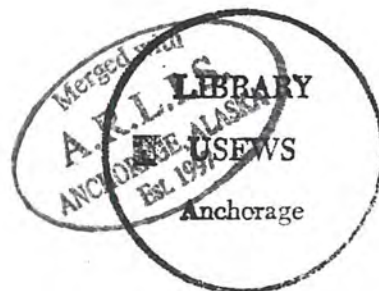


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Birds of the Shumagin Islands,
with Special Reference to the Koniuji Group



8 January 1977

Robert H. Day

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Alaska Resources
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Anchorage, Alaska

Introduction

The avifauna of the Shumagin Islands is very poorly known, although there have been numerous people through the area. In this paper I have attempted to put together a general survey of past information from this area, as well as our observations in the Koniugi Group from the summer of 1976.

Steller visited the Shumagins from 30 August to 6 September 1741, but was unable to spend much time ashore. However, he did keep extensive notes on the birds he saw, and these were subsequently published and interpreted by Stejneger (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Dall visited Unga in 1865, and worked the area between the Shumagins and Unalaska from October 1871 to August 1872. Chase Littlejohn spent much time working the area from the Aleutians to Kodiak at the turn of the century, and these notes have been published in various sources. Frank Beals was a U.S. Biological survey employee member of the crew of the Brown Bear when Gabrielson visited in the 1940's. He kept detailed notes on parts of the Alaska Peninsula that were close to the Shumagins.

Few publications have come out that contain much information on the Shumagin Islands:

- 1) Murie (1959) passed through the Shumagins in the spring and fall of 1936 and 1937 on his trips to the Aleutians. He made occasional references to sightings in this area.

- 2) Birds of Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) contains much

information on this area scattered through the distribution notes. Most of these come from Gabrielson's own field experience in the Shumagins in 1946.

3) Karl Kenyon (1964) spent a total of seven days on Simeonof Island between 15 March 1955 and 9 June 1960. His paper, published in 1964, contains a list of 39 bird and 8 mammal species seen as well as an excellent historical account of the former town there.

4) Leroy Sowl (1973) censused the major seabird colonies along the south side of the Alaska Peninsula in early June 1973. He spent the period of 8-16 June in the Shumagins, and estimated populations at all the major colonies.

In addition, Charles H. Townsend (1913) visited this area briefly in 1913, and he discovered the Crested Auklet colony at Big Koniugi. Alexander Wetmore evidently visited Little Koniugi during his Alaska trip with A. C. Bent in 1911. Will Troyer (1968) spent five days at Simeonof Island in late June 1968, and he prepared a checklist of abundance of birds seen there. Edgar Bailey and George Divoky visited this area in 1973 on the censusing trip with Leroy Sowl. Robert D. Jones, Jr. visited Bird and Chernabura in early June 1970 to look these areas over for possible refuge status.

I have discussed the islands, geology, habitats, climate, etc., of this area in a separate paper (An Introduction to the Shumagin Islands, Alaska), so readers are asked to refer to this to answer any questions they might have on the Shumagin Islands.

For abundance, I have used the following terms:

abundant = species occurs repeatedly in proper habitats, with available habitat heavily used and/or the region regularly hosts great numbers of species.

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common = species occurs in all or nearly all proper habitats, but some areas of presumed suitable habitat are occupied sparsely or not at all and/or the region regularly hosts large numbers of the species.

uncommon = species occurs regularly, but utilizes very little of the suitable habitat and/or the region regularly hosts relatively small numbers of the species; not observed regularly even in proper habitats.

rare = species within its normal range, occurring regularly but in very small numbers.

casual = a species beyond its normal range, but not so far that irregular observations are likely over a period of years

accidental = a species so far from its normal range that further observations are unlikely.

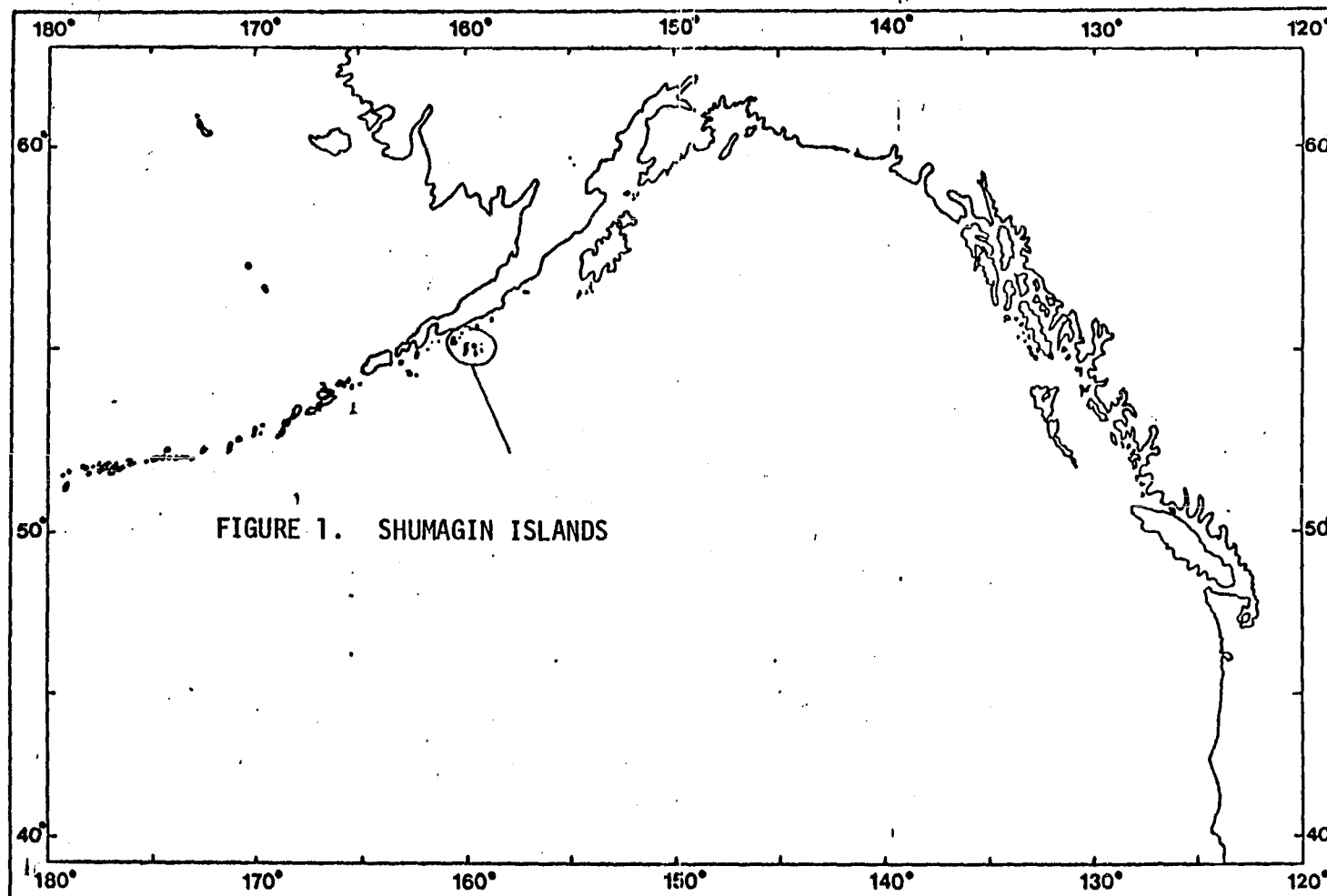
As mentioned above, Sowi censused the major seabird colonies in the Shumagins during early June 1973. I have compiled this information in a chart by island and species (Table I). As can be seen, the total number of seabirds in the major colonies exceeds one million birds. This does not include the smaller colonies or the constant use of coastline by hundreds of birds per mile. Thus, I feel fairly safe in assuming there are probably around 1.2 million sea birds in the Shumagin Islands, with the murre, the puffin, and Black-legged Kittiwakes the highest percentage of the population. The Koniugi Group itself is the largest component of the seabird population in the Shumagins, comprising slightly less than one-half of the birds in the major colonies.

During the summer of 1976, the USFWS office of Biological Systems sent R. Allen Moe, Theodore G. Schad, and myself to the Koniugi Group to study seabirds in this area. We censused and mapped colonies and as much coastline as possible, studied breeding chronology, habitat use, feeding areas, and predation. As much time as possible was spent determining use of this area by other species, both migratory and resident. Our total population estimates are shown in Table II, and are made up of both colony censusing

and general coastline censuses. The major difference between ours and Sowl's work is that we found substantial numbers of nocturnal birds (Petrels, Cassins Auklet, and Ancient Murrelet) in this area. I feel certain that other islands in the Shumagins have large populations of nocturnal birds, so the total population estimate of seabirds for the Shumagins may be as high as 1.5 million birds. Also, our numbers are often different from those of Sowl; this is unfortunate because of variations in population estimation between observers, but generalities of population trends are apparent (i.e., there are many puffins in this area.) Also, the large difference in Glaucous-winged Gull populations at Herendeen Island seems to be related to the fact that Red Foxes swam there between 1973 and 1976.

In addition to our field work, I have searched the major literature of this area (mentioned above) for references to bird distributions in this area. That information plus our work this summer have provided the data contained in this paper. In most cases, the information is so scanty that I have had to use the word "probably" in connection with a notation of abundance. This is unfortunate, but I felt it should be stated this way until more information is found. Species accounts are discussed in two parts: 1) mentioning all previous records from the Shumagins and from nearby areas (e.g., Stepovak Bay, Izembek NWR) when applicable; 2) I then discuss our findings in the Koniuji Group. There are a total of 96 species recorded in the Shumagins, and another 52 that are of possible to probable occurrence, making a total of at least 138 species from this area.

Any errors in this manuscript are solely attributable to me, and I hope that future workers in this area will be able to fill in the gaps that I have encountered.



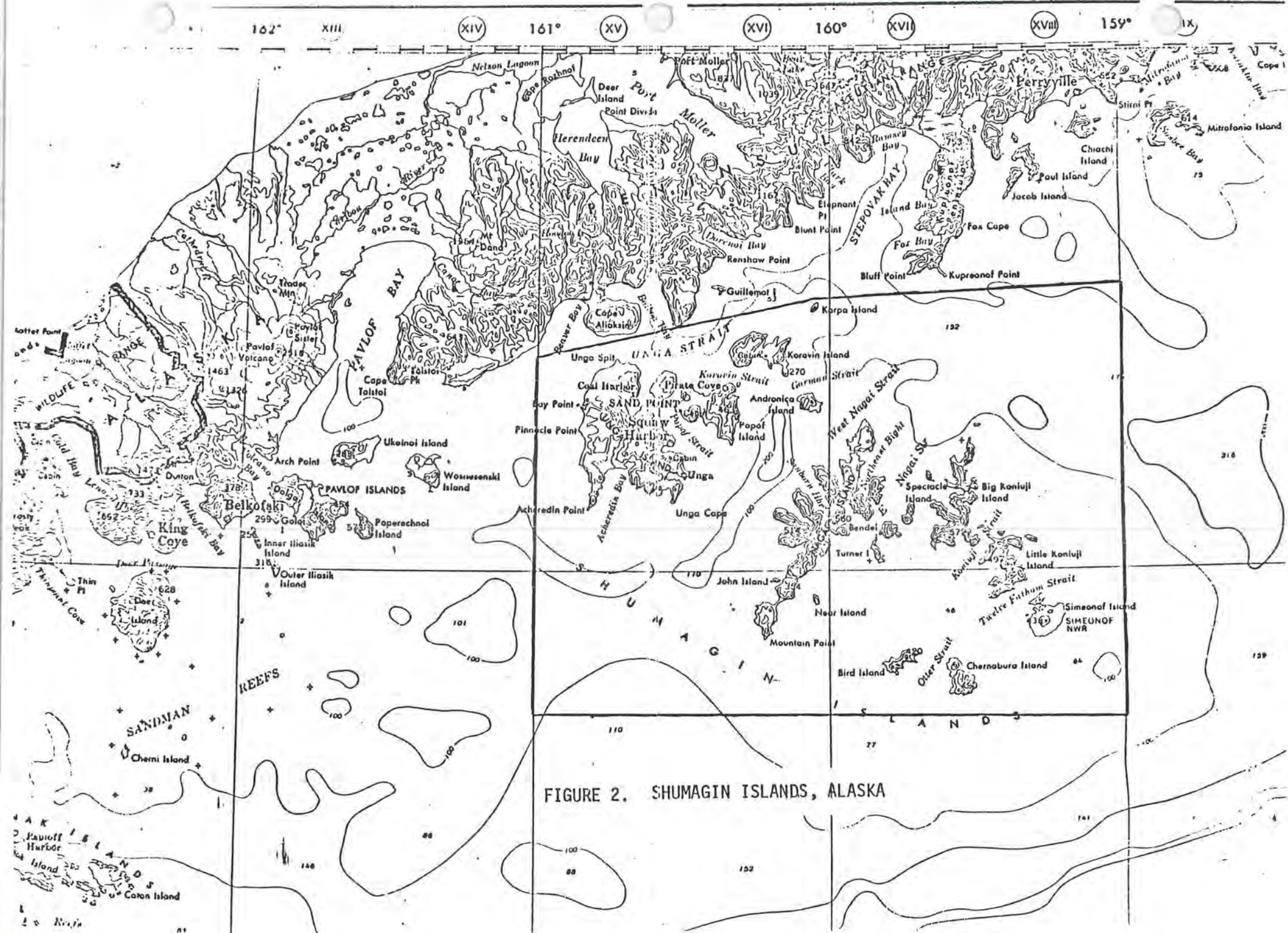


Table I. Population estimates of seabirds at the major colonies
in the Shumagin Islands (compiled from Sowl 1973).

	FORE- TAILED PETREL	DOUBLE- CRESTED CORMORANT	RED- FACED CORMORANT	PETAGIC CORMORANT	CORMORANT SP.	GLAUCOUS- WINGED GULL	BLACK- LEGGED KIT- WING	ARCTIC TERN	MURRES SP.	PIGEON GUILLOT	ANCIENT MURLET	KITTITZ'S MURLET	SUBTOTAL
Round Island			80			2,400	9,000						11,480
Sea Lion Rocks						150							150
High Island			1,200			7,400							5,600
Tagai Island	P				200	6,400	P			P	5,000		11,600
Tagstacks							22,000		30,000	500			52,500
Zandel Island					50								50
Turner Island						2,500							2,500
Spectacle Island													0
Karnabura Island											P		P
Koroin Island						300				20			320
Karpa Island	P				P	6,000			240,000				246,000
Bird Island					6,000		43,000		24,000				73,000
Andronica Island					P	650	250			230			1,150
Jaga Island		7,000	P			1,200	68,000		6,000	1,000		2	83,200
Popof Island						400				20			420
Eg and						3,500	40						3,540
New Island					40	2,500	6,000			P			8,540
Twins		2,000				500	6,500		200				9,200
Simeonof Island								P ①		P ①	P		P
Big Koniugi Island					600		4,800			7,000			12,400
Little Koniugi Island										P	P		P
Atkins Island										2,500			2,500
Hercules Island						5,000							5,000
Peninsula Island										2,500			2,500
Castle Rock							6,000		8,000				14,000
Hall Island					50	400	200			1,500			2,150

TOTAL STORMBIRDS	P	P	9,640 ⁺	640 ⁺	6,940 ⁺	36,300 ⁺	165,790 ⁺	P	308,200 ⁺	15,270 ⁺	5,000 ⁺	P	547,780 ⁺
KONIUGI GROUP	-	-	-	-	650 ⁺	5,400 ⁺	11,000 ⁺	-	8,000 ⁺	13,500 ⁺	P	-	38,550 ⁺

NOTE :

P = present in unknown numbers (usually small)

① = from Kenyon (1964).

	MARbled MURRELET	PARakeet AUKLET	CREsted AUKLET	CASIN's AUKLET	HORNED PUFFIN	Tufted PUFFIN	SUB- TOTAL	TOTAL
Round Island					4,000	4,000	8,000	19,800
Sea Lion Rocks							0	150
High Island		P			800	6,000	6,800	12,100
Tagai Island				P	500	8,000	8,500	20,100
Seastacks				P	5,000	19,000	24,000	76,500
Endel Island		P			P	2,000	2,000	2,050
Turner Island		P			P		P	2,500
Pectacle Island						P	P	P
Herobura Island						P	P	P
Corvin Island					200	300	500	820
Arpa Island					7,000	10,000	17,000	263,000
Red Island						P	P	73,000
Andronica Island					800	6,000	6,800	7,930
Anga Island					4,000	6,000	7,000	90,200
Popof Island					150	300	450	870
Fig Island					1,000	8,000	9,000	12,540
Ben Island					7,000	8,000	15,000	23,540
Twins					2,000	18,000	20,000	29,200
Simenof Island							0	P
Big Koniuji Island	P	11,000	63,500		140,600	3,200	218,300	230,700
Little Koniuji Island		P			P	P	P	P
Atkins Island		5,000			500	8,000	13,500	16,000
Frederick Island		9,000		P	500	9,000	18,500	23,500
Peninsula Island						35,000	35,000	37,500
Castle Rock		P			29,000	85,000	105,000	119,000
Tall Island		4,000		P		2,000	6,000	8,150
<hr/>								
FRANKLIN SHUMAGINS	P	29,000 ⁺	63,500 ⁺	P	190,750 ⁺	237,800 ⁺	521,050 ⁺	1,068,830 ⁺
KONIUJI GROUP	P	29,000 ⁺	63,500 ⁺	P	161,600 ⁺	142,200 ⁺	396,300	434,850 ⁺

NOTE:

P = present in unknown numbers (usually small)

① = from Kenyon (1964)

Table II. Population estimates of seabirds in the Koniuji Group (from our work during the summer of 1976).

Note: These numbers include both colony estimates and censuses of the coastline.

	FOUR- TAILED PETREL	LEACH'S PETREL	DOUBLE- CRESTED CORMORANT	RED- FACED CORMORANT	PELAGIC CORMORANT	CORMORANT SP.	GLAUCOUS- WINGED GULL	BLACK- LEGGED KITTIWAKE	MEN GULL	MURRE SP.	PIGEON GULL	AVOCET MURRELET	SUBTOTAL
Big Kona Island	P		100	250	250	150	450	16,200	100		1,100		18,600
Little Kona Island			7	6	35	19	20	120	6		700		910
Atkins Island			2	120	2		80				2,000		2,200
Lerendae Island			16	70	2	11	400				600		1,100
Annas Island						12	280				60	3,000	3,350
Castle Rock	6,000	12,000					60	11,610		8,000	50	30,000	67,720
Hall Island	300	1,500	10	10	20		1,550	310			1,200	3,000	7,900
MU- Rocks											50	P	50
TOTAL	6,300 ⁺	13,500 ⁺	135 ⁺	450 ⁺	310 ⁺	190 ⁺	2,840 ⁺	28,240 ⁺	110 ⁺	8,000 ⁺	5,760 ⁺	34,000 ⁺	101,835 ⁺

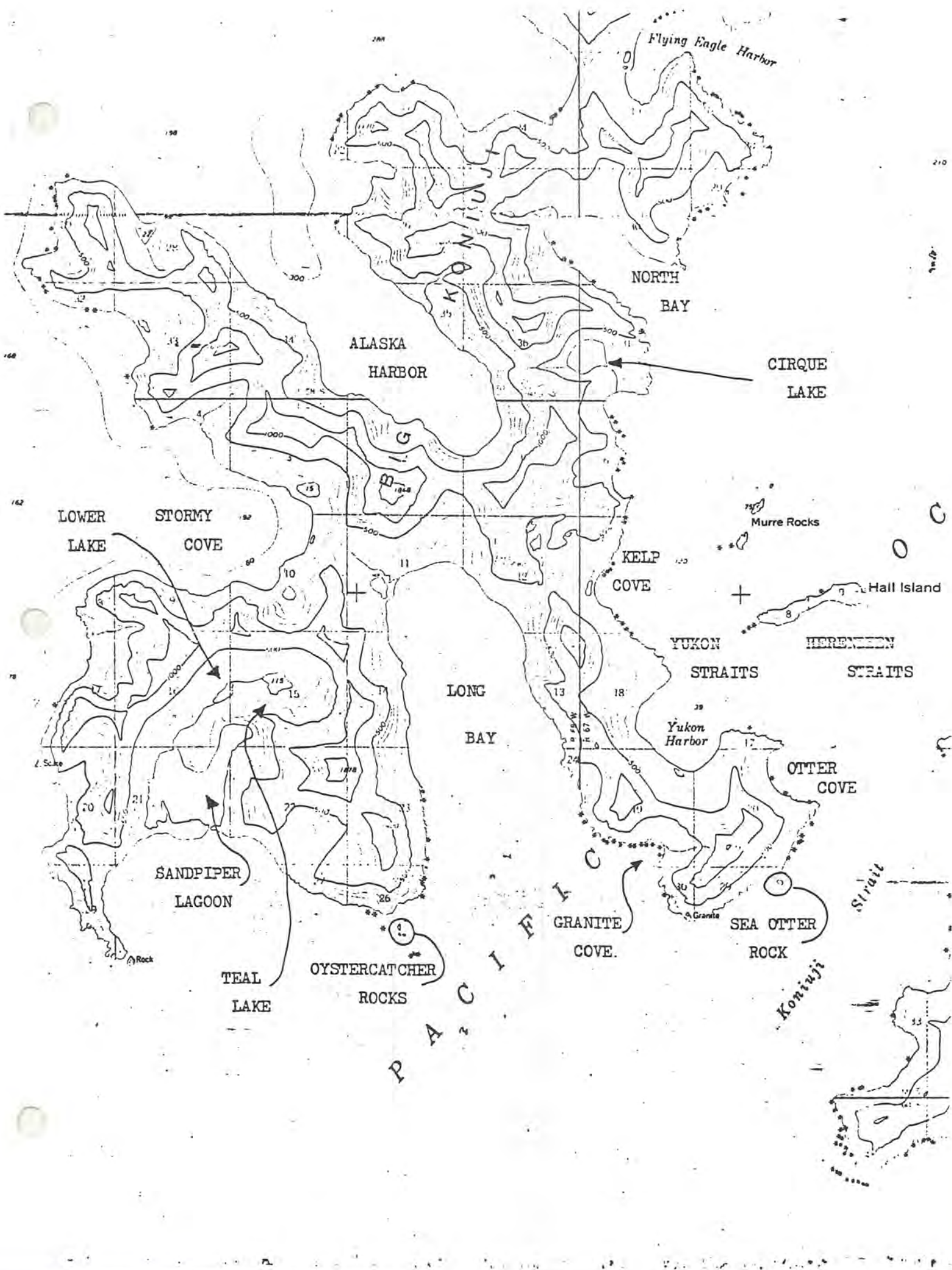
NOTE : P = present in small numbers

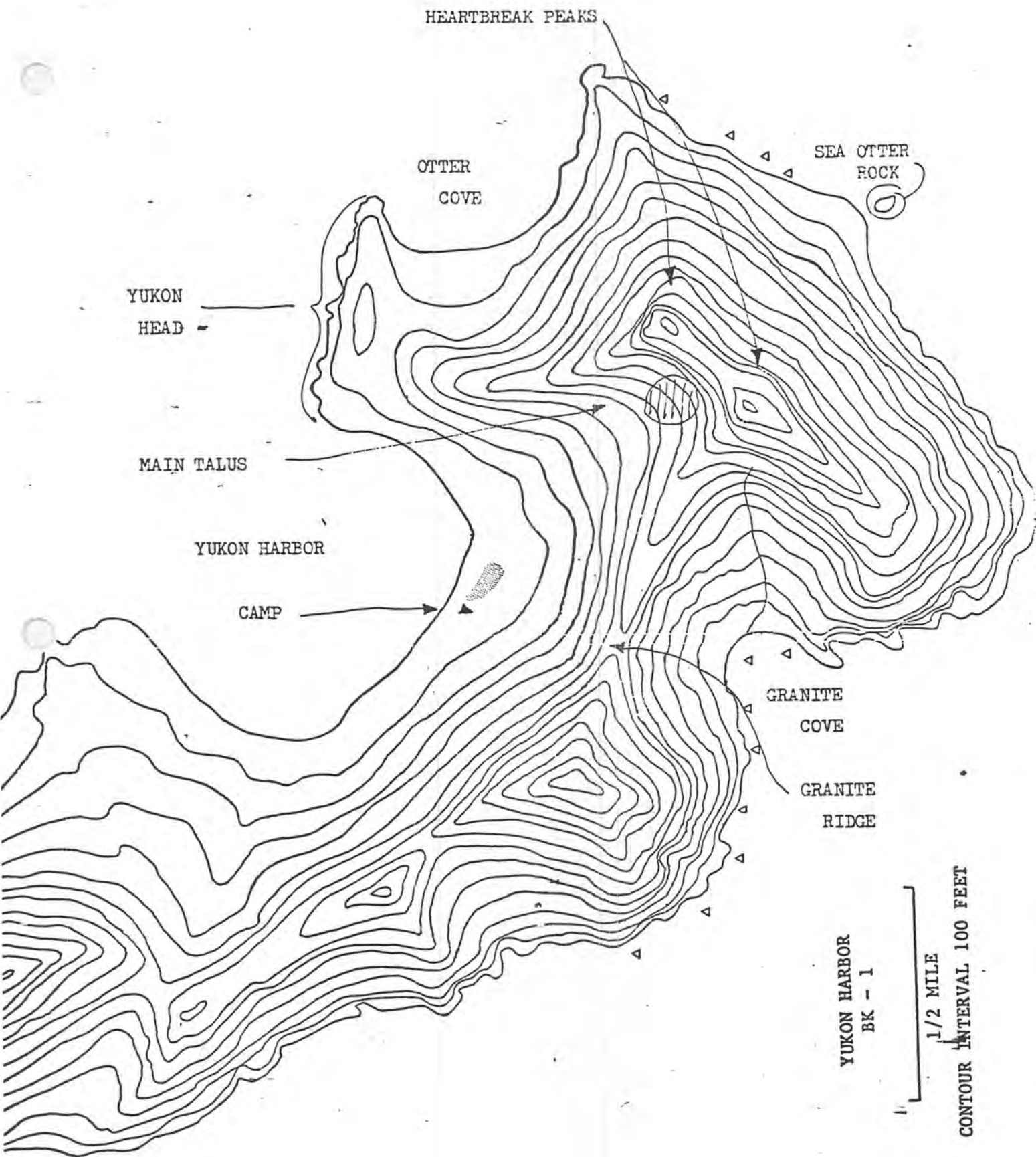
	MARSH MURRELET	PARAKEET AUKLET	CASSIN'S AUKLET	CRESTED AUKLET	LEAST AUKLET	HORNED PUFFIN	TURTLED PUFFIN	SUB- TOTAL	TOTAL
Koniugi Island	P	5,700		39,000		69,900	3,600	118,200	136,800
Little Koniugi Island	P	1450	P			380	50	1880	2,790
Atkins Island		4,000				6,000	12,000	22,000	24,200
Frederick Island		1,600				1,000	3,000	5,600	6,700
Peninsula Island						1,400	4,000	5,400	8,750
Castle Rock		14,000	46,000	3,500	P	60,000	80,000	203,500	271,220
Ball Island		3,500	P			2,400	5,200	11,100	19,000
Upper Rocks		50				60	30	140	190
TOTAL	P	30,300 ⁺	46,000 ⁺	42,500 ⁺	P	141,140 ⁺	107,880 ⁺	367,820 ⁺	469,655 ⁺

NOTE: P = present in small numbers

	MARSH MURLET	PARAKEET AUKLET	CASSIN'S AUKLET	CRESTED AUKLET	LEAST AUKLET	HORNED PUFFIN	TUFTED PUFFIN	SUB- TOTAL	TOTAL
Koniogi Island	P	5,700		39,000		69,900	3,600	118,200	136,800
the Koniogi Island	P	1450	P			380	50	1880	2,790
Kins Island		4,000				6,000	12,000	22,000	24,200
rendeen Island		1,600				1,000	3,000	5,600	6,700
insula Island						1,400	4,000	5,400	8,750
ttle Rock		14,000	46,000	3,500	P	60,000	80,000	203,500	271,220
ll Island		3,500	P			2,400	5,200	11,100	19,000
urre Rocks		50				60	30	140	190
TOTAL	P	30,300 ⁺	46,000 ⁺	42,500 ⁺	P	141,140 ⁺	107,880 ⁺	367,820 ⁺	469,655 ⁺

NOTE: P = present in small numbers

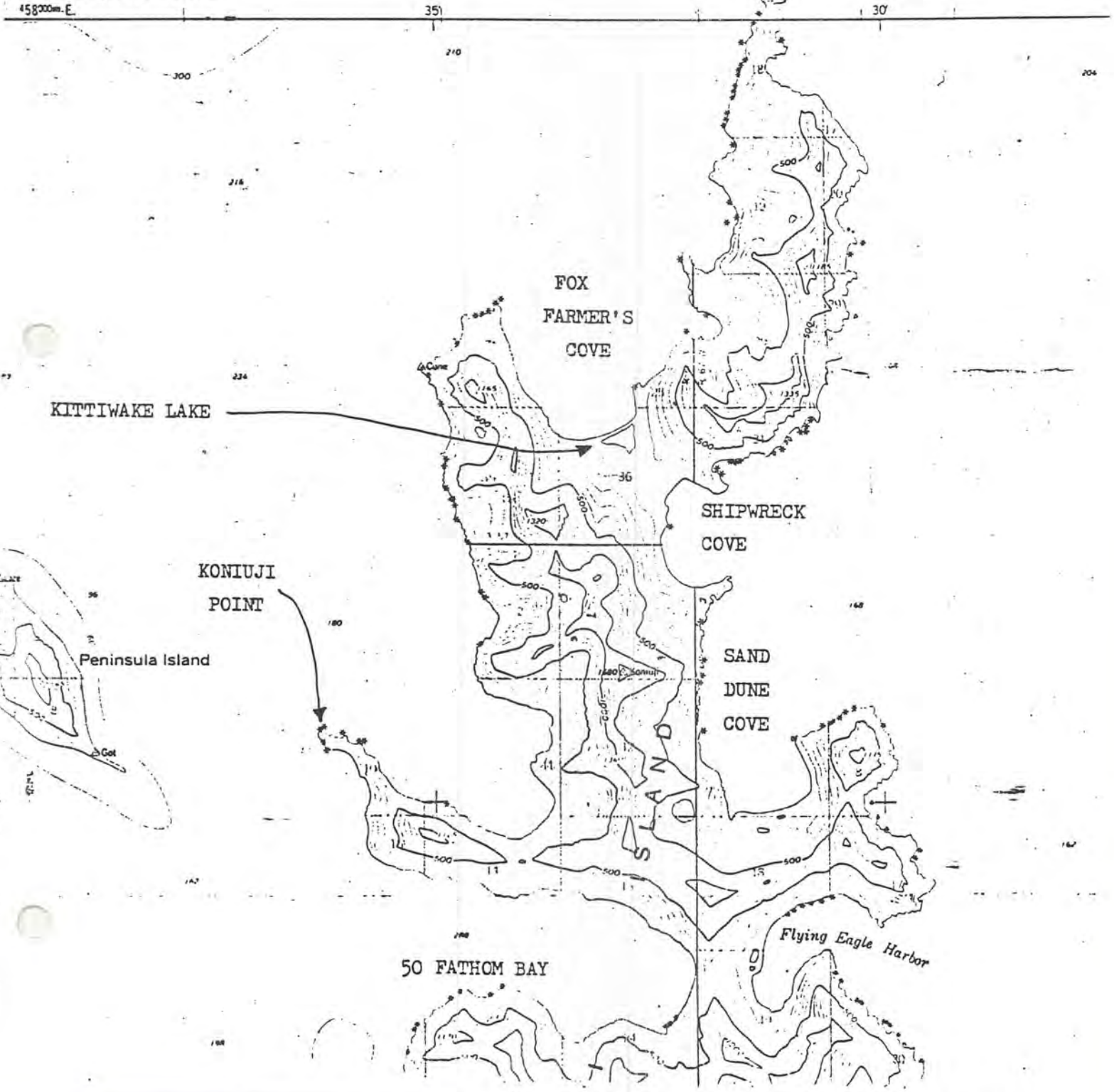


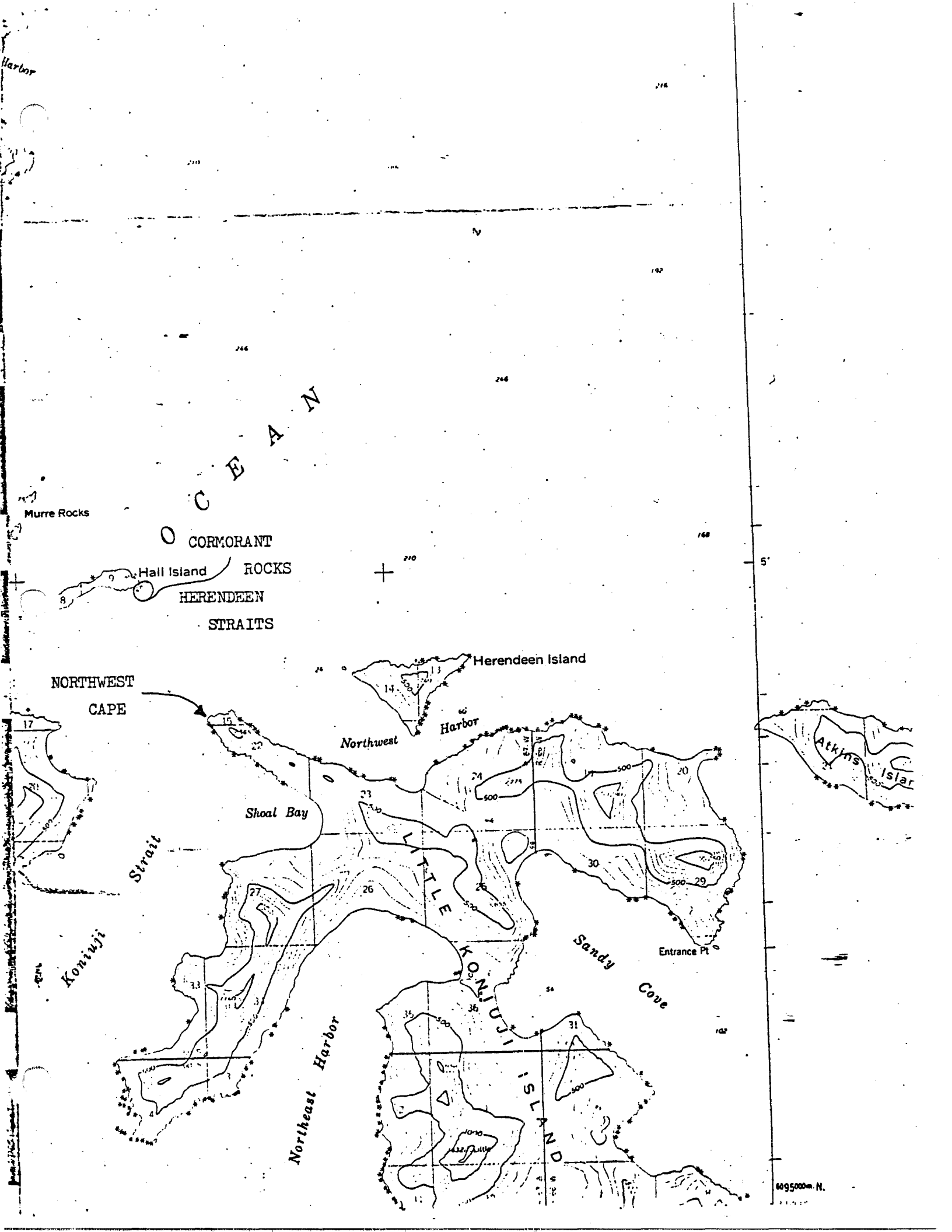




1 DAY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





SIMEONOF ISLAND (D-2) QUADRANGLE

ALASKA

1:63 360 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

ISTROVAK BAY A-4

3AY A-5

25'

210 000 FEET

159°20'

55°00'

GROSVOLD
CAMP

Northeast Harbor

ISLAND

GROSVOLD
LAKES

TWELVE FATHOM STRAIT

WILDLIFE REFUGE

Murie
Islets

NATIONAL

SIMEONOF

(SIMEONOF ISLAND D-1)

O C E A N

Gavia Immer. Common Loon.

A flock of eight birds was seen off Simeonof Island on 8 June 1960 (Kenyon 1964). Troyer (1968) saw one bird in Simeonof Harbor in late June 1968. Dall saw one bird at Simeonof on 2 September 1873 (Murie 1959). Frank Beals reported that birds winter in the Shumagins (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). This species is a common breeder and permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Moe saw a high-plumaged bird on Long Bay on 14 June, and Schad observed what was probably the same bird there on 15 June, along with two immatures.

Gavia adamsii. Yellow-billed Loon.

On 11 June 1973 Sowl (1973) saw one bird near Chernabura Island.

Day and Moe observed a winter-plumaged bird at close range in Long Bay on 16 August. The massive size and entirely yellow bill were unmistakable.

Gavia arctica. Arctic Loon

Gianini (1917) considered them common and breeding at Stepovak Bay, and Jaques (1930) found them common at Port Moller in June 1928. An uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

I can find no records of this species in the Shumagins, and its occurrence is probably rare.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon.

Gianini (1917) found this species common and breeding at Stepovak Bay. Kenyon (1964) had a pair of migrants at Simeonof Harbor on 5 June 1960, and Troyer (1968) saw one pair there in late June 1968. Beals found birds nesting at Izembek Lagoon on 2 June 1942 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

We observed no Red-throated Loons in the Koniuji Group.

Podiceps grisegena. Red-necked Grebe.

Gianini (1977) had up to 17 birds at Stepovak Bay, but reported no sign of breeding. Murie found a pair with two young on Izembek Lagoon on 21 July 1925 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). Kenyon (1964) saw two feeding in Simeonof Harbor on 4 June 1960, but did not see them later. An uncommon breeder and permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no Red-necked Grebes in the Koniuji Group, although they are probably uncommon winter residents in the Shumagins.

Podiceps avritus. Horned Grebe.

Frank Beals saw birds at King Cove on 25 March 1942 and at Sanak Island on 18 January 1941 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). This species is an uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

I have no record of this species for the Shumagins, although they are probably uncommon winter residents.

Fulmarus glacialis. Northern Fulmar.

Murie (1959) recorded birds near the Shumagins, and Edgar Bailey (in litt.) saw one bird near Herendeen Island on 11 June 1973. This species was 2 of 29 (6.9%) of Bald Eagle nest remains that Kenyon (1964) found on Simeonof Island, and 2 of 40 (5.0%) of the remains from a Herendeen Island aerie. Sowl (1973) saw one bird south of Unga Island on 14 June 1973.

Day and Moe saw a dark-phase bird between Cape Thompson and Castle Rock on 26 June, and eight dark-phase birds between Hall Island and Castle Rock on 24 July. An eagle-killed bird was found on Murre-Rocks on 15 July, and they formed a small percentage of eagle aerie remains throughout the summer.

Puffinus tenuirostris. Short-tailed Shearwater.

Murie (1959) saw a few near Nagai Island on 15 May 1936 and some near Simeonof Island on 29 August 1936. Gabrielson saw birds in the Shumagins in late August 1946 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

We observed no Short-tailed Shearwaters in the Koniuji Group, although they undoubtedly occur offshore.

Puffinus griseus. Sooty Shearwater.

Kenyon (1964) saw large flocks from the shore of Simeonof Island in June 1960. This species was 6 of 29 (21.6%) of Bald Eagle nest remains on Simeonof, and 5 of 40 (12.5%) from nests on Herendeen Island.

We found remains of one Shearwater in the Oystercatcher Rocks eagle aerie on 30 August, but we were unable to identify it to this or the preceding species.

Oceanodroma furcata. Fork-tailed Petrel.

Murie (1959) observed this species in the Shumagins during his trips, and Sowl (1973) had many birds around the ship off Cape Wedge, Nagai Island on 13 June 1973.

Birds were occasionally found in gull pellets on Hall Island throughout the summer, and our night watches indicated this a very uncommon species there. Moe and I estimated 150 pairs there. Birds were on eggs at Castle Rock on 24 July, and had everything from very small chicks to those ready to fledge on 9 August. We estimated 6,000 birds nesting there, but this is a ball-park estimate. We were unable to establish breeding on any other islands of the Koniuji Group, but are certain it does not occur on Peninsula Island.

This species also probably breeds on the Haystacks.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa. Leach's Petrel.

Gabrielson (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) states that the egg catalog at the National Museum lists eggs taken from the Shumagins in June 1895, but there are no definite records east of Sanak Island. He also has never seen them in the Shumagins.

From our night observations on Hall Island and from burrow checks on Castle Rock, we have concluded they are more abundant in this area than Fork-tails. The number of birds flying and calling at Hall Island was far more than the Fork-tails, and our estimate of 750 pairs may later prove to be conservative. Because of the inaccessibility of nest sites of this and the preceding species, we were unable to determine breeding chronology.

We found many eggs and some chicks on Castle Rock on 24 July; by our return on 9 August many chicks had fledged, and those remaining were close to fledging. We estimated this species to be about twice as common as Fork-tails on Castle Rock, so we estimate 12,000 birds breeding there. We also feel certain they do not breed on Peninsula Island.

Phalacrocorax auritus. Double-crested Cormorant.

Murie (1959) saw at least two birds near Simeonof Island on 29 August 1936, and states that they probably breed in the Shumagins. Gianini (1917) saw them frequently about Stepovak Bay, and Troyer (1968) saw two single birds at Simeonof Island in late June 1968. Sowl (1973) recorded one high-plumaged bird at Karpa Island on 8 June 1973, but he had no other certain sightings in the Shumagins. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

There were a few nests on Yukon Head, Big Koniuji, all but one which were abandoned early in the season. The eggs in this nest hatched, but

the single chick died when it was nearly full-grown. Nests were also found at Flying Eagle Harbor and the Stormy Cove area. Birds could commonly be seen at the favorite loafing spots around the Koniuji Group, and we estimated at least 135 birds in this area.

Phalacrocorax pelagicus. Pelagic Cormorant.

Murie (1959) recorded this species in low numbers in the Shumagins. Kenyon (1964) saw several flocks at Simeonof Island, and Troyer (1968) considered them common there. Jones (1970) figured this to be the fifth most common seabird at Bird Island, but recorded none on the Haystacks. Sowl (1973) saw birds at various spots in the Shumagins, but I am unable to determine any concrete numbers from his data. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Some birds were on nests at Yukon Head by early June, and one was seen carrying nesting material as late as 15 June; all of these nests were subsequently abandoned. This species did appear to nest later than the other two cormorants: at the Cape Thompson colony on 27 June, one nest had three eggs, two nests had one egg, and one nest was still without eggs. Nests were also seen at Flying Eagle Harbor and Stormy Cove, with the highest number (65) at the latter spot. We estimated at least 310 Pelagic Cormorants in the Koniuji Group.

Phalacrocorax urile. Red-faced Cormorant.

There is a large colony of several thousand Red-faced Cormorants at Unga Island (G & L 1959). On 16 May 1936, Murie (1959) noted many birds carrying nesting materials at the Unga colony. Kenyon (1964) saw birds loitering near Simeonof Island and nesting on the cliffs at Herendeen Island. I feel fairly certain the chicks Troyer (1968) saw at Simeonof

in late June 1968 were Red-faced Cormorants, even though he called them Pelagics. On 8 June 1973, nests on High Island contained 1-4 eggs (Sowl 1973); they were also the predominant species on the Kupreanof Peninsula, at Unga, and at the Twins. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species was the most abundant of the Cormorants in the Koniuji Group, with an estimated 450 birds present. They were fairly early nesters, with birds on nests by 31 May. There seemed to be little habitat separation between this and the preceding species, as Red-faced and Pelagics were seen on nests within one foot of each other; however, the Pelagics generally seemed to prefer nests in crevices, while the Red-faced Cormorants preferred more exposed sites. Birds were still on eggs at the Cape Thompson colony in late June, but chicks were hatched by early July, colonies were also recorded at Flying Eagle Harbor and at Stormy Cove.

Olor columbianus. Whistling Swan.

In 1897 Chase Littlejohn reported birds nesting at Morzhovoi Bay; also, a trapper at King Cove reported them nesting near his trapline for twenty years (G & L 1959). A trapper at Sanak Island said they are not uncommon there in the fall (Murie 1959). An uncommon permanent resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although there are no records for the Shumagins, these birds are probably uncommon migrants through the area.

Branta canadensis. Canada Goose.

Birds can be seen at Simeonof Island during both fall and spring migrations, and Jaques reported three flocks of geese (probably Aleutians) migrating southwest through the Shumagins on 16 May 1928 (Murie 1959).

Three subspecies are migrants at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973): Aleutian (rare), Cackling (uncommon), and Taverner's (common).

We saw no Canada Geese in the Koniugi Group.

Branta bernicla nigricans. Black Brant.

Beals saw a flock of 75 birds in the Shumagins on 9 May 1944 (G & L 1959).

The caretaker on Simeonof Island says some birds winter there (Sowl 1973).

A common migrant and rare winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no Black Brant in the Koniugi Group, and I would think they would be rare winter residents.

Philacte canagica. Emperor Goose.

Murie (1959) reported that some birds winter at Simeonof Island, as did Sowl (1973). Kenyon (1964) found this species to be 1 of 29 (3.3%) of Bald Eagle nest remains from series on Simeonof Island. A common migrant and common winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

The occurrence of this species in the Koniugi Group probably coincides with that of the Black Brant.

Anser albifrons. White-fronted Goose.

This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS), and is probably of casual or accidental occurrence in the Shumagins.

Chen caerulescens. Snow Goose.

This species is also a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS), and is probably of casual or accidental occurrence in the Shumagins.

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard.

Murie (1959) saw a pair on a pond at Simeonof Island on 29 August 1936, and the rancher said they nest there. Gabrielson saw a hen with five

one-third grown young at Simeonof on 20 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) and Troyer (1968) found them common and on lakes at Simeonof, but found no nests. On 7 June 1973 a nest with ten eggs was found at Paul Island, Ivancof Bay (Sowl 1973). A common breeder and uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

One female was seen on a small pond at the head of Sandy Cove, Little Koniuji, on 2 July. A single male was seen at camp pond on 9 July, and a female-plumaged bird was seen at Grosvold Lakes, Little Koniuji, on 31 July. Apparently rare in the Koniuji Group.

Anas acuta. - Pintail.

Gabrielson saw birds in the Shumagins, where they were "plentiful" in the fall and winter (Murie 1959). Kenyon (1964) saw one pair at Simeonof Island on 5 June 1960, and Troyer (1968) considered them rare there, seeing only a group of 8 birds in late June 1968. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We recorded no Pintails in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare in occurrence.

Anas strepera. Gadwall.

Kenyon (1964) saw at least two pairs at Simeonof Island in early June 1960; Troyer (1968) considered them common there in June 1968, and found a hen with six young. An uncommon breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

One pair was seen on Camp Pond on 14 June, and a bird that was almost certainly of this species was seen on Kittiwake Lake on 25 June. Up to six birds rested and staged on Camp Pond between 26 August and 1 September.

Anas americana. American Wigeon.

An uncommon migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), this species is probably of rare to casual occurrence in the Shumagins.

Anas penelope. European Wigeon.

An uncommon migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). This species is probably of rare to casual occurrence in the Shumagins.

Anas crecca carolinensis. American Green-winged Teal.

Kenyon (1964) saw about 15 birds on Simeonof Island in early June 1960, and noted that some were attempting to nest. Troyer (1968) considered them common around Simeonof Island in late June 1968; he saw one pair with young, and stated that about 10% of the Teal here were of this subspecies. A common breeder and uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We recorded no American Green-winged Teal in the Koniugi Group.

Anas crecca nimia. Common Green-winged Teal.

About 90% of the Teal seen on Simeonof Island are of this subspecies (Troyer 1968). An uncommon vagrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

One pair was seen on Kittiwake Lake on 25 June. A female with seven downy ducklings was seen at Sandpiper Lagoon on 4 July, and another female with seven downy ducklings was found at Teal Lake, above Sandpiper Lagoon, on 22 July. On 31 July we observed a female with five downy ducklings and four flightless females at Grosvold Lakes, Little Koniugi; however, I am unsure whether the latter were actually flightless females or fully-grown birds of the year. Up to eight birds staged in Camp Pond between 29 August and 4 September.

Anas clypeata. Northern Shoveler.

Gabrielson saw a pair in Morzhovoi Bay on 21 June 1940 (G & L 1959), and they are considered uncommon summer residents and migrants at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species is probably of rare occurrence in the Shumagins.

Aythya valisineria. Canvasback.

This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and is probably accidental in the Shumagins.

Aythya marila. Greater Scaup.

Gabrielson collected a female at Simeonof Island on 20 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) saw a flock of ten birds at Simeonof on 9 June 1960, and found a nest with eight eggs in Eagle Harbor, Nagai Island, on 16 June 1960. Troyer (1968) said they were abundant on every lake and salt water lagoon on Simeonof Island in late June. He found a nest with nine eggs on Murie Islets. A flock of 50 birds was sighted at Henderson Island (near Korovin Island) on 8 June 1973 (Sowl 1973). A common breeder and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We sighted no Greater Scaup in the Koniugi Group; this is not surprising, as the habitat is so poor in this area.

Bucephala albeola. Bufflehead.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) simply state that birds of this species winter in favorable locations from Kodiak to the tip of the Alaska Peninsula, including the adjacent islands. An uncommon winter resident and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

On 6 May Allen Moe and Jerry Ruehle saw two males and three females in Yukon Harbor; we observed no other birds the rest of the summer. This species is probably a rare winter resident in the Shumagins.

Bucephala clangula. Common Goldeneye.

Beals listed this species as common around Kings Cove during the fall and winter (from 10 September to 5 April) (G & L 1959). An uncommon permanent resident and common migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no common Goldeneyes in the Koniugi Group, and they are probably rare to casual winter residents in the Shumagins.

Bucephala islandica. Barrow's Goldeneye.

A rare vagrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species is probably of accidental occurrence in the Shumagins.

Clangula hyemalis. Oldsquaw.

Beals recorded birds wintering from Kodiak to the Aleutians and saw birds as late as 7 May in the Shumagins (G & L 1959). On 23 March 1924 Laing counted 200 Oldsquaw at Dolgoi Island, northwest of the Shumagins (Murie 1959). Sowl (1973) saw two birds at Henderson Island (near Korovin Island) on 8 June 1973. A rare summer resident and common winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We infrequently saw an odd-looking intermediate-plumaged bird around Yukon Harbor during the month of June.

Histrionicus histrionicus. Harlequin Duck.

Murie (1959) observed this species at Unga, Nagai, and Simeonof Islands. Kenyon (1964) saw small flocks at Simeonof in June 1960, and Troyer (1968) considered them common to abundant there (he saw one flock of 50 birds). Sowl (1973) saw several at Henderson Island (near Korovin Island) on 8 June 1973, and considered them the most common bird around Simeonof Island. Bailey (in litt.) saw birds at Big Koniugi on 11 June 1973. A breeder and common permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). Since they are also common along this stretch of the Alaska Peninsula (Gianni 1917; G & L 1959; Sowl 1973), I would assume they are common permanent residents throughout the Shumagins.

The Harlequin Duck must be considered common in the Koniugi Group, as we saw it every time we went out in the boat. The sex ratio was approximately 1.5:1 (n=240), with males outnumbering females. Although utilizing all coastline, they seemed to prefer calmer waters (e.g. Yukon Harbor), especially those with large kelp patches. Flocks of up to 31 birds were common in early June, and large flocks were not seen again until mid-August. Up to 33 flightless birds were seen in Yukon Harbor at this time. Birds were flightless from late July to mid-August; high-plumaged males were seen again at the end of August.

Polysticta stelleri. Steller's Eider.

Dall observed birds in the Shumagins in March and in the summer months (Murie 1959). In winter this species is found (sometimes in large flocks) from Kodiak to the Aleutians (G & L 1959). An uncommon summer and common winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no Steller's Eiders in the Koniugi Group, and they are probably uncommon winter residents.

Somateria mollissima. Common Eider.

Gianini (1917) considered them uncommon around Stepovak Bay, and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) noted them wintering along the south side of the Alaska Peninsula. On 5 June 1960, four adult and three immature males fed on Murie Islets at Simeonof Island (Kenyon 1964). A breeder and common permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We have two records of this species for the Koniugi Group: a single female at Yukon Harbor on 31 May, and a flock of five males at Sandpiper Lagoon on 22 July. This species is apparently a rare bird in this area, but I would suspect they breed in the proper habitat (perhaps Murie Islets).

Somateria spectabilis. King Eider.

Murie (1959) simply stated that some birds winter in the Shumagins, and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) noted that they are "sometimes abundant in winter between the eastern Aleutians and Kodiak Island. An uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

With this information in hand, we were rather surprised to find an estimated population of about 100 birds summering in the Koniugi Group. Entirely immature males and females (no adult males), the sex ratio was 1:1.1 (females outnumbering the males). Although the birds appeared to be flightless over most of August, males were easily identified all summer by the orange bill. Juvenile males were observed to have the blue-gray color coming in on the face after 10 July; none achieved full adult plumage while we were there. In general, then, this species is an uncommon summer resident and probable uncommon winter resident in the Koniugi Group.

Melanitta Nigra. Black Scoter.

This species is a common permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

On 6 May, Allen Moe and Jerry Rushle saw approximately 60 birds in the Yukon Harbor area; we observed the same number on 30 May. Birds were common in the Yukon Harbor area until 25 June, with the sex ratio 1:3 (females outnumbering males). We observed no Black Scoters in the area later in the summer.

Melanitta perspicillata. Surf Scoter.

Gianini (1917) reported a large flock of these birds in Stepovak Bay — for only one day in June 1916. Flocks are sometimes seen in summer at various points along the south shore of the Alaska Peninsula (G & L 1959). This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (1973).

Moe and Jerry Ruchle saw one pair in Yukon Harbor on 6 May. We observed none the rest of the summer.

Melanitta deglandi. White-winged Scoter.

Murie (1959) recorded them about the western end of the Alaska Peninsula in 1925, and Beals saw both adults and juveniles at Cold Bay in July and August 1942. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We recorded flocks of up to four birds infrequently between 6 May and 4 July in the Yukon Harbor area. Day and Moe saw two birds in Northeast Harbor, Little Koniuji, on 31 July, and they saw two birds near the Cape Thompson Kittiwake colony on 10 August. A rare summer resident in this area.

Mergus merganser. Common Merganser.

This species is an uncommon breeder, permanent resident, and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no birds of this species in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably of accidental occurrence at all times of the year.

Mergus serrator. Red-breasted merganser.

This species breeds at Sanak and along the Alaska Peninsula (G & L 1959). Small flocks of four to five birds fed around Simconof in March and April 1955 (Kenyon 1964), and Troyer found birds common and nesting there in late June 1968. A common breeding summer resident and uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed one female at Yukon Harbor on 7 June and a single female at Sandpiper Lagoon on 22 July. On 31 July, we found a female with a brood of seven ducklings on Grosvold Lake, Little Koniuji, and suspected another female in the area. A flock of six female-plumaged birds flew over us in the same place.

Accipiter gentilis. Goshawk.

On 20 August 1946 Gabrielson observed a lone bird at Simeonof Island (Murie 1959). However, as this is far from three limit, this species must be considered accidental to this area.

We observed no Goshawks in the Koniuji Group.

Buteo lagopus. Rough-legged Hawk.

Gianini (1917) found birds nesting on the cliffs around Stepovak Bay in June 1916. A set of eggs taken on Popof Island on 14 June 1895 is listed in the egg catalog at the National Museum (G & L 1959). Murie (1959) recorded one bird on Unga Island. A breeder and uncommon summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Day observed two birds over the Crested Auklet colony at Yukon Harbor on 2 June.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Bald Eagle.

On 5 June 1960 one aerie on Simeonof Island contained downy young 2-4 days old, and another aerie had young 2-3 weeks old (Kenyon 1964). Kenyon also saw one subadult at Simeonof Island and found an aerie on Herendeen Island. Troyer (1968) found two nests on Simeonof in late June 1968, each with two eaglets. Jones (1970) recorded birds on Bird and Chernabura islands, and Bailey (in litt.) saw birds at Big Koniuji, Atkins, Herendeen, and Peninsula Islands and Castle Rock. An uncommon permanent resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). This species is almost certainly of common permanent occurrence throughout the Shumagins.

Bald Eagles were commonly seen throughout the Koniuji Group; we found ten aeries and had another twelve suspected aeries in the area. Birds were

on eggs when we arrived, and eggs hatched between 1 and 20 June; fledging occurred mid to late August. They were plainly visible on all clear days, as they often hunted the marine birds in the colonies near camp. Immatures were especially prominent in the attempts to capture Crested Auklets, a project at which they were entirely too slow. This species was recorded on every island and rock in the Koniuji Group. A major part of the diet of this species was seabirds, although they occasionally took fish, otters, ground squirrels, and marine invertebrates.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle.

Murie (1959) recorded birds as far west as Dutch Harbor, where they probably nest.

Two immatures were seen on Big Koniuji on 27 June, one near Kittiwake Lake and one near Cirque Lake. Single immatures were irregularly seen hunting Crested Auklets over Heartbreak Peaks between 1 and 10 July. We observed an immature over Peninsula Island on 24 July, and also saw a pair of adults over some extremely rugged terrain between Alaska Harbor and Fifty Fathom Bay on the same day. Because of the ruggedness of this area, it is the most promising habitat for a Golden Eagle aerie in the Koniuji Group.

Pandion haliaeetus. Osprey.

On 11 June 1973 the caretaker at Simeonof Island reported he had shot an Osprey just previously (Sowl 1973).

This species is most certainly an accidental visitor to the Shumagin Islands.

Circus cyaneus. Marsh Hawk.

An uncommon summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and probably of rare to casual occurrence in the Shumagins.

Falco columbarius. Merlin.

A rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and probably of casual occurrence to the Shumagin Islands as a whole.

Falco peregrinus. Peregrine Falcon.

Kenyon (1964) reported one bird at Simeonof Island on 4 June 1960, but saw no sign of nesting. This is to be expected because of the lack of seabirds about this island; Murie (1959) reports seabirds to be the major food supply of these falcons in this area. Bailey (in litt.) recorded birds in the Koniuji Group on 11 June 1973. An uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Birds were on eggs when we arrived in late May, and the nest we observed hatched out around 10 June. Fledging occurred in early to mid-August. These birds were fairly common in the Koniuji Group, and we found one definite aerie and six more suspected ones. Immatures were decidedly rare within this area, in contrast to the eagles. Auklets, especially Cresteds, were the favorite food source of this species; however, they sometimes flew up to two miles from the nest to catch Parakeet Auklets and Ancient Murrelets. The feeding range of this species must be fairly incompressible, for the aeries on Big Koniuji were fairly evenly spaced along the coastline, irregardless of location of seabird colonies.

Falco rusticolus. Gyrfalcon.

Beals took specimens at Cold Bay on 21 September 1942 and saw birds at False Pass on 2, 14, and 24 March and 13 May 1943 (G & L 1959). Troyer (1966) saw one bird on the east side of Simeonof Island in late June 1968. A breeder and uncommon permanent resident of Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no Gyrfalcons in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare migrants through the area.

Lagopus lagopus. Willow Ptarmigan.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) have records of birds from Unga, Nagai, Little Koniuji, Simeonof, and Popof Islands. Kenyon (1964) saw only a few birds at Simeonof in June 1960, and Troyer (1968) considered them common there in 1968. Sowl (1973) observed birds in the thick alder brush around Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniuji, on 11 June 1973. A common permanent resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although we never actually saw birds of this species, we occasionally heard males calling throughout the month of June. It appears that the population is low on Big and Little Koniuji, probably a result of fox predation.

Lagopus mutus. Rock Ptarmigan.

Although Kenyon (1964) recorded no Rock Ptarmigan on Simeonof Island, Troyer (1968) found them common there in late June. Jones (1970) recorded birds on Chernabura, but not on Bird Island. A common permanent resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species is an uncommon permanent resident in the Koniuji Group, like its Willow counterpart. Birds were occasionally seen in high alpine and rocky areas.

Grus canadensis. Sandhill Crane.

This is a rare summer resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

On 22 July Schad and I found one set of tracks from a Sandhill Crane in the mud at Teal Lake, Big Koniuji. It is most certainly a casual migrant through the area.

Haematopus bachmani. Black Oystercatcher.

This species is a permanent resident of rocky shores from Forrester

Island to Attu (G & L 1959). On 17 June 1960 Kenyon (1964) found six nests with three eggs each on a sand spit at Eagle Harbor, Nagai Island. Only one was pipped and no young were seen. He and Troyer (1968) both found them common at Simeonof Island, especially about Murie Islets. --

This is a common breeder in the group, and we found three nests. The nest on Oystercatcher Rocks had one chick that weighed 200-250 grams on 4 July, indicating that it had hatched about mid-June. On 16 July a nest with four chicks was found below the eagle aerie on Hall Island. Three chicks averaged 55 grams, and the fourth had been eaten. The remaining three were eaten later, probably by the eagles. The only pair on Castle Rock had one chick weighing 196 grams on 9 August.

Every offshore rock and islet had at least one pair, but they were in a lower density on the mainland, no doubt due to fox predation.

After the beginning of August we often saw flocks of up to 19 birds, even in good weather. Perhaps this is a behavior which occurs in the winter seasons, when the birds are not so territorial.

Charadrius semipalmatus. Semipalmated Plover.

Gianini (1917) saw the first birds at Stepovak Bay on 26 May, and they were common from then on. Kenyon (1964) had 5 pairs nesting on the sand beach at the head of Simeonof Harbor, Simeonof Island, in early June 1960, and Troyer (1968) thought them nesting there also (he never found any nests). Jones (1970) recorded them on Bird and Chernabura Islands.

Although this species certainly nests in the Shumagins, we found no evidence of nesting in the Koniuji Group. We saw single birds in Yukon Harbor on 12 June and 13 July, and a flock of three birds at Sand Dune Cove on 10 August.

They are probably common breeders in the Shumagins in general.

FOOD HABITS OF YOUNG BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS

(frequency of occurrence)

	Oystercatcher Rock 4 July	Hall Island 18 July	Hall Island 28 July	Castle Rock 9 August	All Classes
	*	(n=130)	(n=199)	(n=229)	(n=558)
- Gastropods -					
<u>Acmaea digitalis</u>	Present	94	163	207	464
<u>Acmaea scutum</u>	Present	23	8	4	35
<u>Littorina sitkana</u>	Present	1	1	18	20
<u>Thais emarginata</u>	--	1	6	--	7
- Chitons -					
<u>Katharina tunicata</u>	Present	--	10	--	10
<u>Mopalia ciliata</u>	--	--	2	--	2
- Pelecypods -					
<u>Mytilus edulis</u>	Present	9	9	--	18
- Other -					
<u>Ligia pallasii</u> (pillbug)	--	2	--	--	2

We did not collect from this nest, so I have just mentioned which species were present.

Pluvialis dominica. American Golden Plover.

Gabrielson has collected birds of the subspecies fulva in the Shumagins (G & L 1959), and Dall collected a specimen at Popof Island on 22 June 1872 (Murie 1959). It is an uncommon migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no Golden Plovers in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare migrants through the Shumagins.

Pluvialis squatarola. Black-bellied Plover.

This species is accidental at Izembek NWR (USFWS), and is probably accidental in the Shumagins.

Arenaria interpres. Ruddy Turnstone.

Wetmore observed birds at King Cove in August 1911 (Murie 1959), and they are common summer residents and migrants at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although certainly using the Shumagins during migration, none were observed in the Koniuji Group. Probably of common to uncommon occurrence in the Shumagins during migration.

Arenaria melanocephala. Black Turnstone.

Gianini (1917) saw one at Stepovak Bay on 25 May 1916, and Kenyon (1964) observed a single bird at Simeonof Harbor on 5 June 1960. Littlejohn recorded a flock at Sanak Island, although the date is not mentioned (Murie 1959).

We observed none of these birds in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare in the Shumagins.

Capella gallinago. Common Snipe.

Although their nesting range should extend into the Shumagins (Murie 1959), I have no records for this species. However, it is a rare summer resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Numenius phaeopus. Whimbrel.

Murie (1959) saw a flock of six Whimbrels over Moffitt Cove, Izembek Bay, on 23 July 1925. They are rare migrants at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no Whimbrels in the Koniugi Group, and they are probably rare migrants in this area.

Heteroscelus incanus. Wandering Tattler.

Murie (1959) states that this species nests along the Alaska Peninsula and on suitable islands. He also collected a bird at Nagai Island on 16 May 1936. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniugi on 11 June 1973. A breeder and uncommon summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Single birds were seen at Yukon Harbor on 28 June and 4 August, and at Sandpiper Lagoon on 22 July. Four birds were seen feeding on the shingle beach at the head of Alaska Harbor on 24 July. A rare summer resident of the Koniugi Group.

Tringa melanoleucos. Greater Yellowlegs.

Although this bird is an uncommon summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), there are no records for the Shumagins. Thus, it is probably rare to casual in the Shumagins.

Tringa flavipes. Lesser Yellowlegs.

This bird is a rare summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and its occurrence in the Shumagins is doubtful.

Calidris ptilocnemis. Rock Sandpiper.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) state that the birds in the Shumagins are of the subspecies couesi. The Rock Sandpiper is a common permanent resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

During a storm on 5 July, Moe observed one bird near Yukon Head. It must be considered rare in the Koniuji Group.

Calidris acuminata. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

This is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS), and its occurrence in the Shumagins is probably the same.

Calidris melanotos. Pectoral Sandpiper.

Murie (1959) saw two birds near Izembek Bay on 23 July 1925 that he thought were of this species; however, it is now not even listed as accidental at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We did not see any Pectoral Sandpipers in the Koniuji Group.

Calidris bairdii. Baird's Sandpiper.

This species is accidental at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and is most certainly accidental in the Shumagins.

Calidris minutilla. Least Sandpiper.

Gianini (1917) found a nest with a full clutch on the tundra at Stepovak Bay on 7 June 1916. Dall reported it abundant on the beaches at Popof Island on 20 June 1872 (Murie 1959). Troyer (1968) found a nest with a full clutch on Simeonof Island in late June 1968. Jones (1970) recorded this species on Chernabura, but not on Bird Island in June 1970; however, he was not on the latter island very long.

Schad had birds distracting him from a nest at the small ponds above Kelp Cove on 26 June, but was unable to find it. A bird tried to draw me away from a nest on the tundra between Teal and Lower Lakes on 22 July, and I saw two other birds in the area. We saw up to eight birds at Sandpiper

Lagoon during the summer, and we saw one bird feeding on the beach at Sand Dune Cove on 10 August. We saw no birds on any of the other islands in the Koniugi Group, and they are thus fairly common breeders in this area.

Calidris alpina. Dunlin.

A rare summer resident and uncommon migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). There are no records for the Shumagins.

Limnodromus griseus. Short-billed Dowitcher.

This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and Gabrielson has taken birds in summer at Izembek Bay, Cold Bay, and Port Moller (G & L 1959). There are no records for the Shumagins, and these birds are probably rare to casual in this area.

Limnodromus scolopaceus. Long-billed Dowitcher.

Also a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). There are no records in the Shumagins.

Calidris mauri. Western Sandpiper.

This species is an uncommon summer resident and common migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

On 9 August, Day and Moe observed what was probably a juvenile male western feeding at Sand Dune Cove. On 23 August we observed a flock of 18 birds work over the mud flats at Camp Pond.

Limosa lapponica. Bar-tailed Godwit.

This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973), and there are no records for the Shumagins.

Calidris alba. Sanderling.

This is an uncommon winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). Thus, it is of no surprise that we did not observe this species this summer.

Phalaropus fulicarius. Red Phalarope.

Jacques first saw them in the Shumagins on 15 and 16 May 1930 (Murie 1959), and on 19 August 1946 Gabrielson saw many flocks of from 10 to 100 birds in the Shumagins, primarily near Simeonof Island (G & L 1959).

We saw three flocks of up to 50 birds each at Yukon Harbor on 5, 8, and 9 June.

This species is a common migrant through the Shumagin Islands.

Phalaropus lobatus. Northern Phalarope.

Gianini (1917) considered these one of the most common birds at Stepovak Bay; he was sure they bred there, although he found no nests. Gabrielson saw birds in migration at King Cove on 7 May 1943. Kenyon (1964) saw one bird in a marsh on the north side of Simeonof Island on 9 June 1960, and Troyer (1968) saw four pairs on Simeonof in late June 1968. A breeder, common summer resident, and common migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although this species is clearly very common in our area, we saw no birds in the Koniuji Group.

Stercorarius pomarinus. Pomarine Jaeger.

Murie (1959) saw one bird near the Shumagins on 23 May 1937.

We saw none of these birds this summer, and they are probably rare migrants through the offshore waters.

Stercorarius parasiticus. Parasitic Jaeger.

Gianini (1917) considered these birds "quite common" at Stepovak Bay,

and collected one dark-phase bird. Troyer (1963) saw birds commonly, primarily inland, on Simeonof Island. On 6 May 1944 Deals saw three birds at Sand Point, an early record (G & L 1959). Murie (1959) saw five light-phase birds over the marsh at Sand Point on 26 August 1936, the only birds he saw in the Shumagins. A breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

From all these records, one would assume this species to be common in the Koniuji Group. However, we only saw three birds the entire summer: a light-phase bird over Otter Cove on 31 May and a pair of dark-phase birds over Grosvold Marshes on Little Koniuji on 31 July. As we have seen much fox sign in the high tundra, I would assume they are keeping the Koniuji population at a low level.

Stercorarius longicaudus. Long-tailed Jaeger.

Although Gianini (1917) found them common at Stepovak Bay, this species is a rare vagrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no birds in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare migrants through the offshore waters.

Larus hyperboreus. Glaucous Gull.

This species is a rare winter resident and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

On 17 June we observed one second-year bird on the rocks at Hall Island, sitting with Glaucous-winged Gulls.

Larus glaucesceus. Glaucous-winged Gull.

A colony of 200 pairs was nesting on Murie Islets, Simeonof Island, on 6 June 1960; nests had one to three eggs, and some were moderately advanced in incubation (Kenyon 1964). SOWLS (1973) census estimated a minimum of 36,300 Glaucous-winged Gulls in the Shumagins, of which 5,400 were in the Koniuji Group.

No birds were seen on Hall Island on 6 May, and very few were seen around the Yukon Harbor area. The first pairs on Hall were seen on 2 June, and one pair was seen copulating. A majority of the population arrived shortly afterward, and 73% (of 41) of the nests had at least one egg by 9 June. The first nonbreeding immatures showed up in this area about 15 June. The full clutches were laid by 17 June, and hatching began in early July, with a peak about 7 July.

Food for the young included limpets, large fish, downy Ancient Murrelets, crabs, and Ammodytes hexapterus. Chick mortality appeared to be high just before fledging, although we could not tell why. I observed a chick regurgitation on 6 August, however, that contained about 15 nematodes, so perhaps this is a major cause of mortality. Chicks were beginning to fledge about 15 August, but a few were still flightless in early September.

Use of Big and Little Koniuji appears to be primarily for roosting and feeding, probably related to fox predation. We estimate at least 2,840 birds in the Koniuji Group.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull.

Gianini (1917) found one nest with two eggs and one nest with three eggs at Stepovak Bay on 27 May 1916. They were evidently abundant there, and he saw the first birds at Marzhovoi Bay on 21 June 1940 (G & L 1959). Jaques reported one immature near the Shumagins in 1930 (Murie 1959).

We saw no Herring Gulls in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably casual visitors.

Larus canus. Mew Gull.

Kenyon (1964) had nests with full clutches at Simeonof Island on 5 June 1960, and reported 15 pairs breeding at Simeonof Harbor. Murie (1959)

had three or four at Nagai on 16 May 1936, and saw some at Unga and Sand Point on 29 August 1936. The birds at Dolgoi were just beginning to nest when he visited on 25 May 1937.

We found no evidence of breeding by Mew Gulls in the Koniugi Group; however, many non-breeders fed and loafed in the area. A total of 45 birds were at Sandpiper Lagoon on 4 July, the highest number recorded. Birds were seen in scattered groups of up to five birds at various places along the coastline, but we never saw any around the Glaucous-winged Gull colonies. Moe and I observed four fledglings near Oystercatcher rocks on 16 August. We estimate a minimum of 110 birds in the Koniugi Group.

Larus philadelphia. Bonaparte's Gull.

Gabrielson saw birds at Sand Point on 20 June 1960 (G & L 1959). This is a rare vagrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no birds in the Koniugi Group, and they are probably casual in occurrence throughout the Shumagins.

Rissa tridactyla. Black-legged Kittiwake.

Colonies have been known in the Shumagins for along time, with the Unga colony the best-known (G & L 1959). Jones (1970) mentioned a "sizeable" colony on the Haystacks, and considered this the most abundant breeding bird on Bird Island. Sowl's (1973) census estimates a minimum of 166,000 birds in the Shumagins, with at least 11,000 in the Koniugi Group.

We had a study plot of 155 nests on Hall Island, and a few nests had full clutches by 18 June: laying probably began about 13 June. At the Cape Thompson colony, 61% had full clutches on 27 June, and 24% had one egg. Hatching at Hall Island began in the period of 7-10 July, and the entire colony was wiped out by 23 July. Many nests were knocked into the

water, and all the chicks were eaten. As nearly as we could tell, this was done by a family of five Common Ravens that inhabited the island. The birds at this colony remained on their nests at least until we left, but they did not try to re-nest. We saw at least three fledglings at the Castle Rock colony on 9 August, and saw fledglings around camp soon afterward.

We had nesting colonies on Hall Island, Castle Rock, and Big Koniuji; birds did not nest on any other island in the Koniuji Group, but nonbreeders used many offshore rocks and islets. We estimate at least 28,240 birds in the Koniuji Group.

Xema sabini. Sabine's Gull.

This is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS).

There are no records in the Shumagins, and they are probably rare to casual migrants through offshore waters.

Sterna paradisaea. Arctic Tern.

Kenyon (1964) saw a colony of 75 pairs and one of 20 pairs nesting on Murie Islets, Simeonof Island. On 6 June 1960, two nests had 1 egg each, ten nests had two eggs each, and two nests had three eggs each. Troyer (1968) also reported them nesting on inland lakes on Simeonof. Gabrielson found a colony in Morzhovoi Bay in 1944 (G & L 1959), and Giannini (1917) said they were present in "limited numbers" at Stepovak Bay. Sowl (1973) did not note birds at the Simeonof colony in 1973, and saw no other colonies in the Shumagins.

On 31 July, Moe and I observed a pair by the Grosvold Camp at Little Koniuji Island. They were probably from the Simeonof colonies; we saw no sign of nesting in the Koniuji Group.

Sterna aleutica. Aleutian Tern.

This is a common breeder at Izembek NMR (USFWS 1973), and it also breeds at Port Moller (G & L 1959).

There are no records of the Aleutian Tern in the Shumagins, and they ~~are~~ probably rare to casual in occurrence.

Uria aalge. Common Murre.

Uria lomvia. Thick-billed Murre.

Gabrielson (G & L 1959) says he has searched carefully for Thick-bills in the Shumagins without ever seeing one he was sure was of this species. However, he goes further to state that, although this doesn't indicate an absence of this species, it shows a preponderance of Common Murres. Sowl's (1974) census estimates a minimum of 308,200 birds in the Shumagins, with 8,000 of these in the Koniugi Group. The largest colony is at Karpa Island, with an estimated 240,000 birds.

We were not sure whether Thick-billed Murres nested on Castle Rock, as Moe and I did not distinguish any on our visits on 26 June and 24 July. However, we were able to count 268 birds of this species and 438 Common Murres on 9 August, when most of the Common Murres had left. They were nesting in more inaccessible crevices and behind Common Murres. We were unable to census this colony before birds left, and its remoteness made it impossible for us to find out anything tangible about their breeding chronology. We did, however, estimate the population at 7,200 Common and 800 Thick-billed Murres (assuming Sowl's census of 8,000 birds is correct).

Non-breeders occasionally showed up in the Yukon Harbor area, and some were taken by Bald Eagles.

Cephus columba. Pigeon Guillemot.

This species has a breeding range in Alaska that extends from Little Diomede to Forrester Island; Dall found it a common breeding bird in the Shumagains (G & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) estimated about 50 pairs nesting at Murie Islets on Simeonof Island in early June 1960. Sowl's (1974) census estimated a minimum of 15,270 birds in the Shumagains, of which 12,500 were in the Koniugi Group.

This species is a common breeder in the Koniugi Group, primarily because it occupies all available coastline. We particularly enjoyed these birds, as they were always evident wherever we went, and their quiet disposition was a refreshing change from some of the other seabird species present in our area.

Moe and Jerry Ruehle reported birds present around Yukon Harbor on 6 May, and we saw them occupying the cliff crevices at Yukon Head on 1 June. The majority of birds arrived en masse on 2 June, as we saw a raft of 200 birds off Hall Island and over 400 in Yukon Harbor on that date. One copulation was also observed on this date. On 3 June we observed a flock of 1,500-2,000 birds in Yukon Straits, and immature or nonbreeding birds (in winter plumage) were seen in low numbers around Hall Island during this period. A female collected on 8 June had an enlarged follicle that was ready to rupture, and thus would probably have laid on 9 or 10 June. Full clutches were completed around 15 June, and birds were first seen carrying fish on 14 July. Hatching continued to 20 July, with the peak about 15-16 July. Moe observed a bird in mottled intermediate plumage begging food from adults on Hall Island on 17 July. The first fledglings were seen 10 August in Kelp Cove, and they became more common shortly afterward. These birds appeared flightless and seemed to prefer the calmer bays and coves. A few birds were seen carrying fish at Hall Island as late as 30 August.

Our work estimates at least 5,760 birds in the Koniuji Group.

Brachyramphus marmoratus. Marbled Murrelet.

Brachyramphus brevirostris. Kittlitz's Murrelet.

Gianini (1917) saw Marbled Murrelets singly and in pairs in Stepovak Bay in June 1916. This species is a rare permanent resident of Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973). George Divoky (pers. comm.) saw a few birds in Fox Farmer's Cove, Big Koniuji, on 11 June 1973.

Kittlitz's Murrelet is a breeder and rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

These two species must be considered rare to casual in our area. Day and Schad saw at least two pairs of Marbleds in the calm waters of Sandy Cove, Little Koniuji, on 2 July, but were unable to collect any to determine their breeding status. Peter Scott (pers. comm.) saw one bird in Yukon Straits the afternoon of 16 July. Moe observed two birds in intermediate plumage in Yukon Harbor on 17 August, and Day saw one in full winter plumage there on 18 August.

We observed no Kittlitz's Murrelets in the Koniuji Group, but found the remains of one bird in a Bald Eagle aerie on Oystercatcher Rocks on 30 August.

Synthliboramphus antiquus. Ancient Murrelet.

Murie (1959) found this species common in the Shumagins on 23 May 1937. Gabrielson saw several birds at Simeonof Island on 19 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Sowl (1973) found over 1,200 birds/square nautical mile in Twelve-Fathom Strait on 11 June 1973, over half of which were Ancient Murrelets. He went further to say that Little Koniuji has few birds unless this species nests there. He also observed a flock of 5,000 birds near Porpoise Harbor, Nagai Island, on 9 June 1973.

We had three major concentrations of Ancient Murrelets in the Koniuji Group: Castle Rock, Peninsula Island, and Hall Island. They are also present on Murre Rocks in low numbers. We observed a single bird in Yukon Harbor on 3 June, and the whole population showed up on 7 June, as we saw a flock of over 2,000 birds rafted in Yukon Straits on this date. Laying evidently occurred shortly thereafter, for we found full clutches in the majority on 18 June (an average of seven days between eggs). The movement of downies to the sea occurred the week of 8-15 July, and very few adults were seen near Hall Island after the 15th. The downies also showed up in gull and river otter scats during this period. On 15 August, Day and Moe observed what appeared to be flightless fledglings in Kelp Cove, and we saw no birds after this date.

On 24 July we saw a raft of 2,500-3,000 birds between Peninsula Island and Big Koniuji in the evening, and found birds still on eggs at Peninsula. Thus, they must be a little behind the Hall Island colony in chronology.

Ancients appeared to feed entirely around Hall Island, and six of the seven birds collected just offshore had stomachs full of shrimp.

From what we could tell in our study area on Hall Island, Ancients suffered heavy losses during the breeding season: the Bald Eagles there preyed heavily on them, and gulls and Peregrine Falcons also inflicted their tolls.

I found a nest on the bare ground on center Murre Rock on 15 July that had evidently been abandoned early in incubation.

We estimated a minimum of 36,000 birds in the Koniuji Group, with the largest population at Castle Rock.

Ptychoramphus aleuticus. Cassin's Auklet.

Murie (1959) saw several birds just east of the Shumagins on 23 May 1937. Littlejohn recorded a large colony in the Sanak Islands that was exterminated

by Blue Foxes at the turn of the century (G & L 1959). Sowl (1973) saw birds in low numbers at Hall and Herendeen Islands on 11 June 1973. He also saw birds in Unga-Strait on 8 June, between the Haystacks and Nagai on 9 June, and outside Cold Bay on 10 June.

This secretive bird was very difficult to see in our area. Indeed, we only saw one bird on the water the entire summer--a single bird in New West Harbor, Little Koniugi, on 31 July. However, skulls occasionally showed up in gull casts on Hall Island during June and July, confirming their presence on that island.

Perhaps the most exciting find of the summer was an extremely large colony of this species on Castle Rock on 24 July. Of seven birds in nests, one was on eggs and six were on chicks weighing from 19 to 205 grams. Moe and I spent the day on Castle on 9 August, and confirmed that the colony was large: we estimated at least 23,000 burrows there, primarily at the far west end. Almost all the chicks were fledged by this date, and those few remaining weighed between 163 and 202 grams. Some subcolonies were in groups of 800 to 2,000 densely-packed burrows on the steep hillsides. We were unable to walk in most places without destroying many burrows, and the ground was entirely bare in these areas.

We did not find these birds breeding on Peninsula Island, although the nocturnal Ancient Murrelet is present. However, Cassin's Auklets appear to be more strongly colonial from the evidence on Castle Rock.

Ed Bailey (pers. comm.) recorded 10-12 birds/birds/hour between here and the Semidi Islands on 23 July, and I would assume they are from this colony. Considering their distribution in the western Shumagin's and the remoteness of the Haystacks, I would venture to predict a colony on these islands.

Cyclorhynchus psittacula. Parakeet Auklet.

Tarleton Bean reported this species breeding on Little Koniuji in July 1880, and Gabrielson found it "quite abundant" in the Shumagins on 19-20 August 1946, especially about Simeonof Island (G & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) saw scattered birds offshore at Simeonof in June 1960, but saw no evidence of nesting. However, he did record it nesting at Herendeen Island. Sowl's (1973) census estimated a minimum of 29,000 birds in the Shumagins, with 29,000 of these in the Koniuji Group.

Birds were heavily courting when we first observed them on 31 May, and copulations were recorded on 5 June. Egg-laying was thought to have occurred the week of 8-15 June, and a chick weighing 76 grams was found on Hall Island 8 July (estimated hatching 3-7 July). Chicks were first heard in Landing Cove, Hall Island, on 15 July. Fledging occurred the first two weeks of August, with the peak around 10 August. Less than 100 birds were seen around Hall on 12 August, and the last birds were seen on 18 August.

Parakeet Auklets occupied all available habitat on the coastline--cliff and talus areas over the water on Big Koniuji, beach taluses on Hall and Atkins Islands, and even burrows in the Cassin's Auklet colonies on Castle Rock.

The last-mentioned place had a spectacular display of birds when Moe and I visited on 26 June--we had a gut reaction of possibly as many as 40,000 birds around the island. I have never seen them in such numbers as I did that day. On 24 July I estimated 14,000 birds around Castle Rock, and on 9 August Moe and I counted only about 1,000 birds there (during fledging). Of eleven birds collected there on 24 July, only four were breeding. Thus, considering the small amount of talus present (although some undoubtedly use burrows and crevices), the high percentage of nonbreeding birds, and the large variation in populations throughout the summer, I believe our estimate of 14,000 birds

on Castle Rock may contain a small percentage of actual breeders. This is supported by the fact that Sowl (1973) recorded 3,000 birds at Herendeen Island on 10 June and 9,000 there on 11 June 1973. Thus, I feel from this evidence that there is a large population of non-breeding birds in this area, and that the number of breeding birds is limited (by food? -- there is surely enough habitat!).

Of 42 birds collected, all had small plastic particles of uncertain origin in their gizzards.

Aethia cristatella. Crested Auklet.

Townsend (1913) discovered the Yukon Harbor colony, and at that time considered this colony to be larger than the Least Auklet colony at the Pribilofs, the center of abundance for that species (Bent 1919). In August 1946 Gabrielson saw large numbers in the southern part of the Shumagins, especially about Bird and Simeonof Islands (C & L 1950). Vernon Byrd (pers. comm.) reported seeing a flock of 18,000 birds in the Shumagins in February 1972. Sowl (1973) recorded birds around Cape Thompson, Yukon Harbor, Koniuji Strait, and Granite Cove (all at Big Koniuji) in June 1973. Ed Bailey (pers. comm.) saw three partial and one complete albino at this time, all in Granite Cove.

The glacial cirque talus over Yukon Harbor is the main colony of Crested Auklets, with an estimated 25,000 birds occupying it. There are also small colonies at Granite Cove, Castle Rock, and near the Cape Thompson Kittiwake colony.

Moe and Jerry Ruehle saw a flock of 2,000 birds about two miles east of Hall Island on 6 May, and they were courting in large numbers at that time. Birds were thought to lay eggs from 23 May to 12 June, and one female collected

on 6 June had a fresh post-ovulatory follicle. Hatching extended through the period of 5-20 July, and fledging occurred from 10 to 25 August. The adults left with the chicks, and non-breeders were seen until the end of August. Their presence in the harbor became very spotty and the end of August, until all disappeared on 2 September.

Crested Auklets unfortunately were a major food source for Red Foxes, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. They suffered heavy losses this summer in the colonies at the south end of Big Koniugi.

These birds appeared to feed about 8 to 10 miles east of Hall Island, and few of the birds we collected contained food. None of the 32 birds collected contained plastic particles, in direct contrast to the Parakeet Auklets.

Aethia pusilla. Least Auklet.

Kenyon (1964) saw a flock of four birds at the mouth of Simeonof Harbor on 5 June 1960, and recorded them to be 4 of 40 (10%) of remains in a Bald Eagle nest on Herendeen Island at the same time. Troyer (1968) only saw 5 birds around Simeonof in late June 1968. Sowl (1973) did not record them in the Shumagins in 1973.

Day saw one bird fly out of a talus area on the north side of Castle Rock on 24 July. Considering they have been recorded breeding as far east as Chowiet in the Semidis (Galen Burrell, pers. comm.), I feel safe in saying that they almost certainly breed in very low numbers on Castle Rock.

We found one wing in the Oystercatcher Rock eagle aerie on 30 August.

Cerorhinca monocerata. Rhinoceros Auklet.

Sowl (1973) observed one bird off Amagat Island (at the mouth of Morzhovoi Bay) on 18 June 1973.

We observed no Rhinoceros Auklets in the Koniuji Group, but considering Sowl's record and the colonies on Ugaiushak Island and the Semidi Islands (D.H.S. Wehle, pers. comm., and Laura Leschner, pers. comm., respectively), I would assume it is of rare and possible breeding occurrence in the Shumagin Islands.

Fratercula corniculata. Horned Puffin.

Bent (1919) says this bird is common in the Shumagins and there are eggs taken there as long ago as 24 June 1887. Kenyon (1964) saw ten pairs at Simeonof Harbor (but no sign of breeding), and Troyer (1968) considered it rare there. Jones (1970) mentioned a colony on the Haystacks and considered it the fourth most common nesting seabird on Bird Island. Sowl's (1973) census estimated a minimum of 190,750 birds in the Shumagins, with 161,600 of these in the Koniuji Group.

Moe saw no Horned Puffins on 6 May, and there were very few around when we arrived on 28 May. After this our observations are rather sketchy, but breeding chronology seemed to go as follows: 1) birds were seen copulating from 7 June to at least 23 June; 2) laying was at least up to 11 July; 3) the birds evidently left for up to a week or so after laying, then began incubating; 4) chicks hatched between 28 July and 14 August, with the peak 5-8 August; 5) the chicks averaged about 400 grams each when we left in early September (a few weeks to fledging).

Horned Puffins were one of the most common breeding birds in the Koniuji Group, occupying many head lands and cliffs on Big and Little Koniuji. The Koniuji Strait colony was estimated at 60,000 birds, but it may possibly contain more (Sowl estimated 140,000 birds in 1973). It is certainly an impressive colony. The Castle Rock colony occupies most of the western half

of that island; most birds are in an overgrown talus-boulder area, but many also occupy cliff crevices.

Dark-faced immatures were first seen on 3 August, and they became slightly more common after that.

We recorded them nesting on all the offshore islands, and estimated at least 141,140 birds in the Koniuji Group.

The foxes preyed heavily on puffins at the Koniuji Strait colony, but we were unable to quantify the intensity of predation. They were also a favorite food of the Bald Eagles.

Lunda cirrhata. Tufted Puffin.

Kenyon (1954) saw no birds around Simeonof Island in early June 1950, but Troyer (1968) considered them common there in late June 1968. Jones (1970) mentioned a sizeable colony at the Haystacks, and considered them the third most common nesting seabird at Bird Island. However, Sowl (1973) saw very few birds or burrows at Bird Island on 12 June 1973. His census estimated a minimum of 237,800 birds in the Shumagins, with 142,200 of these in the Koniuji Group.

Moe observed no Tufted Puffins around Big Koniuji on 6 May, but they were fairly common when we arrived on 28 May. We saw at least two copulations in Yukon Straits on 31 May, and egg-laying was figured to occur between 25 May and 5 June. Hatching ranged from 8 July to about 22 July, and the peak was about 15 July. The first fledging occurred between 24 and 28 August, and the peak was 29 August and 1 September.

Although they burrowed when possible, most birds nested in crevices or in mixed rock and soil habitat. This is probably because thick soil is at a premium in the Shumagins.

Birds were very common along the coast of Big and Little Koniuji, and we estimated a minimum of 107,000 birds in the Koniuji Group.

The Castle Pock colony is an amazing sight. When Moe and I first visited on 26 June, the air and water was filled with Tufted Puffins to about 1 1/2 miles away from shore; we estimated possibly as many as 200,000 birds there (purely gut reaction). On 24 July they were not nearly so common, and our estimate dropped to about 100,000 birds. On our last trip on 9 August we estimated 80,000 birds breeding there. Although we were unable to get to the eastern half of the island on this date, it seems certain it is almost entirely of this species, as the western half is Horned Puffins.

We observed a dark-faced immature near Peninsula Island on 24 July and one near Hall Island on 1 September.

This species is another favorite prey item of the Bald Eagle, and remains showed up in aeries all summer.

Both this species and the Horned Puffin are not nearly so abundant on the west side of Big Koniuji as they are on the east side. This seems almost entirely due to the outcropping of flysch rocks there, which weathers with very few crevices.

Nyctea scandiaca. Snowy Owl

On 8 May 1944 Frank Beals saw three birds on the tundra in back of Sand Point village. He stated that villagers report them as year-round residents and believe they nest there (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

We observed no Snowy Owls in the Koniuji Group, but they are probably casual winter visitors to the area.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) record eggs in the National Museum taken

from a nest on Unga Island on 26 June 1893. Marie (1959) saw one bird near Sand Point on 16 May 1936.

We saw no Short-eared Owls in the Koniují Group; however, this is not surprising, as there are no microtines in this area of the Shumagins.

Megasceryle alcyon. Belted Kingfisher.

In 1943 Beals found a nest near the cannery at Sand Point. It also winters in the Shumagins (G & L 1959).

We observed no Kingfishers in the Koniují Group.

Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow.

Gabrielson found colonies at Sand Point on 12 June, at Unga on 18 June, and at Simeonof on 20 August (1946) (G & L 1959). Troyer (1968) found birds common around Simeonof in late June 1968, and found a colony on the southwest corner. Jones (1970) recorded birds on Chernabura but not Bird Island. A breeder and common summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We found a small colony in a sandy bank at the head of Long Bay on 14 June, and saw up to 19 birds in that area during the summer. However, very few of the nests were ever completed. Changeable weather and cold nights probably make nesting a tenuous occupation for this and the other swallows in this area.

We also observed birds at Camp Pond, at Sandy Cove, Little Koniují, and at Grosvold Camp, Little Koniují. There is probably a small colony somewhere on Little Koniují. The last bird was seen on 20 August, near camp.

Iridoprocne bicolor. Tree Swallow.

On 9 June 1960 Kenyon (1964) saw a flock of ten birds going north over Simeonof Island. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Sand Point on 8 June 1973. A breeder and rare summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw one bird in camp on 7 June. A pair copulated on the cabin in the morning of 10 June, and sang at camp on 11 June. Our last record was of a single bird around camp all day on the day of 12 June.

Hirundo rustica. Barn Swallow.

Gianini (1917) found a pair nesting on a house at Stepovak Bay on 17 June 1916. This species is accidental at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We observed no Barn Swallows in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably accidental in occurrence there.

Perisoreus canadensis. Gray Jay.

Gianini (1917) saw four birds at Stepovak Bay in June 1916. However, since Murie (1959) calls this a surprising record, and since there are no records west of there (USFWS 1973), I believe that these may have been Northern Shrikes. However, if they actually were Gray Jays, their occurrence in the Shumagins must surely be considered accidental.

Pica pica. Black-billed Magpie.

Gianini (1917) saw fully feathered young on the beaches at Stepovak Bay early in July 1916. Gabrielson saw birds at Sand Point on 20 June and at Unga on 15 August 1946; they are also reported wintering in the Shumagins (G & L 1959). Murie (1959) found a nest with eight eggs on Nagai Island on 16 May 1936. Kenyon (1964) saw about 30 birds at the north end of Simeonof Island in March 1955, and found two nests there in early June 1960. Troyer (1968) considered them common at Simeonof in late June 1968. Jones (1970) saw birds at Bird and Chernabura Islands. Sowl (1973) recorded birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniuji, on 11 June 1973.

This species must surely be considered common throughout the Shumagins, considering all of the above records. We saw or heard birds daily up to 1,100 feet in elevation around Big and Little Koniuji. We estimated 12 birds on Castle Rock and saw at least 14 on Peninsula Island; they were occasionally seen on Hall Island, too, and we suspected a nest there. We also recorded them on Herendeen and Atkins Islands.

We found an unused nest at Otter Cove on 31 May, but saw no others. However, it appeared that the birds were nesting primarily in the dense alder thickets around the islands. On 10 July, Day saw a pair of adults with three young that had half-grown tails. Moe saw a bob-tailed young on Hall Island on 16 July. Birds were around when we left, and they probably winter there.

Corvus corax. Common Raven.

A permanent resident in the Shumagins (G & L 1959). Gabrielson saw 25 birds at Simeonof on 20 August 1946 and also recorded some at Unga on 18 August 1946. Murie (1959) observed birds throughout the Shumagins. On 5 June 1960 Kenyon (1964) found a nest on the north point of Simeonof Island with one nearly-fledged young. Troyer (1968) found birds common around Simeonof in late June, and found one nest. Jones (1970) recorded birds at Chernabura Island, but not at Bird Island. A breeder and common permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

These birds were a very common and prominent sight around all the islands the entire summer. Although we never found a nest, we suspected one on Hall Island, and one somewhere at the southeast corner of Big Koniuji. Birds were also seen on all the offshore islands throughout the summer. We suspected fledging around 5-10 July, as we often saw groups of 3-6 birds after this time.

The destruction of the Black-legged Kittiwake colony on Hall Island on 23 July was attributed to a family of five birds living there.

Parus atricapillus. Black-capped Chickadee.

Murie (1959) heard one in the alders at Sand Point on 26 August 1936 and heard at least six pairs on Nagai Island on 16 May 1936. Beals found it common at Sand Point 6-15 May 1944 and 1-4 December 1942; Gabrielson saw them at Sand Point on 12 June and 18 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Gabrielson has also seen birds at Unga and Nagai Islands. Neither Kenyon (1964) nor Troyer (1968) recorded birds at Simeonof, and Jones (1970) saw none at Bird or Chernabura Islands. Sowl (1973) recorded none at Big Koniuji in 1973.

Day and Moe observed one pair on 27 June in an alder thicket just north of Shipwreck Cove. We found no nest, but the birds stayed in the general area and were very aggressive toward the other songbirds nearby, especially the Yellow Warblers. We also saw one pair in the alder above Otter Cove on 23 August.

This bird evidently becomes less common the farther away from the Alaska Peninsula one gets, and it appears that Big Koniuji is the most remote island visited. We saw none on any of the smaller offshore islands, and didn't see any on Little Koniuji, although we were in proper habitat.

Cinclus mexicanus. Dipper.

Beals recorded it from Cold Bay and King Cove (G & L 1959), and Gianini (1917) saw birds at Stepovak Bay. Murie (1959) records birds as far west as Unalaska. A breeder and uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although Murie records birds into the eastern Aleutians, there are no records of this species in the Shumagins. However, this might be related to streamtypes present there, as there are not many steep "mountainous" streams present.

Troglodytes troglodytes. Winter Wren.

Although Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) mention no specimens from the Shumagins, I would assume they are of the subspecies *stevensoni*, which nests on the nearby mainland. Jones (1970) recorded no birds on Bird or Chernabura Islands. A breeder and rare permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

These birds were very rare in the Koniugi Group, and we only saw birds on Big Koniugi and Hall Island. We only had seven sightings during the summer, and never more than one bird at one time. The reasons for this are unclear, although perhaps the shrews or the Arctic Ground Squirrels have played a part in this resulting low population.

Turdus migratorius. American Robin.

Although there are no other records for this area, Sowl (1973) saw one bird at Sand Point on 8 June 1973.

We saw no birds in the Koniugi Group, and they must surely be considered accidental to this area.

Catharus guttatus. Hermit Thrush.

Beals recorded birds at Sand Point 7-12 May 1944 (G & L 1959). On 15 May 1936 Murie (1959) noted birds singing in the alders at Nagai. Jones (1970) saw birds at Bird but no Chernabura Island. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniugi, on 11 June 1973. A breeder and uncommon resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

It was difficult to assess the habits of these secretive birds in the Koniujî Group. Birds were very vocal through the month of June, but we heard none after the beginning of July. Moe found a nest with four eggs near Long Bay on 14 June, but it was later eaten by foxes. We suspected a rather large population in this area, but were unable to verify this. We saw or heard no birds on any of the offshore islands.

Catharus minimus. Gray-cheeked Thrush.

This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

It must be considered rare to casual in the Shumagins.

Catharus ustulatus. Swainson's Thrush.

Wetmore heard birds singing at King Cove on 12 and 16 July 1911 (Murie 1959). Accidental at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species is accidental in the Shumagins.

Anthus spinoletta. Water Pipit.

On 16 May 1936 Murie (1959) heard two birds at Unga and two birds at Sand Point. Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) considered 16 May to be an early record of Unga. Three birds fed on the sand beach at the head of Simeonof Harbor in early June 1960 (Kenyon 1964). Troyer (1968) considered them common on Simeonof Island, especially in higher elevations. Jones (1970) saw Water Pipits on Chernabura but not on Bird Island. Sowl (1973) recorded birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniujî on 11 June 1973. A common summer resident and breeder at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although we occasionally saw birds feeding on the beaches, they primarily stayed in higher alpine areas and on more windblown tundra slopes. We also saw at least four birds on Peninsula Island on 24 July.

Birds called and displayed from at least 31 May to about 10 June. There also seemed to be an increase in numbers in this area at the end of August.

Lanius excubitor. Northern Shrike.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1958) simply state that birds winter on the Alaska Peninsula, in the Shumagins.

We saw no birds in the Koniugi Group this summer.

Vermivora celata. Orange-crowned Warbler.

This is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no birds in the Koniugi Group, and they are probably casual in occurrence in the Shumagins.

Dendroica petechia. Yellow Warbler.

Gianini (1917) did not consider these birds common at Stepovak Bay. Beals recorded it earliest as 5 May at False Pass and latest as 14 August at Cold Bay (G & L 1959). Jones (1970) saw birds at Chernabura Bird Island. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniugi, on 11 June 1973. A common breeding resident and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Our earliest record is of a single male near camp on 17 June. We occasionally saw birds in alder thickets throughout the summer, with our last record on 23 August.

Wilsonia pusilla. Wilson's Warbler.

Gabrielson found this species at Sand Point on 12 June 1946 and at Unga on 18 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Jones (1970) did not record this species on Bird nor Chernabura Islands. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying

Eagle Harbor, Big Koniugi, on 11 June, and saw one bird between Unga and Kenney's Island on 15 June 1973. A rare breeder and common migrant at Izembek IWR (USFWS 1973).

Like the above species, we only saw birds on Big Koniugi proper, and only near alder thickets. Our first record is 10 June, and we last saw birds on 28 August. We saw a flock of two males and four females on 12 August.

Leucosticte tephrocotis. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

Wetmore saw young birds being fed by their parents at Unga on 15-16 August 1911; Gabrielson collected a breeding female at Unga and 18 August 1946 (G & L 1959). Troyer (1968) considered these birds rare on Simeonof Island in late June 1968. Jones (1970) saw birds on Chernabura but not Bird Island. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniugi. A common breeding permanent resident at Izembek IWR (USFWS 1973).

These birds were uncommon to rare throughout the Koniugi Group; we only saw them at Big Koniugi and Hall Island. Although they were more common in alpine areas, we occasionally saw them at sea level. We saw the last bird on 16 July, although they were almost certainly around after this date.

Carduelis hornemani. Hoary Redpoll.

This species is a rare vagrant at Izembek IWR (USFWS 1973), and must be considered casual to accidental in the Shumagins.

Carduelis flammea. Common Redpoll.

On 26 August 1936 Murie (1959) saw birds of this species at Sand Point. Gabrielson has collected birds of the subspecies holboellii at Sand Point (G & L 1959). Troyer (1968) found these birds rare at Simeonof in late

June 1968, and only saw one bird. Sowl (1973) saw birds at Sand Point on 8 June 1973 and at Big Koniuji on 11 June 1973. This is a common breeding summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We recorded no birds in the Koniuji Group.

Carduelis pinus. Pine Siskin.

Beals saw a flock of about 15 birds in a spruce grove at Sand Point on 9 March 1942. He also noted that a naval officer reported them in the same grove on 20 April 1943 (G & L 1959).

We saw no birds in the Koniuji Group, and they are most certainly casual in this area.

Passerculus sandwichensis. Savannah Sparrow.

Murie (1959) saw birds on Popof and Nagai on 16 May and 26 August 1936. Frank Beals considered these birds common summer residents of the Shumagins (G & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) found them abundant at Simonof in early June 1960, and Troyer (1963) considered them the most abundant bird there in late June 1968. Jones (1970) saw birds on Chernabura and Bird Islands. On 11 June 1973, Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniuji. A common breeding summer resident and migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This species must be considered the most abundant land bird in the Koniuji Group: we saw numerous birds daily, and on every offshore and main island in the group.

Birds were present and singing when we arrived on 28 May. We found two nests with five eggs each and one nest with four eggs between 24 and 27 June. All were in grass (Elymus?) in alder patches and crowberry heath. Birds were seen carrying food to young on 1 July to Hall Island, and fledglings were seen after 8 July. Birds were seen until we left, but were less abundant at this time.

Spizella arborea. Tree Sparrow.

On 17 August 1946 Gabrielson saw birds at Pavlof Volcano (Murie 1959). This species is a rare migrant at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no birds in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably casual in the Shumagins.

Zonotrichia leucochrys. White-crowned Sparrow.

Murie (1959) saw one bird at Sand Point on 16 May 1936. A rare breeding summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

We saw no White-crowned Sparrows in the Koniuji Group, and they are probably rare to casual in the Shumagins.

Zonotrichia atricapilla. Golden-crowned Sparrow.

On 16 May and 26 August 1936 Murie (1959) saw birds at Nagai and Popof Islands. Beals saw the first birds at Sand Point on 14 May (C & L 1959). Kenyon (1964) saw a number of birds on the north shore of Simoonof Island in early June 1960, but Troyer (1962) considered them rare there in late June 1962. Sowl (1973) heard birds at Sand Point on 8 June 1973 and saw some at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniuji, on 11 June. Jones (1970) recorded birds at both Bird and Chernabura Islands. A common breeding summer resident of Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Birds were present when we arrived in late May and they seemed almost as common as Savannahs early in the season. We constantly heard them during the month of June, but saw few. They seemed to prefer alder thickets and beach drift, and most small patches of alder between Teal and Lower Lake contained a pair of birds. Very few birds were heard singing in July, although a few were noted in mid-August.

Passerella iliaca. Fox Sparrow.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) state that birds of the subspecies unalaschensis breed in the Shumagins. On 16 May 1930, Murie (1959) recorded this species abundant on Nagai, common on Popof, and present on Unga. Jones (1970) did not record this species on Bird or Chernabura Island, but Sowl (1973) saw birds at Flying Eagle Harbor, Big Koniuji. An uncommon breeding summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

These birds were both shy and uncommon in the Koniuji Group, and we learned very little about them. On 31 May we saw two birds around 600-900 feet elevation in an old talus area on Koniuji Head. We also saw one bird on Main Talus on 14 June. We only saw birds after this between 10 and 12 August, primarily near camp. It appears that this species is much like the Black-capped Chickadee, in that its abundance decreases the farther one gets away from the Alaska Peninsula.

Melospiza melodia. Song Sparrow.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) note that birds in the Shumagins are of the subspecies sanaka, and that they are permanent residents. Kenyon (1964) thought this the most abundant passerine on Simeonof, as it was present in all areas of the island. In late June 1968, Troyer (1968) found birds abundant to about 200 yards inland on Simeonof, and discovered a nest with four eggs. Jones (1970) noted birds at Bird and Chernabura Islands, and Sowl (1973) saw some at Big Koniuji. A breeder and uncommon permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

These birds were a very common sight and sound of the summer, although they were not so abundant as Savannah Sparrows. We saw birds on all offshore and main islands except Castle Rock; indeed, they were the only passerine

seen on Murre Rocks. These birds were especially abundant around the Grosvold Camp, Little Koniuji, and he thought they might use the Sitka spruces or cabins for nesting. They preferred being near the beach, and in alders, but he occasionally observed birds up to 1,100 feet in Main Talus.

We saw a copulation on 5 June, and saw our first bob-white on 6 August and 17 August, probably from a second brood. Schell found an adult male on west Murre Rock on 10 July that was very light buffy brown all over, with pink legs. Although it was an albinistic bird, it had dark eyes like a normal bird. The specimen is now at the University of Alaska Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Calcarius lapponicus. Lapland Longspur.

The earliest spring record for Cold Bay is 5 May (G & L 1959). Murie (1959) noted birds singing and nesting at Dologi Island on 24 May 1937. Kenyon (1964) recorded males in soaring song flight at Simeonof Island on 9 June 1960, and Troyer (1968) considered them abundant there in late June. Jones (1970) recorded birds at Chernabura but not Bird Island. A common breeding summer resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

Although this species appears to be very common throughout the Shumagins, we recorded none in the Koniuji Group this summer. This is surprising, since the habitat looks so good. However, David Manuwal (pers. comm.) noted the same unexplained occurrence on some islands in the Barren Islands this summer.

Plectrophenax nivalis. Snow Bunting.

Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) state that birds of the subspecies townsendi breed in the Shumagins. Jones (1970) saw birds at Chernabura but not Bird Island. This species is a common breeding permanent resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

This bird is uncommon in the Koniuji Group, and we only saw birds on Big Koniuji, although they probably breed on Little Koniuji too. These birds preferred the high alpine tundra, but we occasionally saw them feeding on the beaches. We saw birds less than five times this summer.

Plectrophenax hyperboreus. McKay's Bunting.

This is a rare winter resident at Izembek NWR (USFWS 1973).

There are no records for the Shumagins, and they are probably casual to accidental in occurrence in this area.

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