

## 3

Compiled by: Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

Observers	Dates & Localities Visited
Benton Basham	Adak 5/17-18 Shemya 5/18-20 Boat, Shemya-Attu 5/20 Attu 5/21-27 Boat, Attu-Shemya 5/27 Shemya 5/28 Anchorage 5/29-31 Unakwik Fjord 5/30 Nome 6/2-3 Gambell 6/3-11 Wales 6/12-15 Nome 6/15-16 St. Paul Is. 6/17-19 Anchorage-Seward 6/20 Ferry, Seward-Kodiak 6/20-21 Ferry, Kodiak-Homer 6/21 Anchor Pt.-Anchorage 6/22
Paul DuMont	X
Dan Gibson	X
Terry Hall	X
Gary Hickman	X
Thompson Marsh	X
Elaine Rhode	X
Paul Sykes	X
John Trapp	X
Tony White	X



[illegible]



[illegible]



	Adak	Shemya	Boat, Shemya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shemya	Shemya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor-Pt.-Anchorage
Com. Loon				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								✓
Y.-b. Loon									✓		✓						
Arctic Loon							✓		✓	✓	✓						✓
Red-thr. Loon				✓					✓		✓	✓					
Red-ne. Grebe				✓			✓			✓				✓			✓
Horned Grebe							✓						✓	✓			✓
Laysan Albatross			✓		✓												
Fulmar			✓		✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	
Pink-ft. Shearwater															✓		
Sooty Shearwater			✓		✓										✓	✓	
Short-t. Shearwater			✓												✓	✓	
Scaled Petrel			✓														
Fork-t. Petrel			✓										✓		✓	✓	
Leach's Petrel			✓														
Pelagic Cormorant	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-faced Cormorant		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓			✓	
Whistling Swan									✓		✓	✓					
Canada Goose							✓			✓		✓					✓
Black Brant									✓	✓							
Emperor Goose										✓							
Snow Goose									✓								
Mallard	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓							✓			
Pintail	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Falcated Teal				✓													
Com. Teal	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓			✓				
Green-w. Teal							✓		✓		✓	✓					✓
Garganey						✓											
European Wigeon	✓	✓		✓		✓											
Am. Wigeon							✓		✓								
N. Shoveler	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓							✓			



	Adak	Shemya	Boat, Shemya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shemya	Shemya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage
Dotterel											✓						
Am. Golden Plover		✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓					
Ruddy Turnstone						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					
Black Turnstone									✓								
Semipalmated Sandpiper									✓		✓	✓					
Western Sandpiper										✓	✓	✓					
Rufous-ne. Sandpiper										✓	✓						
Least Sandpiper							✓										
Long-toed Stint	✓	✓		✓		✓											
Baird's Sandpiper										✓	✓						
Terek Sandpiper										✓							
Pectoral Sandpiper										✓							
Rock Sandpiper	✓			✓					✓	✓	✓		✓				
Dunlin		✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓					
Red Knot							✓		✓								
Short-bi. Dowitcher							✓										
Long-bi. Dowitcher									✓	✓	✓		✓				
Greenshank		✓		✓													
Gr. Yellowlegs							✓							✓			
Lr. Yellowlegs							✓							✓			✓
Wood Sandpiper	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓						
Wandering Tattler						✓				✓							
Com. Sandpiper		✓								✓							
Spotted Sandpiper							✓							✓			
Bar-t. Godwit		✓		✓					✓	✓		✓					
Hudsonian Godwit							✓										
Black-t. Godwit		✓		✓									✓				
Whimbrel				✓		✓			✓			✓	✓				
Com. Snipe		✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Red Phalarope				✓					✓	✓	✓					✓	✓



✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	St. Paul Is.
				✓		✓			✓		✓				✓	Anchorage-Seward
✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓						Ferry, Seward-Kodi
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						Ferry, Kodiak-Home
						✓				✓					✓	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage



	Adak	Shemya	Boat, Shemya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shemya	Shemya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage
Northern Phalarope							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Pomarine Jaeger		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓						
Parasitic Jaeger	✓					✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				
Long-t. Jaeger		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Glaucous Gull	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Glaucous-w. Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Slaty-ba. Gull										✓							
Herring Gull		✓					✓			✓	✓						
Mew Gull		✓					✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
Black-he. Gull	✓	✓		✓		✓											
Bonaparte's Gull							✓										
Ivory Gull										✓							
Black-leg. Kittiwake		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-leg. Kittiwake			✓										✓				
Ross' Gull										✓							
Com. Tern		✓															
Arctic Tern	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Aleutian Tern				✓	✓	✓											
Com. Murre			✓		✓				✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
Thick-bi. Murre			✓		✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	
Black Guillemot										✓							
Pigeon Guillemot	✓							✓		✓					✓	✓	
Marbled Murrelet														✓	✓	✓	
Kittlitz's Murrelet								✓									
Ancient Murrelet	✓				✓										✓	✓	
Parakeet Auklet										✓			✓			✓	
Crested Auklet					✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	
Least Auklet										✓			✓				
Whiskered Auklet			✓		✓								✓				
Horned Puffin			✓		✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	



	Adak	Shemya	Boat, Shemya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shemya	Shemya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage
Tufted Puffin	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓			✓		✓	✓	
Rock Dove							✓										
Snowy Owl				✓													
Short-eared Owl									✓	✓	✓						
Y.-sh. Flicker														✓			
Hairy Woodpecker							✓										
Black-ba. 3-toed Woodpecker							✓										
Say's Phoebe									✓			✓					
Western Flycatcher														✓			✓
Olive-s. Flycatcher							✓							✓			✓
Horned Lark											✓						
Violet-green Swallow							✓							✓			✓
Tree Swallow							✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Bank Swallow							✓					✓	✓	✓			✓
Cliff Swallow							✓				✓			✓			✓
Purple Martin							✓										
Gray Jay														✓			
Black-bi. Magpie							✓							✓			✓
Com. Raven	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
NW Crow														✓			
Black-cap. Chickadee							✓										
Boreal Chickadee							✓										✓
Brown Creeper																	✓
Winter Wren				✓													
Am. Robin							✓		✓			✓		✓			✓
Eye-browed Thrush		✓		✓													
Dusky Thrush				✓													
Varied Thrush							✓		✓								✓
Hermit Thrush							✓			✓				✓			✓
Swainson's Thrush							✓							✓			✓



	Adak	Shenya	Boat, Shenya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shenya	Shenya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage
Gray-cheeked Thrush							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Wheatear										✓	✓						
Bluethroat										✓							
Arctic Warbler											✓	✓					
Ruby-cr. Kinglet							✓										✓
White Wagtail										✓	✓						
Yellow Wagtail	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Water Pipit		✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red-throated Pipit		✓		✓						✓	✓						
Indian Tree Pipit										✓							
Bohemian Waxwing							✓										✓
Orange-cr. Warbler							✓						✓	✓			✓
Yellow Warbler							✓					✓					✓
Myrtle Warbler							✓							✓			✓
Townsend's Warbler														✓			✓
Blackpoll Warbler							✓										
Northern Waterthrush							✓			✓							✓
Wilson's Warbler							✓							✓			✓
Red-w. Blackbird							✓										
Rusty Blackbird							✓		✓					✓			✓
Brambling		✓		✓		✓											
Hawfinch				✓													
Com. Rose Finch				✓													
Pine Grosbeak				✓													
Gray-cr. Rosy Finch	✓	✓		✓									✓				
Hoary Redpoll									✓	✓	✓	✓					
Com. Redpoll	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Pine Siskin							✓							✓			✓
Oriental Greenfinch				✓													
White-w. Crossbill							✓							✓			



	Adak	Shemya	Boat, Shemya-Attu	Attu	Boat, Attu-Shemya	Shemya	Anchorage	Unakwik Fjord	Nome	Gambell	Wales	Nome	St. Paul Is.	Anchorage-Seward	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	Ferry, Kodiak-Homer	Anchor Pt.-Anchorage
Savannah Sparrow							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Dark-eyed Junco							✓							✓			✓
Tree Sparrow									✓	✓		✓					
White-cr. Sparrow							✓		✓			✓		✓			✓
Golden-cr. Sparrow							✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			
Fox Sparrow							✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Lincoln's Sparrow							✓										
Song Sparrow	✓	✓		✓		✓								✓			
Lapland Longspur	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Snow Bunting	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓						
Rustic Bunting		✓		✓						✓							
Locality Total	39	44	19	61	18	31	65	6	61	77	53	40	34	45	17	19	46

Total number of species recorded on the trip: 190.



3

LIFE BIRDS SEEN ON ALASKA TRIP 1976

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

Species	Locality Where First Seen	Date	Life Bird Number
Yellow-billed Loon	Nome	3 June	688
Laysan Albatross	Boat, Shemya-Attu	20 May	673
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Westport, Wash.	16 May	661
Short-tailed Shearwater	Ferry, Seward-Kodiak	21 June	705
Red-faced Cormorant	Shemya	18 May	669
Emperor Goose	Gambell	3 June	694
Falcated Teal	Attu	23 May	677
Garganey	Shemya	28 May	685
Common Pochard	Adak	17 May	664
Steller's Eider	Nome	3 June	689
Spectacled Eider	Gambell	4 June	695
Smew	Attu	26 May	679
Willow Ptarmigan	Nome	2 June	687
Ringed Plover	Gambell	10 June	702
Mongolian Plover	Adak	17 May	666
Rufous-necked Sandpiper	Gambell	8 June	698
Long-toed Stint	Adak	17 May	663
Greenshank	Shemya	18 May	667
Wood Sandpiper	Adak	17 May	662
Terek Sandpiper	Gambell	3 June	693
Common Sandpiper	Shemya	18 May	668
Black-tailed Godwit	Attu	26 May	680
Slaty-backed Gull	Gambell	5 June	697
Ivory Gull	Gambell	8 June	699
Red-legged Kittiwake	St. Paul	17 June	704
Alsatian Tern	Attu	21 May	674
Kittlitz's Murrelet	Unakvik Fjord	30 May	686
Parakeet Auklet	Gambell	3 June	692
Crested Auklet	Boat, Attu-Shemya	27 May	682
Least Auklet	Gambell	3 June	691
Whiskered Auklet	Boat, Attu-Shemya	27 May	683
Horned Puffin	Boat, Attu-Shemya	27 May	684
Eye-browed Thrush	Attu	23 May	678
Wheatear	Gambell	3 June	690
Bluethroat	Gambell	5 June	696



Arctic Warbler	Wales	13 June	703
White Wagtail	Gambell	10 June	701
Yellow Wagtail	Adak	17 May	665
Red-throated Pipit	Shemya	20 May	670

INDIAN TREE PIPIT	Gambell	10 June	700
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Brambling	Shemya	20 May	671
Hawfinch	Attu	26 May	681
Common Rose Finch	Attu	22 May	676
Oriental Greenfinch	Attu	22 May	675
Rustic Bunting	Shemya	20 May	672

#### Miscellaneous:

Total Life Birds for the trip: 45 (44 in Alaska and one in Washington).

North American Life List Total as end of trip (ABA Rules): 704 plus Oriental Greenfinch to be added when it appears on ABA List.

Most Life Birds in one day: 7 on 3 June (Nome and Gambell).

Most Life Birds at one locality: 13 at Gambell

Best Bird of the trip: Oriental Greenfinch - 6 birds in flock on 22 May at Attu - first record for the species in North America.

Costs per life bird: \$61.04.



RECEIVED

JUL 16 1985

Aleutian Islands Unit

AMNWR

1	JS
2	
3	AD
4	✓
5	
6	
7	5/5
FBIOL 1-B-6-d	

-- Field Notes --

ALASKA TRIP SPRING 1980  
17 May - 10 June

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

20



Departed Miami, Florida at 0855 on 17 May aboard Northwest Orient Flight 701 for Chicago, arriving at 1045. There I took NW Flt. 77 at 1230 to Anchorage via Seattle, arriving at 1615. A number of those going on the Alaska trip were aboard the flight from Chicago: Paul DuMont, Larry Peavler, Claudia Wilds, et al. Dave Sonneborn met me at the airport in Anchorage. We birded some in the Anchorage area during the afternoon (see daily accounts section). Spent the evening of 17 May as guest of Dave and Andy Sonneborn at their home in Anchorage following a fine dinner at the Black Angus Restaurant.

Met Larry Balch and his Attour group and the Northeast Birding tour lead by Davis Finch at the Anchorage Airport between 0630 and 0700 as they arrived in a number of vehicles on 18 May. This group of 50 birders then took Reeves Aleutian Airline charter flight by Balch to Attu Island, leaving a little after 0800. The direct flight to Attu arrived about noon where we were met by Jerry Rosenband, Thede Tobish, and Lisa Oakley. The three had been on Attu for a couple of weeks getting things set up for Larry's Attour group and birding. As we departed the plane we were also met by the Coast Guardsmen from the Loran Station, CO Jeff Karonis, XO Rod Mayward, and some of the men. After I got settled in the Loran Station, Attour in the Fish Hut and Whoopie Hut, and NE Birding in a quanset hut we began to bird the east end of Attu. Two of the people (one was Elaine Rhode) took the plane for the ride and a chance to see Attu and then returned to Anchorage on the return flight. So 48 birders covered the area. This is by far the largest number of birders to visit Attu at one time and likewise the best coverage. Official leaders for **Larry** Balch's Attour group besides himself were Dan Gibson, Thede Tobish, Ben King, and Jerry Rosenband. Davis Finch was the only leader for the NE Birding group. I was an independent not directly a part of either group but through the good graces of Larry Balch was permitted to make the trip.



The daily accounts of what I saw, how many individuals recorded, time afield, localities visited, with whom I was birding, and daily species totals follow. The daily accounts consist of totals of each species I observed. Tally of individuals was continuous throughout the period of daily activity. Most figures are actual counts, except for estimates of the most common species. Some of the more interesting observations are covered in the species accounts.

Weather for the period on Attu is summarized in the table. I estimated the island was 75% snow covered upon our arrival on 18 May and this had reduced to less than 5% upon our departure on 1 June. At Gambell there was very little snow except on the mountain upon our arrival and Troutman lake was still frozen. The lake remained frozen during our stay except for a small area at the SE corner and a lead that opened up diagonally across the central portion. The pack ice had left the vicinity of Gambell prior to our arrival.

The trip schedule:

17 May	Anchorage
18 May - 1 June	Attu Island
2 June	Nome
3-8 June	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island
8 June	Curlew Lake and St. Mary's on the Yukon River delta
9 June	Trip by van from Anchorage to Healey and Mt. McKinley National Park
10 June	McKinley National Park and return to Anchorage
11 June	Return to Florida.

#### DAILY ACCOUNTS

- Date: 17 May 1980 (Saturday) and 18 May 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Anchorage and vicinity, including Potter Marsh  
Time afield: 17th - 1700-1930, 18th - 0600-0635  
General conditions: 17th - partly cloudy, 18th - light rain  
Observers: Dave Sonneborn and Paul Sykes
- Date: 18 May 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut, south end of Main Runway, Murder Pt., beach from Casco Cove to the Loran Sta., lower Peaceful River Valley  
Time afield: 1330-2200  
Observers: Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.



3. Date: 19 May 1980 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut, Main Runway, Navy Town, Loaf Is. peninsula, Brambling Bluff, Massacre Beach, lower West Massacre Valley, east end of E-W Runway and vicinity, Casco Cove, and Murder Pt. including all the ponds.  
Time afield: 0930-2330  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, et al.
4. Date: 20 May 1980 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut, Brambling Bluff, Massacre Beach, road to Alexai Pt., all of Alexai Pt., Navy Town.  
Time afield: 0830-1900  
Observers: Bill Bouton, Nick Greene, Larry Peavler, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes
5. Date: 21 May 1980 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut area, Navy Town, Massacre Beach, 1st mile of road to Alexai Pt., lower West Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff, east end of E-W Runway, Casco Pt., north end Casco Cove.  
Time afield: 0830-1915  
Observers: Bill Bouton, Larry Peavler, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes
6. Date: 22 May 1980 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut, Main Runway, Navy Town, Brambling Bluff, Massacre Beach, lower West Massacre Valley, lower East Massacre Valley, east end E-W Runway and vicinity, Casco Cove, Murder Pt.  
Time afield: 0815-2145  
Observers: Larry Peavler and Paul Sykes
7. Date: 23 May 1980 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Fish Hut, Brambling Bluff, lower West Massacre Valley.  
Time afield: 0900-1030  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes  
Comment: Stormy, conditions too poor for field work all day.
8. Date: 24 May 1980 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Brambling Bluff, Navy Town, Funny Duck Marsh, Main Runway, E-W Runway, north Casco Cove, Kingfisher Creek.  
Time afield: 1300-2200  
Observers: Bill Bouton, John Dansenbaker, Paul DuMont, Larry Peavler, Jerry Rosenband, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes, et al.
9. Date: 25 May 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Murder Pt., Casco Cove, east end E-W Runway, Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff  
Time afield: 0830-2145  
Observers: Larry Balch, Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, et al.



10. Date: 26 May 1980 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - north Casco Cove, lower Kingfisher Creek & vicinity, lower West Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff, Navy Town, Alexai Pt., road to Alexai Pt., Casco Bluffs.  
Time afield: 0900-2200  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes
11. Date: 27 May 1980 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - north Casco Cove, E-W Runway, Barbara Pt., Main Runway, Fish Hut, West Massacre Valley, vicinity of the Loran Sta., Funny Duck Marsh, Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs, Murder Pt.  
Time afield: 0815-2045  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes
12. Date: 28 May 1980 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - NE Casco Cove, Casco Pt., E-W Runway & vicinity, Casco Bluffs, Kingfisher Creek.  
Time afield: 0900-1115, 1545-1945  
Observers: Nick Greene, Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, Claudia Wilds, et al.
13. Date: 29 May 1980 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Casco Bluffs, west end E-W Runway and vicinity, Fish Hut and vicinity, Peaceful Valley, NE Casco Cove, base of Casco Pt., Barbara Pt., east end E-W Runway, base of Murder Pt., and shore from Murder Pt to east end of Krasni Pt.  
Time afield: 0830-2245  
Observers: Ben King, Larry Peavler, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
14. Date: 30 May 1980 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Casco Cove, Murder Pt. to Krasni Pt., Murder Pt., Navy Town, Brambling Bluff, West Massacre Valley.  
Time afield: 0830 - 2100  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, et al.
15. Date: 31 May 1980 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Ne Casco Cove, base of Casco Pt., mouth of Peaceful River, Barbara Pt., east end E-W Runway, Brambling Bluff, Murder Pt.  
Time afield: 1315-2230  
Observers: Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, et al.
16. Date: 1 June 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu Is. - Loaf Is. peninsula, Brambling Bluff, Fish Hut and terminal area of Main Runway.  
Time afield: 0815-0930, 1230-1430  
Observer: Paul Sykes  
Comment: Much of the morning spent getting ready to leave Attu.
17. Date: 2 June 1980 (Monday)  
Locality: Nome - along waterfront in town, road to Safety Lagoon bridge, road up Nome River Valley for approximately 20 miles  
Time afield: 0930-1830  
Observers: Paul Sykes, et al.



18. Date: 3 June 1980 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - all midden sites, north shore of Troutman Lake, base of Sevoukuk Mt., north shore from base of mt. to NW Cape, old village site, and dump.  
Time afield: 1630-1930  
Observers: Paul Sykes, et al.
  
19. Date: 4 June 1980 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - all midden sites, village area, NW Cape, south end Troutman Lake, plateau south of Sevoukuk Mt.  
Time afield: 0845-2200  
Observers: Ben King, Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, et al.
  
20. Date: 5 June 1980 (Thursday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - NW Cape, Village Area, two near midden sites to the village, west beach from village almost to NW Cape, low plateau east of the large lake south of Troutman Lake  
Time afield: 0945-1100, 1400-1945, 2100 - 2200  
Observers: Dan Gibson, Larry Peavler, Paul Sykes, Bob Tolles, et al.
  
21. Date: 6 June 1980 (Friday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - all midden sites, village area, NW Cape, flank of Sevoukuk Mt.  
Time afield: 0830-1130, 1330-2200  
Observers: Ben King, Larry Peavler, Jerry Rosenband, Paul Sykes, et al.
  
22. Date: 7 June 1980 (Saturday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - all midden sites, NW Cape, village, flank of Sevoukuk Mt., marsh SE corner Troutman Lake, top of Sevoukuk Mt.  
Time afield: 1000-1130, 1330 - 2300  
Observers: Eli Elder, Ben King, Mike Newlon, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
  
23. Date: 8 June 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. - midden sites at village, and marsh and pond area at NW corner of Troutman Lake at the village  
Time afield: 0700-~~0830~~  
Observers: Larry Balch, Richard Biss, Ben King, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
  
24. Date: 8 June 1980 (Sunday)  
Locality: Delta area of Yukon River - Curlew Lake and St. Mary's  
Time afield: 1330- 1930  
Observers: Bill Bouton, Homer **Eshbaugh**, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, Claudia Wilds

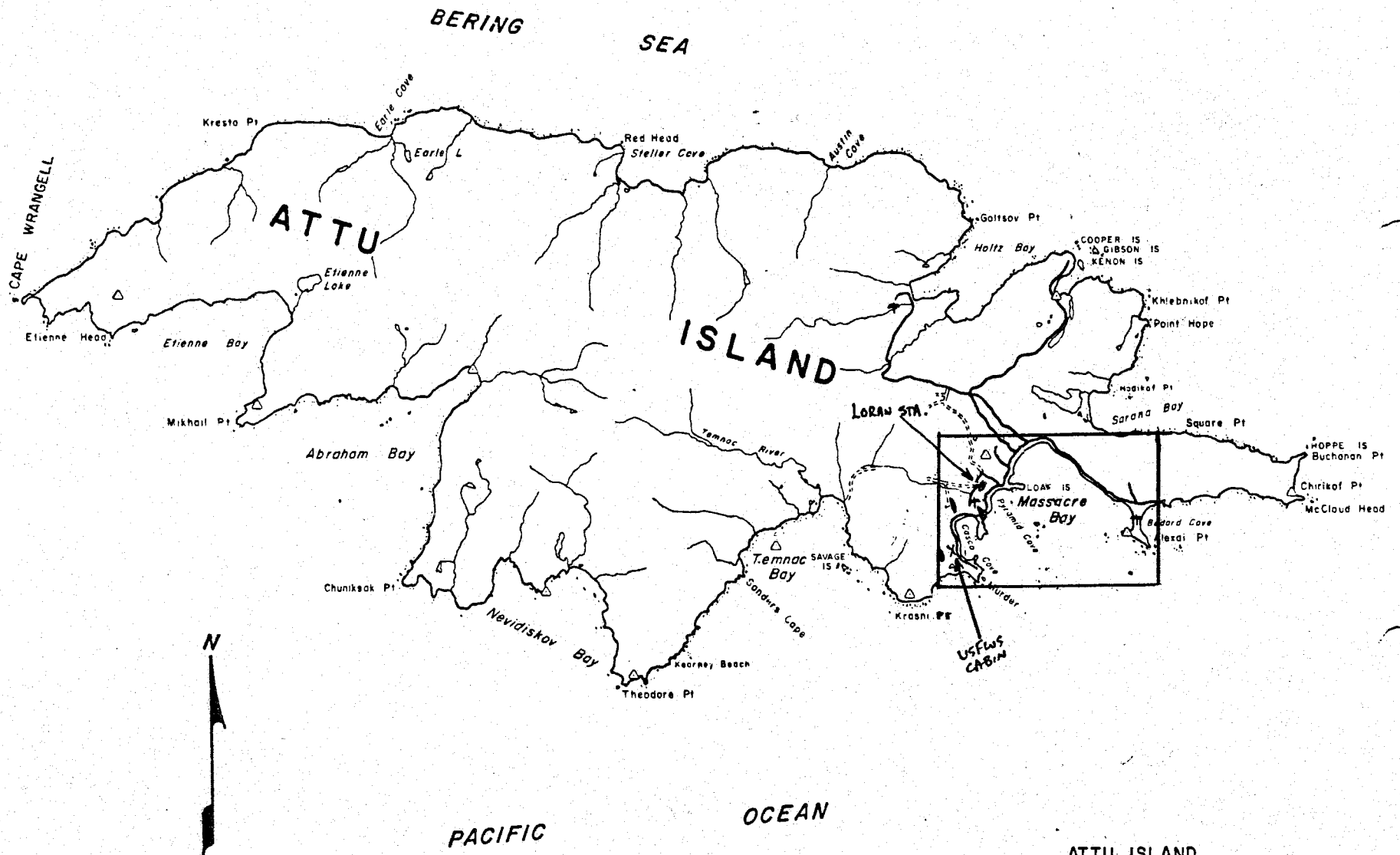


25. Date: 9 June 1980 (Monday)  
Locality: Trip by van from Anchorage to Healey and to the hotel area of McKinley National Park.  
Time afield: mostly riding with several stops enroute 1100-1900  
Observers: Larry Balch, Paul Sykes, et al. (total of 10 people).
26. Date: 10 June 1980 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Mt. McKinley National Park - trip by charter bus from hotel area westward along main park road to Teklanika Campground and return. Most of time spent in vicinity of the campground.  
Time afield: 0630-1200  
Observers: Paul Sykes, et al.

#### LIFE BIRDS ADDED ON SPRING 1980 ALASKA TRIP

<u>Dusky Thrush</u>	19 May.	Casco Point, Attu Island . . . . .	No. 725
<u>Common Reed Bunting</u>	24 May.	Brambling Bluff, Attu Island . . . . .	No. 726
<u>Bean Goose</u>	26 May.	Lower West Massacre Valley, Attu Island . . . . .	No. 727
<u>White-tailed Eagle</u>	27 May.	Main Runway, Attu Island . . . . .	No. 728
<u>Gray Bunting</u>	29 May.	1/4-mile west of Murder Point, Attu Island . . . . .	No. 729
<u>Dotterel</u>	7 June.	Sevuokuk Mountain, St. Lawrence Island . . . . .	No. 730
<u>Temminck's Stint</u>	8 June.	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island . . . . .	No. 731
<u>Bristle-thighed Curlew</u>	8 June.	Mountain at Curlew Lake . . . . .	No. 732

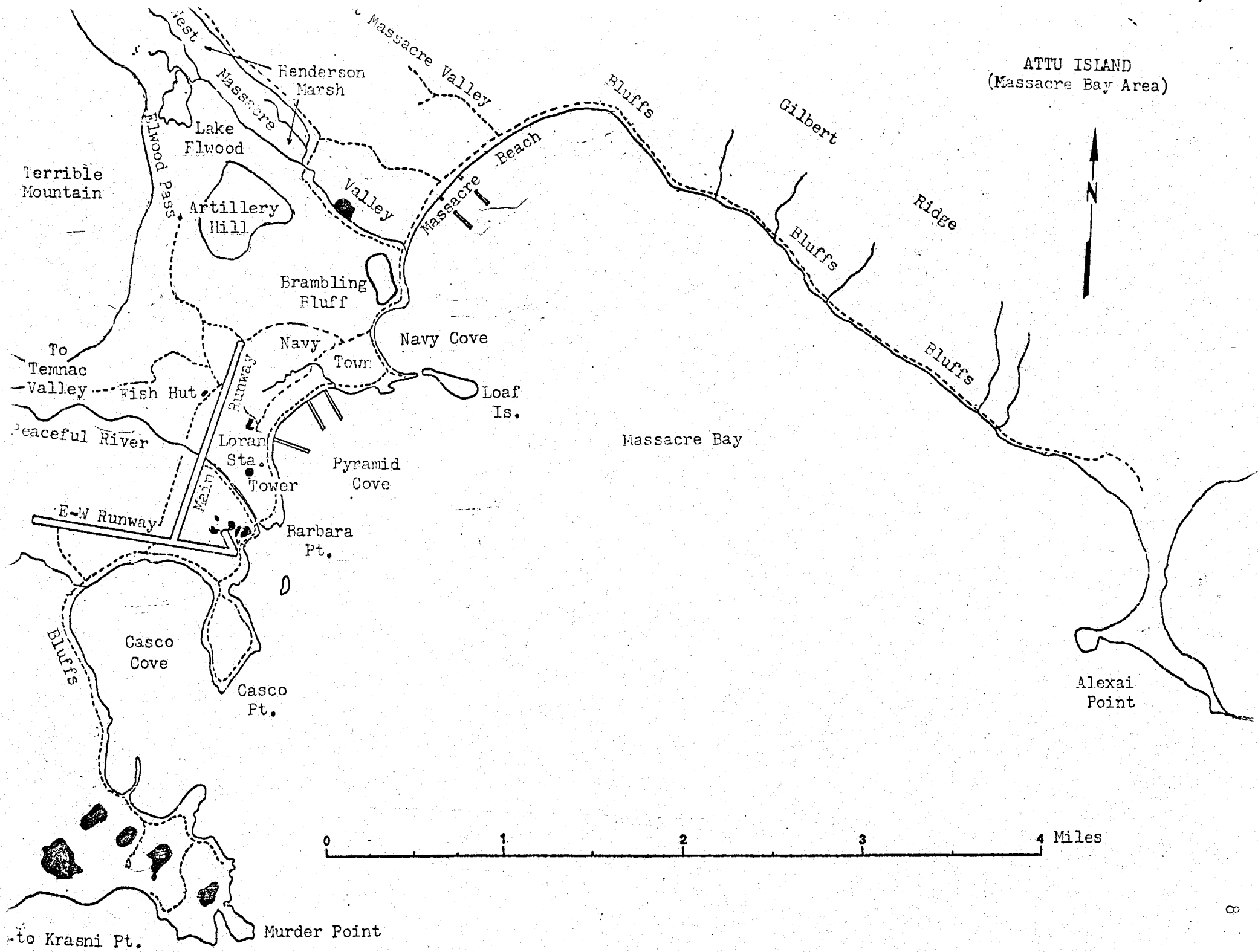




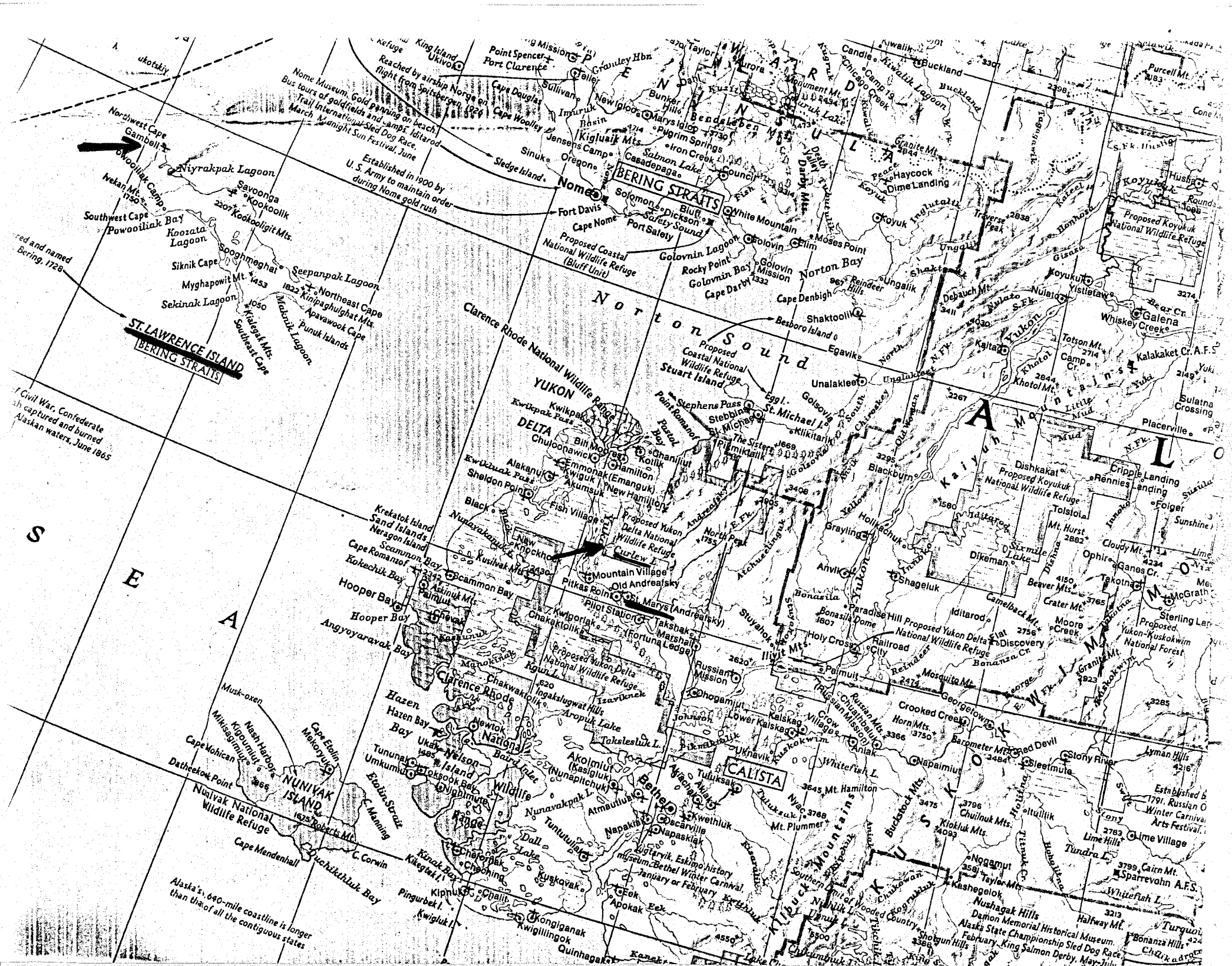
ATTU ISLAND  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ALASKA



ATTU ISLAND  
(Massacre Bay Area)

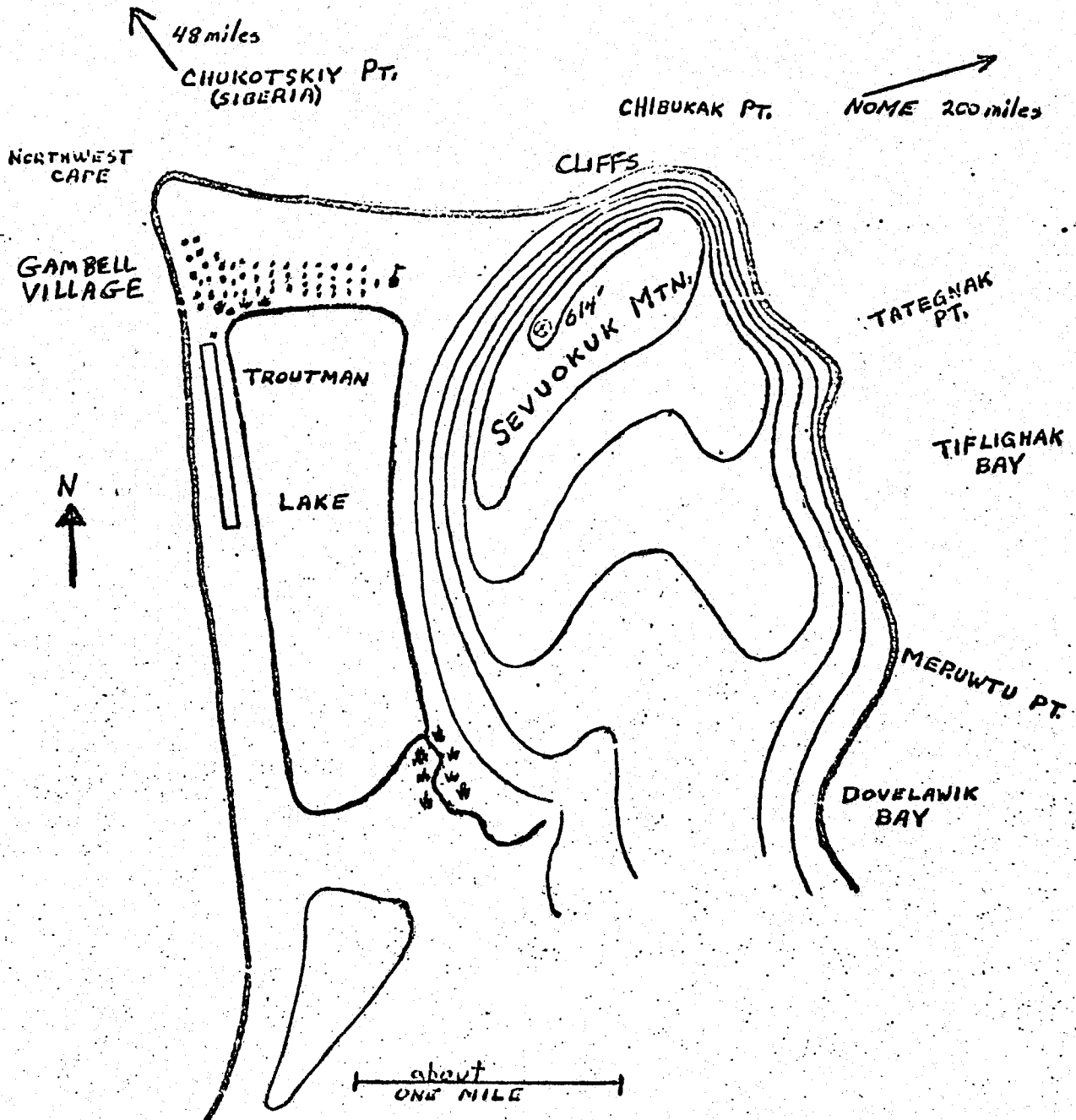




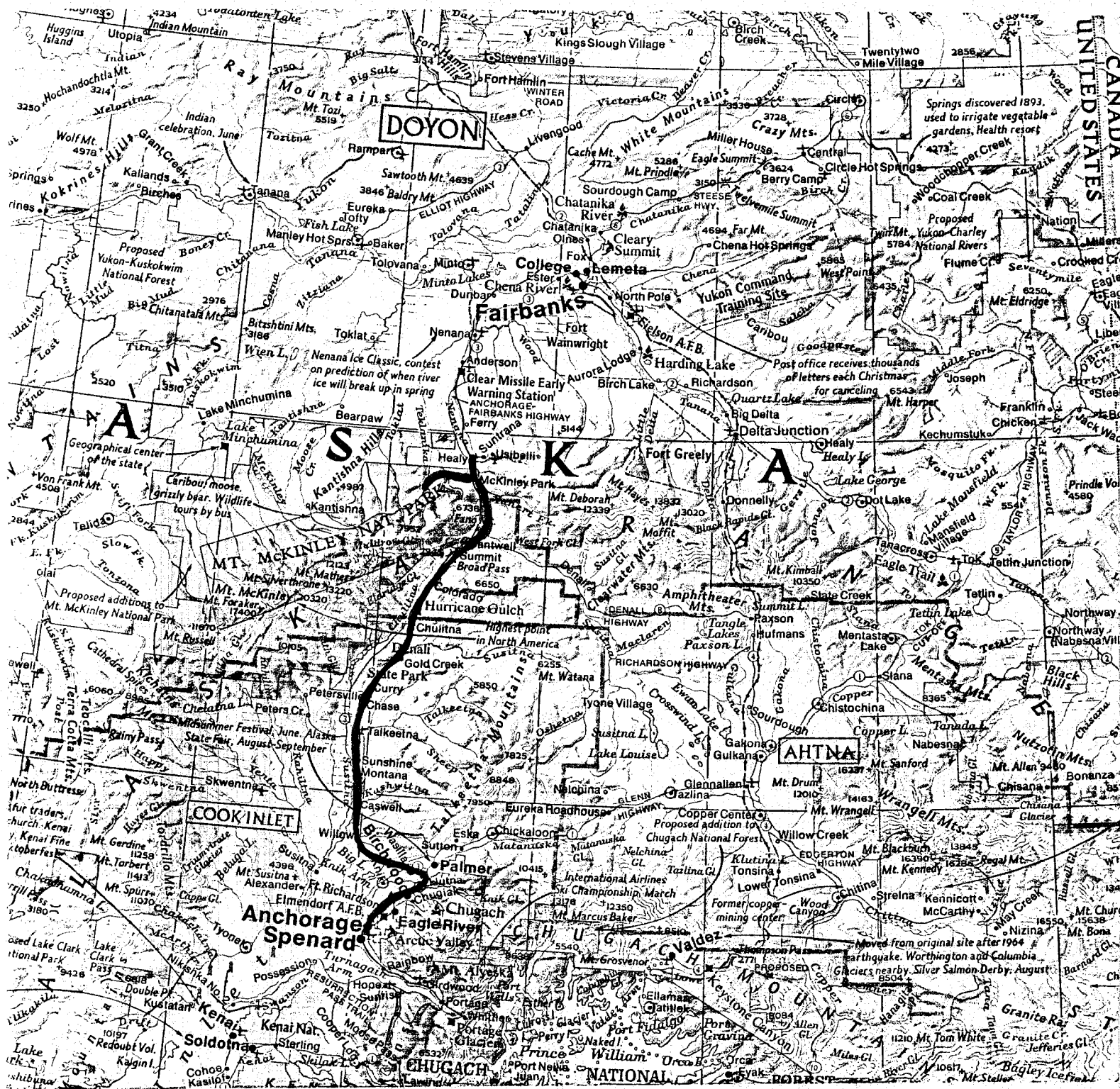




## Northwest Cape of St. Lawrence Island









BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

Species	Date	Locality	Anchorage	Attu Island																Nome	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island								Curlew L. & St. Mary's	Anch. to McKinley	McKinley Park
				May																	June										
				7/28	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10		
Com. Loon						1	1	1				3		1	1	6	1	1													
Yellow-bi. Loon												1		6				1				1									
Arctic Loon							1													3		14	6	2							
Red-throated Loon						1	2	2					2	1		2				1											
Horned Grebe	1					2																									
N. Fulmar																						3	14	6	3	5					
Short-t. Shearwater																								2							
Pelagic Cormorant						75	80	165	75	460	100	135	200	250	315	30	210	235	180	175		75	35	35	150	40					
Red-faced Cormorant						5	8	5	23		8		5	2				135	155	8											
Whistling Swan																										8					
Canada Goose	8																			1											
Brant																				51											
Emperor Goose																						2	3	12							
White-fronted Goose	2																														
Bean Goose													1	1																	
Mallard	4		16	18	12	9	8	3	6	11	4	8				10	6	4	1												
Pintail	6		3	2	1	3	11	2		15	19	12								85	2	4	6	5	6						
Falcatad Teal														4			4	4	4												
Green-winged Teal	2		10	49	22	33	36	12	16	32	15	9	1	4	11	3	3	6			3				2						
Garganey					14																										
Blue-winged Teal	1																														
N. Shoveler	10																			5								1			
European Wigeon			2 <sup>g</sup>	6	2 <sup>g</sup>	3	6			4	4	4	5			1	1														
American Wigeon	8												12														2				
Com. Pochard			3 <sup>g</sup>	3 <sup>g</sup>	12	1	4 <sup>g</sup>				4 <sup>g</sup>																				
Canvasback				1					1																						
Greater Scaup	1						11				1				4	3	1	1		11							10				
Tufted Duck			20	27		12	16	2	2	13	3	16	6	21	14	7									2						
Com. Goldeneye				4																											
Barrow's Goldeneye	2 <sup>g</sup>																														



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

Locality  Species      Date		Anchorage	Attu Island																Nome	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island								Curlew L. & St. Mary's	Anch. to McKinley	McKinley Park
			May																	June										
		7/8	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10			
Lesser Yellowlegs		4																												
Solitary Sandpiper		1																												
Wood Sandpiper			25	7	6	16	4		6	9	5	1	1						1	1			1							
Terek Sandpiper										15	3	1																		
Com. Sandpiper						1		1		1	3		2																	
Spotted Sandpiper																									3					
Polynesian Tattler						1				1	2			1																
Wandering Tattler								1							1				1	1	1	1								
Ruddy Turnstone														1				3	8	4	7	5	6							
N. Phalarope		15												1				31	1	6	1	5								
Red Phalarope																		15	2	11	15	18	2	3						
Com. Snipe				1	3	2	2		1		2	2		4				4					1		1	1				
Short-bi. Dowitcher		18																												
Long-bi. Dowitcher																			4		3	1								
Red Knot																		3												
Semipalmated Sandpiper																		13												
Western Sandpiper																		1	1	19	6	4	30	4						
Rufous-necked Sandpiper										1	5	4		1		6						1	4							
Little Stint																								1						
Temminck's Stint																								1						
Long-toed Stint				6	2	3	3		1		1																			
Least Sandpiper		3																	1											
Pectoral Sandpiper																							1							
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper											1																			
Rock Sandpiper			10	41	5	8	14	4	5	9	13	9	10	13	3	5	7		1				3							
Dunlin			2	4		2	1		1	4	2	4	2	2				2	1	15	30	4	78	1						
Ruff						10															1									
Pomarine Jaeger																		36		11			7							
Parasitic Jaeger																		3			2			1						
Long-tailed Jaeger																		12					2		6					



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

Species	Date	Locality	Anchorage	Attu Island																															Nome	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island								Curlew L. & St. Mary's	Anch. to McKinley	McKinley Park
				May																June																										
				17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10																	
Cliff Swallow																											70	50																		
Gray Jay																													8																	
Black-billed Magpie																											8	2																		
Com. Raven			3	4	10	10	16	2	16	5	15	11	2	1	6	3	20	1		1		2	2	1	3																					
Boreal Chickadee																													4																	
Winter Wren				1	1																																									
American Robin	10																		5								35	22	10																	
Eye-browed Thrush												1	2	1																																
Dusky Thrush			1																																											
Varied Thrush	1																									1	2	1																		
Hermit Thrush																													1																	
Swainson's Thrush																											2	3																		
Gray-cheeked Thrush																			10							20	8	2																		
Wheatear																					18			18																						
Bluethroat																								18																						
Siberian Rubythroat																	2	1	1																											
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																											1																			
White Wagtail																					1	1		2	1	1																				
Yellow Wagtail		1				1						1	1	1					3			1	2	4	1	2																				
Water Pipit	7	2				1								1																																
Indian Tree Pipit																		1								1																				
Red-throated Pipit																			1				1	4		1																				
Orange-crowned Warbler																										2	10	5																		
Yellow Warbler																										8		1																		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10										1																	1																		
Northern Waterthrush																			1							3	3																			
Wilson's Warbler																			6							4		3																		
Rusty Blackbird	4																											4																		
Brambling		53	32	142	14	6		5	10	2	1		1	1																																
Hawfinch		1																																												



## BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1980 BY PAUL SYKES

Locality	Anchorage	Attu Island															Nome	Gambell, St. Lawrence Island								Curlew L. & St. Mary's	Anch. to McKinley	McKinley Park
		May																June										
Species	Date	17/18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch			40	19	30	8	9		13	9	10	20	9	19	6	4	1											
Oriental Greenfinch			1																									
Hoary Redpoll			1	7		5	4			2	2	3	1	8			2	6		2	1	4	5		5			
Com. Redpoll	30																	2										
Savannah Sparrow	6																	6					1	2	2			
Dark-eyed Junco	9																					18			1	6		
Tree Sparrow																		1										
White-crowned Sparrow	1																	1						1	2	8		
Golden-crowned Sparrow																		5										
Fox Sparrow																		4				1		4				
Song Sparrow			10.	19	27	13	15	2	6	11	15	8	8	7	9	7	9											
Lapland Longspur			300	500	250	300	350	20	250	300	350	350	200	400	250	400	150	14	15	40	200	50	350	5	4			
Snow Bunting			125	175	200	150	250	12	125	150	200	200	100	200	75	250	60		20	20	12	30	100	4				
Rustic Bunting				20	18		18		18	18	28	28																
Gray Bunting														1														
Common Reed Bunting									18		18				18													
TOTAL SPECIES	32	30	40	33	34	41	16	31	35	41	47	24	36	25	28	20	55	25	46	36	40	47	14	27	23	18		
NO. HOURS AFIELD	3.1	8.5	14.0	10.5	10.75	13.0	6.5	9.0	13.25	13.0	12.5	6.25	14.25	12.5	9.25	2.75	9.0	3.0	13.25	8.0	11.5	11.0	1.5	6.0	8.0	5.5		



Meteorological Observations - Attu Island  
Spring 1980

Date	General Conditions	Temperature (°F)		Wind (knots)		Precip. (Inches)	Barometric Pressure (0700 to 0800)	
		Max.	Min.	Direction	Velocity		Inches	Millibars
14 May	-	50	36	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	39	34	-	-	T	-	-
16	Stormy	38	33	-	>65	1.68	-	-
17	-	52	34	-	-	0	-	-
18	Mostly clear	50	33	NW	5-15	0	29.82	1010
19	Foggy	45	42	E	0-5	0	30.01	1016.5
20	Clear and sunny	43	34	NW	10-25	0	30.00	1016
21	Clear and sunny until 1800, then cloudy	56	33	SE	0-10	0	30.01	1016.5
22	Complete overcast	43	34	SE	0-15	0	29.94	1014
23	Stormy	42	38	ESE-NE	20-35	0.50	29.57	1001.5
24	Stormy until 1300, then overcast; 2000-2200 intermittent rain, snow, & sleet	43	36	N	35-20	T	29.51	999.7
25	Partly cloudy with intermittent snow flurries	45	34	N	0-10	0.09	29.71	1006
26	Clear and sunny	53	36	SE-NW	0-12	T	29.91	1013
27	Completely overcast	45	41	SW	0-8	0	30.14	1021
28	Mostly overcast in morning, intermittent rain in afternoon and evening	44	37	SW-S	3-15	0.05	29.99	1015.5
29	Mostly overcast, light rain 1900-2100	47	37	SW	0-12	0.14	29.66	1003
30	Partly cloudy with intermittent light rain	47	38	S-SW	10-25	0.05	29.51	999.7
31	Rainy until 1230, then overcast	45	37	SW	5-20	0.05	29.47	998.0
1 June	Overcast	43	39	N	0-5	0	29.54	1000.5

\*\* The low barometric pressure reading between 23 and 24 May was 28.76 inches or 974 millibars.



The search for the Gray-headed Chickadee on the east side of Highway 3 at Healey on the afternoon of 9 June and on the morning of 10 June at Teklanika Campground in Mt. McKinley National Park by 25 people was not successful. Not finding this Old World tit and missing the Ross' Gull and McKay's Bunting at Gambell were the only disappointments.

We returned to Anchorage by van from Mt. McKinley National Park about 1700 hours on 10 June. I took NW Orient Flt. 28 at 0100 on 11 June for the return to the lower 48, via Seattle to Chicago; then NW Orient Flt. 708 to Miami, arriving at 2054. The trip from Miami to Delray Beach by limousine got me home by midnight.

The Alaska trip produced 8 lifers, bringing my ABA North America list to 732. I also added a number of birds to my Alaska list that is now at 213 species. In the course of the trip I met a lot of birders and renewed a number of old acquaintances. Overall it was a fantastic trip. I am ready to go again but my bank account definitely isn't. I owe many thanks to Larry Balch for letting me tag along with his Attour group. Larry is to be congratulated on doing a superb job that payed off in many days of fabulous birding.



### Species Accounts

Red-faced Cormorant A few pairs were nesting on the old piers at Massacre Beach and at Navy Town. However, they were much more abundant around Murder Pt. and west along the south shore of Attu.

Bean Goose An adult was found in late morning of 26 May on the lake in lower part of West Massacre Valley, Attu. It was seen by nearly everyone. I counted 9 Questars and several scopes all lined up on the bird at one time. The proximal part of the bill was dark and the area forward of the nasal openings was orange with a dark tip. The head and neck were much lighter gray-brown than I had expected. The feet were bright orange; much brighter in color than the orange area of the bill. The remainder of the plumage was text-book. We watched it feeding on plants while it swam and walked along the edge of the lake. When we moved closer the bird flew over and landed in about the middle of the marsh east of the road crossing the lower part of the marsh. On 27 May it was seen flying about lower West Massacre Valley on several occasions.

Falcated Teal Two pairs were found on Big Lake, Attu, on the evening of 27 May. The birds were seen by everyone. These birds were present at least through 31 May. This is the same lake where Benton Basham, Paul DuMont, and I had a pair of this species in May 1976. The female Falcated Teal is very similar in appearance to the female European Wigeon, and at a distance or in poor light could easily be overlooked or misidentified.

Garganey I found a female in association with 2 males and a female Green-winged (Eurasian race) Teal in a small wet depression about halfway out on the west side of the Alexai Peninsula, Attu, on the afternoon of 20 May. Larry Peavler, Bill Bouton, and Mack Smith also saw the bird at this time. It was seen the next day by Dan Gibson, et al. and on 22 May by Larry Balch, Guy McCaskie, et al. In comparison with the Green-wings, the Falcated female was slightly larger and the bill was distinctly larger. The general coloration appeared lighter than the female Green-wing; more of a blackish tone rather than brown. The top of the head and hind neck were black. The superciliary was much whiter in coloration than that of the female Green-wing. Also, the white stripe behind and below the eye made the black eye line more distinct. This coupled with the white throat, made a distinct head pattern, quite different from female Green-wings. We flushed the bird on 20 May and did not relocate it. Over the next several days when others found this bird it was often found with Green-wings feeding among the kelp beds at Alexai.

Canvasback What was either an immature male or a female, was found by Davis Finch and party on the lake in lower West Massacre Valley, Attu, on 19 May. Thede Tobish, myself, and others saw it shortly thereafter. The long bill combined with the long sloping forehead (gave the typical profile of the Canvasback) were carefully noted. The bird was definitely not a female Pochard. The bird was seen daily at least through the a.m. of 23 May.



White-tailed Eagle An immature was found by Larry Balch, Barbara Hickey, and Jerry Rosenband about 1500 on 27 May soaring in the vicinity of the Loran Station and the Main Runway, Attu, having come from West Massacre Valley past Artillery Hill. I saw the bird from lower West Massacre Valley above the ridge of Brambling Bluff and Artillery Hill as soon as word came over Thede Tobish's radio. I watched it for several minutes and saw it disappear from sight as it soared upward into the clouds at 800 to 1000 feet. The shape of this species is distinctive, and the tail appeared as if white but at the distance I could not be sure. Others closer to the bird confirmed a little later that the tail was indeed mostly white but with some brown in the feathers. The tail was relatively short and wedge shaped. The wings were extremely broad right to their tips; the forward and rear edges of the wings appeared parallel. The neck and head were long in proportion to the appearance of a bobbed tail. The wings were held flat as the bird soared. I could not see any further details because of the distance from the bird.

On 29 May, Larry Peavler, Walter Krawiec, and I watched the immature White-tailed Eagle from 1505 to 1515, while in Peaceful Valley, as it flew and glided about the lower flank of Terrible Mt. and up Peaceful Valley and out of view as it headed through North Pass around Bottle Cork Hill. This was a much closer study than on 26 May. The bill was very large, readily seen, and about the color of cheddar cheese. The short wedge-shaped tail showed a lot more white from above than below. The underwings showed much white extending from the body almost to the tips. The broad flat wings and long neck were readily apparent. The bird appeared to be riding the updrafts close to the mountain flank. It was first observed at an estimated distance of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile.

Ringed Plover A bird was found at the pond-marsh area at the NW corner of Troutman Lake at Gambell between 0700 and 0800 on 8 June. It was heard calling several times--- somewhat different from that of the Semipalmated Plover. Many people got to see it through a Questar. The broad dark band across the breast and the more clearly defined head pattern make this species fairly easy to separate from the Semipalmated.

Dotterel On 7 June, Ben King, Eli Elder, Mike Newlon, myself, and one other person whose name I don't recall, were walking abreast on top of Sevoukuk Mt., St. Lawrence Is., working northward, when Mike, who was off to my left about 200-250 yards, spotted a Dotterel on the ground. Mike called to us and as he did so the bird flew off to his left and disappeared; Mike being the only one to have seen it. We all searched in the direction it was last seen but did not find it. About 2000 hours we returned to where it was first seen and there it was in full alternate plumage. What a beautiful sight! We had a good study with binoculars and Ben's scope. Ben remained in the area to keep track of the bird while the rest of us headed down the mountain to the village with the good news as we did not know if the others could hear Ben's radio message as he could not get any reply with repeated tries. The others got to see the bird and found other Dotterels later that evening in the process. It now appears there were at least 2 pairs on the mountain. The habitat where we had the first bird is gentle sloping tundra with numerous exposed lichen covered rocks. The first bird was near the trail leading to the village burial site on top of Sevoukuk Mt.



ATTU

cloudy

AUG- 6-9-

SAW Eiders with  
LITTLE EIDLINGS all  
downy. MUST have  
hatched a week before.

One Snow owl

By Reservoir

3 loon looking birds <sup>500 yds</sup> away  
on Henderson LAKE.

- NOT TO MANY Ravens  
SAW 9 all told.

Seemed to be AN EXCESS  
of Humpback MALES RATIO  
of 8-2. For Ever 10 fish <sup>or</sup> 7-3

Dolly Varden hitting  
Crest on red & white spinners  
Maps with Rubber minnow.  
Some Salmon were beginning  
to rot at this time.  
3 out of 10 fish.



Snow buntings  
Herring  
Mallards  
Eiders  
Sandpeers

TALKED TO A guy  
who was there the  
week before and he  
said he caught 6-4  
females.



Black-tailed Godwit Richard Biss found a bird in the intertidal zone at the shoreward end of Loaf Is., Attu on 19 May. The bird, in almost full alternate plumage, was seen by nearly everyone. The straight bill, the bright orange neck and breast, heavily barred sides, broad white stripe in the wings, and tail with white base and broad black terminal band were readily apparent. Despite its size and bright color, it was difficult to locate among the marine growth until it moved. I had another Black-tailed Godwit on 29 May when one flew past the front of the Loran Sta.

Bristle-thighed Curlew As Bill Bouton, Homer Eschenbar, Thede Tobish, Claudia Wilds, and I (we were the first of 5 groups to look for the curlew on the mountain that day) were starting up the south face of the central peak of the mountain at Curlew Lake on the afternoon of 8 June, a bird flew from the east side of the mountain giving its aerial "song" and circled and landed about 75 feet from me in clear view slightly upslope. It remained on the ground a little less than a half minute and then flew over the top of the mountain and disappeared. Its rusty rump and base of the tail were readily seen. We then started down to catch the float plane that was shuttling us, 3 to 5 people at a time, between Curlew Lake and St. Mary's. Everyone in Larry Balch's Attour group got to see the Bristle-thighed Curlew --- 30 some people.

Greenshank A bird was found in the marsh area at Navy Town, Attu on 20 May. I don't know who found it first. The bird was present for two days in this area, and was not reported on 23 May. This large shorebird with rather heavy green legs and salt and pepper upperparts, throat and chest, and white belly and undertail coverts, was seen by everyone who visited the area. The bird was relatively tame and when flushed flew only a short distance before dropping into another part of the marsh. In flight the white rump and "V" up the lower back were quite striking. Another Greenshank was seen at NE corner of Casco Cove, Attu, on the afternoon of 25 May.

Terek Sandpiper An incredible count of 21 Terek Sandpipers in lower West Massacre Valley around the shore of the lake was made on the afternoon of 25 May. Of the 21, I saw 14, the other 7 having flown before I arrived at the spot, delayed when my front bike tire blew near the dump. Still later another Terek was found in the NE corner of Casco Cove in the rocks. I saw it a little after 2100 after fixing the tire on the bike. Three birds were seen at the same locality on 26 May and a lone bird in the nearby marsh on 27 May. in W. Massacre Valley

Common Sandpiper A bird was discovered by Davis Finch on 22 May at the mouth of the river flowing out of East Massacre Valley, Attu. It flew up river and by the time I saw the bird it had moved between  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The plumage was similar to the basic plumage of our Spotted Sandpiper, but with dark legs. From the 22 through 29 May, birds were found scattered all over that part of Attu being covered.

Polynesian Tattler Dan Gibson found one in the intertidal zone at the east end of the E-W Runway, Attu, in the afternoon of 22 May. It was seen by myself and others shortly after it was found. The upper parts were a soft gray with fine white spotting on the back. The bird had a light superciliary stripe. Underparts were white with very fine dark barring on the breast and underside of the tail. The lower belly and undertail coverts were immaculate white. Legs were light in color and bill was dark. Bird stayed in the same general area. This species was found regularly along the beaches 22-29 May.



Indian Tree Pipit Mike Tove watched as a small bird flew in off the ocean from the south and landed on a small sea stack at Murder Pt. in late afternoon of 31 May. Dan Gibson identified the bird. Others of us arrived shortly thereafter and studied it as it move about. It spent a good bit of time in clear view in two tracks of an old jeep trail through the grass near the south shore of the point. The bird had an olive back, hind neck, and crown with a few faint dark streaks, a white throat and superciliary line, and was whitish below with bold dark streaks on the breast and sides, and light colored legs.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler A male in full breeding plumage was seen along the road to Alexai Pt. on 26 May. The bird was first found on the 25th. This is probably the western most record for this species.

Brambling There was a tremendous flight of this species on Attu this spring. We found them everywhere we went. They seem particularly fond of bluffs and sides of steep hills. The birds included a good mix of both sexes. I made the following counts:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Individuals</u>	<u>Comment</u>
18 May	53	
19	32	
20	142	- 95% of these were found along the bluffs on road to Alexai Pt. One flock contained 60 birds by actual count.
21	14	
22	6	
23	0	- did little field work because of storm
24	5	
25	10	
26	2	
27	1	
28	0	
29	1	
30	1	
31	0	

Hawfinch I spotted the bird as it flew past the Fish Hut, Attu, on the afternoon of 18 May shortly after our arrival on the island. Thede Tobish and others quickly picked the bird up in flight. The large size, heavy bill, and broad white stripe through the central part of the wings was readily seen. The bird flew off a distance, making a big loop and landed in front of the Loran Sta. Thede went after it. It took flight again and flew past the north flank of Artillery Hill and disappeared. A number of the Attour group saw the bird. Single birds were reported several times during the remainder of our stay at Attu.

Oriental Greenfinch A male was found between the E-W Runway and Casco Cove, Attu, in late afternoon of 18 May. The bird was seen by most of the group. It was observed in flight and on the ground. It had a dark head, **dark brown back**, dark olive underparts, a big splash of **bright yellow** in the wings, and bright yellow on each side the base of the dark tail. The bird was in a grassy area with a low ridge running along the side nearest the cove. It was apparently present the morning of 19 May but was not seen after that.



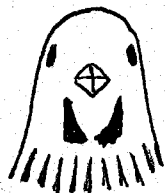
Hoary Redpoll I found a nest with 1 newly hatched young and 4 eggs at Gambell, 7 June.

Lapland Longspur About 90% of the nests I found on Attu and Gambell contained 6-egg clutches.

Gray Bunting A bird was found near the beach in dense grass along a low terrace about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile west of the base of Murder Pt. toward Krasni Pt. about 2130 on 29 May by Thede Tobish and Mack Smith. Larry Peavler and I arrived within 5 minutes of the birds discovery. The four of us studied the bird at least a dozen times over the next hour. Then Ben King arrived and we studied the bunting some more and we all got to observe the bird through Ben's scope. The bird hopped about feeding like a sparrow and fed on the ground. The head, neck, and underparts were mouse gray with fine grayish streaks on the sides and across the breast. It was darker gray in the areas of the eyes and lores. The bill was small, pinkish, and finch-like. The back was brown with buffy streaking. The rump and upper tail coverts were rusty. The wings were brown with 2 faint buffy wing bars. The upper most wing bar was much shorter than the other. The tail was gray-brown and showed no white. The bird appeared to be about the size of a Lapland Longspur, one of which it was close enough for comparison. The buntings flight was similar to that of a Song Sparrow. A search for the bird on the morning of 30 May by almost everyone working as a group and then by some after that did not relocate the bird.

Common Reed Bunting Guy McCaskie found a female on the north side of Brambling Bluff, Attu, shortly after noon on 24 May. It stayed in the area all afternoon, frequently feeding in a shallow ditch beside the road. Everyone who tried for the bird saw it. I observed the following. A generally pale Emberiza, superficially resembling a female House Sparrow. The top of the head was brown with fine dark streaks, hind neck was cream colored, and the back was brown with distinct yellowish streaks. The rump was a light cream color or off white --- much paler than the hind neck. The light rump was very distinct when the bird hopped about on the ground and in flight. There were fine light brown streaks on the sides and across the breast, small black triangles on each side of the whitish throat (these black triangles did not meet the light brown streaks on the breast), brown auricular area with light line above and another below, and mostly unmarked off white belly and undertail coverts. The bird had a pale rufous shoulder patch. \* This was a life bird for everyone. The bunting was still present on 30 May. During this time it stayed in the same general flat area between the bluff and the road. On 26 May we watched it feeding on some worm-like organisms in the ditch. It was photographed by many people.

Frontal View





Birders on Attu Island, Alaska, Spring 1980

ATTOUR \* Fish Hut

Larry Balch (leader)  
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312-282-0864

Jerry Rosenband (leader)  
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Thede Tobish (leader)  
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ATTOUR - Whoopie Hut

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Robert Ostrander  
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803-884-1244

(continued)



Birders on Attu Island, Alaska, Spring 1980 (cont.)

ATTOUR - Whoopie (cont.)

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Don Roberson

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Gordan Tans

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Bob Tolles

15 Heatheridge  
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NORTHEAST BIRDING

Davis Finch (leader)

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603-394-7658

Elinor Elder

504-10 Concord Downs Circle  
Aurora, OH 44202  
216-562-8337

Charles Gambill

628 Sycamore Dr.  
Pickerington, OH 43147

Edward Greaves

4831 Keane Dr.  
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Edward Harper

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Carolina Lane

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Oliver Scott

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307-234-3975

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Rick Austin (plane ride, ANC-ATU-ANC)

29 Crestview  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
907-694-2869

Elaine Rhode (plane ride, ANC-ATU-ANC)

9340 Strutz Ave.  
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907-344-7522

Paul Sykes

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Joining ATTOUR at—

Gambell:

Mike & Carol Newlon, 408 Wales St.,  
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Cal & Bernie Knight, 425 Lee St.,  
Iowa City, IA 52240

St. Mary's:

Benton Basham, P.O. Box 5,  
Ooltewah, TN 37363; 615-756-3836  
John Miller  
Bill Tucker



FRED ZIELLEMAKER

RECEIVED

JUL 7 1982

Aleutian Islands Unit  
AMNWR

Please  
return to  
me.

1	JS
2	KK
3	HE
4	cmld
5	R
6	KK
7	JS
FBIOL	
1-B-6-d	

-- Field Notes --

ALASKA TRIP - SPRING 1982  
15 May - 12 June

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

20



# EXPENSES FOR THE ALASKA TRIP --- 15 MAY - 12 JUNE 1982

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

## Air Fares

Round trip Miami - Anchorage (NW Orient Airlines)	\$693.10
Round trip Anchorage - Attu (Attout charter, Reeves Aleutian Airlines)	1800.00
Anchorage to Kodiak (Wein Air Alaska)	87.00
Seward to Anchorage (Alaska Aeronautical)	33.65
	<u>\$2613.75</u>

## Ferry Fare

MV Tustumena, Kodiak to Seward (Alaska Marine Highway)	\$35.00
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## Ground Transportation

Gasoline	\$12.00
Bike rental, Attu	50.00
	<u>\$62.00</u>

## Food

Mess bill, Attu (19 2/3 days)	\$52.15
Anchorage (3 1/3 days)	40.00
Ferry (1 day)	5.00
Seward (3/4 day)	12.00
	<u>\$109.15</u>

## Lodging

Attu (20 days)	\$0.00
Anchorage (4 days)	0.00
Kodiak (1 day)	0.00
Seward (1 day) (room cost shared w/Terry Savaloja, Minnesota)	23.00
	<u>\$23.00</u>

## Miscellaneous

Exchange bill, Attu	\$87.10
Telephone calls	55.00
	<u>\$142.10</u>

GRAND TOTAL . . . . .	\$2985.00
COST PER LIFE BIRD (6) . . . . .	\$497.50
MEAN COST PER DAY (29 days) . . . . .	\$102.93



I departed Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at 0745 on 15 May 1982, on Northwest Orient Flight #701, changed to NW Flight #77 in Chicago, changed to NW Flight #55 in Seattle, and arrived in Anchorage at 1600. Jim and Gail Baker met me at the airport and I spent the evening as their guest.

I met Larry Balch and the Attour and Wings tours at the Anchorage Airport at 0630 on 16 May. The group of 11 birders plus myself took Reeves Aleutian Airline charter flight by Balch's Attour at 0700 to Attu Island, the western most island in the chain on U. S. soil. We arrived on the island about 1100, where we were greeted by Jerry Rosenband, Thede Tobish, and the Coast Guardsmen from the Loran Station. During the course of unloading the plane I met Ltjg Robert Wilson, Commanding Officer of the Loran Station, and Warrant Officer Larry Beard, the station's Executive Officer. I spent much of the remainder of the day getting settled in the Loran Station, where I would be staying for the duration of my visit to Attu, and helping the Attour group get set up in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service building and also in the nearby old Loran "A" Station, both located on the southwest shore of Casco Cove. Leaders for Attour were Larry Balch, Noble Proctor, Thede Tobish, Jerry Rosenband, Macklin Smith, and Terry Savaloja, and for Wings, Davis Finch. I was an "independent" not directly a part of either tour group but through the kindness of Larry Balch was provided space on the plane at cost. A complete list of the birders on Attu during the spring of 1982 is found on pages 2 and 3.

The results of my daily observations are presented on pages that follow. The totals for each species for each day represent those individuals that I saw personally. I generally birded with the group as experience has shown the best results are obtained with more eyes and "beaters" working in a cooperative manner. This is particularly true on Attu because the island is large. I counted and tallied individuals of each species as I went along in the field and made estimates for larger numbers of individuals (i.e. cormorants, eiders, gulls, puffins, longspurs, Snow Buntings). The more interesting observations are covered in the species accounts.

Weather data for Attu are summarized in Table 2. For the first time during the spring period on Attu (mid May into early June) there was no snow cover at all in the lowlands and the vegetation was at least two to three weeks advanced compared with previous springs on the island.

#### Trip Schedule

- 15 May - Enroute Ft. Lauderdale to Anchorage
- 16 May - Departed Anchorage, arrived Attu Island
- 17 May through 5 June - Attu Island
- 6 June - Departed Attu Island, arrived Anchorage
- 7-8 June - Anchorage
- 9 June - Kodiak Island
- 10 June - Ferry from Kodiak to Seward
- 11 June - 2/3-day at Seward, returned to Anchorage
- 12 June - Enroute Anchorage to Ft. Lauderdale



Attour

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Thomas R. Albert  
c/o above

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Wings, Inc.

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Leaders, Other Personnel

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(305) 498-8366



# Field Activity

START

1. Date: 16 May 1982 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu -- West and south shores of Casco Cove  
Time afield: 1500 - 1600, 1800 - 2145  
Observers: Mac Smith, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish
2. Date: 17 May 1982 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu -- Bluffs on west side of Casco Cove, Casco Cove, east-west runway area, Murder Point, south shore west from Murder Point  
Time afield: 0800 - 1900  
Observers: Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
3. Date: 18 May 1982 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu -- West and north shores of Casco Cove, south end of main runway, Barbara Point, fish hut to Elwood Pass, lower West Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff, Navy Town  
Time afield: 0800 - 1830  
Observers: Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
4. Date: 19 May 1982 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu -- West side of Casco Cove, main runway, Navy Town, Massacre Beach, first mile of road to Alexai Point, East Massacre Valley, lower West Massacre Valley  
Time afield: 0720 - 1850  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
5. Date: 20 May 1982 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu -- Road bike from the Loran Station to the old Loran "A" Station and then to the base of the bluffs to Alexai Point via runways and Navy Town; hiked to Alexai Point and returned, covering all of the point area  
Time afield: 0800 - 2000  
Observers: Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, et al.
6. Date: 21 May 1982 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu -- Main runway, Navy Town, Brambling Bluff, West Massacre Valley, Elwood Pass, beach at NE corner of Casco Cove, Casco Point, Barbara Point  
Time afield: 0845 - 1645, 1800 - 2030  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
7. Date: 22 May 1982 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu -- Old Loran "A" Station to Barbara Point and return, sea watch at Murder Point  
Time afield: 0900 - 1200, 1400 - 1800  
Observers: Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
8. Date: 23 May 1982 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove bluffs and beach, Barbara Point, Navy Town, all runway areas  
Time afield: 0900 - 1530, 1630 - 1830  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.



9. Date: 24 May 1982 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu -- West Massacre Valley, Jarmin Pass, middle sector of O'Donnel Valley, lower Addison Valley, west arm of Holtz Bay, Williams Lake area  
Time afield: 0900 - 2030  
Observers: Al Driscoll, Davis Finch, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes, et al.
10. Date: 25 May 1982 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu -- Peaceful Valley, South Pass at Bottlecork Hill, mouth of George Creek, Temnac Bay, lower Temnac Valley (first 1½ miles)  
Time afield: 0930 - 1930  
Observers: Larry Balch, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Terry Savaloja, Fritz Scheider, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
11. Date: 26 May 1982 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu -- southern half of main runway, beach on NE shore of Casco Cove, Barbara Point  
Time afield: 0930 - 1130  
Observers: Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
12. Date: 27 May 1982 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu -- West and north shore of Casco Cove, Barbara Point, west end of east-west runway, area around fish hut  
Time afield: 0830 - 1130, 1300 - 1500  
Observers: Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
13. Date: 28 May 1982 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove area, Barbara Point, runway areas, fish hut and vicinity, Elwood Pass, Navy Town  
Time afield: 0830 - 1800, 1820 - 1930  
Observers: Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, George Wagner, et al.
14. Date: 29 May 1982 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu -- non-birding day because of bad weather. Species recorded were seen between the Loran Station and the Fish and Wildlife Service building while riding a bike  
Time afield: -----  
Observer: Paul Sykes
15. Date: 30 May 1982 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove and bluffs, east-west runway, Barbara Point, sea watch at Murder Point (for 1 hour)  
Time afield: 1200 - 1930  
Observers: Larry Balch, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
16. Date: 31 May 1982 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu -- Bike ride to and from the Fish and Wildlife Service building from the Loran Station, sea watch at Murder Point  
Time afield: 0815 - 0845, 1500 - 1930  
Observers: Paul Buckley, Paul Sykes, et al.
17. Date: 1 June 1982 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu -- southeast flank of Weston Mountains above the Fish and Wildlife Service building, Casco Cove and bluffs, east-west runway area, Barbara Point, Murder Point, Big Lake, south beach to Krasni Point



- Time afield: 0745 - 2000  
Observers: Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
18. Date: 2 June 1982 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove and bluffs, east end of east-west runway, Barbara Point  
Time afield: 1500 - 1630  
Observers: Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
19. Date: 3 June 1982 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove and bluffs, east end of east-west runway, main runway, Navy Town, Frambling Bluff, West Massacre Valley, near bluffs to Alexai Point, Elwood Pass  
Time afield: 0800 - 1840  
Observers: Paul Egelund, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Mack Smith, Paul Sykes, et al.
20. Date: 4 June 1982 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove and bluffs, hike to Ternac Valley via South Pass and back, SE flank of Weston Mountains above the Fish and Wildlife Service building  
Time afield: 0800 - 2200  
Observers: Al Driscoll, Ed Greaves, Davis Finch, Paul Sykes, et al.
21. Date: 5 June 1982 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove and bluffs, lower east flank of Weston Mountains (5 creek systems, including Tattler Creek and Kingfisher Creek), east-west runway area, Barbara Point  
Time afield: 0715 - 2145  
Observers: Paul Egelund, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Terry Savaloja, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, George Wagner, et al.
22. Date: 6 June 1982 (Sunday)  
Locality: non-birding day; enroute Attu to Anchorage
23. Date: 7 June 1982 (Monday)  
Locality: Anchorage -- West Chester Lagoon area and NW sector of the city  
Time afield: 1830 - 2030  
Observers: Dave Sonneborn, Paul Sykes, Jr., et al.
24. Date: 8 June 1982 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Anchorage -- West Chester Lagoon area, Point Campbell area, Potter Marsh  
Time afield: 1100 - 1230, 1730 - 1845  
Observers: Paul Buckley, Dave Sonneborn, Paul Sykes
25. Date: 9 June 1982 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Kodiak Island -- mouth of Bushin River and vicinity, area around the headquarters of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
Time afield: 0915 - 1100, 1330 - 1530  
Observer: Paul Sykes  
Weather: Overcast, foggy with steady light rain all day, temperatures in high 40's and low 50's

END



26. Date: 10 June 1982 (Thursday)  
Locality: Ferry, MV Tustumena, from Kodiak to Seward (1045 on 10 June - 0200 on 11 June)  
Time afield: on deck 1100 - 1245, 1400 - 1500, 1630 - 1700  
Observers: Jon Dunn, Terry Savaloja, Paul Sykes, et al.  
Weather: 8 to 10-foot seas, wind SW 15 - 30 mph, overcast, light rain most of the time  
Comments: I was on the verge of seasickness most of the trip so I was not observing continuously. Jon Dunn (leading a Wings Tour of 8 people) and Terry Savaloja were observing most of the period from start of ferry trip until 2000. We were disappointed not to find any Mottled Petrels since conditions were good for gadfly petrels. This was Jon's 4th, Terry's 3rd, and my 2nd try on this ferry and we have not yet seen the Mottled Petrel.
27. Date: 11 June 1982 (Friday)  
Locality: Seward -- town area, marina, and trail at foot of the mountain behind the Alaska Vocational Technical Center  
Time afield: 0930 - 1500 (Terry left for Anchorage at 1200)  
Observers: Terry Savaloja and Paul Sykes  
Weather: Overcast, calm, intermittent light rain, temperatures in the mid 50's.

Upon my return to Anchorage from Attu on 6 June, I stayed with Jim Baker. On 7 June I visited the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Regional Office on Tudor Road. Jim kindly showed me around the regional office and introduced me to many of the staff. I talked with about 15 or so people at the office and renewed old acquaintances with Regional Director Keith Shriner and Special Agent Larry Hood, both of whom I have known from their days with the Service at the Office of Endangered Species (Washington, D.C.) and the Bird Banding Lab (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD), respectively. That evening Jim Baker, several birders that were on Attu, and I enjoyed fresh caught King Salmon at Dave Sonneborn's house, cooked on a grill by Dave and Fritz Scheider. The salmon and the fixings that went with it were delicious --- we all gorged ourselves. I spent that evening and the next day as Dave's guest along with Paul Buckley.

Dave took me to the airport on the morning of 9 June and I caught Wein Air Alaska Flight #111 at 0730 for Kodiak. I arrived at Kodiak at 0830, where Charles Strickland, refuge Manager of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, picked me up. I have known Charlie and his wife Sarah since he was the Assistant Refuge Manager at Loxahatchee N.W.R. at Boynton Beach, Florida, back in 1969-1970. I spent the day as the Stricklands' guest. Took the ferry from Kodiak to Seward on 10 June. Terry Savaloja and I shared a room in Seward on 11 June and birded for several hours that morning until he left with a friend for Anchorage at mid day. I caught Alaska Aeronautical Flight #502 at 1645 from Seward to Anchorage, arriving at 1730. There was some beautiful mountain scenery on this flight as the plane flew at about 1000 feet. Andy Sonneborn (Dave's wife) kindly picked me up at the Anchorage Airport and I spent a pleasant evening with the Sonneborns. Dave dropped me at the airport about 2330.



At 0030 on 12 June I took Northwest Orient Flight #26 to Seattle and then on to Chicago, arriving in the windy city about 1241. I had a 5-hour layover, so Larry Balch picked me up at the airport and I had an enjoyable visit with he and Barbara at their place in Lincolnwood for several hours. Larry drove me to the airport at 1630 and I caught Delta Flight #249 at 1745 for Ft. Lauderdale. I arrived at the Lauderdale Airport at 2125 and was met by my wife, Joan. We returned to home sweet home in Delray Beach about 2245. Thus ended a fabulous trip to Alaska where I visited a number of friends and saw a lot of interesting birds and beautiful scenery.

On this trip I saw 159 species of birds in Alaska. Of these, 6 were life birds, and 20 were new state birds. My North American life list north of Mexico is now at 742 and my Alaska list at 233. The new life and state birds are listed on page 9. My life and state lists conform to all changes in the Second Edition of the ABA Checklist (1982) and the forthcoming Sixth Edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds. The entire group of birders on Attu recorded 116 species of birds during our 3-week stay, of which I saw 90. To date I have seen 126 species of birds on Attu. This was my fourth trip to the island; 3 in spring and 1 in fall.

I spent 188 hours afield birding during the 26-day period or a mean of 7.2 hours per day. Of this, 171 hours were spent birding on Attu or a mean of 8.1 hours per day.



ABA Area Life Birds for North America North of Mexico - Alaska, Spring 1982

1. Green Sandpiper (Tringa ochropus) #738

Date: 18 May

Locality: Lower Henderson Marsh, West Massacre Valley, Attu Island

2. Common Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus) #741

Date: 5 June

Locality: unnamed creek above the Fish & Wildlife Service building on the southeast flank of Weston Mountains, Attu Island

3. Orange-flanked Bluetail (Tarsiger cyanurus) #742

Date: 5 June

Locality: Tattler Creek on the east flank of Weston Mountains, Attu Island

4. Gray-spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa griseisticta) #740

Date: 1 June

Locality: unnamed creek above the Fish & Wildlife Service building on the southeast flank of Weston Mountains, Attu Island

5. Gray Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea) #737

Date: 16 May

Locality: south shore of Casco Cove, Attu Island

6. Pechora Pipit (Anthus gustavi) #739

Date: 19 May

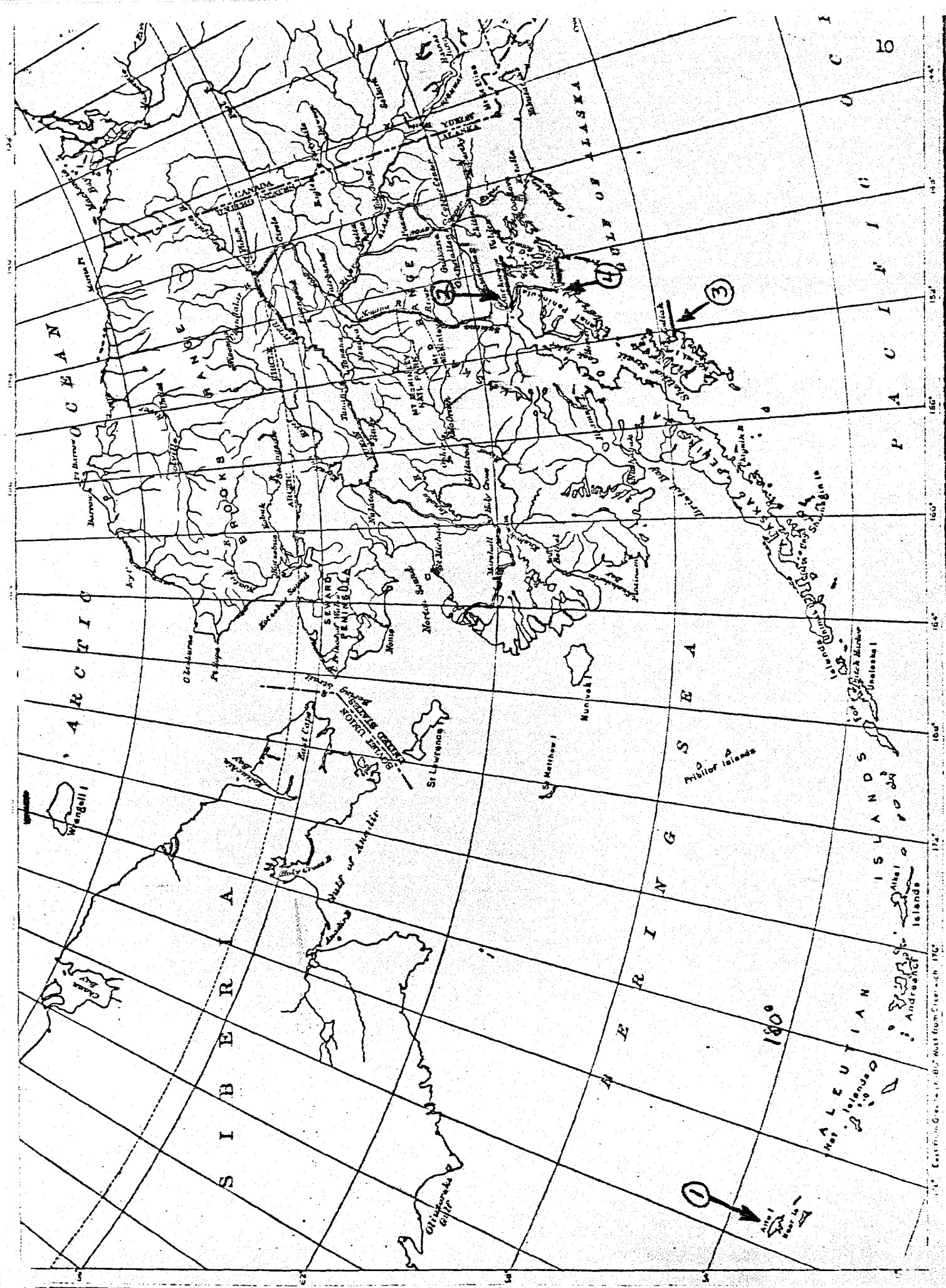
Locality: along the shore at Navy Town, Attu Island

Birds New to My Alaska State List, Spring 1982

Leach's Storm-Petrel  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Trumpeter Swan  
Gadwall  
Redhead  
Spotted Redshank  
Green Sandpiper  
Surfbird  
Sanderling  
Curlew Sandpiper

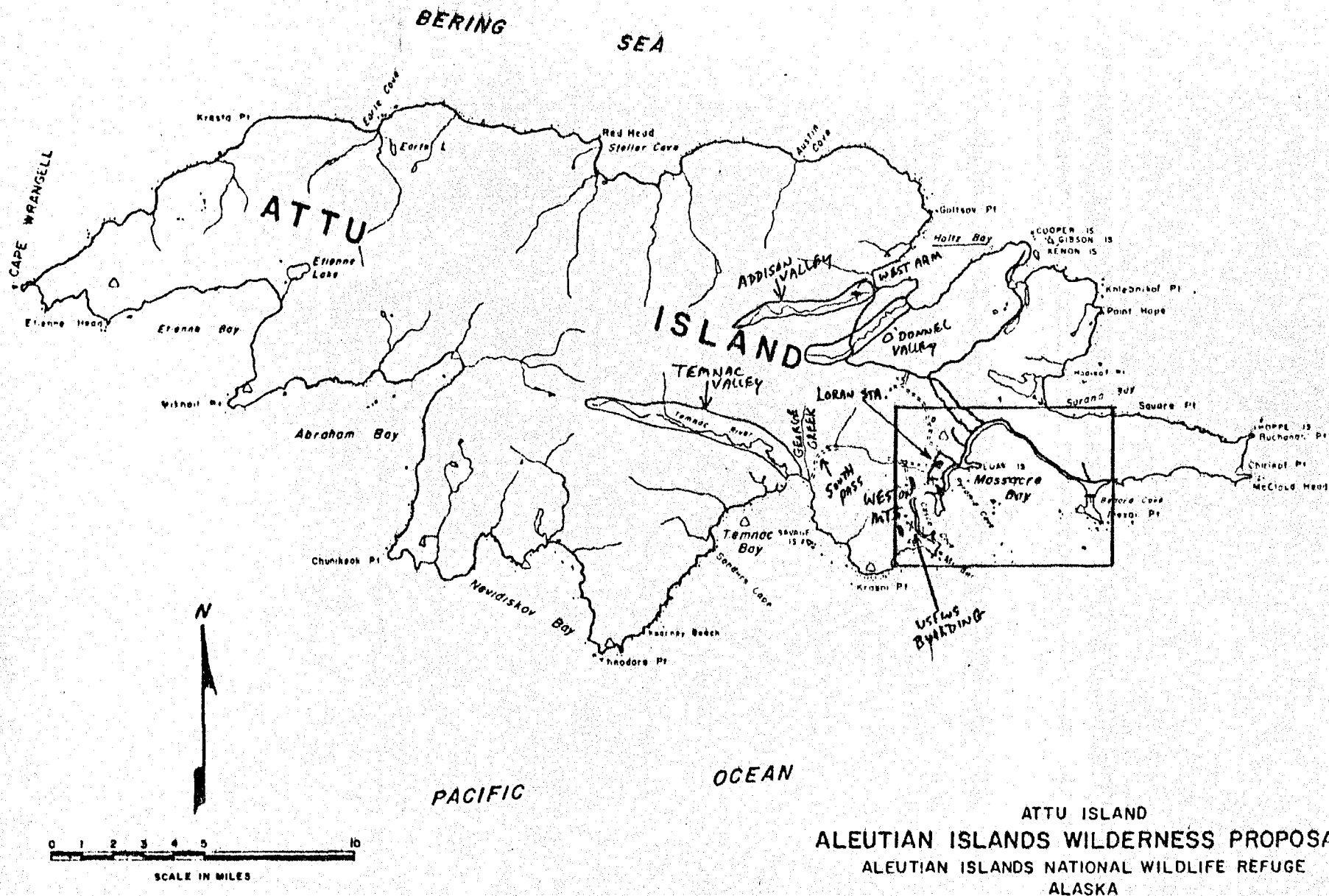
Common Cuckoo  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Western Wood-Pewee  
Stellar's Jay  
Orange-flanked Bluetail  
Gray-spotted Flycatcher  
Black-backed Wagtail  
Gray Wagtail  
Pechora Pipit  
Northern Shrike



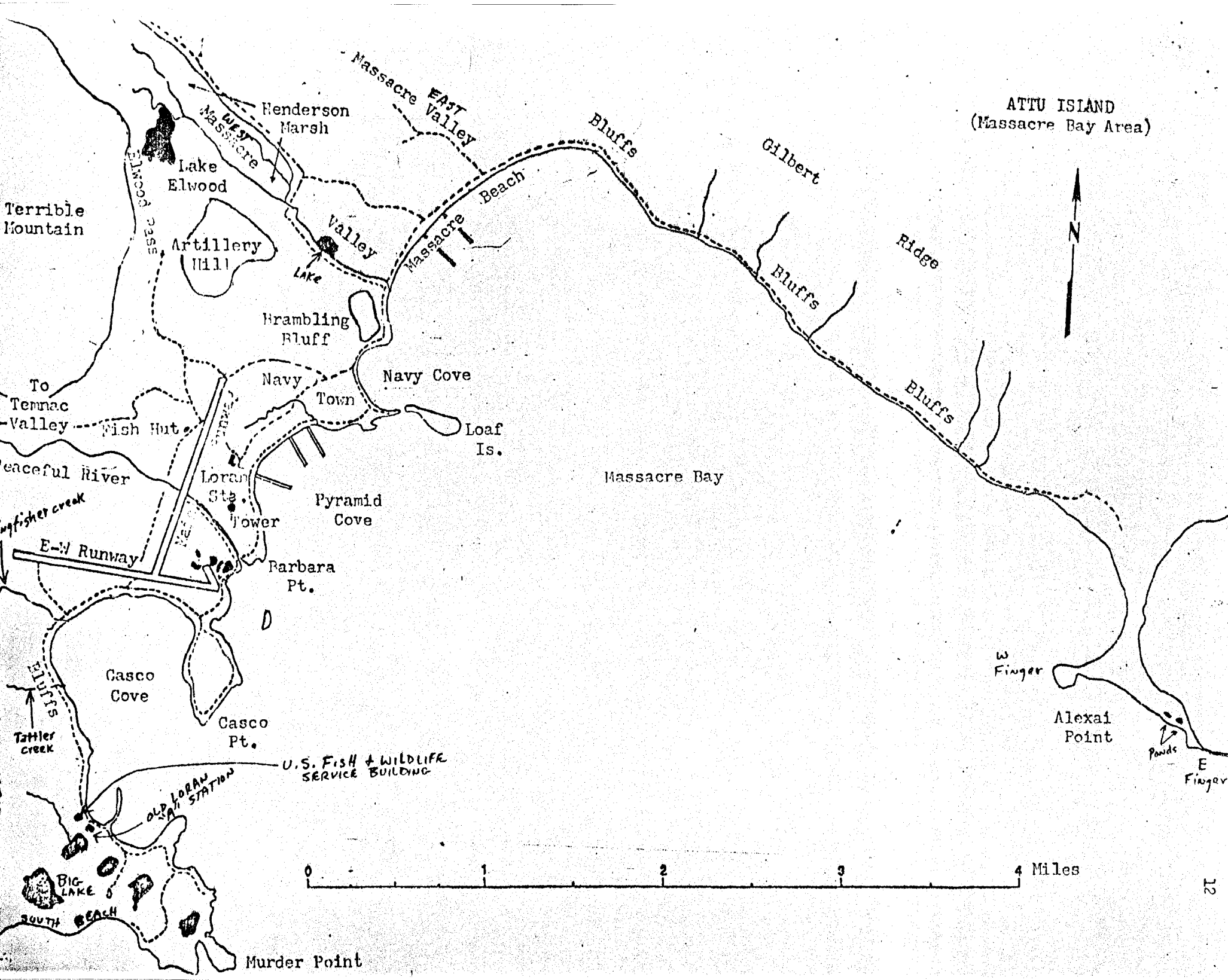


1:50 East from Greenwich 170°

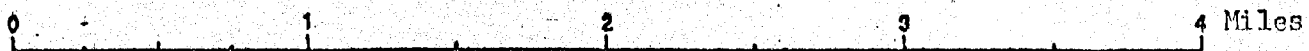




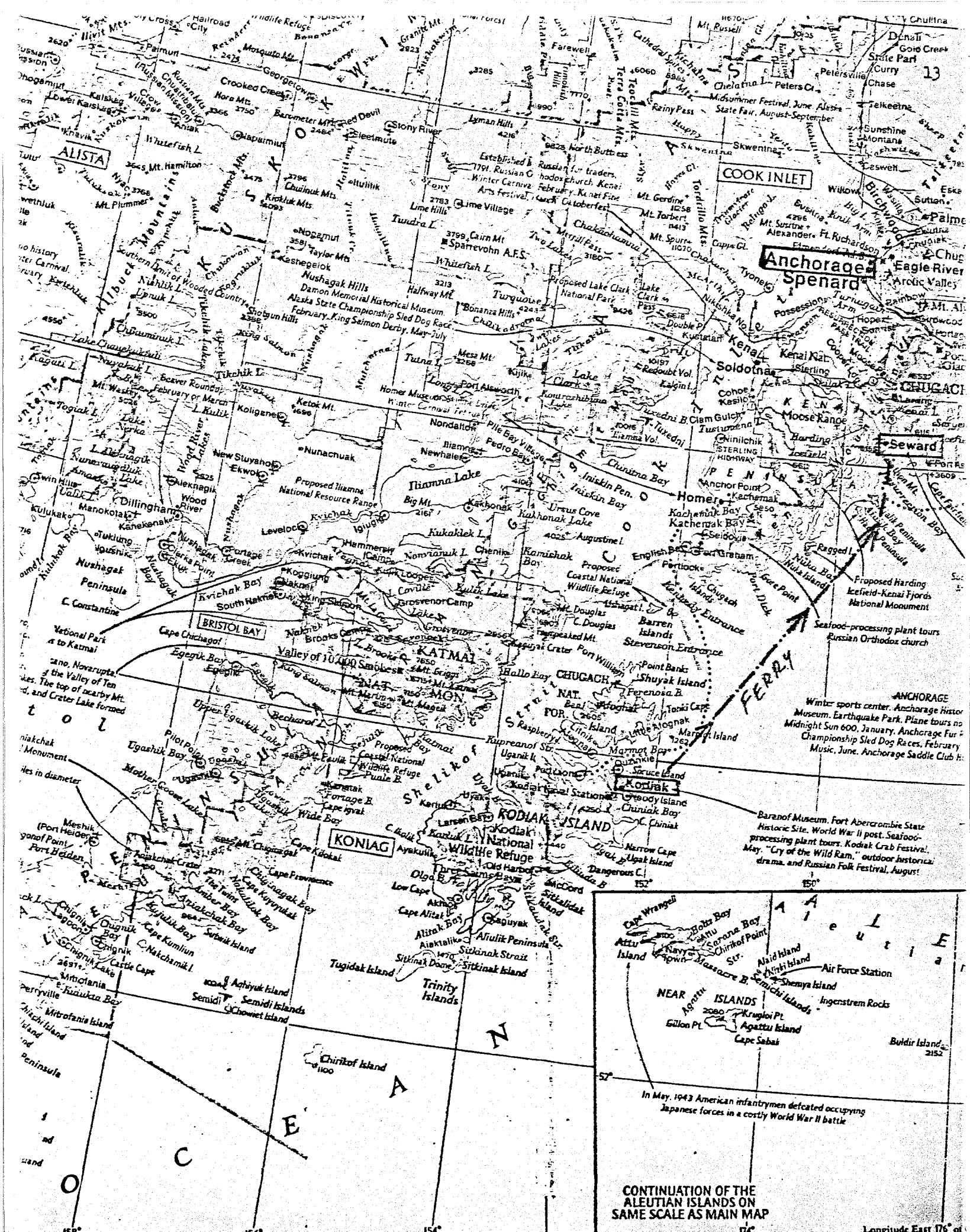




ATTU ISLAND  
(Massacre Bay Area)









BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



## BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

Locality  Species      Date		Attu Island															Anchorage		Kodiak	Ferry	Seward				
		May															June					7	8	9	10
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11
Lesser Golden Plover	28		1	11	6		3			6															
Black-tailed Godwit				1 AD						1															
Hudsonian Godwit																					1				
Pear-tailed Godwit					1					3	3	3		2											
Spotted Redshank				1 AD																					
Com. Greenshank				1																					
Lesser Yellowlegs																					3	8			
Solitary Sandpiper																					2	1			
Green Sandpiper			1																						
Wood Sandpiper	1	42	92	75	6	14	2	2	5	1	2	2						3							
Com. Sandpiper	2	3	1										1												
Spotted Sandpiper																					5	3			
Wandering Tattler														1				1							1
Ruddy Turnstone		10			1					2	2	2													
Red-necked Phalarope																						10			
Red Phalarope																							25		
Com. Snipe		8	9	20	1	3		2		1												1	2		
Short-bi. Dowitcher																					4	5			
Surfbird																					5				
Western Sandpiper					1																				
Rufous-necked Stint		1	1	1								1		2											
Temminck's Stint			2			1		1																	
Long-toed Stint		5	1	3	2			1																	
Least Sandpiper																									
Rock Sandpiper	3	20	10	20	10	8	6	13	3	3	2	10	8	6	2		1		10	7	2	12			



## BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

Locality		Attu Island																				Anchorage		Kodiak	Ferry	Seward	
Species	Date	May															June										
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11
Gray Wagtail		1			1 <sup>AB</sup>																						
Yellow Wagtail			3	1	3	6	1		1						1				1	3	1						
Pechora Pipit					1													1									
Olive Tree-Pipit		2	3	1	3					1								2		3		1					
Red-throated Pipit		1	6	6	2	1																					
Northern Shrike																							1				
Orange-crowned Warbler																								6	1		10
Yellow Warbler																									8		12
Yellow-rumped Warbler																							8	8			5
Townsend's Warbler																											6
Blackpoll Warbler																								1			
Northern Waterthrush																								2			
Wilson's Warbler																								8	20		15
Red-winged Blackbird																								1			
Rusty Blackbird																							1	3			
Brambling			1 <sup>♀</sup>																								
Hawfinch				2																							
Com. Rosefinch																	1 <sup>♀</sup>				1 <sup>♀</sup>						
Pine Grosbeak																									2		
Rosy Finch		1	4	10	15	5	6	4	2	29	5		2	17		2	5	8	3	8	12	6					
Hoary Redpoll					4		8			11										4							
Com. Redpoll																							5	10			
Pine Siskin																								2	2		10
Savannah Sparrow																									4		12
Dark-eyed Junco																							4	6			



## BIRDS OBSERVED IN ALASKA IN THE SPRING OF 1982 BY PAUL SYKES

[illegible]



Table 2. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR ATTU ISLAND, SPRING 1982

Date	General Conditions	Temperature (°F)		Wind		Range in Barometric Pressure (inches)
		Max.	Min.	Range in Direction	Range in Velocity (Kts)	
5 May	Stormy	43	39	120 - 280	6 - 54	28.7 - 29.1
6	Stormy, rain and sleet	41	39	210 - 320	15 - 46	28.8 - 29.5
7	Stormy in a.m., clear in p.m.	43	36	310 - 330	12 - 38	29.5 - 29.9
8	Partly cloudy, occasional scattered light rain	44	36	310 - 020	9 - 21	29.9 - 30.1
9	Mostly clear	45	36	340 - 040	5 - 17	30.1 - 30.1
10	Mostly clear	41	30	290 - 350	6 - 22	30.0 - 30.1
11	Clear	42	28	300 - 330	10 - 20	30.0 - 30.1
12	Mostly overcast	44	38	210 - 320	1 - 21	29.9 - 30.0
13	Overcast, intermittent light rain	42	35	230 - 010	12 - 23	29.6 - 29.9
14	Partly cloudy	47	35	340 - 360	0 - 29	29.6 - 29.8
15	Partly cloudy	46	37	300 - 360	1 - 22	29.8 - 29.9
16	Overcast	43	38	240 - 360	0 - 12	29.5 - 29.8
17	Overcast, intermittent light rain	44	37	360 - 070	0 - 20	29.5 - 29.7
18	Clear	45	38	190 - 030	0 - 19	29.7 - 30.1
19	Stormy, foggy with steady rain	42	41	160 - 200	8 - 38	29.6 - 30.1
20	Stormy, rain squalls	43	40	190 - 220	10 - 36	29.5 - 29.6
21	Stormy, frequent driving rain	44	40	200 - 230	14 - 31	29.5 - 29.7
1 June	Mostly clear	48	38	170 - 250	5 - 31	29.7 - 29.9
2	Stormy	43	40	150 - 250	4 - 55	29.2 - 29.9
3	Mostly clear	45	39	250 - 310	5 - 52	29.3 - 29.5
4	Clear	50	38	250 - 310	5 - 36	29.5 - 29.8
5	Overcast, light rain in p.m.	43	40	200 - 350	6 - 27	29.6 - 29.8



## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Snow Goose 20 May. Two birds were flying around the outer portion of Alexai Point.

Mallard 1) 17 May. Found a nest with 11 eggs in a tussock of lyme grass (Elymus arenarius) along the shore of South Beach.

2) 4 June. A female with 5 downy young was seen near the mouth of Temnac River.

Falcatad Teal 1) 20 May. Davis Finch using a Questar found a male and female feeding in the kelp beds off the east finger of Alexai Point.

2) 21 May. A male and 2 females were found on the ponds at Barbara Point. This made a total of 5 individuals of this species as the two birds at Alexai Point were still there at the same time the 3 were seen. The 3 birds at Barbara Point remained in that area for the duration of our stay at Attu.

Common Eider Males of this species that we had on Attu have a distinct black "V" marking on the chin that is visible when the bird throws its head back in courtship display. Males of the species in the eastern part of North America do not have such a mark. This northern Pacific bird may possibly some day be considered a separate species as the mark is used in courtship.

Snow 1) 18 May. A male and female were found together on Lake Elwood in West Massacre Valley.

2) 19 May. The pair were seen on a small pond in Henderson Marsh.

White-tailed Eagle 1) 25 May. On this date we found the first evidence of this species breeding in North America outside of Greenland. Shortly after noon the Attour and Wings bird tour groups (about 35 birders), to include in addition to myself, Larry Balch, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Jerry Rosenband, Terry Savaloja, Fritz Scheider, Mack Smith, Thede Tobish, George Wagner, et al., slowly entered lower Temnac Valley walking along the north side to the large outcropping of heavily weathered basalt forming cliffs on the north side of the Temnac River. This is the site where Jerry Rosenband, Terry Savaloja, George Wagner, et al. had flushed two adult White-tailed Eagles on 23 May. About half way to our destination after entering the valley, Fritz Scheider spotted an eagle in the air. We watched as it flew over the valley and disappeared from view near the cliff site. Shortly thereafter we located an eagle perched on a pinnacle of rock at the cliffs. As we got closer we saw a second eagle in a crouched position below the first bird. The second bird appeared to be on a nest in an incubating or brooding posture typical of raptors. As we got closer we could see the second bird was in fact on a nest but the structure was not visible from the angle of our observation.

Just as we neared the cliff site we watched the female eagle fly off the nest. The male flew down from his perch on top of the rock pinnacle to the nest and stood for several minutes beside the nest. The male then moved onto the nest; meanwhile the female perched nearby. The male did something at the nest prior to settling into the incubating/brooding position. At the distance of our observation we could not tell exactly what he did. It appeared as though he could have possibly turned an egg or eggs or just checked to see if small young were in proper position for brooding. However, the time he took to do whatever he did seemed too brief for him to have turned more than one egg, if in fact he did so.

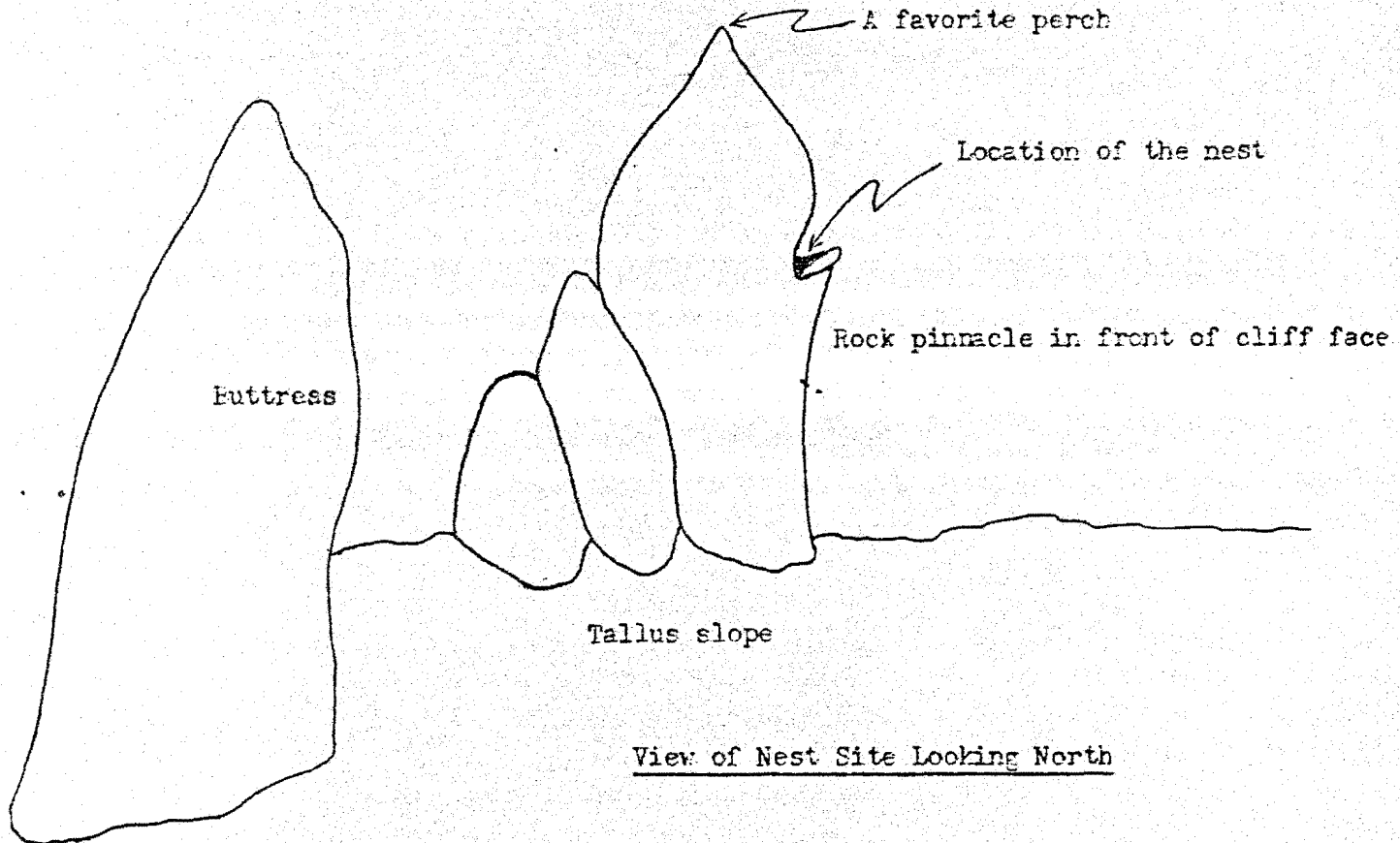


Thede, Larry, George, Richard Albert, and I approached to a point just below the nesting cliff while the rest of the group took a more distant vantage point. Thede then climbed to the base of the nest pinnacle in hopes of reaching the nest to check its contents, but the situation proved too dangerous without climbing equipment. At the same time George climbed an adjacent buttress 30 yards or so to the west of the nest pinnacle in hopes of getting a view into the nest. I stationed myself at a large rock about halfway up the talus slope (about 50 yards) below the base of the nest pinnacle. Larry and Richard were below me at the base of the talus slope near the river. After Thede determined it was not feasible to climb to the nest, he scaled the buttress and joined George. Unfortunately, no one was able to see directly into the nest, so the contents were not determined on this visit to the site. Judging from the behavior of the adults the nest contains either egg(s) in late stage of incubation or very small young (I suspect the former). The birds were really sticking tight at the nest. As soon as we climbed down from the talus slope one of the adults returned to the nest and immediately resumed the incubating/brooding posture.

At our initial approach to the nest site, the female, who was perched on top of the nest pinnacle, was the first to flush at our close approach. The male on the nest did not flush until Thede was almost at the base of the nest pinnacle. During our visit near the nest both adults frequently circled overhead just above the level of the nest and near the top of the main cliff. One bird even perched on top of the nest pinnacle briefly with us directly below. Both birds perched for brief periods on the top edge of the main cliff in clear view just east of the nest. Occasional vocalizations were uttered by the pair. These calls to me sounded very similar to those of the Bald Eagle.

I wrote the following notes while sitting at the large rock below the nest. The nest was placed on top of a large flattened boulder. The boulder was wedged against the SE face of a vertical pinnacle of rock and appears as if it was once part of the pinnacle but had fractured and the upper end dropped about 4 feet away from the pinnacle face coming to rest at a 45 degree angle. The pinnacle is part of a large basalt outcropping, is located at the base of the cliff, and is in front of it facing the river. I estimated the nest was about 55 feet above the base of the pinnacle. This is a little over half way up the pinnacle. From the base of the pinnacle down to the river bank is a 35-degree talus slope overgrown with vegetation. At the nest site, the river bends to the north toward the cliffs and comes almost to the base of the slope. The cliffs have a south aspect and are on the north side of the valley. The nest is located about 2600 meters NW of the mouth of Temnac River (this distance was determined upon return to the Loran Station using a 1959 USGS topographic map). The nest is about 250 feet (vertical height) above the river bed. The boulder upon which the nest is placed is overgrown with grasses, mosses, and new growth of Hellebore. The nest structure was not visible from below except for a very small part of the rim that I could see from my observation point at the rock on the talus slope. Thede and George could see more of the nest structure from their higher vantage point on the buttress.





View of Nest Site Looking North

The nest was placed in a depression formed by the fractured face of the pinnacle and the boulder. The nest structure consisted primarily of dried vegetation: stalks of cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), some with the umbels still attached; lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) with fronds still attached to the rachis; and leaves of Lyme grass (*Elymus arenarius*). The nest structure was estimated to be 3 feet across. The nest was well concealed and somewhat sheltered from the weather. When an adult was sitting crouched on the nest, only the head, neck, and upper breast were visible.

Thede, George, Larry, Noble, Paul Buckley, and others took an assortment of photographs (color slides) at varying distances and aspects to the nest site. Thede had the closest shots, which should show part of the nest structure.

The description of the adults is as follows: female slightly larger than the male (this was evident when the two were together). The wings appeared broader and more square tipped than in the Bald Eagle. The tail is short, white, and wedge-shaped. The tail of the male appeared shorter than the female or else the dark undertail coverts extended further out on the underside in the male than in the female. The undertail coverts are dark brown obscuring much of the white tail from below. The head and neck are a very pale tan gradually getting darker on the neck and blending into the darker brown of the body. The body of this species is much lighter brown than that of the Bald Eagle. In some light and at a distance the head and neck appear as a dirty or off white or cream colored. The wings are brown from below. From above, the brown wings show large grayish patches in the region of the wing coverts. The back is mottled fuscous. The bill and feet are yellow. The flight is like the Bald Eagle.



2) 4 June. Ed Greaves and I climbed the buttress just west of the nest so we could see across the lip of the structure. Ed took a number of pictures (color slides) with a 500 mm lens with the sun to our backs and a clear view of the nest. The nest contained one eaglet that I estimated to be about a week or so old. The chick had fluffy white down. The eye was black and the bare skin around the eye was light gray. The distal 3/4 of the bill was black, while the base of the bill and the rictal region were yellow. We watched as the female fed the chick fish. The fish was probably dolly varden (*Salvelinus malma*) as salmon had not yet started their spawning runs in the creeks and rivers of Attu at the time. The female eagle would tear off very small pieces of fish and feed it to the chick bill to bill. We watched the feeding over a period of about 30 minutes. The female fed the chick at a relatively steady rate. During this period the male flew in from somewhere in Ternac Valley as Ed and I climbed the buttress. As we reached the highest point of our climb on the buttress, the female finally flew from the nest and joined the male perched high on the cliff edge. Then both flew about the cliff face from time to time. As soon as we descended the buttress the female returned to the nest. Hopefully Ed got a number of good pictures of the female at the nest and in flight, and some shots of the nest with the head of the chick visible.

Northern Harrier 18 May. A brown plumaged bird was seen twice: flying up lower Peaceful Valley and again in Henderson Marsh in West Massacre Valley.

Peregrine Falcon 4 June. Judging from the behavior of the female member of the pair, there was an eyrie on the cliff 100 yards or so to the west of the mouth of George Creek. We did not have the time to locate the site.

Ringed Plover 18 May. A bird in good plumage was seen on the beach on the NE shore of Casco Cove with a Ruff, a Ruff-necked Stint, 2 Mongolian Plovers, and several Dunlins. Through a Questar the absence of webbing between the toes was apparent. In the Semipalmated Plover the webbing between the toes is obvious when the species is studied at close range. The plumage of the Ringed was similar to that of the Semipalmated Plover. The bird was observed actively feeding on some type of small invertebrate in patches of bare sand scattered among mats of beached kelp and other marine algae.

Black-tailed Godwit 1) 20 May. An adult in full breeding plumage was seen at the eastern most of two small ponds near the east finger of Alexai Point. We observed the bird resting, feeding, and flying about after we flushed it. In flight the white underwing and distinctive tail pattern were readily seen.  
2) 26 May. On this date I saw a Black-tailed Godwit flying past the east end of the east-west runway.

Spotted Redshank 20 May. An adult in full breeding plumage was seen at the western most of two small ponds near the east finger of Alexai Point. The bird just sat on the edge of the pond as we viewed it.

Common Greenshank 19 May. Thede Tobish flushed a lone bird along a small creek in the marsh just east of the road intersection at the dump in Navy Town. It flushed and then landed again along a nearby creek and most of the group got to see it standing on the bank. It was not seen again.



Green Sandpiper 18 May. We flushed the bird twice in lower Henderson Marsh at the lower lake along the river. This is the third record of this species for North America. The bird had white underparts with some streaking on the breast. The entire upper parts were dark; much darker than in the Wood Sandpiper. In flight the underside of the wing was very dark. The bill was dark and straight. The bird was seen by 15 observers, including in addition to myself, Benton Fasham, Paul Fuckley, Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, et al. The bird flew over a ridge and was not seen again. This was life bird No. 738 for me.

Sanderling 30 May. A bird still in basic plumage was seen on the sand beach south of the mouth of Peaceful River at Earbara Point. This is the second record of this species for Attu (the first was a bird seen by Thede Tobish and Jerry Rosenband this spring just prior to our arrival on the island).

Western Sandpiper 20 May. A bird in full breeding plumage was found resting among the rocks of a shallow tidal pool on the beach near the west finger of Alexai Point. The sandpiper had a rusty cap with fine dark streaks, rusty bar across the upper wing coverts, a small rusty spot on the cheek, and brown wing coverts with black centers. The back was brown with fine black streaks. The underparts were white with fine black streaks across the breast and a few such streaks on the sides. The bill was black and tapered slightly to its tip. The bill was relatively long for a peep (it was at least the length of the head width) with a slight droop at the tip. The legs were black. This is the first Attu record. It was first seen by Davis Finch, Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, and several others.

Temminck's Stint 18 May. Two birds were seen together on the south side at the east end of the east-west runway and again on the sand beach on the NE shore of Casco Cove. The large amount of white on the tips of the outer rectrices were seen. A bird was seen on 21 May at Navy Town and another on 23 May near the west end of the east-west runway.

Curlew Sandpiper 30 May. A bird in full alternate plumage was seen along both sides of the eastern end of the east-west runway. Some said there was a second bird but I saw only the lone individual. This is the first record of the species for Attu.

Ruff 18 May. The bird was seen on the beach on the NE shore of Casco Cove in a mat of beached kelp and in the edge of the stand of Lyme grass. It was a male with a brownish-black head and ruff.

Slaty-backed Gull 17 May. The gull was a second year bird that was seen along South Beach between Murder Point and Krasni Point. It had a dark gray back, white head, white tail with a dark terminal band, white underparts, and the upper surface of the wing with dark primaries and secondaries and white coverts.

Aleutian Tern 29 May. I watched as the terns landed on the ground for the first time since our arrival on Attu this spring. The birds were seen on the ground on the taxiway to the north of the east-west runway, between the taxiway and the east-west runway, and on the tundra between the antenna field and the taxiway.



Crested Auklet 3 June. A lone bird was carefully studied in Casco Cove. It was seen by most of the birders on Attu.

Whiskered Auklet 31 May. Paul Fuckley found the bird close inshore while on a sea watch at Murder Point during the morning. In early afternoon, Paul, together with most of the birders on the island, studied the bird as it fed along the edge of the rocky shoreline at the point. It was studied at length with binoculars, scopes, and Questars at times as close as 50 meters. The auklet was small in size, had a small red-orange bill, white eye, white line over the eye, and a dark gray body with lighter gray color around the region of the vent. The wings were somewhat brownish-gray indicating it was probably an immature bird. This is the first onshore record of this species for Attu.

Common Cuckoo 5 June. Thede Tobish spotted a gray adult about 0830 as the group of birders worked their way up the small canyon with a creek on the SE flank of Weston Mountains just above the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service building. The bird acted as if it might have just arrived as it appeared tired --- flew weakly, perched on rocks, twigs, and the ground. We watched it for 30+ minutes as it moved about flying close to us in the canyon several times and catching insects. It appeared to slowly gain strength and finally flew out of the canyon and disappeared over the ridge to the south. Some of us climbed up and over the ridge. A short time later the bird flew past us and again disappeared, this time into the canyon where it was originally found. During the course of observation I noted the following details. The bird was a large cuckoo with a long rounded tail and long pointed wings. The flight was accipiter-like. When perched, the wing tips reached to within a centimeter or so of the tip of the tail. The primaries appeared black. The tail was black with white spots along the outer edge. The head, neck, and back were light gray. The bill was slender. The underparts were white with very fine dark barring, including the undertail coverts. The barring on the underparts was so fine that it was difficult to see at a distance. The wing linings were immaculate white. I saw this feature quite well several times when the bird flew past at 20 and 30 feet. The presence or absence of barring on the feathers in the carpal area mentioned by some field guides as a sure method to distinguish the Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) from the Oriental Cuckoo (*C. saturatus*) is impossible to see in the field and is thus misleading --- it is strictly an inhand method to distinguish these two species. The eye-ring of the bird we had was yellow. The bill was yellowish toward the base, the remainder being dark. I saw the bird perched as close as 50 feet during the course of the observation. Almost everyone had excellent studies of the bird. This was Life Bird No. 741 for me.

Eye-browed Thrush 1) 18 May. Two birds were observed in the vicinity of the Fish Hut and a third was found just south of Elwood Pass.  
 2) 19 May. I saw an unprecedented number of 11 individuals on this date. Four were seen at one time in upper West Massacre Valley. In addition, I know of at least 2 other birds that were seen on this date by others that I did not see.  
 3) 20 May. Two thrushes were seen on this date.  
 4) 21 May. I saw 3 birds on this date.  
 5) 28 May. This was the last date on which I recorded this species while on Attu. In summary, I figure I saw at least 17 individuals of this species on Attu in late May.



- Siberian Rubythroat 1) 1 June. The first bird, a male, was seen on this date at the old Aleut village site at Murder Point.
- 2) 3 June. A male and female were seen along the near bluffs on the road to Alexai Point.
- 3) 5 June. Paul Buckley, Al Driscoll, and I had a male along a small creek on the bluffs along Casco Cove.

Orange-flanked Bluetail (Tarsiger cyanurus) --- NEW SPECIES FOR NORTH AMERICA

1) 5 June. In late afternoon Terry Savaloja was working along the ridge above "Tattler" Creek (so named by the birders several years ago after a Gray-tailed Tattler was found there), while at the same time Paul Egelund and I were working upstream in the canyon (the rest of the group lead by Thede Tobish had just turned back) when we saw a small bird fly past a waterfall ahead of us and disappear from view behind a rock outcropping. At the time we were 200 to 300 yards up the canyon from its terminus along Casco Bluffs on the east flank of Weston Mountains. Paul and I climbed the lower slope of the canyon wall to get past the waterfall. From above, Terry spotted the unidentified bird perched in a small patch of willows, not yet leafed out, about 1/3 way up the steep wet and slipper canyon wall on the south side about 30 feet or so above the creek and about 25 feet upstream from the falls. My binoculars were fogged up, and it took 3 wipings with a hankerchief before the optics were clear enough for me to see the bird. It took several long frustrating minutes to resolve the fogging problem. I looked at the bird very very carefully and called out BLUETAIL to Paul and Terry --- being the first to identify this small Eurasian thrush that goes by a different English common name in every book you look in --- Orange-flanked Bush-robin, Siberian Blue-tail, Red-flanked Bluetail, Siberian Bluechat, and so on. The three of us studied the bird as it actively moved about on the canyon wall foraging, flying about on short hops, and perching. The canyon at that point was about 150 feet deep. Paul and I had views of the bird at 75 feet across the canyon and about 10 feet above us. I observed the following details on the bird, which appeared to be a female. The head and back were grayish-brown; the wings were brown; the chin and throat were white; the breast was a soft gray (there was no sharp demarkation of the gray; it just gradated to white of the throat and belly region); the tail was brownish with a trace of blue showing when the feathers were fanned slightly; the sides were light orange; it had a light eye-ring; and the bill and eye were dark. The bird pumped its tail up and down almost constantly. Terry ran and got the others as quickly as possible. Thede Tobish, Fritz Scheider, Mack Smith, and John Ribble arrived in a matter of minutes. The bird in the meanwhile had moved up the canyon 100 to 150 feet. The canyon curves northward at that point and the four were able to view the Bluetail from just below the falls. The bird then flew up the canyon and disappeared. Others of the group arrived but the bird was not relocated in the canyon despite a diligent search. This is the first record of the Bluetail for North America. This was Life Bird No. 742 for me. What a way to wind up our last day of birding on Attu.

2) 5 June. About 1½ hours after the first Bluetail was seen, Thede Tobish, Paul Buckley, and I were working along the south bank of lower Kingfisher Creek when Thede spotted a second Bluetail. The three of us had a short study of the bird as it actively foraged in an area of willows, umbels, etc. along the two low parallel ridges between the north bank of the creek and the old aircraft parking pads along the taxiway of the west end of the east-west runway. Others quickly assembled and after chasing the bird about for an hour or so everyone got to see it. After the others had departed, George Wagner, Paul Egelund, and



I had a close leisure study of the bird. Paul and I managed to get within 10 feet of the bird as it perched below us on the creek bank in a willow in clear view. The reason I know this was a second Bluetail was this bird did not have gray across the breast as in the first individual. The second bird had a white eye-ring, and black eye and bill. The head and back were grayish-brown and at certain angles looked almost olive. There were some faint dark streaks on the crown, hind neck, and back. The light orange on the sides of the breast forward of the wing and along the sides was similar in color to that of the female and immature male American Redstarts. The wings were a soft subdued rusty brown --- quite different from the back. The tail was dark grayish-brown with some faint blue visible when the bird fanned the rectrices slightly. The blue in the tail was hard to see even at close range. The chin and throat of this second bird were white with ashy on each side. The remainder of the underparts were whitish, but not as white as the throat. At close range there were faint grayish or brownish spots or streaks widely spaced across the breast. This second bird also appears to have been a female. With just the three of us present and not pressing the Bluetail, it became quite tame and allowed close approach. George took 10 or so color slides of this second bird.

Red-breasted Flycatcher The only disappointment of the trip was that I did not see this species. A total of three individuals, 2 females and a male, were seen on Attu during early June.

- 1) 2 June. George Wagner saw a female in willows on the north side of Ternac Valley about 2½ to 3 miles from the mouth of the Ternac River. No one else saw this bird.
- 2) 4 June. Noble Proctor watched a male fly in off Massacre Bay and land for a moment on a rock on the beach at Alexai Point and then disappear. No one else saw this bird.
- 3) 4 June. A female was found about 1800 along the creek on the SE flank of Weston Mountains just above the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service building. For the next 1½ hours most of the birders got to see this bird, except for the five of us that hiked to Ternac Valley that day and George Wagner. Between 2000 and 2200 hours Al Driscoll, Davis Finch, Ed Greaves, George Wagner, myself, and others searched the area and nearby sites but were unable to locate the bird. A thorough search the next morning also produced negative results.

Gray-spotted Flycatcher 1) 1 June. Paul Egelund discovered the first bird along the creek on the SE flank of Weston Mountains above the U. S. Fish and Wildlife building about 0830. Almost everyone got to see the bird. We saw it about 4 times, once quite well as it perched on top of a steel fence post facing us in good light. This was Life Bird No. 740 for me. A second bird was found along the bluffs of Casco Cove. My description (written in the field at the time) of the second bird is as follows: grayish head, gray appeared almost like a cap; grayish-brown back; brown wings without wingbars; underparts ashy with lines of distinct dark spots on the chin, throat, and across the breast and along the sides; tail brown like wings; eye dark; and no eye-ring. We watched the bird as it captured insects by flycatching. Immediately upon landing on a perch it would flick its tail and wings. That day a third individual was seen near the west end of the east-west runway.

- 2) 2 June. Apparently the same individual was seen on this date at the same locality along the bluffs of Casco Cove.
- 3) 3 June. One bird was seen at the old rock quarry site on the bluffs of Casco Cove and three were found in the canyons of the near bluffs on the road to Alexai Point. One of these birds had white behind the eye, like part of an incomplete eye-ring, faint streaks on the throat and breast, and a faint wingbar.



4) 1 June. The bird was still present at the old rock quarry site on the bluffs of Casco Cove.

5) 5 June. I saw a total of 5 Gray-spotted Flycatchers on this date. In summary I saw at least 10 individual Gray-spotted Flycatchers on Attu, and the entire birding group must have had at least 13.

Black-backed Wagtail I saw a maximum of 6 individuals on 17 May and recorded the species on 6 days between 16 and 28 May.

Gray Wagtail 1) 16 May. A bird was found feeding on a rocky beach on the south shore of Casco Cove. The upper parts were gray, rump bright yellow, sides and flanks yellow, undertail coverts bright yellow, white line above the eye, gray throat with a few black feathers indicating an immature male, and the tail quite long and black with white outer rectrices. The bird appeared to be shy. I studied it over a period of 15 minutes as it kept flushing along the beach. It pumped its tail frequently. This was Life Bird No. 737 for me.  
2) 19 May. An adult male was studied for a good while during the afternoon as it foraged and rested among the boulders and storm-stranded poles and logs along the beach of the first mile of road to Alexei Point.

Pechora Pipit 1) 19 May. The bird was seen in the lyme grass along the upper edge of the beach in Navy Town just north of the Coast Guard storage shed. It had a warm buffy wash on the sides with narrow dark streaks. On the back 2 cream colored stripes were very prominent as they each had a dark stripe on each side. The back was rusty to buffy and the outer tail feathers were buffy. The 2 narrow wingbars, legs, and bill were light in color. It had a black mark at the lower part of the malar region. The bird skulked in the grasses. I had three excellent views of it on the ground. The bird did not call although the group must have flushed it at least 10 times. All the birders on Attu got to see this bird.  
2) 1 June. A bird of this species was seen several times on the north side of Big Lake by Noble Proctor, Thede Tobish, myself, and others.  
3) A third Pechora was seen during our stay on Attu in the runway area by Thede Tobish, et al. I did not see this bird and do not know the date it was seen or other details.

Hawfinch 1) 18 May. Two birds flew past the group on the north side of Henderson Marsh and disappeared on or over Hogback Ridge.  
2) 28 May. George Wagner and I found a male in Elwood Pass on the lower east flank of Terrible Mountain. George called in by radio and 33 people finally saw the bird. We watched for almost 2 hours as the bird moved over the base of the mountain. We had excellent views of it on the ground feeding, perched in willows not yet with leaves, on dead cow parsnip stems, sitting on the rocks, and many times flying. The finch had a large conical bill, a black chin and throat patch, black wings with a broad central white stripe, a chestnut back, short black rounded tail with large white spots around the margin. In flight the tail was flared and appeared rounded. When perched it bobbed the tail from time to time.  
3) 3 June. Noble Proctor, Paul Egelund, and I had a male perched in a willow in clear view calling along the road on the north side of upper West Massacre Valley. The call note sounded similar to the chip note of the Cardinal but was slightly harder. A short time later, while Paul and I were checking a small canyon nearby, Noble saw a female near the male.



Common Rosefinch 1) 31 May. A female was studied as it fed on the ground near the old Loran "A" Station in late afternoon. The finch was olive-green above with indistinct dark streaks. The underparts were grayish with fine streaks on the breast. There were also fine streaks on the crown. It had 2 narrow light wingbars, the upper being quite short. The bill and legs were grayish-brown. The bird was studied as close as 15 feet.  
2) 3 June. A female was seen at the near bluffs on the road to Alexai Point by Noble Proctor, Paul Egelund, and I.

Hoary Redpoll 1) 21 May. A nest lined with feathers was found in a small willow in a stand of willows in upper West Massacre Valley. No eggs had been laid in the nest. A check of the nest on 24 May revealed 4 eggs. They had a base color of light greenish-blue with fine numerous reddish-brown spots.

Song Sparrow 18 May. Two adults, each at a different locality, were seen carrying food in their bills, indicating nests with young on that date.

THE END



1-B 6

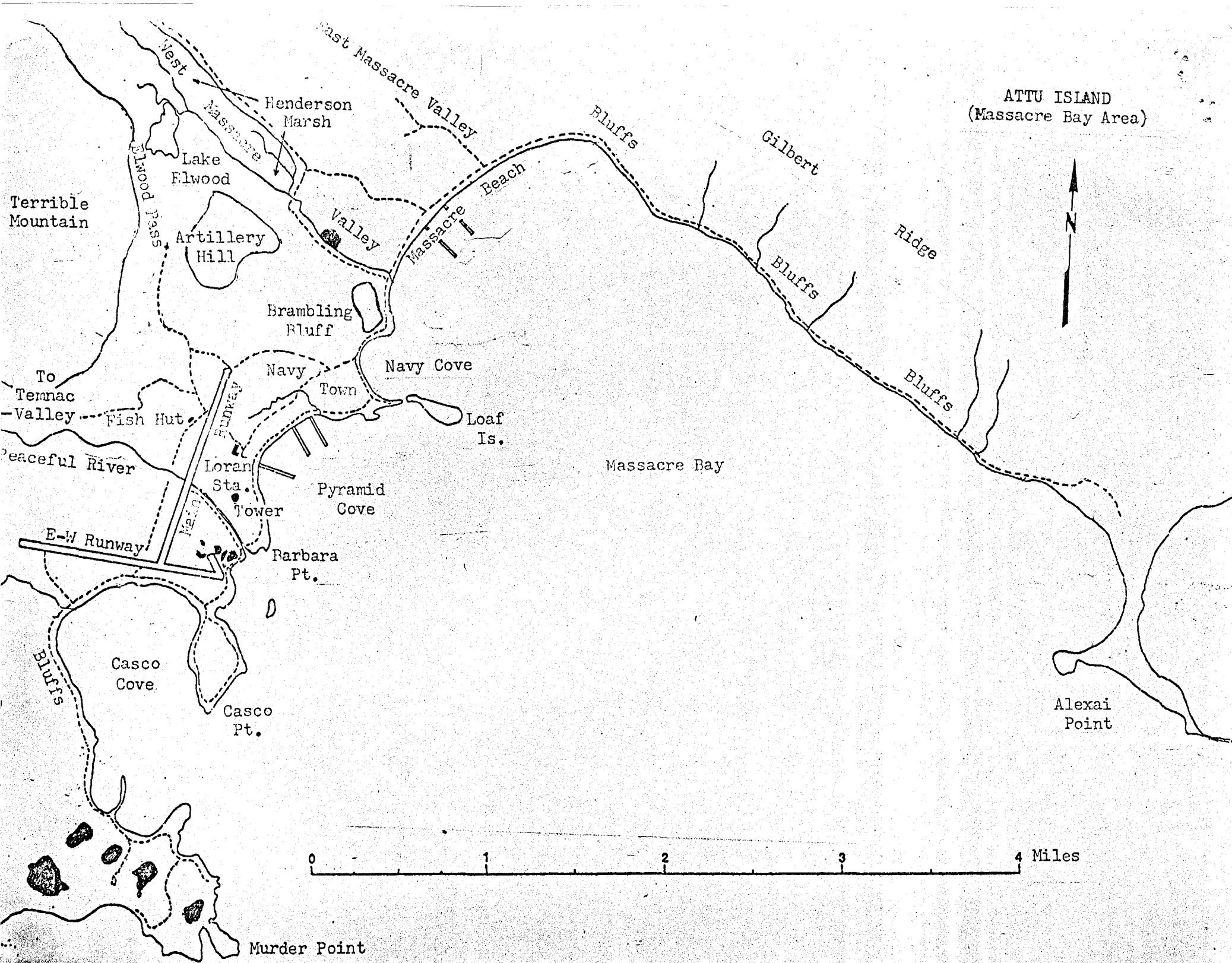
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*Jim & Ruth after school*  
15

FIELD NOTES OF ALASKA BIRDING TRIP  
OF SEPTEMBER 1979

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

1-B-6







YA Hood!  
Jon Dunn (California), Lisa Oakley (Washington), Thede Tobish (Alaska and Pennsylvania), Jim Vardaman (Mississippi), and I (Florida) birded the Massacre Bay area of Attu Island, Alaska, from 13 through 27 September 1979. Thede and Lisa also worked the area 6-12 September, but their results for that week are not included here. During part of the second week our group was joined at times by Dave McCargo (Colorado), who came to Attu for 3 weeks to hike, camp, take in the sights, and do some leisure birding (in contrast to our more serious effort).

Comments on selected species are presented below. Species recorded for the trip are given in the general summary and in the day to day accounts (plus the day in Anchorage). The daily accounts list the number of individuals of each species observed. We recorded 63 species for the 15-day period on Attu and 29 species for the day at Anchorage. Localities listed in the daily accounts are shown on the accompanying map.

On this trip I added 3 life birds --- Polynesian Tattler (No. 718), Siberian Rubythroat (No. 720), and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler (No. 719). It was a most successful trip. Jim added 4 lifers, but I don't recall how many Jon, Lisa, and Thede had.

We stayed at the Air Force's Fish Hut, a renovated World War II quonset hut used by Air Force personnel at Shemya Island for lodging while fishing on Attu. This is by far the best accomodation available on Attu, excepting of course the U. S. Coast Guard Loran Station. The Loran Station is not available to most birders visiting Attu. Our lodging and meals were provided through the good graces of Larry Balch. Larry has an agreement with the Air Force for use of the Fish Hut. Thede and Lisa did an outstanding job of preparing our meals.

The general appearance of Attu in the fall was quite a contrast to when I visited the island 21-27 May 1976, with Benton Basham and Paul DuMont. In May the vegetation was brown and matted down, if not still covered with ice and snow, but in mid September, it had had the benefit of the full growing season and in most places was a lush green, with many of the plants still in flower. During our stay the vegetation began to brown up rapidly with the onset of colder temperatures. This was most apparent at the higher elevations.

In the more sheltered areas along the creeks, bases of the bluffs, ravines, etc. the vegetation ranged from knee to head high and was a mixture of grasses, sedges, rushes, annual forbes, and a species of willow (Salix sp.). The latter was the only native woody-stem plant I saw (several small plantings of conifers remain from the war days at a couple of sites). Small clumps of willows are scattered here and there and stands of this species are found up the river and creek courses. The taller vegetation was mainly thistle (Cirsium sp.), Heracleum spp. with its large umbels, and a species whose growth form and foliage looked strikingly like ragweed (Ambrosia). As a general



rule the tallest vegetation was found at the base of the bluffs. The more interesting passerines were found in the greatest numbers in this taller vegetation. Because of the widespread dense cover the search for small land birds was more difficult in fall than in the spring. The vegetation was wet much of the time from frequent light rain showers. Our group of five was too small to efficiently flush birds from the dense cover. The birds in the vegetation tended to skulk adding to the difficulty. Walking through the dense vegetation became rather tiring long before the day's field work was completed. Because of the size of our party we were able to cover only a rather small percent of the available upland habitats.

A few snow fields survived through the summer on sheltered slopes of the higher peaks. During our stay the temperature usually ranged in the high 40's and low 50's (°F). This is roughly 10 degrees warmer than late May temperatures. The temperature near sea level got down in the low 30's only on 22 September when light frost and skim of ice on puddles were present at daybreak. Fresh snow in early morning was seen on the higher peaks but disappeared by afternoon of several days of the second week. Three days were mostly clear and sunny, and for 2½ days the weather was too bad to permit field work. Intermittent light rain showers, so typical of the Aleutians, occurred on most days. With these showers rainbows were a dime a dozen. For 12 days (80% of the period) the winds were from a westerly direction (NW to SW) with velocities averaging (excluding the few periods of calm) between 10 to 20 m.p.h. (maximum of 90 m.p.h. during the storm of 23-24 September). Foul-weather gear was needed at least once or twice on each day afield; even on the 3 relatively clear days. I put on and took off my rain gear so many times in the course of the 15 days it must have consumed at least a couple of hours of my time. If the wind died down and rain stopped, I found myself getting hot and sweaty wearing the full set of rain gear while walking any distance, thus necessitating the laborious task of removing the outer layer.

We found the birds to be concentrated in the lower elevations near the coast. On the several occasions that we went inland, the species diversity and number of individuals decreased dramatically. Very little in the way of birds was observed beyond 1½ to 2 miles inland. In the hike through South Pass enroute to and from Temnac Valley we saw only a few Lapland Longspurs and nothing else. No Rock Ptarmigan were seen during our stay. They were apparently inland at the higher elevations and had not yet moved down near sea level for the winter. We found them common at low elevations in the spring of 1976 prior to the snow melting on the higher slopes.

For the duration of the stay on Attu, I literally kept one eye cocked to the sky searching for a White-tailed Eagle but to no avail. On 25 September, Dave McCargo and I hiked over to Temnac Valley in search of the eagles. We checked the cliffs and sea stacks around the north end of Temnac Bay very carefully, the bluffs along the south side of lower Temnac Valley, and up the valley as far as we could see with binoculars on a beautiful sunny day, but with negative results. Thede et al. had found eagles in Temnac Valley on several occasions in late June a year or so ago. Temnac Valley is quite picturesque. While there we looked over and photographed an old P-38 aircraft that crash landed about a mile up Temnac Valley back during the war. Unfortunately,



souvenir hunters have almost destroyed the plane, which was pretty well in tack when it crash landed in the marsh. The route taken to Temnac Valley required crossing Peaceful River and Geroge Creek. The water was too deep to wade with our boots so we had to cross barefooted. Walking on rocks for a distance of 35 to 40 feet in water with temperature in the low 40's was a numbing experience. No wonder most Eskimos never learned to swim.

Moths, butterflies, and a host of other insects (but none that bite) were common. A number of species of flies were especially abundant, particularly on the decaying kelp and other marine algae along the beaches. The shorebirds were frequently found feeding heavily on these arthropod concentrations. We saw and heard two blue phase Arctic foxes at Murder Point. A set of fresh canid tracks too large for the Arctic fox, were found on the beach at Temnac Bay. The salmon were at the end of their spawning run. All rivers and creeks had many fish, some dying, and others already dead. The Glaucous-winged Gulls and Ravens were taking full advantage of the abundant food.

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Yellow-billed Loon On the afternoon of 26 Sept. 3 birds in alternate plumage were found on Massacre Bay near shore in the vicinity of the mouth of West Massacre River. We watched them for a while as they called back and forth.

Red-necked Grebe Two immatures were seen near shore from the road at base of the bluffs of Gilbert Ridge on 21 Sept. Both still showed first summer juvenal plumage.

Red-faced Cormorant The only birds of this species were seen at Murder Point. All the cormorants noted on the Massacre Bay and the old piers were Pelagics.

Aleutian Canada Goose Six birds, all banded with neck collars, were first seen on 19 Sept. in the vicinity of the northern most pier at Massacre Beach. They were present for the remainder of our stay on Attu. The geese were found to be using the old pier. The shore end of the pier is missing, making it in effect an island. It is overgrown with grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbes. The geese were observed daily grazing in this artificial pasture. They share the pier with Pelagic Cormorants and Glaucous-winged Gulls. These geese are no doubt part of those released on Agattu, 25 miles SW of Attu, as part of the program to re-establish this race of the Canada Goose in its former range in the Aleutians.

Emperor Goose I found an adult sitting along the shore several miles out along the road to Alexai Point on 22 Sept. The bird was seen there again on the 24th, and by the rest of the group on 26 Sept. on rocky islets off the east end of Loaf Island.



Garganey Thede and Lisa had a male in eclipse staked out along the shore of Navy Cove in the vicinity of Brambling Bluff upon our arrival at Attu on the afternoon of 13 Sept. We did not see the species again until 21 Sept. when 3 were spotted, each at a different locality. One was seen on the 22nd, 3 on the 24th, 1 in Tenmac Valley and another in Massacre Bay area on the 25th, and 1 on the 26th. In most cases the Garganeys tended to associate with the Green-winged Teal.

European Wigeon Our stay at Attu appeared a bit early for most waterfowl except for the Green-winged Teal. The first European Wigeon was found on 18 Sept. and the number remained small until 26 Sept., when 30 were seen in lower West Massacre Valley, but this flock remained in the area only the one day.

Peregrine Falcon We figured we had a total of 4 individuals of F. p. peali during our visit on Attu. Two individuals of this extremely dark race of the Peregrine were watched almost daily in the vicinity of the Loran Station, the runways, and along the shore hunting and generally harassing the shorebirds and waterfowl.

Black-bellied Plover I found a bird on the beach on the north side of Brambling Bluff on 24 Sept. We last saw it on the beach of Navy Cove at Brambling Bluff on 26 Sept.

Whimbrel Jim first spotted the bird (Eurasian race with the triangular white patch up the back) along the north side of the taxiway near the east end of the E-W runway on 18 Sept. When it flew toward Casco Cove we all got a view of it. The bird was seen only once.

Wood Sandpiper Two seen at Navy Town on 15 Sept. were the only birds of this species observed.

Polynesian Tattler This species appears to be fairly common on the beaches in fall at Attu. We had the species everyday we worked most of the beach census route, with a maximum of 4 on 18 Sept. We saw no Wandering Tattlers during our stay on Attu.

Long-billed Dowitcher A bird was seen flying over the main runway and heard giving the typical call of the species.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Common late fall migrant on Attu. We saw the first bird on 17 Sept. and had them almost daily thereafter. We had several days with maximum counts of 4 individuals.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper A lone bird was seen in the vicinity of the E-W runway on 14 Sept. and 3 in the same general area on 15 Sept.

Ruff A lone bird (believed to be a male) in basic plumage was seen on the beach at north Casco Cove and on the beach just south of the mouth of Peaceful River from 19 through 25 Sept. It usually associated with the Pectoral and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Black-legged Kittiwake On some days large feeding flocks were seen in Casco Cove and in Massacre Bay.

Snowy Owl A total of 3 individuals were observed during the two weeks on Attu. One adult stayed in the vicinity of the Fish Hut and gave us quite a show. An immature was seen in Peaceful Valley and an adult was seen at Massacre Beach. With the abundant rat population in the area the owls have plenty to eat. These caught 5-6 rats in traps in the Fish Hut during our stay. They came in through several small holes at the base of the hut between the siding and the concrete floor.

Barn Swallow In mid afternoon of 22 Sept. I observed a white bellied Barn Swallow (one of the Eurasian races) hawking insects at the north end of Massacre Beach. A short time later I joined the others and we saw what was apparently the same bird in lower West Massacre Valley.



Common Raven Ravens were common throughout the usual routes covered; up to 35 being recorded daily. However, much to my surprise, none were observed around Temnac Bay or in Temnac Valley.

Winter Wren We found them in small numbers along the bluffs and occasionally elsewhere in dense vegetation.

Siberian Rubythroat This species appears to be a regular fall migrant on Attu. We had a minimum of 10 individuals (7 males, 3 females) at the following localities: Brambling Bluff, Henderson Marsh, Fish Hut, Peaceful Valley, Casco Bluffs, and Massacre Beach. Thede found the first bird, a female, at Brambling Bluff on 14 Sept., and we had them fairly regular from 18-26 Sept., with a high count of 5 on 22 Sept.

Arctic Warbler We observed a small number of this Old World warbler. The first were found on 21 Sept. We had a maximum of 3 a day on 21 and 22 Sept.

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler This species, Locustella ochotensis, was the real surprise of the trip. I found the first one on 18 Sept. at the east end of Brambling Bluff near the road at about 1700 hours. The five of us promptly converged on the spot where it had disappeared. We then chased it for well over an hour, flushing it at least 10-12 times in the process. Each time the bird flushed it flew just over the tops of the knee-high vegetation on flights of 10-25 feet. Several attempts to capture the bird in a mist net were unsuccessful. We again located the bird in the same general area on the morning of 19 Sept. and again were unsuccessful in attempting to capture it in the net. On the 19th the bird was flushed 10-12 times. This bird was extremely difficult to see well and we finally gave up trying to capture it. My composite view of the bird over the two days is as follows:

- 1) typical grasshopper warbler shape with long wedge-shaped tail,
- 2) crown dark brown and buffy supercilium,
- 3) back dark brown with fine dark streaks,
- 4) rump yellow-brown making it distinct from back and tail,
- 5) dorsal side of tail was uniform dark brown with black terminal band --- when bird fanned tail in alighting, it was quite rounded --- had good ventral view of tail once on 19 Sept. --- complete underside of tail was brown with each of the outer graduated rectrices tipped with off-white,
- 6) dorsally, there definately was no black in the central rectrices as in Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler (L. certhiola),
- 7) underparts unstreaked --- gray-brown wash on sides --- remainder of underparts off-white, and
- 8) bill large, upper mandible dark and lower mandible bright orange-yellow.

Prior to our work on Attu this fall there were only 3 previous records of Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler in North America, all in Alaska (a female captured on Nunivak Island on 15 Sept. 1927, a sighting at Shemya in the fall of 1978 by Thede and Dan Gibson, and a specimen taken at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island in mid June 1979 by Gene Cardiff) where the species has been considered accidental. Our observations on Attu this September would tend to indicate the Middendorff's is a regular fall migrant rather than an accidental. We had a minimum of 7 individuals, with 4 birds being seen on 21 Sept. Locations and number seen are as follows:

- 1) 1 at Brambling Bluff on 18-19 Sept.,
- 2) 2 at Massacre Beach, 1 at Brambling Bluff, and 1 near the Fish Hut on 21 Sept.,



- 3) 1 at Casco Bluffs and 1 at Brambling Bluff on 22 Sept.,
- 4) I had one 3 miles out along the road to Alexai Point on 24 Sept., and
- 5) 1 at Casco Bluffs on 25 Sept.

There were obviously more individuals of Locustella on Attu during our stay. We could have found more I am certain by working specifically for the species. We covered only a small fraction of a percent of the available habitat in which we found the species. The skulking habits of Locustella make it difficult to find and to observe.

Indian Tree Pipit Jon and Thede observed the only individual of this species seen during our stay on Attu. The bird was seen at Casco Bluff on 25 Sept.

Red-throated Pipit Small numbers were observed on 14, 15, 18, and 26 Sept.

Brambling Two males were seen at Massacre Beach on 19 Sept. and 4 birds were found along the bluffs of Gilbert Ridge on 22 Sept.

Golden-crowned Sparrow Jon found an immature at Massacre Beach on 19 Sept. that we all got to see briefly.

Song Sparrow This species was common along the edge of the beach and inland for a short distance. Many pairs acted as if still on territory --- singing, territorial chases etc.



Willow Warbler✓  
 Dusky Warbler✓  
 ✓ Arctic Warbler  
 ✓ Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler✓  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Red-breasted Flycatcher✓  
 Gray-spotted Flycatcher\*  
 Mountain Accentor\*  
 ✓ White Wagtail/  
 Gray Wagtail\*  
 Yellow Wagtail  
 ✓ Water Pipit  
 ✓ Indian Tree Pipit\*  
 Pechora Pipit\*  
 ✓ Red-throated Pipit  
 Bohemian Waxwing.  
 Cedar Waxwing/  
 Brown Shrike✓  
 ✓ Northern Shrike  
 Starling  
 Red-eyed Vireo/  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Tennessee Warbler/  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Magnolia Warbler\*

Tree Sparrow  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Harris' Sparrow/  
 White-crowned Sparrow  
 ✓ Golden-crowned Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow\*  
 Fox Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow  
 ✓ Song Sparrow  
 ✓ Lapland Longspur  
 Smith's Longspur  
 ✓ Snow Bunting  
 McKay's Bunting  
 Rustic Bunting†  
 Gray Bunting✓  
 Pallas' Reed Bunting\*  
 Reed Bunting\*

Life bird No. 719 for PS  
 18 Sept. 1979, Brambling  
 Bluff, Attu Island

# BIRDING

Total species recorded: 81 (Attu 63, Anchorage 29)

	<u>Attu</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>
Observers:	Jon Dunn Lisa Oakley Paul Sykes (compiler) Thede Tobish Jim Vardaman	Jon Dunn Elaine Rhode Dave Sonneborn Paul Sykes (com Thede Tobish



RECEIVED

JUL 16 1985

Aleutian Islands Unit  
A M N W R

2	✓
3	✓
4	
5	
6	
7	
FBI/AL 1-B-6-d	

20

-- Field Notes --

ALASKA TRIP - SPRING 1985

28 May - 16 June

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.



I was originally scheduled to fly from Miami to Anchorage on United Airlines on an ultra-saver fare, but had to change at the last minute because those "poor" United pilots (making \$80,000 to \$150,000+ per year were out on strike) and all the flights I was scheduled for had been cancelled. Fortunately, Eastern and Alaska Airlines came to my rescue at no additional charge. I departed Miami at 0700 on 28 May 1985, on Eastern flight # 711, changed to Flight # 71 in Atlanta, and arrived in San Francisco at 1119. Took Alaska Airline Flight # 87 at 1415 and arrived in Anchorage at 1900. Jim Baker (Chief, Wildlife Assistance at the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Office in Anchorage) met me at the airport and I spent the evening as Jim and Gail Baker's house guest. Spent the morning of 29 May at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office. Jim dropped me at the Anchorage Airport at mid day and I took Alaska Aeronautical Flight # 137 at 1344 for Kodiak, arriving at 1545. Spent the night of 29 May at the U. S. Coast Guard BOQ at Kodiak. At 1000 on 30 May I took the U. S. Coast Guard C-130 (aircraft # 1709, pilot, Cmdr. Bill Shaffer, copilot, Lt. Bill Neilson, and crew of 5) flight to Attu, arriving at my destination at 1730, with brief intervening stops at Adak, Amchitka, and Shemya. While waiting to board the C-130 I met Kevin Ryan, Assistant Manager, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, and talked with him briefly.

I met Larry Balch at Attu upon deplaning and delivered two packages to him and picked up the bike he kindly let me borrow for the duration of my stay on the island. Met Fred Zeillemaker, Refuge Manager, Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. He was flying out on the C-130 I arrived on, having spent two weeks in the field on Attu with the Attour group (total of 64 people). I have talked by phone and corresponded over the years with Fred, but this was our first, but rather brief, meeting in person. During the course of unloading the plane, I met Ltjg Steve White, Commanding Officer of the Loran Station, and Chief Warrant Officer, John Hall, the station's Executive Officer. After getting settled at the Loran Station and having dinner, I headed into the field at 1900. Stopped by the old Loran "A" Station on Casco Cove and visited briefly with some of the Attour group and renewed some old acquaintances. Leaders for Attour were: Larry Balch, Jerry Rosenband, Noble Proctor, Thede Tobish, Terry Savaloja, and Pete Isleib. This was the first time I had seen Pete since we spent several days together in the Big Thicket of eastern Texas in the late 1960's searching (unsuccessfully I might add) for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The results of my daily bird observations are presented on the pages that follow. The totals for each species for each day (Table 1) represent those individuals that I saw personally. I generally birded with some of the Attour group as experience has shown the best results are obtained with more eyes and "beaters" working in a cooperative manner. This is particularly true on Attu because the island is large. I counted and tallied individuals of each species as I went along in the field and made estimates for larger numbers of individuals (i.e. cormorants, eiders, gulls, puffins, and longspurs). The more interesting observations are presented in the species accounts.



Because I had a limited amount of annual leave on the books I had only two weeks or so for the Alaska trip. I chose the latter part of the spring migration period on Attu in hopes of seeing more of the Palearctic insectivorous species. Since I was getting to Attu courtesy of the U. S. Coast Guard, I had to go with their schedule (fly every two weeks Kodiak - Attu). As luck would have it, the spring migration of 1985 in the western Aleutians was early and I missed seeing a large part of the migrants. Prior to my arrival on Attu the Attour group found three species new to North America. These were the Indian Pratincole (Glareola maldivarum) on a beach on the east side of Murder Point on 19-20 May; a female Siberian Blue Robin (Erithacus cyane) in a ravine in the bluff along South Beach toward Krasni Point on 22 May; and a Brown Flycatcher (Muscicapa latirostris) at the base of Alexai Point on 25 May. Dave Sonneborn was on Shemya 30 miles to the east 22 to 29 May and had Far Eastern Curlew (Numenius madagascariensis), cuckoo sp. (probably Cuculus canorus, the Common Cuckoo), White-throated Needletail (Chaetura caudacuta), and a female Mugimaki Flycatcher (Ficedula mugimaki); this last species is new to North America. From what I understand all four species new to our continent were photographed. There was a big storm system that passed through the region from a westerly direction just prior to the Attour group arriving on Attu on 19 May and Dave arriving on Shemya on 22 May. This strong low pressure system is probably the reason for the fallout of so many outstanding birds on the two islands.

Weather data for the period of my visit to Attu are summarized in Table 2. There were no storm systems of any consequence in the area during my two-week stay. The most recent storm being the one mentioned in the previous paragraph. The lowlands were snow free on my arrival except for the few patches in some deep ravines and other shelter places. However, there was considerable snow cover at elevations of 200 feet and above and in all the passes. The vegetation was just starting to come out upon my arrival and by time of my departure on 13 June was 12-15 inches high along the shore and bluffs. It was nice to see Arctic lupine and other far northern latitude plants in flower.

#### Trip Schedule

- 28 May - Enroute Miami to Anchorage (via Atlanta, San Francisco, Seattle)
- 29 May - Fly from Anchorage to Kodiak
- 30 May - Enroute Kodiak to Attu Island
- 31 May - 13 June - Attu Island
- 13 June - Fly Attu to Shemya
- 14 May - Enroute Shemya to Kodiak
- 15 May - Enroute Kodiak to Anchorage to Miami (via Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta)
- 16 June - Arrive Miami in mid morning

This was my sixth trip to Alaska and sixth trip to Attu (4 in the spring, 2 in the fall). The Far Eastern Curlew was the only new life bird this trip (# 758) and the only new Alaska state bird (# 244).



## Field Activity

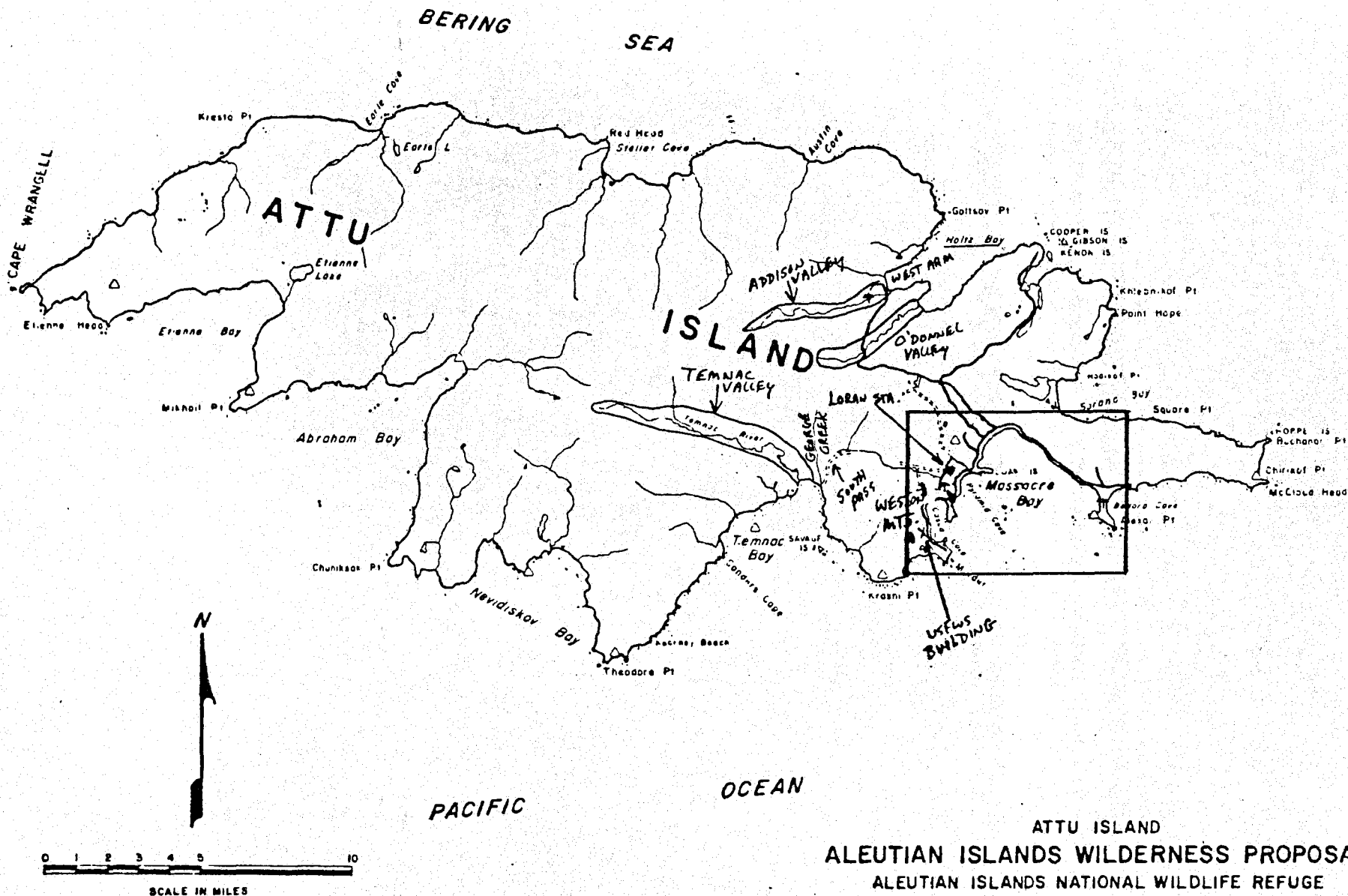
Refer to the maps that follow for localities mentioned in this section.

1. Date: 29 May 1985 (Wednesday)  
Locality: U. S. Coast Guard Station, Kodiak -- B0Q area westward to the rocky point just west of the skeet range  
Time afield: 1650-1815  
Observer: Paul Sykes
2. Date: 30 May 1985 (Thursday)  
Locality: Amchitka Island -- approximately 5 miles east of East Cape in Amchitka Pass and area for 300 yard radius or so in vicinity of the terminal building on the runway on the southeastern side of the island  
Time afield: 1520-1600 (while supplies were offloaded for the Bureau of Indian Affairs archeological team working on the island)  
Observer: Paul Sykes
3. Date: 30 May 1985 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu Island -- vicinity of the U. S. Coast Guard Loran Station, west side of Casco Cove, and Barbara Point  
Time afield: 1900-2245  
Observer: Paul Sykes
4. Date: 31 May 1985 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu -- west side of Casco Cove, road along the base of Gilbert Ridge to base of Alexai Point, and all of Alexai Point  
Time afield: 0845-1830  
Observers: Pete Isleib, Paul Sykes, et al.
5. Date: 1 June 1985 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu -- the runway areas, Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs, Kingfisher Creek, base of Casco Point, east side of Murder Point, Barbara Point, Fish Hut to Elwood (Bullfinch) Pass, Elwood Pass, Elwood Lake, middle and lower West Massacre (Henderson) Valley, Brambling Bluff, Loaf Island, and shore along Navy Town  
Time afield: 1000-1620, 1800-2145 .  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Jerry Rosenband, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
6. Date: 2 June 1985 (Sunday)  
Locality: Attu -- from old Loran "A" Station (on Casco Cove) to Krasni Point along South Beach, Casco Cove, Casco Point, and Barbara Point  
Time afield: 1015-1615, 1855-2100  
Observers: Jerry Rosenband, Terry Savaloja, Paul Sykes, George Wagner, et al.



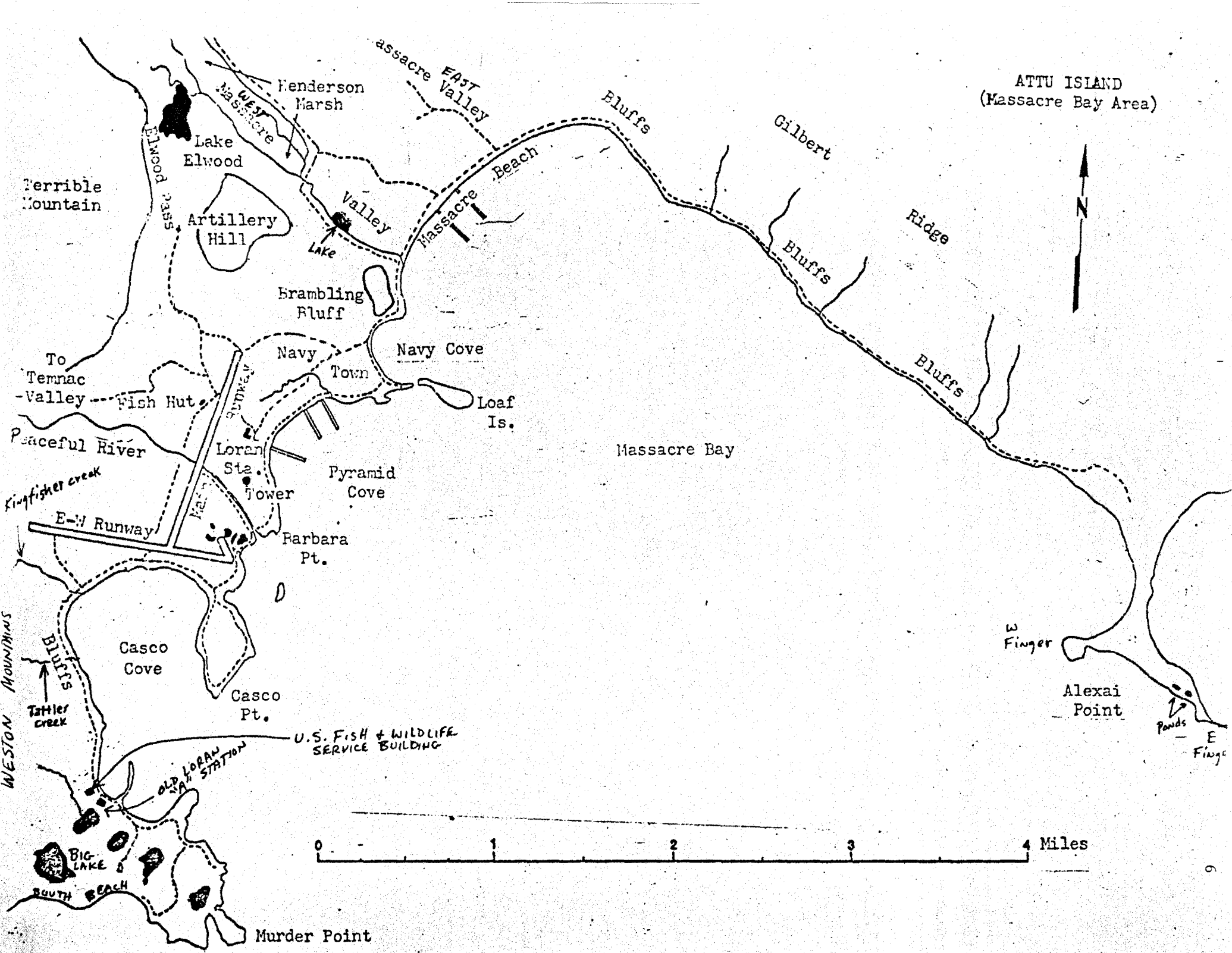






ATTU ISLAND  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ALASKA

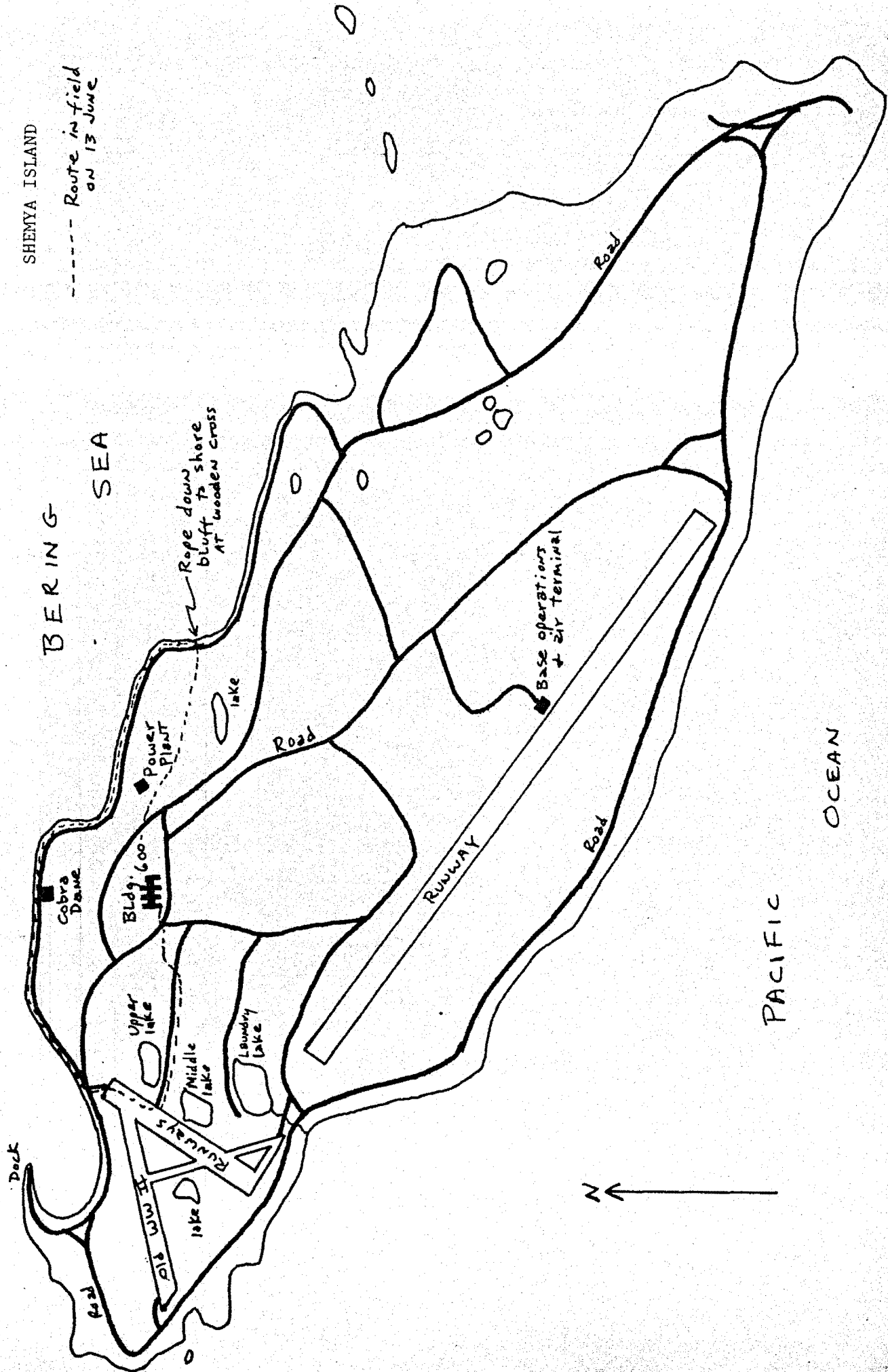






SHEMYA ISLAND

----- Route in field  
on 13 June





7. Date: 3 June 1985 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Bluffs, Kingfisher Creek, E-W Runway area, Barbara Point, Loaf Island, Navy Town marsh, Casco Cove, and Casco Point  
Time afield: 0945-1630, 1745-1940  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Jerry Rosenband, Paul Sykes, et al.
8. Date: 4 June 1985 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs, Kingfisher Creek, E-W Runway area, Brambling Bluff, and bluffs at base of Gilbert Ridge out to first major bend on road to Alexai Point  
Time afield: Noble Proctor, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
9. Date: 5 June 1985 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu -- Barbara Point, E-W Runway and its taxi way and aircraft parking pads between Casco Cove and Peaceful River, Fish Hut area and along Peaceful River on its north side inland (westward) for about a mile  
Time afield: 1130-1600, 1800-2000  
Observers: Paul Sykes
10. Date: 6 June 1985 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs, Casco Beach, Kingfisher Creek, E-W Runway and vicinity, Massacre Beach, bluffs along base of Gilbert Ridge from base along road to Alexai Point to the first major bend, and Barbara Point  
Time afield: 0935-1620, 1740-1945  
Observers: Pete Isleib, Terry Savaloja, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, George Wagner, et al.
11. Date: 7 June 1985 (Friday)  
Locality: Attu -- Big Lake and South Beach to Krasni Point  
Time afield: 1415-1615  
Observers: Jerry Rosenband, Mac Smith, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
12. Date: 8 June 1985 (Saturday)  
Locality: Attu -- Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs (including Tattler Creek), Kingfisher Creek, E-W Runway and vicinity, Casco Beach, Barbara Point, Fish Hut to Elwood Pass, Elwood Pass, Lake Elwood, middle and lower West Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff, and Navy Town  
Time afield: 1015-1600, 1815-2115  
Observers: Noble Proctor, Jerry Rosenband, Paul Sykes, Thede Tobish, et al.
13. Date: 9 June 1985 (Sunday) NOTE: Attour group departed at 1110 on Reeve Aleutian Airline charter  
Locality: Attu -- Fish Hut to Elwood Pass, Elwood Pass, Lake Elwood, West Massacre Valley, Jarmin Pass, Upper Holtz Bay area, Brambling Bluff, and Navy Town  
Time afield: 1115-2000  
Observers: Paul Sykes and George Wagner



14. Date: 10 June 1985 (Monday)  
Locality: Attu -- Murder Point, South Beach to Krasni Point, Big Lake, Casco Cove, Casco Bluffs, Casco Beach, E-W Runway and vicinity, Kingfisher Creek, and Barbara Point  
Time afield: 0820-1615  
Observers: Paul Sykes and George Wagner
15. Date: 11 June 1985 (Tuesday)  
Locality: Attu -- bluffs of Gilbert Ridge and road to Alexai Point, all of Alexai Point, lower West Massacre Valley, Main Runway, Casco Cove, and Big Lake to Krasni Point along South Beach  
Time afield: 0835-1600, 1650-2210  
Observers: Paul Sykes and George Wagner
16. Date: 12 June 1985 (Wednesday)  
Locality: Attu -- Big Lake to Krasni Point along South Beach, over the mountain to vicinity of Savage Island (to Aboub Stream), Casco Bluffs, Casco Cove, Kingfisher Creek, E-W Runway area, Barbara Point, and Casco Point  
Time afield: 0830-1630, 1800-2130  
Observers: Paul Sykes and George Wagner
17. Date: 13 June 1985 (Thursday)  
Locality: Attu -- Fish Hut to Elwood Pass, Elwood Pass, Lake Elwood, middle and lower West Massacre Valley, Brambling Bluff, Loaf Island area, and shore at Navy Town  
Time afield: 0955-1315  
Observers: Paul Sykes and George Wagner
18. Date: 13 June 1985 (Thursday)  
Locality: Shemya Island -- Building 600 to north shore, then from Cable Hill (at rope down face of bluff at the large wooden cross) west to the old World War II Runway along base of bluffs following the shoreline, and back to Building 600  
Time afield: 2000-2230  
Observer: Paul Sykes

Bid farewell to George Wagner (he will be surveying birds on Attu until 2 November) and men of the Loran Station and departed Attu on the U. S. Coast Guard C-130 flight (aircraft # 1709, pilot, LtcdR Bob Odom, copilot, Lt. Bill Gottshalk, and crew of 5) at 1800 for Shemya on 13 June, arriving at 1820. After getting assigned Room 2206 on the second floor of Building 600, I headed into the field at 2000 after getting some directions from Master Sargent Lenny Hall, USAF (NCOIC at the base medical facility in Bldg. 600). Spent 2½ hours afield but saw no landbird migrants. It was now apparent the spring migration was over. Did not get the chance to go into the field on 14 June. Took the C-130 flight from Shemya at 1115 for Kodiak, arriving at 1945. Enroute the C-130 crew made one fish patrol for about 1½ hours to the south of Amchitka Island. Only one fishing vessel was found to be operating at the time and it had only a few Northern Fulmars and Glaucous-winged Gulls around it. Spent the night of 14 June



at the U. S. Coast Guard BOQ at Kodiak.

On 15 June I took Alaska Aeronautical Flight # 106 at 0730 from Kodiak to Anchorage, arriving at 0845. Called Dave Sonneborn at his home in Anchorage but he was out for the morning birding. Took Alaska Airline Flight # 82 (on standby) at 1330 for Seattle, arriving at 1735. Then took Alaska Airline Flight # 178 (on standby) at 1745 for San Francisco, arriving at 1935. While waiting for the flight in San Francisco, I called home and talked to my wife, Joan. It was then I learned of the male Shiny Cowbird (Molothrus bonariensis) at Lower Matecumbe Key, Monroe County, Florida, that Sandy Sprunt (of National Audubon Society) had found on 14 June while taking an annual breeding bird survey. Caught Eastern Airline Flight # 74 at 2220 for Miami (via Atlanta), arriving at 0845 on 16 June. Joan met me at the Miami Airport and we departed for Lower Matecumbe Key at 0915. About 1100 we saw the Shiny Cowbird one block off U. S. Highway 1 at Mile Post 74 on Lower Matecumbe Key. The cowbird was life bird # 759. Returned to my home at Delray Beach at 1630, concluding the trip.

#### Miscellaneous

Kodiak. On 29 May the deciduous trees and shrubs were still mostly bare (this was in contrast to Anchorage where most deciduous trees had already leafed out) and there was much snow at the higher elevations.

Amchitka. This was my first, but brief, visit to the island (30 May). We flew the full 30 or so mile-length of the island at about 1000 feet. The eastern 2/3s of the island is relatively flat tundra with many lakes and ponds while the western 1/3 is mountainous. The nuclear tests were conducted underground at the western end. There is an extensive road system over the entire island.

Attu. Observed sea otters along all the coasts worked; sometimes seeing 3 to 4 animals together and observed two females with pups. The otters appear to have increased somewhat on the east and southeast shores of Attu in the last few years as when we first started visiting the island in the mid 1970s they were generally seen with regularity only around Alexai Point and along the north shore of the island.

On 12 June, George Wagner showed me the cliffs at the waterfall on Aboub Stream and the sea cliffs in the same area where the two White-throated Needletails were present for several days in the spring of 1984. That is one beautiful spot with 200-foot cliffs along the shore just east of Savage Island.

Shemya. A lot more roads and buildings have been constructed on the island since my last visit there in 1976. It took a while for me to get oriented.



Table 1. Birds observed in Alaska in the spring of 1985 by Paul Sykes.

<div> <div>Locality</div> <div>Species</div> <div>Date</div> </div>	Kodiak	Amchitka	Attu Island															Shemya
	May		June															13
	29	30	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Red-throated Loon									1				2	1		1	1	
Common Loon				1		1				2	1			2	6	1		
Yellow-billed Loon										1					1			
Laysan Albatross		1																
Northern Fulmar		5																
Pelagic Cormorant	65		102	300	470	300	215	50	120	140	50	280	225	200	1050	800	210	600
Red-faced Cormorant				100	26	12	25			25		36	25		135	250	25	18
Green-winged Teal					7			2				1	6		2		4	
Falcated Teal										1♀		1♀				1♀		
Mallard			1	7	2	3		2	5			2	1	5	7	4	2	
Northern Pintail															2			
Northern Shoveler			8				1♀		1♀			3		2		5		
Eurasian Wigeon			6						1♀									
Common Pochard				1♂		2♂♂	2♂♂				2♂♂							
Tufted Duck																2♂♂		
Greater Scaup				1♀		1♀				3		3		3	3	3		
Common Eider			55	255	115	140	80	30	10	150	30	82	70	155	365	80	51	70
Harlequin Duck	8		6	66	16	40	11	19		31	4		1	9	79	8	1	22
Oldsquaw							2											
Common Goldeneye						1♀	1♀			1♀		2						



<div> <div>Locality</div> <div>Species</div> <div>Date</div> </div>	Kodiak	Amchitka	Attu Island															Shemya
	May				June													
	29	30	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13
Smew															10 <sup>♂</sup>		10 <sup>♂</sup>	
Common Merganser					12													
Red-breasted Merganser	4		2	5	21	2	3	2		6		13	10	5	8	5	7	
Peregrine Falcon				2						1								
Rock Ptarmigan		3		2	9	4	2	9	4	4		2	3	7	1	4		
Mongolian Plover									1									
Wood Sandpiper				1				1					1				2	
Gray-tailed Tattler					2													
Terek Sandpiper					1	1												
Whimbrel															1			
Far Eastern Curlew					1	1	1											
Bar-tailed Godwit				2						4		4						
Baird's Sandpiper					1	1												
Rock Sandpiper		6	3	2	7	6	8	7	25	4		10	4	8	18	7	2	
Dunlin					1													
Red-necked Phalarope																		3
Long-tailed Jaeger						6												
Mew Gull	800																	
Glaucous-winged Gull	625	60	195	235	125	210	125	35	140	250	165	360	150	340	305	1300	115	200
Glaucous Gull	1			1		1	1								2			



Locality  Date  Species	Kodiak	Amchitka	Attu Island																Shemya
	May				June														
	29	30	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13	
Black-legged Kittiwake	425					46					1		1	2	9	6		2	
Common Tern			1													21			
Arctic Tern	6						12					2		5		5			
Aleutian Tern	1				9	7		61	120	26		25	1	64	28	55			
Common Murre			1	1	1		1	1							1	52		1	
Pigeon Guillemot	1														6	3			
Kittlitz's Murrelet								1											
Ancient Murrelet															2				
Whiskered/Crested Auklet				1															
Tufted Puffin			175	4	100	55	130	30	75	50		75	4	75	7	55	9	10	
Horned Puffin						4									9	3		1	
Common Cuckoo															1				
Snowy Owl													1						
Eurasian Skylark										1									
Black-billed Magpie	7																		
Northwestern Crow	41																		
Common Raven			2	8	3	1	4	4	3	4	2	4	2	7	9	9	2	8	
Winter Wren				5				2		1					2	1			
Arctic Warbler													1						
Siberian Rubythroat						2	3	1	4	1		3	3						



<div> <div>Locality</div> <div>Species</div> <div>Date</div> </div>	Kodiak	Amchitka	Attu Island															Shemya
	May				June													
	29	30	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13
Hermit Thrush	2																	
Eye-browed Thrush					1		1									1		
Yellow Wagtail			1	1												1		
Black-backed Wagtail												1♂						
Fox Sparrow	4																	
Song Sparrow	2		5	29	29	28	22	21	8	37	6	20	4	44	35	28	9	13
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2																	
Lapland Longspur		5	35	175	280	105	115	125	185	105	25	235	205	140	140	100	125	100
Snow Bunting		1	5	11	19	3	8	13	33	11		12	20	16	23	14	7	5
Rosy Finch		1		6	5		2	11	8	7		4	7	1	10	1		1
Common Redpoll	1																	
TOTAL SPECIES/DAY	17	8	17	26	25	27	24	21	18	25	10	23	24	21	31	31	17	15
NUMBER HOURS AFIELD	1.4	0.7	3.8	9.8	12.1	10.1	10.7	9.2	6.5	10.7	2.0	8.8	8.8	7.9	12.7	11.5	3.4	2.5
TOTAL SPECIES FOR THE			TRIP =		71	-												



Table 2. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR ATTU ISLAND, SPRING 1985

Date	General Conditions	Temperature (°F)		Wind		Range in barometric <sup>1/</sup> Pressure (inches)
		Max.	Min.	Range in Direction	Range in Velocity (kts)	
30 May	Clear	50	42	---	0 - 5	---
31	Clear	55	40	45 - 225	0 - 5	---
1 June	Partly cloudy; mostly clear in p.m.	58	40	270	2 - 15	---
2	Overcast	42	37	270	10 - 15	---
3	Overcast	46	42	270	6 - 10	---
4	Overcast; occasional light rain during mid day period	40	37	225	0 - 10	---
5	Foggy most of day; heavy at times	45	42	180	4 - 10	---
6	Overcast	47	42	180 - 135	5 - 15	---
7	Rainy to mid day; overcast p.m.	44	40	180 - 45	8 - 20	---
8	Overcast a.m.; clear p.m.	48	43	0 - 315	5 - 15	---
9	Clear; light frost in morning	47	31	90	5 - 12	---
10	Overcast; occasional light rain in afternoon	44	38	0	0 - 13	---
11	Overcast; intermittent light rain	46	41	315	5 - 12	---
12	Clear	57	46	270 - 225	5 - 20	---
13	Clear	57	38	90 - 45	0 - 15	---

<sup>1/</sup> No daily readings recorded, but range during the period was 30.05 to 30.42.



## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon 9 June. Had a pair calling in courtship flight in middle West Massacre Valley.

Common Loon 1) Two were on Casco Cove near the bluffs on 6 June; one was in basic and the other in alternate plumage.

2) The 6 birds seen on 11 June were as follows: 4 in alternate plumage and 2 in basic plumage; one pair on Big Lake, 3 individuals in Massacre Bay, and one in Bedard Cove east of Alexai Point.

Yellow-billed Loon 1) A lone bird was on Casco Cove near the bluffs on 6 June; bird was in alternate plumage but the bill was not completely yellow. Bill was yellow at the tip and along the borders of the upper and lower mandibles with the base and central part dark.

2) A bird in alternate plumage was seen off Krasni Point in the evening of 11 June. It had a full yellow bill.

Laysan Albatross 30 May. The lone bird was seen near a fishing vessel about 5 miles east of East Cape of Amchitka in Amchitka Pass. The outbound flight of the C-130 flight did not make a fish patrol so there was no chance to see pelagic species as we were flying at 15,000 to 22,000 feet most of the time. The bird above was seen when the plane was on the landing approach for Amchitka.

Northern Fulmar 30 May. Five birds were seen near a fishing vessel about 5 miles east of East Cape of Amchitka in Amchitka Pass.

Red-faced Cormorant Nesting was found at two sites (75+ nests) on cliffs on the bluffs above the road on Gilbert Ridge and at a third site (4 nests) on the east side of a sea stack along the road to Alexai Point. Also, there were 25+ nests near the seaward end on the north side of the northern most pier at Navy Town.

Green-winged Teal 9 June. There were 3 pairs seen in upper West Massacre Valley on this date.

Falcated Teal Thede Tobish found a female on 6 June feeding on the kelp bed north of Barbara Point in mid afternoon. I saw it in late afternoon with George Wagner and Bill Bunting (of Albany, Georgia). At first glance the bird resembled a female wigeon, but had an all dark bill and distinct scallop-like markings on the light brown sides. Positive ID required use of George's Questar as the bird was too far out to be seen in detail with my 30x scope and 7x binoculars. The bird was still present in the same area on 12 June.



Common Pochard A male was on the lake near the old Loran "A" Station on 31 May in company of a female Greater Scaup. On 2 June there was a second male with the first male at the same site. On 3 June two males, believed to be the same two as on 2 June, were seen on edge of the kelp bed east of Barbara Point. On 7 June a male and female were seen together on Big Lake. Thus, there were at least 3 pochards on Attu during my visit.

Tufted Duck 12 June. George Wagner and I had a male and female with 2 males and a female Greater Scaup on Casco Cove on the west side of Casco Point.

Greater Scaup On 6 June, two males in alternate plumage and a female were seen in company of a female Common Goldeneye and some Common Eiders in the NE part of Casco cove near the beach. The three scaup were still present at the same locality on 12 June.

Smew George Wagner and I had a male (with its white head, neck, and breast stained brown) in lower West Massacre Valley in late afternoon of 11 June. The bird was still present on 13 June when George and I checked during the morning.

Mongolian Plover 5 June. I found a bird, not yet in full alternate plumage, along the north side of the E-W Runway just east of its intersection with the Main Runway. It was seen only the one day.

Wood Sandpiper On 4 June at 1615 I observed a male giving full aerial courtship display, including vocalizations, in Henderson Marsh of lower West Massacre Valley between Smew Pond and the first bridge west of the pond. A bird was there in the same general area on 9 June. George Wagner and I had two birds in lower West Massacre Valley along Henderson River on 13 June. There is a good possibility at least one pair will nest.

Terek Sandpiper 1 June. The bird was found by Bob Sehl (a birding friend from Philadelphia whom I had not seen in many years) at a tidal pool at the old village site on the southeast side of Murder Point during the morning. The relatively long black bill was upturned. The upperparts and breast were a pale gray. There were two black streaks running down the back. The underparts were white and the legs were orange. The bird teeters a lot while walking and feeding. It remained in the same area (within a radius of 40 feet) during its stay. It was photographed by a number of the group. The bird remained for 3 days (I did not see it the last day

Whimbrel A bird of the Eurasian race (white triangle up the back as in a dowitcher) was seen standing on the rocks and flying at the east point of Alexai Point in early afternoon of 11 June by George Wagner and I.



Far Eastern Curlew 1 June. The bird was found by Mike Carmody, a young Catholic priest from Texas. It was first seen on the intertidal rocks on the shore at the base of Casco Point on the east side during the morning. It then flew to the intertidal zone just south of the mouth of Peaceful River, where I studied it through a scope one of the group had set up. This first day I saw the bird in flight twice. It was a very large curlew with a very large decurved sickle-like bill; like that of the Long-billed Curlew. The entire body and tail were a light brown with dark streaking on the upperparts and wings. There was barring on edges of the tail. The underparts were a light brown with dark streaking on the breast and sides. There was no prominent streaking on the head and no white rump patch. The underside of the wings were darkish; not rusty or light in color. There was no rusty color anywhere in the plumage. The bill was mostly dark except for the light basal 1/3 of the lower mandible. The legs were dark gray. I congratulated Mike on finding the curlew, which was life bird # 758 for me.

On 2 June, George Wagner and I flushed the bird off the beach at high tide in early evening at the same general area where it was found at the base of Casco Point on 1 June and watched it fly to the beach near the mouth of Peaceful River. We had excellent views of the bird in flight. On 3 June (the last day the bird was seen), I saw the bird twice between the mouth of Peaceful River and base of the east side of Casco Point. On the morning observation I studied the curlew through a Questar as it walked about on the intertidal rocks just south of the mouth of Peaceful River. Also observed the bird in flight 4 times. I saw the bird for the last time on the evening of 3 June in the same area.

Bar-tailed Godwit On 6 June, four were found on the rocks at the NE sector of Casco Beach by Terry Savaloja. Three of the birds were in full breeding plumage. I saw them about an hour or so after they were first discovered. These were different individuals than the two pale individuals out at Alexai Point. The 4 birds remained at the same site until 8 June.

Rock Sandpiper 31 May. A nest containing 4 eggs under incubation was on the old runway area about 1/3 the way out on Alexai Point. The incubating bird is quite cryptic until it moves. The nest was placed on the old rusting steel runway matting with vegetation growing through the holes.

Glaucous Gull Both birds at Alexai Point on 11 June were immatures.

Common Tern George Wagner and I had a count of 21 individuals of the Nordmann's race of the species (all black caps, all black bills, and all black feet) on 12 June in direct sunlight as they fed over the kelp bed and 6 to 8 of them perched on some nearby rocks off Barbara Point in early evening. Each individual was carefully checked through George's Questar. We each counted the birds 4 times to insure the number was correct. This is an extremely high count of the species for Attu. Also, at the same time on the other side of Barbara Point there were 5 Arctic Terns feeding and a number of Aleutian Terns going back and forth to the nesting site along the E-W Runway.



Aleutian Tern A half dozen or so birds landed for several minutes on the tundra north of the east end of the E-W Runway on 4 June while the remainder of the birds were in flight calling over the nesting site. This was the first landing for this year at the nesting colony. George Wagner stated that based on the previous year the birds don't generally start nesting until mid to late June, but start landing briefly at the site several weeks prior to onset of nesting activity. On 5 June, I had many terns sitting on the tundra on both sides of the E-W Runway east of the Main Runway and at the same time counted 45 sitting on the E-W Runway. Also, on this same date I had a high count of 120 individuals.

Kittlitz's Murrelet 4 June. A bird was seen in NW Massacre Bay off Brambling Bluff. It was still in mostly basic plumage but was starting to change to alternate.

Whiskered/Crested Auklet 31 May. I did not see the bird well enough to determine the species. It flew by me on the south beach of Alexai Point. I did not see it until it had passed by me. It was a medium-size alcid with all dark gray plumage, slightly darker above than below, with a red bill. By time I got my binoculars on it, it was flying away from me and I could not see any details of the head or bill shape.

Common Cuckoo 11 June. About 1530, George Wagner and I on our return from Alexai Point found a gray-plumaged bird along the road at the base of Gilbert Ridge bluffs at the first bend going east. I spotted the bird first and called it to George's attention. We spent the next hour and 15 minutes or so studying the bird and George took  $2\frac{1}{2}$  rolls (36 exposure) of film of it in various poses. We had the bird in clear view on the ground feeding, perching on rocks, in willows, on logs in the driftline along the beach, on the face of the bluff, etc. We got within 20 feet of the bird at times. We watched it fly at least a dozen times. Its flight was falcon-like. We observed it feeding on insects (including several caterpillars) and a worm-like organism. It was catching prey on the ground and on plants within 10 inches of the ground.

The bill was relatively slender with a yellow base with the distal  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its length dark. From the base, the bill got progressively darker toward the black distal half. The eye ring was bright yellow. The head was a soft gray as was the neck and entire back. The wings (when folded) were slightly darker gray than the back with the primaries darker still, almost black. The tail was very long and blackish with the outer most rectrices on each side banded black and white. The black bands were about twice as broad as the white bands. The dark tail contrasted with the soft gray back. The chin, throat, and upper breast were a soft pale gray. The remainder of the breast, belly, sides, and undertail coverts were white. Fine gray bars (about the same color as the back or maybe a bit darker) were on the lower breast and belly but absent on the undertail coverts. The dark bars of the breast and belly were about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the width of the white areas separating them. The under wing was boldly barred black and white. This feature was seen quite well on several occasions when the bird flew past us.



Snowy Owl The only bird I saw on this trip was one in upper West Massacre Valley on 9 June. However, two others, which I did not see, were seen by others on Alexai Point.

Common Raven On 10 June, George Wagner and I saw a raven nest on a cliff face on the east side of Murder Point that contained 3 young that were almost full grown.

Arctic Warbler George Wagner and I saw one by the bridge on the north side of lower West Massacre Valley on 9 June. It had dark green upperparts, a bold buffy eyebrow, relatively large bill, no wing bars, and whitish underparts. Bird was apparently of the race borealis.

Siberian Rubythroat 1) I saw two males on 2 June; one at the stream at the midden site at Krasni Point in the morning and the other in early evening with George Wagner on the east side of Casco Point. There were at least 8 individuals of this species seen on this date by the group: 2 birds above, 2 in East Massacre Valley (George Wagner), 2 along Casco Bluffs, etc. (Thede Tobish and Mac Smith), 1 at midden site on east side of Murder Point (Jerry Rosenband), and 1 near U. S. Coast Guard Warehouse (Pete Isleib).  
 2) On 3 June, two males were seen together just WSW of the SW corner of the E-W Runway in the morning and a third male was seen at the tip of Barbara Point in the afternoon. A number of other individuals were reported by other parties during course of the day.  
 3) I observed a male on 4 June perched in a clump of willows singing at the base of the bluffs of Gilbert Ridge just as the road to Alexai Point starts out along the ridge.  
 4) The 4 males seen on 5 June are believed to be different individuals than those seen on previous days. They were seen at the following localities: two (but not together) along the second taxiway parallel to the north of the E-W Runway and west of the Main Runway; one singing along taxiway to south of E-W Runway (this is the shortcut taken from the E-W Runway to road across mouth of Kingfisher Creek); and one by the Fish Hut.  
 5) On 6 June, I found a male along Kingfisher Creek in late morning about 125 yards upstream from the bridge at the mouth of the creek. A number of the Attour group saw it shortly thereafter.  
 6) I had 3 males on 8 June: two in Elwood Pass, one of which was singing, and another singing on the bluffs on the north side of middle West Massacre Valley.  
 7) Had 3 birds in upper West Massacre Valley on 9 June; two females and a bird we did not see well enough to determine its sex.

Thus, it is readily apparent that a significant movement of rubythroats took place on Attu in early June.



Eye-browed Thrush A bird was seen on 1 June on Casco Bluffs near the old Loran "A" Station. This bird was seen again on 3 June at the same locality. On 12 June, a bird was seen several times along Kingfisher Creek in early evening.

Yellow Wagtail I had a bird at Barbara Point on 30 May and another along the beach below the bluffs of Gilbert Ridge on way to Alexai Point on 31 May. George Wagner and I flushed a bird on the beach at Barbara Point on 12 June, which was obviously a different bird than the one present on 30 May.

Black-backed Wagtail A male was seen singing and feeding on insects at the old broken-down bridge across the river in O'Donnell Valley on 9 June by George Wagner and I. This bird was first found by Mike Carmody on 8 June. No female was present. George and I carefully checked under the remains of the old bridge but found only a fresh nest (no eggs yet deposited) of a Rosy Finch.

Song Sparrow I saw a young bird just out of the nest at the midden site on the SE corner of Murder Point on 10 June. The bird could not fly very well and was "bob-tailed".

Lapland Longspur 1) On 9 June, in O'Donnell Valley, I saw a male with solid black down both sides (rather than the usual streaks). The black of the sides was connected to the black of the breast and throat. Is this just a plumage variation?  
 2) I found a nest with 4 eggs under incubation in the side of a 4-foot bank near the first major bend of Kingfisher Creek on 10 June. I found the nest when the female flushed.  
 3) George Wagner and I found a nest with 5 eggs under incubation on 12 June on the north side of Big Lake in a thick tussock of dried grass.  
 4) George Wagner and I found another nest with 5 eggs under incubation along the jeep trail about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile before reaching Elwood Pass on 13 June.