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BIRD SPECIES AND HABITAT INVENTORY  
MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ALASKA  
SUMMER 1974

**REPRINT  
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by

Daniel D. LGibson  
and

Stephen O. MacDonald

University of Alaska Museum

Contract Report

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BIRD SPECIES AND HABITAT INVENTORY

MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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University of Alaska Museum

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This manuscript is a report of a bird species/habitat survey conducted on mainland southeast Alaska, 20 June through 10 August 1974, by Daniel D. Gibson and Stephen O. MacDonald under U.S. Forest Service Negotiated Contract No. 01-248, between that organization and the University of Alaska. The study was to provide determinations on: 1) the species of birds on National Forest lands in southeast Alaska; 2) the status of the bird species identified; 3) the relationship of these species to the habitat in which they were found, especially breeding birds; and 4) the role of snags in old growth and cutover areas with regard to hole-nesting species and as raptor perches.

INTRODUCTION

The ecological distribution of birds on the mainland of southeast Alaska is of particular interest to ornithologists

because of the continuum with the interior British Columbia avifauna afforded by the trans-Coast Range river systems. The largest and probably the most important of these rivers, in terms of interior bird species reaching beyond the Coast Range as either nesting birds or migrants, is the Stikine, on which Swarth and Dixon (Swarth 1922) worked extensively in 1919.

Most ornithologists who have published on the birds of southeast Alaska have done so for various parts of the Alexander Archipelago and not for the mainland. Osgood and Bishop (1900), Burroughs (1902), Grinnell (1909), Swarth (1911), Bailey (1927), Jewett (1942), Webster (1950), and Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) are among the few who have discussed birds at mainland localities, most of them on or adjacent to lands under U.S. Forest Service jurisdiction. Wik and Streveler (1968) have provided information from Glacier Bay National Monument. In spite of these publications, however, relatively little is known about the avifauna of the mainland, as it differs from that of the archipelago and as it represents an extension of that of interior British Columbia. The best known mainland areas are Glacier Bay National Monument and Juneau, but even for these areas much of the information is still not published.

Geographically, the mainland of southeast Alaska (Fig. 1) is a narrow band between the crest of the Coast Range (the

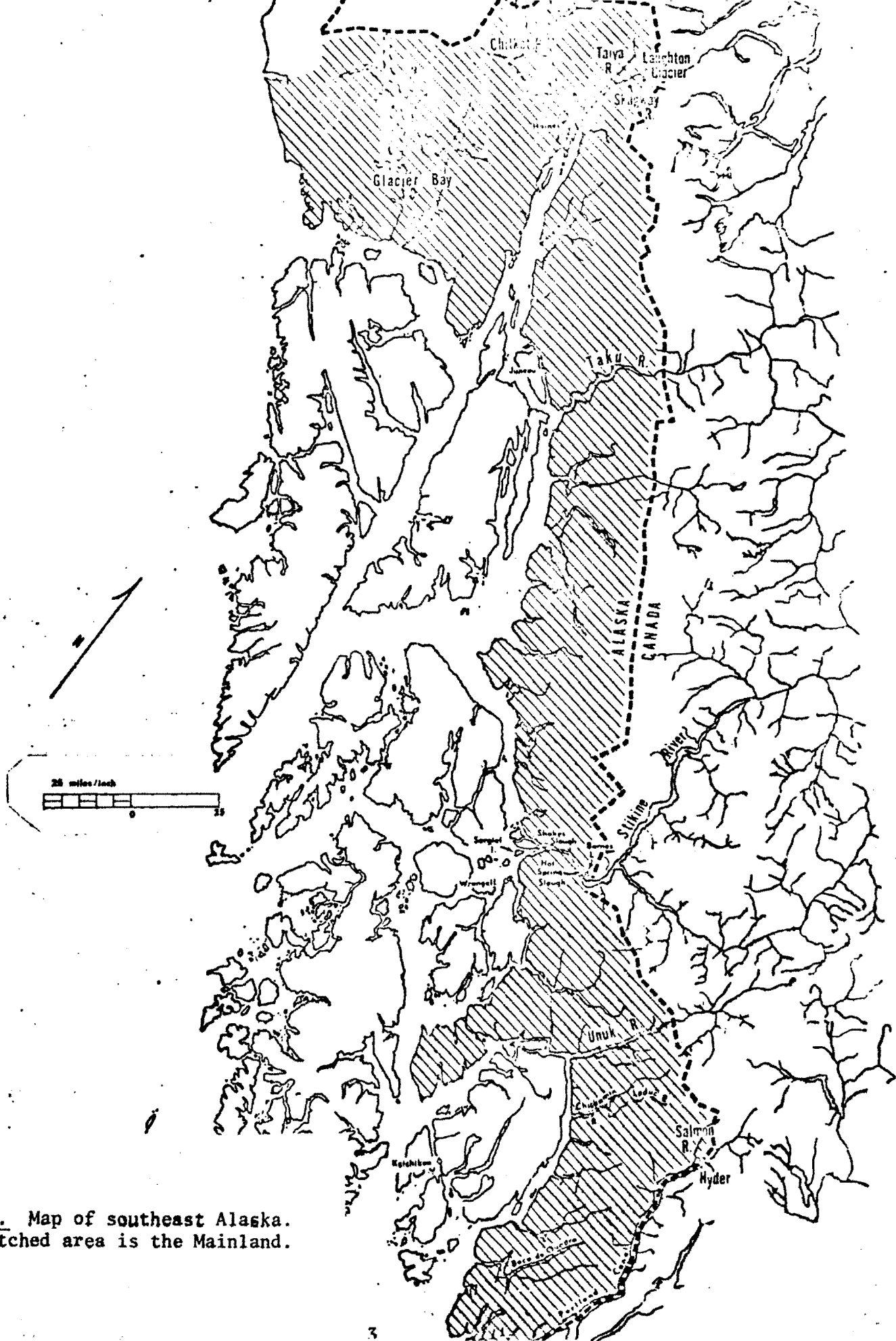


Figure 1. Map of southeast Alaska.  
Cross-hatched area is the Mainland.

international boundary) and the Inside Passage. It extends approximately 375 miles southeast-northwest between 54°46' and 58°48' N and 130°01' and 137°57' W, and at both its northwest and south ends it faces the open Pacific Ocean. No point on the mainland is more than 30 miles from tidewater, and in these few miles the heavily timbered slopes of the Coast Range drop precipitously to sea level. There is much country, including glaciers and icefields, above 4000 ft elevation, and there are many peaks over 6000 ft. It is less than 20 miles from the 15,300-ft summit of Mt. Fairweather to sea level, the extreme example in the region. All of the trans-Coast Range river valleys are, accordingly, steep-sided and narrow, none exceeding about 2 miles in width at any point.

The summer of 1974 was an exceptional one to be afield in southeast Alaska. Weather in areas visited (Table 1) was generally good, and sometimes excellent, until the end of July, and we enjoyed much clear, sunny weather and much less overcast, rainy weather than we had anticipated. That these weather conditions, which facilitated our work immeasurably, occurred during June and July, coincident with the height of the breeding season, leads us to believe that our results on the Unuk River, in the Salmon River-Hyder area, and on the Stikine River are representative of summering bird populations in those areas. Our work on the Taku River, on the

Table 1. Itinerary, 20 June-10 August 1974,  
Mainland southeast Alaska.

20 JN: Fairbanks to Juneau (via Alaska Airlines)  
21 JN: Juneau to Ketchikan (Alaska Airlines)  
22 JN: In Ketchikan.  
23 JN: Ketchikan to Int. boundary on Unuk R. (River Co., Cessna 185)  
23 JN-1 JL: On Unuk River (canoe)  
1 JL: Unuk River Post to Ketchikan (River Co., Cessna 185)  
2-3 JL: In Ketchikan  
4 JL: Ketchikan to Hyder (Ketchikan Air Service, Cessna 185)  
4-9 JL: In Hyder area (truck)  
9 JL: Hyder to Ketchikan (Ketchikan Air Service, Cessna 185)  
10 JL: In Ketchikan  
11 JL: Ketchikan to Wrangell (M/V Matanuska)  
12 JL: In Wrangell  
13 JL: Wrangell to Int. boundary on Stikine R. (Stikine Air Service,  
DeHavilland Beaver)  
13-21 JL: On Stikine River (canoe)  
21 JL: Arrive Wrangell (canoe)  
22-24 JL: In Wrangell  
25 JL: Wrangell to Juneau (M/V Taku)  
26 JL: In Juneau  
27 JL: Juneau to Int. boundary on Taku R. (Channel Flying, DeH. Turbo-Beaver)  
27 JL-1 AU: On Taku River (canoe)  
1 AU: Taku Lodge to Juneau (Channel Flying, DeH. Turbo-Beaver)  
2-3 AU: In Juneau  
4 AU: Juneau to Haines (M/V Malaspina)  
5 AU: Haines to Skagway (M/V Taku)  
6 AU: Skagway to Glacier (White Pass & Yukon Railway)  
6-8 AU: At Lughton Glacier (afoot)  
8 AU: Glacier to Skagway (White Pass & Yukon Railway)  
9 AU: Skagway to Haines (M/V Matanuska)  
10 AU: Haines to Int. boundary on road system (auto)

other hand, was conducted after most singing activity had ceased for the summer; thus our results there should not be compared directly with those from the more southerly, earlier worked, areas. Further, our field work at Haines and at Skagway was brief and was conducted in either rainy or windy weather, the beginning of fall, and our results there should not be compared directly with those from the southernmost areas.

Singing activity of territorial males began to diminish in mid-July, and all continuous singing activity had ceased by the end of that month, although individuals were heard in song at irregular intervals in early August. Among numerous and widespread species, the following were last heard in numbers on the indicated dates: 5 Hermit Thrushes on 17 July; 4 Swainson's Thrushes, 7 MacGillivray's Warblers, 6 Common Yellowthroats, and 6 Lincoln's Sparrows on 19 July; 4 Yellow Warblers on 28 July; and 2 Alder Flycatchers, 2 Western Flycatchers, and 2 Western Wood Pewees on 30 July.

#### AVIAN HABITATS

A variety of habitats is available to and utilized by birds on mainland southeast Alaska, and, for the purposes of this report, fifteen avian habitats are delineated:

- Coniferous forests
- Deciduous woodlands
- Riparian alder thickets
- Montane alder thickets

Willow/herb glacial outwashes  
Freshwater marshes  
Estuarine meadows  
Cutover areas  
Lacustrine waters & shorelines  
Fluviatile waters & shorelines  
Inshore waters  
Alluvial bars  
Beaches & tidal flats  
Cutbanks & cliffs  
Townsites & isolated cabins

As in Isleib and Kessel (1973), these habitats have been differentiated on the basis of the life-form of the vegetation, the topography, and/or the physical nature of the substrate, since these are important characteristics relative to their usage by birds. Common and scientific names of plants follow Hult  n (1968).

#### Coniferous forests

A dense coniferous forest occurs as a relatively narrow strip along the steep mainland coast of southeast Alaska and extends up the river valleys (almost 85 miles up the Stikine, for example) along the steep mountainsides, from the edge of the valley floor to an altitude of several thousand feet.

This forest is composed primarily of Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) and Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis) with a scattering of Mountain Hemlock (Tsuga Mertensiana), Alaska Cypress (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis), and Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata). At Laughton Glacier (1900-2100 ft elevation), 14 miles north of Skagway, however, 30-50 ft Alpine Fir (Abies lasiocarpa) is the dominant tree species.



All heights of trees occur in these forests, with open spaces (trees down) congested with small Western Hemlock, tall Vaccinium, Devil's Club (Echinopanax horridum), etc. The ground cover is dominated by mosses and a wide variety of herbs.

#### Deciduous woodlands

Black Cottonwood (Populus balsamifera trichocarpa) dominates the higher, relatively stable portions of the river valley floors. It grades from almost pure stands of closely-spaced second-growth trees (40-60 ft) on older floodplains to well-spaced mature trees (70-80 ft) intermixed with scattered tall Sitka Spruce on the most stable, rarely flooded, areas.

The stands of closely-spaced, second-growth cottonwoods have a relatively open undergrowth of grasses, Horsetail (Equisetum spp.), and other herbs, and of medium-height shrubs, including willow (Salix spp.), Sitka Alder (Alnus crispa), American Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera), etc.

The areas of mixed, mature, cottonwood-spruce, in contrast, have a more open canopy, with dense thickets of tall Sitka Alder, Devil's Club, Salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis), and other shrubs growing beneath and between the more widely spaced trees.

Red Alder (Alnus oregona), which reaches heights of up to 40 ft, is found in scattered locations, but primarily in the transition zone between the coniferous forest of the steep mountainsides and the flat river valley floors (especially at the bottoms of avalanche trails) and along the edges of the

open estuarine meadows at the river mouths.

#### Riparian alder thickets

A dense growth of Sitka Alder (10-20 ft), mixed with lesser amounts of willow, American Dogwood, and other shrubs, and with a ground cover of herbs, is found along the banks and alluvial floodplains of the main rivers and along their numerous tributary streams.

#### Montane alder thickets

Dense thickets of Sitka Alder (10-20 ft) with many understory shrubs (up to 6 ft) and herbs occur along the numerous avalanche trails and dominate the transitional alpine zone.

#### Willow/herb glacial outwashes

In several areas at the mouths of river tributaries, well-drained soils, apparently covering moraine deposits, support open thickets of willows ranging from 12 to 15 ft in height. The understory is open, composed of low herbs (Sanguisorba spp., etc.) and often a few widely-scattered Sitka Spruce (20-25 ft). The best example of this habitat exists along lower Shakes Slough, Stikine River.

#### Freshwater marshes

Freshwater marshes, usually formed about long-standing beaver ponds, are an important habitat in the major river valleys of mainland southeast Alaska, notably the Barnes Lake-Hot Spring Slough area of the Stikine River; Moose Creek, Yehring Creek,

and Sockeye Creek of the Taku River; Lake Creek of the Unuk River; and the South Fork-Leduc River-area of the Chickamin River.

These areas support high beaver populations, and the numerous dams, which maintain constant high water levels, produce a large number of freshwater marshes of varying sizes, the largest being the several-hundred-acre marsh at Barnes Lake, Stikine River.

During the growing season all but the deeper areas of these ponds become congested with Yellow Pond Lily (Nuphar polysepalum) and Pondweed (Potamogeton spp.). Concentrically from the pond margins outward, dense Horsetail grades into Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata) and then Marsh Fivefinger (Potentilla palustris) and tall sedges. Grasses mix with the sedges as the soil becomes drier, forming wet meadows with scattered thickets of willow and, on the driest sites, Sitka Alder.

#### Estuarine meadows

The large, open estuarine meadows at the mouths of the major mainland river systems are mixtures of sedges, grasses, several Umbelliferae (primarily Cow Parsnip [Heracleum lanatum]), Lupine (Lupinus nootkatensis), Indian Paintbrush (Castilleja spp.), Wild Flag (Iris setosa), and other herbs that form a graded habitat continuum from sedge-dominant sites, subject to

relatively frequent tidal inundations, to a tall, dense, grass dominance on the drier, infrequently inundated sites. The drier sites serve as breeding habitat for several species of birds.

#### Cutover areas

Cutover areas include 'clearcuts' of varying sizes and ages, road cuts, and other man-effected edges. These areas, often the only opening in many miles of dense coniferous forests, are vegetated by low (up to 4 ft), dense shrub thickets (primarily Vaccinium) and widely scattered young Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock (1-10 ft). The numbers and heights of the young conifers vary with the ages of the cutovers. The only 'clearcuts' that we encountered on the mainland were near Hyder, and here there were many scattered snags and, along the periphery, tall by-passed conifers.

#### Lacustrine waters and shorelines

Lacustrine waters comprise all the surface waters of freshwater ponds and lakes.

#### Fluviatile waters and shorelines

Fluviatile waters comprise all flowing freshwater surfaces, i.e., streams and rivers.

#### Inshore waters

Inshore waters, as in Isleib and Kessel (1973), include all waters of southeast Alaska within 3 nautical miles to seaward of

all outer coastal points and islands. This habitat thus includes all of the Inside Passage north of Dixon Entrance.

#### Alluvial bars

Alluvial bars, common along the major rivers of mainland southeast Alaska, are unvegetated alluvial deposits of sand, gravel, and silt.

#### Beaches and tidal flats

The unvegetated beaches and tidal flats of the region are subject to daily tidal inundation. All of the major mainland rivers have extensive tidal flats that are composed of a mixture of river-deposited sand and silt; scattered across these flats are piles of drift logs. Tidal flats at the Stikine River mouth are the most extensive.

Because of the extreme topographic relief of the mainland coast, beaches, when present, are usually only narrow strips of sand and pebbles between the steep mountainsides and the inshore waters.

#### Cutbanks and cliffs

Upland cliffs are common along all of the mainland river valleys because of the steep topography and recent glaciation of the region. No investigations were conducted in these areas, although it seems likely that Black Swifts breed in this habitat.

Cutbanks are common along all of the rivers, but there was little evidence of avian utilization, probably due to the con-

stant fluctuations of the water level.

#### Townsites and isolated cabins

Unique areas are formed by the presence of buildings in combination with a mixture of conifers (Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Alaska Cypress), deciduous trees (Black Cottonwood, Red Alder, Oregon Crab Apple [Malus fusca]), shrubs (Vaccinium, Rubus, Cornus, Rosa nutkana, etc.), and man-effected meadows (lawns, pastures). These areas act as 'magnets' for many species of birds during migration, and, because of the compressed diversity of habitats, account for a corresponding diversity of breeding species. Buildings themselves provide nesting sites for several species of swallows.

#### Role of snags

The role of snags in cutover areas and in old growth with regard to bird utilization was one of the determinations to be provided by this survey. On the southeast Alaska mainland in 1974, however, we visited cutover areas only in the Hyder vicinity, at Fish Creek and above the Hyder cemetery. Utilization of snags within the forest was observed at many locations.

Snags in cutover areas at Hyder were utilized as song perches by territorial male passerine species breeding on or at the edge of the cutovers (e.g., Olive-sided Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler,

Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow). Theoretically, these snags might be utilized by woodpeckers or swallows, but we found no evidence that they were of importance to either in this area. Woodpeckers, with the exception of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, are not numerous in the area, and sapsuckers usually dig holes in live trees or in snags within the forest, rather than in open areas. Tree Swallows, the only widespread hole-nesting swallows in the region, were not utilizing these snags, probably because the species usually breeds near lacustrine waters, a habitat that does not occur in close proximity to the Hyder cutovers. We found that Band-tailed Pigeons, which nest within the forest, utilize cutover snags for perches on which they sun themselves, on which they conduct courtship displays, and from which they move to and from the low-growing Vaccinium, on the berries of which they were feeding. American Kestrel is the only hole-nesting raptor that we encountered, and we found it only on cutover areas at Hyder. The species is rare in summer on the mainland of southeast Alaska, and it is not yet known to nest, but cutover snags may provide the only potential nesting habitat for this species in this region. The only other raptor that we observed on the Hyder cutovers was Sharp-shinned Hawk, which utilizes cutover snags as foraging perches but nests within the coniferous forests. Bald Eagles were seen soaring over cutovers,

but they were not seen to utilize them at all. They are tied to the inshore, lacustrine, and larger fluviatile waters of the region, and we found Bald Eagles utilizing only live trees at the forest/water's edge for nesting sites, although they are known to utilize isolated dead trees for nesting sites in other areas.

Snags within the forest canopy on mainland southeast Alaska are important to many hole-nesting species that we observed (e.g., Common Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch) as well as to several that we did not observe (e.g., Screech Owl, Pygmy Owl, Saw-whet Owl). Only occasional pairs of any of these species, however, are likely to utilize the same snags as nesting sites once the surrounding forest has been cleared.

#### ANNOTATED LIST

During the 1974 field season, 20 June through 10 August, 102 species of birds were recorded by the authors on the mainland of southeast Alaska. Twenty-five of these were seen only once or twice. There are many differences between the avifauna of the mainland river systems and that of the Alexander Archipelago; therefore, we have segregated in an appendix



XX = major utilization  
X = minor utilization

XX = major utilization  
X = minor utilization

Common Loon				XX		
Red-throated Loon					XX	XX
Great Blue Heron						XX
American Bittern			XX			
Canada Goose			XX	XX		
Mallard			XX	XX	XX	
Pintail					XX	
Green-winged Teal			XX	XX	XX	
Ring-necked Duck			XX	XX		
Lesser Scaup			XX	XX		
Common Goldeneye			XX	XX	XX	
Surf Scoter				X		XX
Hooded Merganser			XX	XX		
Common Merganser					XX	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	XX					
Red-tailed Hawk	XX	XX				
Bald Eagle	XX	XX		XX	XX	XX
Marsh Hawk			XX			
American Kestrel				XX		
Blue Grouse	XX					
Semipalmated Plover					XX	XX
Killdeer					XX	XX
Semipalmated Sandpiper					XX	
Least Sandpiper			XX	XX	XX	
Lesser Yellowlegs					XX	
Solitary Sandpiper					XX	
Spotted Sandpiper					XX	XX
Common Snipe			XX			
Parasitic Jaeger						XX
Glaucous-winged Gull						XX

Table 2. Bird species utilization  
of habitats. Mainland southeast  
Alaska, summer 1974.

XX = major utilization  
X = minor utilization

	Coniferous forests	Deciduous woodlands	Riparian alder thickets	Montane alder thickets	Willow/herb glacial thickets	Freshwater marshes	Estuarine marshes	Cutover areas	Lacustrine waters & shorelines	Fluvial waters & shorelines	Inshore waters & shorelines	Alluvial bars	Beaches & tidal flats	Cutbanks & cliffs	Townsites & isolated cabins
Herring Gull									XX	XX	XX				
Mew Gull									XX	XX	XX				
Bonaparte's Gull									XX	XX	XX				
Arctic Tern								X	XX						
Band-tailed Pigeon	XX						XX								
Short-eared Owl		XX			XX										
Common Nighthawk					XX					XX					
Black Swift							XX	XX				XX			
Vaux's Swift	XX						XX	XX	XX			XX			
Rufous Hummingbird	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	XX	X	X						X
Belted Kingfisher									XX	XX					
Common Flicker		XX											XX		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	XX	XX													
Hairy Woodpecker		XX													
Downy Woodpecker		XX													
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	XX														
Alder Flycatcher					XX										
Hammond's Flycatcher		XX													
Western Flycatcher	XX														
Western Wood Pewee		XX													
Olive-sided Flycatcher							XX								
Violet-green Swallow													XX	XX	
Tree Swallow					XX	XX	X	XX	X					XX	
Bank Swallow									XX				XX		
Rough-winged Swallow									XX				XX		
Barn Swallow					XX	XX		XX	XX	XX	XX				
Steller's Jay	XX													XX	
Common Raven	XX														
Northwestern Crow	XX								XX					XX	
Black-capped Chickadee		XX	XX												
Mountain Chickadee	XX														
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	XX		X												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	XX	XX													
Brown Creeper	XX														
Dipper									XX						

Table 2. Bird species utilization  
of habitats. Mainland southeast  
Alaska, summer 1974.

XX = major utilization  
X = minor utilization

	Coniferous forests	Deciduous woodlands	Riparian alder thickets	Montane alder thickets	Willow/herb thickets	Freshwater marshes	Estuarine marshes	Cutover areas	Lacustrine waters & shorelines	Fluviatile waters & shorelines	Inshore waters	Alluvial bars	Beaches & tidal flats	Cutbanks & cliffs	Townsites & isolated cabins
Winter Wren	XX	XX													
American Robin	XX	XX						XX							
Varied Thrush	XX							XX							
Hermit Thrush	XX														
Swainson's Thrush	XX	XX													
Gray-cheeked Thrush			XX												
Golden-crowned Kinglet	XX			X											
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	XX		X												
Water Pipit										X					
Bohemian Waxwing								XX			X				
Cedar Waxwing		XX						XX							
Starling						XX									
Red-eyed Vireo		XX	XX												XX
Warbling Vireo		XX	XX												
Tennessee Warbler		XX		XX											
Orange-crowned Warbler		XX		XX				XX							
Yellow Warbler		XX			XX										
Yellow-rumped Warbler	XX	XX						XX							
Townsend's Warbler	XX														XX
Northern Waterthrush			XX												
MacGillivray's Warbler	XX	XX	XX					XX							
Common Yellowthroat					XX	X									
Wilson's Warbler		XX		XX											
American Redstart		XX													
Red-winged Blackbird					XX	X									
Rusty Blackbird					XX										
Western Tanager	XX														
Pine Grosbeak	XX														
Pine Siskin	XX	XX	X		X										
Red Crossbill	XX	XX													
White-winged Crossbill		XX													
Savannah Sparrow					XX	XX									
Dark-eyed Junco	XX							XX							
Chipping Sparrow		X		XX				XX							
Fox Sparrow	XX	XX	XX	XX				XX							XX
Lincoln's Sparrow						XX									
Song Sparrow						XX	XX								

Table 3. Abundance, status, and occurrence of bird species.  
Mainland southeast Alaska, summer 1974.

C = Common

FC = Fairly common

U = Uncommon

R = Rare

B = Breeds

b = Probably breeds

o = Not known to breed

Relative abundance in region  
Breeding status in region  
Unuk River  
Salmon River/Hyder  
Stikine River  
Taku River/Juneau  
Taiya/Skagway rivers  
Chilkat River

Common Loon	U	B			X			
Red-throated Loon	U	B		X	X			
Great Blue Heron	U	B				X		
American Bittern	R	b			X			
Canada Goose	U	B				X		
Mallard	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Pintail	U	B					X	
Green-winged Teal	FC	B			X	X		
Ring-necked Duck	R	B			X			
Lesser Scaup	R	B			X			
Common Goldeneye	U	B			X			
Surf Scoter	U	o					X	X
Hooded Merganser	U	B			X	X		X
Common Merganser	FC	B	X		X	X		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	b	X	X			X	
Red-tailed Hawk	U	b	X		X	X		
Bald Eagle	FC	B	X	X	X	X		
Marsh Hawk	R	o				X		
American Kestrel	R	b		X				
Blue Grouse	FC	B	X	X	X	X		
Semipalmated Plover	U	B				X	X	
Killdeer	R	B				X	X	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	o					X	
Least Sandpiper	C	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	B				X	X	
Solitary Sandpiper	FC	B	X			X		
Spotted Sandpiper	C	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Common Snipe	U	B			X	X		
Parasitic Jaeger	R	o	X					
Glaucous-winged Gull	FC	B				X	X	X
Herring Gull	FC	B				X	X	
Mew Gull	C	B		X		X	X	
Bonaparte's Gull	U	o		X		X		
Arctic Tern	U	B	X	X	X	X		
Band-tailed Pigeon	U	b		X	X			
Short-eared Owl	R	o			X			
Common Nighthawk	U	o				X		
Black Swift	FC	b	X	X	X			
Vaux's Swift	FC	b	X	X	X	X		
Rufous Hummingbird	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Table 3.** Abundance, status, and occurrence of bird species.  
Mainland southeast Alaska, summer 1974.

C = Common  
FC = Fairly common  
U = Uncommon  
R = Rare  
  
B = Breeds  
b = Probably breeds  
o = Not known to breed

		Relative abundance in region						
		Breeding status in region						
		Unuk River						
		Salmon River/Hyder						
		Stikine River						
		Taku River/Juneau						
		Taiya/Skagway Rivers						
		Chilkat River						
Belted Kingfisher	U	B	X	X		X		X
Common Flicker	U	b	X	X				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	FC	B	X	X	X	X		
Hairy Woodpecker	U	b	X					
Downy Woodpecker	U	B	X	X		X		
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	R	B			X			X
Alder Flycatcher	U	b	X	X	X	X		X
Hammond's Flycatcher	U	b	X	X		X	X	
Western Flycatcher	C	B	X	X	X			
Western Wood Pewee	U	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	b		X	X	X		
Violet-green Swallow	U	B		X		X		
Tree Swallow	C	B	X	X	X	X		X
Bank Swallow	U	B						X
Rough-winged Swallow	U	B	X	X		X		
Barn Swallow	FC	B	X	X	X		X	X
Steller's Jay	U	B	X	X	X	X		X
Common Raven	U	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Northwestern Crow	U	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-capped Chickadee	U	b			X	X		X
Mountain Chickadee	R	o					X	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	b				X	X	
Brown Creeper	U	b		X			X	
Dipper	U	B	X	X	X			
Winter Wren	FC	B	X	X	X		X	
American Robin	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varied Thrush	C	B	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hermit Thrush	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swainson's Thrush	FC	b	X	X	X	X		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	R	B			X			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	B	X		X	X	X	
Water Pipit	R	o	X				X	
Bohemian Waxwing	R	o		X				
Cedar Waxwing	U	b		X	X	X		
Starling	R	B		X	X		X	
Red-eyed Vireo	R	b			X			
Warbling Vireo	FC	b	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tennessee Warbler	R	B		X	X			

Table 3. Abundance, status, and occurrence of bird species.  
Mainland southeast Alaska, summer 1974.

C = Common  
FC = Fairly common  
U = Uncommon  
R = Rare  
  
B = Breeds  
b = Probably breeds  
o = Not known to breed

			Relative abundance in region	Breeding status in region	Unuk River	Salmon River/Hyder	Stikine River	Taku River/Juneau	Taiya/Skagway rivers	Chilkat River
Orange-crowned Warbler	C	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Yellow Warbler	C	B	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Townsend's Warbler	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Northern Waterthrush	R	B		X	X					
MacGillivray's Warbler	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X			
Common Yellowthroat	FC	B	X	X	X	X			X	
Wilson's Warbler	U	B	X	X	X	X	X		X	
American Redstart	U	B	X	X	X	X	X			
Red-winged Blackbird	U	B	X	X	X	X				
Rusty Blackbird	U	B	X	X	X	X				
Western Tanager	U	b	X	X	X					
Pine Grosbeak	R	B		X		X	X	X	X	
Pine Siskin	C	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red Crossbill	C	b	X	X		X				
White-winged Crossbill	U	o						X		
Savannah Sparrow	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X			
Dark-eyed Junco	FC	B	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Chipping Sparrow	U	B		X	X	X	X			
Fox Sparrow	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Lincoln's Sparrow	FC	B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Song Sparrow	U	B	X	X	X	X				

information on the 9 additional species that we recorded in the islands but not on the mainland proper.

Treatment of species in text is uneven. We have attempted to include complete background information on those species for which we gathered significant new information during our field work. We have not attempted the same detailed approach to those species for which we are not herein supplying significant new information.

Status and abundance evaluations were reached by weighing our evidence (summer 1974 plus MacDonald's Chickamin River data for 1972 and 1973) with that of previous observers (see esp. Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). These evaluations are speculative in many cases, being based on relatively little evidence, and they can be expected to change with the assimilation of more information. We expect additional field work to confirm, for example, that those species described as 'probable breeders' do, in fact, nest on the mainland of southeast Alaska.

Scientific and common names of birds follow the American Ornithologists' Union (1957 and 1973).

#### Definition of terms

##### Status

**Resident** - a species with populations present in the region at all seasons. Resident populations are not assumed to include breeding populations.

**Breeder** - a species with known breeding populations in the region.

Summer visitant - a species having nonbreeding populations that may remain in the region for a period of time during the nesting season or a species of which unsuccessful or early, successful, breeders may visit the region prior to the main migration (fall) period.

Migrant - a seasonal transient (spring and/or fall) through the region.

Abundance (following Isleib and Kessel 1973)

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 during the time period under discussion.

Fairly common - species occurs in only some of the proper habitat, and large areas of presumed suitable habitat are occupied sparsely or not at all and/or the region regularly hosts substantial numbers of the species during the time period under discussion.

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 occurs, or probably occurs, regularly within the region, but in very small numbers; often, a species for which there exists very little suitable habitat.

Common Loon. Gavia immer. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. A breeding-plumaged Common Loon observed on Barnes Lake, Stikine River, 13-14 July, was the only individual we recorded, but the species may be expected to occur on the larger mainland



lakes. It has bred at Juneau (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Red-throated Loon. Gavia stellata. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. We recorded a pair of breeding-plumaged birds on Portland Canal, at Hyder, on 5 July and a breeding-plumaged individual on Shakes Slough, Stikine River, on 16 July. The species has nested at Glacier Bay (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Great Blue Heron. Ardea herodias. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. A pair of Great Blue Herons in flight at Amalga Cove, Juneau, on 20 June was our only observation on the mainland. We saw these herons feeding on tidal flats at Wrangell Island, 1 bird on 11 July and a pair on 12 July. We saw no evidence of birds on the river systems.

There are very few nesting data for this species in Alaska: Lemesurier Island, Glacier Bay, in 1955 (Wik MS), and Coronation Island in 1964 (Merriam 1964).

American Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus. Rare migrant and probable breeder. We found two calling, territorial male American Bitterns in the extensive Equisetum marshes at Barnes Lake, Stikine River, on 13 July, the first suggestive evidence that this species breeds within Alaska.

Published data on this species' occurrence in Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) indicate that the bittern is only a

straggler in the state, but there are at least six recent records in southeast Alaska (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records). Godfrey (1966) stated that it probably breeds north in British Columbia to Swan Lake in the Kispiox River valley, ca. 55 air-line miles east of Hyder.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2798); Barnes Lake, 13 July.

Canada Goose. Branta canadensis. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. A flock of 18 flightless birds at Sockeye Creek, Taku River, 1 August, was our only sighting. We saw evidence of Canada Geese (feathers, droppings, and tracks) at the south end of Shakes Lake, Stikine River, on 16 July; and W. Neumann (Petersburg) showed us a nest site on a small island in the Hulakon River, just off the Unuk River, that he said had been used in recent years.

Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos. Fairly common breeder. We observed a total of 37 Mallards on the Unuk, Salmon, Stikine, Taku, and Taiya rivers, where we saw them on lacustrine waters and in freshwater marshes. Four broods of downies (5, 5, 5, and 3) were seen on the Stikine and at Hyder, and the 23 individuals seen on the Taku in late July as well as the 5 birds at the mouth of the Taiya on 9 August were probably all juveniles.

Pintail. Anas acuta. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. Two Pintails, probably birds-of-the-year, seen with 5 Mallards and 2 Green-winged Teal at the mouth of the Taiya River on 9 August were our only record. The species breeds in Glacier Bay National Monument (Wik MS).

Green-winged Teal. Anas crecca. Fairly common breeder. We recorded a total of 14 Green-winged Teal in freshwater marshes or on fluviatile or lacustrine waters. A female at Barnes Lake, Stikine River, 14 July; 3 birds-of-the-year at Fish Creek, Taku River, 27 July; and a defensive female at Moose Creek, Taku River, 28 July, were our only suggestions of breeding activity. Green-winged Teal breed at Glacier Bay (Wik MS).

Ring-necked Duck. Aythya collaris. Rare summer visitant and breeder. We observed a flock of 7 nonbreeders, still capable of flight, at Barnes Lake, Stikine River, on 13 and 14 July. We also found an adult female with a brood of 7 downies there on 13 July, the first definite breeding evidence for this region. Nonbreeding birds found on beaver ponds in the Chickamin River drainage in 1973 by MacDonald were the first summer records for southeast Alaska.

Lesser Scaup. Aythya affinis. Rare summer visitant and breeder. A pair of adults closely observed on the lacustrine waters of Barnes Lake on 13 July was our only record. In southeast Alaska this species is known to breed only in the Glacier Bay area (Grinnell 1909).

Common Goldeneye. Bucephala clangula. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. Goldeneyes were seen only in the Stikine River drainage. We found a group of 6 flying, eclipse-plumaged birds and a female with a brood of 3 young at Barnes Lake on 14 July and 2 flying adults over Shakes Slough on 16 July.

Surf Scoter. Melanitta perspicillata. Uncommon summer visitant. We recorded a flock of 250+ Surf Scoters, including many full-plumaged males, on Taiya Inlet on 5 August. We found a female on the lacustrine waters of Mosquito Lake, above Haines, on 10 August. Rather than fall migrants, the large flock observed was probably an example of the large, summering, nonbreeding flocks described by Wik (MS) at Glacier Bay.

Hooded Merganser. Lophodytes cucullatus. Uncommon breeder. On the lacustrine waters of Barnes Lake we found two broods of Hooded Mergansers on 14 July, a female with 3 downies about 10 days old and a female with 5 downies about 14-18 days old. Two immatures were seen on a beaver pond off Yehring Creek, Taku

River, on 29 July, and 3 immatures were seen together on a small roadside pond 11 miles northwest of Haines on 10 August.

Common Merganser. Mergus merganser. Fairly common breeder. A widespread species in this region, Common Mergansers were seen commonly on the fluviatile waters of the Unuk, Stikine, and Taku rivers. We saw a total of 6 broods (5, 6, 12, 7, 6, and 4) and a total of 23 female-plumaged adults or juveniles during the summer.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter striatus. Uncommon probable breeder. We observed a food-carrying adult as it flew into coniferous forest at Lake Creek, Unuk River, on 29 June; we saw one food-carrying bird in flight at the Hulakon-Unuk junction on 30 June; we saw one adult at the Fish Creek cutover, 4 miles upriver from Hyder, on 5 and 6 July; and we saw one food-carrying individual at the edge of coniferous forest at Glacier, 14 miles above Skagway on the railroad, on 8 August.

Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo jamaicensis. Uncommon probable breeder. One defensive adult was observed on a timbered slope (Coniferous forest) above a beaver pond on Lake Creek, Unuk River, on 27 June; at least one pair of birds was observed in

scattered conifers adjacent to deciduous woodlands and riparian alder thickets at the confluence of Ketili Creek and Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, on 13 and 15 July; and we made three sightings on the Taku River: one bird soaring over timbered slopes above the Moose Creek freshwater marshes, 28 July; two birds at the edge of a timbered slope along Yehring Creek, 29 July; and two birds in similar conifer habitat along Johnson Creek, 30 July. The species probably utilizes large, live deciduous or coniferous trees in these areas as breeding sites, although we found no conclusive evidence of nesting in any of the areas visited.

Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalus. Fairly common summer visitant and breeder. We saw only 44 Bald Eagles on mainland southeast Alaska during the summer, most of them in tidal areas. On the Unuk River we observed two separate adults over the upper river [=just below the international boundary] on 25 June, a pair on 26 June, 4-5 adults near the river mouth on 30 June, and a pair on the Hulakon River on 1 July. We found an unoccupied aerie in an isolated, tall, live cottonwood at Lake Creek 'lake' on 27 June and another in a live spruce at the mouth of Lake Creek on 28 June. We noted 4-5 adults at the edge of estuarine meadows and on beaches and tidal flats at Hyder on 5 and 8 July and saw one adult soaring over the Fish Creek cutover on 6 July. On

the Stikine River we found one immature eagle over Shakes Slough on 16 July and an unoccupied aerie 40 ft up in a live cottonwood on the south shore of the river, opposite the entrance to Shakes Slough, on 17 July. We noted one immature eagle over Cottonwood Islands Slough on 20 July. On the Taku River we saw 7 birds along the upper stretch of river on 27 July, 3 birds over the river on 28 July, 2 adults at Johnson Creek junction on 30 July, and, the only active aerie we saw during the summer, a pair at nest 35 ft up in a live cottonwood just downriver from Taku Lodge on 31 July. Salmon were just coming into Johnson Creek at that time, and we watched the adults commuting to and from the creek and the nest site. We saw this pair plus two additional, separate, adults in this area on 1 August. We saw no eagles during our brief work in the Skagway and Haines areas, 4-10 August.

Marsh Hawk. Circus cyaneus. Rare summer visitant. Our only record of this species was of a molting adult male observed over the freshwater marshes at Moose Creek, Taku River, 29-30 July.

American Kestrel. Falco sparverius. Rare summer visitant and probable breeder. Our only records of kestrels were of a bird at the Fish Creek cutover, 4 miles upriver from Hyder, on 6 July, and a female observed along the edge of

coniferous forest at Riverside Mine, 2 miles north of that cutover, on 7 July.

Blue Grouse. Dendragapus obscurus. Fairly common resident and breeder. We heard hooting males regularly in coniferous forests on the steep sides of both the Unuk (10 birds) and Salmon (8) river valleys during late June and early July. They were less vocal thereafter, although we heard one male above Ketili Creek, Stikine River, on 13 July, and one above the upper Taku River on 27 July. There are records of females with broods from a number of southeast Alaska localities (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Semipalmated Plover. Charadrius semipalmatus. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. Our first record of this species during the summer was of one adult plus a pair of adults with 4 immatures on alluvial bars at the confluence of Fish Creek and Taku River on 27 July. We saw single adults on alluvial bars near Taku Lodge on 30 July and 1 August. Five birds together at the Taiya River mouth on 9 August was our only additional record.

The species is known to breed at a number of mainland southeast Alaska locations (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), but these form the southern end of the species' breeding range (cf. Godfrey 1966).



Killdeer. Charadrius vociferus. Rare summer visitant and breeder. We found a group of 4 Killdeers, an adult female accompanied by 3 strong-flying immatures, on alluvial bars near the confluence of Fish Creek and Taku River on 27 July. Another Killdeer flew past us at the Taiya River mouth on 9 August.

Most records of this bird in southeast Alaska (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959) are of migrants or summer visitants. There are, however, recent breeding records for Juneau, Gustavus, and Goose Cove, Glacier Bay National Monument (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2803); Taku R. at Fish Creek, 27 July.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Calidris pusilla. Uncommon migrant. Our only record of Semipalmated Sandpiper was of one closely observed with a flock of 60 Least Sandpipers on tidal flats at the mouth of the Taiya River on 9 August.

Least Sandpiper. Calidris minutilla. Common migrant, fairly common summer visitant, and rare breeder. We recorded Least Sandpipers in a variety of circumstances. Four birds at Lake Creek 'lake', Unuk River, 27 June, may have been breeders; a flock of at least 21 birds on tidal flats at the confluence of Salmon River and Portland Canal, 5 July, were probably non-breeding summer visitants; 13 scattered birds on fluviatile

water shorelines, Taku River, 27 July-1 August, were probably postbreeders; and a flock of 60 birds at the mouth of the Taiya River, 9 August, were migrants. A defensive pair observed in a wet, open sedge/grass area near Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, 18 July, was probably breeding. The species breeds in Glacier Bay National Monument (Wik MS).

Lesser Yellowlegs. Tringa flavipes. Uncommon migrant and rare breeder. We observed only a few Lesser Yellowlegs, all toward the end of the summer: 3 birds at Fish Creek and Taku River on 27 July, 2 birds at Johnson Creek and Taku River on 30 July, and a group of 6 at the Taiya River mouth on 9 August. All may have been birds-of-the-year. A nest was found at Glacier Bay National Monument in summer 1971 (Wik MS).

Solitary Sandpiper. Tringa solitaria. Fairly common migrant and rare breeder. We observed one Solitary Sandpiper under circumstances that suggested breeding: a defensive bird in a semi-open sedge/conifer association on the Hulakon River, off the Unuk, on 1 July. The habitat was reminiscent of interior Alaska Black Spruce (Picea mariana) bogs. On the Taku River, 27-30 July, we saw a total of 13 Solitary Sandpipers, most of which were birds-of-the-year that were probably moving downriver from interior British Columbia. A pair with one

chick were observed in Glacier Bay National Monument in 1971 (Wik MS).

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia. Common breeder. Adult Spotted Sandpipers were common on alluvial bars and along the shorelines of all of the rivers we canoed: 63 birds on the Unuk, 22 on the Taku, and 15 on the Stikine. Elsewhere, we saw 4 birds on the Salmon River and a single bird on the Skagway River, at Glacier. We found 3 nests, all on 24 June on the Unuk, all with complete, 4-egg clutches. On 13 July we saw 2 downy young with a pair of adults on the Stikine, and on 27 July we saw one large downy young on the Taku.

Common Snipe. Capella gallinago. Uncommon breeder. We recorded only 4 snipe during summer 1974, all in wet sedge areas at the edge of fluviatile waters or at the edge of freshwater marshes. We heard one 'winnowing' over Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, on 15 July; we saw 2 birds at Shakes Slough, Stikine, on 17 July; and we saw one bird at Moose Creek, Taku River, on 28 July. MacDonald recorded 'winnowing' snipe on the Chickamin River in 1973, and Wik (MS) mentioned an adult with 2 chicks at Glacier Bay in 1971.

Parasitic Jaeger. Stercorarius parasiticus. Rare summer visitant. We observed one light phase adult Parasitic Jaeger

in flight high over the mouth of the Unuk River on 30 June. In southeast Alaska the species is known to nest only in Glacier Bay National Monument (Wik MS), and its occurrence on the Unuk in midsummer is probably unusual.

Glaucous-winged Gull. Larus glaucescens. Fairly common resident and uncommon breeder. Although this species was locally fairly common on the inshore waters of southeast Alaska, we identified none on any of the mainland river systems. We saw birds on the Wrangell, Juneau, Skagway, and Haines waterfronts.

There are mainland breeding colonies (Walker 1920, Williams 1947), but the species is more common in the Alexander Archipelago than on the mainland (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Herring Gull. Larus argentatus. Fairly common resident and uncommon breeder. Herring Gulls were fairly common on the inshore waters of southeast Alaska, but we saw very few on the mainland river systems. We observed 18 birds on the Taku River flats, opposite Taku Lodge, at the end of July, and we saw one adult on the Skagway River on 8 August. We saw one large Larus overhead at Glacier, 2100 ft above Skagway, on 6 August, that was probably of this species. The species is known to breed at Glacier Bay (Bailey 1927).

Mew Gull. Larus canus. Common resident and breeder.

This was the most common gull on the inshore waters of southeast Alaska. On the mainland river systems it was uncommon. We observed 12 birds in the Hyder area, 4 birds on the Taku River, and 2 birds at the mouth of the Taiya River. There are breeding records for mainland southeast Alaska locations (Bailey 1927, Jewett 1942, Williams 1947).

Bonaparte's Gull. Larus philadelphia. Uncommon summer visitant. We saw Bonaparte's Gulls locally, 18 birds at the confluence of Salmon River and Portland Canal, 4 birds on the Taku River at Fish Creek, and 2 birds at the Taiya River mouth.

Arctic Tern. Sterna paradisaea. Uncommon breeder. We saw a total of 31 Arctic Terns on the Unuk River, but fewer birds elsewhere: only 11 on the Stikine, 2 at Hyder, and 2 on the Taku.

A number of mainland southeast Alaska breeding colonies have been reported (Walker 1920, Bailey 1927, Williams 1947, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), all associated with moraines at the mouths of glaciers. These nesting areas are the southern end of the species' breeding range (cf., Godfrey 1966).

Band-tailed Pigeon. Columba fasciata. Uncommon summer visitant and probable breeder. At Unuk River Post, junction

of the Unuk and Hulakon rivers, W. Neumann (Petersburg) told us that for several years a pair of Band-tailed Pigeons had been seen there regularly in summer; but we did not see these birds. We first saw Band-tailed Pigeons in the Hyder area, where they occurred at the edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest. We saw a total of 5 pigeons there: on 5 July we saw one bird at the edge of town, one at the edge of a beaver pond about 2 miles north of town, and we heard one cooing from the densely wooded slope above the Fish Creek cutover that evening. On 9 July we observed a pair at the forest edge along the beaver pond 2 miles north of Hyder and collected one of these, an adult male in breeding condition.

On the evening of 12 July, we observed at least 10 Band-tailed Pigeons at the edge of the Pat Creek cutover, Wrangell Island. The birds were feeding on Vaccinium berries along the upper edge of the cutover, and soaring birds, cooing birds out of sight in the forest, and one male bowing and throat-puffing in display to a nearby female were recorded. At the mouth of the Stikine we heard at least one cooing bird in the vicinity of Garnet Ledge on the evening of 20 July and at least one distant cooing bird on Kadin Island on 21 July.

There is one manuscript reference to this species in southeast Alaska (Olson MS), and there are other scattered, recent, records from Juneau to Revillagigedo Island (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records), mostly during fall migration

periods. In British Columbia the species is known to occur as far north as Terrace (Munro and Cowan 1947) and Stuart Lake (Ebel 1973).

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2797); Hyder, 9 July.

Short-eared Owl. Asio flammeus. Rare summer visitant. We observed one Short-eared Owl, being chased by a crow over freshwater marshes and riparian alder thickets at Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, on 13 July. This sighting appears to be the first summer record of the species for southeast Alaska.

Common Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor. Uncommon migrant and rare summer visitant. We observed one nighthawk in flight over the Yehring Creek freshwater marshes, Taku River, on 29 July. The species is an uncommon fall migrant on these river systems (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records), and this individual was perhaps an unsuccessful breeder that had moved downstream early from Canada.

Black Swift. Cypseloides niger. Fairly common probable breeder. We observed Black Swifts, often in company with Vaux's Swifts, in the southern half of southeast Alaska: on the Unuk (27 birds), Salmon (56), and Stikine (26) rivers. Most often seen in changing weather or in the evening, the species was observed foraging over cutovers, fluviatile waters,

alluvial bars, or lacustrine waters in flocks of from a few pairs to over 30 birds. Black Swifts probably breed in crevices in the sheer cliff faces high above these river valleys. We saw them no farther from potential breeding sites than the broad mouth of the Stikine River, perhaps 5 miles from the nearest cliffs, 9 birds on the afternoon of 20 July.

Vaux's Swift. Chaetura vauxi. Fairly common probable breeder. We usually saw Vaux's Swift in pairs or small groups of less than 12 birds, not in flocks as large as those of the Black Swift; but it was more widespread than the Black Swift. We observed birds over cutovers, fluviatile and lacustrine waters, alluvial bars, and Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests on the Unuk (42 birds), Salmon (40), Stikine (17), and Taku (2) rivers. We also noted 3-4 birds over Montana Creek, Juneau, on 2 August, our latest record. Potential nesting sites include cliff faces and remote large trees, either live or dead, with large natural cavities. We found no evidence of breeding.

Rufous Hummingbird. Selasphorus rufus. Fairly common breeder. Rufous Hummingbirds occurred in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests, Alpine Fir forest, deciduous woodlands, and, at least in transit, in most open areas. We counted 45 birds on the Unuk, 15 on the Salmon, 11 on the Stikine, 11 on the



Taku, 1 on the Skagway, and 2 on the Chilkat. The species breeds on the southeast Alaska mainland (Osgood and Bishop 1900).

Belted Kingfisher. Megaceryle alcyon. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. Kingfishers were uncommon on the mainland rivers, probably because of a dearth of potential nesting sites that are not periodically flooded by high water. We recorded a pair of birds at the confluence of the Unuk and Hulakon rivers, one bird on the Salmon River, one bird on the Taku River, and two on the Chilkat River. There are breeding records for Boca de Quadra (Swarth 1911) and for Glacier Bay (Wik MS).

Common Flicker. Colaptes auratus. Uncommon to rare probable breeder. We recorded only 4 of these conspicuous woodpeckers during summer 1974, all in deciduous woodlands. We saw briefly an unidentified flicker on the Unuk River on 25 June, we observed at least one calling male "Yellow-shafted" (C. a. borealis) in Hyder on 5 July, and we saw two separate female "Red-shafted" (C. a. cafer) birds in the Salmon River-Hyder area on 6 and 8 July.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius. Fairly common breeder. "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers (S. v. ruber)

occurred in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests and in deciduous woodlands. They were more common on the southern mainland than north of the Stikine. We recorded 24 birds on the Unuk, 10 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 9 on the Stikine, and 2 on the Taku. We saw food-carrying adults on the Unuk River, MacDonald found nesting birds on the Chickamin River in 1973, and Swarth (1911) reported 3 Chickamin River nests in 1909.

Hairy Woodpecker. Dendrocopos villosus. Uncommon to rare resident and probable breeder. One female Hairy Woodpecker observed in tall cottonwoods along Lake Creek, Unuk River, on 27 June was our only record of this species. There is apparently no breeding evidence for mainland southeast Alaska.

Downy Woodpecker. Dendrocopos pubescens. Uncommon resident and breeder. We observed only 4 Downy Woodpeckers during summer 1974, all in deciduous woodlands: one on the Unuk River on 25 June, two along the Salmon River-Hyder road on 5 and 7 July, and one on the Taku River on 27 July. Wik (MS) found a nest with young in Glacier Bay National Monument in May 1970.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker. Picoides tridactylus. Rare breeder. We recorded 2 Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers,

both in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests: a female near a beaver pond off Shakes Slough, Stikine River, on 16 July, and a female at Mosquito Lake, Haines area, on 10 August. There are nesting records from Juneau (Bailey 1927) and Glacier Bay (C.L. Estabrook, pers. comm.).

Alder Flycatcher. Empidonax alnorum. Uncommon probable breeder. We found Alder Flycatchers locally in willow thickets at the edge of freshwater marshes. We observed or heard 6 birds on the Unuk River, 2 on the Salmon River, 2 on the Stikine River, 5 on the Taku River, and 1 on the Chilkat.

Hammond's Flycatcher. Empidonax hammondii. Uncommon probable breeder. Hammond's Flycatchers occurred in deciduous woodlands, especially those mixed groves of tall trees with open canopy and various-height undergrowth. We recorded 2 birds on the Unuk, 5 on the Salmon, 2 on the Taku, and 2 on the Taiya.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2792); Hyder, Fish Creek, 7 July.

Western Flycatcher. Empidonax difficilis. Common breeder. We found Western Flycatchers common in the Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests throughout mainland southeast Alaska. At the height of the breeding season, we recorded 85 birds on the Unuk, 35 on the Salmon, and 68 on the Stikine.

These birds were conspicuous by voice during June and July, but they ceased vocalizations toward the very end of July and became difficult to find thereafter. Swarth (1911) collected an incubating female on the Chickamin River in 1909.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2784); Unuk R. at Lake Creek, 28 June.

Western Wood Pewee. Contopus sordidulus. Uncommon breeder. We found this species locally in deciduous woodlands, in semi-open tall deciduous or mixed trees with open canopy. We recorded 9 pewees on the Unuk River, 7 on the Salmon River, 13 on the Stikine River, 4 on the Taku River, and 1 on the Taiya River. MacDonald found a nest with 1 egg on the Chickamin River on 23 June 1973.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttallornis borealis. Uncommon probable breeder. Olive-sided Flycatchers occurred locally, in scattered tall live or dead conifers at the edge of freshwater marshes, cutovers, or beaver ponds. We found 4 singing birds on the Salmon River, where we observed birds on 2 different cutovers, 8 birds on the Stikine River, and 5 on the Taku River.

Violet-green Swallow. Tachycineta thalassina. Uncommon breeder. We found this species at only two locations. From 5 to 9 July we observed 16 Violet-green Swallows at Hyder.

These birds were paired and nesting in holes in roofs and eaves of buildings. We did not observe any of these birds away from the town. On 30 July we watched 2 birds feeding with Tree and Barn swallows over the junction of Johnson Creek and Taku River. A nearby sheer cliff may have provided nesting habitat, but we saw no evidence that they had bred locally.

Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor. Common breeder. Tree Swallows were the only widely distributed swallows on the mainland river systems. They nested in holes in dead trees or snags at the edges of beaver ponds and freshwater marshes, or in previously flooded areas on alluvial bars. We recorded 86 birds on the Unuk, 35 on the Salmon, 71 on the Stikine, 63 on the Taku, and 12 on the Chilkat. Birds-of-the-year were common about freshwater marshes and estuarine meadows and over the fluvial waters by the third week of July.

Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia. Uncommon to rare migrant and breeder. Our only observation of Bank Swallows was of 6 birds hawking with Barn Swallows along the Haines waterfront on 4 August.

Glacier Bay, where 8 breeding colonies are known (Wik MS), may be the only area in southeast Alaska where this species nests.

Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis. Uncommon summer visitant and breeder. We saw a total of 15 Rough-winged Swallows at 5 localities during summer 1974. Our first sighting, on 20 June, was of a pair at the mouth of Eagle River, Juneau area. On 30 June we saw one pair feeding with Barn and Tree swallows at the confluence of the Hulakon and Unuk rivers. From 5 to 9 July we saw birds in the Hyder area, 5 together at the mouth of the Salmon River and as many as 3 together at two upstream localities, Riverview Mine and a road cutbank at mile 10. This cutbank, 500 ft above sea level in the canyon of the upper Salmon River, contained two burrows of this species, identified by the strongly elliptical shape of the entrances, but we were unable to confirm that they were in use. On 12 July we definitely added Rough-winged Swallow to the list of Alaska breeding birds when we found a burrow containing 5 newly-hatched young in a driveway cutbank just south of Wrangell. We saw the adults in this vicinity daily during our visits, 11-12 and 21-24 July.

We are aware of no data on this species in southeast Alaska prior to 1972, when there were sight records in the Haines area on 20 and 26 June (J.D. Webster, pers. comm.). In May and June 1973 MacDonald observed several birds on the Chickamin River and collected one specimen, an adult female (UA 2658).

Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica. Fairly common breeder. Barn Swallows nested locally, about townsites and cabins, and

we saw few birds away from this habitat until late summer, when family groups were seen foraging over fluviatile and lacustrine waters, freshwater marshes, estuarine meadows, and alluvial bars, away from the nesting areas. We observed 10 birds on the Unuk, 25 in the Hyder area, 55 on the Stikine, 8 on the Skagway, and 20 at Haines.

Steller's Jay. Cyanocitta stelleri. Uncommon resident and breeder. We saw Steller's Jays only in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests. We recorded 20 birds on the Unuk, including birds-of-the-year, 13 in the Hyder area, 16 on the Stikine, 7 on the Taku, and 5 on the Chilkat.

Although it is widely acknowledged that this species breeds in southeast Alaska (see Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), there seem to be no published breeding records for this area.

Specimens: 1, imm.♂ (UA 2783); Unuk R. at Lake Creek, 28 June.

Common Raven. Corvus corax. Uncommon resident and breeder. Although they were associated primarily with coniferous forests and upland cliffs, ravens were seen flying over all habitats and foraging in many of them. We recorded them in small numbers, though, 3 birds on the Unuk River, 15 on the Salmon River, 4 on the Stikine River, 4 on the Taku River, and 5 in the Taiya-Skagway rivers area.

An active nest was watched in Glacier Bay in 1968 and 1969 (Wik MS), and young were seen at Windham Bay in 1943 by Gabrielson (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Northwestern Crow. Corvus caurinus. Uncommon resident and breeder. We observed crows at the edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests and along all watercourses. We recorded 8 birds on the Unuk, 32 in the Hyder area, 1 on the Stikine, 2 on the Taku, and a flock of 30 at the Taiya River mouth.

Nests have been found at Boca de Quadra (Swarth 1911), Juneau (R.B. Williams, pers. comm.), and in Glacier Bay (Wik MS and C.L. Estabrook, pers. comm.).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2780); Unuk R. at Lake Creek, 26 June.

Black-capped Chickadee. Parus atricapillus. Uncommon probable breeder. We found small numbers of Black-capped Chickadees in riparian alder thickets and deciduous woodlands on three of the trans-Coast Range river systems: 6 birds on the Stikine, 25 on the Taku, and 18 on the Chilkat.

There are several references to this species from the Chilkat River and the Haines area (Jewett 1942, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, and Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records), but there are apparently no previous summer records elsewhere in southeast Alaska nor has any evidence of breeding been reported.



Mountain Chickadee. Parus gambeli. Rare summer visitant. We observed one, perhaps two, Mountain Chickadees with a group of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets on 6 August in Alpine Fir forest at Laughton Glacier cabin, 2100 ft above sea level in Warm Pass Valley of the Skagway River.

Prior to this record, Mountain Chickadee was known in Alaska only from a single Juneau winter sight record (T. Merrell, fide R.J. Gordon, pers. comm.). The species is known to breed as close as Atlin, British Columbia (Godfrey 1966).

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2804); Warm Pass Valley, 6 August.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Parus rufescens. Fairly common resident and breeder. We found this chickadee in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests; at Glacier we also found it in Alpine Fir forest. We recorded 40 birds on the Unuk River, 28 on the Salmon, 24 on the Stikine, 16 on the Taku, 39 in the Taiya-Skagway-Glacier area, and 16 on the Chilkat.

Osgood and Bishop (1900) took a female that had finished laying, at Skagway on 3 June 1899, adults feeding fledglings are recorded from Glacier Bay (C.L. Estabrook, pers. comm.), and MacDonald found a nest with 8 eggs on the Chickamin River on 13 May 1973.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis. Uncommon resident and probable breeder. We observed Red-breasted Nuthatches only

on the Taku River, 5 birds in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest and in deciduous woodlands, and at Glacier, 1 bird in Alpine Fir forest.

In some years this species is more numerous than we found it in summer 1974 (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records). A bird-of-the-year banded at Auke Bay on 15 July 1973 (R.B. Williams, pers. comm.) might be regarded as definite breeding evidence for mainland southeast Alaska.

Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris. Uncommon resident and probable breeder. We recorded this inconspicuous species in only two areas, 5 birds (a family group) in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest in the Hyder area, 5-6 July, and 1 bird in the same habitat on the Taiya River on 9 August.

Dipper. Cinclus mexicanus. Uncommon resident and breeder. We recorded 8 Dippers on the Unuk River, 2 on the Salmon River, and 1 bird on the Stikine River. As elsewhere, Dippers occurred only on clear rushing streams. Osgood and Bishop (1900) recorded breeding at Glacier.

Winter Wren. Troglodytes troglodytes. Fairly common resident and breeder. Winter Wrens occurred in dense undergrowth and shrubbery, at the edge of and in openings in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest, Alpine Fir forest, and

deciduous woodlands. We recorded 37 birds on the Unuk, 19 on the Salmon, 6 on the Stikine, and 8 on the Skagway. Once singing activity had ceased for the summer, by mid-July, these birds were recorded much less frequently. MacDonald found an adult with at least 4 fledglings on the Chickamin River on 4 July 1972.

American Robin. Turdus migratorius. Fairly common breeder. Robins were fairly common in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest, in deciduous woodlands, at the edge of cutovers, and in townsites. We recorded 81 birds on the Unuk River, 29 on the Salmon River, 36 on the Stikine River, 28 on the Taku River, 3 on the Skagway River, and 1 at Haines.

Osgood and Bishop (1900) provided breeding evidence from Haines, and first fledglings at Glacier Bay have been noted as early as 31 May 1973 (C.L. Estabrook, pers. comm.).

Varied Thrush. Ixoreus naevius. Common breeder. This bird was one of the commonest passerines of the Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest. We recorded 152 Varied Thrushes on the Unuk, 40 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 27 on the Stikine, 24 on the Taku, 6 on the Skagway, and 1 on the Chilkat. The species breeds from Glacier (Osgood and Bishop 1900) to the Chickamin River, where MacDonald found nesting birds in 1973.

Hermit Thrush. Catharus guttatus. Fairly common breeder. Hermit Thrushes were fairly common in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest. We recorded 33 birds on the Unuk, 45 on the Salmon, and 34 on the Stikine, all while males were still singing. Subsequently we found only 3 birds on the Taku, 3 on the Skagway, and 2 at Haines.

Nesting records for this region include those at Glacier (Osgood and Bishop 1900), Glacier Bay (Grinnell 1909, Wik MS), Juneau (Bailey 1927), and Dixon Harbor (Jewett 1942).

Swainson's Thrush. Catharus ustulatus. Fairly common probable breeder. Swainson's Thrushes were fairly common in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest and in deciduous woodlands. We observed or heard 81 birds on the Unuk, 35 on the Salmon, and 25 on the Stikine. We saw 3 birds on the Taku.

Gray-cheeked Thrush. Catharus minimus. Rare breeder. We recorded 6 singing Gray-cheeked Thrushes on the Stikine River, all in riparian alder thickets: 2 along Hot Spring Slough and 1 at Barnes Lake on 13 July, and 3 at Shakes Slough, 15-17 July.

Several nests have been found at Glacier Bay (Wik MS) and summering birds have been reported in several locations in the Juneau area (Gordon 1968), but there is apparently no published record of this species in southeast Alaska. It has been

found in summer on the upper Stikine, in British Columbia (Brooks and Swarth 1925).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa. Fairly common resident and breeder. These kinglets were found primarily in coniferous forest, in both Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce and in Alpine Fir. On 16 July we saw 4 juveniles in montane alder thickets at Shakes Lake, Stikine River. We recorded 42 birds on the Unuk River, 10 on the Salmon River, 14 on the Stikine, 8 on the Taku River, and 39 in the Skagway-Taiya area.

Osgood and Bishop (1900) collected a laying female at Glacier on 10 June 1899, and adults with young have been recorded at Glacier Bay (Wik MS).

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2785); Unuk R. at Lake Creek, 28 June.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regulus calendula. Uncommon breeder. Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred primarily in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest, but we saw family groups in riparian alder thickets. We observed or heard 16 birds on the Unuk, 8 on the Stikine, 13 on the Taku, and 10 in the Skagway-Taiya area. Adults with young have been recorded at Glacier Bay (Wik MS).

Water Pipit. Anthus spinoletta. Rare summer visitant. We recorded 2 individuals during summer 1974, 1 on an alluvial bar in the Unuk River on 23 June and 1 at the Taiya River mouth

on 5 August.

In this region the species is to be expected above timberline in summer. There is a breeding record from above Haines (Osgood and Bishop 1900), and the species was found to be common in alpine areas above 3000 ft on the Stikine (Webster 1950).

Bohemian Waxwing. Bombycilla garrulus. Rare summer visitant. On 5 July we observed a pair of Bohemian Waxwings at the Fish Creek cutover, 4 miles upriver from Hyder, in scattered 20-30-ft deciduous and coniferous trees. We collected one bird, an adult female with enlarged oviduct and varied-sized ova. Clearly, this bird had recently laid eggs, but the breeding site could have been a few miles away in British Columbia. There is apparently no previous midsummer record of this waxwing in southeast Alaska.

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2790); Hyder, Fish Creek, 5 July.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum. Uncommon summer visitant and probable breeder. On 6 July we saw 2, possibly 3, adult Cedar Waxwings together on the Fish Creek cutover, in scattered 20-30-ft deciduous and coniferous trees. On 13 July we saw one adult at the edge of deciduous woodlands along Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River. And on 28 July we observed one adult at the edge of deciduous woodlands on the Taku River. The one specimen collected, at Fish Creek on 6 July, was a female that had recently laid (distended oviduct, one collapsed follicle, and varied-sized ova).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2791); Hyder, Fish Creek, 6 July.

Starling. Sturnus vulgaris. Rare breeder. We recorded at least 5 Starlings breeding in holes in building eaves at Hyder, 5-9 July, our only record of nesting. On 20 July we watched a flock of 22 Starlings, about half of which were juveniles, perched on snags in estuarine meadows on Sergief Island, in the mouth of the Stikine River, and on 9 August we saw a flock of 9 birds with a group of 10 crows in an estuarine meadow at the Taiya River mouth.

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus. Rare probable breeder. We recorded 3 singing male Red-eyed Vireos in deciduous groves and riparian alder thickets along Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, on 13 July and 1 singing male in the same habitats near the south end of Barnes Lake on 13 and 14 July.

MacDonald found a few individuals of this species in 1972 and 1973 in deciduous groves and riparian alder thickets on the Chickamin River, the only previous records for southeast Alaska. He collected one specimen there, an adult male (UA 3326) on 2 July 1972. The nearest Canadian records of Red-eyed Vireo are from Hazelton (Taverner 1919), about 125 miles east-southeast of the Chickamin.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2799); Hot Spring Slough, 13 July.

Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus. Fairly common probable breeder. We recorded Warbling Vireos in deciduous woodlands and riparian alder thickets along all of the river systems visited: the Unuk (28 birds), Salmon (1), Stikine (22), Taku (1), Taiya (3), and Chilkat (1). We found a maximum density of 19 singing males along the 7.5 miles of Hot Spring Slough, Stikine River, on 13 and 15 July. We heard singing males as late as 10 August on the Chilkat River, our last day in the field, but such activity had become only occasional by that date. We found no direct evidence of nesting, but all of the individuals recorded were either singing males or pairs.

In summer 1972 and 1973, MacDonald found this bird fairly common along the Chickamin River, in deciduous woodlands and riparian alder thickets, and there are recent summer records at Haines and Skagway (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records).

Jewett (1942) first recorded Warbling Vireo in Alaska, one bird that he collected on the Chilkat River on 23 July 1941. Subsequently, Webster (1950) found a number of singing birds and collected a specimen on the Stikine River, between Warm Spring [=Hot Spring] Slough and the international boundary, June-July 1946.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2779); Unuk River, 25 June.

Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina. Rare breeder. We found a pair of food-carrying Tennessee Warblers in second-



growth deciduous trees at the edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest at the Hyder cemetery on 8 July. This is the first breeding record for Alaska. At Shakes Slough, Stikine River, we observed a singing male in riparian willows on 16 July and found two separate adults and a brood of 3 fledglings in the same area on 17 July. We watched an agitated pair of food-carrying adults in similar willow/herb glacial outwash habitat about 2 miles east of the Shakes Slough location on 18 July.

Although Godfrey (1966) included southern Yukon Territory and central-western and northwestern British Columbia in the breeding range of this species, the only previous southeast Alaska records are four spring-summer records at Juneau (R.J. Gordon, pers. comm.) and one fall sight record near Haines (J.D. Webster, pers. comm.).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2796); Hyder, 8 July.  
1, ad.♂ (UA 2800); Shakes Slough, 16 July.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Vermivora celata. Common breeder. Orange-crowned Warblers occurred on all of the mainland river systems, in second-growth deciduous woodlands with brushy understory, in willow/herb glacial outwashes, and in shrubby cutovers. We recorded 43 birds on the Unuk, 53 on the Salmon, 48 on the Stikine, 14 on the Taku, 19 in the Skagway-Taiya area, and 1 at Haines. We observed defensive, food-carrying adults with

broods on a number of occasions.

Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia. Common breeder. Yellow Warblers were common in willows at edge of beaver ponds and freshwater marshes, and in deciduous woodlands. We recorded 118 birds on the Unuk River, 30 on the Salmon, 84 on the Stikine, 31 on the Taku, and 1 on the Chilkat. MacDonald found two nests on the Chickamin River in 1973, and Wik (MS) recorded nests at Glacier Bay.

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Dendroica coronata. Fairly common breeder. Until recently (AOU 1973), the Myrtle (D. c. hooveri) and Audubon's (D. c. auduboni) warblers were regarded as distinct species. The "Myrtle" Warbler is the breeding form of the Canadian and interior Alaskan forest and the "Audubon's" that of the Cordilleran forest. Southern southeast Alaska is part of a large zone of intergradation between the two (see Hubbard 1969).

We found 9 auduboni-type birds (yellow throat, gray auricular) along the Salmon River (edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forest, edge of cutover areas, and edge of deciduous woodlands) and in Hyder (townsites), where we observed them feeding young on a number of occasions, 5-9 July. We saw no hooveri-type individuals (white throat, black auricular)

in this area. On the Unuk River we saw a male of each form feeding in the same area; we collected the hooveri. On the Stikine River we found hooveri a fairly common breeder (23 birds seen, adults feeding fledglings, immatures), and we saw no examples of auduboni. North of the Stikine, Yellow-rumped Warblers, all hooveri, were recorded on the Taku (8 birds), Skagway and Taiya (64, mostly immatures), and Chilkat (8 immatures) rivers.

In summary, we found that "Myrtle" Warblers were fairly common breeders on the river systems as far south as, and including, the Stikine; we found that both "Myrtle" and "Audubon's" were uncommon on the Unuk; and we found that "Audubon's" was an uncommon breeder in the Salmon River-Hyder area.

Holmes (1957) first reported auduboni in Alaska, a male near Juneau on 31 May 1957. Another male was seen near Juneau, 8-9 May 1972 (R.S. Hadley, pers. comm.). MacDonald found singing male auduboni and hooveri on the Chickamin River in 1972 and 1973 and at Spacious Bay, Cleveland Peninsula, 12-13 June 1973. A male (UA 3341) that he collected on the Chickamin, 2 July 1972, is a hooveri-auduboni intergrade, a bird exhibiting distinct morphological characters of both forms.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2778); Unuk R., 24 June [D. c. hooveri]  
1, ad.♂ (UA 2788); Salmon R., 5 July [D. c. auduboni]

Townsend's Warbler. Dendroica townsendi. Fairly common breeder. We found Townsend's Warblers only in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests during the nesting season. We counted 73 birds on the Unuk, 16 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 5 on the Stikine, 6 on the Taku, and 27 (many immatures) in the Skagway-Taiya area. We observed adults feeding young on several occasions.

Northern Waterthrush. Seiurus noveboracensis. Rare breeder. We recorded only a few Northern Waterthrushes, all locally, in riparian alder thickets. On 8 July we observed a defensive pair feeding at least 1 fledgling at Hyder, and on the Stikine River we heard 3 singing males: 1 along Hot Spring Slough on 13 July, 1 along Ketili Creek on 13 July, and 1 a few miles farther down Hot Spring Slough on 15 July.

There are no published records of this bird from southeast Alaska; but there are summer records at Juneau (R.J. Gordon, pers. comm.), and MacDonald recorded at least 6 birds on the Chickamin River in early June 1973.

MacGillivray's Warbler. Oporornis tolmiei. Fairly common breeder. Always in dense shrubbery, MacGillivray's Warblers occurred at edges of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests, in deciduous woodlands, on cutover areas, and in riparian alder thickets. We recorded 59 birds on the Unuk River, 40 in the

Salmon River-Hyder area, 46 on the Stikine River, 4 on the Taku River, and 1 at Glacier.

Swarth (1911) found "undoubtedly breeding" birds on the Chickamin River in 1909, Webster (1950) recorded a female feeding a fledgling on the Stikine in 1946, and MacDonald found a nest on the Chickamin in 1973.

Common Yellowthroat. Geothlypis trichas. Fairly common breeder. We found yellowthroats locally, in freshwater marshes and in estuarine meadows. We recorded 49 birds on the Unuk, 3 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, where there was little available habitat, 48 on the Stikine, 19 on the Taku, and 1 on the Chilkat (on 10 August, after males had ceased singing).

Swarth (1911) collected 2 incubating females on the Chickamin River in 1909, Wik (MS) found a nest with 5 eggs at Glacier Bay on 25 June 1971, and MacDonald found an unoccupied nest on the Chickamin in 1973.

Wilson's Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla. Uncommon breeder. We recorded Wilson's Warblers locally, in dense shrubbery in mixed open-canopy deciduous groves, and in montane alder thickets. We found 4 birds on the Unuk, 2 on the Salmon, 21 on the Stikine, 3 on the Taku, 13 on the Skagway, where we saw adults with broods of fledglings, and 3 on the Chilkat.

American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla. Uncommon breeder. American Redstarts occurred primarily in open second-growth deciduous woodlands on river floodplains, but also in mature closed-canopy deciduous woodlands. We saw 1 bird, an immature male, in riparian alder thickets. We recorded 8 birds (singing males and pairs) on the Unuk, where we collected a laying female, 2 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 3 on the Stikine, 12 on the Taku (several family groups of adults feeding juveniles), and a family group of 3 birds on the Skagway River, just upstream from Skagway. These data are the first definite breeding evidence for the redstart in Alaska.

Burroughs (1902) and Ridgway (1907) first recorded the species in Alaska, a male taken at Gustavus on 12 June 1899. Wik and Streveler (1968) reported a bird at Glacier Bay on 20 July 1965, and R.T. Wallen (fide R.J. Gordon, pers. comm.) saw a male at Juneau in July 1968. Occurrences at these locations probably represent summer visitants rather than breeders.

Within the presently known breeding range, Webster (1950) observed several birds and collected a male on the lower Stikine on 9 June 1946, 3 birds were seen at Chilkat Lake in fall 1972 (R.B. Williams, pers. comm.), an adult male (UA 2662) was collected on 9 June 1973 and several others seen in mid-June on the Chickamin by MacDonald, and several birds were seen at Haines and at Skagway in July 1973 (G.E. Hall, pers. comm.).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2776); Unuk River, 24 June.

Red-winged Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus. Uncommon breeder. Red-winged Blackbirds occurred locally in freshwater marshes and estuarine meadows. We observed 10 birds on the Unuk River, 10 at Hyder, 24 on the Stikine River (19 of them at Barnes Lake), and 6 on the Taku River, at Moose Creek.

Kessel (1966) summarized the status of Red-winged Blackbird in Alaska and included the first published southeast Alaska records, from Juneau. Since that time, Wik (MS) has found breeding birds at Glacier Bay, and MacDonald found nests on the Chickamin River in 1973.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2786); Unuk R., Lake Creek, 29 June.

Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus. Uncommon breeder. Rusty Blackbirds occurred in willows and deciduous and coniferous trees at the edge of freshwater marshes. We found 14 birds on the Unuk River, 6 on the Salmon River, 1 on the Stikine River, and 30 on the Taku River (including young-of-the-year). MacDonald found this species nesting on the Chickamin River in 1973, and Wik (MS) provided breeding data from Glacier Bay.

Western Tanager. Piranga ludoviciana. Uncommon probable breeder. We observed Western Tanagers, singing males and pairs of birds, at edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests on the Unuk (6 birds), Salmon (4), and Stikine (17) rivers. Maximum density was 12 birds (10 singing males and 2 females) along

the 3.5 miles of Ketili Creek, Stikine River, 13-15 July. The species probably occurs on the Taku, but we failed to find it there or on the Skagway, Taiya, and Chilkat rivers probably because we arrived in those areas after singing activity had ceased for the season.

MacDonald found this species uncommon and territorial on the Chickamin River in 1973 and collected one male (UA 2657) on 28 May.

There are only three published references to this species in southeast Alaska, but it is known to breed on the upper Stikine River, east of the Coast Range, in British Columbia (Godfrey 1966). Swarth (1911) collected an adult male on the Chickamin River on 21 June 1909; Webster (1950) observed a female on Warm Springs [=Hot Spring] Slough, Stikine River, on 9 June 1946; and Stewart (1964) recorded a male at Petersburg on 13 June 1962. There are additional, recent, summer records from Revillagigedo Island to Haines and Skagway (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records).

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2789); Hyder, 5 July.

Pine Grosbeak. Pinicola enucleator. Rare breeder. We found Pine Grosbeaks only in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests. We saw 2 birds at Hyder, 4 on the Taku, 1 on the Skagway, and 4 on the Chilkat. Pairs with young have been reported at Glacier Bay (Wik MS).



Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus. Common resident and breeder. Siskins were common, though not ubiquitous, in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests, and we found them as well in deciduous woodlands, willow/herb glacial outwashes, and riparian alder thickets. We recorded 123 birds on the Unuk, 73 on the Salmon, 27 on the Stikine, 34 on the Taku, 12 on the Skagway, and 12 on the Chilkat. Adults feeding young have been recorded at Glacier Bay (Wik MS).

Red Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra. Common resident and probable breeder. Red Crossbills were present locally, in Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests and in deciduous woodlands. They were particularly common only in the Salmon River-Hyder area, where we recorded 142 birds, 5-9 July. Elsewhere, we found 6 on the Unuk River and 12 on the Taku River.

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2795); Hyder, 8 July.

White-winged Crossbill. Loxia leucoptera. Uncommon summer visitant. We recorded one flock of White-winged Crossbills, 20 birds feeding in cottonwoods on the Taiya River on 9 August. We saw one additional individual, near the international boundary above Haines on 10 August.

Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis. Uncommon breeder. Savannah Sparrows occurred in estuarine meadows at

the mouth of the Unuk River (6 birds) and at Hyder (15), and at the edge of freshwater marshes on the Stikine (20), the Taku (1), and in estuarine meadows at the mouth of the Taiya (1).

Nests have been located at Glacier Bay (Wik MS), and breeding data for Juneau are mentioned by Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959).

Dark-eyed Junco. Junco hyemalis. Fairly common breeder. "Oregon" Juncos (J. h. oreganus) were fairly common at the edge of Western Hemlock/Sitka Spruce forests on the Unuk (32 birds), Salmon (63), Stikine (16), Skagway-Taiya (12), and Chilkat (8) rivers. Our only record of a "Slate-colored" Junco (J. h. hyemalis or J. h. cismontanus) was of 1 bird at Glacier on 7 August.

Osgood and Bishop (1900) provided breeding data for Skagway, and Wik (MS) found nests at Glacier Bay.

Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina. Uncommon breeder. We recorded 5 Chipping Sparrows in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 5-9 July. They occurred in shrubs and mixed second-growth along roadsides and at edge of cutover areas and among scattered small trees and shrubs in the town of Hyder. We observed 6 birds in several willow/herb glacial outwashes on the Stikine River, 16-18 July. We counted 10 birds, including adults feeding juveniles,

in several willow/herb glacial outwashes on the Taku River, 27-31 July. We saw 1 bird in second-growth deciduous woodlands at Liarsville Campground, Skagway, on 5 August. And we observed 2 adults and 2 immatures in montane alder thickets at Laughton Glacier cabin (2100 ft) on 6 August and 1 adult there on 8 August.

There is no published reference to this species in south-east Alaska, although it breeds right up to the east slope of the Coast Range (see Godfrey 1966). There are a few summer records for Juneau (Univ. of Alaska, unpub. records).

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2793); Hyder, Fish Creek, 6 July.

Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca. Fairly common breeder. Fox Sparrows occurred in dense shrubbery at edge of deciduous, coniferous, or mixed forest, and in riparian and montane alder thickets. We counted 62 birds on the Unuk River, 23 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 22 on the Stikine River, 6 on the Taku River, and 1 on the Chilkat River. Nesting evidence has been recorded at Glacier Bay (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2782); Unuk R., Lake Creek, 27 June.  
1, ad.♂ (UA 2801); Shakes Lake, 16 July.

Lincoln's Sparrow. Melospiza lincolni. Fairly common breeder. We found Lincoln's Sparrows in the shrubby outer edge of freshwater marshes and in wet grasslands with scattered wil-

lows or shrubs. We recorded 33 birds on the Unuk, 5 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, 50 on the Stikine, 21 on the Taku, 1 on the Skagway, and 6 on the Chilkat.

Swarth (1911) provided breeding data from the Chickamin, Wik (MS) found a nest with eggs at Glacier Bay, and MacDonald found the species nesting on the Chickamin in 1973.

Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia. Uncommon breeder. We recorded singing territorial male Song Sparrows in shrubs and dense undergrowth at the edge of freshwater marshes and streams and in estuarine meadows. We counted 17 birds on the Unuk, 8 in the Salmon River-Hyder area, and 2 on the Taku. We recorded 13 males at the periphery of Barnes Lake, 13-14 July, the only birds we found on the Stikine. Osgood and Bishop (1900) and Swarth (1911) provided breeding data for the mainland.

Specimens: 1, ad.♂ (UA 2781); Unuk R., Lake Creek, 27 June.  
1, ad.♂ (UA 2794); Hyder, Fish Creek, 8 July.

## Appendix

### Species recorded in summer 1974, but not on the mainland

Western Sandpiper. Calidris mauri. Uncommon summer visitant. We recorded a flock of 600+ Western Sandpipers on tidal flats at the edge of estuarine meadows at Sergief Island, mouth of the Stikine River, on 20 July. These birds were probably a nonbreeding group that was summering locally, rather than early fall migrants.

Short-billed Dowitcher. Limnodromus griseus. Fairly common probable breeder. We observed 14+ Short-billed Dowitchers on the estuarine meadows at the south end of Sergief Island on 20 July. Most were paired. We did not see the species elsewhere.

Greater Yellowlegs. Tringa melanoleuca. Uncommon probable breeder. A defensive pair on tidal flats at the mouth of Pat Creek, Wrangell Island, 12 July, was our only record.

Wandering Tattler. Heteroscelus incanus. Uncommon summer visitant. One breeding-plumaged tattler seen at the edge of saltwater in Wrangell, 21-22 July, was the only sighting.

California Gull. Larus californicus. Rare summer visitant. On 21 July we observed a flock of 60-80 California Gulls

resting on a log raft at Wrangell with 60+ Mew Gulls, 4-5 Bonaparte's Gulls, and 3-4 Herring Gulls. Most of them were subadults, but 5 or 6 adults were also present. On 23 July the log raft had been moved, but we found 25 California Gulls, including 6 adults, 18 Mew Gulls, and 2 adult Herring Gulls in the same area.

There has been no published record of California Gull in Alaska waters since Bailey (1927) recorded specimens he took at Klawock in 1921. Perhaps this species has been overlooked and is a regular postbreeding or nonbreeding visitant to southern southeast Alaska, arriving via the Stikine River.

Specimens: 1, ad.♀ (UA 2802); Wrangell, 21 July.

Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis. Rare summer visitant. We observed an adult Ring-billed Gull on the Stikine River flats, between Sergief and Wrangell islands, on 21 July. We were unable to approach to within 40 yds before the bird flew off.

There is no specimen- or photograph-substantiated record of Ring-billed Gull in Alaska, although there are a number of previous sight records. We suspect that its status parallels that described for California Gull.

Pigeon Guillemot. Cepphus columba. Fairly common breeder. We saw less than 15 birds as we crossed from Sergief Island to Wrangell Island on 21 July. Several pairs were observed about the Wrangell boat harbor, 21-24 July, including adults carrying food to crannies in several docks, where the birds were clearly nesting.

Marbled Murrelet. Brachyramphus marmoratus. Common summer visitant. We noted 8 birds between Sergief Island and Wrangell Island on 21 July, our only record.

Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon pyrrhonota. Rare breeder. On 20 July we found 3 pairs of Cliff Swallows feeding well-grown young in nests under eaves of the Stikine Duck Club cabin on the estuarine meadows at the south end of Sergief Island: We did not record this species elsewhere, and we know of no other breeding record of Cliff Swallow in southeast Alaska.

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