

**University of Alaska Museum – Bureau of Land Management**

**Biodiversity Survey 2002**

**Report from the UAM  
Department of Ornithology**

**James M. Maley, Daniel D. Gibson, and Kevin Winker**

**31 March 2003**

**University of Alaska Museum – Bureau of Land Management**  
**Biodiversity Survey 2002**  
**Department of Ornithology**

**Abstract:**

During the summer of 2002 the Department of Ornithology at the University of Alaska Museum conducted biodiversity surveys of BLM land-holdings in three separate areas of the state. We were very interested in these areas due to the lack of previous surveys in most of these habitats. We conducted our first surveys of the area around Haines (24-28 June), focusing on the uplands. These habitats were found not to be occupied by species that might have been present in an edge-of-range, trickle-over manner from known populations in Canada. Apparently these habitats are too naturally fragmented to sustain populations of some of these species. The next area surveyed was the northcentral Alaska Peninsula (3-7 July). We were able to correlate our observations with a detailed survey of this area conducted over twenty years ago, thus documenting range expansions and one apparent range contraction. Key findings in this phase of the survey included the presence of the endemic Marbled Godwit subspecies *Limosa fedoa beringiae*, which we found in substantial numbers on BLM lands in an area where they had not previously been recorded, and range shifts along the peninsula concordant with changes expected due to regional warming trends. The next focus of this trip was the southwest portion of Cook Inlet, just north of Kamishak Bay (8-10 July). We extensively surveyed both the uplands and the bottomland stands of cottonwood, where we collected specimens at their range limits. Finally, we returned to Haines (24-29 July) to focus on the bottomland habitats that we were unable to concentrate on during our first survey of the area. We were able to obtain a number of specimens of species that occur only in this part of Alaska. Specimens collected on these surveys have already proven valuable to researchers investigating the genetic characteristics of Alaska bird populations.

## **Phase I – northern SE Alaska (24 – 28 June)**

A survey of alpine habitats in northernmost SE Alaska under BLM jurisdiction was of focal interest to this fieldwork, but our department was also interested in surveying the riverbottom habitats of the Chilkat and adjacent drainages—where we have conducted fieldwork in the past—because more than a dozen avian species and subspecies reach their northwesternmost distributional limits in the riparian habitats of this area—e.g., Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis alascensis*, Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*, Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*, Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens glacialis*, Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus sitkensis*, Western Wood Pewee *Contopus sordidulus saturatus*, Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*, Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*, American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*, MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*, Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*, Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*, Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca chilcatensis*, and Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia inexpectata*. Thus we knew that, if constrained by weather from helicopter work in the alpine, we would still be able to conduct fieldwork in the region that would be productive both to BLM and to UAM.

Under-4000-ft ceilings much of the period 24-29 June 2002 limited our alpine work to the end of that week. Thus we spent most of this period surveying riparian habitats (bottomland cottonwood forest, mixed coniferous/deciduous forest, revegetating alluvia, beaver ponds). Our visits to alpine habitats, where the avifauna proved to be depauperate, led us to believe that avian alpine habitats are sufficiently fragmented in this region as to host few species, and in low densities. We recorded 66 species, 11 of them (identified by asterisk below) in and adjacent to the alpine. Only three of those 11 are obligatory alpine nesting birds.

### **Bird species observed during Phase I (specimens noted where taken):**

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*: several pairs on 11-Mile pond.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*: one female on Porcupine Lake.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*: females with broods on river sloughs.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis alascensis*: one adult, Porcupine Road.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: one hunting from snags, upper Chilkat River.

\*Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus dixonii*: alpine only, where we recorded only one;  
1 specimen.

\*Blue Grouse *Dendragapus obscurus*: males 'hooting' from exposed boulders at edge of  
alpine.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

Mew Gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*

Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*: 1 specimen.

Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*

\*Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus saturatus*: one in stunted hemlocks at edge  
of alpine.

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*: 1 specimen.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus swainsonii*: common breeder; one bird on nest, 9 ft up in  
fork of cottonwood branch, Porcupine Crossing.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*: 1 specimen.

Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

\*Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: riverbottom; one observed in transit at 4000 ft in alpine.

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapilla*

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*: 1 specimen.

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus incanus*

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

American Robin *Turdus migratorius caurinus*

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius naevius*

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

\*American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*: alpine only, where nesting in low densities;  
1 specimen.

\*Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata lutescens*: riverbottom; also low densities  
probably nesting in medium shrub thickets, edge of alpine.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata hooveri*

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: common breeder in bottomland deciduous  
forests; two adult male specimens.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*: uncommon breeder

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*: common breeder

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*: common breeder

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*: scarce probable breeder.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

\*Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*: riverbottom grass flats, lower Chilkat;  
also low densities in alpine.

\*Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*: riverbottom; also singing males in brush zone almost to  
very edge of alpine.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia inexpectata*: 3 specimens.

\*Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*: bottomlands; also in medium shrub thickets at edge of alpine. 1 specimen

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*: one male, perhaps breeding bird, at pond off main river. Species is distinctly uncommon and local on rivers of SE Mainland.

\*Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*: alpine only; one bird seen in rocky area at 4000 ft.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*: pair along Mosquito Lake access road.

\*Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus*: riverbottom; also, birds in transit heard in flight at alpine localities.

## **Phase II – Alaska Peninsula**

### **Bear Lake Lodge portion (3 – 7 July)**

The Department of Ornithology was very interested in sampling the lower Alaska Peninsula along the Bering Sea coast because of an historic paucity of specimen material from this important region. Aside from historic records and two recent, focused sampling efforts (Gill et al. 1981; Gibson and Kessel 1989), little work has been done to document the distribution and abundance of birds in this region. The survey, while very fast (and therefore not definitive), proved highly productive.

Areas surveyed:

#### **Bear Lake Lodge area**

Situated at the northeastern edge of Bear Lake, the lodge occupies an excellent position from which to gauge the presence and abundance of birds in this area. Tundra, lakeshore, stream edge, and brushy alder patches predominate. (3 – 7 July).

**Steelhead Creek (Black Hill, Cape Lieskof area) 55° 46' N 162° 10' W**

Habitat types sampled: open sandy beach, low willows along small coastal stream, back side of coastal dunes on moist tundra. (4 July).

**Lagoon west of "Frank's Point" 55° 52' N 161° 50' W**

Habitat types sampled: open sandy beach, coastal salt lagoon, coastal grasslands. (4 & 5 July).

**Reindeer Creek (east of Port Moller) 56° 59' N 158° 35' W**

Habitat types sampled: tall willow and alder thickets, upland mesic tundra, coastal grasslands. (5 & 6 July).

**Ugashik Bay (Pilot Point area) 57° 23' N 157° 42' W and 57° 24' N 157° 41' W**

Habitat types sampled: moist, flat, grassy tundra interspersed with small to medium sized lakes. (6 July).

**Specimens:**

**Central Alaska Peninsula**

- Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 1
- Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* 1
- Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* 2
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 1
- Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* 13
- Rock Sandpiper *Calidris ptilocnemis* 1
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 1
- Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* 1
- Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* 1
- Common Raven *Corvus corax* 1
- Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* 1
- American Robin *Turdus migratorius* 1
- American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 1
- Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* 1
- American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea* 1
- Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* 5

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla* 2

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* 2

**Species accounts for noteworthy observations & specimens:**

**Black Turnstone** (*Arenaria melanocephala*) The isolated, southerly breeding populations of this species on the Alaska Peninsula (Murie 1954, Gill et al. 1981, UAM unpublished) bear watching. *A. melanocephala* has been reported as an uncommon to common breeder in the Ugashik Bay region (Gibson unpublished). Despite many hours in the air and on the ground going over appropriate habitat, we detected no individuals of this species. Given our rapid coverage of the region, this absence cannot be considered definitive, but the loss of southerly breeding populations of a high-latitude species such as this might occur with habitat changes due to climate warming. This is of conservation concern because this species breeds only in Alaska.

**Greater Yellowlegs** (*Tringa melanoleuca*) This taiga-breeding species was recorded as being seen commonly by Gill et al. (1981) with no evidence of nesting. Murie (1954) speculated that this species could be breeding out to the end of the peninsula, but provided no evidence. Gibson (unpublished) reported this bird nesting in open spruce muskeg at the base of the peninsula. During our survey, we observed this bird commonly. Behavioral clues led us to believe that these birds were holding breeding territories throughout the region surveyed. Pairs were observed circling overhead and calling repeatedly in many different areas. While we did not have time to investigate nesting further, it is potentially a significant breeding range extension and brings into question known breeding biology.

**Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa beringiae*) This subspecies was originally described in 1989 by Gibson and Kessel and was only sparsely recorded in Alaska prior to the discovery of this population. We saw one bird from the air at Nelson Lagoon (5 July) that was almost certainly this species. On 6 July one bird was seen inland along Reindeer Creek at (56° 59' N 158° 35' W). These sightings represent possible local breeders or



movements of feeding adults. On 6 July we saw at least 25 individuals in the western Ugashik Bay region at (57° 24' N 157° 41' W), exhibiting territorial behavior. Several more birds were recorded in the same area the next day, again displaying territorial behavior. All of these records comprise the westernmost occurrences of this species documented during the breeding season. Historic records are not adequate to determine whether these observations represent an extension of a formerly more restricted range on the peninsula or instead just more thorough documentation of an historically stable (but undocumented) range. Specimens that we were able to obtain of this population on this survey (the first genetic samples of this subspecies) have already been initially screened genetically to determine divergence from allopatric populations in Canada and the lower 48 states.

**Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina thalassina*) A single vagrant individual was seen daily at Bear Lake Lodge. This record is worth noting because it represents the type of vagrant or one-off record that one expects to find occasionally in avian surveys. This species was recorded only twice during four extensive avian surveys of Katmai National Park (Gibson unpublished), both instances being single birds associated with tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Predictably, the bird we found was recorded with a colony of tree swallows (*T. bicolor*) associated with human habitation.

**American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) Adult birds were observed in multiple locations throughout the region surveyed. A nest with young was also found under a roof at Bear Lake Lodge. This bird was not reported west of Cape Menshikof during a 1983 trip to the Alaska Peninsula (Gibson unpublished), and there was no suggestion that it bred any farther west. Murie (1954) did not note this species west of the Bristol Bay region. Oral reports of this species suggest that it may have reached Cold Bay as well. This suggests an advance of American Robins west to the end of the peninsula.

**American Tree Sparrow** (*Spizella arborea ochracea*) An adult male was collected southeast of Port Moller on 3 July. The bird was singing in knee-high woody tundra

vegetation, habitat similar to other areas of Alaska where this species is known. Another singing male was encountered in a low alder and willow thicket (ca. 1.5 m in height) at Reindeer Creek on 5 July. This species was captured three times in Cold Bay during three years of banding in the early 1970s. It is likely that this bird is extending its range out onto the peninsula; it is common at the base (Gibson unpublished).

#### **Ursus Cove portion (8 – 10 July)**

We sampled both uplands and lowlands to determine what species are found in this relatively unsurveyed area. We collected a number of birds for comparison with birds found in other areas of the state.

*Like Oleria?*

#### **Ursus Cove area 59° 27' 39.5" N 153° 57' 32.1" W**

Habitat types sampled: bottomland cottonwood, upland dry tundra, rocky slopes, timberline. (8 – 10 July).

#### **Highlands 59° 26' N 153° 55' W**

Habitat types sampled: rocky tundra down into alder thickets. (8 & 9 July).

#### **Cottonwood Bay 59° 38' N 153° 42' W**

Habitat types sampled: shoreline and friable cliffs; alder thickets.

#### **Specimens:**

##### **Ursus Cove area:**

- Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* 2
- White-tailed Ptarmigan *Lagopus leucurus* 5
- Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani* 2
- Surfbird *Aphriza virgata* 2
- Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* 1
- Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* 4
- American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 3
- Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* 3
- Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* 5
- Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* 5

Species Checklist for Phase II:

Species Observed:	3-Jul- 2002	4-Jul- 2002	5-Jul- 2002	6-Jul- 2002	8-Jul- 2002	9-Jul- 2002	10-Jul- 2002
*Common Loon <i>Gavia immer</i>		5	3	4	1		
*Red-throated Loon <i>Gavia stellata</i>	3	2	1	3			
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				6			
Cormorant sp. <i>Phalacrocorax auritus/pelagicus</i>		6					6
*Tundra Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	>100	40	200	20			
*Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	6	12	10			
*Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>		20	8	1			
*Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>		4	2				
*American Wigeon <i>Anas americana</i>	1			9			
*Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>		4	6	9			4
*Greater Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>		20	10	6	2		
Harlequin Duck <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>		2					20
White-winged Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i>				30			
*Black Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>		40	10	10			
Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>		15		1		1	6
***Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	9	50	40	30	3	3	30
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>			1				
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>				2			
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>					1		
Gyr Falcon <i>Falco rusticolus</i>				1			
*Willow Ptarmigan <i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	6	6	15	4			
**Rock Ptarmigan <i>Lagopus mutus</i>					10		

**White-tailed Ptarmigan <i>Lagopus leucurus</i>					20		
*Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	7	15	10	50			
*Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	2	3	6				
**Black Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus bachmani</i>							15
*Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	2	>10	2	10			
*Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			6	2			
*Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>				25			
*Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		2					
**Surfbird <i>Aphriza virgata</i>					2		
***Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	1	1000++	1350	400		5	
*Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1	2	3	2			15
*Rock Sandpiper <i>Calidris ptilocnemis</i>	3	3	1				
*Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>		45	7	50			
***Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>		24		4		3	
*Wilson's Snipe <i>Gallinago delicata</i>	7	5	1	20			
*Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		100	50	4			
*Parasitic Jaeger <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		2	1	1			
Long-tailed Jaeger <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>		4	2	1			
***Mew Gull <i>Larus camus</i>	4	4	300	1000	1	10	30
***Glaucous-winged Gull <i>L. glaucescens</i>	4	1000++	500	30		4	20
*Sabine's Gull <i>Xema sabini</i>			5				
*Black-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		50	700				
*Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	8	50	20	>200			
Common Murre <i>Uria aalge</i>							4
Pigeon Guillemot <i>Cepphus columba</i>							10
Horned Puffin <i>Fratercula corniculata</i>			1				4

Tufted Puffin <i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>			1				2
*Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>		1	1	3			
Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i>							1
***Black-billed Magpie <i>Pica hudsonia</i>	1	15	2		5	7	2
***Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>		30	2		1	2	3
Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	20	20	20	20			
Violet-green Swallow <i>Tachyc. thalassina</i>	1	1	1	1			
***Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	2	40	50	30			10
Black-capped Chickadee <i>Poecile atricapilla</i>					2		5
Gray-cheeked Thrush <i>Catharus minimus</i>					2		
***Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i>			6	3	40	10	20
***American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	1	1					3
Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>							1
***American Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i>		4	3	1	15	3	
***Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i>			10	1	2	1	15
***Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>		2	40	3	2	2	5
***Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	1		30	1	20		5
*American Tree Sparrow <i>Spizella arborea</i>			1	1			
***Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	50	300		50		10	30
***Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>			4	2	3		40
*White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	2	3	10	2			
***Golden-crowned Sparrow <i>Z. atricapilla</i>	10	12	30	10	40	10	30
Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>						1	
*Lapland Longspur <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	6	30	15	30			
Snow Bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>				5	2		
*Pine Grosbeak <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>			2				

***Common Redpoll <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	16	1	3	2	10	20	20
--	----	---	---	---	----	----	----

\* - Birds found on BLM land: Bear Lake portion of Phase II

\*\* - Birds found on BLM land: Ursus Cove portion of Phase II

\*\*\* - Birds found on BLM land: Both portions of Phase II

### Phase III – Northern SE Alaska

#### 24 July – 29 July 2002

The second trip to Haines allowed us to intensively survey the riverbottom habitat managed by BLM. There was less emphasis on the alpine habitats due to the severe lack of avian activity found in Phase I of the survey. Due to the timing of Phase III, singing activity was low and few birds were maintaining territories. A number of important riverbottom taxa were observed and collected because we concentrated our efforts so heavily on the tracts of BLM land along the Chilkat River valley and the associated drainages. Despite our lack of efforts in the alpine, the mammalogists that accompanied us were given instructions to attempt to watch for certain taxa. They also inadvertently collected multiple species in snap-traps. This allows a general comparison between the two phases of the survey in abundance and diversity of the alpine areas.

It was clear during Phase I and from previous collecting efforts in the area that the riverbottom habitat in this area is unique in the state and is the terminus of the ranges of a number of taxa. One example is the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), which we found nesting in the state for the first time on the alluvium at 24 mile on Haines Highway. Haines is also the northwestern limit of range for Vaux's Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*), which were observed feeding, and groups of juveniles were observed along the river flats. There are several species of passerines that are not known to be present in numbers in the state north and west of Haines. Examples of these that we observed were Chestnut-backed Chickadees (*Poecile rufescens*), Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), which were observed flycatching and displaying territorial behavior), American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*), MacGillivray's Warblers (*Oporornis tolmiei*), and Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*). It is evident that the BLM landholdings in the lowland areas near Haines are extremely important due to the diversity of bird species

and uniqueness of habitat within the state of Alaska. Some of the specimens obtained in the Haines area are already being used to examine the genetic identity of SE Alaska bird populations.

**Bird species observed during Phase III:**

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*: one individual identified as this species seen in a large lake.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*: two females with young seen in two separate ponds.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* +

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* +

\*White-tailed Ptarmigan *Lagopus leucurus*: 2 specimens; female with brood found. +

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* +

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

Mew Gull *Larus canus* +

\*Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*: 5 specimens; female with two young found, several birds observed 'booming' over river flats. +

\*Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*: 8 specimens; hundreds observed over Chilkat River feeding, family groups included. +

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* +

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* +

\*Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*: 1 specimen +

\*Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*: 1 specimen; one individual seen and collected in cottonwoods adjacent to river flats. +

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*

Western Wood-Pee wee *Contopus sordidulus* +  
 Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum* +  
 \*Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*: 1 specimen +  
 \*?Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*: 1 specimen; possible member of this species  
 observed and collected in cottonwoods adjacent to river flats. +  
 Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis* +  
 \*Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*: 1 specimen +  
 Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*  
 Common Raven *Corvus corax* +  
 Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* +  
 Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 \*Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapilla* 2 specimens +  
 \*Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens* 2 specimens +  
 Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*  
 Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* +  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* +  
 \*Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*: 3 specimens; multiple 'spotted young' collected  
 after identification of parents. +  
 Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* +  
 American Robin *Turdus migratorius* +  
 Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius* +  
 \*Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*: 2 specimens; multiple individuals observed  
 flycatching and displaying territorial behavior on islands and adjacent to river flats. +  
 \*American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*: 2 specimens +  
 Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata* +  
 Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* +  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* +  
 Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi* +  
 \*American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: 3 specimens +  
 \*MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*: 1 specimen +



- \*Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*: 1 specimen +
- \*Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*: 1 specimen; multiple flocks seen foraging on partially regrown river flats. +
- \*Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*: 1 specimen +
- \*Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*: 1 specimen +
- \*Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*: 1 specimen +
- \*Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*: 1 specimen +
- \*Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*: 1 specimen +
- Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus* +
- + - On BLM lands.
- \* - Specimen(s) collected (42 total specimens).

#### **Literature Cited:**

- Gibson, D. D., and B. Kessel. 1989. Geographic variation in the marbled godwit and description of an Alaska subspecies. *The Condor* 91(2):436-443.
- Gill, R. E., M. R. Petersen, and P. D. Jorgensen. 1981. Birds of the Northcentral Alaska Peninsula, 1976-1980. *Arctic* 34(4):286-306.
- Murie, O. J. 1959. Fauna of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office.