Orange-crowned Warblers of this phenotype are numerous as fall migrants at Middleton Island in the Gulf of Alaska. They likely originate from a broad zone of intergradation of *O. c. celata* and *O. c. lutescens* in south-central Alaska. Their similarity to subspecies *O. c. oresteria* is striking—compare the lower photo on the inside front cover of *Western Birds* 39(1), 2008. Subspecies *oresteria*, typical of the Rocky Mountains, is generally considered to breed only east of the Coast Mountains, northwest as far as southwestern Yukon Territory. But the prevalence of this phenotype in Alaska suggests this definition should be reconsidered.


Most of the many birds migrating across the Gulf of Alaska in fall and pausing at Middleton Island are following the Pacific Flyway. But the Gray-cheeked Thrush, as well as a suite of other birds that typically follow the Central and Eastern flyways, also occur at Middleton Island annually. Pacific and interior avifaunas migrating on different trajectories thus mix during the fall at this Pacific coastal location.
Volume 48, Number 4, 2017

Birds of Middleton Island, a Unique Landfall for Migrants in the Gulf of Alaska
Lucas H. DeCicco,
Daniel D. Gibson, Theodore G. Tobish, Jr.,
Steven C. Heinl, Nicholas R. Hajdukovich,
James A. Johnson, and Charles W. Wright ......................... 214

Thanks to Western Birds’ Reviewers and Associate Editors ............... 294

Index Daniel D. Gibson .............................................................. 295

Front cover photo by © Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS of Anchorage, Alaska: Pacific Wren (Troglodytes pacificus helleri), Middleton Island, Alaska, 23 October 2016. Ubiquitous on Middleton from coastal windrows of driftwood to dilapidated military buildings, the Pacific Wren is emblematic of this island isolated in the Gulf of Alaska—and is its only passerine resident year round. Subspecies helleri is restricted, so far as is known, to Middleton Island and the Kodiak archipelago to the west.

Back cover photo by © Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS of Fairbanks, Alaska: Buller’s Shearwater (Ardenna bulleri), Middleton Island, Alaska. From 2011 to 2016 Buller’s Shearwaters, in addition to Flesh-footed (A. carneipes) and Manx (Puffinus puffinus) shearwaters, were observed from Middleton Island in fall in numbers far exceeding previous counts reported from anywhere else in Alaska, as described in this issue by Lucas H. DeCicco, Daniel D. Gibson, Theodore G. Tobish, Jr., Steven C. Heinl, Nicholas R. Hajdukovich, James A. Johnson, and Charles W. Wright.

Western Birds solicits papers that are both useful to and understandable by amateur field ornithologists and also contribute significantly to scientific literature. The journal welcomes contributions from both professionals and amateurs. Appropriate topics include distribution, migration, status, identification, geographic variation, conservation, behavior, ecology, population dynamics, habitat requirements, the effects of pollution, and techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds in the field. Papers of general interest will be considered regardless of their geographic origin, but particularly desired are reports of studies done in or bearing on North America west of the 100th meridian, including Alaska and Hawaii, northwestern Mexico, and the northeastern Pacific Ocean.

Send manuscripts to Daniel D. Gibson, P. O. Box 155, Ester, AK 99725; avesalaska@gmail.com. For matters of style consult the Suggestions to Contributors to Western Birds (at www.westernfieldornithologists.org/docs/journal_guidelines.doc).

Good photographs of rare and unusual birds, unaccompanied by an article but with caption including species, date, locality and other pertinent information, are wanted for publication in Western Birds. Submit photos and captions to Photo Editor. Also needed are black and white pen and ink drawings of western birds. Please send these, with captions, to Graphics Manager.
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS IN THE GULF OF ALASKA†

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ABSTRACT: Migration studies at Middleton Island, Gulf of Alaska, over four decades (1974–2016) documented the regular autumn occurrences of over 100 species of birds (35+ passerines and 65+ nonpasserines), most of them apparently departing across the Gulf of Alaska for the Pacific coast to the east and south. With a focus on fall migration, we discuss here 261 species and 16 additional subspecies recorded at Middleton. We present much new information on the status of bird species and subspecies in the Gulf of Alaska and highlight the regular and predictable use of a route of migration across the Gulf of Alaska by large numbers of passerines, including species associated with the Central Flyway.

Isolated in the northern Gulf of Alaska, Middleton Island (59° 26′ N, 146° 20′ W) lies 115 km from the Alaska mainland, 75 km from the nearest island (Montague Island, Prince William Sound), and 19 km from the edge of the continental shelf to the southeast (Figure 1). Located between the Kodiak archipelago, 350 km to the southwest, and the Alexander Archipelago, 600 km to the east and south, Middleton provides the only possible landfall for 100+ species of migrant birds apparently striking out in fall from southwestern and south-central Alaska across the gulf for the Pacific coast to the east and south. Because of Middleton’s isolation and limited diversity of breeding birds, the occurrence of migrants is conspicuous in timing and

†This paper is dedicated to the memory of MALCOLM E. “PETE” ISLEIB (14 December 1938–18 June 1993), our friend and colleague, for over three decades a peerless and tireless Alaskan field ornithologist.
species composition. At Middleton, directly south of the forested mainland, the array of regular migrants includes 35+ species of passerines and 65+ species of nonpasserines. In an effort to demonstrate the taxonomic breadth and geographic scope of migration across the gulf, we compare our data with those on waterfowl and shorebirds known to depart the Alaska Peninsula, 800–1100 km west-southwest of Middleton, on transoceanic passages to the eastern Pacific coast south of Alaska. We present much new information—especially for passerines—on fall migration off the Pacific coast of Alaska and describe for the first time the composition of the avifauna that crosses the Gulf of Alaska and the timing of this migration.

Previous and Continuing Studies

Middleton Island had received little attention from ornithologists before recent years. William Healey Dall and Charles H. Townsend stopped briefly on
2 June 1874 (U.S. National Museum of Natural History [USNM] specimens) and 26 August 1888 (see Ridgway 1893), respectively, while en route to or from areas farther west. But no one published on the subject of Middleton’s birds before Robert Rausch (1958) visited for 15 days in June 1956 and recorded 45 species, among them nesting Lapland Longspurs and Pacific Wrens, and several birds that appeared to be out of place—e.g., an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Townsend’s Warbler, and a Red-eyed Vireo—this last constituting a first Alaska record. Rausch wrote (1958:227) that Middleton “would appear to be of considerable ornithological interest.”

O’Farrell and Sheets (1962) were the first to publish on the wintering birds, including the Emperor Goose and Snowy Owl. A one-day sojourn in August 1974 by Pete Isleib and George E. Hall marked the first visit by field ornithologists specifically interested in migrants at this site. Also in the 1970s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began annual monitoring of the island’s nesting seabirds. That effort was continued by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from the 1990s to the 2010s, and it is currently being led by Scott A. Hatch (Institute for Seabird Research and Conservation). In addition to information on nesting seabirds (e.g., Hatch et al. 1979, 1993, 2011, Hatch 1983, 1987), this work has contributed many ancillary observations of other species in spring and summer. In fall 1980, we began focusing more seriously on assessing the species and subspecies involved in the migratory avifauna at Middleton, primarily in fall. This effort—22 trips and 381 field-days from 1974 to 2016 (Table 1)—produced most of the information we present here.

### Table 1 Summary of Our 22 Surveys on Middleton Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>GEH, MEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>8–15 Oct</td>
<td>TGT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>10–25 May</td>
<td>DDG, JSH, SRJ, JJ, BEL</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9–22 Sep</td>
<td>TGT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>6 Nov</td>
<td>RLS, DWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>RLS, Arctic Audubon Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>RLS, “Attu Group”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>5–12 Nov</td>
<td>MEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>23 Sep–6 Oct</td>
<td>DDG, MEI, RLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>15–25 Sep</td>
<td>MEI</td>
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<tr>
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<td>23–30 Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>26 Sep–2 Oct</td>
<td>MEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>25 Sep–1 Oct</td>
<td>SCH, RAM, MEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992/93</td>
<td>28 Dec–2 Jan</td>
<td>RLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>20–28 Sep</td>
<td>TGT, REG, TJD, GHR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>21–29 Sep</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>24 Aug–28 Sep</td>
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<td>11 Aug–16 Oct</td>
<td>LHD, NRH, JAJ, CWW</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>19–29 Oct</td>
<td>NRH, LHD, JJB, EWC, CDE, JDL, RAM, BWR, JS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See acknowledgments for initials*
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

STUDY AREA

Middleton Island was named in 1794 by George Vancouver, “probably after Sir Charles Middleton [1723–1813], a rear admiral and comptroller of the [Royal] navy” (Orth 1971:640). Bancroft (1886:268) identified the “Middleton Island of Vancouver” as Achakoo Island, or Ochek Island on Russian charts. In 1941 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established a weather station at Middleton, still in operation and the only reason the island’s gravel runway continues to be maintained. A U.S. Air Force (USAF) Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron operated there from 1958 to 1963 and erected substantial infrastructure, most of which has since succumbed to the ravages of marine weather. Since 1980, coastal areas of Middleton have been managed by the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

The geologic history of Middleton, a 9 × 3 km (15 km²) continental island at the seaward edge of the North American plate, has been investigated thoroughly (Plafker 1969, Plafker and Rubin 1978, Carver and Plafker 2008). The island owes its presence and terraced topography to a series of seismic events over the past 5000 years, most recently during the Great Alaska Earthquake, in March 1964, when the island rose 3.5 m. Wave action has eroded the terraces on the south and west sides of the island, producing steep seawalls that have, since the 1964 uplift, become overgrown and degraded. Unconsolidated rocky substrate has been deposited through longshore drift in peninsulas on the south and west coasts and at the north end of the island (Figure 1).

There are no land mammals native to Middleton Island. Arctic foxes (Vulpes lagopus) were introduced in about 1895 to be farmed for their pelts (see Eby 1912, Parker 1923, Johnson 1950). The foxes died out in the late 1930s and early 1940s (Rausch 1958), but European rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus), introduced in the early 1950s (ibid., O’Farrell 1965), continue to thrive.

Climate and Weather

The west-to-east movement of low-pressure systems dominates the regional weather from September through March and influences the abundance of fall migrants in the Gulf of Alaska. These cyclonic storms are produced or altered by the Aleutian Low, then follow the path of the Polar Jet Stream as they move across the Gulf of Alaska. The strength and intensity of these systems are influenced by the cycle of El Niño–La Niña and, further, by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, in which cold and warm phases alternate in a 15- to 20-year cycle. When El Niño coincides with a warming trend of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, these cycles merge to produce exceptionally strong storms. From at least June through August, a weak high-pressure system seasonally fills the North Pacific Ocean, yielding much milder summers with minimal development of low-pressure systems (Lethcoe 2003). Spring (April–May) is a transitional period.

Middleton has a maritime climate with a mean annual temperature of 5.7°C. Summers are typically dry and calm compared to the windy and wet winters. February is the coldest month, with a mean minimum of −0.8°C. The Polar High often extends over the Gulf of Alaska in winter, producing even colder temperatures and strong north or northeast winds; the lowest
temperature recorded at Middleton was $-14.4^\circ C$, in February 1947. August is the warmest month, with a mean maximum of $14.4^\circ C$; the highest temperature recorded was $22.2^\circ C$, in August 1957. Average annual precipitation is 1460 mm, with June the driest month (average rainfall 57 mm) and October the wettest (200 mm). Precipitation remains relatively high through January, when a drying trend begins. During winter, snow rarely accumulates for extended periods (Hogan 1995, Lethcoe 2003).
Following detailed descriptions of Middleton’s floristic communities completed over 50 years ago (Thomas 1957, Rausch 1958), profound changes—most notably those caused by the Great Alaska Earthquake, which increased the island’s size by 405 ha (>30%; Gill et al. 2004; Figure 1)—have shaped the island’s habitats. Now encircling the entire island is a belt up to 500 m wide of intertidal shoreline, wetlands, and thickets of shrubs.

Avian Habitats

Figure 3. Open vegetated habitats of Middleton Island: (A) vegetated freshwater pond on lower plateau, (B) mosaic of marsh and willow thickets typical on lower plateau, (C) meadow and overgrown historical sea cliffs, (C and D) meadows of the lower and upper plateaus respectively, (E and F) dilapidated military buildings.

*Photos by Lucas H. DeCicco and Rebecca L. Windsor/USFWS*
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

(Figures 2–4), which supports the majority of the island’s nonpasserine avian diversity. Furthermore, this newly emerged land acts as a buffer between sea and cliffs, preventing coastal erosion. Surface runoff and sediment deposition have transformed once vertical and sparsely vegetated cliffs into slopes overgrown by dense shrubbery.

Here we present a modification of the detailed treatments of the island’s

Figure 4. Woody vegetation of Middleton Island: (A) overview of the west willow thicket, (B) tall shrub thicket (willows) from base of west bluff, (C) low/medium shrub thickets (willow and Rubus sp.) with isolated Sitka spruces in background, (D and E) within tall shrub thickets at different seasons.

*Photos by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS*
habitats and flora by Thomas (1957) and Rausch (1958). We refer to 13 prominent habitats, modified from Kessel (1979) and Gibson and Byrd (2007), important to the island’s avifauna.

**Lacustrine Waters and Shorelines.**—Numerous vegetated shallow ponds and lakes 10–600 m in length occur on the lower plateau (Figures 2 and 3). Many of these waterbodies are inundated by extreme tides, producing brackish conditions.

**Marsh.**—Extensive wetlands dominated by moss (*Sphagnum* sp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), grasses (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), and forbs (e.g., *Potentilla* sp.) occur on the lower plateau and the larger eastern terraces (Figure 2).

**Nearshore Marine Waters.**—A series of partially sheltered bays and tidal lagoons form the island’s south coast, while at the northeastern corner uplift over the past decade has converted a shallow embayment to a brackish lagoon (Figure 2).

**Inshore Marine Waters.**—Coastal waters, ≤ 25 m in depth, extend to 3 km from shore (Figure 2) and support large beds of bull kelp (*Nereocystis lutkeana*) along the west shore.

**Offshore Marine Waters.**—Water depths increase to >1000 m ~20 km from shore and >4000 m within 45 km southeast of Middleton, beyond the continental shelf (Figure 2).

**Reefs and Spits.**—Ocean currents and longshore drift form cobbles or sand spits that radiate from the island’s south shoreline and off the north point. Rocky reefs extend off the northeast and east shorelines (Figure 2).

**Beaches and Tidal Flats.**—Beaches of cobbles, gravel, and sand are the island’s primary shoreline habitat. Tidal flats of finer sediment occur in the upper reaches of most shallow bays. Fall storms deposit thick mats of bull kelp along certain shorelines and extensive windrows of driftwood occur along all shorelines (Figure 2).

**Grass Meadow.**—The upper plateau and east terraces are blanketed in grass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*) and a variety of forbs (e.g., *Geranium erianthum*, *Maianthemum dilatatum*; Figure 3) reaching 1.5 m in height.

**Tall Forb Meadow.**—On well-drained sandy soils of the lower plateau, tall forb meadows dominated by *Heracleum lanatum*, *Angelica* spp., etc. are extensive.

**Low/Medium Shrub Thicket.**—Thickets of willow (*Salix barclayi*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) ≤ 2 m tall occur extensively on sloped terrain and in drier areas of the lower plateau adjacent to tall shrub thicket (see below; Figure 4).

**Tall Shrub Thicket.**—Thickets ≥ 2 m tall, dominated by willows interspersed with elderberry, occur extensively along the west bluff (Figure 4).

**Coniferous Forest.**—Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) trees 3–10 m tall are scattered across the island singly or in small stands (Figure 4).

**Artificial.**—A mixture of maintained and abandoned infrastructure (buildings, towers, dirt roads, and a gravel airstrip) is restricted primarily to the upper plateau and represents remnants of the former USAF and continuing FAA activities (Figure 3). A large shipwreck, of the S.S. *Coldbrook*, lies on the west shoreline (Figure 1).

221
METHODS

At intervals from 1974 through 2016, we conducted 19 surveys of varying duration to inventory the migrant avifauna of Middleton Island: 15 in fall, one in winter, and three in spring. These visits comprised 381 field days, 357 in fall (6 August–12 November), 18 in spring (10–25 May), and six in winter (28 December–6 January). Field work in the 1980s and 1990s was organized by Gibson, Isleib, and Tobish, and surveys from 2011 to 2016 were organized by DeCicco and Johnson. The information we present for summer, and occasionally for other seasons, came from unpublished US-FWS/USGS reports and camp field journals (compiled by Tim van Nus). We refer to this information by the observers’ initials, all (but the writers) identified in Acknowledgments. Surveys prior to 2011 were focused on daily field observations and were restricted to September and October. From 2011 on, our field efforts were more structured, with coverage from mid-August to mid-October. During this period, in addition to daily field observations, we also operated an array of 13 mist nets for 6 hr/day, observed pelagic seabirds systematically from the north point, and surveyed the entire perimeter of the island to estimate seasonal patterns of shorebird abundance.

RESULTS

As of 31 December 2016, 261 species of birds (with an additional 16 subspecies) representing 51 families in 18 orders had been recorded at Middleton. Thirty-three species were recorded year round, 110 species in summer (two only in summer), and 54 in winter (three only in winter). Thirty-seven species, including 11 passerines, breed or likely do so at Middleton, a number much lower than the approximately 110 coastal and lowland species breeding on the nearby (forested) mainland coast (see Isleib and Kessel 1973). Absent certain evidence of nesting, we consider the Red-faced Cormorant, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Song Sparrow to be probable breeders. Migrants (173 species in fall and 110 in spring), defined as species occurring regularly in consistent numbers en route between breeding and wintering grounds, make up the majority of the island’s taxa. Eighty-one species represent extralimital visitants—away from known migration routes and not residents of the nearby mainland coast. Of these, 57 are of New World origin and 24 are of Old World origin and 71 are known at Middleton only in fall. Seasonally, fall is the most species-rich period (250 species recorded), the result of a combination of weather systems promoting migration off shore (see below), most intensive coverage by observers, and the presence of birds of the year increasing both overall numbers and diversity, a result of a proclivity of this age class for straying from course.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Conventions Used in Species Accounts

Nomenclature of subspecies follows Gibson and Withrow (2015), unless otherwise noted. Subspecies in parentheses are inferences based on field observations, photographs, phenology, zoogeography, or convey
uncertainty due to subspecies being poorly differentiated; all others are substantiated by archived specimens (not all specimens are identifiable to subspecies, see Gibson and Byrd 2007:13). Middleton specimens—collected to provide a sound, scientific basis for this work—are deposited primarily at the University of Alaska Museum (UAM), Fairbanks; some are on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York City; the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Washington, DC; the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ), University of California, Berkeley; or the U.S. Geological Survey’s Alaska Science Center (USGS), Anchorage. The amount of information provided with specimen citations varies with the importance and number of specimens summarized. Brackets denote that the sex of a specimen was inferred from plumage or measurements and was not determined by dissection. Museum catalog numbers are italicized if we have personally examined these specimens. Specimens are summarized at the end of the account if not already cited within it. All cited photographs and audio recordings are archived at Cornell University’s Macaulay Library (ML; www.macaulaylibrary.org).

Because we include maximum daily counts, colony-survey counts, or the number of birds constituting a record, definitions of the relative-abundance terms rare, uncommon, fairly common, common, and abundant are implicit. We describe taxa of less-than-annual occurrence as intermittent (recorded in ≥30% of years, but not annual) or casual (recorded in <30% of years; Gibson and Byrd 2007:14). We specify extreme dates of occurrence and a species’ pattern of abundance within this interval, if the data are adequate. We abbreviate references to five of the six biogeographic regions of Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) as N (northern), W (western), SW (southwestern), S-C (south-central)—within which Middleton lies—and SE (southeastern). The sixth, interior Alaska, is written out. We use the word “report” (versus “record”) for unique or unusual sightings without photo or specimen substantiation. Other abbreviations: Hy, in year of hatching; AHy, after year of hatching; Sy, second year; ASy, after second year; Ty, third year; ATy, after third year.

Annotated List of Species and Subspecies


**Chen canagica**. Emperor Goose. One report in WINTER: Five birds seen along west beach, 25–26 Feb 1961 (O’Farrell and Sheets 1962). NOTES: The Kodiak archipelago forms the eastern limit of this species’ main winter range, but individuals and small groups occur intermittently beyond, as far east and south as California (Hamilton et al. 2007).
Chen caerulescens caerulescens. Snow Goose. Uncommon to common in FALL from 23 Sep (2013) to 21 Oct (2016), occurring singly or in flocks of up to 75. Exceptionally numerous 24–28 Sep 2012, with from 50 to 1300 birds (on 27 Sep) per day. Twice in SPRING: One in Apr 2005 and one in early May 2005 (both TvN). NOTES: In autumn Snow Geese usually overfly Middleton, from NW to SE; exceptional were 270 (including 78 immatures) that stopped to forage in lacustrine waters, 26–28 Sep 2012. The species is a common spring and fall migrant in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMEN: UAM 37875, AHv 9, 3 Oct 2014, JJB.


Branta canadensis occidentalis. Canada Goose. Common in FALL: Migrants occur from at least early Sep (when local family groups are still present) to as late as 12 Nov (1986, MEI). From 2010 to 2016 they typically numbered 1000–1500/day during Sep and early Oct, then decreased (e.g., maximum 500 on 27 Oct 2016). In the 1980s the maximum was 800 on 5 and 6 Nov 1986, in the 2010s 1700 on 4 Oct 2012. Common in SPRING from 10 to 25 May 1981. Common in SUMMER with BREEDING first noted in 1981 (pair with three young; PJG, AEZ); the breeding population had increased to 1000 pairs by 1998 (Talbot et al. 2003). NOTES: During early fall, family groups were seen away from the coast along roads or in grass and tall forb meadows, while later in the season the species concentrated in coastal habitat. Over two years, 1987 and 1988, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game introduced 193 birds (14 adults and 179 young) to Middleton from the Copper River delta (Rosenberg et al. 1996), joining the 40+ pairs naturally breeding at that time. This subspecies breeds along the north gulf coast of Alaska, primarily in the Copper River delta, and winters in the Willamette and lower Columbia river valleys of Oregon and Washington (Mowbray et al. 2002). SPECIMENS: AMNH, 4; UAM, 1.

B. c. (parvipes). Twice in FALL: Flocks of 70 birds on 7 Oct 2014 (photos ML33467731, 33467741, and 33467781—LHD, CWW+) and 42 on 14 Oct 2014 (NRH). NOTES: Subspecies parvipes nests throughout interior and N Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015), south into upper Cook Inlet (TGT). This taxon is rare in fall in southern SE Alaska (Heinl and Piston 2009).

Cygnus columbianus (columbianus). Tundra Swan. Rare in FALL, 21 Aug (2013) to 25 Oct (2016), most after 20 Sep. Maxima 47 on northeast lagoon on 22 Oct 2016 and 67 in flight SE over inshore marine waters on 6 Oct 2014; most other records of single birds or of flocks of up to 11. Once in WINTER: Seven birds, 28 Dec 1992–1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Twice in SPRING: Four birds on 18 May 1985 (DRN); two immatures on 27 May 1978 (PJG). Once in SUMMER: Two on 21 Jun 1976 (DAF, MH). **NOTES:** When first seen, an adult present 20 Aug–16 Sep 2013 (NRH+; photo ML33566201, 16 Sep 2013, JDL) was flightless because of active molt. Most Tundra Swans have been noted on ponds or northeast lagoon. The species is a common migrant, casual in summer and winter, on the S-C Alaska mainland (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

Cygnus cygnus. Whooper Swan. One report in FALL: Immature on 6 Nov 1982 (DWS, RLS). **NOTES:** This species is uncommon in fall, winter, and spring in the western and central Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007). Though there is only one other S-C Alaska report (23 Oct 1977, Cordova—Isleib and Kessel 1989), additional records are scattered as far east and south as Wyoming (Faulkner 2010) and California (Hamilton et al. 2007).

Anas strepera (strepera). Gadwall. Fairly common throughout FALL, typically <10/day from mid-Aug through mid-Sep, 10–20/day from mid-Sep through mid-Oct, and 100+/day from mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Maxima 85 from 12 to 16 Aug 1981 (exceptional for the early date; PAB, DJS), 200 from 5 to 12 Nov 1986 (MEI), and 244 on 27 Oct 2016 (NRH). Only once in WINTER (20+ on 1 Jan 1993, RLS) but perhaps more regular. Uncommon in SPRING: Up to six (on 11 May), 10–25 May 1981 (DDG+); two pairs on 14 May 1983 (RLS). Uncommon as a BREEDER in SUMMER: Three from 14 to 26 Jun 1981 (PJG, AEZ); two from 14 to 24 Jun 1982 (PJG, DRN); female with three young on 16 Jun 1985 (DRN); female with four young on 21 Jun 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** Locally fairly common year round in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 6.

Anas penelope. Eurasian Wigeon. Rare or uncommon in FALL: Two males on 7 Sep 2011, one on 23 Sep 2013, one on 28 Sep 2012, and one female on 6 Oct 2012. Exceptionally numerous in 2014 (single individuals seen regularly, mid-Sep–4 Oct) and in 2016 (one to three daily, 19–29 Oct). Maxima five on 22 Oct 2016 and six on 11 Oct 2014. Rare in SPRING, with single birds from 20 Apr (1989) to 17 May (1996). **NOTES:** Rare or uncommon on migration and in winter in S-C and SE Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). **SPECIMENS:** UAM 31414 (wing only), [HY 9], 6 Oct 2012, BL; UAM 38108, AHY σ̄, 18 Sep 2014, NRH.


Anas acuta. Northern Pintail. Common in **FALL**: 100–500/day, mid-Aug through at least mid-Nov; maximum 1000 on 21 Sep 2012. Uncommon in **WINTER**; maximum 75+ on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS), latest three on 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Common in **SPRING** and **SUMMER** and a common **BREEDER** (see Rausch 1958). **NOTES**: We found this species on beaches, tidal flats, ponds, and nearshore marine waters. In coastal s-c Alaska it is a common migrant and breeder, rare in winter (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMEN**: UAM 2884, downy young ♀, 11 Jun 1956, R. Rausch.

Anas querquedula. Garganey. One report in **FALL**: A very wary basic-plumaged male on west ponds, alone and later with a flock of wigeon, on 29 Sep 1982 (DDG; Gibson 1983). **NOTES**: No other Alaska report on the Pacific coast east of the Aleutians, but to the east and south this species has reached British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1990a), Washington (Wahl et al. 2005), Oregon (Marshall et al. 2006), and California (Hamilton et al. 2007) in fall.


A. c. (**crecca**). One report in **SUMMER**: Male present 15–25 Jun 1982 (PJG, DRN). **NOTES**: Nominate crecca is a migrant and a resident breeder in the Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and is casual in spring in s-c (TGT) and Se Alaska (see Heinl and Piston 2009).

Aythya valisineria. Canvasback. Casual or intermittent in **FALL** from late Sep through early Nov: Two birds on 5 Nov 1986 (one to 7 Nov), two on 25 Sep 1987, flock of 23 migrating E over inshore marine waters on 24 Sep 2012, two birds on 3 Oct 2014, one from 11 to 14 Oct 2014 (photo ML39343851, LHD), and one from 20 to 22 Oct 2016. Rare in **SPRING**: Up to three from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG+), present on 15 May 1978 (SAH), and one male in May 2005 (TvN). **NOTES**: Apart
from the passing flock of 23, all birds were on the large ponds of the lower plateau. Canvases are uncommon migrants and local breeders in s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Aythya americana.* Redhead. Intermittent in spring: Up to two males and a female from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG+), one on 15 May 1982 (PDA, DWS), one at end May 2006 (TvN), and one from 19 to 24 May 2014 (TD). **Notes:** Rare migrant, primarily in spring, in s-c Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

*Aythya ferina.* Common Pochard. Twice in fall: One female or immature at southwest pond, 3 Sep (photos ML33565501, 33565511, and 33565521, NRH) and 7 Sep 2012 (UAM 31200, AHY ♀; NRH, LHD, CWW); two males in alternate plumage at northeast lagoon and southwest pond, 20–27 Oct 2016 (photo ML42752811, NRH, CWW, LHD). **Notes:** Few Alaska records east of the Aleutians (see Gibson and Withrow 2015), but the species has been found as far east as south of Alaska as California (Patten 1993, Erickson and Hamilton 2001).


*Aythya marila nearctica.* Greater Scaup. Uncommon in fall from 11 Aug (2014) to 8 Nov (1986). Typically <10/day through late Sep, then 20–40/day through late Oct. Maxima 60 on both 8 Oct 2012 and 11 Oct 2014, and 75 on 22 Oct 2016. Occasionally observed on passage, typically flying NW–SE over inshore marine waters (e.g., flocks of 30–35 on 27 and 28 Sep 1991). Rare in winter: Four birds on 30 Dec 1992 (RLS); 22 on 18 Feb 1976 (KDW). Uncommon in spring, when “regular” during Apr and May of 2005 and 2006 (TvN); five on 28 May 2015 (AAA); maximum was 18 birds on 21 May 1981. Rare in summer, when single birds or pairs reported in June in multiple years (e.g., Rausch 1958). **Notes:** Found primarily on northeast lagoon. A common migrant, breeder, and winter visitant in s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimen:** UAM 4094, AHY σ, 15 May 1981, DDG.

*Aythya affinis.* Lesser Scaup. Uncommon in fall, 11 Aug (2014) to 28 Oct (2016), when typically one to four/day through late Sep, more numerous into late Oct when <10/day. Maximum 20 on 20 Oct 2016. Rare in spring: Up to three from 15 to 22 May 1981 (DDG+) and “both species [of scaup] regular” in Apr and May 2005 and 2006 (TvN). A female attending 17 young, 18 Aug–5 Sep 2012 (LHD+), represents the only breeding record. **Notes:** Found primarily on northeast lagoon. A rare migrant in s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** UAM 4114, AHY σ, 15 May 1981, DDG; and UAM 35559, HY ♀, and UAM 35560, HY σ, both 2 Sep 2013, JJW.

*Polysticta stelleri.* Steller’s Eider. One report in winter: Two females or immature males on inshore marine waters on 6 Nov 1982 (DWS, RLS). **Notes:** The Kodiak archipelago and lower Cook Inlet form the eastern limit of this species’ normal winter range (Fredrickson 2001), but extralimital individuals have occurred in winter as far as SE Alaska (see Heinl and Piston 2009) and on the eastern Pacific coast as far south as California (Fredrickson 2001, Hamilton et al. 2007).

*Histrionicus histrionicus.* Harlequin Duck. Common year round (nonbreeding). In fall typically 100–200/day from mid-Aug through late Oct. Less numerous in Nov, when 10–50/day, 5–12 Nov 1986 (MEI). Maximum was 335 on 25 Sep 2014. In winter up to 50 on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and in small groups from 18 to 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Present in spring on 14 May 1983 (RLS) and in 2005 and 2006 (TvN). In summer, one on 27 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958), three males on 12 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH), and 25 on 10 Jul and 50 on 19 Jul 2015 (AAA). **Notes:** Found on nearshore
and inshore marine waters, most often in bays and around reefs. Common year round in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** AMNH, 2.


*Bucephala albeola*. Bufflehead. Common in **fall**, 19 Sep (2014) to at least 12 Nov (1986); one bird present 18 Aug–5 Sep 2014 was exceptionally early. Irregular in small numbers during Sep, more regular into mid-Oct (usually <10/day but 138 from 8 to 14 Oct 2014), and numerous in late Oct and Nov when 50–300/day from 19 to 29 Oct 2016 and up to 85 from 5 to 12 Nov 1986. Maximum 550 on 27 Oct 2016 (NRH). Common in **winter**: 40+ on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and up to 50 from 18 to 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Uncommon in **spring**: In 1981, pair on 11 May and single female 13–14 May (DDG+); “present” in Apr and May 2006 (TvN). **Notes:** Seen primarily on northeast lagoon but also irregularly on ponds of the lower plateau. A common migrant, rare in summer, and common in winter in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Bucephala clangula (americana)*. Common Goldeneye. Uncommon in **fall**: Earliest, two on 10 Sep 2012; more numerous in late Oct and Nov, when two to six/day from 19 to 29 Oct 2016, 11 birds daily 5–12 Nov 1986, and 15 on 6 Nov 1981. Uncommon in **winter**: Up to five from 28 Dec 1992 to 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and up to eight from 18 to 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Once in **spring**: One, 16 Apr 2005 (TvN). **Notes:** Most regular on northeast lagoon, also on nearshore and inshore marine
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


*Lophodytes cucullatus*. Hooded Merganser. Twice in FALL: One female or immature male from 5 to 12 Nov 1986 (MEI); a male in alternate plumage on 11 Oct 2014 (LHD, photo ML39343491). NOTES: Both birds were on fresh water. Breeds in SE Alaska, but only a rare visitant (primarily in late summer and fall) in S-C Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

*Mergus merganser (americanus)*. Common Merganser. Casual in FALL: One on 6 Nov 1982 (DWS, RLS), one on 14 Sep 2012 (LHD, photo ML26887871), two on 7 Sep 2013 (NRH), one on 25 Sep 2014 (CWW), and one each on 22 and 28 (JJB, photo ML39344641) Oct 2014 (NRH, JJB). NOTES: Most birds were in female or immature plumage and on nearshore marine waters. Common year round on the nearby mainland of S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Mergus serrator*. Red-breasted Merganser. Common in FALL: Family groups present through end of Aug; species numerous through Sep and into mid-Oct with typically 20–50/day; latest in fall were 15 birds on 5 Nov 1986 (MEI). Maximum 121 on 6 Sep 2014. Uncommon in WINTER: Four on 30 Dec 1992 (RLS) and three on 18 Feb 1976 (KDW). Up to seven/day from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG+) represent our only SPRING record. Present through SUMMER in small numbers and BREEDING in 2006, when one nest was found (TvN); also family groups in early fall from 2011 to 2014. NOTES: Most birds on marine waters or northeast lagoon. Nests in S-C Alaska, where common year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMEN: AMNH, 1.


*Lagopus muta nelsoni*. Rock Ptarmigan. Once in FALL: A lone bird, mostly white (still some body molt), was seen as it flew in from the NW at 60 m over the ocean and landed atop west bluff on 28 Sep 2005 (UAM 21885, AHy ♀; BMG, SCH, RAM, GHR, TGT). NOTES: Zimmerman et al. (2005) and Gibson and Byrd (2007) discussed movements of ptarmigan over the open sea. The Rock Ptarmigan is a fairly common resident of mountains throughout S-C Alaska, including those around Prince William Sound (see Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Podiceps auritus (cornutus)*. Horned Grebe. Uncommon in FALL, 27 Aug (2014) to 7 Nov (1986), generally irregular and <five/day before mid-Sep, more regular and numerous late Sep to late Oct (e.g., 10–36/day from 19 to 29 Oct 2016). Also in WINTER, when 20 on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and two in Feb 2005 (TvN). Three to six in Apr 2006 (TvN) were the only ones reported in SPRING, and an adult feeding a half-grown chick, 20–28 Sep 1997 (TGT+) was the only evidence of BREEDING. NOTES: Most birds were seen on nearshore marine waters or northeast lagoon. Uncommon year round and a local breeder in S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Podiceps grisegena (holboellii)*. Red-necked Grebe. Uncommon or fairly common in FALL, 18 Aug (2013) to 7 Nov (1986); irregular and in small numbers (<10/day) during Aug, becoming more numerous in Sep, when typically 10–15/day. Maxima 40 birds on 8 Sep and 23 Sep 2012 and 200+ foraging off north point from 21 to 26 Sep 2005. Only one report in WINTER (40+ on 1 Jan 1993, RLS) but likely much more regular. NOTES: Most frequently found on nearshore and inshore marine waters; a common migrant, uncommon summer visitant, and a fairly common winter visitor in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).
Podiceps nigricollis californicus. Eared Grebe. Twice in **fall**: One on 7 Oct 2014 (UAM 36350, HY ♀, LHD, NRH, CWW, JJB) and one from 22 to 27 Oct 2016 (UAM 39297, HY ♀, LHD, NRH, BWR, EWC+; LHD photos ML43851111 and 43851121, 24 Oct 2016; Figure 5). **NOTES**: Both birds were primarily at northeast lagoon. They represent two of the three fall records and the first specimens for Alaska, where the species is casual in spring and summer in SE and S-C, and in the Interior (Gibson and Withrow 2015).


*Chordeiles minor* (*minor*). Common Nighthawk. One report in **summer**: A single bird observed 30 Jun–1 Jul 1984 (BDR; Gibson 1984a). **NOTES**: A fall migrant in SE Alaska (where has nested locally since late 1990s), but only a casual visitant west of there, in S-C, W, N, and interior Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Apus pacificus* (*pacificus*). Fork-tailed Swift. Twice in **fall**: One bird in flight over the (former) north housing area on 24 Sep 1989 (RLS, MEI); one foraging with swallows over northeast lagoon on 21 Aug 2014 (LHD, NRH; photos ML33567561, 33567581, and 33567591; Figure 6). **NOTES**: These are among the few Alaska reports of this Asiatic swift east of the Bering Sea and Aleutians, where it is casual (see Gibson and Byrd 2007, Tobish 2011a, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Selasphorus rufus*. Rufous Hummingbird. One report in **fall**: A female or immature seen 26 Aug 2012 (NRH) was investigating a Yellow Warbler hanging in a mist net. **NOTES**: The species is a common migrant and breeder in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Fulica americana* (*americana*). American Coot. One report in **fall**: Three or four birds with dabbling ducks on a freshwater pond, 8–15 Oct 1980 (TGT). **NOTES**: Rare in fall and winter in SE Alaska (SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.) and a casual migrant in S-C Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Antigone canadensis* (*canadensis*). Sandhill Crane. Twice in **fall**: one juvenile, 26–27 Sep 2011, and separate flocks of seven and four on 24 Sep 2013 (all LHD+, photos ML33468021 and 33468031). Once in **spring**: One, 19 May 2006 (TvN). **NOTES**: A common migrant on the mainland of S-C Alaska, where it also nests (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Haematopus bachmani*. Black Oystercatcher. Common in **fall**: Numbers grew from the 1980s (e.g., 25 on 24 Sep 1987) to the 2010s (e.g., maximum 767 on 27 Aug 2014). From 2011 to 2016 numbers were largest mid-Aug to mid-Sep, then decreased through mid- and late Oct. Noticeable departures typically in late Sep (e.g., decreased from 303 birds to 117 from 21 Sep to Oct 2012 and from 599 to 133 from 6 to 25 Sep 2014). Latest were 54 on 28 Oct 2016 (LHD). Status in **winter** uncertain, but at least 50 in winter 2015–2016 (van Nus 2017). Little information in **spring**, but present by 28 Apr (2005, TvN). Common in **summer** and as a **breeder**, when status and abundance linked to nesting habitat exposed by seismic uplift in 1964 by the Great Alaska Earthquake (Gill et al. 2004). First pair noted in 1976 (DAF, MH); breeding population increased from the 1980s (e.g., 14+ birds in Jun 1981 and nine or 10 pairs in 1982, PJG) to 2002 (350+ pairs, Gill et al. 2004). **NOTES**: Middleton’s breeding population represents 36–48% of the Black Oystercatchers in S-C Alaska (ibid.), where the species is fairly common year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). On Middleton we observed this species in fall exclusively along beaches and spits, where large roosting flocks formed. **SPECIMENS**: AMNH 839784, HY unsexed, 8 Sep 2012, LHD; UAM 34486, HY ♀, 29 Aug 2013, JJW; UAM 36521, HY ♀, 25 Sep 2014, NRH.

*Pluvialis squatarola*. Black-bellied Plover. In **fall**, adults rare from 30 Jul (four in
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


Pluvialis dominica. American Golden-Plover. Uncommon or rare in FALL, 18 Aug (2013) to 29 Sep (1991), most 20 Aug–8 Sep. Five to 22+ birds recorded per season, 2012–2014. Maxima three on 20 Aug 2012 and seven on 28 Aug 2013 (both LHD+). NOTES: All individuals observed well were juveniles. The American Golden-Plover most often foraged on tidal flats, beaches, and in kelp wrack, and often associated loosely with the Pacific. SPECIMENS: UAM 29192, HY ♀, 7 Sep 2011; UAM 34233, HY ♂, 12 Sep 2013; UAM 36309, HY ♀, 6 Sep 2014. All LHD.

Pluvialis fulva. Pacific Golden-Plover. Common in FALL, from 30 Jul (1983) through at least 15 Oct (2014). Numbers through early Oct typically 50–100/day. One on 5 and 6 Nov 1986 (MEI) was late. Maxima 300+ on 3 Oct 1987 and 400 on 28 Sep 1987; possibly more numerous in 1980s and 1990s than since (maximum since 2010, 80 individuals). On the basis of 2012 and 2013 data, adults predominated through the end of Aug, juveniles began arriving 20 Aug, the age classes were equal in number by about 25 Aug, and by early Sep juveniles were more numerous (e.g., 25 of 30 birds on 1 Sep 2013). Latest adult seen on 21 Sep (2012). Uncommon in SPRING from Apr (2006, TVN) to 15 May (15 in 1982). NOTES: Flocks were most numerous along the airstrip or in coastal tall forb meadows. The Pacific Golden-Plover is a common migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973) and annual in small numbers in spring and fall in SE Alaska (Heinl and Piston 2009). SPECIMENS: UAM, 9; USGS, 2.


All individuals seen well or photographed were juveniles (photos ML33465261 and ML33471361). Two reports in summer: One on 19 Jul 1984 (PJG); one during first week of Jun 2006 (TvN). Notes: We found this species most frequently in grass and tall forb meadows, particularly along roadways. The Upland Sandpiper is a casual migrant in S-C and SE Alaska, mostly in fall (Isleib and Kessel 1989; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.). Specimen: UAM 35564, Hy ♂, 20 Aug 2013, LHD.

Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus. Whimbrel. Uncommon in fall, arriving in late Jul in peak numbers: e.g., 45+ from 31 Jul to 5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN) and 105 on 30 Jul 1983 (PJG). Less numerous mid-Aug to mid-Sep when typically 10/day. Latest were single birds on 10 Oct 2012 and 11 Oct 2014. The vast majority of fall Whimbrels were juveniles in Aug and Sep. Fairly common in spring, with up to 42 from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG+), at least one on 11 May 1979 (SAH), and 12 on 15 May 1982. Summer records from 11 Jun to early Jul, maximum 25–30 birds from 15 to 24 Jun 1983 (PJG, DRN). Notes: Alaska-nesting Whimbrels depart staging areas in w Alaska in fall (Handel and Dau 1988) on direct transoceanic flights to the coast of western North America south of Alaska (see Skeel and Mallory 1996). The numbers and timing at Middleton suggest the island provides a brief stop for some of the easternmost of those migrants. At Middleton the Whimbrel preferred cobble beaches and spits, where it often gathered in loose groups. In coastal S-C Alaska it is a common migrant (Isleib and Kessel 1973). Specimens: MVZ 134531, AHy ♂, 25 Jun 1956, R. Rausch; UAM 34507, AHy unsexed, 15 Aug 2013, LHD; UAM 34622, Hy ♂, 31 Aug 2013, JJW; AMNH 840472, AHy ♂, 3 Sep 2014, NRH.

N. p. (variegatus). Once in fall: Single adult present 29 Aug–5 Sep 2012 (CWW, NRH, LHD; photo ML26887381; Figure 7) with a small group of hudsonicus. Notes: This Asiatic taxon breeds east to the Anadyr River basin (Portenko 1972) and winters in southeast Asia, the southwest Pacific, Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand (AOU 1957). It is casual in fall at St. Lawrence Island (Lehman 2005) but a rare or uncommon migrant farther west, in the western Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

Numenius tahitiensis. Bristle-thighed Curlew. Twice in fall: One on 4 Sep (NRH, photo ML3356741) and one on 21 Sep 2012 (NRH, CWW, LHD, FD; photo ML33566861). Rare in spring, when “in small numbers almost every other day” 11–22 May 1981, maximum three on 20 May (DDG+); two on 14 May 1983 (RLS); one on 18 May 1985 (RLS); one on 13 May 2005 (TvN). One report in summer: One on 15 Jul 2006 (TvN) was out of place, perhaps a failed breeder from w Alaska. Notes: In fall most Bristle-thighed Curlews depart coastal w Alaska on direct transoceanic flights to Hawaii and French Polynesia (see Handel and Dau 1988, Marks et al. 2002). The species is casual on the coast of mainland s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1989). Specimen: UAM 4092, SY ♂, 11 May 1981, DDG.

Limosa haemastica. Hudsonian Godwit. Rare in fall: Eight records, rather evenly spaced from 31 Jul (1982) to 8 Sep (2011), all of single birds except for two on 12 Aug 2014 and a flock of five on 20 Aug 2013 (photo ML33565261, NRH; Figure 8). One in May 2006 (TvN) represents the only report in spring, three on 9 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH) the only one in summer. Notes: In fall most Hudsonian Godwits departing Alaska head E, then S, ultimately to southern South America (see Senner et al. 2014). Thus the species is scarce at that season anywhere on the North Pacific coast (e.g., Campbell et al. 1990b, Wahl et al. 2005, Marshall et al. 2006, Hamilton et al. 2007). It is a fairly common spring migrant in s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), breeding as close to Middleton as upper Cook Inlet (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Limosa lapponica baueri. Bar-tailed Godwit. Once in fall: One juvenile, 3 Sep 2013 (UAM 34485, unsexed, JJW). Notes: In fall most Bar-tailed Godwits departing Alaska do so from staging areas in w and sw Alaska on direct transoceanic flights to New Zealand (see Gill et al. 2009). The species is casual in coastal s-c and SE Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; SCH unpubl.).
**Limosa fedoa (beringiae)**. Marbled Godwit. Casual in **Fall**; One on 29 Aug 2010 (TvN, photo ML33566301), one on 20 Sep 2011 (CWW, LHD), and two on 30 Sep 2012 (TJD). **Notes:** This species occurs in small numbers in spring in SE (Heinl and Piston 2009) and coastal S-C Alaska but is casual in fall (Isleib and Kessel 1973), at which season most depart the Alaska Peninsula on a direct transoceanic passage to the northeastern Pacific coast south of Alaska (Gibson and Kessel 1989; D. R. Ruthrauff, in litt., 2016).

**Arenaria interpres (interpres)**. Ruddy Turnstone. Uncommon in **Fall**, arriving by 30 Jul (13 in 1983, PJG) and at intervals through early Oct with ≤ five/day; latest were single birds on 12 Oct 1980 and 23 Oct 2016 (NRH+). Numbers largest in late Aug and early Sep; maxima 19 on 27 Aug 2014 and 20 on 17 Sep 2012 (late for this number); we watched a flock of 12 on 26 Aug 2014 arriving from the N. Adults more numerous in mid-Aug (e.g., 13 of 18 birds on 13 Aug), while juveniles outnumbered adults by the end of Aug (e.g., five of seven on 27 Aug), after which adults were few (all 2014 data). Uncommon in **Spring**; Up to 10/day from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG). **Notes:** Both turnstone species foraged together in kelp wrack and roosted on spits or cobble beaches. The Ruddy is a common spring migrant and fairly common fall migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** AMNH, 1; UAM, 1.

**Arenaria melanocephala**. Black Turnstone. Common in **Fall**, arriving by 10 Jul (50 in 2015, AAA), then increasing to typically 700–1000/day from mid-Aug through late-Oct, with little pattern of variation in abundance within a season. Maximum 1200 on 11 Oct 2014. Over 150 from 5 to 12 Nov 1987. Uncommon to common in **Winter**; 50+ on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS); ≤ five/day; latest on 18 Feb 1976 (KDW, JSH). Few in **Spring**; Six to 11+/day from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG+). Three records from **Summer**: Three birds on 25 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958); one from 15 to 24 Jun 1982; two from 15 to 24 Jun 1983 (both PJG, DRN). **Notes:** At Middleton we found the Black Turnstone to prefer cobble beaches, foraging and roosting in flocks with Black Oystercatchers, Rock Sandpipers, and Surfbirds. It is present in coastal S-C Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** UAM 34002 and UAM 34003, both HY♀, 2 Sep 2013; UAM 34716, HY♂, 4 Sep 2013 (both LHD).

**Calidris canutus (roseaari)**. Red Knot. Casual in **Fall** from 12 Aug (2013) to 5 Sep (2012, photo ML26887511, LHD), with seven records (of 12 birds, both juveniles and adults) concentrated between 22 Aug and 4 Sep. Maxima two juveniles on 4 Sep 2011 (photo ML33566961, LHD) and four adults 12–22 Aug 2013. **Notes:** We observed most knots foraging on tidal flats or in kelp wrack. Isleib and Kessel (1973) considered this species a (locally) common migrant on the Copper River delta in spring but rare in fall from 10 Aug to 8 Sep. **Specimens:** UAM 34231, HY♀, 23 Aug 2013; and UAM 34716, HY♂, 4 Sep 2013 (both LHD).

**Calidris virgata**. Surfbird. Common in **Fall**, from 10 Jul (two in 2015, AAA) through late Oct, most numerous during Aug and early Sep (typically 100–200/day). Maxima 305 on 6 Sep 2014 and 492 on 4 Sep 2013. Regular through mid- and late Oct, e.g., 111 on 11 Oct 2014 and 50 on 21 Oct 2016. Latest was one on 7 Nov 1986. **Notes:** Through the fall, we recorded no clear pattern in the ratio of adults to juveniles. Although common, Surfbirds made up only a small component of the flocks of “rock shorebirds.” Species occurs year round in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** UAM 34002 and UAM 34003, both HY♀, 2 Sep 2013, JJW.

**Calidris pugnax**. Ruff. Casual in **Fall**; Single juveniles on 23 Sep 1982 (UAM 4727, ♀, TGT, DDG), 26 Aug 2012 (LHD, NRH+, photo ML26886961), and 20–27 Aug 2013 (LHD+, photo ML33465731). **Notes:** Species is casual in fall in S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1989, Heinl and Piston 2009).

**Calidris acuminata**. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Uncommon in **Fall**, from 20 Aug (2013) to 22 Oct (2016) and 6 Nov (one in 1982, DWS, RLS). Typically ≤ five/day, but absent some days. Maxima eight on 3 Sep 2012 and 11 on 7 Sep 2013. All were juveniles except for one adult on 26 and 31 Aug 2012 (photo ML33566751).
and 33566761; Figure 9). **NOTES:** We observed this species foraging primarily in kelp wrack, tidal flats, and marsh. It is a generally rare fall migrant in coastal S-C and SE Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Handel and Gill 2010; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.). **SPECIMENS:** UAM 5422, Hy ♂, 28 Sep 1987, MEI; UAM 30827, AHy ♀, 31 Aug 2012, LHD; UAM 34411 and UAM 34412, both Hy ♀♀, 4 Sep 2013, LHD.

**Calidris himantopus.** Stilt Sandpiper. Rare in fall, with one to four/day from 15 Aug (2014) to 12 Sep (1982), most regular in last 10 days of Aug. Maxima five on 20 Aug 2014 (NRH, photo ML33566181) and six on 25 Aug 2012. Four to 10 records annually from 2012 to 2014. All birds seen well were juveniles. **NOTES:** We observed this species almost exclusively on tidal flats at northeast lagoon. It is a less-than-annual fall migrant in other areas of coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1989, MacIntosh 2009).

**specimens:** UAM 4268, Hy unsexed, 12 Sep 1982, TGT; UAM 34236, Hy ♀, 31 Aug 2013, LHD; UAM 34234 and UAM 34235, both Hy ♂♂, 1 Sep 2013, JJW.

**Calidris ferruginea.** Curlew Sandpiper. Once in fall: One juvenile with Western Sandpipers at northeast lagoon on 27 Aug 2013 (CWW, photo ML33470961). **NOTES:** No other fall records in S-C Alaska and just one from Se Alaska in fall (see Tobish 2005).

**Calidris ruficollis.** Red-necked Stint. Two records, one each in fall and summer: One juvenile on 29 and 30 Aug 2014 (UAM 37600, ♂, CWW, LHD; photo ML33566741); one adult on 3 Jul 2010 (photo ML39343021, CDF, KHE). **NOTES:** There is one prior record each in S-C and SE Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1989, Tobish 2013a; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.). The Red-necked Stint nests in W Alaska on the Seward Peninsula (DeCicco et al. 2013), is a rare fall migrant at St. Lawrence Island from 12 Aug to 4 Sep (Lehman 2005), and is intermittent in the western Aleutians from third week of Aug to second week of Sep, exceptionally as early as 16 Jul (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**Calidris alba.** Sanderling. Common in fall from at least mid-Aug through winter. Numbers largest during Aug and Sep, maxima 350 on 20 Aug 2013 and 507 on 3 Sep 2012. Adults more numerous than juveniles from mid-Aug (e.g., 100:1 on 13 Aug 2014) through mid-Sep, after which age ratio generally 1:1. Numbers as high as 240 as late as 28 Oct 2016, 75+ from 5 to 12 Nov 1986, and 30+ in winter on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Fairly common in spring, with maxima of 41 and 46 on 21 and 22 May 1981 (DDG); “present” in spring 2005 and 2006 (TvN). Rare in summer: Five (fall migrants) on 30 Jul 1983 (PJG) and “present” in 2005 and 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** We saw the Sanderling almost exclusively on cobble beaches and sandy spits, often in mixed flocks of turnstones, Rock Sandpipers, Surfbirds, and Black Oystercatchers. It is a common migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973) and winters locally on Alaska’s Pacific coast (see Gibson and Byrd 2007, MacIntosh 2009; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.). **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 9.

**Calidris alpina (pacific).** Dunlin. Uncommon in fall, 28 Aug (2013) to early winter. Only three records prior to 9 Sep. Most regular mid-Sep through early Oct, with much variation in numbers from year to year. Maxima 15 on 3 Oct 1987 and 19 on 30 Sep 1982. Numbers remaining through late fall were small: seven on both 21 and 28 Oct 2016 and six from 5 to 12 Nov 1986. Once in winter: Eight on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Information in spring sparse: Two on 17 May 1981; observed in May 2005 (TvN). Few records in summer: Multiple individuals (possibly fall migrants) on 28 Jun and 7 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH). **NOTES:** In fall, except for one juvenile on 28 Aug 2013, all of Middleton’s Dunlins were in basic plumage. Most flocked with Rock Sandpipers on cobble beaches. The species is a locally common migrant and summer and winter visitor in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMEN:** AMNH, 1.

**Calidris ptilocnemis tschuktschorum.** Rock Sandpiper. Common in fall from mid-Jul on; little fluctuation in numbers from the end of Jul through at least late Oct. Earliest were two on 18 Jul 2014 (AAA) and 743 on 30 Jul 1983 (PJG). During Oct and Nov island-wide counts of 500–900 were typical (e.g., 654 on 10 Oct 1980,
500–900/day from 19 to 29 Oct 2016, and 600–759/day from 5 to 12 Nov 1986). Adults preceded juveniles, for which our earliest dates were 18 Aug 2014 and 3 Sep 2013. Common in winter: 600+ on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS); present 18–20 Feb 1976 (KD, JSH). In spring, five on 10 May 1981, a few still present 25 May (DDG+).

**NOTES:** Adults arrived in alternate plumage and most attained basic plumage by late Sep. We observed Rock Sandpipers exclusively on cobble beaches, where they congregated on spits and peninsulas, often with mixed flocks of turnstones, Sanderlings, and Surfbirds. The Rock Sandpiper is common on migration and in winter elsewhere in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseib and Kessel 1973). It was rarely possible to assess the specific composition of flocks at Middleton thoroughly, but _tschuktschorum_ appeared to be the most numerous of the three subspecies reaching the island, as are most of the 22 specimens. Criteria for separating _tschuktschorum_ from _couesi_ in basic plumage are still largely qualitative; we identified as _tschuktschorum_ those birds with extensive gray fringes to mantle, back, and scapular feathers, moderately marked underparts, and moderately extensive white wing stripes. All comparisons made with specimens at UAM (JJW, LHD, and DDG). **Specimens:** UAM, 10; USGS, 7.

*C. p. couesi.* Uncommon in fall, representing about 10% of the Rock Sandpipers observed closely at Middleton in late Oct 2016 (LHD). **Notes:** Mostly resident in the Aleutians (Gibson and Withrow 2015), this subspecies had been found previously in winter only as far east as Cook Inlet (Gill et al. 2002), so Middleton Island represents a further extension of the range. We identified as examples of _couesi_ birds in basic plumage with less extensive gray fringes to mantle, back, and scapular feathers, heavily marked underparts, and minimally extensive white wing stripes. **Specimens:** e.g., UAM 31114, UAM 36660, UAM 39634, and UAM 39635.

*C. p. ptilocnemis.* Casual in fall, when up to four birds observed in late Oct 2016 (BWR, RAM, LHD), but our understanding of this taxon’s status at Middleton may be incomplete, as systematic searches of large flocks of Rock Sandpipers were rarely undertaken. **Notes:** Nominate _ptilocnemis_—larger and paler than the other subspecies, with bolder wing stripe—winters primarily in Cook Inlet (see Gill 1997, Gill and Tibbitts 1999, Ruthrauff et al. 2013) and has been recorded in winter at Kodiak Island (UAM specimens) and Homer (A. J. Lang, in litt., 2009). Beyond Alaska it has been recorded as far east and south as Washington (Aversa 2001). **Specimen:** UAM 39629, _AHy ♀_, 29 Oct 2016, LHD.

*Calidris bairdii.* Baird’s Sandpiper. Rare or uncommon in fall, 30 Jul (1983) to 2 Oct (1987), most regular mid-Aug through early or mid-Sep. Casual after 15 Sep, with four records, the latest of one on 2 Oct 1987. Numbers varied greatly from year to year; in some years the species was all but absent (e.g., only three in 2012), while in others (2013 and 2014) it occurred regularly in small numbers (<10/day) from mid-Aug through early Sep. Maximum 33 on 13 Aug 2014; in other years 14 on 28 Aug 2013 and 15* from 31 Jul to 5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN). Once in spring: One, 15 May 1982 (PDA, DWS). **Notes:** We found Baird’s Sandpiper most regularly in mixed flocks of *Calidris* foraging in kelp wrack. All seen in fall were juveniles. Uncommon in spring and fall (early Aug–early Sep) in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseib and Kessel 1973), rare in SE Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). **Specimens:** UAM 5435, _HY ♀_, 2 Oct 1987, MEI; UAM 34435, _HY ♂_, 20 Aug 2013, LHD; UAM 33999, _HY ♂_, 3 Sep 2013, JJW.

*Calidris minutilla.* Least Sandpiper. Common in fall, as early as 30 Jul (187 in 1983, PJG). Most numerous in Aug, but peak likely prior to our arrival in mid-month. Maxima 2000 on 13 Aug 2014 and 2022 from 12 to 16 Aug 1981 (JLT). Numbers decreased notably through late Aug, e.g., from 1560 on 20 Aug 2013 to 671 eight days later. Uncommon after early Sep and sporadic by mid-Sep; five records after 20 Sep. Latest were single birds on 4 Oct 2012 and 5 Oct 2014. Juveniles were much more numerous than adults from mid-Aug on (e.g., ratio 40:1 on 13 Aug 2014). Latest adults recorded were 27 Aug 2014 and 8 Sep 2013. In spring: Common
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


Calidris subruficollis. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Rare in FALL, 20 Aug (2013 and 2014) to 30 Sep (1987), with most records in Aug and early Sep. All records of single birds except for two on 17 Sep 1981, 28–29 Sep 1987, and 20 Aug 2014. Seasonal totals three or four from 2012 to 2014. NOTES: All individuals observed well were juveniles. The species was typically seen in kelp wrack and short vegetation along the gravel airstrip. It is a casual fall migrant in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMENS: UAM 5421, HY [♀], 28 Sep 1987, MEI; and UAM 34249, HY ♂, 8 Sep 2013, LHD.


Calidris mauri. Western Sandpiper. Common or abundant in FALL, arriving by mid-Jun; e.g., seven from 14 to 26 Jun 1981 (PJG, AEZ) and 250–300 from 15 to 24 Jun 1983 (PJG, DRN). Fall migrants can peak in Jul, e.g., “thousands” in Jul 1976 (DAF, MH) and about 10,000 during the first week of Jul 1979 (SAH), but we found them common through mid-Aug: 1100 on 13 Aug 2014 and 1200+ on 20 Aug 2013—almost all juveniles. Numbers notably lower in late Aug, e.g., 315 on 28 Aug 2013, down from 1221 on 20 Aug. Low hundreds still present in early Sep (e.g., 282 on 3 Sep 2012, 173 on 8 Sep 2013, and 194 on 10 Sep 1981), exceptionally until late Sep (206 on 21 Sep 2012). Latest records 3 Oct 2014 (one) and 4 Oct 2012 (five) but last on 22 Sep in 2013. The low proportion of adults during Aug suggested they move through in late Jun and Jul (see Butler et al. 1987). Limited information in SPRING: Single birds on 11 and 24 May 1981; five on 15 May 1982. NOTES: We saw this species most frequently on kelp wrack and on tidal flats at northeast lagoon. It is a common fall migrant in coastal S-C Alaska from late Jun through Sep (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMENS: MVZ, 7; AMNH, 4; UAM, 1.

Limnodromus griseus caurinus. Short-billed Dowitcher. Uncommon (typically
≤four/day) and irregular in FALL from 14 Jun (five in 1981, PJG, AEZ) and 25 Jun (eight in 1956, Rausch 1958) to 25 Sep (two in 1987) and 1 Oct (one in 2012). Most frequent in late Aug; maxima nine on 26 Aug 2012 and 10 on 22 Aug 2013. In some years, such as 2014, the numbers recorded were as few as a single individual. Maxima nine on 26 Aug 2012 and 10 on 22 Aug 2013. We observed only juveniles in fall. Uncommon in SPRING: Both dowitchers were uncommon in mid-May 1981 with a maximum of 13 (species combined) on 11 May; “a few” observed on 7 May 2005 (TvN). NOTES: Habitat use broad, the species being noted in kelp wrack, on tidal flats, in marshes, and along the shorelines of ponds. It is a common migrant and locally common breeder in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMEN: MVZ 134749, ASy ♀, 25 Jun 1956, R. Rausch.

Figure 5. Immature Eared Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis) on 24 Oct 2016, one of two recorded at Middleton Island and one of only three recorded in fall in Alaska.  
Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco

Figure 6. Fork-tailed Swift (Apus pacificus) on 21 Aug 2014 foraging with swallows over the northeast lagoon—one of our two autumn records.  
Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS
**Limnodromus scolopaceus.** Long-billed Dowitcher. Common in **Fall**, from 3 Jul (1976, DAF, MH) and 19 Jul (2005, 20+ in 2005, TvN) to 8 Oct (2016). Numbers typically peaked at 40–100/day during the latter half of Sep, but maxima 251 on 13 Sep 1981 and 290 on 7 Sep 2013. By early Oct numbers usually decreased to <10/day, so 14 on 21 Oct 2016 (NRH+) were noteworthy. Adults outnumbered juveniles in early Aug, then the age ratio reached 1:1 by mid- to late Aug, after which juveniles outnumbered adults (latest adult recorded on 8 Sep in 2013). **Notes:** At Middleton the Long-billed Dowitcher concentrated on tidal flats at northeast lagoon but occurred also in marshes and along pond shorelines. It is a common migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson’s Snipe. Common in **Fall** from mid-Aug through late Oct, when we found 20–60/day typical and over 100/day repeatedly, peak numbers often coinciding with inclement weather. Maxima 250/day 1–3 Sep 2013 and 300 on 5 Sep 2014. Later in the season numbers dropped to around four to 15/day, as from 5 to 12 Nov 1986. In **Winter**: Two on 25 Feb 1961 (O’Farrell and Sheets 1962); two on 31 Dec 1992 (RLS). Common in **Spring** and **Summer** as a **Breeder**. In 1981 ubiquitous in courtship flights on 10 May, first nests found (already 4 eggs each) on 12 May (DDG+). “Common but widely spaced” (DAF, MH) and “abundant” (TvN) during summers 2005 and 2006. **Notes:** In fall snipe occurred primarily in marshes and along the wet edges of shrub thickets but during peak movement were ubiquitous wherever standing fresh water was available (including puddles on flat roofs). In S-C Alaska they are common during migration and in summer, rare in winter (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** MVZ 134745, AHY ♂, 6 Jun 1956, R. Rausch.

**Actitis macularius.** Spotted Sandpiper. Common in **Fall**, recorded from 22 Jul (2006) to 5 Oct (1983; TvN, PJG). Most numerous in second half of Aug and early Sep; maximum 59 on 28 Aug 2013. Rare after 10 Sep; only two records in early Oct. One bird on 13 May 2004 (TvN) represents the only **Spring** report. **Notes:** Nearly all Spotted Sandpipers were seen along cobble beaches. The species is a common migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Tringa solitaria cinnamomea.** Solitary Sandpiper. Uncommon in **Fall** from 31 Jul (1982) to 23 Sep (1982) and, exceptionally, 4 Oct (2012). Most regular (one or two/day) in Aug and early Sep. Maxima four on 18 Aug 2012 and six on 23 Aug 2013. **Notes:** All seen well were juveniles and most were in marshes, often adjacent to willow thickets. Fairly common migrant in Aug and early Sep in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** UAM 29150, HY ♀; UAM 29177, HY ♂, both 25 Aug 2011, LHD.

**Tringa brevipes.** Gray-tailed Tattler. Casual in **Fall**: One juvenile on 24 Sep 1982 (UAM 4273, ♂, TGT, DDG), one juvenile on 22 Sep and 24 Sep 2005 (BMG; photos ML33567021 and 33567031), and one adult on 18 Aug 2014 (UAM 36311, ♀, NRH, LHD; photos ML33566081 and 33566101; Figure 10). **Notes:** All were observed on cobble beaches and spits. These are the only records on Alaska’s Pacific coast east of the Aleutian Islands (see Gibson and Withrow 2015), but farther east and south there are records from Washington (Tweit and Paulson 1994) and California (see Hamilton et al. 2007).

**Tringa incana.** Wandering Tattler. Common in **Fall** from 30 Jul (1983) to 12 Oct (1980), most numerous (20–40/day) Jul–Sep; maxima 397 on 30 Jul 1983 (PJG) and 450+ from 31 Jul to 5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN). Maximum in Aug 168 on 13 Aug 2014. Numbers declined in late Sep; only three records in Oct. Adults outnumbered juveniles in mid-Aug (e.g., 60:1 on 12 Aug 2014), by 25 Aug the age classes were equal in abundance, and juveniles outnumbered adults by the end of Aug (10:1). Fairly common in **Spring**: Up to 10+/day from 10 to 25 May 1981, “present” in May 2005 and 2006 (TvN). In **Summer**, one from 14 to 26 Jun 1981 (PJG, AEZ); two from 15 to 24 Jun 1983 (PJG, DRN). **Notes:** Most tattlers were seen on cobble beaches,
often with turnstones and Surfbirds. This species is a common migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseleb and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** AMNH, 4; UAM, 3.


*Tringa flavipes.* Lesser Yellowlegs. Uncommon to common in **Fall,** from 19 Jul (2015) to 9 Oct (1980). Numbers peaked mid-Aug–early Sep, but variation in abundance from year to year was wide (e.g., 15/day in 2012 versus 100+/day in 2014). Maximum 194 on 13 Aug 2014. Less than daily in mid- and late Sep; only three records of single individuals in Oct. Rare in **Spring:** One each on 11 May 1981 (DDG+) and 15 May 1982. Rare in **Summer:** Single birds on 5 Jun and 9 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958) and from 15 to 24 Jun 1983 (PJG, DRN). **Notes:** Seen almost exclusively at northeast lagoon. Fairly common migrant and locally uncommon breeder in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseleb and Kessel 1973).


*Phalaropus fulicarius.* Red Phalarope. Rare in **Fall:** Irregular onshore 18 Aug (2013–12 Oct (2014), with three to six records per season (2012–2014), generally in ones or twos. Maxima 12 on 23 Sep 2012 and 20 on 17 and 20 Sep 2013. Once in **Summer:** One on 26 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958). **Notes:** Nearly all seen over inshore or nearshore marine waters, often foraging along foam lines created by surf. Common migrant and uncommon summer visitant in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseleb and Kessel 1973). **Day (2006)** considered the species rare in fall on pelagic waters of the northern Gulf of Alaska. **Specimens:** MVZ 134759, AHy σ, 26 Jun 1956, R. Rausch;

*Stercorarius maccormicki.* South Polar Skua. Casual in **Fall,** with eight records, all but one between 13 Sep and 24 Sep, and all of single birds except for two on 17 Sep 2013, 21 Sep 2012, and 24 Sep 2014. One skua was found dead aboard a ship “off Middleton Island,” 1 Nov 1977 (UAM 3635, SY σ, PDA—Alaska’s first specimen of the species). **Notes:** Casual in Alaska waters (Gibson and Withrow 2015), most records being from the northern Gulf of Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson 1983, Tobish 2013c).

*Stercorarius pomarinus.* Pomarine Jaeger. Uncommon in **Fall,** typically one to 10/day (<six birds/hour from north point) from mid-Aug to mid-Oct. Numbers larger in Sep, when often 10–20/day (12 birds/hour from north point). Maxima 60 on 17 Sep 2013 and 90 on 16 Aug 2012 (23 birds/hour from north point). Numbers declined through Oct; 20 on 12 Oct 2014 were exceptional. Latest was one on 28 Oct 2016 (CDE), but species undoubtedly occurred later, when our data are sparse. **Notes:** These data underestimate this species’ numbers, as ≥25% of jaegers were
not identified to species. We noted a variety of age classes and color morphs. Likely occurs also during spring, as Day (2006) reported the species in the northern Gulf of Alaska in about equal numbers in spring and fall. **Specimens:** UAM 34246, AHY ♀, and UAM 35557, AHY ♂, both 17 Sep 2013, LHD and NRH.

**Stercorarius parasiticus.** Parasitic Jaeger. Uncommon in **fall,** mid-Aug through mid-Oct, regularly one to eight/day (typically <four birds/hour from north point)—slightly less numerous than the Pomarine Jaeger but seasonal patterns of abundance similar. Numbers largest in Sep when often six to 12 birds/hour from north point. Maximum daily counts 45 on 12 Sep 2011 and 90 on 16 Aug 2012 (30 birds/hour from north point). Rare or uncommon in **spring** and **summer:** One on 21 May 1981 (DDG), one on 10 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958), and “present” on 10 Jun 1984 (PJG). **Notes:** Day (2006) also found the Parasitic to be less common than the Pomarine in the northern Gulf of Alaska. The Parasitic is likely more numerous in spring and summer than our data suggest, as Isleib and Kessel (1973) found it to

Figure 7. Comparison of Asiatic (A; subspecies *variegatus*) and North American (B; subspecies *hudsonicus*) Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) on 29 Aug 2012. Note the difference in back patterning between the two taxa.

*Photos by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS*

Figure 8. Flock of five juvenile Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) on 20 Aug 2013, our maximum count in fall, when annual in small numbers.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*
be an uncommon spring migrant and locally common breeder in coastal S-C Alaska. **SPECIMENS:** UAM 2877, AHY ♂, 10 Jun 1956, R. Rausch; UAM 36306, HY ♀, 8 Sep 2014, LHD and NRH.

**Stercorarius longicaudus** (**pallescens**). Long-tailed Jaeger. Casual in **FALL,** 25 Aug–16 Sep: One adult, 25 Aug 2011; one juvenile, 26 Aug 2014; one adult, 31 Aug 2014; one adult, 5 Sep 2012; one adult, 9 Sep 2012; and one juvenile, 16 Sep 2011. Once in **SPRING:** One, 20 May 1981 (DDG). **NOTES:** We saw this species over inshore and offshore marine waters. The Long-tailed Jaeger is quite rare over shelf waters in the northern Gulf of Alaska in fall; Day (2006) did not record it in nearby pelagic waters, and Isleib and Kessel (1973) considered it a rare fall migrant in coastal S-C Alaska.

**Uria aalge inornata**. Common Murre. Common in **FALL,** most numerous in Aug when typically 30–50 birds/day (eight to 15 birds/hour from north point) over marine waters. Departed breeding sites by end of Aug–early Sep (e.g., last birds observed on nesting sites on 5 Sep in 2014). Maximum from north point was 60 birds/hour on 17 Aug 2014. Numbers over inshore waters decreased through Sep (e.g., <10/day by mid-Sep and <five/day after mid-Sep); irregular from late Sep through mid-Oct. Latest were three on 28 Oct 2016 and “small groups” on 10 Nov 1986. Rare in **WINTER:** Three on 31 Dec 1992 and 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and 17 beached birds found from 18 to 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Common in **SUMMER** as a **BREEDER.** The species’ local population has fluctuated drastically since 1956, when Rausch (1958:240) estimated 400 murres, both species combined, and stated that “Thick-billed Murres were several times more abundant than the Common Murres.” The breeding population subsequently increased, peaking at over 10,000 birds in 1978 (SAH), then diminished to 820 birds in 2013 (SAH). **NOTES:** The continuing erosion of natural cliffs has likely contributed to this local population decline. As of 2014 the breeding population on Middleton Island was split between small remnant areas of natural cliff and man-made structures erected for

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Figure 9. Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (**Calidris acuminata**), are generally uncommon in autumn along the Bering and Pacific coasts of Alaska, but adults, such as this bird on 31 Aug 2012, are scarce.

*Photo by Charles W. Wright/USFWS*

_**Uria lomvia arra.** Thick-billed Murre. Two records in **Fall:** One on 25 Sep 1987 (DDG) and one on 2 Oct 2014 (CWW). Present in **Spring** from 10 to 25 May 1981 (DDG). As a **Breeder** in **Summer** the population has dwindled to zero since Rausch (1958:240) reported that, of the 400 breeding murres in 1956, the Thick-billed was “several times more abundant” than the Common. Hatch (1983) estimated 350 Thick-billeds in 1978 (versus 10,000 Commons). One and two adults were noted incubating eggs in 2003 and 2005, respectively (CJG, TVN). We found no evidence of breeding during the 2011–2014 surveys. **Notes:** This species nests east of the Aleutian and Bering Sea islands at Marmot Bay, Cape St. Elias, and at Afognak, Barren, and St. Lazaria islands (Gaston and Hipfner 2000). Specimen: UAM 2881, AHY ♂, 10 Jun 1956, R. Rausch.

_Cepphus columba (columba)._ Pigeon Guillemot. One report in **Fall:** One bird seen 14 Aug 2012 (CWW, LHD). **Notes:** Common year round in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), but rare on pelagic waters of the northern Gulf of Alaska in March and May of 1998 (Day 2006).

_Brachyramphus marmoratus._ Marbled Murrelet. Uncommon in **Fall,** 10 Aug (2012) to 28 Oct (2016), most regular from mid-Aug to mid-Sep. Numbers usually peaked during mid-Aug, when 20–35 birds/hour from north point (largest counts 30–50/day). Daily maxima 55 on 15 Aug 2014 and, exceptionally for so late in the fall, 200 on 23 Sep 2012 and 50 on 25 Oct 2016. Occurrence after mid-Sep typically less than daily. Once in **Winter:** One, 31 Dec 1992 (RLS). Twice in **Summer:** Two, 16–21 Jun 1988 (KO) and one in Jun 1985 (DRN)—all beached birds (none preserved). **Notes:** The majority in fall, particularly early in the season, were still in breeding plumage. Widespread in coastal S-C and SE Alaska, where known to breed from Kodiak Island to the southern Alexander Archipelago (Platt and Ford 1993).

_Brachyramphus brevirostris._ Kittlitz’s Murrelet. Casual in **Fall,** mid-Aug to late Sep: One beached bird, Aug 1984 (DRN); two birds, one in alternate and one in basic plumage, 27 Sep 1987; one, 21 Sep 1997; one, 8 Sep 2011; one, 12 Aug 2012; and two, 17 Aug 2012. Once in **Summer:** Two beached birds (not preserved) in Jun 1985 (DRN). **Notes:** Breeds in coastal Alaska from N Alaska (Cape Beaufort) south to the Aleutian Islands and east to SE Alaska (Day et al. 1999), with nesting documented in coastal S-C Alaska at Kodiak Island and in Icy Bay (Kendall and Agler 1998, Day et al. 1999, Kissling et al. 2015). Birds nesting in S-C Alaska move west across the Gulf of Alaska and north across the Alaska Peninsula in the fall (Madison et al. 2012).

_Synthliboramphus antiquus._ Ancient Murrelet. Uncommon in **Fall,** 21 Aug (2014)–28 Oct (four in 2016). Much variation in abundance from year to year, e.g., three from 21 Aug to 8 Oct 2014 versus 40 from 11 Aug to 24 Sep 2012. Most regular mid-Aug through mid-Sep, when typically one or two/day on about half the days. Maximum 20 on 27 Sep and 1 Oct 1987. Rare in **Summer:** A few in late Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958); three on 22 Jul and two on 23 Jul 2003 (CJG). **Notes:** Nearly all over inshore marine waters. Uncommon in coastal S-C Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973) and rare in fall and spring in the mid-shelf waters of the northern Gulf of Alaska (Day 2006). **Specimen:** MVZ 134761, AHY ♀, 27 Jun 1956, R. Rausch.

_Ptychoramphus aleuticus aleuticus._ Cassin’s Auklet. Rare to common in **Fall,** from 14 Aug (2012) to 28 Oct (four in 2016). Annual variability in numbers extremely wide: e.g., noted only once in 2013 (four, 17 Sep) and twice in 2012 (one, 14 Aug; two, 16 Aug) versus multiple daily counts of >1000 individuals in 2014. Also numerous in 1987, when recorded from 23 Sep to 6 Oct. Maximum 1419 on 23 Aug 2014. **Notes:** Isleib and Kessel (1973) considered this species casual in coastal S-C Alaska, and Day (2006) found it rare in fall, winter, and spring in the northern Gulf of Alaska. Nearest breeding colonies are in the Semidi Islands, 700 km to the southwest, and at Forrester Island, 900 km to the southeast (http://axiom.seabirds.
Aethia psittacula. Parakeet Auklet. Uncommon in fall, 18 Aug (2012)–27 Oct (2016), with little pattern of abundance within this interval. Maximum daily counts 25 on 17 Sep 2013 and 25–30 on multiple days between 11 and 22 Sep 2012. All other observations of one or two birds only. Rare in some years (e.g., only two in 2014), in other years more regular (e.g., seen daily 8 Sep–9 Oct in 2012). Latest were two on 27 Oct 2016. Notes: This species breeds nearest to Middleton on islands along the Pacific coast of the Kenai Peninsula (Jones et al. 2001); elsewhere in coastal s-c Alaska it is an uncommon local breeder (Isleib and Kessel 1973).


Fratercula cirrhata. Tufted Puffin. Common in fall. Peak 14–23 Aug, when maximum was 80 birds/hour from north point on 18 Aug 2013. More typical was a rate of 10–30 birds/hour (regularly 20–60/day) from north point through 1 Sep 2013, diminishing to <10/hour (<20/day) through 10 Sep. The species was regular only to mid-Sep; latest were one each on 28 Sep 1982 and 29 Sep 2012. Post-breeders continued visiting nest sites in large numbers (600+/day) through late Aug, after which numbers diminished precipitously (e.g., 600+ on 20 Aug to none by 27 Aug in 2014). Once in winter: Three, 18–20 Feb 1976 (KDW, JSH). Had arrived in spring 1981 by 10 May. Common in summer with breeding population 1500–2500 pairs in 1978 (Hatch et al. 1979). Notes: Common year round in coastal s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). Specimens: USNM 18439 (skeleton), USNM 18440 (skull), and USNM 18441 (skull), all 26 Aug 1888, C. H. Townsend; UAM 34613, HY ♀, 1 Sep 2013, JJW.

Rissa tridactyla pollicaris. Black-legged Kittiwake. Common in fall. Large numbers remained at nesting sites through Aug (departed by 3 Sep in 2014), then over nearshore and inshore marine waters, often loafing in flocks of 1000s, through mid-Oct.
Hundreds per day still seen during late Oct 2016 and 5–12 Nov 1986 (MEI). Present throughout WINTER: “many” seen far offshore, 28 Dec 1992–2 Jan 1993 (RLS), and four with Glaucous-winged Gulls, 18 Feb 1976 (KDW, JSH). In SPRING, first arrival at nesting sites on 9 Apr (1999, Hatch et al. 2009). Common in SUMMER as a BREEDER, first reported in 1956 (Rausch 1958), although C. H. Townsend collected two birds in Aug 1888 (Ridgway 1893). Maximum breeding population was 82,885 pairs in 1981; subsequently the number declined to 3500–4500 pairs in 2010s (SAH). NOTES: Today most birds nest in colonies on dilapidated buildings or man-made structures altered deliberately to provide nesting substrate. The decline in the breeding population is likely linked to the natural erosion of rocky cliffs. The Black-legged Kittiwake is uncommon to common year round in the northern Gulf of Alaska (Day 2006); it is abundant as a migrant and breeder, uncommon in winter, in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**SPECIMENS:** USNM 115832, AHy unsexed and USNM 115833, Hy unsexed, both 26 Aug 1888, C. H. Townsend; USGS 1090, unsexed chick, Jul 1998, VAG; UAM 5223, AHy σ, 30 May 1984, BDR; and UAM 34244, Hy unsexed, 30 Aug 2013, JJW. We did not locate a specimen collected in 1956 by Rausch (1958).


*Xema sabini.* Sabine’s Gull. Rare in FALL, when 10 records between 29 Aug (2014, NRH, photo ML33471171) and 29 Sep (1991). Maxima three on 27 Sep 1991 and four on 26 Sep 1991. All were juvenile except for one adult on 29 Aug 2014 (NRH). NOTES: We observed most birds from north point over inshore waters. Sabine’s Gull is rare in spring and uncommon in fall in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia.* Bonaparte’s Gull. Uncommon in FALL: One to three/day from 10 Aug (2012) through 29 Sep (1982), most regular mid-Aug to early Sep. Maxima five on 3 Sep and 9 Sep 2013 and six on 13 and 27 Aug 2012. All seen well were immatures. Three records in SUMMER: One, 15–24 Jun 1983 (PJG, DRN); one, 31 Jul–5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN); two, 21 Jul 2003 (CJG). NOTES: The
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

species is a common migrant and local breeder in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMEN:** UAM 34623, HY ♂, 9 Sep 2013, LHD.


*Larus californicus* (ssp.). California Gull. Once in **FALL**: A third-cycle bird, 23 Sep 2005 (SCH+, GHR photo ML33565141). **NOTES**: Common fall migrant north to southern SE Alaska, where both subspecies *californicus* and *albertaensis* are known (Heinl and Piston 2009); intermittent or casual in fall as far north and west as S-C Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Larus argentatus* (*smithsonianus*). Herring Gull. Common in **FALL**, when generally <20/day, mid-Aug through mid-Sep. The timing of the first large influx varied from 27 Aug in 2014 (145 versus <five on previous days) to 14 Sep in 2013 (210 versus <20 on previous days). From the end of Sep through mid-Oct numbers peaked consistently at 600–800/day, approximately equaling those of the Glaucous-winged Gull. Large numbers also into mid-Nov (500+ from 5 to 12 Nov 1986, MEI). Numbers reduced in **WINTER**: Eight with Glaucous-winged Gulls on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Present throughout **SPRING** and **SUMMER**: A few at intervals in May 1981 (DDG); six from 14 to 26 Jun 1981 (PJG, AEZ); one, 8 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH). **NOTES**: We observed 10–20 *L. argentatus* × *L. glaucescens* hybrids, all after mid-Sep. Interbreeding of these taxa is widespread from Cook Inlet (see Williamson and Peyton 1963) east in the Gulf of Alaska to Glacier Bay (see Patten 1974, 1980, Patten and Weisbrod 1974, Patten and Patten 1976, 1983). This species is uncommon to common in coastal S-C Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMENS**: *L. argentatus*—UAM 38041, Sy ♀; *L. argentatus* × *L. glaucescens*—UAM 37888, Ty ♂, both 27 Sep 2014, LHD.

*Larus glaucoides thayeri*. Iceland Gull. Uncommon in **FALL**, from 21 Aug (2012) through at least mid-Nov (1986). In some years arrival was much later (e.g., 18 Sep 2013). Numbers were typically low prior to mid-Sep, then increased (e.g., three on 11 Sep 2014 increased to 70 four days later). Regularly 20–50/day from mid-Sep on. Maxima 100 on 26 Sep 2014 and 100+ on 1 Oct 1991. Adults were the most numerous age class, but in 2014 we did note a few birds in each cycle from first through third. Rare in **WINTER**: At least two on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). **NOTES**: A color-banded adult (engraved band reading “G7”) observed at Middleton on 25 Oct 2016 (RAM, JDL, CDE; photos ML43851231 and 43851241) had been banded and satellite-tagged at St. Helena Island off Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, in Jul 2016 (M. Maftei, in litt., 2016). As a winter visitor, this taxon is uncommon or rare in S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973) and common in southern SE Alaska (Heinl and Piston 2009). **SPECIMENS**: UAM, 6.

*L. g. (kumlieni)*. Once in **FALL**: One adult on 28 Oct 2016 (LHD, photos ML43851051 and 43851061) associated with a flock of *L. g. thayeri*. **NOTES**: Subspecies *kumlieni* nests in the eastern Canadian Arctic (see Snell 2002) and is casual in SE, S-C, and N Alaska (see Gibson and Withrow 2015; R. A. MacIntosh unpubl., TGT).

*Larus schistisagus*. Slaty-backed Gull. Twice in **FALL**: Second-year bird, 15 Sep 1988 (MEI); adult 8 km east of Middleton Island on 8 Aug 2010 (UAM 27089, φ,
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

DWS). NOTES: Since the early 1990s, this species has been reported nearly annually in S-C Alaska and at all seasons (Tobish and Isleib 1992a, Tobish 2013b).

Larus glaucescens. Glaucous-winged Gull. Common year round. Ubiquitous in fall with 500–1000/day, mid-Aug through mid-Nov, and into winter: 100 on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and 630+ on 18 Feb 1976 (KDW); see Hatch et al. (2011). Common in spring and summer as a breeder: Maximum nesting population was 6000+ pairs in both 1993 and 2013 (SAH).


Onychoprion aleuticus. Aleutian Tern. One report in spring: Up to three birds over the island at intervals, on foggy days, from 10 to 22 May 1981 (DDG+). NOTES: It is characteristic spring behavior for Aleutian Terns to prospect potential nesting localities, whether or not they remain to nest (see Gibson and Byrd 2007). Uncommon local breeder on the coasts of the northern Gulf of Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; see also Gibson and Withrow 2015).


Gavia arctica (viridigularis). Arctic Loon. Once in fall: One immature on inshore marine waters on 31 Aug 2012 (CWW, photos ML39343181 and 39343191). NOTES: The only previous Alaska record east of the Aleutians is of one at Cordova on 20 and 21 Jan 2002 (Tobish 2002b). The species is rare in w Alaska (see Gibson and Withrow 2015) but has been recorded on the Pacific coast as far south as Baja California (Erickson and Howell 2001).

Gavia pacifica. Pacific Loon. Common in fall from 14 Aug (2012) into winter. Generally <five/day during Aug and first half of Sep, then ~10/day through mid-Oct. Maxima 50+ on 1 Oct 1987 and 200+ from 2 to 12 Oct 2014 and on 19 Oct 2016. Only winter record, one on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS); only spring records, one on 23 May 1981 (DDG+), species present in Apr 2006 (TvN), and two on 18 May
In **summer**, scattered reports of ones or twos in Jul and Aug. **NOTES**: Found on both nearshore and inshore marine waters, often feeding in numbers off north point. A common migrant, uncommon summer visitant, and common winter visitant in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).


**Gavia adamsii**. Yellow-billed Loon. Rare in **fall** from 13 Aug (2012) through 28 Oct (2016) with about 10 records. All records of single birds except for two on 28 Sep 1991 (SCH+) and 26 Oct 2016 (BWR+) and 14 on 8 Oct 2014 (CWW, NRH). **NOTES**: Sightings are of both adults and immatures, seen primarily on inshore and nearshore waters. In S-C Alaska the species is a rare migrant and summer visitant and fairly common in winter (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Phoebastria immutabilis**. Laysan Albatross. Rare in **fall**, 26 Aug (2013) to 29 Oct (2016). All records of single birds except for two on 4 Sep 2012 and 1 Oct 1991 and 12 on 27 Oct 2016. **NOTES**: All were observed over offshore waters. Uncommon or fairly common in the northern Gulf of Alaska throughout the year (Day 2006).


**Phoebastria albatrus**. Short-tailed Albatross. Twice in **fall**: Immature drowned on a long-line set "off Middleton Island" in Oct 1987 (UAM 5723, unsexed, PDA); an all-brown immature seen from north point on 19 Oct 2016 (LHD, NRH+). **NOTES**: Suryan et al. (2006) reported radio-tagged individuals foraging along the continental shelf in the Gulf of Alaska. In North American waters the species is most numerous in the western and central Aleutians and southern Bering Sea, uncommon off British Columbia, and casual farther south (see Gruchy et al. 1972, Kenyon et al. 2009, Howell 2012, Singer et al. 2016).

**Fulmarus glacialis** (**rodgersii**). Northern Fulmar. Uncommon to common in **fall**, when typically 20–40/day. Consistently most numerous mid-Aug through late Sep. Latest were 10+ on 10 Nov 1986 (MEI). Maxima were 480 on 23 Sep 2013 and 1200 on 19 Oct 2016. Scattered records of beached birds (none preserved) through **winter** and **spring** (PJG). The few reports in **summer** included one in 2006 (TvN). **NOTES**: Dark-morph birds predominated in fall, when all fulmars were seen over inshore and offshore marine waters. The species is common on offshore waters of the northern Gulf of Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Pterodroma inexpectata**. Mottled Petrel. Rare to common in **fall**, 17 Aug (2012) to 6 Oct (2012), most after early Sep. Inshore occurrence erratic: observed on <20 days but in numbers as high as 45 in 1.5 hours on 2 Oct 2014, 200 in 2 hours on 23 Sep 2012, and 400 in 1 hour on 19 Sep 2014. Characteristically absent before and after such pulses. **NOTES**: All seen over inshore and offshore marine waters. Nonbreeding range includes the southern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska from Jun to Oct, while occurrence farther south along the Pacific coast of North America is restricted to late Oct through mid-Dec (Howell 2012).

**Ardenna bulleri**. Buller’s Shearwater. Common in **fall**, 17 Aug (2014) to 29 Oct
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

(2016). Numbers in Aug <10/day, in first week of Sep typically 100–400/day, peak from 10 Sep through early Oct with 500+/day, then decline (e.g., maximum of two from 19 to 29 Oct 2016). Maxima 1100 (including flock of 250+) on 11 Sep 2013, 1280 on 9 Sep 2011 (50-minute count, birds passing in one direction), and 1800 on 29 Sep 2013. **NOTES:** These numbers far exceed previous counts reported from Alaska. All birds were observed over inshore and offshore marine waters. The first Middleton reports were of one each on 26 and 27 Sep 1987, but hundreds were seen from 21 to 28 Sep 2005. This species was not substantiated in Alaska waters until 1997 (see Gibson et al. 2003). Buller’s Shearwaters reach the offshore waters of the Pacific coast of North America in Jun or Jul and are most numerous from mid-Sep to mid-Oct (Howell 2012). **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 15.

*Ardenna tenuirostris/grisea.* Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwater. The difficulty of distinguishing these two species from shore obscured the status of each at Middleton Island, so we treat them together. Common in **FALL** (mid-Aug/mid-Nov), counts from north point increasing from <15 birds/minute in late Aug to typically 50–100 birds/minute from 1 Sep to 5 Oct. Maximum rate of passage 146/minute on 1 Sep 2012. Short-tailed recorded in **SPRING** (May 1981, DDG+), both species in **SUMMER** (PJG, TvN). **NOTES:** We observed these species over both inshore and offshore marine waters, where they often formed foraging flocks of thousands of birds. Sooty Shearwaters arrive along the Pacific coast of North America in Mar and are common north to the Gulf of Alaska through late Oct (Howell 2012). In Alaska waters, Short-tailed Shearwaters are most numerous along the Aleutian Islands and in the southern Bering Sea from May through Oct; they range north to the Chukchi Sea and east and south to northwestern Mexico (ibid.). Isleib and Kessel (1973:34–44) wrote of *A. tenuirostris,* “summer, a few, possibly several, 1,000’s,” of *A. grisea,* “summer, 100,000’s—in some years, 1,000,000’s.” **SPECIMENS:** *A. tenuirostris* (1)—UAM 34511; *A. grisea* (4)—AMNH, 3; UAM 37667.

*Ardenna carneipes.* Flesh-footed Shearwater. Rare to fairly common in **FALL**, 14 Aug (2014) to 1 Oct (one in 1991, SCH) and 19 Oct (one in 2016, NRH). Most regular prior to 20 Sep, when one to three/day seen on about half the days. Maximum daily count 18 on 31 Aug 2012; maximum rate of passage from north point eight/hour (15 in just under 2 hours) on 1 Sep 2014 and 10/hour (six in just over 30 minutes) on 16 Sep 2012. Abundance by year varied (e.g., seen on six days from 16 Aug to 16 Sep 2013 versus nearly daily from 24 Aug to 24 Sep in 2012). **NOTES:** These numbers far exceed previous counts reported from Alaska. We observed Pink-footed Shearwaters over inshore and offshore marine waters, primarily from north point. Though common offshore from California to British Columbia, Apr–Oct (Howell 2012), the species was first substantiated in Alaska waters only in 2000 (see Gibson et al. 2003).

*Ardenna creatopus.* Pink-footed Shearwater. Rare or uncommon in **FALL**, 14 Aug (2014) to 14 Oct (2014). Most regular and numerous mid-Aug to late Sep; peak in mid-Sep, when since 2010 counts of one to eight/day have been regular. Most numerous in 2014, when 10–20/day were seen from 1 Sep to 14 Oct (e.g., Figure 11) and maxima were 36 on 7 Sep, 60 on 27 Sep, and 100+ on 26 Sep. The count on 7 Sep was result of one scan of the eastern inshore and offshore waters (CWW); the 100+ on 26 Sep included 50 counted passing the north point in one direction over 30 minutes (LHD, NRH). Maximum daily count for other years was 14 on 14 Sep 2012. **NOTES:** These numbers far exceed any previous counts of the species in Alaska. It was first substantiated (by photo) in Alaska in 2013 (Gibson and Withrow 2015) but has an unsubstantiated history dating back to the 1960s (Kessel and Gibson 1978). In the northeastern Pacific south of Alaska, it is uncommon from northwestern Mexico to British Columbia, most numerous Sep–Nov (Howell 2012). **SPECIMEN:** UAM 36300, *AHY ♀*, 8 Sep 2014, LHD and NRH—first Alaska specimen.

*Puffinus puffinus.* Manx Shearwater. Rare in **FALL**, 10 Aug (2012)–26 Sep (2005),
generally in ones or twos. Maxima four on both 30 Aug 2013 and 9 Sep 2011, five on 17 Sep 2013 (photos ML33566141, 33566131, and 33467671; Figure 12), and six on 12 Sep 2013. Most regular in 2013, when seen daily 18 Aug–20 Sep, versus on only seven days from 16 Aug to 16 Sep 2014. In **Spring** and **Summer**: The actions of the two birds together on 12 May 2005 suggested “a pair prospecting for a possible nest site” (Gibson et al. 2008:191), and when observers returned later that year, two birds were seen again from 3 to 24 Jul (loc. cit.). **Notes**: We saw most Manx Shearwaters on inshore marine waters, often associated (in fall) with loafing or foraging flocks of other shearwaters. There exists a history of sight reports in the northeastern Pacific (see Howell et al. 1994, Wahl et al. 2005, Hamilton et al. 2007, Heindel and Garrett 2008), including Alaska, but the photos of birds at Middleton in spring 2005 provided the first substantiation for Alaska (Gibson et al. 2008). In the western North Pacific this species was first recorded in Japan (Honshu) in Jun and Jul 2004 (OSJ 2012). **Specimens**: UAM 34000, AHy ♀, 30 Aug 2013, JJW, LHD, and NRH; UAM 34001, AHy ♂, 17 Sep 2013, LHD and NRH—first Alaska specimens. A specimen salvaged in Washington (Univ. Wash. Burke Mus. 80162, ♀, 14 May 2003) might be the only other specimen of this species (*sensu stricto*) archived from the North Pacific.


**Oceanodroma leucorhoa** (*leucorhoa*). Leach’s Storm-Petrel. Casual in **Fall**: Single birds on 24 Sep 2005, 16 and 22 Aug 2012 (heard calling at night), 27 Sep 2012, and 12 Oct 2014. **Notes**: In Alaska this species breeds on islands from the western Aleutians through the southern Alexander Archipelago, those nearest Middleton being the Wooded Islands in Prince William Sound (Huntington et al. 1996).


**Phalacrocorax urile**. Red-faced Cormorant. Casual year round. In **Fall**, one adult on 13 Oct 1980 (TGT), two immatures on 6 Nov and 10 Nov 1986 (MEI), and one on 16 Sep and 24 Sep 2011 (CWW). Two birds in **Winter** on 31 Dec 1992 and 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Twice in **Spring**: One in May 1981 (DDG+); one on 23 Apr 2006 (TvN). A possible **Breeder** in **Summer** with single birds noted on nests during six years between 1976 and 1985: Pair suggested but not confirmed in 1976 (DAF, MH); two individuals at different nests, courting Pelagic Cormorants, in 1983 (DRN). **Notes**: Nests commonly from the Pribilof and Aleutian islands east to the Semidi Islands, with small, isolated colonies as far east as Kayak Island (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Kessel and Gibson 1978), 102 km northeast of Middleton.

**Phalacrocorax pelagicus**. Pelagic Cormorant. Common year round. In **Fall**, maximum 649 on 27 Aug 2014. Less numerous by mid-Sep, when typically <100/day, decreasing to <60/day from the end of Sep through mid-Nov (1986), except for
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

90 on 26 Oct 2016. In winter, 20+ on 1 Jan; up to 50 from 18 to 20 Feb 1976 (KDW). Common in spring and summer. The number of nests peaked at 1000–4000 in the late 1980s but since 2010 has been only 400–800 (SAH). Notes: At Middleton this species has nested in varied situations, including abandoned buildings, remnant cliffs, and the shipwreck. During fall we observed it roosting on reefs and spits and in flight over nearshore and inshore marine waters. It also nests and is common year round in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Ardea herodias** (*fannini*). Great Blue Heron. Intermittent in fall, 27 Aug (2014, NRH, photo ML33470861) to 12 Nov (1986), usually singly, occasionally in twos. Maxima three together on 14 Oct 2014 and four on both 26 (LHD, photo ML43851451) and 28 Oct 2016. Individuals often remained for extended periods (e.g., 27 Aug–12 Sep and 25 Sep–16 Oct 2014). Maximum seasonal total five in 2014. Once in summer: One, 1 Jul–5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN). Notes: All but one in fall were immatures. We noted this species exclusively along beaches and tidal flats. It is uncommon year round in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), ranging west as far as Kodiak, where intermittent in fall (see Gibson 1983).

**Pandion haliaetus** (*carolinensis*). Osprey. Rare in fall, 7 Sep (2013) to 7 Oct (2014). Usually occurred singly, with two/day on multiple occasions during latter half of Sep. Two to four birds annually from 2011 to 2014. Some individuals stayed at least eight (23–30 Sep 2012) and 15 days (14–28 Sep 2014). Notes: On multiple occasions we observed individuals arrive from the NW, circle only briefly over the island, and continue SE and out to sea. All those aged were juveniles. Only rarely did we note individuals attempting to hunt over ponds or northeast lagoon. The Osprey is an uncommon migrant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus**. Bald Eagle. Since 1992 common in fall, mid-Aug through at least mid-Nov, typically 10–15/day. In winter, 10–15/day, 28 Dec 1992–1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Uncommon in spring, 2013–15 and 2014–15. Uncommon in summer, colonizing as a breeder by 2006, with five active nests that year and six in 2006 (TvN)—nests built on the ground, on log bundles, in Sitka spruce stands, and on a man-made platform. Notes: Previously, this species was far less numerous, with no reports at all by Rausch (1958), O’Farrell and Sheets (1962), nor during the falls of 1981, 1982, and 1987. We observed this species perched on driftwood logs along beaches or riding updrafts along the west bluff. It is common year round on the mainland coast of S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Circus cyaneus** (*hudsonius*). Northern Harrier. Uncommon in fall from 20 Aug (2012, 2013) to 12 Nov (1986), when typically one to four/day. Most regular in fall half of Sep, maximum 12 on 20 and 21 Sep 2014 (including seven in thermals on 20th). In fall most were juveniles save for an adult male on 23 Oct 2016 (BWR). Twice in winter: One on 28 Dec 1992 and 1 Jan 1993 (RLS) and one on 19 Feb 1976 (KDW). Rare in spring: Single female from 11 to 20 May 1981 (DDG) and one or two from 10 to 29 Apr 2006 (TvN). Status in summer represented by one breeding record: Nest with young, 23 Jun 2005 (TvN). Notes: On Middleton we observed most harriers hunting along beaches or over grass and tall forb meadows. On multiple occasions during fall, birds were seen arriving from the N and NW. This species is a common migrant, uncommon local breeder, and a rare winter visitant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Accipiter striatus** (*velox*). Sharp-shinned Hawk. Rare in fall, with sporadic single birds from 9 Sep (1982, 2012; LHD, photo ML26887801) to 6 Oct (1987). Maximum three on multiple dates. From 2011 to 2014 we recorded a maximum of four birds per season. Notes: All birds aged were juveniles. Species routinely patrolled the...
tall shrub thickets for prey. In coastal S-C Alaska it is uncommon year round, slightly more numerous in migration (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Accipiter gentilis* (*atricapillus*). Northern Goshawk. Two reports in **FALL**: Adult on 6 Nov 1982 (DWS, RLS); a juvenile from 5 to 12 Nov 1986 (feeding on a rabbit, MEI). **NOTES**: This species is fairly common year round in forested S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Buteo lagopus* (*sanctijohannis*). Rough-legged Hawk. Casual in **FALL**: two or three, 25 Sep–1 Oct 1991; two, 20 Sep 1997 (one continued through the 27th); one light morph, 19 Sep 2013 (LHD, photo ML33467911); one dark morph, 19–20 Sep 2014 (photo ML33466471, LHD). Once in **WINTER**: Two (one light and one dark morph) on 18 Feb 1976, one remaining through the 20th, KDW, JSH). **NOTES**: In 1991 the birds perched in spruces above the south bluffs, from which they surveyed the beaches. We observed other individuals hunting over meadows. The Rough-legged Hawk is a rare migrant and casual summer and winter visitant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Bubo scandiacus*. Snowy Owl. Casual in **FALL**: Two, 21–29 Sep 2005 (SCH+; photos ML48071521 and ML48071511, RAM); one, 6 Nov and 10 Nov 1986 (MEI); eight to 10 birds in late Nov 1957 (Rausch 1958). Intermittent in **WINTER**: Typically four to six/winter, but absent in some years and more numerous in others (e.g., “high numbers” in winter 1977–1978—MEI [in Gibson 1978]; 25–30 birds during winter 2005–2006; DB, TvN). A few remained into **SPRING**: One on 19 May 1978 (PJG), one from 22 Apr to 20 May 1979 (SAH), remains found (not preserved) in May 1981 (DDG), two on 16 May 2003 (CJG), and two to six from 10 Apr to 7 May 2006 (TvN). Single individuals spent the **SUMMERS** of 2003, 2004, and 2006 (TvN). **NOTES**: There is no record at UAM of the specimen referred to by O’Farrell and Sheets (1962). Available information (see Isleib and Kessel 1973, Andres and Browne 2004, Lang 2008) suggests that this species winters more regularly and in much higher numbers at Middleton than anywhere else in S-C Alaska.

*Asio flammeus flammeus*. Short-eared Owl. Uncommon in **FALL**, 15 Aug (2013) to 27 Oct (2016). Most records 18 Sep–6 Oct, generally of ones or twos. Annual variation great: e.g., none in 2011, 10 in 2013 (Figure 13), and >10 in both 1987 and late Oct 2016 (three found dead and emaciated, specimens UAM). Maxima four on 22 and 23 Aug 2013, six on 22 Oct 2016, and eight on 28 Sep 1987. At least two reports in **SPRING**: One on 21 May 1978 (PJG); one on 30 Apr 2006 (TvN). One report in **SUMMER**: One on 22 Jun 1976 (DAF, MH). **NOTES**: We noted the species hunting over meadows and roosting in driftwood along beach ridge. It occurs throughout Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and is a fairly common migrant, uncommon local breeder, and rare winter visitant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). Its long-distance transoceanic passages are well known (see Gibson and Byrd 2007). Johnson et al. (2017) tracked one bird through an 800-km passage across the Gulf of Alaska in mid-Oct from the Kenai Peninsula to the Stikine River.


*Sphyrapicus varius*. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Once in **FALL**: One juvenile male on 18 Sep 2013 (UAM 34182, ♂, LHD+). **NOTES**: Species is rare in summer and has nested in eastern interior Alaska (see Erwin et al. 2004). There are at least three other (fall) records for S-C Alaska (see Tobish 1995; A. J. Lang, in litt., 2015).

*Sphyrapicus ruber ruber*. Red-breasted Sapsucker. Casual in **FALL**: Up to three from 19 to 21 Sep 1981 (TGT), one on 25 Sep 1997 (TGT+), and one on 26 Sep
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

2013 (UAM 34183, AHY ♂; LHD+, photos ML33471261 and 33471271). **Notes:** On our arrival in fall 2014 we found sap wells, suggesting at least one additional bird on the island in late fall 2013. In Alaska this species is restricted to SE as a breeder (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959); it is casual in coastal S-C Alaska, west to the Kodiak archipelago, where records are concentrated in Oct (see Gibson 1979; R. A. MacIntosh unpubl.).

*Picoides pubescens nelsoni.* Downy Woodpecker. Rare in fall: Typically one or two/day, 5 Sep (2014) to 8 Nov (1986). Maximum three on 12 Sep 2011, 29 Sep 2014, and 4 Oct 2014. Individuals often stayed for extended periods, e.g., one banded female, 7 Sep–4 Oct 2014. Once in winter: A male and female present 30 Dec 1992–1 Jan 1993 (RLS). **Notes:** Two subspecies occur in Alaska: nelsoni is widespread in interior and S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973, Gibson and Withrow 2015); glacialis is known only as a fall visitant on the Gulf of Alaska coast (see Gibson and Withrow 2015), whence described. **Notes:** Subspecies glacialis has no understood breeding range (Gibson and Withrow 2015), and our understanding of phenotypic variation of this taxon is incomplete because of a dearth of specimens. At least one individual taken at Middleton (UAM 39616, 23 Oct 2016) has plumage characters pointing toward glacialis (which has a smoky venter and boldly barred undertail). **Specimens:** UAM, 6.

*Colaptes auratus luteus.* Northern Flicker. Uncommon in fall from 29 Aug (2012) to 13 Oct (1980), one or two/day. More numerous after early Sep, maxima five on 11, 16, and 18 Sep 2011 and on 5 Oct 1987; six on 11 and 12 Sep 1982. Twice in spring: One male luteus on 14 May 1981 (UAM 4096, DDG+) and one flicker in “late” May 2006 (TvN). **Notes:** Subspecies luteus is the widespread breeder in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015) and a rare fall migrant in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). Three individuals at Middleton in fall have been identified as luteus × cafer intergrades (e.g., photo ML33566621, 14 Sep 2011, LHD, and UAM 36609, 6 Oct 2014, NRH and LHD). Such flickers are known to nest in Alaska in the southern Alexander Archipelago and on the nearby mainland (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Falco sparverius* (sparverius). American Kestrel. Casual in fall: Male on 8 Oct 1980 (TGT); male, 10–17 Sep 1981 (TGT); female, 19–20 Sep 1982 (DDG+); female, 6 Oct 1982 (DDG+); and female on 28 Sep 2012 (LHD+, photo ML26888171). **Notes:** The species is a rare fall migrant in coastal S-C (Isleib and Piston 2009; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.).

*Falco columbarius* (columbarius). Merlin. Uncommon in fall, 19 Aug (2014) to 21 Oct (2016). In 2013 arrived as late as 1 Sep. Generally one to three/day but often >five/day in mid-Sep (e.g., 15–19 Sep 2013 and 30 Aug–21 Sep 2014). Maxima six on multiple dates and 12 on 15 Sep 2013. In some seasons less numerous (e.g., only two from 25 Sep to 1 Oct 1991). Rare in spring: Two in May 2005 and two to four from 21 Apr to 4 May 2006 (TvN). **Notes:** We identified both adults and immatures in fall, when they usually hunted by patrolling the willow thickets or coastlines. Elsewhere in coastal S-C Alaska, the Merlin is uncommon during migration and rare the rest of the year (Isleib and Kessel 1973). All individuals seen well appeared to be subspecies columbarius (e.g., photos ML43852131, ML43852141, ML43851841, ML43852261). **Notes:** This Old World species is casual in the western Aleutians and in the Bering Sea region and accidental elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Falco subbuteo* (subbuteo). Eurasian Hobby. Once in fall: One followed the cruise ship Zaandam for nearly 11 hours on 12 Aug 2013 (WL, photos ML33469621, 33469631, and 33469641), traveling within 20 km of Middleton Island. **Notes:** This Old World species is casual in the western Aleutians and in the Bering Sea region and accidental elsewhere in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

mid-May 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** This species is a rare migrant and winter visitant in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Falco peregrinus pealei* and *F. p. (anatum/tundrius).* Peregrine Falcon. Uncommon in **FALL**, mid-Aug through mid-Nov, regularly one to three/day. Peak numbers mid-Sep through mid-Oct, when five to 10/day frequent. Maximum 11 on 29 Sep and 6 Oct 2014; up to six remained as late as 5–12 Nov 1986. Rare in **WINTER:** Two present 29 Dec 1992–1 Jan 1993 (RLS). Twice in **SPRING:** One, mid-Apr 2006, and a summering individual arrived on 21 May 2006 (both TvN). Present in **SUMMER,** but

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**Figure 11.** The suite of regularly occurring pelagic species included the Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*), such as the bird on the left, photographed with Sooty Shearwaters (*A. grisea*) on 8 Sep 2014.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*

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**Figure 12.** The Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), was annual in fall in small numbers on nearshore waters around Middleton. This bird, photographed with a Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*), was one of five on 17 Sep 2013.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

no suggestion of nesting; “common” 8 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH), pair throughout summer 2005 (TvN), one bird throughout summer 2006 (TvN), and an adult pealei was salvaged on 10 Jun 2010 (USGS 1475, ♀, TvN). NOTES: Both adults and immatures occurred during migration, but immatures outnumbered adults during the peak. Most birds were dark and heavily streaked, like subspecies pealei (photos ML43852191, ML43851621), but a few were paler, as in anatum or tundrius (25 Sep 2014, NRH, photo ML43852301; Figure 14). Lewis and Kissling (2015) reported subspecies anatum nesting locally on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Alaska, within the coastal nesting range of pealei (see AOU 1957).

Contopus cooperi cooperi. Olive-sided Flycatcher. Uncommon in fall: Earliest, one on 7 Aug 2010 (TvN), typically one or two/day in second half of Aug, only four records after early Sep, latest ones on 19 and 20 Sep 2014. Maxima six on 7 Aug 2010 and 12–14 from 18 to 20 Aug 2012. Twice in summer: One, 26 Jun 1956 (USNM 470761, ♂, Rausch 1958); one, “end of” Jul 2006 (TvN). NOTES: Nests commonly on the western Kenai Peninsula (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) but rare as a fall migrant along the coast from there east to Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004) and south to southern SE Alaska, where it also breeds (Heinl and Piston 2009).

specimens: USNM 470761, AHY ♂, 26 Jun 1956, R. Rausch; UAM 34423, HY ♂, 23 Aug 2013, LHD.

Contopus sordidulus (veliei). Western Wood-Pewee. Uncommon in fall. Arrival dates varied from 18 to 21 Aug. Numbers generally ≤ five/day; maxima nine on 23 Aug 2013 and 25+ on 24 Aug 2013. Only five records after early Sep; latest were one on 15 Sep 2013 and one on 25 Sep 2011. NOTES: All 16 birds captured (2011–2014) were immatures. The species breeds nearby around upper Cook Inlet, on the western Kenai Peninsula, and in the upper Copper River valley but is otherwise rare in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1989). At Yakutat Andres and Browne (2004) reported it casual in summer, with no fall records. Uncommon as a migrant and breeder in mainland SE Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). SPECIMENS: UAM 31130, HY ♂, 10 Sep 2012, LHD; UAM 34180, HY ♂, 31 Aug 2013, JJW and LHD.


Empidonax alnorum. Alder Flycatcher. Uncommon in fall. Earliest 18 Aug (2012 and 2014). Regularly one to five/day; maximum eight on 29 Aug 2014 and 12 on 19 Aug 2012. Sporadic after early Sep (nine records); latest one each on 19 Sep 1981 and 30 Sep 2014. NOTES: All 43 birds captured (2011–2014) were immatures. The Alder Flycatcher is a fairly common local breeder in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1989) but no more than a rare coastal migrant to the east, at Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004) and an uncommon or rare migrant and local breeder in SE Alaska (see Kessel and Gibson 1978). Since this species is unknown in coastal Washington (Wahl et al. 2005) or Oregon (Marshall et al. 2006), and there were only six records for California as of 2017 (Tietz and McCaskie 2017), it seems likely that our migrants proceed from Middleton east into interior British Columbia, in which province they are very rare coastally (Campbell et al. 1997). SPECIMENS: UAM 4266, HY ♂, 11 Sep 1982, TGT; UAM 29189, HY unsexed, 9 Sep 2011, LHD; and UAM 36339, HY ♂, 1 Sep 2014, LHD.

Empidonax traillii brewsteri. Willow Flycatcher. Once in fall: One on 21 Aug 2012 (UAM 31000, AHY ♂, LHD+, photo ML33566781). NOTES: Species is casual in Alaska with most records (10+) from SE Alaska in summer (see Gibson and Withrow 2015). There are just three records for S-C Alaska (including one in fall). Our specimen was identified as brewsteri by P. Pyle (in litt., 2016), in comparison with series at MVZ.
Empidonax minimus. Least Flycatcher. Casual in fall, when six records 8–22 Sep: One each on 23 Sep 1988 (UAM 5550, HY ♀, MEI); 10 Sep (LHD, CWW; Figure 15), 12 Sep (LHD, photos ML33566561 and 33566581), and 14 Sep (UAM 29161, HY ♀, LHD) 2011 (LHD, CWW); 8 Sep 2014 (CWW+, photo ML33465571); and 22 Sep 2014 (LHD, NRH, photos ML33466791 and 33471641). **Notes**: The species is casual in Alaska in summer, primarily in the eastern Interior and SE (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Gibson and Withrow 2015). The 1988 Middleton record was the first for Alaska in fall (Gibson and Kessel 1992), and there are still but two fall records in Alaska away from Middleton (Tobish 1997, 2002a).

Empidonax hammondii. Hammond’s Flycatcher. Casual in fall: One each on 19 Aug 2009 (photos ML72194301 and 72194311, TvN), 1 Sep 2013 (photo ML33566061, NRH+), and 11 and 12 Sep 2014 (UAM 36340, HY ♂, NRH, LHD+). **Notes**: There is only one other fall record in coastal S-C Alaska (Tobish 2010). As a breeder, the species is restricted in Alaska to the Interior and to the SE mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Empidonax oberholseri. Dusky Flycatcher. Twice in fall: One on 11 Sep 2014 (photos ML33465641 and 33465801) and one on 4 Oct 2014 (UAM 36000, HY ♂, both LHD+). **Notes**: Species is casual in Alaska, with most of the <10 records from SE (see Gibson and Withrow 2015). It nests regularly as close as western British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997) and southern Yukon Territory (Sinclair et al. 2003).

Sayornis saya (yukonensis). Say’s Phoebe. Rare in fall with 11 records, 10 Aug (1984)–9 Sep (1982), seven of them from 16 to 28 Aug. Maximum four birds on 20 Aug 2014. **Notes**: Casual visitant in coastal S-C Alaska, including single records at Kodiak Island in fall and Icy Bay in late summer (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Tobish 2003). At Middleton most birds were attracted to the FAA buildings. **Specimen**: UAM 35616, HY unsexed, 27 Aug 2013, LHD.

Myiarchus crinitus. Great Crested Flycatcher. Once in fall: One in west thicket, 29 Sep 1990 (UAM 5710, MEI). **Notes**: The Middleton bird furnished the first Alaska record of a Myiarchus flycatcher (Gibson and Kessel 1992). Since 1990 there have been two additional Alaska records of this species, both from SE, in fall (see Gibson and Withrow 2015).

Tyrannus tyrannus. Eastern Kingbird. One report in fall: One, 19 Sep 1981 (TGT). **Notes**: Casual in Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015), with summer and fall records from many far-flung corners of the state (see Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Lanius excubitor (borealis). Northern Shrike. Rare or uncommon in fall, 21 Sep (one in 1981) to 28 Oct (one in 2016) and 11 Nov (one in 1986). Maxima four on 28 Sep 1997 and eight on 27 Sep 1987. Once in winter: One immature from 30 Dec 1992 to 1 Jan 1993 (first seen on the ground at a rabbit carcass, RLS). **Notes**: Some individuals remained at Middleton for extended periods (e.g., 24+ days in 2014). The species is uncommon in S-C Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **Specimen**: UAM 4278, HY ♂, 2 Oct 1982, DDG.

Vireo solitarius (solitarius). Blue-headed Vireo. Once in fall: One bird, 30 Sep and 2 Oct 2012 (SCH, TGT+), representing a first substantiated record for Alaska (photo, Gibson et al. 2013). **Notes**: Species nests as close to Alaska as southeastern Yukon Territory (Sinclair et al. 2003) and northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997).

Vireo philadelphicus. Philadelphia Vireo. Casual in fall: One on 14 Sep 1982 (TGT), one on 29 Sep 1987 (UAM 5428, AHY ♂, MEI, RLS), and one on 24 Sep 2013 (UAM 34438, HY ♀, RLW, NRH+; Figure 16). **Notes**: There are only two records elsewhere in Alaska (see Moldenhauer and Tobish 1984, Gibson and Kessel 1992, Tobish 2007). The two specimens from Middleton are the first for Alaska.

Vireo gilvus swainsoni. Warbling Vireo. Rare in fall, when 13 records 11 Sep (2011)–1 Oct (2012 and 2014). Maxima two birds on 15 Sep 2013 and 16 Sep 2011 and three on 23 Sep 2013. Seasonal totals varied from one in 2014 to four in
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

2013. NOTES: Species breeds on the SE Alaska mainland and some nearby islands (Gibson and Withrow 2015) but is a casual summer and fall visitant in S-C Alaska (see Tobish and Isleib 1991, Andres and Browne 2004). SPECIMENS: UAM 5653, HY unsexed, 27 Sep 1989, MEI; UAM 5718, AHY ♂, 30 Sep 1990, MEI; UAM 29172, HY ♀, 11 Sep 2011, LHD; UAM 34437, HY ♂, 16 Sep 2013, LHD; UAM 34436, HY ♀, 23 Sep 2013, LHD.

Figure 13. Uncommon fall migrants at Middleton, Short-eared Owls (Asio flammeus) are renowned for their long-distance ocean crossings. This individual was photographed on 7 Sep 2013.

Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS

Figure 14. A minority of Peregrine Falcons (Falco peregrinus) in fall were light and finely marked with a barred tail consistent with subspecies anatum or tundrius (e.g., A), while the majority were dark and heavily marked, characteristics consistent with the coastal subspecies pealei (e.g., B).

Photos by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich and Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS
Figure 15. We recorded six species of *Empidonax* (of seven known in Alaska) in autumn. This Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*) on 10 Sep 2011 provided the second of the six fall records at Middleton.

*Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS*

Figure 16. This Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) on 24 Sep 2013 furnished the third record at Middleton.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*
**Vireo olivaceus olivaceus.** Red-eyed Vireo. Two reports in **FALL**: One on 20 Sep 1981 (TGT) and at least one on 4 Sep and 6 Sep 1982 (DMT, PDM). Once in **SUMMER**: One on 26 Jun 1956 (USNM 470762, ♂, Rausch 1958). **NOTES**: The record in 1956 is Alaska's first (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). Casual in s-c Alaska and a rare and local probable breeder on the SE mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Corvus corax (principalis).** Common Raven. Rare year round (recently). Four records in **FALL**: One, 30 Sep 2013; one, 12–14 Aug 2014 (photo ML33468581); one, 1–6 Sep 2014; up to two, 20 Sep–14 Oct 2014 (photo ML33467081). Once in **WINTER**: “handful,” mid-Jan 2014 (DB). Three **SPRING** records: Two on 16 Apr 2010 (TvN), two from 20 May to 4 Jun 2013 (KHE), two from 19 to 24 May 2014 (TD). Up to two pairs present during **SUMMER** 2014 (SAH)—at least one pair likely continuing from that spring—and up to three birds, 10 Jul–2 Aug 2015 (photo ML33464091, AAA). A single juvenile on 2 Aug 2015 (AAA) suggests **BREEDING** on the island. **NOTES**: This conspicuous species occurs widely in Alaska, including many other island localities on the Pacific coast, from Dixon Entrance to Attu Island (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), so it is of interest that it was unknown at Middleton until 2010.

**Alauda arvensis (pekinesis).** Eurasian Skylark. One report in **FALL**: One, 28 Sep 2014 (LHD), in tall forb meadow along the coast. **NOTES**: The species is a migrant in the western Aleutians and casual in w Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015); it has nested in the Pribilofs (Baicich et al. 1996), possibly the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007). There are two prior records for s-c Alaska, both in fall on the Kenai Peninsula, one in Oct 2012 (Tobish 2013b), one the same day as the skylark at Middleton (Tobish 2015).


**E. a. flava.** Casual in **FALL**: Two on 24 Sep 1987 (one collected, UAM 5407, ♂, DDG and RLS), one male on 5 Oct 1987 (UAM 5439, DDG and MEI), and one from 25 to 27 Sep 1991 (SCH+)—all associated with *E. a. arcticola*. **NOTES**: This subspecies from northern Eurasia is casual in fall in the Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and perhaps intermittent on Bering Sea islands (Sealy 1968, Sealy et al. 1971, Lehman 2005). Two other records in s-c Alaska comprise one at Kodiak in fall and one at Homer in winter (Gibson 1981a, Tobish 2011b).

**Tachycineta bicolor.** Tree Swallow. Casual in **FALL**, but local breeders remain into early Aug (e.g., 30+ from 31 Jul to 5 Aug 1983; PJG, DRN). One was notably late on 9 Sep 2012 (photos ML26887741 and 26887751, LHD, CWW) and the only one recorded after early Aug. The species’ occurrence as a migrant in late Jul and early Aug was difficult to assess because of its status as a local breeder. Uncommon in **SPRING**: Earliest dates 12 May (one, 2012; KHE) and 14 May (eight, 1981; DDG). Uncommon as a **BREEDER** in **SUMMER**, when first reported nesting in “cavities in an old building” by Rausch (1958:237); nesting continued into the 2010s (TvN). As of spring 2009 the species had successfully bred in a small number of artificial nest boxes (TvN). **NOTES**: Tree Swallows breed commonly in coastal s-c Alaska, typically departing there by mid-Aug (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

**Tachycineta thalassina (thalassina).** Violet-green Swallow. Four records in **FALL**: Two on 15 Aug 2013, up to two on 20 and 21 Aug 2014 (photos ML33567641, LHD), four to six on 22 and 23 Aug 2013, and one exceptionally late on 9 Sep 2012 (photos ML33566791 and 33566801, LHD, CWW). The species might be
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

more regular earlier in Aug than these records suggest. Rare in SPRING: Up to 12 birds from 17 to 23 May 1981; one on 15 May 1982. NOTES: A fairly common migrant and locally common breeder in coastal s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).


**Hirundo rustica** (erythrogaster). Barn Swallow. Once in FALL: One on 29 Aug 2011 (photos ML, LHD+)—apart from lingering local breeders, e.g., family group through 5 Aug 2010 (TvN). Rare in SPRING and SUMMER: Up to two birds, 16–22 May 1981 (DDG); a pair on 22 May 2010 (TvN) later NESTED in an abandoned building and fledged five young, the family last seen 5 Aug. Also one on 13 Jun 1995; pair on 25 Jun 2009. NOTES: The Barn Swallow is an uncommon migrant and breeder in coastal s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

*Poecile atricapillus* (turneri). Black-capped Chickadee. One report in WINTER: Three birds together in willow thickets on 30 Dec 1992; two on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). NOTES: An uncommon resident of s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), this species is known from autumn/early winter irruptions at other localities in Alaska outside its breeding range, e.g., Nunivak Island, Cape Prince of Wales, and Point Barrow (see Swarth 1934, Bailey 1948, Kessel and Gibson 1978).

*Sitta canadensis*. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Intermittent in FALL. Numbers in fall 2011 exceptional, when seen daily 11–27 Sep with maximum of nine on 27 Sep. During that period we captured 20, of which only one was an adult. Just four records outside of 2011: Up to three birds, 9–12 Sep 1981, one on 7 Aug 2007 (TvN), and single birds on 1 Sep and 5 Sep 2014. NOTES: One banded bird stayed for at least nine days in fall 2011 (17–25 Sep). Species is uncommon year round in s-c Alaska, most numerously in fall and winter, when occasionally irruptive (Isleib and Kessel 1973); it is casual in fall on islands in the Bering Sea (see Sealy et al. 1971, Lehman 2005). SPECIMENS: UAM 5434, HY σ, 2 Oct 1987, DDG; UAM 34421, HY σ, 31 Aug 2013, LHD.

*Certhia americana alascensis*. Brown Creeper. Intermittent in FALL. Numbers in fall 2011 exceptional, when seen daily 11–27 Sep with maximum of nine on 27 Sep. During that period we captured 20, of which only one was an adult. Just four records outside of 2011: Up to three birds, 9–12 Sep 1981, one on 7 Aug 2007 (TvN), and single birds on 1 Sep and 5 Sep 2014. NOTES: One banded bird stayed for at least nine days in fall 2011 (17–25 Sep). Species is uncommon year round in s-c Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). SPECIMENS: UAM 29169, HY [♀], 8 Sep 2011; UAM 29168, HY σ, 11 Sep 2011—both LHD.

*Troglodytes pacificus helleri*. Pacific Wren. Common resident and breeder. Numbers in FALL varied widely from year to year, from one or two/day in 1982 to 50+ /day in 1987, 2014, and 2016, probably as a function of the severity of the previous winter. Maximum in WINTER 20+ on 1 Jan 1993 (RLS). First reported in SUMMER
Figure 17. This Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) on 7 Oct 2014 represented one of three species of *Phylloscopus* recorded in fall and constituted one of the most extralimital species recorded at Middleton.

*Photo by Charles W. Wright/USFWS*

Figure 18. This vocal Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) discovered on 19 Sep 2014 is the only one recorded in Alaska east of the Aleutian and Bering Sea islands.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*
Figure 19. This Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) photographed on 28 Aug 2013 was one of four recorded in fall at Middleton Island.

*Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS*

Figure 20. We recorded two Olive-backed Pipits (*Anthus hodgsoni*) in fall at Middleton Island. This individual was the first, photographed on 26 Sep 2013.

*Photo by James D. Levison/USFWS*
in 1956 by Rausch (1958). Little information on timing of breeding, but young in full juvenile plumage present through late Aug. **Notes:** Probably the only resident species at Middleton, most numerous in willow thickets, dilapidated buildings, and drift logs along shore. Population fluctuations in response to hard winters have been observed in other areas of Alaska such as Kodiak (R. A. MacIntosh, in litt., 2015). Through comparison with topotype series (UAM) from Kodiak Island, we identified the Middleton specimens as *T. p. helleri*, which we suggest is more widespread in S-C Alaska than currently recognized (e.g., see AOU 1957, Gibson and Withrow 2015). **Species:** UAM, 37; AMNH, 7. We did not locate two specimens collected in 1956 by Rausch (1958).

**Regulus satrapa (amoenus).** Golden-crowned Kinglet. Uncommon and irruptive in **Fall,** 27 Aug (2014)–12 Nov (1986), with highest numbers from mid-Sep through late Oct, when regularly five to 10/day. Occurred in ones or twos prior to mid-Sep. Maximum daily counts 30 on 25 Sep 2011 and 42 in west thicket on 25 Oct 2016. Annual variation in numbers wide: e.g., unrecorded from 1 Sep to 6 Oct 1982 but daily from 1 Sep to 14 Oct 2014 and from 19 to 29 Oct 2016. Once in **Winter:** One with Black-capped Chickadees on 30 Dec 1992 (RLS). **Notes:** Of the 69 birds captured (2011–2014), only two were adults. Multiple banded individuals remained for extended periods (at least 18 days, 10–27 Sep 2011). On two occasions in Oct 1980, birds were observed arriving from the W. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is common to uncommon year round in coastal S-C Alaska (Iseib and Kessel 1973). **Specimens:** UAM 29184, HY ♀, 9 Sep 2011; UAM 29151, HY unsexed, 10 Sep 2011—both LHD.

**Regulus calendula (grinnelli).** Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Uncommon in **Fall,** from 26 Aug (2014) to 27 Oct (2016). Birds typically arrived in numbers in mid-Sep—9 Sep 2012 (20 individuals) and 15 Sep 2013 (six). Numbers peaked (usually ≤10/day) from mid-Sep through early Oct, maxima 53 on 28 Sep 2013 and 75+ on 29 Sep 1987. **Notes:** Of the 78 birds captured, only six (8%) were adults. In coastal S-C Alaska this species is a common migrant and breeder (Iseib and Kessel 1973), the fourth most numerous species captured at Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004). **Species:** *grinnelli* nests from SE Alaska west at least to Cook Inlet (Gibson and Withrow 2015). **Specimens:** UAM 38924, HY σ, 14 Sep 2012; UAM 40813, HY ♀, 30 Aug 2014; UAM 38923, [♀], 22 Sep 2014; UAM 40814, HY ♀, 7 Oct 2014. All LHD.

**Phylloscopus sibilatrix.** Wood Warbler. Once in **Fall:** One very vocal bird loosely associated with Golden-crowned Kinglets in west willow thicket, 7–8 Oct 2014 (UAM 36493, AHY σ, NRH+; photos ML33565191 and 33565181; Figure 17). **Notes:** This was the seventh Wood Warbler recorded in Alaska but the first east of the Bering Sea (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Tobish 2005, 2011b). So far as known the eastern edge of the species’ breeding range lies in Siberia (Clement 2006), 6500 km west of Middleton. **Specimens:** UAM 36492, AHY σ, 27 Sep 2014; UAM 36493, AHY σ, 8 Oct 2014; UAM 36495, AHY σ, 13 Oct 2014; UAM 36496, AHY σ, 14 Oct 2014. All LHD.

**Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus.** Dusky Warbler. Once in **Fall:** One immature, in west willow thickets, 26–27 Sep 1997 (UAM 7065, HY unsexed, TGT+; photos ML45220411 and 45220421). **Notes:** This Old World warbler is casual in fall on the islands of the Bering Sea and the Aleutians (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Lehman 2005, Gibson and Byrd 2007, Gibson and Withrow 2015). East and south of Alaska it has been recorded along the Pacific coast as far south as California and Baja California (Hamilton et al. 2007).

**Phylloscopus inornatus.** Yellow-browed Warbler. Once in **Fall:** One immature, in west willow thickets, 26–27 Sep 1997 (UAM 7065, HY unsexed, TGT+; photos ML45220411 and 45220421). **Notes:** This Old World warbler is casual in fall on the islands of the Bering Sea and the Aleutians (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Lehman 2005, Gibson and Byrd 2007, Gibson and Withrow 2015). East and south of Alaska it has been recorded along the Pacific coast as far south as California and Baja California (Hamilton et al. 2007).

**Phylloscopus inornatus.** Yellow-browed Warbler. Once in **Fall:** One immature, in west willow thickets, 26–27 Sep 1997 (UAM 7065, HY unsexed, TGT+; photos ML45220411 and 45220421). **Notes:** This Old World warbler is casual in fall on the islands of the Bering Sea and the Aleutians (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Lehman 2005, Gibson and Byrd 2007, Gibson and Withrow 2015). East and south of Alaska it has been recorded along the Pacific coast as far south as California and Baja California (Hamilton et al. 2007). The specimen is the first for North America.
**Ficedula albicilla.** Taiga Flycatcher. One report in **FALL:** One, 7 Oct 2012 ([JAJ]).

**NOTES:** There has been no other Alaska report east of the Aleutian and Bering Sea islands, where the species is casual (Gibson and Withrow 2015), but there has been one for California, 25 Oct 2006 (Hamilton et al. 2007).

**Saxicola torquatus stejnegeri.** Stonechat. Once in **FALL:** One in Elymus near south point on 28 Sep 1990 (UAM 5709, HY♂, MEI). **NOTES:** This Stonechat was the second recorded in Alaska in fall (see Osborne and Osborne 1987). Since then the species has been recorded in fall at St. Lawrence Island (see Lehman 2005) and at Anchorage (see Tobish 2014), and there has been one record as far east and south as California (Sullivan and Patton 2006).

**Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe.** Northern Wheatear. Casual in **FALL:** One on 28 Sep 1987 (UAM 5420, AHY♀, DDG and MEI), one on 14 Sep 2012 (photo ML33566021, NRH+), and one on 25 Sep 2014 (photo ML33471751, NRH+). **NOTES:** All were along the coast where driftwood and other debris provided exposed perches. Although a probable breeder in the Kenai and Chugach mountains (Williamson et al. 1965, Isleib and Kessel 1973, Kessel and Gibson 1978), the species is known at sea level elsewhere in S-C Alaska from only a few prior records (see Kessel and Gibson 1978). In SE Alaska it is a very rare fall migrant (Kessel and Gibson 1978), but there have been multiple records at this season elsewhere in western North America (e.g., see Campbell et al. 1997, Marshall et al. 2006), as far south as California (see Hamilton et al. 2007). In fall, most of Alaska’s wheatears migrate to Asia across the Bering Strait (see Lehman 2005).

**Sialia currucoides.** Mountain Bluebird. Twice in **FALL:** Single birds on 1 Oct 1987 (UAM 5431, HY♂, DDG and MEI) and 21 Sep 2014 (LHD, photo ML33566661). A lone male at the north housing area on 20 and 21 May 1984 (ECM, photos ML33462851 and 33463051) provided the only **SPRING** record. **NOTES:** The one in 2014 was observed along the northeast lagoon’s shoreline where it foraged from perches on driftwood. This species has occurred extralimitally at other peripheral localities in Alaska in fall and spring, from Nunivak Island (Swarth 1934) to Point Barrow (Bailey 1948). It nests in the eastern Interior but occurs only casually in S-C Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Myadestes townsendi townsendi.** Townsend’s Solitaire. Rare in **FALL,** with 10 records (of 14 birds) from 25 Aug (2010) to 9 Oct (2012), most from mid-Sep to early Oct. Maximum daily count three on 7 Oct 2014. Maximum seasonal total five in 2014; otherwise one or two per season. **NOTES:** All birds observed well retained some juvenal feathering, with the exception of one adult on 8 Sep 2014 (UAM 36325, AHY♀). The species is rare year round in S-C Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), casual on migration at Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004), and rare in SE Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). **SPECIMENS:** UAM 4267, HY♂, 11 Sep 1982, TGT; UAM 5441, HY♀, 6 Oct 1987, DDG and MEI; UAM 36326, HY♂, 7 Oct 2014, LHD.

**Catharus minimus aliciae.** Gray-cheeked Thrush. Rare in **FALL,** 25 Aug (2012) to 23 Sep (2013, 2014), except for stragglers on 7 Oct 2014 (CWW) and 20 Oct 2016 (LHD, CDE). Over 70% occurred between 29 Aug and 10 Sep. Seasonal total six in 2014 (30 Aug–7 Oct), nine in 2013 (27 Aug–18 Sep). Maximum daily count two, on multiple occasions. One bird netted on 26 Jun 1994 (TDE) was the only one encountered in **SUMMER.** **NOTES:** Of 18 birds captured in fall, five were adult. The species is a rare migrant and local breeder in much of coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), but common on the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island (Kessel and Gibson 1978). There is only one fall record for Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004) and one for the outer islands of southern SE Alaska (one, 13 and 15 Sep 1992 at Lovie Island, MEI). Like the Alder Flycatcher, the Gray-cheeked Thrush probably migrates across the Gulf of Alaska and continues east into interior British Columbia, as it is casual along the Pacific coast south of SE Alaska (see Dunn and Alderfer 2017). **SPECIMEN:** UAM 35618, HY♂, 5 Sep 2013, LHD.
Figure 21. The only Middleton occurrence of the Asian subspecies of the American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens japonicus* (including *haermsi*), was documented on 20 Oct 2016.

    Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS

Figure 22. This immature Smith’s Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) resided along the airstrip from 18 to 21 Aug 2012, providing the second record of the species for coastal S-C Alaska.

    Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS
Figure 23. Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*) specimens representing the phenotypic variation we observed within fall migrants at Middleton Island. Subspecies *celata* (top; UAM 30737), *lutescens* (as traditionally defined, bottom; UAM 29175), and intergrade *celata × lutescens* (middle; UAM 30731). See species account for taxonomic discussion.

Figure 24. This Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) on 5 Oct 2014 furnished the second record for Middleton Island and the first Alaska record of nominate *ruficapilla*.

*Photo by Lucas H. DeCicco/USFWS*
**Catharus ustulatus incanus.** Swainson’s Thrush. Rare in **FALL**, 21 Aug (2012–28 Sep (2005); nine of the 19 birds were recorded from 24 to 27 Aug. Seasonal totals varied from two in 2014 (both on 27 Aug) to seven in 2013 (24 Aug–19 Sep). Maximum daily count three on 25 Aug 2013. **NOTES:** Of the 11 birds captured in fall three were adult. This species is a rare migrant and local breeder in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Andres and Browne (2004) had only two fall records for Yakutat. **SPECIMEN:** UAM 29160, HY ♀, 3 Sep 2011, LHD.

**Catharus guttatus guttatus.** Hermit Thrush. Common in **FALL**, 19 Aug (2014)–27 Oct (2016), except for one on 12 Nov 1986 (MEI). Latest arrival was 4 Sep in 2012. Generally <10/day until the influx of migrants between 30 Aug and 15 Sep. Peak numbers during latter half of Sep and early Oct typically 20–50/day but much variation from year to year. Daily maxima 500+ on 9 Sep 1981 and a remarkable 3500+ on 15 Sep 2013. Typically <five/day after early Oct but 15 on both 21 and 23 Oct 2016. On the basis of banded birds (2011–2014), the median date of passage was 15 Sep (same for both immatures and adults), 90% passed between 30 Aug and 30 Sep (30 Aug to 30 Sep for immatures and 10 Sep to 28 Sep for adults), 50% of them between 11 Sep and 24 Sep (11 Sep to 24 Sep for immatures and 15 Sep to 24 Sep for adults). Of 720 birds captured in fall, 93 (13%) were adults. Uncommon in **SPRING** with records on 14 May 1981 (DDG) and from late Apr through May 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** A common migrant and breeder throughout S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 15; AMNH, 4.

**Turdus migratorius (migratorius).** American Robin. Uncommon in **FALL**, 25 Aug (2013) to 28 Oct (2016), except for one on 7 Nov 1986 (MEI). Typically <five/day prior to mid-Sep. Numbers peaked in latter half of Sep, when often 10–20/day. Maxima 63 on 28 Sep 2013 and 65 on 27 Sep 1997. Less numerous in Oct, with maxima of 17 on 1 Oct 1982 and on 25 Oct 2016. Two from 11 to 14 May 1981 (DDG) were the only ones we recorded in **SPRING**; one on 5 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958) represents the only **SUMMER** record. **NOTES:** In S-C Alaska the robin is a fairly common migrant and breeder and rare in winter (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Andres and Browne 2004).

**Ixoreus naevius meruloides.** Varied Thrush. Common in **FALL**, 25 Aug (arrival as late as 1 Sep in 2011) to 6 Nov (1982) and 11 Nov (1986). At the peak from mid-Sep through early Oct numbers typically 15–20/day; otherwise <10/day. Maxima 175 on 27 Sep 1997, 500+ on 9 Sep 1981, and exceptionally 2500+ on 15 Sep 2013—the last two counts also corresponded with major influxes of other migrants. A count of 17 on 25 Oct 2016 was high for so late. Uncommon in **SPRING**; One on 12 May 1979, small numbers in spring 1981 (maximum six on 14 May), and up to four from 30 Apr to 5 Jun 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** Of the 156 captured in fall, 11 (7%) were adult. The Varied Thrush is a common fall migrant throughout coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Andres and Browne 2004). **SPECIMENS:** UAM 5558, AHY ♀, 22 Sep 1988, MEI; UAM 34614, HY ♀, 11 Sep 2012, LHD; UAM 31123, AHY ♀, 28 Sep 2012, LHD; UAM 36495, HY ♀, 30 Aug 2014, LHD; UAM 36603, HY ♀, 26 Sep 2014, LHD.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** Gray Catbird. Once in **FALL:** One in west willow thickets, 14 Sep 2014 (UAM 36494, AHY ♀, LHD, NRH, CWW). **NOTES:** This bird was observed foraging on Sambucus berries. The specimen is the first for Alaska. The species is casual in Alaska, with most previous records from SE (see Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.** Northern Mockingbird. Casual in **FALL,** late Aug through late Sep: One, 8–16 Sep 1982 (TGT+); one, 29–30 Sep 1991 (MEI); one, 28 Aug 2013 (UAM 34185, AHY ♀, NRH, CWW, LHD; Figure 19); one, 14 Sep 2014 (LHD+, photos ML33465911 and 33465921). **NOTES:** Most mockingbirds were found in west willow thickets, foraging on Sambucus berries. The species is casual anywhere in SE and S-C Alaska and accidental in interior, SW, and W Alaska (Tobish 2011a, 2015, Gibson and Withrow 2015).
**BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS**

*Sturnus vulgaris* (*vulgialis*). European Starling. One report in **SPRING**: One, 26 Apr–5 May 1978 “and again in late May” (SAH). **NOTES**: This species is locally established in SE and S-C Alaska and occurs annually in the Interior. It is casual at Cordova and on the Copper River delta (Lang 2008), and there have been far-flung extralimital records in SW, W, and N Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Bombycilla garrulus pallidiceps*. Bohemian Waxwing. Rare in **FALL**, when nearly 20 records, 19 Aug (2014)–7 Nov (1986), 60% in Aug, three in Sep, five in Oct. All of single birds except for three on 25 and 29 Oct 2016 and four on 22 Aug 2014. One report in **WINTER**, 29 Dec 1992 (RLS), one in **SUMMER**, of eight on 5 and 6 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH). **NOTES**: One captured on 25 Aug 2013 was identified as being in its second year and older adults were identified on 19 Aug and 22 Aug 2014. The Bohemian Waxwing is a rare visitant to the coast of S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973), where more regular in fall than at other seasons (Lang 2008). **SPECIMEN**: UAM 39357, HY [♂], 28 Oct 2016, LHD.

*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing. Rare in **FALL**, with 23 records (of 54 birds), 17 Aug (2012)–10 Oct (2012). Most from 15 Sep to 4 Oct, usually singly or in groups of up to four. Maximum daily count 12 in one flock on 4 Oct 2012. **NOTES**: Most commonly detected by call in flight along the west bluff; also seen foraging on *Sambucus* berries and in association with flocks of American Robins. We noted single adults on 16 Sep 2011 and 28 Sep 2012; all others seen well were streaked immatures. This species nests in SE Alaska and has become rare or intermittent since the early 2000s in S-C, as far west as Kodiak Island (see Tobish and Isleib 1991, MacIntosh 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015), primarily in fall and winter. **SPECIMEN**: UAM 34181, HY ♂, 27 Aug 2013, LHD.

*Motacilla tschutschensis* (*tschutschensis*). Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Casual in **FALL**, with single individuals on 9 Sep 1982 (TGT), 22 Sep 1997 (TGT), 3 and 4 Sep 2011 (LHD, CWW), and 28 and 30 Aug 2014 (LHD+, photo ML33464471). **NOTES**: This Beringian species is a common migrant and breeder in much of mainland W Alaska and the western Brooks Range. Most Alaska yellow wagtails migrate to Asia in fall, and the species is no more than casual in S-C and SE Alaska (see Kessel and Gibson 1978, Heini and Piston 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*. Olive-backed Pipit. Twice in **FALL**: One immature on 26 Sep 2013 (UAM 34429, [♀], LHD, JDL, NRH; Figure 20); one on 24 Sep 2014 (LHD+, photos ML33466921 and 33466931). **NOTES**: Both birds foraged along the mossy edge of the east bluff at the transition zone between *Rubus* and *Salix* thickets; the one in 2013 also associated with a Red-throated Pipit. One netted on the Alaska Peninsula in 1998 (Tobish 1999) was the only Olive-backed Pipit previously recorded in Alaska east of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, but the species has been recorded east and south of Alaska in Nevada (Burleigh 1968), California (Capitolo et al. 2000, Hamilton et al. 2007, Singer et al. 2016), and Baja California (Hamilton et al. 2000).

*Anthus cervinus*. Red-throated Pipit. Rare in **FALL** from 23 Aug (2013) to 6 Oct (1987, 2014), most in second half Sep, usually singly or in twos. Maximum daily counts four on 24 Sep 2014 and six on 26 Sep 2013. Typical seasonal totals <eight individuals; a total of 30 in 2013 was unparalleled. **NOTES**: Discovered to be a fall migrant at Middleton in Sep 1981 (TGT): Single birds on 12 and 17 Sep, two on 19th, and at least three on 21st represented the first records of this bird between its W Alaska breeding range and the Lower 48. At Middleton Red-throated Pipits foraged in open willow thickets along the east and west bluffs and often perched in willows. Although they occasionally associated with American Pipits, most were observed alone. Since the species’ discovery at Middleton, it has been recorded a few other times in fall elsewhere in S-C Alaska, as well as in SE Alaska (see Heini and Piston 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015). Farther south, it is casual on the Pacific coast south to Baja California (AOU 1998). The peak of fall migration at St. Lawrence Island, on the
species’ Asia–North America migration route, takes place in late Aug, with maximum daily counts between 23 and 31 Aug (P. E. Lehman, in litt., 2015). Middleton Island remains the only known locality of annual occurrence between this species’ W Alaska breeding range and records in the lower 48 states. **SPECIMENS:** UAM 34416, HY ♂, 24 Sep 2013; UAM 34417, HY ♀, 25 Sep 2013; UAM 34418, HY ♂, and UAM 34419, HY unsexed, both 26 Sep 2013. All LHD.

29 Dec 1992 (RLS). Likely uncommon in **SPRING**: Up to four from 10 to 25 May 1981 and 10 on 15 May 1982. **NOTES**: We noted this species using a variety of open habitats including pond shorelines, beaches, kelp wrack, forb meadow, and along the airstrip. It is a common migrant and breeder in S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **SPECIMEN**: UAM 5417, Hy ♀, 26 Sep 1987, MEI and RLS.

*A. r. japonicus* (including *haermsi*). Once in **FALL**: One in openings in southwest willow thicket, 20 Oct 2016 (UAM 39615, Hy unsexed, LHD, RAM, CDE+; photos ML43852011 and ML43852021; Figure 21). **NOTES**: In identifying this bird in this fashion, we follow Gibson and Byrd (2007:190–191), who discussed the history, taxonomic complexity, and contemporary assessment of American Pipits in SW and W Alaska. One recent record in fall in SE Alaska (at Ketchikan, SCH+). Identification and occurrence of this phenotype farther south in North America has been discussed by Lee and Birch (2002).

**Fringilla montifringilla**. Brambling. Casual in **FALL**: Immature male, 29–30 Sep 1991 (UAM 5947, SCH, MEI, RAM); one, 26 Sep 2005 (TGT+); one, 29 Sep 2012 (photo ML45218571, TGT, AJL); two together, 11 Oct 2012 (LHD); immature female, 20 Sep 2014 (UAM 36332, LHD+). **NOTES**: All birds in willow thickets. The Brambling is a casual migrant and winter visitant in S-C and SE Alaska (see Heinl and Piston 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis**. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Casual in **FALL** from late Sep to late Oct: One immature, 25 Sep 1987 (UAM 5409, ♂, DDG, MEI, RLS); one immature, 21 Sep 2014 (UAM 36341, unsexed, CWW+); flock of six, 1 Oct 2014 (NRH+); one, 4 Oct 2014 (JJB); one, 26 Oct (UAM 39356, Hy ♀, LHD); one, 29 Oct 2016 (photo ML43852321, NRH+). Once in **SPRING**: One, 25 May 2003 (photo ML33567081, CJG). **NOTES**: Subspecies *littoralis* nests in alpine areas of the Alaska Range and S-C and SE Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015); it has been recorded twice in midwinter in the central Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

**Haemorhous purpureus purpureus**. Purple Finch. Casual in **FALL**: One immature with redpolls, 4 Oct 1982 (UAM 4280, ♂, the first specimen of the Purple Finch for Alaska, DDG); one female or immature male, 30 Sep 1991 (SCH, RAM); one, 22 Sep 2014 (CWW+). **NOTES**: The Purple Finch is casual in Alaska, with most records from SE (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Rutt et al. (2014) identified the specimen as this subspecies, which breeds as close as southwestern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001). The calls of the bird in 2014 were not recorded but suggested subspecies *californicus* (CWV; see Rutt et al. 2014), which nests as close as southwestern British Columbia (AOU 1957, Campbell et al. 2001). Both of these subspecies are known from Alaska (Rutt et al. 2014).

**Loxia curvirostra minor**. Red Crossbill. Intermittent in **FALL**, from 6 Aug (1974) to 10 Sep (2012). One record each in 1974 (one, 6 Aug, MEI, GEH) and 2013 (three, 24 Aug, CWW+). Up to three/day irregularly from 10 Aug to 10 Sep 2012; up to 24/day irregularly from 19 Aug to 7 Sep 2014. Four Red Crossbills associated with White-winged Crossbills on 20 Jul 1984 (PJG) provided the only **SUMMER** record. **NOTES**: Subspecies *minor* breeds in SE and coastal S-C Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015). One audio-recorded on 24 Aug 2013 (audio ML524242) gave calls of type 3, which corresponds in part to subspecies *minor* (including *sitkensis* and *reai*; see Groth 1993); further study is needed. **SPECIMEN**: UAM 36626, Hy ♂, 19 Aug 2014, LHD.


**Acanthis flammea flammea**. Common Redpoll. Intermittent year round. In **FALL**
typically one to eight/day, most numerous mid-Sep to mid-Oct. Maxima 60 on 25 Sep 2011 and 100+ on 22 Sep 1982. Nearly absent in some years (e.g., only three from 15 Aug to 1 Oct 2013) but 10+/day in others (e.g., 15 Aug–14 Oct 2014). In **winter** flocks of 20–25 from 24 to 26 Feb 1961 (O’Farrell and Sheets 1962) but absent from 28 Dec 1992 to 2 Jan 1993 (RLS). Data for **spring** sparse: One or two from 16 to 18 May 2010 (TvN) and two on 13 May 1981 (DDG). In **summer**: Two on 8 Jul 1976 (DAF, MH), 33 captured 22 Jun–6 Aug 2010 (TvN), and one each on 15 Jun and 12 Jul 2015 (AAA). **Notes**: Of the 19 birds captured in fall from 2011 to 2014 only one was adult. This nomadic species occurs in highly variable numbers year round throughout s-c Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). **specimen**: UAM 29162, Hy ♂, 29 Aug 2011, LHD.

*Spinus pinus pinus*. Pine Siskin. Intermittent in **fall**, 11 Aug (2012) to 28 Oct (2016). Numbers varied greatly from year to year: in some seasons daily with occasionally up to 30+/day (e.g., 8–15 Oct 1980, 2–27 Sep 2011, 11 Aug–8 Oct 2012, 21 Sep–15 Oct 2014), exceptionally 190 on 1 Oct 2014 (LHD+), while in other years few (e.g., only three from 1 Sep to 6 Oct 1982, one from 25 Sep to 1 Oct 1991) or none (21–29 Sep 2005). Once in **spring**: Up to three on 22 May in 1981 (DDG). Twice in **summer**: Four on 11 Jul 2009; one on 15 and 16 Jul 2010 (both TvN). **Notes**: Of the 93 birds captured (2011–2014), 31 (35%) were adult. This species is common but irruptive in s-c Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973). **specimen**: UAM 36629, Hy ♀, 19 Aug 2014, LHD.

*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*. Lapland Longspur. Common in **fall**. Onset of migration difficult to assess, as the species breeds in numbers. Typically 20–60/day through Aug and Sep, maxima 220 on 26 Aug and 29 Aug 2014 and 300–575 from 7 to 10 Sep 2013. Seventy still present on 21 Oct 2016. Single birds on 6 Nov and 10 Nov 1986 were the latest recorded. Arrived in **spring** as early as 22 Apr (1978, SAH). Common in **summer** as a breeder, as first documented by Rausch (1958) in 1956. Young retained full juvenal plumage through mid-Aug. **Notes**: Middleton Island and the eastern Copper River delta (see Mickelson et al. 1980) represent the Lapland Longspur’s easternmost nesting sites on Alaska’s Pacific coast. Farther east, the species is an uncommon migrant in coastal s-c and se Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Heinl and Piston 2009). **specimens**: UAM, 3; AMNH, 1; MVZ, 1. We did not locate two additional specimens collected in 1956 by Rausch (1958).

*Calcarius pictus*. Smith’s Longspur. Once in **fall**: One immature, 18–21 Aug 2012 (NRH+; photo ML2686801; Figure 22). **Notes**: In Alaska this species nests in the Brooks Range and in uplands on the south slope of the Alaska Range (Kessel and Gibson 1978). We know of only one other record for coastal s-c Alaska, also in the Gulf of Alaska in fall (Tobish 2013b), but of two in se Alaska (Tobish 2009; SCH and A. W. Piston unpubl.).

*Plectrophenax nivalis* (nivalis). Snow Bunting. Rare in **fall**. Earliest record, one on 27 Sep (1991). Maximum, up to 55 from 19 to 29 Oct 2016. Latest, up to six from 5 to 7 Nov 1986 (MEI). Other records of single birds on 29 Sep 1982, 29 and 30 Sep 2013, and from 7 to 15 Oct 2014. Rare in **winter**: Five on 31 Dec 1992; one on 25 and 26 Feb 1961 (O’Farrell and Sheets 1962). One on 11 May 2003 (CJG) was the only one recorded in **spring**. **Notes**: There is no record at UAM of the specimen mentioned by O’Farrell and Sheets (1962). The species is uncommon locally in winter in coastal s-c Alaska (TGT). **specimen**: UAM 34516, Hy ♂, 30 Sep 2013, LHD.

on the western Kenai Peninsula (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) and locally around Prince William Sound (Isleib and Kessel 1973). Andres and Browne (2004) found it rare in fall at Yakutat, where they captured just seven birds in six seasons. Farther east, in SE Alaska the species breeds locally but is only casual as a fall migrant (see Kessel and Gibson 1978).

*Dendroica virens.* Tennessee Warbler. Rare in fall with 16 records, 13 Sep (2012)–1 Oct (2012), except one late on 20 Oct 2016 (photo ML43852001, LHD, RAM, CDE). Maximum daily counts included two on 20 Sep 1981 and 26 Sep 2011 and three on 1 Oct 2012. Seasonal totals included four birds in 2012 and five in 2013. **NOTES:** All Tennessee Warblers captured or collected were immature. The species is rare in Alaska (see Gibson and Withrow 2015), breeding along rivers of the SE mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Johnson et al. 2008) and rare or intermittent in summer in the eastern Interior (Benson et al. 2000). There are few records in S-C Alaska away from Middleton (e.g., see Tobish 2009). **SPECIMENS:** UAM 5427, HY unsexed, 29 Sep 1987, MEI and RLS; UAM 5433, HY ♀, 1 Oct 1987, DDG; UAM 5551, HY ♀, 23 Sep 1988, MEI; UAM 29149, HY ♀, 26 Sep 2011, LHD; and UAM 30838, HY ♂, 13 Sep 2012, LHD.

*Oreothlypis celata celata* and *O. c. lutescens*. Orange-crowned Warbler. Common in fall. Migrants began arriving in latter half of Aug (e.g., 19 Aug in 2012 and 2014, 24 Aug in 2011 and 2013), and numbers peaked from late Aug through mid-Sep (e.g., on the basis of captures in 2013, peaks 25–27 Aug and 15–18 Sep). Maxima 60 on 24 Sep 2012 and 200 on 15 Sep 2013. Numbers varied with weather but typically <20/day outside of migratory influxes and diminished by early Oct, after which the species was irregular. Latest were one on 14 Oct 2014 and three from 20 to 23 Oct 2016. On the basis of birds banded from 2011 to 2014, the median passage date was 30 Aug (29 Aug for immatures; 11 Sep for adults), 90% passed between 18 Aug and 24 Sep (18 Aug and 24 Sep for immatures; 19 Aug and 28 Sep for adults), and 50% between 24 Aug and 15 Sep (24 Aug and 14 Sep for immatures; 30 Aug and 14 Sep for adults). Scattered records during Spring and Summer: Singing males on 16 May 1981, 3 Jun 1978, 14–26 Jun 1981 (PJG, AEZ), and three birds on 17 Jul 2010 (TvN) all suggested local breeding, as did the recapture on 27 Aug 2011 of a bird originally banded at Middleton on 23 Jun 2010 (TvN). **NOTES:** Of the 365 birds captured in fall (2011–2014), 30 (8%) were adult. In coastal S-C Alaska this species is a common migrant and breeder (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Andres and Browne 2004). **TAXONOMIC NOTES:** We found much phenotypic variation in fall migrants at Middleton Island (Figure 23). Gilbert and West (2015:29) examined phenotypic variation of Orange-crowned Warblers from the Kenai Peninsula and concluded that “south-central Alaska may be a zone of secondary contact between *O. c. celata* and *O. c. lutescens*.” We agree that S-C Alaska assuredly encompasses a zone of contact between these forms. A series (UAM) of topotype specimens of *lutescens* [type locality “Fort Kenai, Alaska” [AOU 1957:483]] collected in Jun 1991 comprises only the intergrade phenotype discussed by Gilbert and West (2015). Since its publication by Ridgway in 1872, however, the name *lutescens* has always been considered to represent the bright yellow-green birds nesting from SE Alaska south, west of the Cascade Range and Sierra Nevada, to southern California. The intergrade phenotype of S-C Alaska resembles subspecies *orestera* [type locality Wil- lis, New Mexico], a Rocky Mountain taxon commonly described as “intermediate in plumage between *celata* and *lutescens*” (Dunn and Garrett 1997:162). The conflict between the current nomenclature and the identity of the birds at the type locality might demand the names be shifted, but the subject requires further study. Of 19 fall specimens from Middleton Island, we identified 13 as intergrade phenotypes, three (UAM 30730, 30737, and 31135) as nominate *celata* (which nests in interior, N, W, and SW Alaska, including Kodiak Island; Gibson and Withrow 2015), and three (UAM 29175, 30724, and 30725) as *lutescens* as traditionally defined. In an effort to gain
a rough idea of the ratio of phenotypes of birds captured in fall (2012–2014), we identified in hand 125 (50%) as *lutescens*, 93 (35%) as intergrade phenotypes, and 37 (15%) as nominate *celata*. We noted no differences among these three groups in seasonal patterns in abundance. **Specimens:** UAM, 20; AMNH, 6.

*Oreothlypis ruficapilla ruficapilla.* Nashville Warbler. Casual in **Fall:** Likely two birds on 20 and 21 Sep 1981 (TGT); one photographed, audio-recorded (audio, ML48280921), and collected on 5 Oct 2014 (UAM 36700, HY ♀, LHD+; Figure 24). **Notes:** The specimen was identified as nominate *ruficapilla* by P. Pyle (in litt., 2016), in comparison with series at MvZ—the first Alaska specimen of the eastern subspecies. The western subspecies, *ridgwayi*, has also been collected in fall in Alaska (see Gibson et al. 2013). The subspecies of the Nashville Warblers at Middleton in 1981 is uncertain. The species is casual in Alaska, with most records from SE and S-C (see Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Geothlypis tolmiei (tolmiei).* MacGillivray’s Warbler. One report in **Fall:** One in willow thickets, 26 Sep 1997 (GHR). **Notes:** This species breeds on the mainland of SE Alaska north to the Chilkat River (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Johnson et al. 2008, Heini and Piston 2009). There are just two other fall records from S-C Alaska (see Gibson 1981a, 1985).

*Geothlypis philadelphia.* Mourning Warbler. Once in **Fall:** One with *Zonotrichia* sparrows in roadside salmonberry thickets, 29 Sep 1987 (UAM 5429, HY ♀, RLS and MEI). **Notes:** This bird provided the first Alaska record of the species (Gibson and Kessel 1992). There have been additional records since, all but one in fall, and the Mourning Warbler is now regarded as casual in Alaska (see Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Geothlypis trichas (campicola).* Common Yellowthroat. Casual in **Fall** during latter half of Sep: One each on 15 Sep 1981 (joined by a second on the 21st, TGT), 30 Sep 2012 (photos ML33464361 and 33464371; TGT, AJL), and 23 Sep 2013 (NRH, JDL). **Notes:** In Alaska the Common Yellowthroat is largely restricted as a breeder to the SE mainland (see Kessel and Gibson 1978, Heini and Piston 2009). It occurs rarely west to Yakutat (see Kessel and Gibson 1978, Andres and Browne 2004) and casually in summer and fall to S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973, Kessel and Gibson 1978); in the eastern Interior it has been rare in summer since the early 2000s.

*Setophaga ruticilla.* American Redstart. Casual in **Fall** in late Sep: One each on 27 Sep 1989 (UAM 5650, HY ♀, MEI), 20 Sep 1997 (TGT+), 24 Sep 2012 (TGT+), and 30 Sep 2013 (UAM 34422, HY ♀, LHD+). **Notes:** Breeds on the SE Alaska mainland north to the Chilkat River (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Johnson et al. 2008). There is but one other fall record from S-C Alaska.

*Setophaga magnolia.* Magnolia Warbler. Casual in **Fall** on 29 Sep 1990 (UAM 5716, ♀) and 1 Oct 1990 (UAM 5711, ♀, both MEI); immatures on 18 Sep 2011 (UAM 29170, ♀) and 21 Sep 2011 (UAM 29171, ♀, both LHD+). **Notes:** Recorded in S-C Alaska in fall also at Seward in 2014 (Tobish 2015) and nesting near McCarthy in 2013 (Tobish 2014a), the Cape May Warbler is a casual migrant in Alaska generally (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

*Setophaga americana.* Northern Parula. One report in **Fall:** One immature in west willow thickets, 23–24 Sep 1987 (MEI, RLS, DDG) provided the first sighting in Alaska. **Notes:** The species was not substantiated in the state until Jun 2017, when a singing male was photographed at Ketchikan (SCH). It occurs regularly in autumn on the Pacific coast of North America as far north as British Columbia (Dunn and Garrett 1997), but nests regularly no closer to Alaska than southeastern Manitoba (see Dunn and Garrett 1997, Taylor 2010).

*Setophaga magnolia.* Magnolia Warbler. Casual in **Fall:** One (possibly two), 26–29 Sep 1987 (MEI, RLS); one immature, 23 Sep 1988 (UAM 5552, ♀, MEI); one, 28 Sep 2013, (LHD+); and one on 4 and 6 Oct 2014 (UAM 36328, unsexed, NRH+). **Notes:** The species is rare in SE Alaska, occurring primarily in summer along the
mainland rivers, where it has nested (see Johnson et al. 2008). Elsewhere in Alaska it is casual or accidental, primarily in fall (see Gibson and Withrow 2015).

**Setophaga petechia rubiginosa** and **S. p. banksi**. **Yellow Warbler.** Common in **fall**. Earliest were two on 2 Aug 2015 (AAA). Numbers peaked mid-Aug through mid-Sep, when 10–20/day outside of influxes such as maxima of 300 on 15 Sep 2013 and 680 on 24 Aug 2013. Numbers then decreased, typically to <10/day by late Sep. Irregular in early Oct, with latest records of one each on 7 Oct 2014 and 9 Oct 2012. On the basis of banding from 2011 to 2014, the median date of passage was 30 Aug (28 Aug for immatures; 7 Sep for adults), 90% of birds passed between 18 Aug and 18 Sep (18 Aug and 18 Sep for immatures; 19 Aug and 16 Sep for adults), 50% between 24 Aug and 7 Sep (24 Aug and 4 Sep for immatures; 27 Aug and 4 Sep for adults). These data suggest that adults tend to migrate later than immatures. Once in **spring**: Singing male on 14 May 1981 (SRJ). Rausch (1958) considered the species abundant in **summer**, with many singing males during Jun 1956; less numerous subsequently: only occasionally noted from Jun to Aug 1978 (PJG), “present” on 4 Jun 1998 (SS), “present” on 24 Jun 1999 (SES), and five on 1 Jul 2012 (GT). **Breeding** has not been confirmed, but Rausch (1958) thought the species probably nested in 1956, given males in breeding condition throughout Jun. We noted birds in partial juvenal plumage in mid-Aug, but we are unsure if these were locals or birds beginning migration before completing molt. **Notes:** Of 2332 birds captured, 230 (10%) were adult. One bird banded 30 Aug 2011 was recaptured 29 May 2014 on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The Yellow Warbler is a fairly common migrant and breeder in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973) and a common fall migrant at Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004). **Taxonomic Notes:** Two phenotypes, most obvious in immature females, occurred in fall (Figure 25): pale yellow-gray birds and rich yellow-brown birds. The spring male of **S. p. banksi**, which nests in interior Alaska, is paler and yellower, while that of **rubiginosa**, which nests coastaly from SE to SW Alaska, is darker and more extensively green (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Therefore, one might expect the more heavily pigmented (richer, browner) females to be **rubiginosa**, the paler, grayer ones to be **banksi**. But comparison of three Middleton specimens of each category with series at MvZ by P. Pyle (in litt., 2016) suggests the opposite. Because of a lack at UAM and MVZ of immature females of banksi from interior Alaska and the subspecies’ type locality, the village of Old Crow in northern Yukon Territory, further study is needed. Although we did not record specific data on abundance of each phenotype, the richer, browner one (e.g., **UAM 29186, 31252, and 36906**) was slightly less numerous than the paler, grayer one (e.g., **UAM 29185, 31250, and 36906**). **Specimens** (40): UAM, 27; USNM, 11; AMNH, 2.

**Setophaga pensylvanica**. **Chestnut-sided Warbler.** Twice in **fall**: One on 21 Sep 1981, the first Alaska report of the species (TGT; Gibson 1982); one immature on 7 Oct 2012 (**UAM 30837, ♀, LHD+**). **Notes:** Both birds were found in the west willow thickets. The only other Alaska record is from SE in summer (Heinl and Piston 2009). The species is casual or rare on the west coast north to southern British Columbia (Dunn and Garrett 1997). In 1998 it bred as far west as 122.9° W in central British Columbia (Davidson 2007).

**Setophaga striata**. **Blackpoll Warbler.** Rare in **fall**. Twice in **fall**: One on 21 Sep 1981, the first Alaska report of the species (TGT; Gibson 1982); one immature on 7 Oct 2012 (**UAM 30837, ♀, LHD+**). **Notes:** Both birds were found in the west willow thickets. The only other Alaska record is from SE in summer (Heinl and Piston 2009). The species is casual or rare on the west coast north to southern British Columbia (Dunn and Garrett 1997). In 1998 it bred as far west as 122.9° W in central British Columbia (Davidson 2007).

**Setophaga striata.** Blackpoll Warbler. Rare in **fall**: 20 records (of 30 birds), 19 Aug (2012)–30 Sep (2014). No apparent pattern of occurrence within the date range. Multiple records of two: maxima three on 22 Sep 1982 and six on 30 Aug 2014. From 2012 to 2014, seasonal totals were three, five, and 10, respectively. **Notes:** All six individuals captured in fall were immature. The species breeds widely in interior, S-C, SW, and W Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). In six falls Andres et al. (2005) captured only two at Yakutat. **Specimens**: **UAM 5426, HY unsexed, 29 Sep 1987, RLS; UAM 5555, HY ♀, 17 Sep 1988, MEI.**

**Setophaga palmarum palmarum**. **Palm Warbler.** Casual in **fall** with seven
records comprising 13 birds, from 22 Sep (2014, NRH) to 25–28 Oct (2016, photo ML43851971, LHD+); others were of one on 2 Oct 1990 (UAM 5719, HY [♀], MEI), one on 1 Oct 2012 (TGT+), one on 23 Sep 2013 (NRH), one on 27 Sep 2014 (UAM 36327, HY [♀], NRH), six on 1 Oct 2014 (three remaining through 4 Oct, CWW+, photo ML35566721—the only Alaska record of multiple Palm Warblers), and one from 20 to 23 Oct 2016 (photo ML43851541, LHD+). Once in SUMMER: One on 24 Jun and 28 Jun 2010 (photo ML35566701, TVn, CDF). Notes: At Middleton, the Palm Warbler has been found in both tall willow and in low/medium shrub thickets. It is casual in Alaska, with most records in fall, in SE and S-C (see Gibson and Kessel 1992). It breeds as close as northeastern British Columbia (see Campbell et al. 2001).

*Setophaga coronata* (*hooveri*). Yellow-rumped Warbler. Uncommon in FALL, from 15 Aug (2014) to 15 Oct (2014), sporadically as late as 26 Oct (one in 2016). Most numerous 8 Sep–1 Oct, when 10–15 birds/day. Outside of this period generally <five/day. Maxima 35 on 28 Sep 2012 and 58 on 9 Sep 2014. Rare in SPRING: Singing male on 15 May 1981 (BEL) and single female on 20 May 1981 (DDG). Notes: Of the 93 birds captured in fall, only seven (8%) were adult. We noted single birds in juv plumage on 27 Aug 2011 and 4 Sep 2013. We saw no birds resembling subspecies *auduboni* or intergrades at Middleton. The Yellow-rumped Warbler (and subspecies *hooveri*) is widely distributed in Alaska and a locally common breeder in S-C (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Isleib and Kessel 1973). At Yakutat, this species is a common migrant and breeder with peak of fall migration in latter half of Aug (Andres and Browne 2004). Specimen: UAM 40812, Hy [♀], 4 Sep 2013, LHD.

*Setophaga discolor* (*discolor*). Prairie Warbler. Once in FALL: One immature on 22 Sep 1988 (UAM 5549, unsexed, MEI). Notes: First Alaska record of the species (Gibson and Kessel 1992). There has been just one subsequent observation, in southern SE Alaska (see Heinl and Piston 2009). The species breeds no closer than Ontario, and it is a rare vagrant anywhere on the west coast of North America (see Dunn and Garrett 1997, Hamilton et al. 2007).

*Setophaga townsendi*. Townsend’s Warbler. Uncommon in FALL. Earliest record 6 Aug 2010 (TvN). From mid-Aug through mid-Sep typically ≤five/day; maxima 32 on 2 Sep 2011 and 36 on 24 Aug 2013. Irregular after mid-Sep and in reduced numbers. Latest were one each on 29 Sep 2013 and 1 Oct 1982 and 2012. Once each in SPRING (“present,” 23 May 1985, DRN) and SUMMER (male seen 11 Jun 1956, Rausch 1958). Notes: Of the 78 birds captured, only two (3%) were adult. Townsend’s Warbler is a fairly common breeder coastally from SE Alaska west to Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Isleib and Kessel 1973, Kessel and Gibson 1978). But at Yakutat it is only an occasional migrant from Aug to late Sep, when Andres and Browne (2004) captured 16 over six years of migration monitoring. Specimen: UAM 34431, HY [♀], 30 Aug 2013, LHD and JJW.

*Cardellina pusilla pileolata*. Wilson’s Warbler. Uncommon in FALL, 7 Aug (one in 2010, TvN) to 28 Sep (2013), 1 Oct (2012), and 12 Oct (2014). Typically ≤four/day. Maxima 15 on 11 Sep 2011 and 26 on 9 Sep 2012. Less numerous after mid-Sep. Rare in SPRING: Single singing males, 16 May and 21 May 1981 (DDG), and one each on 21 and 28 May 2010 (TvN). Twice in SUMMER: Male, 26 Jun 1956 (Rausch 1958); one, 28 Jun 2010 (TvN). Notes: Of the 93 birds captured, only two (2%) were adults. Wilson’s Warbler breeds in most forested regions of mainland Alaska including coastal S-C, where common (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Isleib and Kessel 1973). It is a common fall migrant at Yakutat (Andres and Browne 2004), where more numerous as a migrant than at Middleton Island, suggesting an aversion to over-water flights in this region. Specimens: UAM, 5; MVZ, 1.

the only **SUMMER** record. **NOTES:** The species appeared to be more numerous in the 1980s than since 2010. We found most individuals at the interface between medium/low shrub thicket and grass meadow. The species is generally rare in fall and winter in coastal S-C Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; A. J. Lang, in litt., 2014) and southern SE Alaska (Heinl and Piston 2009). **SPECIMENS:** MVZ 134763 and MVZ 134764, both **AHy σ♂, 28 Jun 1956, R. Rausch; UAM 39613, HY [♀], 28 Oct 2016, LHD.**

**Spizella passerina** (**arizonae**). Chipping Sparrow. Rare in fall, with 11 records (14 birds) from 13 Aug (2012) to 30 Sep (2014). Most frequent in Aug, e.g., two from 31 Aug to 5 Sep 2013 and on 19 Aug 2014; three on 13 Aug 2012 and 20 Aug 2014 (photo ML33566121, NRH). **NOTES:** We found this species primarily in short grass along roadways and the airstrip. All were in full juvenal plumage. In Alaska the Chipping Sparrow is generally uncommon and with a limited breeding range (on the SE mainland and in the eastern Interior—Kessel and Gibson 1978, Johnson et al. 2008, Gibson and Withrow 2015). In fall, it is casual in coastal S-C Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Andres and Brown 2004) and SE Alaska (Heinl and Piston 2009), but it has been recorded with remarkable regularity at the Alaska periphery, at St. Lawrence Island (see Lehman 2005) and at Middleton. **SPECIMENS:** UAM 5406, HY σ♂, 24 Sep 1987, DDG; UAM 5416, HY σ♂, 26 Sep 1987, DDG; UAM 34430, HY unsexed, 3 Sep 2013, JJW.

**Spizella pallida**. Clay-colored Sparrow. Once in fall: One along southwest bluff and in willow thickets, 20 Sep 2014 (CWW, photo ML33463581), a first record for S-C Alaska. **NOTES:** This species is casual in SE Alaska, with about 12 records, most in fall, and accidental elsewhere (see Gibson and Withrow 2015). Clay-colored Sparrows nest no closer than northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

**Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis**. Savannah Sparrow. Common in fall through late Oct. Numbers peaked in the latter half of Aug; maximum daily counts 625 on 20 Aug 2013 and 1600+ on 13 Aug 2014. Counts of 100–300/day were routine through mid-Sep. Some 300+ on 1 Oct 1991 were exceptional, as numbers typically dropped to 20–50/day by late Sep and <10/day by Oct. Latest were ones on 25, 26, and 27 Oct 2016. In **SPRING**, earliest were 10 on 5 May 2012 (MB) and five on 7 May 2005 (RW). In **SUMMER, BREEDS** abundantly (Rausch 1958; TvN). **NOTES:** Of 185 birds captured in fall, 31 (17%) were adult. This species was ubiquitous in all open habitats on Middleton. It is a common migrant and breeder throughout S-C Alaska (see Isleib and Kessel 1973). We follow Rising (2007) in merging the four other Savannah Sparrow subspecies described from Alaska—**chrysops**, **anthinus**, **xanthophrys**, and **crassus**—in nominate **sandwichensis** (see Gibson et al. 2008). **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 17; USNM, 6. We did not locate two specimens collected in 1888 by C. H. Townsend (Ridgway 1893) or 21 specimens collected in 1956 by Rausch (1958).

**Passerella iliaca sinuosa**. Fox Sparrow. Common in fall: Migrants supplanted local breeders by mid-Sep, when numbers increased (as did phenotypic variation) after a slump in early Sep. Abundance peaked in mid-Aug (primarily local breeders, typically 50–100/day) and mid-Sep (50–150/day). Maxima in Aug (primarily local breeders) 200 on 30 Aug 2014 and 235 on 24 Aug 2013; in Sep (primarily migrants) 227 on 14 Sep 2014 and, exceptionally, 2000+ on 15 Sep 2013. At times this subspecies remained numerous through late Sep (e.g., 100+ on 26 Sep 1987), when 10–30/day were more typical. Scarce and irregular in Oct with <five/day if any; latest were four on 6 and 7 Nov 1986 (MEI). Common in **SPRING** as early as 26 Apr (1979, SAH). As a **BREEDER** in **SUMMER** second in abundance only to the Savannah Sparrow in summer 1956 (Rausch 1958:235) and “abundant” during summers 2005 and 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** Of 4179 individuals captured in fall (2011–2014), 356 (9%) were adult. Subspecies **sinuosa** breeds commonly in coastal S-C Alaska from Cook Inlet to Cape Yakataga (Gibson and Withrow 2015; UAM specimens). One bird banded 21 Aug 2012 was recovered 14 Oct 2012 at Eureka, California, one banded 22 Aug 2012 was recovered 26 Mar 2013 at Lake Oswego, Oregon, and one banded
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

15 Sep 2013 was recovered 24 Mar 2016 on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. **Taxonomic Notes**: We identified most of our Fox Sparrow specimens as **sinuosa**, and most migrants seen in the field appeared to be **sinuosa** as well (Figure 26). We were unable to distinguish between specimens of **sinuosa** and **insularis** (of Kodiak Island) at UAM, so **insularis**, which entirely vacates the Kodiak archipelago for the winter, might easily be overlooked as a migrant at Middleton. Few of our specimens had plumage characters suggesting subspecies **unalaschcensis**, but adequate comparative material was not available, so our failure to confidently identify specimens of **unalaschcensis** from Middleton might not represent a true absence. Ridgway (1893) identified as **unalaschcensis** two specimens (USNM) collected on Middleton on 26 Aug 1888; these specimens were *not* studied by Grinnell (1910—cf. Rausch 1958) in describing subspecies **sinuosa**, but in any case they apparently no longer exist at USNM (http://vertebrates.si.edu/birds/ [accessed Oct 2016]). **Specimens** (all subspecies pooled): UAM, 29; AMNH, 7; USNM, 2—most P. i. **sinuosa**.

*P. i. townsendi/chilicatensis*. Casual in **Fall**, on the basis of four **Specimens**: UAM 30903, *Hy* ♀, 30 Sep 2012; UAM 34538, *Hy* ♀, 16 Sep 2013; UAM 34539, *Hy* ♀, 18 Sep 2013; and UAM 36501, *Hy* ♂, 11 Sep 2014—all LHD. These two dark, heavily spotted subspecies breed in SE Alaska; we have not distinguished them on the basis of the collection at UAM. Middleton is far to the west of their presumed path of migration along the Pacific coast, and our four specimens represent the only records of such dark Fox Sparrows west of their breeding range.

*P. i. zaboria*. Casual in **Fall** during Sep: One each on 26 Sep 1997 (TGT), 28–29 Sep 2005 (SCH+), 9 Sep 2012 (UAM 30886, *Hy* ♀, LHD), 10 Sep 2012 (UAM 30887, *Hy* ♀, LHD), 12 Sep 2012 (CWW), 28–29 Sep 2012 (UAM 30888, *Hy* ♀, LHD), 15 Sep 2013 (LHD+), and 18 Sep 2013 (LHD+). **Notes**: This “red” Fox Sparrow nests throughout interior Alaska and into northern S-C Alaska, where it comes in contact with coastal taxa (see Williamson and Peyton 1962, Gibson and Withrow 2015; UAM specimens).

*P. i. sinuosa × zaboria*. Casual in **Fall** during latter half of Sep: One each on 28 Sep 2012 (UAM 30889, *Hy* ♀), 15 Sep 2013 (UAM 34529, *AHy* ♀), and 18 Sep 2013 (UAM 34530, *Hy* ♀, all LHD). **Notes**: The subspecies of interior Alaska, *zaboria*, comes in contact with coastal subspecies in S-C and SW Alaska (see Williamson and Peyton 1962, Gibson and Withrow 2015; UAM specimens). These specimens closely resemble *P. i. altivagans*, which breeds in interior British Columbia.

*Melospiza melodia insignis/kenaiensis* and *M. m. caurina/kenaiensis*. Song Sparrow. Rare in **Fall**. Earliest probable migrants 19 Aug (2014); two on 16 Aug 2012 had likely hatched locally. First arrival as late as 8 Sep (2011). From 2011 to 2014 the species’ frequency was about one or two/day from mid-Aug through late Sep. Maximum four on 16 Sep and 22 Sep 2011 and on 3 Oct and 6 Oct 2012. Irregular into late Oct; latest were up to three on 21 Oct 2016 and one on 29 Oct 2016. From 2011 to 2014 the species occurred annually in fall but previously was intermittent, with only eight fall records (1 Sep–11 Oct). Twice in **Spring**: One on 11 May 1981 (DDG); one on 26 May 1978 or 1979 (PJG, SMP). In **Summer**: One on 12 Jun 1978 or 1979; two from 31 Jul to 5 Aug 1982 (PJG, DRN). **Breeding** was suggested by the two in full juvenile plumage—no sign of body molt—on 16 Aug 2012; banded, at least one of them remained through 10 Oct. **Notes**: Because the Song Sparrow (in several subspecies) is a characteristic bird of Alaska’s Pacific coast from Dixon Entrance to Attu Island, Rausch (1958:239) wrote that it “was unexpectedly absent from Middleton Island.” Although it may breed sporadically, his statement still applies in essence. **Taxonomic Notes**: Geographic partitioning of Song Sparrow subspecies in S-C Alaska is complex, and additional study and specimens (e.g., topotypes) will be needed for clarity. Plumage and morphological variation in specimens (UAM) from the described range of *kenaiensis* is wide, with larger and grayer birds in the west (e.g., Kachemak Bay, southwestern Kenai Peninsula) and smaller and browner birds in the
east (e.g., eastern Prince William Sound). Fall specimens from Middleton divided roughly into three phenotypic groups (Figure 27). We identified most as examples of \textit{caurina}/\textit{kenaiensis}. They are smaller and shorter-tailed, with a slightly lighter, warmer, and more cleanly defined plumage aspect than the following group and presumably originate from the Prince William Sound area. We identified three specimens as examples of \textit{insignis}/\textit{kenaiensis} (Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula, and islands of Prince William Sound [?—Gibson and Withrow 2015]). These birds are large, long-tailed, long-billed, and dark, very similar to comparable specimens from Kodiak Island. **SPECIMENS** (12): \textit{M. m. insignis}/\textit{kenaiensis}—e.g., UAM 30839 and UAM 30840. \textit{M. m. caurina}/\textit{kenaiensis}—e.g., UAM 29167, UAM 36632, and UAM 38194.

\textit{M. m. merrilli}. Once in \textbf{FALL}: One immature on 23 and 24 Sep 2011 (UAM 29166, ♀, LHD+) was clearly smaller and more rufescent than other Song Sparrows.
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS

on Middleton, and we identified it as an example of *merrilli*, which breeds from the SE Alaska mainland and inner islands of the Alexander Archipelago (Gibson and Withrow 2015) east across the Coast Ranges to eastern British Columbia and south to southeastern Washington and Montana (Patten and Pruett 2009). **NOTES:** An example of *merrilli* collected in fall in the Interior (Tobish 1995) was the first recorded north and west of its breeding range, and the Middleton bird is the first for S-C Alaska.  

*Melospiza lincolnii* (*gracilis*). Lincoln’s Sparrow. Uncommon in fall: 8 Aug (2010) to 27 Oct (2016). From 2012 to 2014 arrived 15–18 Aug. Numbers of migrants peaked from mid-Aug through mid-Sep when counts of 15–20/day were regular, decreasing to five to 10/day in late Sep, one to three/day in Oct. Maxima 30 on 9 Sep 2012 and 60 on 15 Sep 2013. **TAXONOMIC NOTES:** In Alaska, subspecies *gracilis* nests commonly from Prince William Sound east through SE Alaska, nominate *lincolnii* throughout the rest of the species’ distribution (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Since geographic variation was described by Pyle (1997:584) as “weak, clinal where ranges meet, and differences … obscured by slight dichromatism (grayish and brownish plumages) and individual variation,” we infer our specimens to be *gracilis* without clear evidence to the contrary. **NOTES:** Of 185 birds captured during fall, only five were adult. **SPECIMENS:** UAM, 8.  

*Melospiza georgiana* (*ericrypta*). Swamp Sparrow. Casual in fall: One at edge of west thickets on 27 Sep 1987 (UAM 5418, HY unsexed, DDG), one in the same area on 20 Oct 2016 (photo ML39344061, NRH+), and one along southwest bluff on 25 Oct 2016 (photo ML39344201, 39344211; Figure 28). **NOTES:** Rare in Alaska; most records are from SE Alaska in fall (see Gibson and Kessel 1992, Heinl and Piston 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015).  

*Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow. Casual in fall: One on 26 and 27 Sep 1997 (TJD+), one on 1 Oct 2012 (SCH), three on 6 Oct 2014 (UAM 36329, HY unsexed; UAM 36331, HY ♂; the third remained through 8 Oct, photo ML33467831), three on 13 Oct 2014 (UAM 36330, HY ♂; one through 14 Oct), one from 23 to 27 Oct 2016 (UAM 39614, HY [♀]), and one from 20 to 28 Oct 2016 (photo ML43852081, joined by a second on the 25th). **NOTES:** Multiple birds in both 2014 and 2016 were unprecedented, as all other records in S-C Alaska are of single individuals (TGT). This species is rare in Alaska, annual in fall and winter only in SE; it is casual in S-C Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015). It breeds close to Alaska in southern Yukon Territory (Sinclair et al. 2003).  

*Zonotrichia querula*. Harris’s Sparrow. Three records in fall: Separate single birds on 5 Oct (UAM 5440, HY ♂, MEI) and 1 Oct 2012 (SCH) and 6 Oct 1981 (TvN), and one on 6 Oct 1981 (TvN). **NOTES:** This species is casual in Alaska, with most records from SE in fall and winter (Gibson and Withrow 2015).  


were part of a small influx into mainland, where it is an uncommon probable breeder (see Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Subspecies _hyemalis_ nests through most of the Alaska range of this species, south and east to Prince William Sound, where _oreganus_ was typically less numerous than _hyemalis_. Rare in spring; earlier were two on 30 Apr 2006 (TvN); also recorded 1–5 May 1979 (one, SAH), 12–13 May 1981 (one, DDG), and in the second half of May 2006 (TvN). **NOTES:** Of 65 juncos captured in fall (2011–2014), only two (3%) were adult. Subspecies _hyemalis_ nests through most of the Alaska range of this species, south and east to Prince William Sound, where _oreganus_, reaching west from SE Alaska, replaces it (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Gibson and Withrow 2015). The latter winters coastally as far west as the eastern Aleutian Islands (in small numbers—Gibson and Byrd 2007). Both subspecies are uncommon in coastal S-C Alaska year round (Isleib and Kessel 1973) and common in migration at Yukutat (Andres and Browne 2004). **TAXONOMIC NOTES:** Two of our specimens (as well as other individuals seen in the field) represent phenotypes intermediate between subspecies _hyemalis_ and _oreg anus_ and thus resemble the taxon _cismontanus_. We identify these birds here with no name, as simply intergrades of _hyemalis_ and _oreg anus_, rather than examples of a formally named _cismontanus_ Dwight, 1918 (type locality Sumas, British Columbia). **SPECIMENS:** _J. h. oreg anus_, e.g., UAM 5410, UAM 5717, and UAM 29163; _J. h. hyemalis × oreg anus_, e.g., UAM 31127 and UAM 34540.

_Ruber juncos_ (latifascia). Rustic Bunting. Once in fall: One immature male along the southwest bluff on 13 Oct 2014 (UAM 36333, ♂, LHD; photo ML33565221, NRH+). **NOTES:** Casual in S-C and SE Alaska in fall and winter (see Gibson and Withrow 2015), when it has reached British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001), Washington (Wahl et al. 2005), Oregon (Marshall et al. 2006), and California (Hamilton et al. 2007).

_Piranga ludoviciana_. Western Tanager. Casual in fall: One each on 20 Sep 1997 (TJD+), 31 Aug 2013 (UAM 34184, HJ [♀], LHD+), 1 Sep 2013 (photo ML33566051, NRH+), and 8 Sep 2014 (CWW+). **NOTES:** The two records in 2013 were part of a small influx into S-C Alaska, where the species is casual (e.g., three in Seward, 11–18 Sep, Tobish 2014). It occurs annually as far northwest as the SE Alaska mainland, where it is an uncommon probable breeder (see Kessel and Gibson 1978).

_Pheucticus ludovicianus_. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Once in fall: One immature on 19 Aug 2013 (UAM 34186, ♀, LHD+)—first Alaska specimen. **NOTES:** This species is casual in SE Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015), and the bird at Middleton was the first recorded in S-C Alaska.

_Pheucticus melanopechalus_ (melanocephalus). Black-headed Grosbeak. One report in fall: One immature, 20–21 Sep 1981 (TGT), was the first of the species reported in Alaska (Gibson 1982). **NOTES:** Since the early 2000s, the Black-headed Grosbeak has occurred intermittently in SE and accidentally in S-C Alaska (see Heinl and Piston 2009, Gibson and Withrow 2015).

_Agelaius phoeniceus_ (arctolegus). Red-winged Blackbird. Intermittent in fall, with
DISCUSSION

We document multiple lines of evidence for migration of passerines across the Gulf of Alaska in fall. Whether a similar pattern occurs during spring migration is unknown as our effort was limited during that season. Although nonpasserines have long been recognized to use this trans-oceanic route in autumn (Brant: Dau 1992; Cackling Goose: Gill et al. 1996; Short-eared Owl: Johnson et al. 2017; Red Knot: J. A. Johnson unpubl. data; Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, and Whimbrel: R. E. Gill Jr. and D. R. Ruthrauff unpubl. data), it has previously only been suggested for passerines (see Swarth 1920, Gruchy et al. 1972). As our data on bird migration at Middleton Island are most detailed for passerines, and this result is the most novel finding of the project, we focus our discussion on their migration. Migration across the Gulf of Alaska is inherently risky for passerines, but the advantages are shortening the distance traveled and taking advantage of the favorable southeast airflow produced by the weather systems prevailing during autumn (e.g., Gill et al. 2009). We here present four lines of evidence to corroborate our assertion that passerines regularly cross the Gulf of Alaska in fall migration: age composition, body condition, abundance, and relationship between the intensity of migration and weather systems.

The age composition of migrants can clarify from what portion of a broad-front migratory flyway a sample originates. Adults are typically less susceptible to drifting off course than are immatures, resulting in a higher proportion of the latter at peripheral, often coastal, locations (Ralph 1971,

Figure 28. Three of the five Swamp Sparrows (Melospiza georgiana) reported from S-C Alaska have been at Middleton Island, this one photographed on 25 Oct 2016.

*Photo by Nicholas R. Hajdukovich/USFWS*
1981, Newton 2008). The percentage of immatures at Middleton Island ($\bar{x} = 92\%$, for all captured migrant passerines) was higher than at Yakutat, on the mainland 370 km east of Middleton ($\bar{x} = 79\%$; Andres et al. 2005). The proportion of immatures at Middleton resembles that at sites along the Atlantic coast within a main migratory path (Ralph 1981) and is lower than at offshore sites outside of known migratory routes, such as the Farallon Islands, California, where Ralph (1971) reported 96.2\% of migrants were immatures. This pattern suggests that migrants at Middleton—as a proxy for migrants over the Gulf of Alaska—are within a regularly used migratory route, although showing the typical “coastal effect” (Ralph 1981).

Common passerine migrants at Middleton Island were in good body condition, many with heavy fat stores (banding data). The body mass (in immature birds) of the most common migrants was higher at Middleton Island than at Yakutat on the mainland coast: Yellow Warblers were heavier at Middleton by 5.1\% (Middleton $n = 2083$, $\bar{x} = 10.4 \pm$ [standard deviation] 1.08 g; Yakutat $n = 302$, $\bar{x} = 9.91 \pm 0.94$ g), Orange-crowned Warblers by 2.6\% (Middleton $n = 331$, $\bar{x} = 9.65 \pm 0.83$ g; Yakutat $n = 674$, $\bar{x} = 9.40 \pm 0.69$ g), Hermit Thrushes by 2.5\% (Middleton $n = 621$, $\bar{x} = 25.03 \pm 2.62$ g; Yakutat $n = 1324$, $\bar{x} = 24.42 \pm 1.80$ g, and Fox Sparrows by 3.5\% (Middleton $n = 3783$, $\bar{x} = 37.75 \pm 2.94$ g; Yakutat $n = 374$, $\bar{x} = 36.42 \pm 3.40$ g). It may be that migrants on Middleton are depositing larger fat stores in preparation for long over-water flights.

We also captured large numbers of migrant passerines on Middleton in each year of study, demonstrating that passerines are numerous offshore in the Gulf of Alaska during fall. As our fall seasons at Middleton were similar in duration to those of Andres et al. (2005) at Yakutat, we compared the rate of birds captured (per 100 net-hours) at the two sites. At Middleton this number was nearly three times greater than at Yakutat (150 versus 57 birds per 100 net-hours respectively; Andres et al. 2005). Over four years of mist-netting at Middleton Island, we banded 9963 individuals. There are myriad variables that influence mist-net captures, but it is clear that large numbers of passerines regularly and predictably occur over water in the Gulf of Alaska during fall—not just a mistaken few.

Many bird species take advantage of weather systems to embark on lengthy trans-oceanic flights (e.g., Gill et al. 2009, Shamoun-Baranes 2010). We suggest passerines may be using similar weather systems to aid their migration across the Gulf of Alaska. The timing and abundance of migrant passerines at Middleton Island in fall vary greatly, with one day often contrasting starkly with the next. We assume this to be a result of the strong influence of weather. The largest pulses of migrants at Middleton typically took place during periods of southeasterly airflow over the northwestern Gulf of Alaska. This weather pattern occurred most consistently after the passing of a low pressure system to the south of Middleton Island, when the trailing edge of the system rotating counterclockwise produced a flow of air from the north or northwest (Figure 29B) contrasting with direction of airflow prior to the passing of a low pressure system (Figure 29A). Of the 11 largest pulses of migrants (on days with capture rates contrastingly higher than on preceding days), six occurred when the prevailing flow of air in the region was from the northwest (e.g., Figure 29B). This pattern suggests that passerines depart
the mainland coast presumably to the north and west of Middleton Island and use this south and southeast flow of air to assist them across the Gulf of Alaska. Further research may illuminate more details regarding the complex interaction of migrants and weather systems in the Gulf of Alaska.

As expected, the majority of migrants occurring in fall at Middleton were of Pacific Flyway species that are common during migration and winter along the Pacific coast south and east of Middleton. This avifauna was further corroborated by the recoveries of five birds we banded at Middleton at sites in the Pacific Flyway. Most species and subspecies we found as common migrants on Middleton likely originated from populations breeding just to the north on the Kenai Peninsula and around Prince William Sound (e.g., subspecies *sinuosa* of the Fox Sparrow, *lutescens* of the Orange-crowned Warbler, and *rubiginosa* of the Yellow Warbler). We also regularly observed species and subspecies that follow the Central Flyway (e.g., the Alder Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, subspecies *celata* of the Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and subspecies *banksi* of the Yellow Warbler). Given the paucity of these species or subspecies along the Pacific coast south of southeastern Alaska, their regular occurrence on Middleton suggests migration in a direct line west to east across the Gulf of Alaska then inland to join the Central Flyway. That these Pacific and interior taxa mix during fall migration at Middleton Island confirms a complex intermingling of avifaunas in the Gulf of Alaska.

In its isolated position in the northern Gulf of Alaska, Middleton attracts in fall a large array of misoriented birds (e.g., 19 species are known in S-C Alaska only from Middleton Island). Of the 261 species recorded, we consider 91 extralimital at Middleton, as they occur infrequently and not on passage between summering and wintering grounds. This suite of species can be parsed into two broad cohorts, of origin in the Old World (n = 23) or in the New World (n = 68). Within each group, multiple geographic patterns emerged. Some birds likely came from areas relatively nearby, such as southeastern Alaska (e.g., Western Tanager, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat). Others were on trajectories from differing and vastly distant parts of the world, such as the Prairie Warbler, nesting no closer to Middleton than 4000 km to the southeast, and the Wood Warbler, nesting no closer to Middleton than 6500 km to the west.

This publication provides the first detailed view of the patterns of offshore migration in the northern Gulf of Alaska and offers much new information on trans-Gulf of Alaska migration in passerines. Given the numerous novel and intriguing patterns of occurrence noted throughout these accounts, it is our hope that this paper will provide a foundation for further research.

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Figure 29. Comparison of unfavorable (A) and favorable (B) surface winds for passerine migration over the Gulf of Alaska in fall. Middleton Island is located by the black dot. Figure A (13 Sep 2013, 22:00 local time) represents typical winds along the leading edge of a low pressure system; note onshore winds over Middleton and the nearby mainland coast. Figure B (15 Sep 2013, 04:00 local time) represents typical winds after the passing of a low pressure system; note offshore winds over Middleton and the nearby mainland. This particular low pressure system resulted in an exceptionally large pulse of passerine migrants at Middleton on 15 Sep 2013.
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BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


287
BIRDS OF MIDDLETON ISLAND, A UNIQUE LANDFALL FOR MIGRANTS


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291
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THANKS TO WESTERN BIRDS’ REVIEWERS AND ASSOCIATE EDITORS


In addition, our associate editors, Kenneth P. Able, Matthew J. Baumann, Daniel S. Cooper, Thomas Gardali, Daniel D. Gibson, Robert E. Gill, Ronald R. LeValley, Dan Reinking, and Daniel R. Ruthrauff, plus featured-photo editor John Sterling, also serve as reviewers of the manuscripts whose review they coordinate, and often of additional manuscripts at the request of other associate editors. *Western Birds* has grown to the point where it is not possible without the teamwork and dedication of this corps of experienced ornithologists. I’m delighted to be able to report that Doug Faulkner, with his deep expertise with the birds of the Rocky Mountains, is rejoining us as an associate editor. In addition, I’m deeply grateful to book-review editor Lauren Harter, assistant editor Dan Gibson, graphics manager Ginger Johnson, photo editor Peter LaTourette, and webmaster/designer/typographer Tim Brittain for another year as essential parts of our team producing *Western Birds*.

Philip Unitt

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Able, Kenneth P., see Pandolfino, E. R.
Acanthis flammea, 97, 270
Accipiter cooperii, 7
gentilis, 251
striatus, 250–251
Actitis macularius, 6, 238
aculeata, Sitta carolinensis, 26–34
Aethia cristatella, 243
psittacula, 243
Agapornis roseicollis, 91
Agelaius phoeniceus, 280
aikeni, Junco hyemalis, 102, 108
alascensis, Calcarius lapponicus, 270
Certhia americana, 259
Alauda arvensis, 258
Albatross, Black-footed, 247
Laysan, 247
Short-tailed, 247
aleuticus, Ptychoramphus aleuticus, 242–243
aliae, Catharus minimus, 263–266
Almazán-Núñez, R. Carlos, see Torres-Jiménez, J. G.
Amazilia beryllina, 80
rutila, 5
Amazona finschi, 8, 16
oratrix, 8
americana, Bucephala clangula, 228–229
Fulica americana, 230
americanus, Mergus merganser, 229
Ammodramus savannarum, 35–55
amoenus, Regulus satrapa, 262
Anas acuta, 226
americana, 225
clypeata, 5, 12, 226
creca, 5, 77, 226
cyanoptera, 5, 226
discors, 5, 12, 226
formosa, 77
penelope, 225
platyrhynchos, 225–226
querquedula, 226
strepera, 225
anatum/tundrius, Falco peregrinus, 253–254
Anhinga, 105
Anhinga anhinga, 105
Ani, Groove-billed, 5, 13, 79
Anser albifrons, 223
Anthus cervinus, 267–268
hodgsoni, 267
rubescens, 9, 268–269
Antigone canadensis, 230
Antrostomus ridgwayi, 79
Apus pacificus, 230
Archilochus alexandri, 58–59
colubris, 60–64, 80
arctica, Eremophila alpestris, 258
arctolegus, Agelaius phoeniceus, 280
Ardea alba, 7
herodias, 7, 250
Ardenna bulleri, 247–248
carneipes, 248
creatopus, 248
grisea, 88, 248
tenuirostris, 248
Arenaria interpres, 6, 80–81, 233
melanoccephala, 6, 233
arizonae, Spizella passerina, 275
arra, Uria lomvia, 242
Artemisiospiza nevadensis, 35–55
Asio flammeus, 251
Athene cunicularia, 8
atricapillus, Accipiter gentilis, 251
auduboni, Setophaga coronata, 10
Auklet, Cassin’s, 242–243
Crested, 243
Parakeet, 243
Rhinoceros, 243
Aythya affinis, 227
americana, 227
collaris, 227
ferina, 227
marila, 227
valisineria, 226–227
banksi, Setophaga petechia, 273
barrovianus, Larus hyperboreus, 246
Bartramia longicauda, 80, 231–232
Basileuterus lachrymosus, 101, 108
rufifrons, 101
Bassett, Fred, see Cubie, D.
baueri, Limosa lapponica, 232–233
Becard, Rose-throated, 9, 94, 106
bensoni, Callipepla douglasii, 180–195
beringiae, Limosa fedoa, 233
Blackbird, Brewer’s, 205–210
INDEX

Red-winged, 280
Rusty, 103, 205–210, 280
Blanco, Diego C., DeRaad, Devon A.,
and Mailey, James M., Geographic
Variation and Intergradation in the
Elegant Quail, 181–196
Bluebird, Mountain, 263
Western, 173–180
Bobolink, 103, 109
Bombycilla cedrorum,
garrulus, 267
Bond, Laura, see Miller, R. A.
Booby, Blue-footed, 7, 88
Brown, 7, 88
borealis, Lanius excubitor, 255
Bowman, Aaron, see Robinson, B. W.
Brachyramphus brevirostris,
marmoratus, 242
brachyrhynchus,
Larus canus, 245
Brambling, 269
Brant, 77, 224
Branta bernicla,
canadensis, 224
hutchinsii, 77, 224
brewsteri, Empidonax traillii, 254
Bubo scandiacus, 251
Bubulcus ibis, 7
Bucephala albeola, 228
clangula, 228–229
islandica, 229
Bufflehead, 228
Bunting, Indigo, 11
Painted, 11
Rustic, 279
Snow, 107, 270
Varied, 11, 21
Buteo brachyurus, 90–91, 105
jamaicensis, 7
lagopus, 251
lineatus, 90, 105
Buteogallus anthracinus, 7
Butorides virescens, 7, 15
caerulescens, Chen caerulescens, 224
Calcarius lapponicus, 98, 107, 270
pictus, 98, 270
Calidris acuminata, 81, 233–234
alba, 6, 13, 234
alpina, 6, 234
bairdii, 6, 235
canutus, 6, 81, 104, 233
ferruginea, 234
fuscicollis, 81, 105
himantopus, 6, 234
mauri, 6, 236–237
melanotos, 6, 236
minutilla, 6, 235–236
ptilocnemis, 234–235
pugnax, 81, 233
pusilla, 236
ruficollis, 234
subruficollis, 81, 236
virgata, 6, 233
californica, Polioptila Californica,
124–140
californicus, Podiceps nigricollis, 230
Callipepla douglasi, 5, 181–196
campicola, Geothlypis trichas, 272
Camptostoma imberbe, 8
canadensis, Antigone canadensis, 230
Canvasback, 226–227
capitalis, Leptotila verreauxi, 5
Caracara, Crested, 8
Caracara cheriway, 8
Cardellina canadensis, 101
pusilla, 10, 21, 274
Cardinal, Northern, 11
Cardinalis cardinalis, 11
Carlisle, Jay D., see Miller, R. A.
carolinensis, Anas crecca, 226
Pandion haliaetus, 250
carinus, Euphagus carolinus, 280
Catbird, Gray, 266
Cathartes aura, 7
Catharus guttatus, 266
minimus, 263–266
ustulatus, 9, 266
caurina/kenaeniensis, Melospiza melo-
dia, 276–277
carolinus, Limnodromus griseus,
237–238
celata, Oreothlypis celata, 271–272
Cepphus columba, 242
Cerorhinca monocerata, 243
Certhia americana, 154–172, 259
Chaetura pelagica, 79
Chamaea fasciata, 154–172
Charadrius hiaticula, 231
nivosus, 6
semipalmatus, 6, 231
vociferus, 6, 231
Chat, Red-breasted, 11
Yellow-breasted, 154–172
Chen caerulescens, 224
canagica, 223–224
Chickadee, Black-capped, 95, 259
Chestnut-backed, 154–172
chilcatensis/townsendi, Passerella

296
INDEX

iliaca, 276
Chloroceryle americana, 8
Chondestes grammacus, 10, 21, 35–55
Chondrohierax uncinatus, 7, 15–16
Chordeiles acutipennis, 5
minor, 230
Chroicocephalus philadelphia, 6, 244–245
cincinatus, Phalacrocorax auritus, 249
cinnamomea, Tringa solitaria, 238
Circus cyaneus, 7, 250
Cistothorus platensis, 97, 106
Clangula hyemalis, 228
Coccozyzus minor, 5, 13
Colaptes auratus, 252
Collared-Dove, Eurasian, 5, 12
columba, Cepphus columba, 242
Columba livia, 5
columbarius, Falco columbarius, 252
columbianus, Cygnus columbianus, 225
Columbina inca, 5
Contopus cooperi, 254
sordidulus, 8, 154–172, 254
virens, 91, 105
Cooper, Daniel S., Mongolo, Jennifer, and Dellith, Chris, Status of the California Gnatcatcher at the Northern Edge of Its Range, 124–140
cooperi, Contopus cooperi, 254
Coot, American, 5, 13, 230
Coragyps atratus, 7
Cormorant, Double-crested, 249
Pelagic, 249–250
Red-faced, 249
cornutus, Podiceps auritus, 229
Corvus corax, 258
couesi, Calidris ptilocnemis, 235
Cowbird, Brown-headed, 11, 21, 113–123
Cowell, Samuel, Sullivan, Kim, Domgaard, Hannah, Lorschieder, Sara, Panoussi, Mariah, Parrish, Lindsey, Rodman, Taryn, Lorenz, Teresa, and Fischer, Phil, Tag-Team Takeover: Usurpation of Woodpecker Nests by Western Bluebirds, 173–180
Crane, Sandhill, 230
crecca, Anas crecca, 77, 226
Creeper, Brown, 154–172, 259
Crossbill, Red, 269
White-winged, 269–270
Crotophaga sulcirostris, 5, 13, 79
Cruzado Cortés, Juan, see Gómez de Silva, H.
Cruz Nieto, Javier, see Gómez de Silva, H.
Cruz Nieto, Miguel Angel, see Gómez de Silva, H.
Cubie, Doreen, and Bassett, Fred, Extreme Hummingbirds: Three Species North of the 55th Parallel, 60–64
Cuckoo, Mangrove, 5, 13
Curlew, Bristle-thighed, 232
Long-billed, 6
Cyanocitta cristata, 95
Cygnus buccinator, 77, 104, 224–225
columbianus, 225
cygnus, 225
Cynanthus latirostris, 5
Cypseloides niger, 79, 104
Davis, Jeff N., Carotenism in the Purple Finch, 69–71
deglandi, Melanitta fusca, 228
Dellith, Chris, see Cooper, D. S.
DeRaad, Devon A., see Blanco, D. C.
Dickcissel, 11
discolor, Setophaga discolor, 274
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, 103, 109
Domgaard, Hannah, see Cowell, S.
douglasii, Callipepla douglasii, 181–196
Dove, Common Ground-, 5
Eurasian Collared-, 5, 12
Inca, 5
Mourning, 5, 12
White-tipped, 5
White-winged, 5
Dowitcher, Long-billed, 6, 238
Short-billed, 6, 237–238
Dryocopus pileatus, 154–172
Duck, Harlequin, 227–228
Long-tailed, 228
Ring-necked, 227
Ruddy, 229
Dumetella carolinensis, 266
Dunlin, 6, 234
Dunn, Jon L., see Pandolfino, E. R.
Dybala, Kristen E., see Trochet, J. A.

Eagle, Bald, 250
Egret, Cattle, 7
Great, 7
Reddish, 88
Snowy, 7

Egretta caerulea, 7
rufescens, 88
thula, 7
tricolor, 7

Eider, Steller’s, 227

Elaenia, Greenish, 8
Elanoides forficatus, 90
Emberiza rustica, 279
Empidonax alnorum, 254
difficilis, 8, 154–172
flaviventris, 91–92, 254
hammondii, 255
minimus, 8, 16, 92, 105, 255
oberholseri, 255
traillii, 254
wrightii, 35–55

Englis, Andrew Jr., see Trochet, J. A.
Englis, Irene E., see Trochet, J. A.
Eremophila alpestris, 35–55, 258
ericrypta, Melospiza georgiana, 278
ersychogaster, Hirundo rustica,
197–204, 259

Estrada-Ramírez, Antonio, see Torres-Jiménez, J. G.
Eudocimus albus, 90
Euphagus carolinus, 103, 205–210,
280
cyanoecephalus, 205–210
Euptilotis neoxenus, 91

Falco columbarius, 8, 252
peregrinus, 8, 16, 150–151,
253–254
rufigularis, 8
rusticolus, 252–253
sparverius, 8, 252
subbuteo, 252

Falcon, Bat, 8
Peregrine, 8, 16, 150–151,
253–254
fannini, Ardea herodias, 250

Ficedula albicilla, 263
Finch, Asian Rosy-, 141–144
Cassin’s, 9
Gray-crowned Rosy-, 97, 269
Purple, 69–71, 107, 269
Fischer, Phil, see Cowell, S.
flammea, Acanthis flammea, 270
Piranga bidentata, 10
flammeus, Asio flammeus, 251
flava, Eremophila alpestris, 258
Flicker, Northern, 252
Flycatcher, Alder, 254
Brown-crested, 8
Dusky, 255
Dusky-capped, 8
Gray, 35–55
Great Crested, 94, 255
Hammond’s, 255
Least, 8, 16, 92, 105, 255
Nutting’s, 92–94, 106
Olive-sided, 254
Pacific-slope, 8, 154–172
Taiga, 263
Tufted, 91
Vermilion, 8, 16
Willow, 254
Yellow-bellied, 91–92, 254

Forpus cyanopygius, 8
forreri, Vireo flavoviridis, 9
francescae, Granatellus venustus, 11
Fratercula cirrhata, 243
corniculata, 243

Fregata magnificens, 7, 88
Frigatebird, Magnificent, 7, 88
Fringilla montifringilla, 269
Fulica americana, 5, 13, 230
Fulmar, Northern, 247
Fulmarus glacialis, 247
fumosus, Buteo jamaicensis, 7
fuscatus, Phylloscopus fuscatus, 262

Gadwall, 225
Gallinago delicata, 6, 238
Gallinula galeata, 5, 13
Gallinule, Common, 5, 13
Purple, 80
gambelii, Zonotrichia leucophrys, 278
Garganey, 226
Garrett, Kimball L., see Pandolfino, E. R.
Gavia adamsii, 87, 247
arctica, 246
immer, 247
pacific, 246–247
INDEX

 stellata, 86, 246
 Geothlypis formosa, 99
 philadelphia, 99, 272
tolmiei, 10, 20, 272
 trichas, 272
 Gibson, Daniel D., see DeCicco, L. H.
 Gnatcatcher, Black-capped, 97
 Blue-gray, 9, 17
 California, 124–140
 Godwit, Bar-tailed, 232–233
 Hudsonian, 80, 232
 Marbled, 6, 233
 Goldeneye, Barrow’s, 229
 Common, 228–229
 Golden-Plover, American, 6, 80, 231
 Pacific, 80, 231
 Goldfinch, Lesser, 10
 goldmani, Trogon elegans, 8
 Gómez de Silva, Héctor, Pérez Villafañ, Mónica G., Cruz Nieto, Javier, Cruzado Cortés, Juan, Hamilton, Robert A., Vásquez Vásquez, Santiago, and Cruz Nieto, Miguel Angel, Review of the Avifauna of the Tres Marias Islands, Mexico, Including New and Noteworthy Records, 2–25
 Goose, Cackling, 77, 224
 Canada, 224
 Emperor, 223–224
 Greater White-fronted, 223
 Snow, 224
 Goshawk, Northern, 251
 gracilis, Melospiza lincolnii, 278
 Grackle, Common, 103, 109
 Great-tailed, 11
 Granatellus venustus, 11
 graysoni, Amazilia rutila, 5
 Picoides scalaris, 8
 Turdus rufopalliatus, 9
 graysonii, Icterus pustulatus, 11
 Grebe, Eared, 5, 230
 Horned, 229
 Least, 78, 104
 Pied-billed, 5, 56–57
 Red-necked, 78–79, 229–230
 grinnelli, Regulus calendula, 262
 Grosbeak, Black-headed, 11, 21, 279
 Rose-breasted, 279
 Yellow, 103
 Ground-Dove, Common, 5
 Guilemot, Pigeon, 242
 Gull, Bonaparte’s, 6, 244–245
 California, 245
 Glaucous, 85, 246
 Glaucous-winged, 84, 246
 Heermann’s, 7
 Herring, 7, 245
 Iceland, 245
 Ivory, 82
 Laughing, 7, 82–84
 Lesser Black-backed, 84
 Little, 82
 Mew, 84, 105, 245
 Ring-billed, 7, 245
 Ross’s, 150–151
 Sabine’s, 244
 Slaty-backed, 245–246
 Thayer’s, 84, 105
 Western, 84, 105
 Western/Yellow-footed, 7, 14
guttatus, Catharus guttatus, 266
gutturalis, Hirundo rustica, 197–204
Gyrfalcon, 252–253
 Haematopus bachmani, 230–231
 palliatus, 6
 Haemorhous cassinii, 9
 purpureus, 69–71, 107, 269
 Hajdukovich, Nicholas R., see DeCicco, L. H.
 Haliaeetus leucocephalus, 250
 Hamilton, Robert A., see Gómez de Silva, H.
 Harrier, Northern, 7, 250
 Hauser, Scott, see Robinson, B. W.
 Hawk, Common Black, 7
 Cooper’s, 7
 Red-shouldered, 90, 105
 Red-tailed, 7
 Rough-legged, 251
 Sharp-shinned, 250–251
 Short-tailed, 90–91, 105
 Hayes, Floyd E., see Scholz, S.
 Heinl, Steven C., see DeCicco, L. H.
 Heliomaster constantii, 79–80, 104
 helleri, Troglodytes pacificus, 259–262
 Helmericks, Isaac J., First Records of the Asian Rosy-Finch in Alaska and North America, 141–144
 Helmitheros vermivorum, 98
 Heron, Great Blue, 7, 250
 Green, 7, 15
 Little Blue, 7
 Tricolored, 7
 Yellow-crowned Night-heron, 7
 Himantopus mexicanus, 5
INDEX

*Hirundo rustica*, 9, 17, 197–204, 259

*Histrionicus histrionicus*, 227–228

Hobby, Eurasian, 252

*holboellii*, *Podiceps grisegena*, 229–230

*hooveri*, *Setophaga coronata*, 274

*hudsonicus*, *Numenius phaeopus*, 232

*hudsonius*, *Circus cyaneus*, 250

Hummingbird, Allen’s, 154–172

Berylline, 80

Black-chinned, 58–59

Broad-billed, 5

Calliope, 60–64

Cinnamon, 5

Ruby-throated, 60–64, 80

Rufous, 5, 60–64, 154–172, 230


*Hydrocoloeus minutus*, 82

*Hydroprogne caspia*, 7, 15, 246

*hyemalis*, *Junco hyemalis*, 279

*hyemalis × oreganus*, *Junco hyemalis*, 279

*Hylocichla mustelina*, 9, 17, 97, 107

*Ibis*, Glossy, 90, 105

White, 90

White-faced, 7

*Icteria virens*, 154–172

*Icterus bullockii*, 11, 21

* cucullatus*, 11, 21

* galbula*, 104, 109

*pustulatus*, 11, 104, 109

*spurius*, 103–104, 109

* wagleri*, 109

*iliaca*, *Passerella iliaca*, 102, 108

*impedita*, *Callipepla douglasii*, 181–196

*incanatus*, *Catharus ustulatus*, 266

*inornata*, *Uria aalge*, 241–242

*insignis/kenaiensis*, *Melospiza melodia*, 276–277

*insularis*, *Forpus cyanopygius*, 8

*Myadestes occidentalis*, 9

*Nyctidromus albicollis*, 5

*Pachyramphus aglaiae*, 9, 94, 106

*Setophaga pitiayumi*, 10

*interpres*, *Arenaria interpres*, 233

Irons, David S., see Musher, L. J.

*Ixoreus naevius*, 266

Jaeger, Long-tailed, 81–82, 241

Parasitic, 81, 240–241

Pomarine, 81, 239–240

*japonicus*, *Anthus rubescens*, 269

Jay, Blue, 95

Johnson, James A., see DeCicco, L. H.

Junco, Dark-eyed, 102, 108, 154–172, 279

Junco *hyemalis*, 102, 108, 154–172, 279

Kaltenecker, Gregory S., see Miller, R. A.

*kenaiensis/caurina*, *Melospiza melodia*, 276–277

*kenaiensis/insignis*, *Melospiza melodia*, 276–277

Kestrel, American, 8, 252

Kildeer, 6, 231

Kingbird, Eastern, 255

Tropical, 9

Western, 9, 16

Kingfisher, Belted, 8, 251

Green, 8

Ringed, 8

Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 262

Ruby-crowned, 9, 17, 262

Kite, Hook-billed, 7, 15–16

Swallow-tailed, 90

Kittiwake, Black-legged, 82, 243–244

Red-legged, 244

Knot, Red, 6, 81, 104, 233

*kumlieni*, *Larus glaucocephalus*, 245

*Lagopus muta*, 229

*languens*, *Callipepla douglasii*, 181–196

*Lanius excubitor*, 255

* ludovicianus*, 35–55

Lark, Horned, 35–55, 258

*Larus argentatus*, 7, 245

* californiae*, 245

*canus*, 84, 105, 245

*delawarensis*, 7, 245

*fuscus*, 84

* glaucens*, 84, 246

* glaucoides*, 245

*heermannii*, 7

*hyperboreus*, 85, 246

*occidentalis*, 84, 105

*occidentalis/ives*, 7, 14

*schistisagus*, 245–246

*thayeri*, 84, 105

Lasprugato, Dawn, see Pandolfino, E. R.
INDEX

latifascia, Emberiza rustica, 279
lawrencei, Cynanthus latirostris, 5
lawrencii, Pheugopedius felix, 9
Leptotila terreauxi, 5
Leucophaeus atricilla, 7, 82–84
leucoptera, Loxia leucoptera, 269–270
leucorhoa, Oceanodroma leucorhoa, 249
Leucosticte arctoa, 141–144
tephrocotis, 97, 269
Limnodromus griseus, 6, 237–238
scolopaceus, 6, 238
Limosa fedoa, 6, 233
haemastica, 80, 232
lapponica, 232–233
littoralis, Leucosticte tephrocotis, 269
longirostris, Melanotis caerulescens, 9
Longspur, Lapland, 98, 107, 270
Smith’s, 98, 270
Loon, Arctic, 246
Common, 247
Pacific, 246–247
Red-throated, 86, 246
Yellow-billed, 87, 247
Lophodytes cucullatus, 154–172, 229
Lorenz, Teresa, see Cowell, S.
Lorscheider, Sara, see Cowell, S.
Lovebird, Rosy-faced, 91
Loxia curvirostra, 269
leucoptera, 269–270
lutescens, Oreothlypis celata, 271–272
luteus, Colaptes auratus, 252
madrensis, Patagioenas flavirostris, 5
Maley, James M., see Blanco, D. C.
Mallard, 225–226
mariae, Cardinalis cardinalis, 11
Meadowlark, Western, 35–55
Megaceryle alcyon, 8, 251
toruata, 8
Megascoops (sp.), 8
Melanitta americana, 77–78, 228
fusca, 228
perspicillata, 228
melanocephalus, Pheucticus melano-
ccephalus, 279
Melanotis caerulescens, 9, 107
Melospiza georgiana, 278
lincolni, 10, 278
melodia, 276–278
Merganser, Common, 229
Hooded, 154–172, 229
Red-breasted, 5, 229
Mergus merganser, 229
serrator, 5, 229
Merlin, 8, 252
merrilli, Melospiza melodia, 277–278
meruloides, Ixoreus naevius, 266
Micrathene whitneyi, 8, 16
Migas, Patrick N., see Miller, R. A.
migratorius, Turdus migratorius, 266
Miller, Robert A., Bond, Laura, Migas, Patrick N., Carlisle, Jay D., and Kaltenecker, Gregory S., Con-
trasting Habitat Associations of Sagebrush-Steppe Songbirds in the Intermountain West, 35–55
Mimus polyglottos, 9, 266–267
minima, Branta hutchinsii, 224
Myiopagis viridicata, 8
minor, Chordeiles minor, 230
Loxia curvirostra, 269
Mitrephanes phaeocercus, 91
Mniotilta varia, 10
Mockingbird, Blue, 9, 107
Northern, 9, 266–267
Molothrus ater, 11, 21, 113–123
Mongolo, Jennifer, see Cooper, D. S.
monilis, Patagioenas fasciata, 230
Motacilla tschutschensis, 267
Murre, Common, 241–242
Thick-billed, 242
Murrelet, Ancient, 242
Kittlitz’s, 242
Marbled, 242
Blackbirds in Fresh Fall Plumages, 205–210
Myadestes occidentalis, 9, 107
townsendi, 263
Myiarchus crinitus, 94, 255
nuttingi, 92–94, 106
tuberculifer, 8
tyrrannulus, 8
Myioborus miniatus, 101, 108
Myiopagis viridicata, 8
nearctica, Aythya marila, 227
nelsoni, Lagopus muta, 229
Picoides pubescens, 252
Nighthawk, Common, 230
Lesser, 5
Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned, 7
Nightjar, Buff-collared, 79
INDEX

nigriceps, Branta bernicla, 224
nivalis, Plectrophenax nivalis, 270
Numenius americanus, 6
phaeopus, 6, 13, 232
tahitiensis, 232
Nuthatch, Red-breasted, 259
White-breasted, 26–34
Nyctanassa violacea, 7
Nyctidromus albicollis, 5
occidentalis, Branta canadensis, 224
Oceanodroma furcata, 249
leucorhoa, 249
ochracea, Spizelloides arborea,
274–275
oenanthe, Oenanthe oenanthe, 263
Oenanthe oenanthe, 263
olivaceus, Vireo olivaceus, 258
Onychoprion aleuticus, 246
fuscatus, 7
oregans, Junco hyemalis, 279
oregans × hyemalis, Junco hyemalis,
279
Oreoscoptes montanus, 35–55
Oreothlypis celata, 10, 19–20,
154–172, 271–272
peregrina, 10, 19, 98–99, 107,
271
ruficapilla, 10, 20, 272
superciliosa, 98
Oriole, Baltimore, 104, 109
Black-vented, 109
Bullock’s, 11, 21
Hooded, 11, 21
Orchard, 103–104, 109
Streak-backed, 11, 104, 109
Ortega, Catherine P., see Ortega, J. C.
Ortega, Joseph C., and Ortega,
Catherine P., Age Structure of
Adult Brown-headed Cowbirds in
Southwest Colorado, 113–123
Osprey, 7, 250
Ovenbird, 10
Owl, Barn, 8, 16
Burrowing, 7
Elf, 8, 16
Short-eared, 251
Snowy, 251
Oxyura jamaicensis, 229
Oystercatcher, American, 6
Black, 230–231
Pachyramphus aglaiae, 9, 94
pacificus, Calidris alpina, 234
pacificus, Anthus rubescens, 268–269
Apus pacificus, 230
Pagophila eburnea, 82
pallescens, Stercorarius longicaudus,
241
palilida, Caracara cheriway, 8
palliceps, Bombycilla garrulus, 267
palmarum, Setophaga palmarum,
274
Pandion haliaetus, 7, 250
Pandolfini, Edward R., Able, Kenneth
P., Dunn, Jon L., Garrett, Kimball
L., and Lasprugato, Dawn, Ranges
of the Subspecies of the White-
breasted Nuthatch in California.
26–34
Panoussi, Mariah, see Cowell, S.
Parkesia motacilla, 10, 17
noveboracensis, 10, 17, 270–271
Parrish, Lindsey, see Cowell, S.
Parrot, Lilac-crowned, 8, 16
Yellow-headed, 8
Parrotlet, Mexican, 8
Parula, Northern, 272
Tropical, 10, 99
parvipes, Branta canadensis, 224
Passer domesticus, 9, 17
Passerellus sandwichensis, 35–55,
108, 275
Passerella iliaca, 102, 108, 275–276
Passerina ciris, 11
cyanus, 11
versicolor, 11, 21
Patagioenas fasciata, 230
flavirostris, 5
Pauaqua, Common, 5
pealei, Falco peregrinus, 253–254
pekinensis, Alauda arvensis, 258
Pelecanus occidentalis, 7
Pelican, Brown, 7
Pérez Villafañ, Mónica G., see Gómez
de Silva, H.
Petrel, Fork-tailed Storm-, 249
Hawaiian, 87–88
Leach’s Storm-, 249
Mottled, 247
Petrochelidon fulva, 95, 106
pyrrhonota, 259
Pewee, Eastern Wood-, 91, 105
Western Wood-, 8, 154–172, 254
Phaethon aethereus, 7, 85
Phalacrocorax auritus, 249
pelagicus, 249–250
urile, 249
INDEX

Phalarope, Red, 6, 13–14, 239
  Red-necked, 239
  Wilson’s, 6
Phalaropus fulicarius, 6, 13–14, 239
  lobatus, 239
  tricolor, 6
Pheucticus chrysopeplus, 103
  ludovicianus, 279
  melanocephalus, 11, 21, 279
Pheugopedius felix, 9
  immutabilis, 247
  nigripes, 247
Phoebe, Eastern, 145–147
  Say’s, 255
Phylloscopus fuscatus, 262
  inornatus, 262–263
  sibilatrix, 262
Picoides arcticus, 173–180
  pubescens, 252
  scalaris, 8
  villosus, 154–172, 173–180
Pigeon, Band-tailed, 230
  Rock, 5
pileolata, Cardellina pusilla, 274
Pintail, Northern, 226
pinus, Spinus pinus, 270
Pipilo chlorurus, 35–55
Pipit, American, 9, 268–269
  Olive-backed, 267
  Red-throated, 267–268
Piranga bidentata, 10, 102, 108–109
  ludoviciana, 10, 154–172, 279
  olivacea, 102, 108
Platalea ajaja, 90
platyrhynchos, Anas platyrhynchos, 225–226
Plectrophenax nivalis, 107, 270
Plegadis chihi, 7
  falcinellus, 90, 105
Plover, American Golden-, 6, 80, 231
  Black-bellied, 6, 231
  Common Ringed, 231
  Pacific Golden-, 80, 231
  Semipalmated, 6, 231
  Snowy, 6
Pluvialis dominica, 6, 80, 231
  fulva, 80, 231
  squatarola, 6, 231
Pochard, Common, 227
Podiceps auritus, 229
  grisegena, 78–79, 229–230
  nigricolis, 5, 230
Podilymbus podiceps, 5, 56–57
  Poecile atricapillus, 95, 259
  rufescens, 154–172
Polioptila caerulea, 9, 17
  californica, 124–140
  nigriceps, 97
  pollicaris, Rissa tridactyla, 243–244
  polyglottos, Mimus polyglottos, 266–267
Polysticta stelleri, 227
Pooecetes gramineus, 10, 35–55
Porphyrio martinicus, 80
  principalis, Corvus corax, 258
Ptarmigan, Rock, 229
Pterodroma inexpectata, 247
  sandwichensis, 87–88
ptilocnemis, Calidris ptilocnemis, 235
Ptychoramphus aleuticus, 242–243
Puffin, Horned, 243
  Tufted, 243
Puffinus puffinus, 248–249
  purpureus, Haemorhous purpureus, 269
  pusillus, Vireo bellii, 154–172
Pyle, Peter, see Musher, L. J.
Pyrocephalus rubinus, 8, 16
  pyrrhonota, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, 259
Quail, Elegant, 5, 181–196
Quetzal, Eared, 91
Quiscalus mexicanus, 11
  quiscula, 103, 109
Radamaker, Kurt, see Rosenberg, G. H.
Rail, Virginia, 5
Rallus limicola, 5
Raven, Common, 258
Redhead, 227
Redpoll, Common, 97, 270
Redstart, American, 10, 20, 272
  Slate-throated, 101, 108
Regulus calendula, 9, 17, 262
  satrapa, 262
Rhodostethia rosea, 150–151
Ridgwayia pinicola, 97, 107
rhiparia, Riparia riparia, 259
Riparia riparia, 259
Rissa brevirostris, 244
  tridactyla, 82, 243–244
Robin, American, 266
  Rufous-backed, 9
Robinson, Bryce W., and DeCicco, Lucas H., Notes on Eurasian Barn
  Swallows in Alaska, Including the
First Documentation of Successful Breeding in North America, 197–204; and DeCicco, Lucas H., Bowman, Aaron, Hauser, Scott, and Wright, John M., First Record of the Eastern Phoebe Breeding in Alaska: Extralimital by 2000 km, 145–147

rodgersii, Fulmarus glacialis, 247

Rodman, Taryn, see Cowell, S.

Roselaari, Calidris canutus, 233


rostratus, Passerculus sandwichensis, 108

Rosy-Finch, Asian, 141–144

Gray-crowned, 97, 269

ruber, Sphyrapicus ruber, 251–252

rubida, Oxyura jamaicensis, 229

rubiginosa, Setophaga petechia, 273

Ruff, 81, 233

ruficapilla, Oreothlypis ruficapilla, 272

rustica, Hirundo rustica, 197–204

Rynchops niger, 85, 105

sanctijohannis, Buteo lagopus, 251

Sanderling, 6, 13, 234

Sandpiper, Baird’s, 6, 235

Buff-breasted, 81, 236

Curlew, 234

Least, 6, 235–236

Pectoral, 6, 236

Rock, 234–235

Semipalmated, 236

Sharp-tailed, 81, 232–234

Solitary, 6, 238

Spotted, 6, 238

Stilt, 6, 234

Upland, 80, 231–232

Western, 6, 236–237

White-rumped, 81, 10, 105

sandwichensis, Passerculus sandwichensis, 275

Sapsucker, Red-breasted, 251–252

Yellow-bellied, 8, 16, 251

Saxicola torquatus, 263

Sayornis phoebe, 145–147

saya, 255

Scaup, Greater, 227

Lesser, 227

Scholz, Suzanne, and Hayes, Floyd E., Pied-billed Grebe Predation on a Common Yellowthroat, 56–57

Scoter, Black, 77–78, 228

Surf, 228

White-winged, 228

screech-owl (sp.), 8

Seedeater, White-collared, 10

Selasphorus calliope, 60–64

rufus, 5, 60–64, 154–172, 230

sasin, 154–172

septentrionalium, Anas cyanoptera, 226

Setophaga americana, 272

castanea, 99

coronata, 10, 274

discolor, 100, 274

dominica, 10, 20, 100, 108

fusca, 99–100, 107

magnolia, 99, 272–273

nigrescens, 10

palmarum, 100, 108, 274

pensylvanica, 273

petechia, 10, 20, 154–172, 273

pinus, 100

pittiayumi, 10, 99

raticilla, 10, 20, 272

striata, 100, 108, 273

tigrina, 99, 107, 272
townsendi, 10, 274

virens, 101

Shearwater, Buller’s, 247–248

Flesh-footed, 248

Manx, 248–249

Pink-footed, 248

Short-tailed, 248

Sooty, 88, 248

Shoveler, Northern, 12, 226

Shrike, Loggerhead, 35–55

Northern, 255

Sialia currucoides, 263

mexicana, 173–180

sinuosa, Passerella iliaca, 275–276

sinuosa × zaboria, Passerella iliaca, 276

Siskin, Pine, 270

Sitta canadensis, 259

carolinensis, 25–34

Skimmer, Black, 85, 105

Skua, South Polar, 239

Skylark, Eurasian, 258

smithsonianus, Larus argentatus, 245

Snipe, Wilson’s, 6, 238

Sole, Pete, Peregrine Falcons Attack
INDEX

a Ross’s Gull in Central Coastal California, 150–151
Solitaire, Brown-backed, 9, 107
Townsend’s, 263
solitarius, Vireo solitarius, 255
sordidus, Vireo hypchryseus, 9
Sparrow, American Tree, 101–102, 274–275
Brewer’s, 35–55
Chipping, 275
Clay-colored, 275
Field, 102, 108
Fox, 102, 108, 275–276
Golden-crowned, 278–279
Grasshopper, 35–55
Harris’s, 278
House, 9, 17
Lark, 10, 21, 35–55
Lincoln’s, 10, 278
Sagebrush, 35–55
Savannah, 35–55, 108, 275
Song, 276–278
Swamp, 278
Vesper, 10, 35–55
White-crowned, 10, 278
White-throated, 278
sparverius, Falco sparverius, 252
Sphyrapicus ruber, 251–252
varius, 8, 16, 251
Spinus pinus, 270
psaltria, 10
Spiza americana, 11
Spizella breweri, 35–55
pallida, 275
passerina, 275
pusilla, 102, 108
(sp.), 10
Spizelloides arborea, 101–102, 274–275
sponsa, Anser albifrons, 223
Spoonbill, Roseate, 90
Sporophila torqueola, 10
Starling, European, 267
Starthroat, Plain-capped, 79–80, 104
steinjegeri, Saxicola torquatus, 263
Stelgidopteryx serripennis, 9, 17
Stercorarius longicaudus, 81–82, 241
maccormicki, 239
parasiticus, 81, 240–241
pomarinus, 81, 239–240
(sp.), 82
Sternia paradisaea, 85, 246
Sternula antillarum, 7, 14
Stilt, Black-necked, 5
Stint, Red-necked, 234
Stonechat, 263
Storm-Petrel, Fork-tailed, 249
Leach’s, 249
strepera, Anas strepera, 225
Streptopelia decaocto, 12
Sturnella neglecta, 35–55
Sturnus vulgaris, 267
subbuteo, Falco subbuteo, 252
Sula leucogaster, 7, 88
nebouxii, 7, 88
Sullivan, Kim, see Cowell, S.
Surfbird, 6, 233
swainsoni, Vireo gilvus, 255–256
Swallow, Bank, 259
Barn, 9, 17, 197–204, 259
Cave, 95, 106
Cliff, 259
Mangrove, 9
Northern Rough-winged, 9, 17
Tree, 258
Violet-green, 258–259
Swan, Trumpeter, 77, 104, 224–225
Tundra, 225
Whooper, 225
Swift, Black, 79, 104
Chimney, 79
Fork-tailed, 230
Synthliboramphus antiquus, 242
Tachybaptus dominicus, 78, 104
Tachycineta albilinea, 9
bicolor, 258
thalassina, 258–259
Tanager, Flame-colored, 10, 102, 108–109
Scarlet, 102, 108
Western, 10, 154–172, 279
Tattler, Gray-tailed, 238
Wandering, 6, 238–239
Teal, Baikal, 77
Blue-winged, 5, 12, 226
Cinnamon, 5, 226
Green-winged, 5, 77, 226
tenuissima, Sitta carolinensis, 26–34
teres, Callipepla douglasii, 181–196
Tern, Aleutian, 246
Arctic, 85, 246
Caspian, 7, 15, 246
Elegant, 7, 85, 105
Least, 7, 14
Royal, 7
Sooty, 7
Thalasseus elegans, 7, 85, 105
INDEX

maximus, 7
thalassina, Tachycineta thalassina, 258–259
thayeri, Larus glaucoides, 245
Thrasher, California, 154–172
Sage, 35–55
Thrush, Aztec, 97, 107
Gray-cheeked, 263–266
Hermit, 266
Swainson’s, 9, 266
Varied, 266
White-throated, 9, 17
Wood, 9, 17, 97, 107
Thryophilus sinaloa, 97
Tietz, James R., see Musher, L. J.
Tobish, Theodore G. Jr., see DeCicco, L. H.
tolmiei, Geothlypis tolmiei, 272
Torres-Jiménez, José Gilberto,
Almazán-Núñez, R. Carlos, and
Estrada-Ramírez, Antonio, Black-chinned Hummingbird Captured
in Web of the Spider Nephila clavipes in Mexico, 58–59
Towhee, Green-tailed, 35–55
townsendi, Myadestes townsendi, 263
townsendi/chilcatensis, Passerella iliaca, 276
Toxostoma redivivum, 154–172
tresmariae, Amazona oratrix,
Tringa brevipes, 238
flavipes, 6, 239
incana, 6, 238–239
melanoleuca, 239
semipalmata, 6
solitaria, 6, 238
Trochet, John A., Engilis, Andrew Jr.,
Truan, Melanie L., Engilis, Irene E.,
Walsh, Robert A., Whisler, Edward,
and Dybala, Kristen E., New and
Extralimital Records of Breeding
Birds for Putah Creek, California,
154–172
Troglydytes hiemalis, 95, 106
pacificus, 259–262
Trogon, Elegant, 8
Trogon elegans, 8
Tropicbird, Red-billed, 7, 85
Truan, Melanie L., see Trochet, J. A.
tschuktschorum, Calidris ptilocnemis,
234–235
tschutchensischensis, Motacilla tschutch-
schensis, 267
tundrius/anatum, Falco peregrinus,
253–254
Turdus assimilis, 9, 17
migratorius, 266
rufopallidus, 9
turneri, Poecile atricapillus, 259
Turnstone, Black, 6, 233
Ruddy, 6, 80–81, 233
Tyrannulet, Northern Beardless, 8
Tyrannus melancholicus, 9
tyrannus, 255
verticalis, 9, 16
Tyto alba, 8, 16
Uria aalge, 241–242
lomvia, 242
Vander Pluym, David, see Rosenberg,
G. H.
variegatus, Numenius phaeopus, 232
Vásquez Vásquez, Santiago, see Gómez
de Silva, H.
vellii, Contopus sordidulus, 254
velox, Accipiter striatus, 250–251
Vermivora chrysoptera, 98
cyanoptera, 98, 107
Vireo, Bell’s, 154–172
Blue-headed, 94, 106, 255
Cassin’s, 9
Golden, 9
Philadelphia, 94, 106, 255
Red-eyed, 94, 106, 258
Warbling, 9, 17, 154–172,
255–256
White-eyed, 94
Yellow-green, 9, 95, 106
Yellow-throated, 94
Vireo bellii, 154–172
cassini, 9
flavifrons, 94
flaviviridis, 9, 95, 106
gilvis, 9, 17, 154–172, 255–256
griseus, 94
hypchryseus, 9
olivaceus, 94, 106, 258
philadephicus, 94, 106, 255
solitarius, 94, 106, 255
viridigularis, Gavia arctica, 246
vociferus, Charadrius vociferus, 231
vulgaris, Sturnus vulgaris, 267
Vulture, Black, 7
Turkey, 7
Wagtail, Eastern Yellow, 267
INDEX

Walsh, Robert A., see Trochet, J. A.
Warbler, Audubon’s, 10
   Bay-breasted, 99
   Black-and-white, 10
   Blackburnian, 99–100, 107
   Blackpoll, 100, 108, 273
   Black-throated Gray, 10
   Black-throated Green, 101
   Blue-winged, 98, 107
   Canada, 101
   Cape May, 99, 107, 272
   Chestnut-sided, 273
   Crescent-chested, 98
   Dusky, 262
   Fan-tailed, 101, 108
   Golden-winged, 98
   Kentucky, 99
   MacGillivray’s, 10, 20, 272
   Magnolia, 99, 272–273
   Mourning, 99, 272
   Nashville, 10, 20, 272
   Orange-crowned, 10, 19–20, 154–172, 271–272
   Palm, 100, 108, 274
   Pine, 100
   Prairie, 100, 274
   Rufous-capped, 101
   Tennessee, 10, 19, 98–99, 107, 271
   Townsend’s, 10, 274
   Wilson’s, 10, 21, 274
   Wood, 262
   Worm-eating, 98
   Yellow, 10, 20, 154–172, 273
   Yellow-browed, 262–263
   Yellow-rumped, 274
   Yellow-throated, 10, 20, 100, 108
   Waterthrush, Louisiana, 10, 17
      Northern, 10, 17, 270–271
   Waxwing, Bohemian, 267
      Cedar, 9, 267

Wheat ear, Northern, 263
Whimbrel, 6, 13, 232
Whisler, Edward, see Trochet, J. A.
Wigeon, American, 225
   Eurasian, 225
Willett, 6
witti, Spinus psaltria, 10
Woodpecker, Black-backed, 173–180
   Downy, 252
   Hairy, 154–172, 173–180
   Ladder-backed, 8
   Pileated, 154–172
Wood-Pewee, Eastern, 91, 105
   Western, 8, 154–172, 254
Wren, Happy, 9
   Pacific, 259–262
   Sedge, 97, 106
   Sinaloa, 97
   Winter, 95, 106
Wrentit, 154–172
Wright, Charles W., see DeCicco, L. H.
Wright, John M., see Robinson, B. W.

Xema sabini, 244

Yellowlegs, Greater, 239
   Lesser, 6, 239
Yellowthroat, Common, 272
   yu konensis, Sayornis saya, 255
   yunnanensis, Anthus hodgsoni, 267
   zaboria, Passerella iliaca, 102, 276
   zaboria × sinuosa, Passerella iliaca, 276
Zenaida asiatica, 5
   macroura, 5, 12
Zonotrichia albicollis, 278
   atricapilla, 278–279
   leucophrys, 10, 278
   querula, 278
Intergrade Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata celata × lutescens*)


Orange-crowned Warblers of this phenotype are numerous as fall migrants at Middleton Island in the Gulf of Alaska. They likely originate from a broad zone of intergradation of *O. c. celata* and *O. c. lutescens* in south-central Alaska. Their similarity to subspecies *O. c. orestera* is striking—compare the lower photo on the inside front cover of *Western Birds* 39(1), 2008. Subspecies *orestera*, typical of the Rocky Mountains, is generally considered to breed only east of the Coast Mountains, northwest as far as southwestern Yukon Territory. But the prevalence of this phenotype in Alaska suggests this definition should be reconsidered.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)

Middleton Island, Alaska, 19 September 2014.

Most of the many birds migrating across the Gulf of Alaska in fall and pausing at Middleton Island are following the Pacific Flyway. But the Gray-cheeked Thrush, as well as a suite of other birds that typically follow the Central and Eastern flyways, also occur at Middleton Island annually. Pacific and interior avifaunas migrating on different trajectories thus mix during the fall at this Pacific coastal location.