson 2010) and possibly to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Tomkovitch 2008, Brazil 2009). Also accidental in California.

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis*

- **Accidental fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** One bird present at Gambell 07 Oct 2017 (ph. Lehman 2017) established the only record for North America.

  **Comments:** This species breeds no farther east than about 70° E in western Siberia and winters in southern Africa (Kennerley and Pearson 2010). There are no accepted records for East Asia.

Family Muscicapidae: Old World Flycatchers

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa dauurica*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**

  **Spring:** An individual was at Gambell 09 Jun 1994 (ph. *FN* 48:978).

  **Fall:** One was at Gambell 03 Sep 2017.

  **Comments:** This species breeds north only to Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands (Brazil 2009). There are several spring and fall records from the western Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

- **Accidental fall visitor.**

  **Fall:** One on 14 Sep 2002 at Gambell (ph. Lehman 2003, *Birding World* 15:432) established the only North American record.
Comments: This Old World species breeds no closer than Lake Baikal and vic. 120°E and it winters in central and southern Africa (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1954, Vaurie 1959, Gibson et al. 2003). There is one record from Japan (OSJ 2012).

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia calliope*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall and summer visitor.**
  - **Spring:** First found at Gambell 06–08 Jun 1978 and 13 Jun 1979, there are now at least 12 records from there in spring through 2017. The records occur between 28 May 2003 and 15 Jun 1996; and include 3 separate birds between 28 May–05 Jun 2003. A published photo from 28 May 2003 appears in *NAB* 57:431.
  - **Fall:** Singles were discovered at Gambell 24 Sep 2001, 14 Sep 2006, 08 Oct 2008, and 13 Sep 2017.
  - **Summer:** One very unusual midsummer record of a male at Northeast Cape 12 Jul 2001.
  - **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the northern Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998) and is a very rare visitor to other western Alaska islands.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*
- **Uncommon fall and rare to uncommon spring migrant.**
  - **Spring:** This trans-Beringian passerine occurs annually at Gambell, typically in very small numbers (fewer than 5 per season). Rarely, more birds are found, such as the 8 seen 05 Jun 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 15 counted on 30 May 1988, with 8 remaining the next day, an exceptional 30 birds during a snowstorm 01 Jun 1991, 12–15 birds on 31 May–01 Jun 1994, 9 on 31 May 1995, and 12 on 02 Jun 1998. Early dates are 22 May 2007 and 2012 (2); late departure dates are 12 Jun 1987 and 17 Jun 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
  - **Comments:** Bluethroat nests on the Seward Peninsula and across the Brooks Range (NGS 2017) and in the interior of the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989).

SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN *Luscinia cyane*
- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 02–04 Oct 2012 (ph. *NAB* 67:179, Lehman 2017).
  - **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the Magadan area along the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Arkhipov et al. 2003, Brazil 2009). The only previous Alaska record was from the western Aleutians in spring.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus*
- **Casual fall and spring visitor.**
  - **Spring:** An adult male was at Gambell 12 Jun 2016.
Fall: Singles were present at Gambell 30 Sep 2006, 23 Sep 2013 (ph. NAB 68:132), 29 Sep 2014, and 26 Sep 2017.

Comments: This species nests northeast to Kamchatka and the northeastern Sea of Okhotsk (Vaurie 1959, Lobkov 1986, Andreev et al. 2005), with a possible recent expansion north to southern Chukotka (P. Tomkovich, in litt.). It is also a casual visitor to other western Alaska islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and elsewhere in western North America.

**TAIGA FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicilla*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** This species has been recorded at Gambell once in spring: 05 Jun 1977 (King et al. 1978).
  - **Fall:** One at Gambell on 19 Sep 2004 established the first fall record for Alaska, although additional fall records have occurred more recently, including another bird at Gambell 09 Sep 2017.

  *Comments:* Taiga Flycatcher nests northeast to the Anadyr River basin (ABA 2008, Arkhipov et al. 2008). It is also a casual visitor to the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and is accidental to California.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** Single individuals were present at Gambell 06 Sep 2005 (ph. NAB 60:175), 05 Sep 2008, 02–03 Sep 2011, and 10 Sep 2013. (A report of a bird seen briefly 08 Sep 1992 was inadequately documented.)

  *Comments:* Alaska records refer to the subspecies stejnegeri (Gibson and Kessel 1997) or at least to the maurus subspecies-group, the “Siberian” Stonechat (ABA 2008). Stonechats nest east to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). Accidental on the Alaska mainland (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and elsewhere in North America.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

- **Fairly common fall and uncommon spring migrant; rare breeder.**
  - **Spring:** This species is a very uncommon migrant on SLI in spring, with a few birds found almost every year at Gambell. The higher counts are of 15 on multiple dates, 25 on 01 Jun 1991, and 18 on 17 May 2013. A published report of ca. 650–700 seen during a blizzard 28 May 1973 (Johnson 1976) needs corroboration. Early arrival dates are 16 May 2012, 2013 (3), and 2017. The latest departure of a presumed spring migrant is 11 Jun 1976 (UAM files).
  - **Fall:** Occurs on SLI from early August through early September. Early arrival dates are uncertain, but Fay and Cade (1959) noted 1 to 6 seen daily at Gambell during the second week of Aug 1953 and in Jul 1956, Ehrlich et al. (1993) noted that fall migration was “underway as early as [the] end [of] July,” I was there 07 Aug 2012, and I was near Savoonga 03 Aug 2002. Single-day maxima are of 88 on 23 Aug 2011, 138 on 16 Aug 2017, and an exceptional 180 birds on 23 Aug 2016 (also high numbers of Arctic Warblers and Bluethroats). Seasonal totals range from lows of only 15 in 2007 and 26 in 2000 to highs of 142 birds in 2006, 235 in 2016, and 238 in
2017. Sealy et al. (1971) described the wheatear in Aug 1958 and 1968 as being unusually abundant and seen “about as often as the very common Snow Bunting.” The latest records are 17 Sep 2002 and, extraordinary, 01–03 Oct 2011 and 04–14 Oct 2010.

**Summer and Breeding:** There are only a few confirmed breeding records for SLI, including at Gambell (Kessel and Gibson 1978); but coverage of the island’s appropriate wheatear habitat in summer has been minimal. Nesting was documented in the Boxer Valley in 1960 when a pair and later 2 young were found 12 Jun–28 Jul; a female with 2 young were on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell during Jun–Jul 1967 (**UBC; Sealy et al. 1971); and single Gambell nests were found 07–09 Jul 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 10 Jun 1994 (UAM files), and 07 Jul 2014. A pair was seen constructing a nest there 03 Jun 1995 and a territorial male was present 31 May–17 Jun 2017.

**Comments:** This species is a migrant and uncommon breeder on the adjacent Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and eastward to the Yukon and western Northwest Territories (NGS 2017), as well as on the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009).

**Family Turdidae:** Thrushes

**TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE** *Myadestes townsendi*

- **Casual spring visitor.**

  **Spring:** One was reported without details by multiple observers at Gambell 29 May 2000 (UAM files). Another was there 31 May 2016. These are the only records for the offshore Bering Sea.

  **Comments:** This species nests only as close as interior Alaska (NGS 2017).

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** *Catharus minimus*

- **Uncommon fall and rare to uncommon spring migrant. Possibly a very rare or casual breeder on SLI.**

  **Spring:** This species occurs annually in spring in small numbers, mostly in early June. Arrival dates for SLI and Gambell are both 26 May, in 1937 (Murie 1938, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and 2011 (2), respectively. High counts include 10 on 06 Jun 1987, 11 birds on 04 Jun 2006, total of 22 between 31 May–11 Jun 2016, and 25 during a snowstorm with southeast winds 07 Jun 2008. Late dates at Gambell are through 15 Jun 1962 and 16 Jun 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971) and 15–16 Jun 1975. A record-late bird was at Savoonga 17 Jun 2004.

  **Fall:** It occurs in small numbers every year between late August (earliest: 21 Aug 2007 and 2016) and mid-September. An earlier bird was at Savoonga 16 Aug 2004. Most seasonal totals at Gambell range from 3 to 19 individuals, with a low of only 2 in 2010 and a high of 28 tallied in 2003; the single-day maximum is 10 birds on 01 Sep 2014. The latest records are through 21 Sep 2006 and on 24 Sep 2017.

  **Summer and Breeding:** Several birds have briefly held singing territories at Gambell for up to ten days in June and early July, such as 1 singing from 28 Jun–07 Jul 1965 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and a dead bird (*UBC) was found there 23 Jul 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971). There are, however, no certain nesting records for SLI, but coverage of the most appropriate nesting habitat in the island’s interior has been almost nonexistent.

  **Comments:** This trans-Beringian species breeds west across northern North America and across the Bering Strait to the Chukchi Peninsula, Anadyr, and west to the lower Kolyma
(Portenko 1989, Karhu 2004, Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016), with the latter population returning to the Americas for the winter.

**SWAINSON’S THRUSH** *Catharus ustulatus*
- **Very rare to casual fall and casual spring visitor.**
  - **Fall:** In 2004, 4 birds were found at Gambell on 07 Sep (ph. NAB 59:187), with 1 remaining on 10 Sep; another was present 08 Sep, and 2 were seen 18 Sep. Single birds were found on 10 Sep and 11 Sep 2007, 10 Sep 2009, 17 Sep 2010, 04 Sep and 07 Sep 2014, and 02 Sep 2015.
  - **Comments:** All individuals have appeared to be of the expected olive-backed subspecies, *C. u. incanus*. This species breeds northwest to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and possibly rarely to the base of the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). It is also casual offshore to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians.

**HERMIT THRUSH** *Catharus guttatus*
- **Rare to very rare spring and very rare fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** There are more than 36 spring records (involving 52 individuals) at Gambell through 2017, making the Hermit Thrush (along with Savannah Sparrow) perhaps the most regular vagrant from the Alaska mainland at that season. The first island record was from there 04–07 Jun 1976 (UAM files). Early and late dates are an exceptional 06–07 May 2004, and 21 May 2017, and 07 Jun (several years) and 09 Jun 1983, respectively. As many as 3 individuals have been present at one time (03 Jun 1998), and as many as 5 birds in a season (2017).
  - **Fall:** Twenty-two individuals have been recorded at Gambell: 30 Aug 1993, then 20 more birds through 2017, between 06 Sep 2004 and 04–11 Oct 2016, and an exceptionally late individual on 01 Nov 2015.
  - **Comments:** Hermit Thrush nests north to central Alaska but only rarely or very locally close to the western coast, such as at Nome (Kessel 1989). It also wanders very rarely to the Pribilofs and to northern Alaska, as well as to Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**EYEBROWED THRUSH** *Turdus obscurus*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One individual was seen at Gambell on 25 Sep 2004, and another was present from 24 Sep–03 Oct 2007 (ph. NAB 62:188, Lehman 2017).
  - **Comments:** This species is predominantly a spring vagrant to western Alaska and occurs more regularly in both spring and fall in the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) than it does at St. Lawrence Island. It is accidental in California. It nests northeast to the Magadan area and to Kamchatka (Lobkov 1986, AOU 1998, Brazil 2009).

**DUSKY THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni*
- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**

Fall: Single individuals were present at Gambell 03–04 Oct 2011 and 29 Sep 2015.

Comments: This species is a casual visitor to both the offshore islands and the Alaska mainland (Gibson and Withrow 2015) south to the Pacific Northwest. All Gambell records except one are of the more expected subspecies *T. n. eunomus*, which nests northeast almost to the base of the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009). Nominate *naumanni* breeds no closer than perhaps to the Magadan area (NGS 2017). Some authorities split *naumanni* and *eunomus* into separate species.

**FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris**
- Casual spring visitor.

Spring: Two of the very few Alaska records are represented by single birds at Gambell 09 Jun 1982 and 02 Jun 1985.

Comments: This species nests across Russia only as far east as Lake Baikal and near the Lena River (Brazil 2009). It is also casual in northern Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and elsewhere in North America.

**AMERICAN ROBIN Turdus migratorius**
- Very rare fall and casual spring visitor.


Comments: Old remains (*UAM*) found at the Moghoweyik (Mogoveiik) River headwaters, southwestern SLI, 22 Jul 1971 involved a bird that had probably died the previous year (Johnson 1974). This species breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989), and it is also a casual visitor to other western Alaska islands and to Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**VARIED THRUSH Ixoreus naevius**
- Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.

Spring: This species is very rare in spring at Gambell, with at least 29 records (involving 40 individuals), the first on 04 Jun 1978 (UAM files). The earliest arrivals are 01–04 May 2003 (up to 3—on 04 May) and 02–10 May 2015; the latest records are 07–08 Jun 2008 and through 12 Jun 2012. A total of 5 birds found 27 May–12 Jun 2012 is the season maximum.

Fall: Single birds were present at Gambell 19 Sep and 29 Sep 2007, on 21 Sep and 22–24 Sep 2010, and on 09 Oct 2016. In addition, 1 was seen at Maknek Lagoon, east end SLI, on 04 Oct 2006.

Comments: Varied Thrush breeds near the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is also a very rare visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and it has been recorded in Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).
Family Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus polyglottos*
- *Accidental fall visitor.*
  
  *Fall:* One was found at Gambell 13 Sep 2014.
  
  *Comments:* This species is casual anywhere in Alaska, not breeding regularly north of southern Oregon and Idaho (NGS 2017). There is just one previous offshore Bering Sea record, from the Pribilos (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*
- *Accidental fall visitor.*
  
  *Fall:* Three birds were found 29 Aug 1961 at Northeast Cape (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
  
  *Comments:* Bohemian Waxwing breeds to central and interior western Alaska (NGS 2009), and in Asia to the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009) and the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008). It also occurs casually on other Alaska islands, including at least two specimen records of Asian *B. g. centralasiae* from the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

Family Prunellidae: Accentors

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR *Prunella montanella*
- *Very rare fall visitor.*
  
  
  *Comments:* This total constitutes a large majority of Alaska’s records of Siberian Accentor. Most such records are from fall on the Bering Sea islands. The species is casual in fall and winter on the mainland south to the Pacific Northwest. It breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1989).

Family Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
- *Casual spring visitor.*
Spring: Single males were found at Gambell 13–14 Jun 1993 (*UAM; Gibson 2012) and 12–25 May 2013 (ph. NAB 67:505; dates incorrect in NAB).

Comments: In Russia, House Sparrows nest locally in the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008) as well as at several towns and cities along the coast, where introduced to Provideniya in the early 1990s—a likely source of the 1993 Gambell bird, only 100 km (60 mi) away. In the early 2000s, they were found at the city of Anadyr as well as at Pevek on the north shore of western Chukotka (Tomkovich 2007), also potential sources for the 2013 Gambell bird, as well as for a small group which appeared at Shishmaref, on the northern Seward Peninsula, in 2007–2008 (Gibson 2012).

Family Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla tschutschensis

- Fairly common to common fall and uncommon spring migrant. Declining. Probably an uncommon breeder on SLI.

Spring: This uncommon migrant occurs annually in spring as singles and small groups. The earliest arrivals at Gambell are 20 May 2017 and 22 May 2010 and 2011. High counts there are of 20 birds both 03 Jun 1994 and 05 Jun 2001; 14 were still present 10 Jun 1989. It occurs regularly through about 11 June or so, then becomes rare in the Gambell area, where late dates of migrants are difficult to determine. Four birds were still present 20 Jun 2005. Sometimes 1 or 2 individuals will carry out display flights along the lower slopes of Sevuokok Mountain for several days or more. The subspecies M. t. simillima has probably occurred a few times in late spring and summer (Sealy et al. 1971, J. L. Dunn in litt.), but the only published record is from Gambell 06–07 Jun 2000.

Fall: Fairly common to common early in the season, uncommon to rare after that. Early arrival dates for this trans-Beringian passerine are uncertain, but it likely occurs in peak numbers between late July and mid-August. Several birds were at Kongkok Bay 29 Jul 1981 (UAM files), 1 was near Savoonga 31 Jul 2003, and the species was recorded regularly there during the first week of Aug 2002–2004. On St. Matthew Island, migrants have been noted as early as 05 August, with maximum counts in mid-August (Winker et al. 2002). Sealy et al. (1971) reported several large flocks at Gambell, some containing at least 200 birds, during Aug 1966 and Aug 1967, with smaller flocks in mid-Aug 1969. Several flocks of up to 20 birds were moving south through the Kongkok Basin during mid-Aug 1987 (J. F. Piatt in litt.). Most recent seasonal totals at Gambell between late August and mid-September range from lows of 22 in 2000, 15 in 2008, and 21 in 2016, to a high of 150 in 1992. With coverage in 2004 and 2006 commencing in mid-August, the season’s totals were 220 in 2004 (including 130 birds on 17 Aug) and 230 in 2006. But similar mid-August ‘starts’ in 2014 and 2017 produced only 75 and 89 individuals, respectively. The species is uncommon by early September and rare in mid-September. The late dates are 25 Sep 2006 and 26 Sep 2005. An exceptionally late individual came aboard a ship in the Bering Strait area on 18 Oct 1970 (Watson and Divoky 1972). An albino was photographed at Gambell 18–20 Aug 2004.

Summer and Breeding: This species is probably a rare to uncommon breeder on SLI (Sealy et al. 1971, Ehrlich et al. 1993; pers. obs.). At Gambell, there are multiple reports of displaying, territorial, and probable nesting birds on the slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain, mostly in June. Definite nesting was confirmed there 15–16 Jun 1962 (2 active nests; Sealy et al. 1971) and
21–22 Jul 1989 (1 nest, “Mayughwaq”; UAM files). A total of 5 birds and “courtship display” were noted at SLI’s Northeast Cape 25 Jun–15 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967, Sealy et al. 1971), and the species was noted as a “common breeder” at the Punuk Islands, off eastern SLI, 07 Jun 1986 and at Southeast Cape 22 Jun 1986 (UAM files). Singles were near Savoonga 20 and 23 Jun 2003 and a pair was there 04 Jul 2004. Three were at Gambell 06 Jul 2011. One at Gambell 18+ Jul 2017 may have been an early fall migrant.

Comments: The Eastern Yellow Wagtail (nominate tschutschensis) breeds commonly in western Alaska (Kessel 1989), as well as on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989). M. t. similima is not known to breed closer than the Sea of Okhotsk and Koryak Highlands (Alström and Mild 2003).

GRAY WAGTAIL  *Motacilla cinerea*
- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  - *Spring:* One record at Gambell 06–08 Jun 1977 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
  - *Fall:* Also one record at Gambell 18–19 Oct 2017.

Comments: Gray Wagtails breed north to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Tomkovich 2008). The species is casual on the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and accidental elsewhere in western North America.

WHITE WAGTAIL  *Motacilla alba*
- **Uncommon spring migrant and breeder, uncommon to fairly common in early fall.** The subspecies *M. a. ocularis* is the regular occurring form on SLI, whereas *M. a. lugens* is a casual visitor and breeder.

**Spring:** *M. a. ocularis* is an uncommon breeder at Gambell and probably at several other sites on the island, and almost all birds seen in spring are believed to be these local breeders. Following several summer records from the 1950s and early 1960s (see below), spring reports became routine. From 1 to 4 individuals to up to 3 pairs (e.g., 2008+) were found most years. The highest seasonal spring totals are of up to as many as 10 individuals in 1989 and 1993 and 12 birds on 01 Jun 1988. Early arrival dates at Gambell are 16+ May 2013 and 17 May 2017. The “Black-backed Wagtail” (*M. a. lugens*), is a casual or very rare visitor. Spring records are 30 May–05 Jun 1978, 30 May–09 Jun 1983 (up to 2), 30 May 1984, 31 May–02 Jun 1985 (up to 2), 31 May–06 Jun 1989, 03 Jun 1990, 27 May–09 Jun 1991, 30 May–09 Jun 1995, 31 May–03 Jun 1998, 31 May–05 Jun 2004, and 31 May+ 2017. Some of these records involved Black-backeds paired with *ocularis* White Wagtails: in May–Jun 1983, 1991 (including nest in early Jun), 1995, 1998, and 2004 and 2017 (seen copulating with an *ocularis* on 03 Jun and on 08 and 13 Jun, respectively).

**Fall:** In 1989 family groups of local breeders at Gambell totaled >35 birds on 31 Aug, a high count for Alaska (*AB* 44:143). There were as many as 30 individuals in late Aug and early Sep 1992, but only up to 15 in late Aug and early Sep 1993–1998. These birds were also thought to be local breeding adults and their young. In autumn 1999, however, only 4 birds were seen, and none was seen in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2006, except for single individuals 12–14 Sep 2001, 13–14 Sep 2006, and 29–30 Sep 2006; the latter was late. High counts since then have included 24 individuals on 19 Aug 2014 and a total of 21 birds in 2016. A number of birds have been seen leaving the point toward the Chukchi Peninsula during the early morning on several occasions between 19 Aug 2014 and mid-September. Most of the local breeders have departed by the end of the second week of September, with the latest noted through 24 Sep 2015, 24 Sep (4) and
through 01 Oct 2011, and through 02 Oct 2016. In addition to the 29–30 Sep 2006 bird, above, a migrant on 29 Sep 2015 was also late. A female believed to be *M. a. lugens* and accompanied by a fledged juvenile was present from at least 23 Aug–03 Sep 1998, and a pure or intergrade *lugens* present since 31 May was still present 11 Sep 2017. Elsewhere on SLI, a single *ocularis* was at Kongkok Bay 03 Sep 1976 (UAM files) and 6 were at Savoonga 13 Aug 1986 (UAM files).

**Summer and Breeding:** This species was first confirmed nesting at Gambell 10–11 July 1953 (**UBC; Fay and Cade 1959**), and it has been of regular occurrence there from the mid-1960s through 1999, and again from 2003–2005 and 2007–2015, with from 1 to 4 pairs and their offspring present almost yearly. There is a specimen (**UBC**) from 22 Jun 1966. For summering and breeding *M. a. lugens*, see above. Away from the Gambell area, breeding White Wagtails were noted at Boxer Bay 05–08 Aug 1957 (Fay and Cade 1959; **UBC**) and Jun–Jul 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964); up to 2 birds were at the airbase near Northeast Cape 12–19 Jul 1964 (Thompson 1967); 1 was at Niyrakpak Lagoon, near Gambell, 16–20 Jun 1973 (UAM files); and an active nest with young was found in the Kongkok Basin 8–23 Jul 1987.

**Comments:** *M. a. ocularis* is an irregular breeder in very small numbers on the nearby Seward Peninsula. *M. a. lugens* was formerly considered a full species by some authorities but was again relegated to the rank of subspecies (AOU 2005); it does not normally breed northeast of Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk (AOU 1998). White Wagtails are rare in the Aleutians—and where *M. a. lugens* has bred (Gibson and Byrd 2007)—and are casual migrants on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**TREE PIPIT** [Anthus trivialis]
- **Casual fall and accidental spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** The second North American record came from Gambell 06 Jun 1995 (ph. *FN* 49:293).
  
  **Fall:** One bird at Gambell on 21 and 27 Sep 2002 (ph. Hess 2003) established the third record for North America. This was followed by singles there from 02–05 September 2014 (ph. *NAB* 69:38, Lehman 2017) and from 18–23 September 2014.

**Comments:** This species is known to breed only as far east as the Kolyma River (ABA 2008). The first and only other North American record is from Wales (*UAM; Kessel 1989*), at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula.

**OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT** [Anthus hodgsoni]
- **Casual or very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** There are approximately 11 spring records at Gambell. The first record for North America was provided by a bird there 01 Jun 1962 (*USNM; Sealy et al. 1971*). This was followed by 10 additional records: 3 or 4 birds 03–04 Jun 1974, 10 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 06–09 Jun 1977, 04–07 Jun 1982, 05 Jun 1989, 07–08 Jun 1996, up to 2 birds 04–05 Jun 2003, 14 Jun 2010, and 11 Jun 2013.
  
  **Fall:** Single individuals were found at Gambell 05–06 Sep 2000, 23 Sep 2014, 30 Sep 2014, 16 Sep 2015, 10–13 Oct 2015, 01–02 Oct 2016, 02 Oct 2017, and (late) 16 Oct 2017.

**Comments:** This species breeds north to the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008). It is a very rare visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), occurring more regularly in spring, is casual to St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002), and is accidental elsewhere in coastal Alaska (DeCicco et al. 2017) south to Baja California (NGS 2017).
**PECHORA PIPIT** *Anthus gustavi*

- Very rare fall and casual spring visitor.

  **Spring:** The first record for North America was of 1 found at Gambell in [no date] May 1937 (*USNM; Friedmann 1938, Kessel and Gibson 1978). Two additional spring birds were found 16 Jun 1975 and 06 Jun 1979 (King 1980).

  **Fall:** The first fall individual was photographed at Gambell on 30 Aug 1998 but identified at the time as a Red-throated Pipit and not re-identified correctly until years later; it establishes the first fall record for Alaska. There are now reports of 22 individuals there through 2017. A total of 3 birds were present 09–14 Sep 2003: 2 on 09 Sep, with 1 remaining through 14 Sep, and another 10–14 Sep. Another 4 birds were found in 2004: 1 from 24 Aug–01 Sep (ph. *NAB* 59:185, Lehman 2005, 2006) was joined by a second bird 30 Aug–01 Sep, a third bird was found 04–06 Sep (ph. Lehman 2005), and a fourth was present 19 Sep. Single birds were discovered 26–27 Sep 2005; 14 Sep 2006; 23 Aug, 19 Sep, and 24 Sep 2007; 05 Sep 2008; 26 Aug and 13 Sep 2011; 08–09 Sep 2012 (ph. Lehman 2017); 20 Sep 2013; 27 Sep 2014; 11 Sep 2015; and 25 Aug and 07 Sep 2017.

  **Comments:** This species nests northeast to the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989, AOU 1998, Karhu 2004). It is casual in the western Aleutians during spring (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and at the Pribilofs during fall (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*

- Uncommon fall and rare spring migrant and very rare breeder.

  **Spring:** Rare but regular to sometimes uncommon in spring at Gambell, mostly as a migrant, but also as a very rare breeder along the slopes of Sevuokuk Mountain (many years during the 1970s and 1980s when up to several displaying males present, in only several years during the 1990s, and very rarely since then—see below). The early arrival date is 23 May 1988. High counts include a total of 10–12 birds between 02–06 Jun 1982, 8 on 29 May 2004, and 10 birds on 02 Jun 2014.

  **Fall:** Given the presence of occasional local breeders, it is difficult to determine early arrival dates of true fall migrants. A juvenile female collected (*UBC*) at Gambell 18 Aug 1958 (Sealy et al. 1971) probably was hatched locally. One bird was around a ship off Gambell 11 Aug 1986 (UAM files), an early individual was at Savoonga 05 Aug 2003, and singles were at Gambell 11 Aug 2006 and 2016. Red-throated Pipit has been numerous in fall at Gambell during a few years, such as in 1992 (total of 40 seen 22–27 Aug) and 2003 (total of 94, also up to 10/day at Savoonga during late Aug), but scarce in other years, such as 2000 and 2010 (only 9 and 11 tallied, respectively). Daily maxima include 20–28 birds on 23–24 Aug 1992, 25 on 31 Aug 1993, 26 on 22 Aug 2003, and 40 on 28 Aug 2003. Rare after mid-September, the latest records are of 1 through 03 Oct 2017, up to 2 from 02–08 Oct 2016, and 1 from 29 Sep–12 Oct 2011. There are only several fall records of adults with orange-red throats; 1 on 21 Sep 2003 was late for a bird in that plumage.

  **Summer and Breeding:** The first breeding records were from Gambell, of a “young bird” in “July” 1936 (Friedmann 1937, Fay and Cade 1959) and of 1 in [no date] 1938 (*USNM; Watson 1963). Up to several pairs, males advertising territories, and/or birds carrying nesting material have been seen around Gambell, particularly on Sevuokuk Mountain, during multiple years in June and early July—e.g., in 1965, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 (high of 5 pairs from 07–10 Jun), 1995, and 2005 (Kessel and Gibson 1978,
Ehrlich et al. 1993, *AB* 29:1020, UAM files). Single adults accompanied by up to 3 juveniles—some begging—were there during mid-Aug 2004 and 2007. Away from Gambell, a pair with food and 3 dependent juveniles were at Owalit Mountain, western SLI, 28 Jul 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), 2 were in that area 21 Jun 1987, and a juvenile was collected (*UBC*) near Boxer Bay 03 Aug 1956 (incorrectly cited as being an American Pipit by Fay and Cade [1959]).

**Comments:** This species breeds on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989) and on Little Diomede Island and at least irregularly in small numbers on the western Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). It is a rare but regular migrant at the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data). Years of peak fall abundance at Gambell (e.g., 1992 and 2003) are strongly correlated with unusually high numbers one to two months later farther south along the North America West Coast.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** *Anthus rubescens*

- Uncommon fall and rare to uncommon spring migrant. Two subspecies are thought to occur at Gambell.

**Spring:** Most spring birds are likely North American *A. r. pacificus*, whereas Asian *A. r. japonicus* (“Siberian” Pipit) has been reported at least 11 times as well, but subspecific identification is difficult at this season. The earliest arrivals for American Pipit at Gambell are 12 May 2015 and 16 May 2013 (3). High counts are 10 birds on 03 Jun 1992 and a total of 12 between 24 May–04 Jun 2017. The latest date is 10 Jun 1973 (UAM files). Records of probable spring *japonicus* have fallen between 26 May 2004 and 08 Jun 1991 and include a specimen (*USNM*) from Gambell in [no date] Jun 1936.

**Fall:** Migrants apparently involving *A. r. pacificus* have been found at Gambell between mid-August and late September, and most seasonal totals range from 11 to 21 individuals, with 31 in 2003 and 35 in 2016, but only 3 in 2007 and 4 in 2011. The daily maximum is 25 birds on 28 Aug 2003. The earliest record is 10 Aug 2014, and the latest are 06–07 Oct 2017, 09 Oct 2010, and 08–09 Oct 2016 (up to 4). Birds looking like *A. r. japonicus* are uncommon in fall; the records are from 1993 to 2017, annual since 2000, and typically number between 5 and 15 individuals per season; maxima were of a total of 25 from 27 Aug–18 Sep 2003, with a high count of 13 from 30 Aug–03 Sep; a total of 24 from 23 Aug–17 Sep 2008; and a high total of 39 from 22 Aug–02 Oct 2013, with an exceptional 23 birds on 08 Sep. Extreme dates are 19 Aug 2013 and 03 Oct 2004. Several birds that appear intermediate between the two subspecies are seen annually in fall as well.

**Summer and Breeding:** *A. r. pacificus* breeds in Alaska and possibly in small numbers on SLI (Sealy et al. 1971). A juvenile cited by Fay and Cade (1959) as being collected (*UBC*) near Boxer Bay 03 Aug 1956 is actually a Red-throated Pipit. From the ridges along the Boxer Valley in 1960, Sauer and Urban (1964) reported courtship flight with a female nearby on 17 Jun and several individuals on 19 Jun, but this record needs confirmation given the misidentified Red-throated Pipit specimen from the same general area a few years earlier.

**Comments:** Birds looking like *A. r. japonicus* are rare migrants on the other Bering Sea and Aleutian islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and are casual fall visitors elsewhere in Alaska and farther south along the West Coast (Lee and Birch 2002, DeCicco et al. 2017). The taxonomy of American Pipits in this region is unsettled. Whereas some authors state that nominate *rubescens* breeds west from North America into northeast Asia (e.g., Vaurie 1959), others treat all northeast Asian populations as belonging to *japonicus* (e.g., Stepanyan 1990). Only *pacificus* breeds in Alaska according to Gibson and Kessel (1997).
Further complicating matters, Portenko (1989) used the name *harmsi* \(\text{[haermsi]}\) (type specimen from Uzbekistan) for breeding populations of the Chukchi Peninsula and Anadyr River basin; this name was synonymized with nominate *rubescens* by Vaurie (1959) but with *japonicus* by Hall (1961). Alström and Mild (2003) tentatively restricted breeding *rubescens/pacificus* to North America, but they had no firm opinion. Gibson and Byrd (2007) discuss the few Alaska specimens resembling *japonicus* as being *japonicus X pacificus* intergrades.

**Family Fringillidae: Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies**

**BRAMBLING** Fringilla montifringilla

- **Very rare to rare spring and very rare fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** First recorded 09–12 Jun 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), there now total at least 35 spring records (involving 71 individuals), all from Gambell, through 2017. The earliest are 13–17 May 2006 and 19+ May 2017; the latest are through 12 Jun 1973 and 14 Jun 2001 (UAM files). The single-day maximum is 8 birds on both 03 and 04 Jun 2003; the highest season totals are of 10 during spring 2003 and 9 during spring 2006. Published photos taken 06 Jun 1991 and 03 Jun 2003 have appeared in AB 45:512 and NAB 57:576, respectively.

  **Fall:** Autumn records, all from Gambell except one, are as follows: up to 3 early arrivals—probably the earliest for the state—from 02–08 Sep 1998 (not “06–07 Sep”—NAB 53:91) and then over 24 additional records (involving 58 individuals) between 2000–2017. The high counts are of up to 5 present daily from 16–29 Sep 2005, a total of 8 from 22 Sep–03 Oct 2007, and a record total of 15 between 14 Sep–07 Oct 2014. The latest is 1 from 10–12 Oct 2011. Also, 1 was photographed at Savoonga 5 Oct 2016.

  **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Tomkovich 2008) and possibly to the base of the Chukchi Peninsula (Brazil 2009); it has been recorded on the eastern Chukchi Peninsula (Zagrebin et al. 2015). Bramblings occur as rare-but-regular visitors to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and are casual visitors elsewhere in Alaska and throughout much of North America.

**HAWFINCH** Coccothraustes coccothraustes

- **Casual spring visitor.**

  **Spring:** At least eight records from Gambell: single individuals 06–07 Jun 1978, 31 May–12 Jun 1999, 03 Jun 2003, 21–25 May 2004, 26 May–01 Jun 2007, 06–11 Jun 2013, and 26 May 2016; and a total of 10 birds found 24 May–03 Jun 2017, with 9 on 28 May including a single flock of 6 birds (spring 2017 was an exceptional season for Hawfinches on the western Alaska islands).

  **Comments:** This species nests north only to southern Kamchatka (Lobkov 1986, Brazil 2009). It is a very rare but regular spring and early summer vagrant to the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), but there are only two fall records, both at the latter locality. It is accidental on the Seward Peninsula.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH** Carpodacus erythrinus

- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**


Comments: This species breeds northeast to the Koryak Highlands (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1954, Vaurie 1959), possibly to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). It also occurs as a casual spring and fall visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is accidental in California.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

- Casual spring and fall visitor.

Spring: There are seven spring records from Gambell, 1 involving a flock. The first 2 involved a bird collected (*USNM) in [no date] May 1936 (Friedmann 1937, Fay and Cade 1959) and another seen during approximately June 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971, Kessel and Gibson 1978). These were followed by 1 from 26–30 May 1989 (ph. AB 43:398), an incredible 6 birds on 29 May 1992 (ph. AB 46:500) plus a different bird 30 May–03 Jun 1992, 1 from 25 May–03 Jun 2001 (ph. NAB 55:384), and 1 on 13 Jun 2001 (UAM files).

Fall: One was present at Gambell 09 Oct 2010 (ph. Lehman 2017), and 1 was there 02 Oct 2016.

Comments: There are over 25 fall, winter, and spring (especially) reports in Alaska. It breeds north to the Koryak Highlands (Brazil 2009).

ASIAN ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte arctoa*

- Accidental fall visitor.

Fall: One individual was present at Gambell 25–26 Oct 2008 (ph. Helmericks 2017, Lehman 2017). This bird remained incorrectly identified as a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch until 2016. It establishes the first North American record.


GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH *Leucosticte tephrocotis*

- Accidental spring visitor.

Spring: An example of nominate *L. t. tephrocotis* was collected (*UWBM) at Savoonga 13 Jun 1988.

Comments: This species breeds west to the Seward Peninsula mountains, as well as on St. Matthew Island, the Pribilofs, and Aleutians (NGS 2017).

ASIAN / GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH
Spring: There is a sight record of an atypical-looking rosy-finch involving this species-pair at Gambell 26 May 1998.

**PURPLE FINCH  *Haemorhous purpureus***
- *Casual fall and accidental spring visitor.*
  
  **Spring:** One collected (*UAM) at Savoonga 05 Jun 1984 is an example of *H. p. purpureus* (ph. Rutt et al. 2014; Gibson and Kessel 1992) and was the first island record of the species.
  
  **Fall:** Single female/immature males photographed at Gambell 07–09 Sep 2004 (ph. NAB 59:187, Rutt et al. 2014) and 21–24 Aug 2007 show some of the characters of the subspecies *H. p. californicus*, but such a determination should be treated as tentative. There is also one fall record of the nominate subspecies there on 22 Oct 2011 (ph. Rutt et al. 2014).

  **Comments:** These and one fall record from the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) represent the only Purple Finch records for the offshore Bering Sea. This species is a very rare visitor anywhere in Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). *H. p. californicus* nests from west-central British Columbia southward; the nominate subspecies breeds north to northern British Columbia and the southern Yukon (NGS 2017).

**COMMON REDPOLL  *Acanthis flammea***
- *Uncommon to fairly common fall and uncommon spring visitor. Casual in mid-summer. One winter record. Irregular.*
  
  **Spring:** This species is uncommon to rare in spring, occurring irregularly from year to year. Determining accurate arrival and departure dates, as well as high counts, is clouded by identification uncertainties. The earliest reports are 26–27 Apr 2017 (up to 4) and 01 May 2003. Maxima are up to 25 present from 29–31 May 2015 and 30 birds on both 01 and 11 Jun 2017. Small numbers have lingered in recent years through early June, and the latest records are the 11 Jun flock with 8 still remaining 14 Jun 2017—and see below.

  **Fall:** This species is generally outnumbered by Hoary Redpoll. Some years very few or no birds occur. Early arrival dates are uncertain, but 6 birds were present at Gambell at my arrival on 14 Aug 2004. The highest counts are up to 65 from 25–27 Sep 2003, 65 on 27 Sep 2006, and 65–115 birds from 24–26 Sep 2015 (high count on 25 Sep). The latest record is on 09 Oct 2010 (2), although Friedmann (1932a) reports a bird taken (*USNM) at Gambell on 16 Oct 1930, but early and late specimens need verification.

  **Summer:** Although there are a number of published summer reports of Common Redpolls from SLI, determining which of these are correct is very difficult because of the identification issues involving some Common versus darker Hoary Redpolls. Sealy et al. (1971) stated that there were no definite breeding records for the island, although Brooks supposedly collected a “nesting female” “holboellii” on [unspecified locality] SLI 27 Jun 1913 (Friedmann 1932a, Portenko 1989). Additional uncertain reports of “Common Redpoll” include 1 at Boxer Bay 17 Jul 1950 (Fay and Cade 1959), a bird collected (* initially to AHRC, but currently cannot be located) at Gambell 29 Jul 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971), and an adult which “seemed to display territorial behavior” near the Boxer Valley 23 Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964). A summer specimen (*UBC) from Gambell 27 Jun 1967 and at least one bird photographed there 19–20 Jul 2012 have been confirmed as indeed being Common Redpolls.
**Winter:** What appeared to be the same individual Common Redpoll was photographed on several dates between 21 Dec 2014–04 Feb 2015. Hoary Redpoll is the more likely redpoll in winter at this latitude.

**Comments:** This is a common nesting species in western Alaska, including on the adjacent Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989); but Portenko (1989) noted that Common Redpoll does not breed on the Chukchi Peninsula and is only a migrant there, although it does nest to the lower Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008). Some redpolls at Gambell are difficult to identify to species, including many juveniles and some intermediate-appearing adults.

**HOARY REDPOLL** *Acanthis hornemanni*

- *Uncommon to fairly common fall and uncommon spring visitor and rare breeder. Casual in winter. Irregular.*

**Spring:** The earliest spring arrival is at Gambell 13 April 2016 (2). Maxima there include 25–30 birds on a number of dates, 40–50 from 30 May–06 Jun 1978, and 40–80 from 25–28 May 2003 increasing to up to 100/day from 30 May–04 Jun; late-season highs include 20 birds on 09 Jun 2011 and 9 individuals on 19 Jun 2005, with several still present 25 Jun 2005. Earlier in 2003, some 100–150 redpoll sp. were present between 11–16 May. In contrast, some years fewer than 10 individuals are seen during the entire season.

**Fall:** This species is typically more numerous than Common Redpoll, especially beginning in mid-September. Some years very few birds occur at Gambell, whereas in others there are flocks of up to 20–40 individuals. The highest counts there are of 70 birds on 14 Sep 2006 and 90–120 (up to 200 total redpolls) from 07–09 Sep 2017, with 80 still present 19 Sep. Small to moderate numbers may remain through mid-October (highs of 22 birds on both 07 Oct 2003 and 08 Oct 2015); later records include 5 birds remaining at Gambell 28 Oct 2015 and 4 birds collected on [unspecified locality] SLI 03 Nov 1959 (Sealy et al. 1971).

**Summer and Breeding:** Up to 3 pairs were in the Boxer Bay area 09 Jun–18 Aug 1960 and a nest with eggs was at “Kangee” at the western end of Koozata Lagoon 10–14 Jun 1960 (Sauer and Urban 1964, Sealy et al. 1971). Three were seen at Northeast Cape 12 Jul 2001 (UAM files). At Gambell, Fay and Cade (1959) noted that this species “sometimes nested in buildings or under boats within the village area,” and Sealy et al. (1971) cited 2 nest records at Gambell in Jun 1967 (eggs AMNH). Another nest was found 02 Jun 1988. A nest in the village during 2004 did not fledge its 3 young until 26 Aug. A fresh juvenile was photographed there 13 Jul 2015. A total of ca. 25 redpoll spp., including at least 1 fresh juvenile, were at Gambell 05–07 Jul 2011, and 17 adult redpolls, both Hoary (mostly) and Common, were there 19–20 Jul 2012.

**Winter:** Ehrlich et al. (1993) termed the species “accidental in winter” on SLI. More recently, Gambell residents have reported redpolls of uncertain species into the winter on very few occasions, e.g., 2 birds remained to [no date] Feb 2003 (H. Irrigoo pers. comm.). One collected (* initially to AHRC, but currently cannot be located) at Gambell 13 Mar 1958 (Sealy et al. 1971) might possibly have been an exceptionally early spring migrant.

**Comments:** This is a common species on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and elsewhere along the western Alaska coast, as well as on the Chukchi Peninsula (Portenko 1989). Some redpolls at Gambell are difficult to identify to species, including many juveniles and even some adults. Some high spring counts of “redpoll sp.” at Gambell include an early-season 30 birds on 03 May 2003 and a late-season 15 birds on 12 Jun 2012.
RED CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

- **Casual summer and fall visitor, accidental in spring.**
  
  **Spring:** There is just one spring record: Gambell 03 Jun 2003.
  
  **Summer and Fall:** Two birds collected (**USNM**) near Gambell on 15 Aug 1961 were identified as *L. c. sitkensis (= minor)*. And from 26–29 Jul 1964 (Thompson and DeLong 1969; not 1962, as published in Sealy et al. 1971), nine specimens were obtained (**USNM**, at least 1 identified as *sitkensis*) and 3 additional birds were seen. In 2003, another irruption year, this species appeared at Gambell beginning on 02 Jul, with up to 30 birds found later in the month, and up to 3 remaining 21–29 Aug; in addition, 2 were near Savoonga 24 Aug.

  **Comments:** This species is regularly found no closer than south-coastal and possibly southwestern Alaska, although it has a history of wandering to the Bering Sea islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Winker et al. 2002), mostly in summer and fall.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*

- **Casual spring, summer, and fall visitor.**

  **Spring:** What was probably the same adult male was found at Gambell 01–02 Jun and again 11–14 Jun 2016.

  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 04–23 Aug 2015, an irruption year for the species.

  **Summer:** A bird collected (*USNM*) near Gambell 26 Jul 1964 (not 1962, as published in Sealy et al. 1971) was assigned to the nominate race from North America; another was seen there 29 Jul 1964. This was also an irruption year.

  **Comments:** This species breeds regularly as close as central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and probably at least irregularly to the eastern Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989). In Asia, it is found typically no closer than near the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Brazil 2009), although it has been recorded in the western Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008). It has wandered offshore also to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), mostly in summer and fall.

CROSSBILL SP.

A crossbill sp. was killed at Gambell in “about 1943” (Fay and Cade 1959).

PINE SISKIN *Spinus pinus*

- **Very rare fall and casual spring and summer visitor.**

  **Spring:** The three records, all from Gambell, are 04 Jun 1984, 03 Jun 2003, and 1 bird from 01–09 Jun 2011 increasing to 3 birds on 10 Jun (and see below).

  **Fall:** In autumn 1999, when this species irrupted north into central Alaska, a total of 4 birds wandered to Gambell between 24 Aug–18 Sep. There now total 44 individuals in autumn there through 2017. Recorded in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015, and 2017, most of these birds were found during surges from 21 Aug–4 Oct 2003 (9), 27 Aug–11 Oct 2011 (16), and 23 Aug–08 Oct 2015 (8). The high counts are 7 birds on 04 Sep and 8 on 11 Oct 2011, which, along with 1 through 11 Oct 2014, are also the late dates. Also, 1 was at Savoonga 09 Oct 2011.

  **Summer:** A mid-summer or early fall wanderer at Gambell 19–26 Jul 1964 was an example of nominate *S. p. pinus* (**USNM**; Sealy et al. 1971, Kessel and Gibson 1978). Three found 05–07 Jul 2011 were almost certainly the same birds present in early Jun (see above).
Comments: This species is a regular breeder north only to south-coastal, very rarely central, Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson 2011). It also occurs, primarily during irruption years, rarely on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and casually on St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002) and the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and there is a single record from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

Family Calcariidae: Longspurs and Snow Buntings

LAPLAND LONGSPUR *Calcarius lapponicus*
- Common breeder and spring and fall migrant.

Spring: Along with Snow Bunting, this species is the most common passerine on SLI. The earliest arrival dates are 20 Apr 2017 (male) and 25–26 Apr 2017 (female) and 01 May 2003 (with 24 birds present by 03 May) at Gambell; and 03 May 1953 at Savoonga (*DMNS*). At Gambell, many daily counts in spring are of up to 100 individuals, with a few as high as 150 birds, and 200 estimated on 25 May 1996 and 225 on 06 Jun 2009. A report of “approximately 750” on 28 May 1973 (Johnson 1976) needs corroboration. Forty were still present 20 Jun 2005 and were likely all local breeders. Overall numbers may have declined somewhat since about 2010.

Fall: Daily counts in the Gambell area between mid-August and early September typically average 100–325 birds, with an increase by late August or early September as migrants congregated around the village. High counts have reached 400–500, with 600 on 31 Aug 2005, 800 on 26 Aug 2006, 700 on 03 Sep 2009, and 600 on 24 Aug 2016. During late August (e.g., 22 Aug 2017) and the first half of September small-to-medium-sized flocks are seen leaving the island toward Russia, particularly in the early morning during fair weather and light winds. Maximum one-day counts in 2008 did not exceed 80–100 individuals, probably indicative of poor nesting success, and high counts seem somewhat depressed most years since then. The species is uncommon in late September (high of 25 individuals on 25 Sep 2015), with the latest birds noted 05–06 Oct 2012 and through 16 Oct 2016.

Summer and Breeding: This species is the most numerous breeding passerine on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959). Ehrlich et al. (1993) gave the estimated total SLI population in 1959 as being in the tens of thousands.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*
- Common breeder and spring and fall migrant. Very rare in winter.

Spring: Along with Lapland Longspur, this species is the most common passerine on SLI. Given that overwintering by this species on SLI is exceptionally rare, early spring birds are believed to indeed involve recent arrivals. Portenko (1989) stated that Snow Buntings arrived on the Chukchi Peninsula “rarely in March and mostly in early April.” One was noted at sea ca. 63 km (39 mi) S of Southeast Cape 22 Mar 2008 (Drew et al. 2015). The earliest certain dates at Gambell are 09 Apr 1978 (UAM files) and 09–13 Apr 2017 (2–4), and 60 were present 13 Apr 2016. High spring counts in the Gambell area have reached 200/day on several occasions through early June, with 400 on 30 Apr 2013 and 275 on 26 Apr 2017. Published totals of “approximately 500” on 20 May and “approximately 900” on 27 May 1973 (Johnson 1976) need corroboration. Ehrlich et al. (1993) stated that the birds disperse in late spring to nesting areas as
the snow melts. Thirty were still present in the Gambell area 20 Jun 2005 and were likely all local breeders.

**Fall:** As with Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings accumulate around Gambell during late August (e.g., 22 Aug 2017) and September, and flocks depart the island toward Russia. Daily counts there from mid-August through mid-September average 100–300 individuals, with some totals reaching 800–1100; up to 1400 were seen daily 02–05 Sep 2004, 1300 were present 12 Sep 2007, and 2000 were tallied 14 Sep 2015. By late September, maximum counts are usually of <25 birds, although 100–140 were seen on several dates and 200 were counted 25 Sep 2015. Many of these birds may be part of arriving migrant flocks, some containing multiple McKay’s Buntings (see below). Such flocks of 20 to 60 Snows occurred 30 Sep–01 Oct 2002, 03 Oct 2003, 30 Sep–04 Oct 2004, and 06–07 Oct 2014. Two birds remained on 01 Nov 2004. Elsewhere on SLI, multiple flocks were between Savoonga eastward to Apavaghu at the east end of SLI 26 Sep 2006.

**Summer and Breeding:** This is the second most numerous nesting passerine on SLI (Fay and Cade 1959). Ehrlich et al. (1993) noted that the total estimated SLI population in 1959 was in the 10,000s.

**Winter:** Murie (1936) and Fay and Cade (1959) stated that small numbers likely overwinter on SLI. Singles were at Gambell 12 Jan 2007 and 31 Jan 2016, and up to 6 were present 12 Jan–28 Feb 2017 (high count 08 Feb). The species is rare in winter on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989).

**Comments:** There are several spring, summer, and fall sightings of likely hybrid Snow X McKay’s Buntings, and several records of hybrid pairings (see below).

**MCKAY’S BUNTING** *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*

- **Uncommon to rare fall and rare spring migrant. Casual in summer and winter.**

  **Spring:** This species formerly occurred at Gambell in small numbers almost every late spring, but it has declined after mid-May beginning in the early 1990s—compared to the period 1966–1989 (Ehrlich et al. 1993, pers. obs.). It is now rare to very rare in late May and early June, with an average of 1 or 2 birds every other year (highest total since 2002 is 4 birds during 2013). Earlier in the season, it remains fairly regular in small numbers between mid-April and early May; such sightings include high counts of 15 birds on 27 Apr 2003 increasing to 25+ males on 30 Apr. The earliest arrivals are 10 Apr 1978 (UAM files), “mid-Apr” 1978 (5 birds; UAM files), and 13 Apr 2016 (4). Late-season highs include up to 8 individuals per day during 22 May–04 Jun 1989 and a total of 6 birds during 25 May–06 Jun 2001. Late dates for spring migrants are difficult to determine due to the casual presence of local breeders; but spring transients have remained on a number of occasions through early June and several times into mid-June (e.g., 11 Jun 1989 (2), 13–15 Jun 1988, and 14–16 Jun 1975). Spring specimens (**UAM) come from Gambell 31 May and 07 Jun 1973.

  **Fall:** It occurs somewhat regularly at Gambell between late September and mid-October. Earlier birds were seen 21–27 Aug 1994, 23 Aug 1992, 30 Aug 2002, 07–09 Sep 1992, 08–12 Sep 2000 (up to 2), 11 Sep 2008, 15 Sep 2006, and 18–20 Sep 2016 (total 4). Late flocks of newly arrived Snow Buntings have contained small numbers of McKay’s on multiple occasions, particularly in beach grass and gravel in and south of the village. As many as 7–9 McKay’s were found on multiple dates during at least six years, with a seasonal total of ca. 27 individuals between 18 Sep–09 Oct 2016. In 2004, an exceptional 55 McKay’s were found on 01 Oct (one of
the largest counts ever away from St. Matthew and Hall Islands); 15 remained 02–04 Oct. A flock of 5 at Gambell 24 Nov 2016 were all or mostly all McKay’s (and see below).

**Summer and Breeding:** There is an old summer specimen (*ANSP) from [unspecified locality] SLI collected 29 Jun 1895 during “Sharp’s Alaska Expedition.” Evidence for apparent local breeding on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell involves a summering male in breeding condition from 29 Jun–25 Jul 1966 (*UBC; Sealy 1967b); a male (*UBC) involved in a hybrid pairing 26 May–04 Jun 1967 and another hybrid pairing with a second male (*UBC) with nest 28–30 Jun 1967 (Sealy 1969). On 16 Jun 1973, a male mated with a female Snow Bunting, plus an additional male, were seen (UAM files). And on 07 Jun 1987, a “pure” male “clearly paired” with a female Snow Bunting were noted. Away from Gambell, a female feeding a fledgling was found at Kongkok Bay 23 Jul 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

**Winter:** One was reported at Gambell 01 Jan 2016 and up to 20 McKay’s were there 12 Jan–12 Mar 2017 (high count on 08 Feb), perhaps some of the same birds as seen in late Nov 2016 (see above).

**Comments:** There are several additional spring, summer, and fall sightings of likely hybrid Snow X McKay’s Bunting. McKay’s Bunting breeds on St. Matthew and Hall Islands and winters along the mainland coast of Alaska from Kotzebue Sound south to the Alaska Peninsula (Kessel and Gibson 1978). It is a very rare visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and to Chukotka (Zagrebin et al. 2015, Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**Family Emberizidae: Old World Buntings**

**PINE BUNTING** *Emberiza leucocephalos*  
- Accidental fall visitor.

**Fall:** One bird was present at Gambell 18 Nov–02 Dec 2016 (ph. Lehman 2017), possibly as early as 11 Nov.

**Comments:** This is the fourth North American record, with previous fall records from the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). Pine Bunting breeds northeast to the northern Sea of Okhotsk near Magadan (Brazil 2009).

**YELLOW-BROWED BUNTING** *Emberiza chrysophrys*  
- Accidental fall visitor.

**Fall:** The first North American record was established by a bird found at Gambell 15 Sep 2007 (ph. Lehman 2008, ABACLC 2008, Lehman 2017).

**Comments:** This species breeds in central and southeastern Siberia from Lake Baikal east to Yakutsk and the Stanovoy Range (west of the Sea of Okhotsk), and it winters primarily in central and southeastern China (Cramp and Perrins 1994).

**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*  
- Very rare fall and accidental spring visitor.

**Spring:** There is just a single spring record—02–04 Jun 2008 at Gambell—the only one at this season for North America.

**Fall:** Between 1993 and 2017, 36 Little Buntings were found at Gambell, constituting a very large percent of the records for North America: 04 Sep 1993 (ABA 2002); 26–29 Aug 1996 (ph. Lehman 2005); 24 Sep 1999; 19–24 Sep 2001; 10–11 Sep and 30 Sep–02 Oct (ph. NAB

Comments: This species breeds northeast to the northern Anadyr River basin (AOU 1998) and at least occasionally north to the north shore of western Chukotka (Tomkovich 2007, Arkhipov et al. 2014). It is casual elsewhere in western Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and farther south in western North America.

**RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*
- **Very rare spring and casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** First found 10–11 Jun 1973 (2 birds; Kessel and Gibson 1978), there are now 14 spring records (involving 21 individuals) from Gambell through 2017. The earliest are 26 May 2009 and 2010, the latest 11 Jun 1973. The high count is 4 birds on 07 Jun 1982. Away from Gambell, I was on a sea cliff at Owalit Mountain, Kongkok Bay, 16–17 Jun 1987.
  
  **Fall:** The fall records are of individuals at Gambell 11 Sep 2010, 10 Oct 2011, 29 Sep–06 Oct 2014, and (late) 19–21 Oct 2017, and of 2 separate birds there 07 Oct 2015.
  
  **Comments:** Rustic Bunting breeds northeast to the Anadyr River basin (Arkhipov et al. 2008, Brazil 2009). It is a very rare spring and casual fall visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is casual elsewhere in coastal Alaska and farther south in western North America.

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola*
- **Accidental spring and fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** One sight record from Gambell on 26–27 Jun 1978 (Tolman 1979) was the first report for North America.
  
  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell on 02 Sep 2009 (ph. NAB 64:184). This established the sixth record for Alaska and the first in fall.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds north to the Anadyr River basin (Brazil 2009). There are also several spring records for the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and one record from Labrador.

**PALLAS’S BUNTING** *Emberiza pallasi*
- **Casual fall and spring visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** A published report of a bird seen 28 May 1973 (Johnson 1976, Kessel and Gibson 1978, Roberson 1980, ABA 2008) is not deemed here to have been adequately documented. A male was at Gambell 31 May–01 Jun 2017.
  
  **Fall:** One photographed at Gambell 24–26 Sep 2006 (ph. Birding World 19:440, NAB 61:178) established the third or fourth Alaska record and the first in autumn. Another was seen there on 15 Sep 2007. One with remnant juvenile plumage was found on 02 Sep 2009 (ph. NAB 64:184, Lehman 2017), as was another on 03–04 Sep 2011. Another was seen 02 Oct 2016.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds northeast to the northern Anadyr River basin and possibly to the base of the Chukchi Peninsula (Vaurie 1959, Andreev et al. 2005). It is casual to
accidental in spring and early summer on the western Aleutians and in northern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and in fall on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*
- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One photographed at Gambell 28–30 Aug 2002 (ph. *NAB* 57:144) established the first fall record for Alaska.
  - **Comments:** This species breeds northeast only to Kamchatka (AOU 1998). Elsewhere in Alaska, it is a casual spring visitor to the western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**Passerellidae: New World Sparrows and Towhees**

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** *Spizelloides arborea*
- **Very rare spring and fall visitor.**
  - **Spring:** First recorded in spring on 10 Jun 1973 (UAM files), there are now some 27 records (involving 31 individuals) through 2017, all from Gambell. The earliest is 23 May 2001, and the latest is 15–16 Jun 1975 (UAM files).
  - **Fall:** A single individual at Gambell 31 Aug 1966 (Sealy 1967a) has been followed by a total of 21 additional individuals there from 1999–2017 between 29 Aug 2000 and 27 Sep 2006 (2), with 10 of these during 2007.
  - **Comments:** This species breeds fairly commonly on the nearby Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is a very rare fall visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there are several records from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**CHIPPING SPARROW** *Spizella passerina*
- **Very rare fall and casual spring visitor.**
  - **Spring:** There are just two spring records, both from Gambell: 23 May 1956 (Fay and Cade 1959) and 09–10 Jun 2011.
  - **Fall:** Gambell has a surprising 41 fall individuals (all juveniles): 30–31 Aug 1998 and then 40 additional birds through 2017, with the records falling between 22 Aug 2007 and 06 Oct 2010. As many as 5 (in 2013) and 6 (in 2014) individuals have been seen in a single season, and a single flock of 4 was present 13 Sep 2014.
  - **Comments:** This species breeds no closer than east-central and southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, NGS 2017). It is also a very rare fall visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there is a single fall record from Wrangel Island (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** *Spizella pallida*
- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  - **Fall:** One was at Gambell 20 Sep 2003. This established the first record for western Alaska and only the fifth at the time for the entire state.
  - **Comments:** Clay-colored Sparrow breeds no closer than northeastern British Columbia and extreme southwestern Northwest Territories (NGS 2017). It is a casual visitor to Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).
SAVANNAH SPARROW  Passerculus sandwichensis

- Rare fall and very rare spring visitor.
  
  **Spring:** This species is rare to very rare but annual in spring at Gambell. The first island record was provided by 1 seen there 29 May 1966 (Sealy 1967a). Most years only 1 or 2 individuals are found, the earliest being the “week of 13 May” 1973 (Johnson 1976) and 19–21 May 2016, and the latest 15 Jun 1996. The highest single-day total is 3 birds on 03 Jun 1998.

  Away from Gambell, 1 was singing near Kongkok Bay on the late date of 16 Jun 1987.

  **Fall:** From 1994 through 2017, from 0 (in 2009) to 15 (in 2010) and 22 (in 2015) birds were found annually at Gambell between late August and the first week of October; except in 2004, when a strong migration produced a surprising 20–42 birds daily from 16–20 Aug (peak count on 17 Aug); the season total was 64 birds through 17 Sep (with 17 more around Savoonga 21–27 Aug). An earlier bird was seen at Gambell 01 Aug 1966 (Sealy 1967a). Single late birds occurred there through 10 Oct 2001 and on 13 Oct 2010.

  **Comments:** Savannah Sparrow is a common breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). This is one of the most regularly occurring mainland strays to St. Lawrence Island and the other western Alaska islands, and there are multiple records—including one involving a nesting pair—from Chukotka (Morozov and Tomkovich 1980, Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

FOX SPARROW  Passerella iliaca

- Rare fall and very rare spring visitor. Surprisingly, there are more records of the “Sooty” Fox Sparrow than of the “Red” Fox Sparrow.

  **Spring:** This species is very rare in spring, with all records but two at this season involving “Sooty” Fox Sparrows. The first record was from Gambell 27 May 1958 (* initially to AHRC, but currently cannot be located) and was thought to represent *P. i. sinuosa* from south-coastal Alaska (Sealy et al. 1971). Since then, an additional 17 records (including 18 individuals) have accumulated from there through 2017, the earliest being 01–02 May 2003, the latest through 13 Jun 2012. The only spring records of “Red” Fox Sparrows are from Gambell 27 May and 01 Jun 2016.

  **Fall:** Autumn reports total 83 Sooty at Gambell as follows: up to 2 on 29–30 Aug 1993; 80 individuals during 1997–2017 between 18 Aug 2004 and 09–10 Oct 2016 (up to 3), with 13 of these during 2007 and 14 during 2015, and 6 seen on 10 Sep 2007 alone; plus 1 exceptionally late bird on 31 Oct–01 Nov 2015. The 39 individuals of the Red subspecies have been found at Gambell as follows: 16 Sep 1999 and then 38 individuals (ph. *NAB* 59:187, Lehman 2005) during 2001–2017 between 30 Aug 2008 and 11 Oct 2016 and 20 Oct 2015; with 6 of these during 2014. In addition, single intermediate birds (dull *zaboria* or intergrades?) were photographed 25 Sep 2002 and 22 Sep 2003.

  **Comments:** The Sooty Fox Sparrow (*unalaschensis* subspecies group) breeds no closer than the Alaska Peninsula and south-coastal Alaska (Gibson and Kessel 1997), whereas the Red Fox Sparrow (*P. i. zaboria*), breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). Sooty Fox Sparrows predominate on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007, S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there are multiple records from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

LINCOLN’S SPARROW  Melospiza lincolnii

- Very rare fall and casual spring visitor.

  **Spring:** There are three spring records, all from Gambell: 27–29 May 1987, 31 May 1996, and 31 May 2013.

Comments: Lincoln’s Sparrow breeds northwest to central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), casually west to the Seward Peninsula. It is a casual visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW  Zonotrichia leucophrys

- Rare fall and casual spring visitor.

Spring: The first record at this season was established by a bird at Gambell 23–25 May 1973 (Johnson 1976). Records since then are 20 May 1987, 29 May–01 Jun 1996, 30 May 1998, 03–08 Jun 2000 (up to 2 birds, 1 having been just released from local captivity since the previous fall), 31 May 2005, 18–19 May 2015, 30 May–02 Jun 2015, and 28 May and 03 Jun 2016.


Comments: Three specimens (**USNM) collected at Gambell in late Aug and early Sep 1966 and 1968 were Z. l. gambelii (Sealy et al. 1971), a common breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989); all Gambell records are thought to involve this subspecies. White-crowned Sparrow is a very rare fall and casual spring visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), is casual to the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and there are multiple records from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW  Zonotrichia atricapilla

- Rare fall and casual or very rare spring visitor.

Spring: There are 12 spring records at Gambell: 03 Jun 1980 (UAM files) and 11 subsequent sightings between 26 May 2005 and 2016 and 05 Jun 1986 and 2013.

Fall: A total of 140 birds, all immatures, have been found at Gambell in autumn, all since 1993. The records range between 26+ Aug 2014 (2) and through 10 Oct 2017, on 15 Oct 2017, and on 21 October 2014. A high count of 7 birds were tallied on 09 Sep 2004, as was a high seasonal total of 20 in 2014. An early bird was in the Savoonga area 24 Aug 2004.

Comments: Golden-crowned Sparrow is a common breeder on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is an uncommon to rare fall and very rare spring visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), is casual to the central and western Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007), and there are multiple records from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

DARK-EYED JUNCO  Junco hyemalis

- Very rare spring and fall visitor. All records involve “Slate-colored” Dark-eyed Juncos except two of “Oregon” Junco.

Spring: The first island record was established by 2 birds collected at Gambell 21 May 1937 (Murie 1938; noted incorrectly as “1936” in Fay and Cade 1959). An additional specimen
(USNM) was obtained 28 May 1962 (Sealy et al. 1971), and 1 bird was seen 28 May 1973 (Johnson 1976). Since then, there have been 27 additional spring reports (involving 32 individuals) of “Slate-colored” Juncos through 2017, all from Gambell. They have occurred between 23 Apr–01 May 2017 (2) and 04–09 May 2003 and 11–12 Jun 2012 and 12 Jun 2016. A bird of uncertain subspecies showing some characters of “Oregon” Junco arrived 01–05 May 2003. The high season total is 6 birds in 2017. There is also 1 exceptional specimen record (*UBC) of an Oregon Junco (J. h. montanus [shufeldti]) collected at Gambell 31 May 1957 (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971); that subspecies breeds no closer than interior British Columbia.

Fall: All fall records, except one, are of Slate-colored Juncos, and most come from Gambell: 10 Sep 1966 (Sealy et al. 1971) and then 32 subsequent reports through 2017 between 04 Sep 2011 and 15 Oct 2015. Additional very late birds were there 23 Oct 2011, 01 Nov 2015, 05 Nov 2013, and 29 Oct–11 Nov 2008 (not “29 Oct” only—NAB 63:142). Individuals on 23 Oct 2011 and 1 Oct 2013 were possibly examples of J. h. cismontanus. Also, Fay and Cade (1959) cite a very late bird at Savoonga 28 Nov 1954; and single individuals were there in late Sep and mid-Oct 1980. There is also a single fall record of an Oregon Junco present at Gambell from 03–06 Oct 2017.

Comments: Slate-colored Juncos (subspecies J. h. hyemalis) breed west to western Alaska (Kessel 1989), whereas Oregon Juncos are not found normally north of southeast Alaska. Both subspecies have occurred in small numbers on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), as well as casually on the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007); and there are multiple records of Slate-coloreds in Chukotka and a single record of Oregon Junco from Wrangel Island (Zagrebin et al. 2015, Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

Family Icteridae: Blackbirds

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE Icterus bullockii

- Casual fall visitor.

Fall: One in female plumage at Gambell 03 Oct 2004 was approximately the fifth Bullock’s Oriole reported in Alaska, but in the absence of a specimen or recognizable photo the species remained on the state’s “unsubstantiated” list. However, this was followed by single female-plumaged birds there on 13–14 Sep (ph. Gibson et al. 2008, Lehman 2017), 23–24 Sep, and 23–29 Sep (ph. NAB 62:134) 2007, all of which were photographed.

Comments: This species breeds north only to southern British Columbia (NGS 2017). It is a casual visitor to mainland Alaska.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD Molothrus ater

- Casual fall visitor.

Fall: Single juveniles were photographed at Gambell 06–07 Sep 1998 (ph. NAB 53:91), and on 21–22 Aug, 30–31 Aug (ph. NAB 59:187), and 06–07 Sep 2004; and 1 was seen 31 Aug 2005; providing all but one of the records for the Bering Sea islands.

Comments: This species is a rare but regular visitor north to Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and also has been recorded in western Alaska on the Seward Peninsula (Kessel 1989) and offshore at the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). It breeds regularly only as close as the southern Yukon (NGS 2017).
RUSTY BLACKBIRD *Euphagus carolinus*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** There is a single spring specimen (*UAM*) of a female from Gambell 21 May 1937 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). A “male... skin without a date” from there (Murie 1938, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) is in fact the 1937 female (D. D. Gibson in litt.). A male was at Gambell 22 May 2017.
  
  **Fall:** Singles were present at Gambell 13 Sep 2004, 13 Sep 2014, and 15 Oct 2017. In addition, a late bird was collected (*USNM*) on the Putgut Plateau, west-central SLI, 25 Oct 1960 (Sealy et al. 1971).
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds in western Alaska (Kessel 1989). It is also a casual or accidental visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), Aleutians, and Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

Family Parulidae: Wood-Warblers

OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapilla*

- **Accidental fall visitor.**
  
  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 21–25 Sep 2007 (ph. NAB 62:132). This represented the first record for the Bering Sea region and only about the fourth for the state.
  
  **Comments:** Ovenbird breeds only as close as southeastern Yukon (NGS 2017). There is also a single fall record for the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *Parkesia noveboracensis*

- **Casual spring and fall visitor.**
  
  **Spring:** There are three spring records at Gambell: 09 Jun 1976 (UAM files), 06–08 Jun 1992, and 30 May 2004.
  
  **Fall:** Individuals were seen at Gambell 15 Aug and 19 Aug 2004, 27 Aug 2006, 04 Sep 2007, and 13–14 Sep 2009; and 2 separate, exceptionally late birds were found 07 Oct 2015.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It has also been recorded offshore on St. Matthew Island (Winker et al. 2002) and on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), as well as in Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Oreothlypis peregrina*

- **Casual fall visitor.**
  
  **Fall:** One at Gambell on 22 Sep 2001 (ph. NAB 56:128) was the first recorded for the Bering Sea and western Alaska. Additional individuals were present there from 15–17 Sep 2010 (ph. NAB 65:141), from 01–09 Oct and on 04 Oct 2016, and on 15–16 Sep 2017.
  
  **Comments:** This species is a rare visitor and possible sporadic breeder in eastern and southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), regular north to southern Yukon and western Northwest Territories (NGS 2017). It is casual on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER *Oreothlypis celata*

- **Rare fall and casual spring visitor.**
Spring: There are only two spring records, both from Gambell: 08 Jun 1993 (UAM files) and 29–31 May 2015.

Fall: This species was first recorded at Gambell 20 Aug 1999 (ph. NAB 54:91), yet reports of 65 individuals have accumulated from then through 2017. Sixty-one of these have looked like the drab subspecies O. c. celata, which breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989), although some individuals showing contrasty grayish heads may have been O. c. celata X lutescens intergrades from south-central Alaska (see DeCicco et al. 2017). The records are from between 16 Aug 2004 and 2014 and 08–12 Oct 2017 (up to 2) and 13 Oct 2015; including 4 each on 07 Sep 2004, 14 Sep 2007, and 15 Sep 2007, and a season-high total of 10 birds in both 2004 and 2007. Four birds appear to have been the more brightly colored subspecies O. c. lutescens from southeast Alaska and points south: 19 Sep 2001, 22 Sep 2002, 13 Sep 2014, and 02–08 Oct 2017.

Comments: This species is a rare but regular fall visitor to the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and is casual to the eastern Aleutians.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER Oreothlypis ruficapilla**
- Accidental fall visitor.

  Fall: One present at Gambell 05–07 Sep 2004 (ph. NAB 59:186) established the first photographically documented record for Alaska (there had been two previous sight reports from south-coastal Alaska).

  Comments: This species breeds no closer than southern British Columbia and southwestern Alberta (O. r. ridgwayi) and central Saskatchewan (O. r. ruficapilla) (NGS 2017). It is a casual fall visitor to Alaska, and there is just one other record for the Bering Sea region of a bird which landed on a ship in the central Bering in Sep 2009 (ph. NAB 64:184).

**MACGILLIVRAY’S WARBLER Geothlypis tolmiei**
- Casual fall visitor.

  Fall: One found at Gambell 26 Sep was presumably the same bird seen also 29 Sep 2002, the first recorded for the Bering Sea region. Additional birds were present on 04 Oct 2015 and from 04–09 Oct 2016.

  Comments: The species breeds north only to southeast Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and southern Yukon (NGS 2017).

**MOURNING WARBLER Geothlypis philadelphia**
- Casual fall visitor.

  Fall: A surprising 3 individuals have been found at Gambell: 1 was present 13 Sep 2010, another was seen 28–29 Sep 2012 (ph. NAB 67:179, Lehman 2017), and 1 was found 13 Sep 2014.

  Comments: This species breeds no closer than extreme southeastern Yukon (NGS 2017). There were just four previous Alaska records.

**AMERICAN REDSTART Setophaga ruticilla**
- Casual fall visitor.

  Fall: One present at Gambell 18–19 Sep 2004 (ph. NAB 59:186), was the first recorded in the Bering Sea region. Others were found there on 17 Sep 2005, 05–09 Sep 2007, and 23 Sep 2007.
Comments: This species breeds north only to southeast Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and western Northwest Territories (NGS 2017).

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Setophaga tigrina*  
- **Accidental fall visitor.**  
  **Fall:** One found at Gambell 09–11 Sep 2012 provided the second record for the Bering Sea and 12th Alaska record.  
  **Comments:** The first Bering Sea record was from the Pribilofs in 2011 (S. Schuette unpubl. data). Cape May Warbler breeds regularly northwest only to extreme southeastern Yukon (NGS 2017), although the species was discovered nesting in eastern Alaska in 2013 (*NAB* 67:640).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Setophaga magnolia*  
- **Casual fall visitor.**  
  **Fall:** One seen at Gambell 21 Sep 2002 provided the third record for the Bering Sea and the first for SLI. A late individual was found there 20 Oct 2011. And a third bird was present 08 Oct 2017.  
  **Comments:** This species is a very rare early-summer visitor to southeast Alaska and is casual elsewhere in the state (Kessel and Gibson 1978); it breeds regularly only as close as southeastern Yukon (NGS 2017).

YELLOW WARBLER *Setophaga petechia*  
- **Very rare fall visitor.**  
  **Fall:** First recorded on 31 Aug 1989, through 2017 the species totals 33 records at Gambell between 18 Aug 2004 and 26 Sep 2017, 05–06 Oct 2015, and 03–06 Oct 2017.  
  **Comments:** Yellow Warbler breeds throughout much of Alaska, including on the adjacent mainland (Kessel 1989). It is a rare but regular fall visitor on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER *Setophaga striata*  
- **Casual fall and accidental spring visitor.**  
  **Spring:** One was seen at Gambell 24–26 Jun 1985 (UAM files).  
  **Fall:** There are three records at Gambell: 26 Aug 1992, 11 Sep 2007, and 19 Sep 2017.  
  **Comments:** This species breeds to western Alaska (Kessel 1989) and is a casual fall visitor elsewhere offshore in the state.

PALM WARBLER *Setophaga palmarum*  
- **Casual fall visitor.**  
  **Fall:** Single “western” Palm Warblers (*S. p. palmarum*) were present at Gambell 29 Sep 2005 and 07 Oct 2015.  
  **Comments:** This species is casual in Alaska, where also accidental in fall on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data). It breeds west only to extreme east-central Yukon and northeastern British Columbia (NGS 2017).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER *Setophaga coronata*
• Very rare spring and fall visitor.
  
  **Spring:** First recorded on 01–04 Jun 1979, there are now 13 spring records through 2017, all from Gambell. The earliest are 03–09 May 2004 and 11–12 May 2005, and the latest are through 05 Jun 1987 and 1991.
  
  **Fall:** The 17 found at Gambell in fall are 26 Aug 2001 and then 16 subsequent records between 11 Sep 2007 and through 14 Oct 2010 and on 18–19 Oct 2017—including 2 together on 26 Sep 2014.
  
  **Comments:** All SLI records are referable to “Myrtle” Warblers (S. c. hooveri). Yellow-rumped Warbler breeds west to western Alaska (Kessel 1989) and it also occurs very rarely or casually on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data) and Aleutians—where S. c. auduboni (“Audubon’s” Warbler) has occurred once as well (Gibson and Byrd 2007)—and in Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

**TOWNSEND’S WARBLER** Setophaga townsendi

• Casual fall and accidental spring visitor.
  
  **Spring:** There is one spring record at Gambell 28 May 2004.
  
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds north to south-coastal and west to east-central Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, NGS 2017). It has been found casually on other western Alaska islands as well.

**WILSON’S WARBLER** Cardellina pusilla

• Rare fall and casual spring visitor.
  
  **Spring:** There is only one spring record of a single individual at Gambell 02 Jun 2016.
  
  **Fall:** First recorded on SLI in 1935, with a specimen collected (*UAM, C. p. pileolata) east of Savoonga 06 Sep and 3 additional birds seen there “during the previous week” (Murie 1936). Sealy et al. (1971) cited 4 birds at Gambell 28–31 Aug 1966 and 1 on 30 Aug 1967. A specimen (*UAM) from Gambell was collected 15 Sep 1972. From 1994 through 2017, 39 individuals were found there between 18 Aug 2004 and 05–06 Oct 2012 and 07 Oct 2015, with a high count of 6 on 19 Aug 2004.
  
  **Comments:** This species breeds on the adjacent Alaska mainland (Kessel 1989). It is rare but regular in fall on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data), and there are several fall records from Chukotka (Arkhipov and Lawicki 2016).

Family Cardinalidae: Cardinals, Piranga Tanagers, and Allies

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** Pheucticus melanocephalus

• Accidental fall visitor.
  
  **Fall:** A young male was present at Gambell 26 Sep 2005 (ph. *NAB* 60:122). This is the sole Bering Sea record.
  
  **Comments:** This species is a very rare or casual visitor to southeast and south-coastal Alaska. It breeds no closer than southern or central British Columbia (NGS 2017).
**LAZULI BUNTING** *Passerina amoena*

- *Accidental fall visitor.*
  
  **Fall:** One was present at Gambell 02–06 Oct 2016 (ph. Lehman 2017).
  
  **Comments:** This species is casual anywhere in Alaska; the nearest previous record was from Anchorage. It nests only as close as southern British Columbia (NGS 2017).

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**UNACCEPTED, HYPOTHETICAL, and OFFSHORE RECORDS**

**[ROCK PIGEON** *Columba livia*

A domestic pigeon wearing a leg band (i.e., a homing pigeon) was reported by Gambell residents sometime during autumn 1964 (Sealy et al. 1971).]

**[UPLAND SANDPIPER** *Bartramia longicauda*

A report of “a pair” on dry tundra ca. 8 km (5 mi) south of Gambell on 22 Aug 1972 (Johnson 1974) was deemed “not convincing” by Kessel and Gibson (1978). This species nests to central and northern Alaska (NGS 2017.) It is an accidental visitor on the Pribilofs (S. Schuette unpubl. data).]

**[RED-FACED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax urile*

This species regularly occurs north only to the Pribilofs. Reported from SLI in some of the early literature (e.g., Nelson 1887). Bones in ancient midden sites were said to come from both ends of the island (Friedmann 1934a). There are also several recent sight reports from the point at Gambell, none adequately documented and most or all assumed to involve misidentified Pelagic Cormorants, some of which may appear ca. 10 percent larger than do most individuals of that species.]

**[LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

- *Accidental spring visitor offshore.*
  
  **Spring:** One bird of uncertain subspecies was aboard a ship ca. 70 km (43 mi) southwest of SLI 19 May 2006 (ph. Gibson et al. 2008).
  
  **Comments:** This species is casual anywhere in Alaska. It is regularly found north only to central British Columbia (NGS 2017). This Bering Sea individual was more likely a migrant from Asia and thus would involve nominate *A. o. otus* (Gibson et al. 2008).]

**[AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** *Spinus tristis*

A report of 3 birds near Gambell 10 Aug 1964 (Sealy et al. 1971) is probably in error. This species is casual in Alaska, with only a few records of single birds in the state (e.g., Gibson and Kessel 1992). It nests north only to southern or central British Columbia and Alberta (NGS 2017).]
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PHOTO CAPTIONS

Introduction

BERING SEA REGIONAL MAP
XXXXXXXX. Map by Cindy Lippincott

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND MAP
XXXXXXXX. Map by Cindy Lippincott

GAMBELL AIR PHOTOS
Three aerial views showing Gambell village, which sits on a gravel bar at Northwest Cape, the northwest tip of St. Lawrence Island. The first two photos are looking south. Sevuokuk Mountain is in the left foreground, Troutman Lake is immediately south of the village, and the mountains of the southwest part of the island are in the background. The photo at left was taken in late May 1989 (a rather cold and snow-bound spring); the middle photo was taken on 05 Sep 2014. The photo at right, also taken on 05 Sep 2014, is looking east, over Sevuokuk Mountain and toward Savoonga at the far left-rear corner. Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman and Jay Gilliam (2)

GAMBELL VILLAGE
Two views of Gambell village, showing ‘main street’ on 30 May 2017, left, and looking northwest across the upper end of Troutman Lake from along the base of Sevuokuk Mountain on 03 Sep 2014, right. Photos (2) by Steve Hampton and Paul E. Lehman

CHUKCHI PENINSULA
The closest point on Russia’s Chukchi Peninsula (background) is located only some 73 km (45 mi) northwest of Gambell, here on 02 Jun 2017, a day with especially sharp visibility. In the foreground is the east edge of Gambell village, showing the corner of the Gambell school and the town’s power plant. Photo by Steve Hampton

GAMBELL/SEVUOKUK VEGETATION
This photo taken 13 Sep 2014 shows the typical talus and vegetation of lower mountain slopes, here on Sevuokuk Mountain, including forbs, grasses and sedges, mosses, and lichens. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

BONEYARDS AERIAL VIEW
This aerial shot looking west over Gambell on 29 Aug 2015 shows the village, Northwest Cape (“the point”), Troutman Lake, and the three boneyards. The latter sites show up as dark green areas; the most obvious in this view is the “circicular boneyard,” located in the gravel flats just right of center, while the “far boneyard” is found to its left, just before the road, and the “near boneyard” is close to the west shore, at the far, southwest corner of the village. Photo by Herb Fechter

BONEYARDS GROUND VIEWS & VEGETATION
Photographs showing Gambell’s boneyard vegetation. At left, the near boneyard on 31 Aug 2014; middle, the extreme southeast corner of the near boneyard and the edge of Gambell village 31 Aug 2014; right, birders beginning a “sweep” of the far boneyard, with Sevuokuk Mountain behind, 03 Sep 2014. Note the lush vegetation of the boneyards in early fall compared to the nearby tundra and gravel. The dominant boneyard plants are two species of Artemisia, known colloquially as “wormwood.” The boneyards and mountainside are a magnet to most of the regular migrants and the vagrant landbirds from both Asia and mainland North America. Photos (3) by Jay Gilliam
The far boneyard on 30 May 2011 showing the dead, shriveled remains of the previous year’s growth, but which are still attractive to a number of spring migrants, especially when substantial snow-cover remains. *Photo by Jay Gilliam*

GAMBELL OLD TOWN/BOATYARD
Three views of Gambell’s “Old Town” or “Boatyard,” another area supporting lush patches of wormwood and attractive to avian migrants, here in fall 2014 (left; with umiak frame), on 14 Sep 2007 (middle; with vagrant Bullock’s Oriole perched on a bone), and in early winter on 02 Dec 2016 (right). *Photos (3) by Jay Gilliam, David W. Sonneborn, and Barrett Pierce*

SAVOONGA
Savoonga is located along the north shore of SLI some 62 km (40 mi) east of Gambell. Built in part on the fairly wet tundra, raised wooden walkways snake around parts of the village. These photos were taken in Jul 2004 (left) and on 11 Jun 2006 (right). *Photos (2) by Lisa Sheffield Guy*

KOOKOOLIGIT MOUNTAINS
The highest mountains on SLI are the Kookooligit Mountains south of Savoonga, which reach an elevation of up to 673 m (2207 ft). This view, looking north on 01 Sep 2006, shows highland habitat of sparse tundra and lichen- and moss-covered volcanic rock. The breeding avifauna of this area is poorly known. Several brief nesting-season visits did take place, however, to the mountains of southwestern SLI between the 1960s and 1980s, where both Northern Wheatear and Red-throated Pipit were confirmed breeding (e.g., near headwaters of the Boxer River). Much rarer—and to date involving only unconfirmed reports or rumors—would be the past or present-day possible breeding of Eurasian Dotterel, Great Knot, Wandering Tattler, and Kittlitz’s Murrelet at several of the higher island sites. *Photo by Lisa Sheffield Guy*

WILDFLOWERS
The Bering Sea islands are known for their excellent summer wildflower displays, typically peaking during July. This photo captures the show at Pinaapuk (Pennaghpuk), west of Savoonga, on 19 Jul 2003. *Photo by Lisa Sheffield Guy*

SLI COASTAL HABITATS
These two images from along the island’s north shore show (at left) the view on 13 Jul 2004 looking westward from Kiveepuk, just west of Savoonga, toward Sevuokuk Mountain (Gambell) in the far distance; and (at right) Tammiq Lagoon along the northeast coast on 02 Sep 2006. There are numerous large coastal lagoons on SLI, many of which support substantial numbers of waterbirds. *Photos (2) by Lisa Sheffield Guy*

STOLBI ROCKS, NORTHEAST CAPE, & APAVAGHU
Only limited ornithological exploration has taken place on much of St. Lawrence Island away from the Gambell area. These views show three widespread habitats found elsewhere on the island: volcanic talus slopes and mesic tundra, here near Stolbi Rocks along the north shore of the island, east of Savoonga, on 04 Sep 2006 (left); tundra vegetation and military detritus near Northeast Cape on 02 Sep 2006 (middle); and lowland wet tundra with ponds and lakes, here near Apavaghu at the east end of the island, on 06 Oct 2006 (right). *Photos (3) by Lisa Sheffield Guy*

GAMBELL SEAWATCH
Almost every birding day at Gambell in both spring and fall starts with a seawatch at the point, lasting one to two hours or more. Additional seawatches may take place at other times of the day and evening as well, depending on the weather and the movement of birds. This photo was taken soon after dawn on 03 Sep 2004. *Photo by Brian L. Sullivan*

*Species Accounts*

EMPEROR GOOSE
Emperor Geese are uncommon spring migrants at Gambell. These birds were seen 06 Jun 2012 (left) and 03 Jun 2017 (right). Thousands of birds formerly were found molting at lagoons along the south side of SLI during summer, although current numbers there are uncertain. Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer and James Levison

Large numbers of Emperors may pass Gambell in early fall, especially immediately after an initial switch in wind direction to the north during late August or early September. The highest counts have reached over 900 birds in a single morning. This group was part of a flight on 01 Sep 2014. Photo by Jay Gilliam

Juvenile Emperor Geese are surprisingly scarce amongst the many adults that may pass Gambell during the fall. This individual was found 03–08 Oct (here 03 Oct) 2017, during the early-October period when most of the few juveniles have been seen. Photo by Sue Bryer

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Uncommon in spring and casual in fall, Greater White-fronted Geese are not known to nest on SLI. This bird was at Gambell 05 Jun 2017. Photo by James Levison

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE

There are nine spring records of Tundra Bean-Goose, plus an additional four of bean-geese sp. This Tundra Bean-Goose with a Greater White-fronted Goose was present 25–26 (here 25) May 2017. Photo by Sue Bryer

Bean-Geese are much rarer in western Alaska in fall than in spring, and there are only two autumn records at Gambell, one involving a Tundra and one of a bean-geese sp. The latter involves this bird flying by with an Emperor Goose on 16 Sep 2014. Photos sent to several authorities were variously identified as Taiga Bean-Goose, Tundra Bean-Goose, and “uncertain”! Photo by Paul E. Lehman

BRANT

Brant are uncommon to fairly common migrants, and small numbers likely breed very locally elsewhere on the island. This flock was photographed passing the point at Gambell 28 May 2017. Photo by James Levison

CACKLING GOOSE

A very rare spring and casual fall visitor, most Cackling Geese at Gambell are assumed to involve the subspecies B. h. tauneni. The two birds (left) were found 27 May 2016 and the three (middle) flew by on 31 May 2017. The single individual (right) established only the second fall record at Gambell and was late on 15 Oct 2017; its small overall size and bill suggest it might be B. h. minima. Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman, James Levison, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

TUNDRA SWAN

Tundra Swan is an uncommon to fairly common migrant and breeder on SLI, but at Gambell proper, it is an uncommon spring and casual fall migrant. Many birds are seen only flying past the village, such as this flock (left) on 01 Jun 2017. This immature bird (right) is one of the few fall birds found at the village and was photographed 29 Sep 2013. Photos (2) by James Levison and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

Establishing one of only two island records of “Bewick’s” Tundra Swan (C. c. bewickii), this individual was at Gambell 11 Jun 2015. Photo by Linda Pittman

WHOOPER SWAN

There are only three records of Whooper Swan for SLI, plus one more involving a “Bewick’s”/Whooper. This Whooper was present 02–03 May (here 03 May) 2013. Photo by Brad Benter

BAIKAL TEAL

Baikal Teal is a casual visitor to North America, with most recent western Alaska records from the fall season, including this bird at Gambell from 31 Aug–02 Sep (here 31 Aug) 2013. It established the second island record. Photo by Aaron J. Lang

The first SLI record of Baikal Teal was established by this pair collected at Savoonga 23 Jul 1937. But the specimens, housed at USNM (Smithsonian), are in pristine alternate plumage, perhaps casting doubt on the accuracy of the collection date. Photo by Brian Schmidt

EURASIAN WIGEON

The latest spring record of the rare-but-regular Eurasian Wigeon was established by a pair present through 17 Jun 2017, the male here on 15 Jun. Photo by Paul E. Lehman
This flock of nine Eurasian Wigeon and one Northern Pintail flew by the Gambell seawatch on 02 Sep 2014. The high single-flock count of Eurasian Wigeon is 20 birds on 01 Sep 2009. Photo by James Levison

AMERICAN WIGEON
American Wigeon are very rare but almost annual spring visitors but are only of casual occurrence in fall. Two of the six autumn records at Gambell were established by a pair on 07 Sep 2016 (left) and by a single bird with Northern Pintails and a Eurasian Wigeon 08 Sep 2017 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Greg Scyphers

MALLARD
Mallards are very rare (spring) to casual (fall) visitors to SLI and include these males at Gambell from 29 May–08 Jun (here 08 Jun) 1993 (left) and on 26 May 2016 (right). Photos (2) by Gil Ewing and Aaron J. Lang

NORTHERN PINTAIL
Northern Pintails are fairly common migrants and uncommon breeders on the island. The bird at left—one of five present—established a record-early spring arrival at Gambell on 14 Apr 2017; whereas the bird at right is the latest in fall, on 10 Oct 2016. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Paul E. Lehman

GREEN-WINGED TEAL
The photo at left depicts a mixed grouping of Green-winged Teal, with a single “Eurasian” (left), “American” (center), and intergrade (right); Gambell 19 May 2017. At right, this intergrade bird on 27 May 2014 shows both a faint vertical and a horizontal white stripe, as well as bolder buffy facial “frames” more typical of Eurasian. Americans typically outnumber Eurasians in spring by about 3 to 1. Photos (2) by Sue Bryer and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

In autumn, all Green-winged Teal are in eclipse plumage and, to date, none have been identified to subspecies. This individual was present 03 Sep 2014. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

COMMON POCHARD
There are only two records of Common Pochard for SLI, including this female at Gambell on 17 May 2006. This species occurs somewhat more regularly farther to the south at the Aleutians and Pribilofs. Photo by Brad Benter

TUFTED DUCK
Like the pochard, Tufted Duck occurs more regularly at the Aleutians and Pribilofs than it does in the northern Bering Sea region. At Gambell, this species is merely a casual visitor, with nine spring and one fall records through 2017. This pair (left) was present 15 May 2006, and the single bird (right) on 29 Oct 2014 represents the only autumn sighting. Photos (2) by Brad Benter and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

GREATER SCAUP
Greater Scaup are uncommon spring and casual fall migrants at Gambell. Most birds in spring are seen flying by the point, such as this male on 02 Jun 2017 (left). One of the surprisingly few records during autumn is of this individual present 21 Aug–24 Sep (here 31 Aug) 2009 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Monte M. Taylor

Although small numbers of Greater Scaup probably nest on SLI, the only documented record to date involves this family group at Gambell 09 Aug–23 Sep (here 09 Aug) 2012. Photo by Stan Watson

LESSER SCAUP
One of only three records of Lesser Scaup for the island was established by these two birds (with a Horned Puffin) present on Troutman Lake at Gambell 04 Sep 2005. Photo by Aaron J. Lang

STELLER’S EIDER
Steller’s Eider is likely declining in numbers and presently is an uncommon migrant at Gambell. It was a former rare and irregular breeder on SLI as well. Most birds at Gambell are seen flying by the point, such as this flock of males and females on 03 Jun 2015 (left) and of two males (with Crested Auklets) on 06 Jun 2016 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Kevin J. Zimmer

All Steller’s Eiders seen during the fall are in eclipse plumage, such as these birds on 02 Oct 2014. Photo by Chris Feeney

SPECTACLED EIDER
Spring migrant Spectacled Eiders have arrived at Gambell as early as mid-April, such as this female on 15 Apr 2017. Photo by Sue Bryer

While only a handful of Spectacled Eiders are typically seen during early autumn, spectacular flights of west- and southwest-bound birds pass the north shore of SLI at both Gambell and Savoonga some years during late September and early October. Recent seasonal totals have reached as many as 18,000 birds. On 29 Sep 2010, large flocks photographed here passing Akeftapak Bay, just east of Gambell, totaled some 6200 individuals. Photos (3) by Lucas H. DeCicco

A very large percent of the Spectacled Eider population winters in openings in the pack ice approximately 130 km south of SLI, yet the species is only very rarely seen in winter from the island, such as these males at Gambell on 05 Jan 2017 (left) and 08 Feb 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Sue Bryer

KING EIDER
King Eider is a fairly common to common, but probably declining, migrant at Gambell. Flocks are seen regularly passing the point (left, 30 May 2011) and loafing in somewhat protected waters just south of the village (right, 26 May 2011). Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam

The status of King Eider in SLI waters during winter depends on the presence or absence of open water. Thus, this species is of irregular occurrence. These males were present 21 Nov 2016 (left) and 31 Jan 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Sue Bryer

COMMON EIDER
Common Eiders winter in leads and polynyas in the northern Bering Sea. This pair (left), with a female King Eider, were at Gambell 23 Mar 2014. Large masses totaling some 5000–10,000 birds were present off Gambell from Dec 2016 to early Feb 2017, including these birds on 19 Jan (middle) and 02 Feb (right). Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2) and Sue Bryer

HARLEQUIN DUCK
Despite being a fairly common to common species at SLI, Harlequin Ducks are not known to breed there. Rather, they utilize the island as major molt site. Birds making daily foraging flights past the point at Gambell are fairly common and include these on 06 Jun 2016. Photo by Kevin J. Zimmer

The only certain winter record of Harlequin Duck for SLI is of this pair (with a Long-tailed Duck) at Gambell 28 Feb 2017. Normally, Harlequins winter no farther north than at the Pribilofs or possibly to St. Matthew Island. Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

SURF SCOTER
These two male Surf Scoters accompanying a White-winged Scoter (likely of the Asian subspecies stejnegeri) flew by the point at Gambell on 07 Jun 2016. Surf Scoters are very rare though almost annual spring visitors and have yet to be recorded during fall. Photo by Brian Gibbons

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER
A regular migrant in small-to-moderate numbers, White-winged Scoters of both the North American subspecies M. f. deglandi and the Asian form M. f. stejnegeri are known to occur. Many individuals are not seen well enough to be identified confidently to subspecies, but most males so identified appear to be deglandi, with small numbers of stejnegeri also occurring in spring. Three different stejnegeri—showing their unique nostril shape and black flanks—are shown here, on 02 Jun 2002 (left), 05 Jun 2009 (middle), and 31 May 2016 (right). Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Kevin J. Zimmer, and Liam Singh

BLACK SCOTER
Black Scoter is an uncommon migrant at Gambell, with virtually all birds seen flying by the point—such as this individual on 04 Jun 2017. Photo by James Levison

LONG-TAILED DUCK
Huge concentrations of Long-tailed Ducks winter in open water off SLI, including these birds at Gambell 10 Feb 2017. As soon as most sea-ice has melted in late May they largely depart, leaving small-to-moderate numbers to summer and breed on the island. This migrant was flying past Gambell 04 Jun 2015. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and James Levison
COMMON GOLDENEYE
Common Goldeneye is a very rare spring and casual fall visitor to SLI. One of the only two autumn records is this bird at Gambell from 14 Aug–12 Sep (here 27 Aug) 2012. *Photo by David Pavlik*

BARROW’S GOLDENEYE
The sole record of Barrow’s Goldeneye for Gambell and SLI was this female present 31 May 2010. *Photo by Gerard Koonooka*

SMEW
The sole record of Smew for Gambell and SLI was established by this pair found on 24 May 2009. Most Alaska reports are from farther south, especially from the western and central Aleutians. *Photos (2) by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich*

COMMON MERGANSER
Almost all of the more than 25 spring records of Common Merganser on SLI have involved the North American subspecies, *M. m. americanus*, or individuals unidentified to race. These two *americanus* were at Gambell on 10 Jun 2016 (left) and 28 May 2017 (middle), whereas the birds on right were two of three very late individuals found on 24 Nov 2017. There are only one to a few island records of Old World *M. m. merganser* (“Goosander”). *Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman, Max Schwenne, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
Red-breasted Merganser is an uncommon migrant on SLI, with most birds at Gambell seen flying by the point, such as this small flock on 02 Jun 2015. The species’ nesting status on the island is uncertain. *Photo by James Levison*

WILLOW PTARMIGAN
The sole record of Willow Ptarmigan for SLI was established by this individual found at Gambell on 31 May 2012. The bird could have originated in either mainland North America or Asia. *Photo by Nigel Milbourne*

HORNED GREBE
A very rare to casual visitor that could originate from either North America or Asia, Horned Grebe has been found at Gambell in both spring and fall. The alternate-plumaged bird (left) was found on the surprisingly early fall date of 03–04 Aug (here 03 Aug) 2016, whereas the basic-plumaged bird on 30 Sep 2012 (right) was at a more “expected” time of year. *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and David Pavlik*

RED-NECKED GREBE
Red-necked Grebes are rare-but-regular migrants, and there is also one confirmed nesting record on SLI. These very late birds were present at Gambell 27 Oct–19 Nov (here 19 Nov) 2016 (left) and 07 Dec 2017 (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE
Establishing one of only a small number of records of Oriental Turtle-Dove in Alaska and North America, this long-staying individual remained at Gambell from 07–22 Oct (here 15 Oct, left and middle, and 22 Oct, right) 2011. *Photos (3) by Barrett Pierce (2) and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

COMMON CUCKOO
Common Cuckoos are very rare late-spring and casual summer and fall visitors to western Alaska islands. There are several mainland records as well. The five or six records at Gambell include these birds on 06 or 07 Jun 1999 (left) and on 02 Jun 2014 (right). *Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer and Bob Dittrick*

ORIENTAL CUCKOO
The six SLI records of this casual visitor to western Alaska are evenly divided between very late spring, summer, and fall. This bird was present 23 Aug 1999. Note the underwing pattern and buffy undertail coverts. *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman (left) and Tony Leukering (right)*

COMMON NIGHTHAWK
An accidental visitor, this Common Nighthawk established the only record for SLI and the offshore Bering Sea region and was present from (uncertain date) Jul–15 Aug (here 06 Aug) 2006.  Photo by Gerard Koonooka

FORK-TAILED SWIFT
The sole island and northern Bering Sea record of Fork-tailed Swift involves this bird found alive by local residents at Gambell on 15 Sep 1993.  Photo by K. Slwooko

SANDHILL CRANE
Sandhill Cranes are fairly common spring but very rare fall migrants at Gambell, although larger numbers are found farther east on the island where they are also uncommon breeders. Most birds at Gambell are seen as flocks flying by, such as these birds, left, on 01 Jun 2015. The pair (middle) were rare residents at Gambell 17 Aug–01 Sep (here 01 Sep) 2017. The individual at right, near Savoonga, was late on 09 Oct 2010.  Photos (3) by James Levison (2) and Elizabeth Labunski

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER
Surprisingly scarce on the Bering Sea islands, Black-bellied Plover is a very rare to casual spring and fall migrant on SLI. This individual was at Gambell on 07 Sep 1997.  Photo by Don Cunningham

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER
The true status of American Golden-Plover on SLI is clouded by its pre-1993 taxonomic lumping with the common Pacific Golden-Plover and by identification issues. It is thought to be a very rare to casual visitor. These alternate-plumaged birds were present 30 May 1992 (left) and 13 Jun 2016 (right).  Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Paul E. Lehman
This fall juvenile American Golden-Plover was one of a surprising six individuals discovered on 21 Aug 1999.  Photo by Paul E. Lehman

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER
Formerly more numerous in the Gambell area in spring and summer, Pacific Golden-Plovers occur there now in small numbers and mostly as transients, including this bird on 21 May 2016.  Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.
Pacific Golden-Plovers remain fairly numerous in fall on SLI. The bright juvenile (left) was photographed 10 Sep 2016, near the peak of autumn migration. The two additional juveniles here were both late, somewhat so on 10 Oct 2010 (middle) and record late on 20 Oct 2014 (right).  Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Lucas H. DeCicco, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

LESSESR SAND-PLOVER
Lesser Sand-Plovers are rare to very rare but almost annual visitors from Asia in both spring and fall. Over 80 individuals have been found in spring since the first bird in 1935, and the autumn total now is close to 50 birds. These spring adults were photographed 10 Jun 2012 and 30 May 2017.  Photos (2) by Benjamin M. Clock and Max Schwenne
Almost all fall records of Lesser Sand-Plover involve juvenile birds, such as this one on 07 Sep 2014.  Photo by James Levison
There is also one island nesting record of Lesser Sand-Plover, at Gambell from 19 Jun–11 Jul (here 11 Jul) 2006. This is one of the very few nesting records in Alaska and North America.  Photo by Gerard Koonooka

COMMON RINGED PLOVER
Gambell is perhaps the most accessible site in North America to see Common Ringed Plover. Up to several pairs are present most years in late spring and early summer. These spring individuals were photographed 11 Jun 2012 (left), 05 Jun 2015 (middle), and 03 Jun 2016 (right).  Photos (3) by Lucas H. DeCicco and Kevin J. Zimmer (2)
Juvenile Common Ringed Plovers may remain at Gambell until late August, including these birds on 16 Aug 2014 (left) and 21 Aug 2014 (right).  Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman
Nesting of Common Ringed Plover has been documented at Gambell and elsewhere on SLI several years, including an adult incubating eggs (left) on 09 Jun 2012 and a nest with eggs (right) on 06 Jul 2011.  Photos (2) by Benjamin M. Clock and David Milsom

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER
Semipalmated Plover numbers have increased in the Gambell area over the past several decades, and it is now a fairly common breeding species. These adults were present 03 Jun 2015 (left) and 27 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Max Schwenne

EURASIAN DOTTEREL
Eurasian Dotterel was formerly a rare or very rare late-spring visitor and possible breeder at Gambell and perhaps elsewhere on SLI. In fact, Gambell was the place to see this species in North America. However, the records have dried up since 2000, and this species has become an even less frequent visitor to North America. Possible declines or shifts in the nesting populations in eastern Russia are thought likely to blame. These three individuals were at Gambell 08 Jun 1992 (left), 05 Jun 1995 (middle), and 06 Jun 2000 (right). Photos (3) by Kevin J. Zimmer, Gil Ewing, and Gary H. Rosenberg

WHIMBREL
Whimbrel is a rare to very rare but regular migrant on SLI. Both the North American subspecies, hudsonicus, and the Asian subspecies, variegatus, occur. In spring, variegatus is more numerous, whereas in fall hudsonicus dominates. These two variegatus (left) were present 02 Jun 1994, three days after a record-high seven birds were seen. This single hudsonicus (right) was photographed 05 Aug 2014, the earliest fall arrival. Photos (2) by Monte M. Taylor and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

LITTLE CURLEW
The first of two Gambell records of Little Curlew in spring also established the first record for Alaska. That bird was present 07–08 Jun (here 08 Jun) 1989. Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer

BAR-TAILED GODWIT
Surprisingly scarce in occurrence on SLI, Bar-tailed Godwits are very rare spring and casual fall migrants. These individuals were at Gambell on the early dates of 14 May 2013 and 10–14 May (here 10 May) 2015. Photos (2) by Brad Benter and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT
The second of only two spring records of Black-tailed Godwit at Gambell was established by this individual present 22–28 May (here 27 May) 2006. Photo by Bob Dittrick

RUDDY TURNSTONE
Ruddy Turnstone appears to be declining in numbers and is now a rare spring and uncommon fall migrant and very rare breeder on SLI. Almost all birds seen in fall after early August are juveniles, such as this flock at Gambell 10 Sep 2012 (left), whereas the adult on 25 Aug 2016 (right) was very rare for that date. Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang and Paul E. Lehman

BLACK TURNSTONE
Black Turnstone is a very rare spring visitor. This individual, with a Pacific Golden-Plover, was at Gambell 17 May 2017. Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

GREAT KNOT
There are more spring records of Great Knot at Gambell and Nome than at any other sites in North America. Some 15 birds have been found at the former in spring, whereas there is only a single fall record (involving a juvenile). Spring individuals include those shown here on 03 Jun 1987, 05 Jun 1994, 06 Jun 1994, and 30 May 2003. Photos (4) by Ed Greaves, Kevin J. Zimmer, Monte M. Taylor, and Gary H. Rosenberg

RED KNOT
Of only very rare to casual occurrence on SLI and the other Bering Sea islands, migrant Red Knots have been found only slightly more often in spring than in fall. The adult (left) was at Gambell 04 Jun 1994, whereas the two juveniles (right) were found 20 Aug 2016. Photos (2) by Monte M. Taylor and Paul E. Lehman

RUFF
Ruff is a rare spring migrant, with the first record in 1933 and found almost annually since 1974. In contrast, there is only a single fall record for the island. Spring birds include those shown here on 02 Jun 2001, 26 May 2012, and 04 Jun 2013. Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Greg W. Lasley, and Kevin J. Zimmer

An impressive 31 Ruffs accumulated at Gambell during the morning of 31 May 2006, including these four birds (with a Long-billed Dowitcher). Photo by Kevin J. Zimmer

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER
Of only casual occurrence in spring, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are uncommon fall migrants, when all birds to date—except two—have been juveniles. Single-day totals in autumn have reached as high as 46 birds, and seasonal totals have reached as high as 84. These juveniles were photographed on 28 Aug 2004 (left), 03 Sep 2017 (middle), and record-late 08–10 Oct (here 09 Oct) 2016 (right). Photos (3) by Brian L. Sullivan, James Levison, and Paul E. Lehman

Establishing just one of two fall records of an adult Sharp-tailed at Gambell, this individual was photographed 02 Sep 2013. Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

TEMMINCK’S STINT
Gambell is one of the most reliable sites in spring in North America for Temminck’s Stint, although it is still only a very rare visitor there, with 26 records at that season through 2017. These alternate-plumaged adults were photographed on 26 May 2012 (left) and 05 Jun 2013 (right). Photos (2) by Greg W. Lasley and Kevin J. Zimmer

Late and apparently in first-alternate plumage, this Temminck’s Stint at Gambell was present 13 Jun 2016. Photo by Craig Tumer

LONG-TOED STINT
Very rare in spring and casual in fall, Long-toed Stints at Gambell include this adult (left) on 05 Jun 2002 and juvenile (right) on 21 Aug 1999. Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Tony Leukering

RED-NECKED STINT
Red-necked Stints are regular spring visitors in small numbers, as they are in early fall before most observers arrive. These adult males and females were present (clockwise) 29 May 2003, 05 Jun 2013, 04 Jun 2015, 03 Jun 2016, and 03 Jun 2016. Photos (5) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Kevin J. Zimmer, James Levison, and Kevin J. Zimmer (2)

The presence of displaying and long-staying Red-necked Stints well into June suggest that the species is probably a rare breeder on SLI, but nesting locally has yet to be proven. This individual was photographed at Gambell 24 Jul 2016, and it could have been either an over-summering bird or a fall migrant. Photo by Sue Bryer

Small numbers of juvenile Red-necked Stints occur regularly during August, including these individuals on 23 Aug 2001 (left) and 26 Aug 2014 (right). Photos (2) by Julian Hough and Paul E. Lehman

SANDERLING
Sanderlings are surprisingly scarce migrants through the offshore Bering Sea region, and at SLI it is a casual spring and rare fall migrant. This juvenile (left) was at Gambell 30 Aug 2016. The basic-plumaged bird (right) was exceptionally late 19–30 Nov (here 20 Nov) 2011. Photos (2) by Greg Scyphers and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

DUNLIN
Dunlin are fairly common migrants and uncommon breeders on SLI, and they possibly may be declining. The adult at left was photographed 27 May 2011. Many birds are regularly seen in display, such as the bird at right on 30 May 2015. Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and James Levison

In early fall, many Dunlin are in almost full juvenile plumage, a plumage typically not seen in North America away from the breeding grounds. These juveniles were photographed 28 Aug 2004 and 16 Aug 2014. Photos (2) by Brian L. Sullivan and Paul E. Lehman

ROCK SANDPIPER
Probably declining in numbers in at least the Gambell area, Rock Sandpipers are now uncommon migrants and breeders. Spring adults, including in display, were photographed here 29 May 2015 (left), 05 Jun 2015 (middle), and 23 May 2016 (right). Photos (3) by James Levison (2) and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

As in Dunlin, most Rock Sandpipers have molted largely or fully out of juvenile plumage before they leave the breeding grounds. These individuals are in mostly juvenile plumage 30 Aug 2015 (left), in transitional plumage 26
BAIRD’S SANDPIPER
Averaging about one migrant each in spring and fall at Gambell, Baird’s Sandpiper has bred on several occasions on SLI as well. The spring adult (left) was seen 24 May 2017, and the juvenile (right) was present 24 Aug 2013. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Paul E. Lehman

LITTLE STINT
Little Stint is a casual spring visitor, with some six records in all. These photos depict the two different individuals present between 31 May–02 Jun 1988 (left, middle) and the single bird found on 04 Jun 2013 (right). Photos (3) by Bruce Broadbooks, Gary H. Rosenberg, and Kevin J. Zimmer

LEAST SANDPIPER
A rare but almost annual spring visitor, Least Sandpiper is still unrecorded in fall. These individuals were found 23–25 May (here 23 May) 2013 and 29 May 2017. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Max Schwenne

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
Buff-breasted Sandpipers are casual spring and fall visitors. These fall juveniles were present 04–05 Sep (here 04 Sep) 2006 and 24–28 Aug (here 28 Aug) 2016. Photos (2) by Larry Sansone and Aaron J. Lang

PECTORAL SANDPIPER
One of the largest flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers ever at Gambell in spring was also slightly early on 21 May 2016 and numbered 115+ birds (left). The earliest arrival date is 17 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Sue Bryer
Pectoral Sandpipers are fairly common fall migrants, with most birds being juveniles; only a few adults have been noted after early August. This juvenile was photographed at Gambell on 05 Sep 2012. Photo by Aaron J. Lang

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER
A very rare spring visitor, Semipalmated Sandpiper has been recorded about 30 times at that season through 2017, but only once in fall. This dearth of autumn records is due at least in part to the lack of observer coverage during July and early August. The spring “Semis” shown here were present 31 May 2016 (left) and 24 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang

WESTERN SANDPIPER
Western Sandpiper is the most numerous breeding shorebird on SLI, and it is a common migrant as well. These single alternate-plumaged adults were present 27 May 2011 (left) and 06 Jun 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and Kevin J. Zimmer
After early August, adult Western Sandpipers are casual, and almost all birds are juveniles, such as this individual on 01 Sep 2017. Photo by Aaron J. Lang

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER
Apparently declining as a breeding species in the Gambell area, Long-billed Dowitchers remain an uncommon spring and fairly common fall migrant. The adult in flight (left) was photographed 25 May 2016, whereas the bird feeding near snow (middle) was a record-early arrival on 09 May 2015. All individuals seen in fall beginning in mid-August have been juveniles, such as this bird (right) on 03 Sep 2016. Photos (3) by Aaron J. Lang, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and James Levison

JACK SNPE
The sole record of Jack Snipe was provided by this individual at Gambell from 04–07 Jun (here 04 Jun) 2008. This species has been found in northeast Russia as close as western Chukotka and south of Anadyr. Most recent records in Alaska have come from the Pribilofs in fall. Photos (2) by Martin Meyers and Gavin Bieber

PIN-TAILED SNipe
Pin-tailed Snipe nests northeast in Russia to the Anadyr Basin and was finally documented on SLI in 2016 when this individual was discovered at Gambell 26–27 May (here 26 May) 2016. These photos show important facial and
upperpart characters, as well as a slightly shorter bill, compared to Wilson’s and Common Snipe. As is the case with several other Alaska records of this species, the almost identical Swinhoe’s Snipe, as yet unrecorded in North America, was not eliminated. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

**COMMON SNIPE**
Old World Common Snipe is a very rare to casual spring and fall migrant. The exact number of records is impossible to determine due to identification issues and the former taxonomic lumping of Common and Wilson’s Snipe. This individual was found at Gambell on 31 Aug 2014, one of just six fall records. Photo by James Levison

**TEREK SANDPIPER**
Over 40 Terek Sandpipers have been found at Gambell in spring through 2017, with 23 of these occurring as a single flock on 29 May 1994. The birds photographed here were present (clockwise) on 23 May 2012, 05 Jun 2015, 06 Jun 2015, and 25 May 2016. Photos (4) by Bob Metzler, James Levison, Kevin J. Zimmer, and Aaron J. Lang

In contrast, there are only two island records of Terek Sandpiper in the fall, including this bird at Gambell 25–26 Aug (here 26 Aug) 1994. Photos (2) by Don Cunningham

**COMMON SANDPIPER**
Over 40 Common Sandpipers have been found at Gambell in spring, including a high of 6–7 birds in early Jun 1994. The birds photographed here were present (clockwise) 27 May 2003, 26 May 2016, and 24–28 May (here 27–28 May) 2017 (2). Photos (4) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Liz Southworth, Bill Hill, and Max Schwenne

The only fall record of Common Sandpiper was established by this juvenile bird at Gambell 29 Aug–02 Sep (here 29 Aug) 2012. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

**GREEN SANDPIPER**
Strictly casual anywhere in western Alaska and North America, Green Sandpiper has occurred three times in spring at Gambell, including this bird present 22–24 May (here 23 May, left; 24 May, right) 2009. Photos (2) by David Mackay and Nicholas R. Hajdukovich

**GRAY-TAILED TATTLER**
Gray-tailed Tattler is of almost annual occurrence in spring at Gambell, including these birds present 03 Jun 2003 (left) and 29 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Bill Hill

This species is of even more regular occurrence in fall, when as many as 10 birds have been found in a single season. Of the approximately 90 individuals found after mid-August, only one was an adult. The juveniles here were photographed 30 Aug 2011 (left), 27 Aug 2012 (middle), and 02 Sep 2017 (right). Photos (3) by Mark J. Billings, David Pavlik, and James Levison

**WANDERING TATTLER**
Wandering Tattler is actually slightly rarer than Gray-tailed Tattler at Gambell, averaging perhaps just a single report each spring and fall. It is also a potential, rumored breeder in the islands’ mountains. Spring migrants include these birds at Gambell on 06 Jun 2015 (left) and 19 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Sue Bryer

A good comparison between juvenile Wandering (left) and Gray-tailed (right) Tattlers was provided by these side-by-side birds on 14 Sep 2007, which is also the latest fall record of Wandering. Note the Gray-tailed’s slightly paler gray upperparts and flanks and the more extensive pale spotting and notches to the scapulars, wing-coverts, and tertials. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS**
Lesser Yellowlegs are casual visitors from mainland Alaska, with a mere five spring and one fall records. These individuals are from 04 Jun 1990 (left) and 25–26 May (here 26 May) 2012 (right). Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Bob Metzler

**COMMON GREENSHANK**
Although the first island record of Common Greenshank was not made until 1984, there are now some 18 records in spring through 2017, including these individuals at Gambell on 27 May 2015 (left) and from 24–28 May (here 26 May) 2017 (middle, right). There are no fall records. Photos (3) by James Levison (2) and Tara McIntire

**WOOD SANDPIPER**
Virtually annual in spring, Wood Sandpipers total almost 95 individuals at that season since 1976, including a single-day high of 12 birds on 26 May 2006. The top two birds were photographed 25 May 2012 (left) and 05 Jun 2015 (right). The two on the bottom were record-early on 14 May 2006 (left) and record-late on 13–14 Jun (here 13 June) 2016 (right). Photos (4) by Greg W. Lasley, Kevin J. Zimmer, Brad Benter, and Craig Tumer
There are a mere three reports of Wood Sandpiper in fall, including this bird present at Gambell 29 Aug 2012. Photo by David Pavlik

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
Red-necked Phalaropes are fairly common migrants and breeders on SLI. In autumn, however, they have departed by the first week of September. This adult (left) was photographed 01 Jun 2015, whereas the two juveniles (right) were present 16 Aug 2017. Photos (2) by James Levison and Paul E. Lehman

RED PHALAROPE
Small numbers of Red Phalaropes are seen onshore on SLI, including rare, local breeders. Much larger numbers are seen just offshore, especially in fall when some counts at Gambell have reached 25,000 birds. The bird at left set the early arrival date on 16 May 2006, and the pair was also at Gambell, on 07 Jun 2006. Photos (2) by Brad Benter and Lisa Sheffield Gay
Almost all Red Phalaropes seen in fall after mid-August are juveniles, such as these individuals in full juvenile (left) and in transitional (middle) plumages at Gambell on 31 Aug 2017 and 07 Sep 2016, respectively. The two birds at right were late on 21 Nov 2016. Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Laura Keene, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE
Establishing only the second North American record of Oriental Pratincole, this individual was at Gambell on 05 Jun 1986. Photos (2) by Jon L. Dunn

POMARINE JAEGER
Pomarine Jaegers are typically fairly common migrants, with occasional large numbers passing the point, such as up to 250 birds in a day in spring and up to 770 birds in less than 24 hours in fall. But only relatively low numbers are recorded in some years. This species is thought to nest only north of the Bering Strait, and there are no proven breeding records for SLI, despite the presence over the years of several pairs performing courtship displays. The migrants pictured here include a flock flying past the point at Gambell on 28 May 2011 (left) and a single bird there 01 Jun 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and James Levison
This juvenile Pomarine Jaeger was getting somewhat late on 08 Oct 2010. Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco

PARASITIC JAEGER
A fairly common migrant at SLI, maximum one-day counts of Parasitic Jaegers are, however, much lower than for Pomarines, with highs reaching just 18–22 individuals. There is only a single confirmed nesting record for the island. The adult Parasitics at left and middle were on the typical fall dates of 07 Aug 2007 and 03 Sep 2017, whereas the pair at right summered just south of the village from late May through early Sep 2017. Photos (3) by Brad Benter, James Levison, and Paul E. Lehman

LONG-TAILED JAEGER
The only regular breeding species of jaeger on SLI is Long-tailed, which is also an uncommon to fairly common migrant. These individuals were photographed at Gambell on 28 May (left) and 05 Jun (right; with Sevuokuk Mtn. in the background) 2015. Photos (2) by James Levison

SEABIRDS (ALCIDS)
St. Lawrence Island is home to perhaps as much as 10 percent of the total nesting seabirds found in Alaska, with a 1996–1997 estimate of approximately 3.65 million birds. The most abundant species are Crested and Least Auklets, followed by Thick-billed and Common Murres, then Horned and Tufted Puffins, and then Parakeet Auklets and Pigeon Guillemots. The photo at left is of nesting cliffs utilized by murres west of Savoonga 02 Aug 2003. The middle photo shows part of a large auklet colony at Kitnik, east of Savoonga, 12 Jul 2003. This colony is characterized by both a large area of flat talus and by larger boulders on steep slopes; the former habitat type is preferred by the Least Auklets and is different from that found at the colonies on Sevuokuk Mountain at Gambell or Kongkok Bay/Owalit Mountain on southwestern SLI. The photo at right depicts auklets on the snow at the town
colony in Savoonga on 14 Jun 2006. Most of the birds sit on the exact spot where their nesting crevice is, and if the snow fails to melt fast enough, some birds lay an egg right on the snow. Photos (3) by Lisa Sheffield Guy

DOVEKIE
A very small colony of Dovekies is located on Sevuokuk Mtn. at Gambell, where maximum counts have reached 16 birds but where several of the most recent (through 2017) totals have been under five individuals. Five birds (left) were photographed there 31 May 2006, and three individuals with Parakeet, Least, and Crested Auklets were there 29 May 2011 (right). This species also has been found several times at auklet colonies east of Savoonga and near the southwest corner of the island, but the species’ status at these other sites is uncertain. Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer and Jay Gilliam

COMMON MURRE
Up to 5000 Common Murres per day are seen flying by the point at Gambell between May and September, including this bird on 30 Aug 2015. A few counts have reached as high as 100,000 birds. Photo by Herb Fechter
The winter status of Common Murre in SLI waters is uncertain, although a small number may occur when there is adequate open water. Thick-billed is by far the dominant murre at that season. This Common Murre was present 05 Jan 2017. Photo by Sue Bryer

THICK-BILLED MURRE
Mixed flocks of murres are a common sight flying past the point at Gambell. This group photographed on 01 Jun 2008 show the blacker upperpart coloration and fatter body shape of the Thick-billeds versus the browner, slimmer Commons. Photo by Martin Meyers
Murre numbers drop off in fall after early September, although occasional late surges in numbers have brought up to an exceptional 25,000 Thick-billeds in early October. This individual was at Gambell 07 Dec 2017. Photo by Sue Bryer
Large numbers of winter Thick-billed Murres have been found on several occasions in openings in the pack-ice, such as this concentration of over a thousand birds just off Gambell 31 Dec 2015. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

BLACK GUILLEMETOT
Black Guillemots winter in moderate numbers in leads and polynyas in the pack-ice, and such birds may linger locally as late as early or even mid-June before moving north to the breeding grounds. Such late-spring birds at Gambell include these individuals on 06 Jun 2016 (left), 27 May 2017 (middle), and 04 Jun 2015 (right). Photos (3) by Kevin J. Zimmer, Paul E. Lehman, and James Levison
Wintering Black Guillemots in SLI waters likely begin arriving in October and remain until late spring. They may be found in numbers in waters with up to 95 percent ice cover. This bird was photographed at Gambell 09 Jan 2017. Photo by Sue Bryer

PIGEON GUILLEMETOT
Moderate numbers of Pigeon Guillemots nest on SLI, with a 1996–1997 estimate of 5000+ birds. These individuals were photographed at Gambell 28 May 2011 (left) and, with a Black Guillemot for direct size comparison, on 02 Jun 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and James Levison
In autumn, many of the Pigeon Guillemots at Gambell are juveniles, such as these birds on 24 Aug 2004 (left) and 31 Aug 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Brian L. Sullivan and Herb Fechter
Pigeon Guillemots are not known to winter as far north as SLI. This late individual was at Gambell 02 Dec 2016. Photo by Sue Bryer

MARbled MURRELET
Marbled Murrelets are not known to nest north of the Aleutian Islands and are strictly casual visitors to SLI waters. These photos were taken 03 Nov (left) and 21 Nov (right) 2016 at Gambell and may or may not involve the same individual. Photos (2) by Sue Bryer

KITTLEITZ’S MURRELET
Kittlitz’s Murrelet is a very rare but annual visitor to SLI waters, and it might even breed high in the island’s mountains. Records at Gambell include this breeding-plumaged adult on 03 Jun 2002 (left), a basic-plumaged
individual on 02 Nov 2016 (middle), and juvenile-plumaged bird on 24 Sep 2014 (right). Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Sue Bryer, and Paul E. Lehman

ANCIENT MURRELET
Ancient Murrelets are visitors from the south and are very rare in spring and summer but uncommon in fall when sometimes seen flying north in moderate numbers. Post-breeding dispersing birds may move as far north as the Chukchi Sea to forage in early fall. These birds (clockwise) were at the point at Gambell 26 May 2004, 18 Aug 2013 (early), 02 Sep 2016, and 21 Nov 2016 (late). Photos (4) by Kevin J. Zimmer, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Laura Keene, and Sue Bryer

PARAKEET AUKLET
The nesting population of Parakeet Auklets on SLI was estimated in 1996–1997 at 4000 birds, which seems low. Daily counts of birds flying past the point at Gambell are often 1000–2000 and have reached as high as 10,000 on 14 Aug 2006. Many hundreds nest on Sevuokuk Mtn. at Gambell, where these individuals were photographed 29 May (left) and 02 Jun (right) 2017. Photos (2) by Max Schwenne and Steve Hampton

LEAST AUKLET
Massive numbers of Least Auklets nest on SLI, with a 1996–1997 estimate of 1,800,000 birds. Thousands are seen daily between late May and late August at Gambell. These birds were photographed on the slopes of Sevuokuk Mtn. 05 Jun 2015 (left) and in early Jun 2008 (middle and right). Photos (3) by Kevin J. Zimmer and Thomas A. Benson
Small numbers of Least Auklets continue through early September (left, 03 Sep 2016), but the species becomes irregular in occurrence after that. Juvenile birds (middle, 17 Aug 2017) occasionally have been misidentified as Dovekies. A record-late bird was found 21 Dec 2016 (right). Photos (3) by Laura Keene, Sue Bryer, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

CRESTED AUKLET
An abundant nesting seabird on SLI is Crested Auklet, with an estimated population in 1996–1997 of 1,500,000. Evening flights in late spring past the point at Gambell regularly peak near 500,000 birds and a few have reached just over a million, as have several totals in early fall. These Cresteds were photographed (clockwise) from the point 30 Aug 2015, on the slopes of Sekuokuk Mtn. 29 May 2017 and 03 Sep 2016, and returning to the island with full crops on 30 Aug 2017. Photos (4) by Herb Fechter, Max Schwenne, Laura Keene, and Greg Scyphers
A small number of juvenile Parakeet, Least, and Crested Auklets making their first flight to the sea are found crash-landed in the Gambell boneyards during early autumn. This young Crested was there 25 Aug 2016. Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

HORNED PUFFIN
A common breeding species on SLI, Horned Puffin is the last of the alcids to arrive in spring, typically not until after 25 May. Up to several thousand birds per day are seen at Gambell, with 7000 on 04 Sep 2009. These adults (clockwise) were there 30 May 2011, 01 Sep 2014, and 03 Sep 2015, and the juvenile was photographed 14 Sep 2014. Photos (4) by Jay Gilliam, James Levison, Herb Fechter, and Paul E. Lehman
Horned Puffin is rare after early October, and the species normally winters well to the south. This bird was one of up to 2 very late individuals at Gambell 31 Oct–03 Nov (here 03 Nov) 2016. Photo by Sue Bryer

TUFTED PUFFIN
Over 8000 Tufted Puffins were estimated nesting on SLI in 1996–1997. Hundreds nest on Sevuokuk Mtn. at Gambell, including these birds on 01 Sep 2014. Photos (2) by James Levison

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
Black-legged Kittiwakes breed in large numbers on SLI and the nearby Chukchi Peninsula. Up to several thousand per day may be seen from the point at Gambell in both spring and fall, with an all-time high of 30,000 on several dates in autumn. In spring, most birds are adults (here 29 May 2017, left); but up to about 5 percent or more are one-
and two-year-olds (here 29 May 2017, middle); such “sub-adults” are also found in similar numbers through the fall season (here 24 Aug 2004, right). Photos (3) by Max Schwenne and Brian L. Sullivan

Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwakes are very attractive birds present in good numbers beginning in early September. Photographed here 08 Sep 2014 (with an adult; left) and, slightly early, on 01 Sep 2016 (right). Photos (2) by James Levison and Laura Keene

Black-legged Kittiwakes linger in SLI waters regularly into November, and small numbers of various ages have been found in recent years as late as early February. These birds were photographed 05 Jan (left) and 08 Jan (right) 2017. Photos (2) by Sue Bryer

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

Red-legged Kittiwakes were thought to be only casual visitors to SLI waters from nesting areas to the south. However, studies using geolocators have shown that some dispersing birds from the Pribilofs make a regular late-fall and early-winter flight to the northern Bering Sea, then continue west and southwest to Asian waters for the rest of the winter. One of two spring records at Gambell was provided by this adult on 02 Jun 2017 (left). In early fall, a notable incursion in 2014 brought almost 20 birds to Gambell between 19 Aug–30 Sep, including this bird on 19–20 Aug (here 20 Aug; middle and right). Photos (3) by Aaron J. Lang and Barrett Pierce (2)

IVORY GULL

One of the most sought-after species in spring at Gambell is Ivory Gull. This species was formerly fairly reliable there in small numbers through late May, rarely through early June, when sea-ice persisted. But most recent years have seen less ice and earlier disappearance, and the last Ivory Gull sightings of the season are sometimes made no later than in April or early May. This sampling of Ivory Gull images from Gambell includes (clockwise) 30 May 2001, 12 May 2005, 28 May 2008, 28 May 2011, and 02 Apr 2017. Photos (5) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Brad Benter, Thomas A. Benson, Jay Gilliam, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

The largest concentration of Ivory Gulls recorded at Gambell was by far and away the 122 birds (mostly adults) tallied on 13 May 2005. Some 25 of those birds were captured in this single photograph. Photo by Brad Benter


SABINE’S GULL

An uncommon spring and fall migrant, Sabine’s Gull has yet to be proven to breed on the island. Spring migrants were photographed at Gambell 27 May 2011 (left), very rare onshore 23 May 2013 (middle), and 03 Jun 2015 (right). Photos (3) by Jay Gilliam, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and James Levison

Lingering Sabine’s Gulls in fall have remained on several occasions through late September and even early October, including a couple of adults. This late juvenile was at Gambell 10 Oct 2001. Photo by Don Cunningham

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Almost 50 Black-headed Gulls have been found at Gambell in spring since the first birds in 1976. A sampling includes this single bird on 22 May 2016 (left) and a flock of 3 birds on 15 May (out of a record 6 present 17 May) 2006 (right). Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Brad Benter

Black-headed Gulls are far rarer at SLI and throughout western Alaska in fall than they are in spring, with only three Gambell records at that season. Two of those three are the adult from 05–07 Sep (here 05 Sep) 2009 and a late immature from 27–29 Oct (here 29 Oct) 2016. Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

LITTLE GULL

Casual anywhere in Alaska, this juvenile Little Gull was the first for the Bering Sea at Gambell 12–13 Sep (here 12 Sep) 2010. Photo by Larry Peavler

ROSS’S GULL

The charismatic and enigmatic Ross’s Gull is a very rare spring and fall visitor to SLI, although it may occur somewhat regularly in small numbers in November or December. The spring total of 18 records includes this individual at Gambell on 31 May 2001 (left) and the two birds just off southwest SLI 15 May 2016 (right). Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

In fall, Ross’s Gulls have occurred as early as late September, with the adult at left being one of four birds present 28 Sep–10 Oct (here 10 Oct) 2001. Just east of Gambell, the Ross’s at right was found at Akeftapak Bay on 29 Sep 2010. Photos (2) by Don Cunningham and Lucas H. DeCicco
Ross’s Gulls are likely of regular occurrence in small numbers in SLI waters during November and December. Up to 13 birds were at Gambell 13–30 Nov 2017, including these adults on 20 Nov. *Photos (2) by Sue Bryer*

**BLACK-TAILED GULL**
Gambell claims four spring records of the Asian Black-tailed Gull, including (clockwise) this adult from 02–09 Jun (here 03 Jun) 1988 and an immature from 02–04 Jun (here 02 Jun) 1996. *Photos (4) by B. J. Rose, Gary H. Rosenberg, Martin Meyers, and Gary H. Rosenberg*

**MEW GULL**
Both Kamchatka Mew Gulls (*L. c. kamtschatschensis*) and North American Mew Gulls (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) are very rare to casual spring and fall visitors at Gambell. Spring birds have included this first-cycle Kamchatka Mew on 27 May 2016 (left) and the second-cycle *brachyrhynchus* on 25 May 2017 (right). *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman*

In autumn, five records of Kamchatka Mew at Gambell include this young bird on 09–10 Oct (here 09 Oct) 2016 (left, with Black-legged Kittiwake and Glaucous-winged Gull, and middle). The only fall record of *brachyrhynchus* involves this juvenile on 21 Aug 1999 (right). *Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman*

**HERRING GULL**
“Vega” Herring Gull (*L. a. vegae*) is the common form of Herring Gull occurring on SLI between late April and October. Daily totals at Gambell often reach 40 or more birds. These adults were photographed on 28 May 2011 (left) and 05 Sep 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and James Levison*

Juvenile Vega Gulls are fairly numerous in fall (here 26 Aug 2004, left). They average blacker-centered scapulars and a blacker tail with a paler, more contrasty whitish rump and uppertail coverts compared to the typical *smithsonianus* Herring Gull, but there is plenty of variation in both taxa. A one-year-old Vega is pictured at right, 22 Aug 2015. *Photos (2) by Brian L. Sullivan and Paul E. Lehman*

Herring Gulls are not known to winter as far north as SLI, but this late-lingering juvenile of uncertain subspecies was found 15 Nov 2014, and the only mid-winter record was established by this first-cycle bird on 03 Jan 2017. *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

Herring Gulls of subspecies *smithsonianus* from the Alaska mainland are very rare fall visitors at Gambell and include this bird on 04–05 Sep 2013. *Photo by R. Furnish*

**ICELAND GULL**
A very rare fall and casual spring visitor to SLI and the Bering Sea region, Iceland Gull (of the subspecies *L. g. thayeri*, formerly known as “Thayer’s” Gull) was not found at Gambell in spring until 2016, but there are now two records: 28 May–01 Jun (here 28 May) 2016 (left) and 31 May–14 Jun (here 01 Jun, with Vega and Glaucous Gulls) 2017 (right). *Photos (2) by Liam Singh and Steve Hampton*

In autumn, there have been some 15 records of Thayer’s through 2017, which include these individuals on 12 Sep 2015 (left), 10 Sep 2016 (middle), and a late bird from 28 Oct–27 Nov (here 06 Nov) 2016 (right). *Photos (3) by Monte M. Taylor, Paul E. Lehman, and Sue Bryer*

**SLATY-BACKED GULL**
Slaty-backed Gulls are uncommon visitors in both spring and fall, with somewhat more birds present in early autumn than at other seasons (high count of seven). Spring adults include those shown here on 14 May 2013 (with Vega Gulls; left) and on 04 Jun 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Brad Benter and James Levison*

Fall Slaty-backed Gulls include these immatures 23 Aug 2016 (left) and 01 Sep 2016 (right). *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Greg Scyphers*

Providing for an excellent comparison, this trio of gulls are, from left to right, Glaucous-winged, Slaty-backed, and Vega; 17 Sep 2006. *Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg*

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL**
The breeding range of Glaucous-winged Gull has spread north at least as far as St. Matthew Island, and thorough summer investigation of SLI could well discover local nesting here. This species is an uncommon (spring) to fairly common (fall) visitor at Gambell. This lingering juvenile, with a slightly late young Herring (Vega) Gull, was photographed on 29 Oct 2014. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

Better observer coverage combined with substantial open water present through a good portion of the season resulted in several recent winter records of Glaucous-winged Gull, with up to 7 birds present during 2016–2017,
including this adult on 18 Dec (left) and first-cycle on 09 Jan (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Sue Bryer*

**GLAUCOUS GULL**

The most numerous *Larus* gull on SLI is Glaucous Gull, and counts may reach up to 400+/day at Gambell, with several fall maxima of up to 800 birds. Almost all individuals on the island are likely of the large subspecies *L. h. pallidissimus*. This adult (left) was photographed on 05 Jun 2008, the juvenile (right) on 24 Aug 2004. *Photos (2) by Martin Meyers and Brian L. Sullivan*

Moderate numbers of Glaucous Gulls remain through the late fall and winter. This small flock at Gambell 15 Nov 2017 includes first-cycle, second-cycle, and adult birds, as well as a single adult Glaucous-winged Gull for comparison. *Photo by Sue Bryer*

**HYBRID GULLS**

Gulls that appear to be hybrids between any of several combinations of *Larus* species are regularly found at Gambell, especially in fall. The two birds pictured here from 01 Sep 2016 probably involve Glaucous-winged X Glaucous or perhaps Herring X Glaucous Gulls. *Photos (2) by Steven C. Heinl*

**COMMON TERN**

Common Tern occurrence in western Alaska involves the Asian subspecies *S. h. longipennis*, including all records at Gambell where very rare to casual in spring. These photos depict the same individual which lingered there from 02–05 Jun 2014: 03 Jun (left and middle) and 05 Jun (right). *Photos (3) by Gavin Bieber (2) and Bob Dittrick*

**ARCTIC TERN**

A rare to uncommon migrant and very local (formerly more numerous and widespread) breeder on SLI, most Arctic Terns at Gambell are seen from the point. These two spring adults were photographed on 02 Jun 2015 (left) and 02 Jun 2017 (middle), and the juvenile was on 11 Sep 2015 (right). The latest birds have been seen at Savoonga in early October. *Photos (3) by James Levison, Paul E. Lehman, and James Levison*

**RED-THROATED LOON**

Red-throated Loons are uncommon migrants and breeders on SLI. This bird, like most, is seen migrating past the point at Gambell, 04 Jun 2015 (left). More unusual was this bird on a small temporary pond at Gambell 01 Sep 2013 (middle). Exceptional for the Bering Sea in winter was an individual at Gambell 11 Jan 2017 (right). *Photos (3) by James Levison, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and Sue Bryer*

**ARCTIC LOON**

Arctic Loon is an uncommon spring migrant past the point at Gambell, but it is surprisingly rare there in fall. The high one-day count is an exceptional 28 birds on 04 Jun 1992. These individuals were photographed 31 May 2008 (left) and 04 Jun 2017 (right). They show the bold black-and-white neck striping, the lack of a pale nape, and white wrapping around the flank typical of this species compared to Pacific Loon. *Photos (2) by Martin Meyers and Dixie Sommers*

**PACIFIC LOON**

Pacific Loon is the most numerous loon at Gambell, where it is a common spring and fairly common to common fall migrant. The highest spring one-day totals have exceeded 350 birds, whereas those in fall have reached over 500. In contrast, the nesting status of this species on the island is uncertain. Migrants passing the point include those here on 31 May 2015 (left) and 09 Oct 2010 (right). *Photos (2) by James Levison and Lucas H. DeCicco*

Pacific Loons winter well south of the northern Bering Sea, so these two birds of up to three remaining at Gambell from 31 Oct–21 Nov (here 19 Nov) 2016 were very late. *Photo by Sue Bryer*

**COMMON LOON**

Common Loons are of strictly casual occurrence on SLI, and many such reports are undocumented and likely refer to misidentified Yellow-billed Loons—made by observers unaware of the Common’s rarity on the island. These Commons were photographed at Gambell on 13 Jun 2016 (left) and 02 Sep 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Dixie Sommers*

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON**
An uncommon spring and uncommon to fairly common fall migrant past SLI, Yellow-billed Loons also stage in autumn in the waters north of the island. The highest counts occur in late September and early October when as many as 157 individuals (04 Oct 2010) have been recorded in a day flying past Gambell. The adult at left was photographed from the point 04 Jun 2015. The juvenile on the right was there on the very late date of 16 Nov 2016. *Photos (2) by James Levison and Sue Bryer*

**NORTHERN FULMAR**

Despite being a fairly common offshore visitor, Northern Fulmars do not breed on SLI. The closest nesting colonies are on the Chukchi Peninsula. Counts from the point at Gambell vary greatly, with no or very few birds seen some days, but up to several hundred on others. The local breeders are light-morph, such as these birds (left and middle) at Gambell on 28 May 2015 and 16 May 2017. Dark-morph birds are very rare visitors from the south and include this individual (right) on 10 Aug 2017. *Photos (3) by James Levison and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)*

**SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER**

Immense numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters feed in northern Bering Sea waters between late summer and late October. Single-day counts from Gambell have exceeded one million birds on several occasions, and it is routine to see over 500,000 in a day during September. In contrast, there are only a handful of records there in spring and early summer. These views (clockwise) from the point were taken 08 Sep 2014, 30 Aug 2015, 30 Oct 2016, and 10 Aug 2017. *Photos (4) by James Levison, Herb Fechter, and Sue Bryer (2)*

**FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL**

A casual spring and very rare fall visitor to SLI waters from breeding grounds to the south, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels are mostly seen from the point at Gambell, but there are also several records onshore in the village. This cooperative individual was present 12 Sep 2007. *Photos (2) by Paul Mayer and James Levison*

The latest fall record at Gambell was established by this bird found on 30 Oct 2016. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**

As the breeding range of Double-crested Cormorant has slowly spread northwards in southwest Alaska, the number of spring and early-summer sightings in the Nome area has increased, and there are now also two spring records at Gambell. This individual (with Pelagic Cormorants) was there 02 Jun 2017. *Photo by Bill Hill*

**PELAGIC CORMORANT**

Pelagic Cormorants are common breeders and migrants at SLI and small numbers likely over-winter where sufficient open water exists, especially along the south side of the island. This adult was at Gambell 02 Jun 2015, and the flock was there in winter on 02 Feb 2017. *Photos (2) by James Levison and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**OSPREY**

A casual visitor from the mainland, Osprey has now occurred seven or eight times in spring and summer at Gambell, including these individuals 28 May 2013 (left, being chased by a Common Raven) and 07 July 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Robert Andrini and Barbara DeWitt*

**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE**

Some six White-tailed Eagles have been found in spring at Gambell since 1991, including both adults and immatures. Shown here are those occurring on 02 Jun 2007 (left), 04 Jun 2012 (middle), and 29 May–01 Jun (here 29 May; right) 2016. *Photos (3) by Dave Porter, Kevin J. Zimmer, and Aaron J. Lang*

**ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**

Formerly just an uncommon to rare migrant at Gambell, Rough-legged Hawks have nested annually on Sevuokuk Mtn. since about 2007. Previous nestings elsewhere on the island are also known. The adult (left) was at Sevuokuk on 27 May 2008, and the juvenile (right) was there 05 Sep 2015. *Photos (2) by Thomas A. Benson and James Levison*

**SNOWY OWL**

Snowy Owls are uncommon fall and winter visitors on SLI, where in winter they are known to hunt waterfowl along the coast and from ice floes offshore. They are irregular spring and summer breeders on the island, including very
rarely at Gambell. These three images are from 14 Sep 2015, 15 Sep 2015, and 22 Sep 2017. *Photos Paul E. Lehman, James Levison, and Gary H. Rosenberg*  
Snowy Owl is a regular winter resident on SLI, often seen out on the sea-ice, where they hunt waterfowl. This individual was at Gambell 14 Dec 2012. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*  

**SHORT-EARED OWL**  
A rare-but-annual spring and fall migrant at Gambell, Short-eared Owl may also casually breed on the island. This fall migrant was in one of the boneyards 12 Sep 2013 (left). A likely family group was at Gambell for an extended period in 2017, including this individual on 07 Sep (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Laura Keene*  

**BOREAL OWL**  
There are now at least five records of Boreal Owl at Gambell and Savoonga between October and March. Three are specimens of the North American subspecies *A. f. richardsoni*. These two individuals were photographed in Savoonga in (uncertain date) Jan 2016 (left) and at Gambell on 13 Oct 2016 (middle and right). The latter bird is also thought to be likely *richardsoni*. *Photos (3) by unknown photographer and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)*  

**EURASIAN WRYNECK**  
The second North American record (and the first involving a live bird) of Eurasian Wryneck was a bird present at Gambell from 02–05 Sep (here 04 Sep) 2003. This species probably nests no closer than the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk. *Photo by Gil Ewing*  

**NORTHERN FLICKER**  
Northern Flicker is a casual spring and fall visitor at Gambell, with just three records through 2017. These individuals were there 07–14 Sep (here 11 Sep) 2006 (left) and 12 Sep 2012 (right). *Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg*  

**MERLIN**  
Merlins are surprisingly rare offshore in the Bering Sea region, with a mere five certain records from SLI, all at Gambell. At least two of the spring birds looked abnormally pale and may have involved one of the east Asian subspecies, including this bird present 04–05 Jun (here 04 Jun) 2003. *Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg*  

**EURASIAN HOBBY**  
The sole island record of Eurasian Hobby was established by this bird present at Gambell from late on 03 Sep (here) to early on 04 Sep 2014, spending the night on a tower in the village. *Photos (2) by James Levison and Neil Hayward*  

**GYRFALCON**  
Gyrfalcons are regular fall and winter visitors in small numbers to SLI. From one to three birds are seen for extended periods each fall at Gambell, often including at least one whitish individual. These birds were photographed (clockwise) 01 Sep 2017 (slightly early) 13 Sep 2012, 29 Sep 2011, and 07 Nov 2014. *Photos (4) by Gary H. Rosenberg, David Pavlik, Monte M. Taylor, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*  

**PEREGRINE FALCON**  
Like Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons were only rare transients at Gambell until a nesting pair became established on Sevuokuk Mountain, beginning in about 2008. There was also an earlier nesting record at Savoonga in 2005. This juvenile Peregrine was at Gambell on 08 Sep 2016. *Photo by Laura Keene*  

**YELLOW-BELLED FLYCATCHER**  
The sole Gambell record of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is of this bird present 05–06 Jun (here 05 June) 2011. Three birds in early fall at the Pribilofs are the only other Bering Sea records. *Photo by Kevin J. Zimmer*  

**ALDER FLYCATCHER**  
The lone SLI record of Alder Flycatcher is of this bird present at Gambell 04 Sep 2014. The only other offshore Bering Sea record is also an early September record from the Pribilofs. *Photo by Neil Hayward*  

**WILLLOW FLYCATCHER**
Only mediocre photos were obtained of a Willow Flycatcher present at Gambell 06 Sep 2008. This photo, however, shows the long bill, brownish cast to the back, and lack of an eyering typical of that species. Identified as a Willow in the field, it was nonetheless published as an Alder/Willow Flycatcher given the difficult identification, the fact the bird was never heard to call, and the next closest records are from south-coastal Alaska, where casual. *Photo by Aaron J. Lang*

**LEAST FLYCATCHER**
The second Gambell and Bering Sea record of Least Flycatcher, rare anywhere in Alaska, was established by this bird present 07 Sep 2014. *Photo by Neil Hayward*

**“WESTERN” FLYCATCHER**
All four “Western” Flycatchers recorded at Gambell have occurred in fall and are assumed to be Pacific-slope Flycatchers, including this bird present 26 Aug 1992. *Photo by Paul E. Lehman*

**BROWN SHRIKE**
The first Alaska and North America record of Brown Shrike was established at Gambell from 04–06 Jun 1977, but that bird was not photographed. All five fall birds at Gambell have been so documented, however, including these individuals (clockwise) from 02–04 Sep (here 02 Sep) 2008, on 29 Aug 2014, from 01–05 Sep (here 05 Sep, with White Wagtail and Snow Bunting) 2014, and from 07–17 Sep (here 07 Sep) 2015. *Photos (4) by Aaron J. Lang, Paul E. Lehman (2), and Gary H. Rosenberg*

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE**
The only record of a pure Red-backed Shrike for North America was established by this long-staying individual at Gambell from 03–22 Oct 2017. A previous bird believed to be a hybrid Red-backed X Turkestan Shrike was present in Mendocino County, California, during early 2015. This species breeds no closer than XX and winters in southern Africa. These photos (clockwise) were taken 10 Oct (2), 14 Oct, and 19 Oct 2017. *Photos (4) by Sue Bryer (2), Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and Brad Benter*

**NORTHERN SHRIKE**
Through 2017, there have been five records of Northern Shrike from Gambell and SLI, including these individuals on 03 May 2012 (left), 26 Apr 2017 (middle), and 26–27 Oct (here 26 Oct) 2014 (right). These birds could have originated from either the North America or Russia mainland. *Photos (3) by Brad Benter and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)*

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO**
Casual anywhere in Alaska, this Philadelphia Vireo was found at Gambell 18 Sep 2006. It establishes the only record for the Bering Sea region. *Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg*

**WARBLING VIREO**
A surprising 10 Warbling Vireos have wandered to Gambell in fall. The closest they normally occur is southeast Alaska and southern Yukon. These individuals were photographed (clockwise) 02 Oct 2013, 27 Sep 2014, 02 Oct 2016, and 02 Oct 2017. *Photos (4) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (3) and Gary H. Rosenberg*

**COMMON RAVEN**
One of the very few permanent resident species of SLI, Common Ravens do perform seasonal movements within the island and very likely to and from the Russian mainland. They are uncommon at Gambell during the nesting season, common the remainder of the year. This bird was photographed 02 Sep 2016. *Photo by Laura Keene*

**EURASIAN SKYLARK**
Far more Eurasian Skylarks have occurred at Gambell in spring (19 or 20) than in fall (6). Spring birds include an early individual on 03 May 2012 (left) and a late bird on 15 Jun 1999 (right). *Photos (2) by Brad Benter and Larry Sansone*

Fall Skylarks include these individuals from 12–14 Sep (here 14 Sep) 2015 and from 15–23 Sep (here 15 Sep) 2017. *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Sue Bryer*

**HORNED LARK**
A very rare visitor to SLI, most Horned Larks in spring have been North American *E. a. arcticola*, whereas most fall birds are Asian *E. a. flava*. This spring bird on 26 May 2014 is white-faced and -throated, typical of *arcticola*. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

Yellow-faced and -throated *flava* include these two individuals on 08 Sep 2012 (left) and 04 Sep 2016 (middle). The bird on the right may be *arcticola* and was present 22 Aug 2016. *Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Greg Scyphers, and Paul E. Lehman*

**TREE SWALLOW**

Very rare in spring and casual in fall, Tree Swallow was first recorded on SLI in 1952. This bird was at Gambell 18 May 2015. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW**

There are only two records of Violet-green Swallow at Gambell, both photographed. This individual was there 01 Jun 2005. *Photo by Luke Cole*

**BANK SWALLOW**

Bank Swallow, along with Barn Swallow, are the most regular occurring swallows at Gambell and SLI, although both species are very rare. This Bank was seen 05 Jun 2016. *Photo by Brian Gibbons*

**BARN SWALLOW**

Found on SLI in spring, summer, and fall, with some 30 individuals in all through 2017, Barn Swallow is by far most likely to be found in late spring. Most island records involve white-bellied birds from Asia, either *H. r. gutteralis* or *H. r. rustica*, including these birds on 29 May 2007 (left), 06 Jun 2016 (middle), and—one of only two autumn records—on 03–04 Sep (here 04 Sep) 2009 (right). *Photos (3) by James Levison, Aaron J. Lang, and Monte M. Taylor*

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH**

A very rare fall visitor to SLI, Red-breasted Nuthatch records include these birds at Gambell 14 Sep 2011 (left) and 10–12 Sep (here 10 Sep) 2012 (right). *Photos by Paul E. Lehman and Gary H. Rosenberg*

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**

Golden-crowned Kinglets normally are found no farther north than mainland southwestern Alaska. The first SLI record involved two birds near Savoonga in Oct 2011, and this has been followed by one additional record from there and six at Gambell. Individuals at the latter site include these on 09 Oct 2011 (left), 11 Sep 2016 (middle), and 19 Sep 2017 (right). *Photos (3) by Peter Scully, Aaron J. Lang, and Gary H. Rosenberg*

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**

Rare but regular in fall, with some 42 individuals recorded through 2017, Ruby-crowned Kinglet is unrecorded at Gambell in spring. These three birds were photographed 15 Sep 2017 (left), 15 Oct 2017 (middle), and record late on 22 Oct 2014 (right). *Photos (3) by Victor Stoll and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)*

**WILLOW WARBLER**

The first Willow Warbler at Gambell and in North America was found 25 Aug 2002, but since then a surprising 17 records have accrued through 2017, all in early fall. A sampling of individuals found includes these (clockwise) photographed on 26 Aug 2002, 11 Sep 2007, 28 Aug 2011 (2), and 04 Sep 2014. Note the slight yellow wash shown by these (presumably young) birds in fall, and the long primary projection. *Photos (5) by George L. Armistead, Aaron J. Lang, Monte M. Taylor (2), and Neil Hayward*

**COMMON (SIBERIAN) CHIFFCHAFF**

The first Gambell and North American record of Common (Siberian) Chiffchaff was not fully documented until 06 Jun 2012. But since then there have been a surprising nine additional records through 2017, six in spring and three in fall. Compared to most fall Willow Warblers, these Chiffchaffs are more gray-brown above, with any greenish tones limited to the flight feathers, and they have a buffy or ginger wash to the lower auriculas, dark feet, and shorter primary projection. The spring birds presented here are from 06–07 Jun (here 06 June) 2012, 09 Jun 2014, 04 Jun 2016, and 30 May–01 Jun (here 31 May) 2017. *Photos (4) by Kevin J. Zimmer, Bob Dittrick, Liz Southworth, and Steve Hampton*
Fall Chiffchaffs at Gambell shown here are from 22–23 Sep (here 22 Sep) 2013 (left) and (early) 01–04 Sep (here 01 Sep) 2015 (middle). Also shown is one photo of an individual present 30 Sep–03 Oct (here 01 Oct) 2011 (right) that would establish the first North American record. Although it is believed to be a Common Chiffchaff by many authorities, others believe the photos are not diagnostic. Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Herb Fechter, and Peter Scully

WOOD WARBLER
There are fewer than a dozen records of Wood Warbler for Alaska and North America, all in fall. The first of three records at Gambell was established by this long-staying individual from 03–16 Oct (here 03 Oct) 2015. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.
The second individual, present 13 Sep 2017, was the earliest of all Alaska records. Photo by Sue Bryer
The third Wood Warbler at Gambell was this individual from 16–21 Oct (here 19 Oct) 2017, the latest Alaska record. Photo by Brad Benter

DUSKY WARBLER
The first North American record of Dusky Warbler was established at Gambell on 06 Jun 1977. Through 2017, only one additional spring record accrued. But since 1997 there have been an impressive 28 fall records, including these birds present 03–04 Sep (here 04 Sep) 2004 (left) and on 07–08 Sep (here 07 Sep) 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Brian L. Sullivan and Aaron J. Lang

PALLAS’S LEAF WARBLER
The sole North American record of Pallas’s Leaf Warbler is of this bird at Gambell 25–26 Sep (here 25 Sep) 2006. The breeding range is thought to extend northeast to the Sea of Okhotsk. Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER
North America’s first Yellow-browed Warbler was this bird at Gambell 23–24 Sep (here 23 Sep) 2002. In Alaska, additional fall records (five) have accrued there since then, as well as at the Pribilof (three), Attu, and Middleton Islands. Photo by Paul E. Lehman
Additional Gambell Yellow-browed Warblers include those on 10 Sep 2013 (left), 04 Sep 2014 (middle), and 07 Oct 2014 (right). Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., James Levison, and Chris Feeney

ARCTIC WARBLER
Arctic Warbler is an uncommon late-spring and fairly common fall trans-Beringian migrant on SLI. Some peak one-day counts at Gambell in late August have reached as many as 74 birds. The spring bird (left) was photographed 11 Jun 2016, the fall bird (middle) was on 04 Sep 2017, and a very late bird (right) was found 25 Sep 2015. Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and Jim DeForge

LESSER WHITETHROAT
The sole North American record of Lesser Whitethroat was established by this bird present at Gambell 08–09 Sep (here 08 Sep) 2002. This species breeds no closer than the Lake Baikal region. Photos (2) (from videotape) by Paul E. Lehman

THICK-BILLED WARBLER
The only record of Thick-billed Warbler for North America was established by this individual at Gambell from 08–13 Sep (left and middle, 09 Sep; right, 08 Sep) 2017. Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Greg Scyphers, and Monte M. Taylor

SEDGE WARBLER
Another unique record for North America is this Sedge Warbler at Gambell on 30 Sep 2007. This species breeds no closer than about the Yenisey River in central Russia. Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg

BLYTH’S REED WARBLER
Two Blyth’s Reed Warblers have been documented at Gambell in fall, the only records for North America. The first was this bird present 09 Sep 2010. This species nests no closer than the Lake Baikal region. Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang and Barrett Pierce
The second Blyth’s Reed Warbler was present from 18–21 Sep (here 18 Sep) 2015. Photos (3) by Monte M. Taylor
MIDDENDORFF’S GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER
Breeding no closer than Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk, Middendorff’s Grasshopper-Warbler has occurred at least three times at Gambell in fall and once in summer. Clockwise, the first in fall was on 30 Aug 1996 (2), and the third was on 07 Sep 2004 (2). Photos (4) by John C. Wilson (2) and Brian L. Sullivan (2)

EURASIAN RIVER WARBLER
The only record of Eurasian River Warbler for North America was established by this individual at Gambell 07 Oct 2017. This species breeds no closer to about 70° E in western Siberia and winters in southern Africa, a range somewhat similar to Wood Warbler. Photos (4) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Monte M. Taylor, and Sue Bryer (2)

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER
The first island record of Asian Brown Flycatcher was established by this individual at Gambell on 09 Jun 1994. Photos (2) by B. J. Rose and Andy Kraynik
The second record was at Gambell 03 Sep 2017. Photos (2) by Greg Scyphers and James Levison

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER
The only record of Spotted Flycatcher for North America was established by this individual at Gambell 14 Sep 2002. This species breeds no closer than the Lake Baikal region. Photos (2) (from videotape) by Paul E. Lehman

TAIGA FLYCATCHER
There are only three records at Gambell of Taiga Flycatcher, one in spring and two in fall. This individual was present 09 Sep 2017. Photos (2) by Greg Scyphers

SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT
A very rare spring and casual fall visitor, Siberian Rubythroats at Gambell include this stunning male on 28 May 2003 (left), a late female on 13 Jun 2013 (middle), and a fall male on 14 Sep 2006. Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Paul Lagasi, and Gary H. Rosenberg

BLUETHROAT
Bluethroats are uncommon trans-Beringian migrants on SLI, with more individuals seen in fall than in spring. An exceptional 47 birds were tallied on 23 Aug 2016. This individual was photographed 31 Aug 2015. Photo by Herb Fechter

SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN
The second documented North American record of Siberian Blue Robin was established by this individual at Gambell from 02–04 Oct (here 04 Oct) 2012. This species breeds no closer than near the Sea of Okhotsk. Photos (2) by David Pavlik

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL
Red-flanked Bluetail is a casual spring and fall visitor at Gambell. The only spring record is this male found 12 Jun 2016. Photo by Paul E. Lehman
Four fall bluetails include these three individuals on 23 Sep 2013 (left), 29 Sep 2014 (middle), and 26 Sep 2017 (right). Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Paul E. Lehman, and Jim DeForge

STONECHAT
Stonechats of the Siberian maurus subspecies group are casual spring and fall visitors at Gambell. The first North American record was established there 06 Jun 1978. The male in spring (left) was present 05 Jun 1985, and the bird at middle and right was found 10 Sep 2013. Photos (3) by William S. Davidson, Jay Lehman, and Paul E. Lehman

NORTHERN WHEATEAR
An uncommon spring and fairly common fall trans-Beringian migrant, Northern Wheatears are sometimes found in especially large numbers in early autumn, such as the 180 birds on 23 Aug 2016. They are also likely scarce but regular breeders on SLI. Clockwise, this spring male was present 03 Jun 2015, the two fall juveniles on 27 Aug 2006 and 31 Aug 2015, and an exceptionally late bird from 04–14 Oct (here 10 Oct) 2010. Photos (4) by James Levison, Herb Fechter, Martin Meyers, and Lucas H. DeCicco
TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE
There are just two offshore Bering Sea records of Townsend’s Solitaire. Both are from Gambell in spring, including this bird found on 31 May 2016. *Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang*

GRAY-CHEEKEED THRUSH
Gray-cheeked Thrush is a trans-Beringian migrant with a sizeable breeding population in northeast Russia. It is uncommon in both spring and fall on SLI. These individuals were photographed at Gambell 31 May 2017 (left) and 01 Sep 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Max Schwenne and James Levison*

SWAINSON’S THRUSH
Casual in spring and very rare in fall, Swainson’s Thrushes are vagrants from the Alaska mainland, with about 21 individuals in all through 2017. These birds were documented 24 May 2015 (left) and 07 Sep 2004 (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Brian L. Sullivan*

HERMIT THRUSH
Hermit Thrush is one of the more regular occurring wanderers to Gambell. Through 2017, over 50 individuals have been found in spring and 22 in fall, making it one of the few Alaska mainland passerines that is more frequent in spring than in fall. These individuals were photographed 21 May 2017 (left), 13 Sep 2014 (middle), and 09 Oct 2016 (right). *Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

EYEBROWED THRUSH
A very rare spring and casual fall visitor from Asia, Eyebrowed Thrush occurs in somewhat larger numbers farther to the south at the Aleutians and Pribilofs. These birds were at Gambell on 05 Jun 2003 (left), from 28 May–02 Jun (here 28 May) 2017 (middle), and from 24 Sep–03 Oct (here 29 September) 2007 (right). *Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Max Schwenne, and Gary H. Rosenberg*

DUSKY THRUSH
Dusky Thrush is a casual spring and fall visitor from Asia, with a total of six spring and two fall records at Gambell. Individuals appearing like the expected race *T. n. eunomus* include these on 26–27 May (here 26 May) 2008 (left), 03–04 Oct (here 04 Oct) 2011 (middle), and 29 Sep 2015 (right). *Photos (3) by Thomas A. Benson, Peter Scully, and Paul E. Lehman*

One of the Dusky Thrush records involves a bird which appears to be of the “Naumann’s” race, *T. n. naumanni*, which breeds no closer than the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk, and which is a possible future taxonomic split. It was present at Gambell on 05 Jun 2015. *Photo by Rich Hoyer*

FIELDFARE
There are two spring records of Fieldfare in spring at Gambell—two of the very few for Alaska. This bird was the second, present on 02 Jun 1985. *Photos (2) by Jon L. Dunn*

AMERICAN ROBIN
Despite its abundance on the Alaska mainland, American Robins are very rare to casual visitors to the offshore Bering Sea. There are just over 20 records on SLI, including these individuals at Gambell 29 May 2017 (left), 07 Oct 2015 (middle), and (late) 03 Nov 2013 (right). *Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Paul E. Lehman, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

VARIED THRUSH
Varied Thrush is of more regular occurrence on SLI than are American Robins in spring, but they are rarer in fall. The earliest spring arrival is this individual (left) at Gambell 02–10 May (here 02 May) 2015. Single fall birds here (middle and right) are from 29 Sep 2007 and 09 Oct 2016. *Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Gary H. Rosenberg, and Paul E. Lehman*

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD
One of the most out-of-place North American vagrants ever to be found at Gambell is this Northern Mockingbird present 13 Sep 2014. There is also one offshore Bering Sea record from the Pribilof Islands. *Photos (2) by Chris Feeney and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*
SIBERIAN ACCENTOR
One of the more charismatic Asian strays that occurs regularly is Siberian Accentor. Following the first island record west of Savoonga in Oct 1936, a sizeable total of 37 accentors have been found between 1999–2017, all at Gambell and all during the fall. A sampling of these individuals includes (clockwise) 07 Sep 2016, 15 Sep 2015, 20 Sep 2015, and (late) 20 Oct 2015. Photos (4) by Greg Scyphers, Monte M. Taylor, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)

HOUSE SPARROW
Establishing the second of two House Sparrow records at Gambell, this individual was present 12–25 May (here 12 May, left, and 17 May, right) 2013. These birds likely originated from introduced populations in adjacent northeast Russia. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Brad Benter

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL
Eastern Yellow Wagtails are uncommon spring and fairly common fall trans-Beringian migrants. The largest numbers in autumn likely occur before most birders arrive. This species is also a probable rare breeder on SLI. This spring migrant (left) was photographed 27 May 2007, whereas the bird in the middle, photographed 18 Jul 2017, was probably an early fall migrant, and the one at right was on the typical fall date of 13 Aug 2013. Photos (3) by Devich Farbotnik and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)

GRAY WAGTAIL
There are only single spring and fall records of Gray Wagtail at Gambell. This individual was present 18–19 Oct (here 18 Oct, left; 19 Oct, right) 2017. Photos (2) by Sue Bryer

WHITE WAGTAIL
Two or three pairs of White Wagtails breed most years at Gambell, and probably at several other sites on SLI. They typically arrive beginning in mid-May and most depart by mid-September, with a few stragglers to the end of the month. Shown here are adults on 29 May 2016 (left), 06 Jun 2016 (middle), and 03 Sep 2015 (right). Photos (3) by Aaron J. Lang, Kevin J. Zimmer, and Herb Fechter

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT
The first record of Olive-backed Pipit for North America was established at Gambell on 01 Jun 1962. An additional ten spring and eight fall records have accumulated through 2017, including these individuals on 04 Jun 2003 (left), 23 Sep 2014 (middle), and 02 Oct 2017 (right). Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2)

RED-THROATED PIPIT
Red-throated Pipit is a rare spring and uncommon fall trans-Beringian migrant, and it is a very rare breeder on SLI. A few single-day totals in fall have reached an exceptional 25–40 individuals. The birds shown here were photographed 31 May 2017 (left), 16 Aug 2014 (middle), and 13 Sep 2015 (right). Photos (3) by Max Schwenne, Paul E. Lehman, and Aaron J. Lang

AMERICAN PIPIT
A regular, uncommon migrant in both spring and fall, American Pipits are more numerous in autumn when counts have reached as high as 35 birds in a season. Individuals appearing like the Asian subspecies A. r. japonicus are rare in spring and uncommon in fall and include this spring bird on 05–06 Jun 2015 (left). Other American Pipits appearing intermediate between japonicus and North American A. r. pacificus are seen fairly regularly and include these individuals on 21 Aug 2016 (middle) and 07 Sep 2016 (right). Photos (3) by Kevin J. Zimmer, Paul E. Lehman, and Greg Scyphers
A late American Pipit was present at Gambell on 09 Oct 2010. Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco

BRAMBLING

HAWFINCH
A spring vagrant at Gambell, Hawfinches have been recorded some eight times. All involve single individuals except for an amazing ten birds between 24 May–03 Jun 2017 associated with a large-scale incursion to western Alaska. These photographs are from 06 Jun 2013 (left) and 28 May 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Kevin J. Zimmer and Max Schwenne

COMMON ROSEFINCH
Common Rosefinch is a very rare to casual spring and fall visitor from Asia. One record involved an unprecedented flock of 18 birds on 06 Jun 1977. Gambell individuals (clockwise) include from 01–03 Jun 1988, on 06 Jun 2010, and (2) on 05–06 Sep (here 05 Sep) 2014. Photos (4) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Kevin J. Zimmer, Neil Hayward, and James Levison

EURASIAN BULLFINCH
Eurasian Bullfinch has occurred at Gambell some seven times in spring (once involving a flock of six birds) and twice in fall. The individuals photographed here were found 26–30 May (here 28 May) 1989 (left), 25 May–03 Jun (here 01 Jun) 2001 (middle), and 09 Oct 2010 (right). Photos (3) by Paul E. Lehman, Ed Harper, and Lucas H. DeCicco

ASIAN ROSY-FINCH
The first North American record of Asian Rosy-Finch was established by this bird present at Gambell 25–26 Oct (here 26 Oct) 2008, but it was not identified correctly from the photographs until 2016! The only other record is from Adak Island in Dec 2011. Photos (2) by Hansen Irrigoo (left) and Gerard Koonooka (right)

PURPLE FINCH
Purple Finch is a very rare visitor anywhere in Alaska and is casual on SLI. The first island record is a specimen from Savoonga 05 Jun 1984 identified as H. p. purpureus. Three fall records at Gambell involve one purpureus—here 22 Oct 2011 (2)—and two tentative H. p. californicus—including 07–09 Sep (here 07 Sep) 2004 (2). Photos (4) by John Vanderpoel (2) and Brian L. Sullivan (2)

COMMON REDPOLL
Many redpolls at Gambell and elsewhere in western Alaska are difficult to identify in the field. Nonetheless, typical looking Common Redpolls—which are usually outnumbered by Hoary Redpolls on SLI—are uncommon spring and fall visitors. They are very rare or casual in summer, including this male on 19 Jul 2012 (left). Even more unusual was this winter male found at Gambell from 01 Jan–04 Feb (here 01 Jan) 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

HOARY REDPOLL
Hoary Redpolls are uncommon to fairly common spring and fall visitors, rare breeders, and casual winter visitors on SLI. These adults were photographed at Gambell 30 Aug 2014 (left) and 01 Jun 2017 (middle), and the juvenile bird was on 30 Aug 2004 (right). *Photos (3) by James Levison (2) and Brian L. Sullivan*

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**
White-winged Crossbill is a casual visitor, with just four total records at Gambell from spring, summer, and early fall. This male was present 01–14 Jun (here 02 Jun) 2016. *Photo by Liam Singh*

**PINE SISKIN**
An irruptive species from mainland Alaska, Pine Siskins have been found very rarely on SLI, mostly at Gambell and mostly in the fall. These individuals were there 09 Oct 2014 (left) and 28 Sep–03 Oct (here 30 Sep) 2017 (middle). The summer bird at right was one of three individuals present 05–07 Jul (here 05 Jul) 2011 and which presumably were the same birds seen there in early Jun. *Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Sue Bryer, and Jean Iron*

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR**
Along with Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur is the most numerous passerine on SLI. These photos show the record-early spring arrival on 20 Apr 2017 (left), an alternate male 06 Jun 2015 (middle), and an alternate female on 05 Jun 2015 (right). *Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., Kevin J. Zimmer, and James Levison*
Most Lapland Longspurs have departed in fall by the last few days of September. These individuals are in typical basic plumage, both on 02 Sep 2017. *Photos (2) by Greg Scyphers and James Levison*

**SNOW BUNTING**
Along with Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting is one of the two most common passerines on SLI. Here (clockwise) are spring adults on 27 May 2011 and 28 May 2017, a fall bird on 06 Sep 2014, and a juvenile on 31 Aug 2014. *Photos (4) by Jay Gilliam, James Levison (2), and Jay Gilliam*
Snow Buntings are very rare in winter, including this individual, one of several at Gambell during early 2017, photographed 28 Jan. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**MCKAY’S BUNTING**
McKay’s Bunting was formerly a regular spring migrant in very small numbers at Gambell through late May and the beginning of June. But since the early 1990s, it has become much rarer at that season and now occurs mostly earlier in spring—from mid-April to early May. These males were present 08 May 2006 (left), 09 Jun 1989 (middle), and 02 Jun 2008 (right). *Photos (3) by Brad Benter, Paul E. Lehman, and Martin Meyers*
During the past twenty years, McKay’s Buntings have been found to occur regularly in small numbers at Gambell during late September and early October, including these birds on 18 Sep 2016 (left, with two Snow Buntings) and 06 Oct 2014. *Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Chris Feeney*
Intermediate-looking birds between McKay’s and Snow Buntings occur fairly regularly as well, and these individuals may be female McKay’s or hybrids. Examples are from 08 May 2006 (left) and 23 Sep 2016 (right). *Photos (2) by Brad Benter and Paul E. Lehman*
McKay’s Buntings are known to winter regularly along the adjacent mainland coast of Alaska, but such records were lacking at Gambell until 2016 and 2017. Up to 20 McKay’s present 12 Jan–12 Mar 2017 included these individuals (clockwise) on 19 Feb, 27 Feb, and 05 Mar, and the group of ca. 15 McKay’s and 3 Snow Buntings on 08 Feb. *Photos (4) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**PINE BUNTING**
Establishing only the fourth record for Alaska and North America, this Pine Bunting lingered at Gambell from 18 Nov–02 Dec 2016, photographed here on 29 Nov (left) and 01 Dec (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**YELLOW-BROWED BUNTING**
The sole North American record of Yellow-browed Bunting was established by this individual at Gambell 15 Sep 2007. *Photos (3) by Paul Mayer (2) and David W. Sonneborn*

**LITTLE BUNTING**
Since the first Gambell record in 1993, there have been some 36 Little Buntings at Gambell in fall through 2017, constituting a large percent of the total North American records. In contrast, there is just one spring record, of a bird remaining 02–04 Jun (here 02 Jun) 2008. *Photo by Martin Meyers*
These autumn individuals were photographed (clockwise) 16 Aug 2013 (early), 03 Sep 2015, 01 Oct 2007, and (late) 21 Oct 2016. *Photos (4) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr., James Levison, Gary H. Rosenberg, and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**RUSTIC BUNTING**

Very rare spring and casual fall visitors from Asia, Rustic Buntings at Gambell include this spring male on 03 Jun 1990 (left) and spring female on 05 Jun 2009 (right). *Photos (2) by Jon L. Dunn and Kevin J. Zimmer*

Five Rustic Buntings have been found at Gambell in fall, including this bird from 29 Sep–06 Oct (here 01 Oct) 2014 (left) and one of two individuals present on 07 Oct 2015 (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING**

A sight record at Gambell in Jun 1978 was the first report of Yellow-breasted Bunting for North America. The only other Gambell record is Alaska’s only bird in fall, here, 02 Sep 2009. *Photos (3) by Aaron J. Lang (left, middle) and Monte M. Taylor (right)*

**PALLAS’S BUNTING**

Pallas’s Bunting is a casual visitor from Asia, with one spring but five fall records, all since 2006. The documented spring bird was a male present 31 May–01 June (here 31 May) 2017. *Photos (2) by Aaron J. Lang and Bill Hill*

Two of the five Pallas’s Buntings at Gambell in fall are these birds from 24–26 Sep (here 25 Sep) 2006 (left) and, with remnant juvenile plumage, 02 Sep 2009 (middle, right). *Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Monte M. Taylor (2)*

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW**

A very rare visitor from the adjacent mainland, American Tree Sparrow has been found over 30 times in spring and over 20 times in fall through 2017. This individual was present 26 May 2017. *Photo by Max Schwenne*

**CHIPPING SPARROW**

Since first being recorded at Gambell in Aug 1998, Chipping Sparrows have continued to occur in fall with surprising regularity. They nest no closer than east-central and southeast Alaska. Through 2017, some 41 individuals have been found, almost all showing at least some juvenile plumage. In contrast, there are only two spring records. These birds were photographed 15 Sep 2006 (left), 05 Sep 2012 (middle), and 06 Sep 2014 (right). *Photos (3) by Gary H. Rosenberg, Aaron J. Lang, and Paul E. Lehman*

**SAVANNAH SPARROW**

A rare-but-regular visitor in both spring and fall, Savannah Sparrows are common on the adjacent Alaska mainland. An exceptional 42+ birds were at Gambell during mid-Aug 2004; typical season totals are in the single digits. These individuals were there (slightly early) 19 May 2016 (left) and (late) 08 Oct 2010 (right). *Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Lucas H. DeCicco*

**FOX SPARROW**

Both “Red” Fox Sparrows (*P. i. zaboria*) and “Sooty” Fox Sparrows (*P. i. unalaschensis* group) are rare fall visitors to Gambell. In spring, Sooty is very rare, and Red is casual. It is interesting that Sooty is the more regular vagrant at both seasons, given that it nests no closer than southwest Alaska, whereas Red breeds on the adjacent mainland. This Red Fox Sparrow is the first to occur in spring at Gambell, 27 May 2016; the Sooty Fox Sparrow (right) is the latest in spring, remaining through 13 Jun (here 10 Jun) 2012. *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Nicholas R. Hajdukovich*


**LINCOLN’S SPARROW**

Very rare in fall and casual in spring, Lincoln’s Sparrows at Gambell include these individuals on 07 Oct 2011 (left) and 07 Oct 2015 (right)—the latest records. *Photos (2) by Peter Scully and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**
A rare but regular visitor in fall, White-crowned Sparrow is merely casual in spring. It is common on the adjacent Alaska mainland. Only several of the many fall records at Gambell involve adult birds. These individuals (clockwise) were there 28 May 2016, 30 May 2015, 07 Oct 2015, and (late) 16–19 Oct (here 16 Oct) 2017. Photos (4) by Aaron J. Lang, James Levison, Clarence Irrigoo Jr., and Sue Bryer

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW
Like White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow is a rare fall and casual spring visitor—although it occurs in slightly larger numbers than do White-crowns. The total of fall birds at Gambell, 1993–2017, is now at 140 individuals. The spring adult (left) was photographed 26 May 2016, and the fall immatures were on 03 Sep 2016 (middle) and (late) 15 Oct 2017 (right). Photos (3) by Liz Southworth, Greg Scyphers, and Sue Bryer

DARK-EYED JUNCO
All SLI records of the very rare but annual Dark-eyed Junco involve “Slate-colored” birds (J. h. hyemalis) except for at least two October birds that showed characters of intermediate cismontanus, one exceptional record of a montanus “Oregon” Junco collected at Gambell 31 May 1957, and another Oregon Junco present in Oct 2017. Two early spring Slate-coloreds (left) were at Gambell from 23 Apr–01 May (here 28 Apr) 2017, a fall bird was late on 01 Nov 2015 (middle), and one of the intermediate birds was found 23 Oct 2011 (right). Photos (3) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. (2) and John Vanderpoel

The second record of Oregon Junco was established by this individual present at Gambell 03–06 Oct (here 03 Oct) 2017. Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE
Nesting no closer than in southern British Columbia, Bullock’s Oriole has now occurred a surprising four times at Gambell, all in fall. The first was a sight record on 03 Oct 2004, but the following three birds—all in 2007 and all photographed—helped bring the species off the state’s unsubstantiated list. Shown here are the individuals present on 13–14 Sep (here 13 Sep) 2007 (left), on 23–24 Sep (here 24 Sep) 2007, and from 23–29 Sep (here 23 Sep) 2007. Photos (3) by Aaron J. Lang and Gary H. Rosenberg (2)

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD
A rare visitor anywhere in Alaska, Brown-headed Cowbird is casual in the Bering Sea region. There are five fall records at Gambell, all involving juvenile birds. These two were present 6–7 Sep 1998 (left) and 30–31 Aug 2004 (right, with a Northern Wheatear in the background). Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Brian L. Sullivan

RUSTY BLACKBIRD
Although nesting on the adjacent Alaska mainland, Rusty Blackbird is a strictly casual visitor to the offshore islands. SLI records include these Gambell birds on 22 May 2017 (left) and 13 Sep 2014 (right). Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr. and Paul E. Lehman

OVENBIRD
This Ovenbird, casual anywhere in Alaska, established the first of only two Bering Sea records. It was at Gambell 21–25 Sep (here 21 Sep) 2007. Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH
A casual visitor in both spring and fall, the Northern Waterthrush at left was present 27 Aug 2006, while the bird at right, perhaps incorrectly suggesting some characters of Louisiana Waterthrush, was one of two record-late birds on 07 Oct 2015. Photos (2) by Martin Meyers and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

TENNESSEE WARBLER
Tennessee Warbler is a casual vagrant to the Bering Sea region, and it is rare anywhere in Alaska. The bird at left was Gambell’s first on 22 Sep 2001; the third local record was the bird at right present from 01–09 Oct (here 02 Oct) 2016. Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER
A rare but regular visitor in fall, there are but two records of Orange-crowned Warbler in spring. These individuals were found at Gambell on 03 Sep 2015 (left) and 07 Oct 2015 (right). Photos (2) by Monte M. Taylor and Paul E. Lehman
NASHVILLE WARBLER
This Nashville Warbler at Gambell from 05–07 Sep (here 06 Sep) 2004 was the first to be photographically documented for all of Alaska. Photos (2) by Brian L. Sullivan

MACGILLIVRAY’S WARBLER
Breeding no closer than in southeast Alaska and southern Yukon, MacGillivray’s Warbler is a casual fall vagrant at Gambell, where the only Bering Sea records have been made. The second of two birds there was present from 04–09 Oct (here 09 Oct) 2016. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

MOURNING WARBLER
Surprising, there are three fall records of Mourning Warbler at Gambell, the only Bering Sea region records of this casual species anywhere in the state. This individual was present 28–29 Sep (here 28 Sep) 2012. Photos (2) by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

AMERICAN REDSTART
American Redstart breeds no closer than southeast Alaska and western Northwest Territories. It is of casual occurrence in the Bering Sea region, with four records at Gambell through 2017, including this immature male on 23 Sep 2007. Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

CAPE MAY WARBLER
The second Bering Sea region record of Cape May Warbler (the first was from the Pribilof Islands) was established by this bird at Gambell from 09–11 Sep (here 11 Sep) 2012. Photo by Gary H. Rosenberg

MAGNOLIA WARBLER
Another casual fall visitor to the Bering Sea region (and very rare anywhere in Alaska), Magnolia Warbler has been recorded three times at Gambell (and twice at the Pribilofs), including this individual on 08 Oct 2017 (left) and an especially late bird on 20 Oct 2011 (right). Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

YELLOW WARBLER
Over 30 Yellow Warblers were found in fall at Gambell between 1989–2017, yet the species remains unrecorded in spring. These individuals were photographed 04 Sep 2014 (left) and 13 Sep 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Jay Gilliam and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER
Despite its nesting locally along the adjacent Alaska mainland, Blackpoll Warblers are mere casual visitors offshore, with one late-spring and three fall records at Gambell. The bird at left was found 26 Aug 1992, whereas the one at right was present 19 Sep 2017. Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Gary H. Rosenberg

PALM WARBLER
A very rare visitor anywhere in Alaska, this Palm Warbler at Gambell 07 Oct 2015 is one of two fall records locally. Photo by Paul E. Lehman

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER
Very rare in both spring and fall offshore to SLI and elsewhere in the Bering Sea, these Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were photographed at Gambell (clockwise) 12 May 2005 (early), 29 May 2017, 26 Sep 2014, and 13 Oct 2014 (late). Photos (4) by Brad Benter, Victor Stoll, Paul E. Lehman, and Clarence Irrigoo

TOWNSEND’S WARBLER
Townsend’s Warbler nests as close as south-coastal and east-central Alaska. It is of casual occurrence at Gambell in both spring and (mostly) fall. These individuals were present 29–30 Aug (here 30 Aug) 2015 (left) and (late) 14 Oct 2017 (right). Photos (2) by Gary H. Rosenberg and Sue Bryer

WILSON’S WARBLER
Rare but virtually annual in fall, Wilson’s Warbler has occurred but once in spring. Several fall records near Savoonga in 1935 have been followed by over 40 individuals recorded at Gambell between 1966–2017. The lone
spring bird was on 02 Jun 2016 (left), and a late fall bird was present 05–06 Oct (here 05 Oct) 2012. *Photos (2) by Stephan Lorenz and David Pavlik*

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**
Black-headed Grosbeak is a very rare visitor anywhere in Alaska. The only record for the Bering Sea region is of this bird at Gambell 26 Sep 2005. *Photo (from videotape) by Paul E. Lehman*

**LAZULI BUNTING**
A huge surprise was the discovery of this Lazuli Bunting at Gambell from 02–06 Oct 2016. This is a casual species anywhere in the state, and the next closest record is from south-coastal Alaska. These two photos are from 03 Oct (left) and 05 Oct (right). *Photos (2) by Paul E. Lehman and Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

**MAMMALS** [place in References section]

Two common mammals of the island’s tundra and boneyards are Arctic Ground-Squirrel (*Urocitellus [Spermophilus] parryii*; left), on 09 Sep 2014, and Tundra (or Root) Vole (*Microtus oeconomus*; right), on 06 Jun 2015. *Photos (2) by James Levison*

Northern Red-backed Voles (*Myodes rutilus*) are uncommon residents and far less numerous than Tundra Voles. At Gambell, they are seen mostly on the slopes of Seuvuokuk Mountain. Photographed on 02 Jun 2017. *Photo by James Levison*

Arctic Foxes (*Vulpes lagopus*) are widespread on SLI but are uncommon in the immediate Gambell area. This individual was photographed on 30 May 2008. *Photo by Thomas A. Benson*

At least five species of seals and sea lions are found in the SLI area. This young Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus*) was at Gambell 02 May 2015. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

Steller Sea Lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) are regularly seen from the point at Gambell in fall, here 02 Sep 2017, less frequently in spring. *Photo by James Levison*

Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) occur off SLI primarily when sea-ice is present, such as in early spring. This small herd was several miles off Gambell 11 Apr 2016. *Photo by Clarence Irrigoo Jr.*

Gray Whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*; here 01 Jun 2015) are fairly common visitors to the waters off SLI, from at least May to November. A few counts off the point at Gambell in early autumn have reached 20 individuals, although fewer than 5 or 10 seen daily is more typical in recent years. *Photo by James Levison*