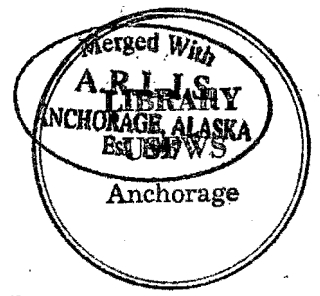
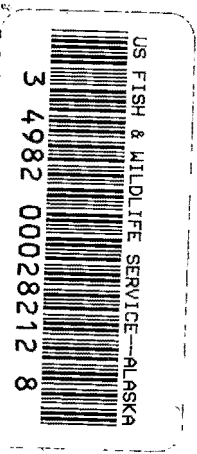


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BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF AGATTU ISLAND,
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA -- SUMMER 1975

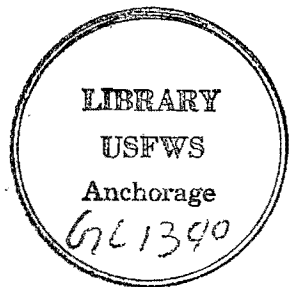
By:

John L. Trapp

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

November 1975

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INTRODUCTION

Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge biologists visited Agattu Island during the summer of 1975 to (1) look for returning Aleutian Canada geese and (2) hunt and trap Arctic foxes in an effort to eliminate the population. These studies are part of the project to reestablish the endangered Aleutian Canada goose to selected islands in the western Aleutians. During the course of these investigations additional observations were made on the vertebrate fauna of the island.

Laurence G. Frank and myself searched for geese from 20 May to 2 June, and Glenn W. Elison and Kenneth R. Whitten hunted and trapped Arctic foxes during the period 20 May to 5 August. They were joined during the latter half of July by Robert D. Jones, Jr., Refuge Manager of the Izembek National Wildlife Range.

A total of 56 species of birds and five species of mammals was observed during the summer. These species are discussed in the following annotated list.

ANNOTATED LIST

1. Birds

Gavia immer, Common Loon. This species was common throughout the summer, especially on the larger lakes of the southeastern plateau. Its distribution on these lakes is probably governed by the presence of adequate fish stocks. No breeding information was obtained this year.

Gavia stellata, Red-throated Loon. Present throughout the summer, but in much smaller numbers than the previous species. It seems to be confined to the smaller lakes and again its distribution is probably dependent upon an adequate food source. Fewer than 10 observations were made during the summer..

Puffinus griseus and P. tenuirostris, Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters. Both species are encountered frequently offshore during the summer but are only occasionally seen within 5 km of the island.

Fulmarus glacialis, Northern Fulmar. The remains of a dark-phase fulmar were found along a fox trail just west of Cape Sabak on 22 June. Fulmars do not nest on Agattu, but feeding birds are commonly seen as close as 4-5 km offshore during the summer.

Oceanodroma furcata and O. leucorhoa. Fork-tailed and Leach's Storm Petrels. Both species occur on the island and probably breed in unknown numbers. They were frequently found among the prey remains at Arctic fox den sites and along the trail systems, and formed a major part of the foxes summer diet. Furcata comprised 33 percent (122/372) of the prey remains and leucorhoa 28 percent (105/372). The composition of the two species in the prey remains varied greatly from den to den (see Table 1). This probably reflects the species composition of the nesting colonies in these areas. Leucorhoa appears to predominate along the east and southeast coasts and furcata along the northwest coast.

I located a Leach's storm-petrel colony at the tip of Cape Sabak on 24 June; the birds were nesting in the dense grass on the top of the Cape. Remains of 34 birds were found where they had been dug out of burrows by Arctic foxes. In spite of intensive searching, no intact burrows were found. One burrow contained a broken egg shell and another a whole egg; a female was found with a newly formed egg in the oviduct. Jones pointed out a petrel colony discovered in the mid-1960's in Armeria Bay. It is located at about the 200 m level on a very steep hillside about 2 km east of Armeria Point and

has a very prominent fox trail leading to it. The principal species here, judging by prey remains, is probably furcata.

TABLE 1

STORM-PETREL REMAINS AT AGATTU ISLAND FOX DENS -- 1974-75

<u>Den Site</u> ¹	<u>Number of Prey Remains</u>	
	<u>furcata</u>	<u>leucorhoa</u>
A	0	43
B	1	10
C	10	0
D	2	3
E	35	2
F	71	0

¹A. 2.8 km north of Cape Sabak; B. WWII Tower 4.8 km west of Cape Sabak; C. West of Otkriti Bay; D. Gillon Point; E. Armeria Bay; F. between Binnacle Bay and Patricia Bight.

Phalacrocorax pelagicus, Pelagic Cormorant. Pelagic cormorants nest in small numbers along the coastline, but are greatly outnumbered by the red faced cormorant. This species seems to prefer the lower elevations on cliff faces and low-lying offshore rocks for nesting, while the red-faced cormorant nests near the tops of tall, vertical cliffs. Birds occupied nest sites on 21 May and the first eggs were noted on 26 May.

Phalacrocorax urile, Red-faced Cormorant. This species is the dominant and most characteristic feature of the Agattu avifauna. Eggs were present in nests upon our arrival on 21 May. The first young were noted on 8 June; on that date 10 of 21 nests checked in Sandy Coye contained nestlings up to one week old. Red-faced cormorants suffer heavy nest predation at Agattu: common ravens steal eggs; glaucous-winged gulls take eggs and nestlings; and Arctic foxes take eggs and nestlings, as well as adults. This species is treated more fully in a separate report.

Olor cygnus, Whooper Swan. The remains (wing and sternum) of one bird were found on the shore of Goose Lake in May.

Philacte canagica, Emperor Goose. An extremely wary individual was observed in Armeria Bay on 5, 8, and 10 June, and the remains of one bird were found beside a lake just west of Aga Cove.

Anas platyrhynchos, Mallard. Mallards were observed occasionally throughout the summer. Elison and Whitten recorded 11 sightings during the summer and Trapp and Frank tallied and additional 15.

The greatest number seen in a day was four. Birds were most frequently encountered in the intertidal zone or on fresh-water ponds near the coast. Twenty-nine of 38 birds observed closely during May and June were males. Two broods were observed during the summer: four at Glass Ball Lake on 19 June, and 8-10 in Armeria Bay on 24 July.

Anas acuta, Pintail. A single female was noted in flight over Aga Cove on 25 May; one was seen in Patricia Bight on 31 May; and a single male was seen on a small pond near Patricia Bight on 4 June.

Anas crecca nimia, (Aleutian) Green-winged Teal. Teal were observed frequently during May (8 sightings) and the first three weeks of June (9 sightings), but were recorded only once thereafter. The largest concentration was a flock of 28 birds at Goose Lake on 21 May. Among birds observed closely during May and June, males greatly outnumbered females (20 to 4). Teal remains were found at Arctic fox dens occasionally.

Anas penelope, European Wigeon. This species was present in small numbers during the last week of May and the first week of June. A total of 21 individuals was observed on 8 days between 24 May and 8 June, with males outnumbering females 15:6. The greatest number of individuals observed at one time was 5 on 25 and 28 May.

Aythya marila, Greater Scaup. Birds were noted occasionally in May and June, with a total of 54 individuals noted on 9 dates between 21 May and 25 June. The largest number seen in one day was a flock of 19 birds on a lake 1.6 km inland from McDonald Cove. The sex ratio of 35 birds observed closely was 20 males: 15 females. There was one mid-summer record of two individuals on a freshwater lake near Krugloi Point on 19 July. We found no specific evidence of nesting.

Aythya fuligula, Tufted Duck. Elison observed a pair of these birds on a high alpine lake in the vicinity of McDonald Cove on 25 May, and one highly decomposed breeding-plumaged male was found 0.4 km north of Cape Sabak on 24 June.

Bucephala clangula, Common Goldeneye. Goldeneyes were present in small numbers during May and early June. A total of 26 individuals was observed on 13 dates between 21 May and 19 June. The largest number noted at one time was 4 birds. The ratio of male:female was 7:17.

Histrionicus histrionicus, Harlequin Duck. Harlequins were present along the coast throughout the summer. They were abundant in May and early June, but decreased in numbers after mid-June.

The mean size of 49 flocks observed during May and June was 5.2 birds (range 1-20); the modal flock size was 2. Males were outnumbered by females during May and June (45 percent males, or 0.8 males/female; n=244); 28 percent of the males observed were immatures. The largest concentration noted was a flock of 100 birds observed off Krugloi Point on 19 June by Elison and Whitten. Birds were never seen on freshwater and we found no evidence of breeding.

Somateria mollissima, Common Eider. This species is the most abundant and conspicuous species of waterfowl occurring at Agattu. Birds were encountered in numbers around the entire coastline of the island, especially in quiet bays and coves.

Flock sizes and sex ratios were recorded daily from 21 May to 26 June. Mean flock size declined from 4.5 during the third week of May to 2.0 in late June (Table 2). Also, the modal flock size was 2 through 13 June, but was 1 thereafter. This probably reflects the onset of breeding by most females in the population about this time.

Males comprised 62.7 percent (1.68 males/female) of the eiders observed in May and June (Table 3). The sharp increase in the percentage of males observed after mid-June is probably an indication that most females commenced laying about this time. Less than 1 percent (6/1391) of the males observed were immatures, and no immature-plumaged males were noted after 4 June. Males began molting during the third week of June.

A pair of eiders was first noted inland on 2 June, and pairs were frequently seen on freshwater lakes or flying over the tundra throughout the remainder of the month. Nests were discovered as follows: 4 eggs on 11 June; 5 eggs on 23 June; 6 eggs on 26 June; 4 eggs on 2 and 18 July; and 6 eggs on 18 July. Broods were noted as follows: one of 6 on 27 June; one of 3-4 on 6 July; several on 17 July; and noted frequently in late July and early August.

TABLE 2

COMMON EIDER FLOCK SIZES, AGATTU ISLAND
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA -- 1975

<u>Date</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Range</u>
21-24 May	57	260	4.56	2	1-40
25-28 May	113	359	3.17	2	1-23
29 May - 1 June	105	361	3.44	2	1-30
2-5 June	99	257	2.60	2	1-10
6-9 June	154	361	2.34	2	1-15
10-13 June	79	199	2.52	2	1-25
14-17 June	51	89	1.74	1	1-6
18-21 June	59	144	2.44	1	1-25
22-25 June	77	166	2.16	1	1-11
26-29 June	14	23	1.64	2	1-3
Totals	808	2220	2.75	2	1-40

TABLE 3

COMMON EIDER SEX RATIOS, AGATTU ISLAND,
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA -- 1975

<u>Date</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Males/Females</u>	<u>Percent Males</u>
21-24 May	260	1.60	61.5
25-28 May	359	1.60	61.6
29 May - 1 June	361	1.59	62.9
2-5 June	257	1.36	57.6
6-9 June	361	1.42	58.7
10-13 June	199	1.62	61.8
14-17 June	89	1.97	66.3
18-21 June	144	2.51	71.5
22-25 June	167	2.88	74.2
26-29 June	<u>23</u>	<u>1.56</u>	<u>60.9</u>
Totals	2220	1.68	62.7

- ✓ Melanitta deglandi, White-winged Scoter. Two birds (adult and immature males) were present in Aga Cove 25-27 May.
- ✓ Mergus merganser, Common Merganser. One female was observed on Glass Ball Lake on 1 June and 4 females were present there on 4 June.
- ✓ Mergus serrator, Red-breasted Merganser. Two-three birds were present in the vicinity of Aga Cove and Glass Ball Lake during May and the first half of June. One pair was present on Glass Ball Lake throughout this period, and 3 birds were noted there on 29 May. There was probably 1 male and 2 females present.
- ✓ Buteo lagopus, Rough-legged Hawk. Hoberg observed a dark-phase individual in flight 5 km north of Krugloi Point on 4 June, and a wing of this species was found on the beach at the west end of Otkriti Bay.
- ✓ Falco peregrinus, Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines breed on Agattu in moderate numbers. Nine eyries, or suspected eyries, were located as follows: Monolith Point, Aga Cove, NEWT, 1.6 km west of Cape Sabak, east side of Karab Cove, west side of Karab Cove, west side of Otkriti Bay, 3.2 km west of Otkriti Bay, and 4.8 km east of Gillon Point. The Monolith Point eyrie contained 4 eggs on 27 May and on 19 July at least one immature bird was present in the vicinity; one immature was noted in the vicinity of the eyrie on the east side of Karab Cove on 21 July; and at least one immature was noted in Aga Cove in late July. All of these sites are on the east and south sides of the island and are located near large cormorant, Kittiwake or puffin colonies. There are probably not more than 12 pairs of peregrines nesting on the island.

✓ Pluvialis dominica, American Golden Plover. Elison observed three birds on 25 May near a small lake located above McDonald Cove.

✓ Arenaria interpres, Ruddy Turnstone. A flock of 5 breeding-plumaged birds were observed feeding in a kelp patch at Aga Cove on 25 May, and a single individual was present 26-29 May. A single bird was noted at Krugloi Point on 28 May.

✓ Calidris ptilocnemis, Rock Sandpiper. This species is common in the alpine zone characterized by the short heath community. An adult female found dead on the beach at Aga Cove on 1 June had ova measuring 18.0 x 24.5, 10.3 x 13.2, 4.4 x 4.6, 3.8 x 4.3 and 3.3 x 4.1 mm. The two largest ova were well-developed with yolk and highly vascularized, the third largest was pale yellow in color, and all others were white. Four nests were found as follows: 1 egg on 31 May; 4 eggs on 9 June; 4 eggs on 9 and 16 June; 4 eggs on 30 June. All of these nests were located in the short Empetrum - Cladonia association. On 1 July a chick was found on the southeast plateau with two adults in close attendance.

✓ Tringa hypoleucos, Common Sandpiper. A single breeding-plumaged bird was present in the vicinity of Aga Cove 20-28 May and a second individual was observed along a rocky stretch of beach north of Sandy Cove 30 May-1 June.

✓ Heteroscelus incanus, Wandering Tattler. Migrants were present in small numbers during the last week of May and the first week of June. A total of 12 individuals were noted on 7 dates between 25 May and 8 June. Specific observations are as follows: 1 at Aga Cove on 25 May; 1 at Krugloi Point on 28 May; 2 at Patricia Bight on 31 May; 1 at Armeria Cove on 5 June; 2 at Aga Cove 6-8 June; and 1 at Armeria Cove on 8 June.

✓ Lobipes lobatus, Northern Phalarope. On 19 June, Elison and Whitten observed a male and female on a small pond just east of Karab Cove at an elevation of 110 m. The pair remained in the vicinity of the pond and appeared to be on territory. There was little or no vegetation around the border of the pond, and the surrounding vegetation was Empetrum-Cladonia.

✓ Stercorarius parasiticus, Parasitic Jaeger. Jaegers were encountered infrequently and only on the southeastern plateau, especially in the vicinity of several large lakes. The greatest number seen in a day was 3 birds on 25 May. Of the birds observed, dark-phase outnumbered the light-phase 6:2. Several pairs probably nested on Agattu, but we found no evidence of this.

Larus hyperboreus, Glaucous Gull. A single bird, in second-year plumage, was noted briefly in Patricia Bight on 4 June.

Larus glaucescens, Glaucous-winged Gull. Glaucous-winged gulls are abundant around the coastline of the island, where they nest on inaccessible cliffs and offshore islets and seastacks. Nesting birds are widely scattered and large colonies are rare. The largest one discovered contained 150-200 birds. Little information was gathered on breeding chronology this year. Seven birds occupied nests in Aga Cove on 21 May; Whitten recorded nests with 3 and 4 eggs, respectively, on 6 June; and the first chicks were noted on 27 June.

The largest gull colonies were observed in the vicinity of cormorant nesting colonies. Adult gulls systematically fly back and forth across the cliff face in search of unguarded eggs and young. On 21 July, I flushed three incubating red-faced cormorants from nests on the cliff opposite the large gull colony on Puffin Island. Immediately, 5-6 gulls appeared and hovered and glided along the cliff face in the strong updrafts. In less than one minute a nest containing 3 eggs and 1 young had lost 2 eggs and 1 young. This illustrates that gull predation can be extremely severe in certain situations. Whitten observed a gull steal a cormorant egg and make several passes at a young chick on 14 June, and Jones watched a gull take a half-grown cormorant chick from a nest while both adults were in attendance.

One hundred and sixty-two gull pellets collected in May and June yielded 250 individual food items (Table 4). This analysis reveals that sea urchins are apparently an important part of the summer diet at Agattu. The high occurrence rate of pebbles in the pellets was unexpected. In most instances (41 of 69 occurrences) pebbles were present in only small amounts, along with other food items. These pebbles were probably ingested incidentally while feeding, or perhaps intentionally for "grit". Twenty-eight pellets analyzed, however, contained only pebbles; most of these were found in the vicinity of Cape Sabak. Gulls were often seen on the beaches among sea lions and were presumed to be feeding largely on sea lion excreta. It is probable that the feeding gulls ingest large amounts of gravel and pebbles in the process. The sea lion excreta is almost totally digested, leaving only the pebbles to be regurgitated. The importance of cormorant eggs and chicks in the summer diet is probably underestimated by this analysis.

Rissa tridactyla, Black-legged Kittiwake. This is an abundant breeding species at Agattu. Colonies are located at Aga Cove (est. 3,000 birds; 904+ nests on 14 June), Cape Sabak (est. 10,000 birds; 4,046-4,522 nests on 5 June), and west of Karab Cove (est. 1,000 birds; 343-378 nests on 12 June). Kittiwakes occupied the cliffs at Aga Cove on 21 May, but laying had not yet begun; young birds

TABLE 4

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL PELLETT ANALYSIS, AGATTU ISLAND, MAY-JUNE 1975

<u>Food Item</u>	<u>No. of Occurrences</u>	<u>Percent Occurrence</u>	<u>Percent of Food Items</u>
Sea Urchin	106	65.4	42.4
Pebbles	69	42.6	27.6
Chitons	24	14.8	9.6
Blue Mussel	17	10.5	6.8
Barnacles	9	5.6	3.6
Limpet	8	4.9	3.2
<u>Empetrum berries</u>	4	2.5	1.6
Fish	3	1.8	1.2
Leach's Storm Petrel	2	1.2	0.8
Miscellaneous detritus	2	1.2	0.8
Red-faced Cormorant egg	1	0.6	0.4
Red-faced Cormorant nestling	1	0.6	0.4
Unidentified Crab	1	0.6	0.4
Unidentified Clam	1	0.6	0.4
Algae	1	0.6	0.4
Calcareous algae	1	0.6	0.4
	<u>250</u>		<u>100.0</u>

were first noted in Aga Cove on 18 July. No other information on breeding biology was obtained. Eighteen percent (27/150) of the kittiwakes loafing on an offshore rock in Aga Cove on 21 May were first-year birds.

- o Sterna paradisaea, Arctic Tern. A single individual was noted in flight along the cliffs one mile north of Aga Cove on 22 May, and 3 birds were noted in flight over a large lake located 3.2 km north of Cape Sabak on 27 June.

- o Uria aalge and U. lomvia, Common and Thick-billed Murres. Both species nest on the cliffs between Aga and Karab Coves, but aalge greatly outnumbers lomvia. Location, size and species composition of colonies are as follows: Aga Cove, 2,100 birds estimated in 1974 (80 percent aalge); Cape Sabak, 2,320-2,520 counted on 5 June (less than 5 percent lomvia); Karab Cove, 1,416 birds counted on Puffin Rock on 12 June (1,140 aalge and 276 lomvia; 1,482 murres were counted here on 16 June 1974); 1 mi. west of Karab Cove, 2,954 counted on 12 June (2,628 aalge, 46 lomvia and 280 unidentified; 3,071 birds were counted here on 16 June 1974). No information was obtained on breeding chronology.

Location	Date	U. aalge	U. lomvia	Total
1680	270	2100		
2070	125	2300		
1416	1140	276		
1482	1482			
2954	2628	46	280	
3071	3071			
		567		

- o Cephus columba, Pigeon Guillemot. Pigeon guillemots are fairly evenly distributed around much of the coastline, but appear to be most abundant between McDonald Cove and Cape Sabak. Birds were normally encountered as singles or in small groups of 2-5. Occasionally, however, large flocks were seen, such as the 26 courting birds north of Aga Cove on 29 May, 28 birds observed in Binnacle Bay on 5 June, and 38 off Cape Sabak on 22 June.

- o Synthliboramphus antiquus, Ancient Murrelet. The status of this species on Agattu is unclear. It was observed in the waters near Agattu on only rare occasions during the summer and usually only one or two birds at a time (single birds in Aga Cove on 20 and 31 May, 10 June and 3 July; 2 birds in West Cove on 24 July). It was occasionally found feeding in large flocks just offshore, however. At 2100 hours (BDT) on 4 June I observed densities of 72 and 58 birds per 15-minute transect 0.8 km south of Cape Sabak. Also, on 7 July I encountered large feeding assemblages from 16-8 km off Krugloi Point; densities of 131, 58 and 23 birds per 15-minute transect were recorded.

Murrelets comprised 12 percent (45/372) of the Arctic fox prey remains analyzed in 1974-75. On 22 June I found the remains of 11 murrelets in the tall Elymus at the tip of Cape Sabak; many of these were probably dug out of burrows. This high

incidence of occurrence in the prey remains suggests that ancient murrelets nest at Agattu, but we have been unable to confirm this suspicion. An adult female found dead on the beach at Aga Cove on 1 June had ova measuring 18.9 x 19.0, 4.3 x 4.6 and 3.9 x 4.4 mm; the largest ova had well-developed yolk.

Cylcorrhynchus psittacula, Parakeet Auklet. Five birds were observed in flight 0.8 km west of Gillon Point on 5 June, and 12 were present in Patricia Bight on the same date.

Aethia cristatella, Crested Auklet. A single bird in Patricia Bight on 1 June, and a few noted in West Cove on 24 July were the only observations from land. A total of only 6 birds was observed during a complete circuit of the island 4-5 June, and 27 birds were recorded 1.6-4.8 km north of Krugloi Point on 7 July. We found no evidence of nesting, and if crested auklets breed at all on Agattu they must do so in very small numbers.

Aethia pusilla, Least Auklet. Five birds were observed during a complete circuit of the island 4-5 June, and Whitten and Elison observed a few birds in West Cove on 24 July. We have found no evidence of nesting.

Fratercula corniculata, Horned Puffin. Horned puffins nest in scattered colonies around the entire coastline, but are greatly outnumbered by tufted puffins (at least 10 to 1). The nesting colonies are small, and confined to rocky cliff areas or offshore islets. Birds were first noted in Aga Cove on 26 May; no further information on breeding chronology was obtained. A total of 11 birds was observed during a complete circuit of the island 4-5 June.

Lunda cirrhata, Tufted Puffin. This species is extremely abundant, and is probably the most common seabird breeding on the island. Nesting birds are distributed around the entire coastline, but are most common between Aga and Karab Coves. The colonies are located in inaccessible areas at the tops of coastal bluffs or on offshore rocks and islets. One hundred and fifty-eight individuals were recorded during a circuit of the island 4-5 June. Tufted puffins are preyed on heavily by Arctic foxes, comprising 12 percent (44/372) of the prey remains collected during 1974-75.

Nyctea scandiaca, Snowy Owl. Birds were encountered regularly during the summer in the alpine area bounded by the survey marker OLAF, the WWII Tower and Karab Cove. At least four different individuals were present in this area. They were most frequently encountered sitting on tundra mounds affording elevated perches, where they would remain for hours at a time.

We found no positive evidence of nesting. On 28 May, Elison and Whitten witnessed a snowy owl carrying a large dark bird, probably a cormorant, on Krugloi Point; it landed several times and appeared to feed on the carcass. Frank collected 150 owl pellets which will be analyzed and the results published separately.

- ✓ Asio flammeus, Short-eared Owl. A single wing was found on Krugloi Point on 31 May by Elison and Whitten.
- ✓ Hirundo rustica, Barn Swallow. A barn swallow was observed closely as it fed in the Aga Cove area for approximately two hours on 3 July. The prominent white belly identified it as the Asiatic race, gutturalis.
- ✓ Corvus corax, Common Raven. Ravens are scattered about the entire coastline of the island, but are not abundant. A nest located one mile south of Aga Cove had recently fledged young on 23 May, and a nest at Monolith Point contained 3 nearly fledged young on 28 May. Ravens were also encountered between Patricia Bight and Binnacle Bay, and at Armeria Bay, West Cove, Gillon Point and Karab Cove. There are probably not more than 10 pairs of ravens nesting at Agattu. On 23 May we found at least 26 eggshells of the red-faced cormorant scattered in the vicinity of a ravens nest; most, if not all, of these had probably been depredated by ravens. Each egg had a large hole in the side of the shell from which the contents had been removed.
- ✓ Troglodytes troglodytes, Winter Wren. Winter wrens are common along the sea cliffs and rocky beaches, especially in the vicinity of drift logs and other debris. They are not as abundant as song sparrows.
- ✓ Motacilla flava, Yellow Wagtail. A single individual was observed by Elison and Whitten near Patricia Bight on 1 June.
- ✓ Leucosticte tephrocotis, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. This species has a restricted distribution on Agattu, being confined to the sea cliffs and rocky beaches. It is the least common of the three small passerines inhabiting the beach area. On 13 June an adult was observed carrying food to young in a nest located on a 10 m inaccessible cliff in Karab Cove.
- ✓ Acanthis flammea, Common Redpoll. Flocks of 2 and 6 birds were observed on 24 and 27 June, respectively, on the plateau 2.4 km north of Cape Sabak.
- ✓ Melospiza melodia, Song Sparrow. Song sparrows are abundant along the beaches. A recently fledged bird was observed at Sandy Cove on 2 June; a nest at Gillon Point held 4 newly hatched young on 28 June; and 4-5 fledglings appeared in the vicinity of Aga Cove on 6 July.

Calcarius lapponicus, Lapland Longspurs. Longspurs are well distributed over the entire island and are probably the most abundant breeding passerine. The following nest contents were recorded: nests with 4 and 5 eggs, respectively, on 23 June; nest with 5 eggs on 24 June; and nest with 5 eggs on 5 July. A recently fledged chick was found on 5 July.

Plectrophenax nivalis, Snow Bunting. This is a common breeding bird. It is most abundant along the rocky shoreline from Krugloi Point to Armeria Bay, and at high elevations in the alpine zone. On 28 July an adult male was feeding a recently fledged young near OLAF. Flocks of snow buntings, adults and young, are common in the interior of the island by late July.

2. Mammals

Enhydra lutris, Sea Otter. Sea otters are present in small numbers at Agattu, with most of the population being concentrated between Gillon Point and Cape Sabak. Otters were also seen occasionally along the east coast from Krugloi Point to Cape Sabak; and a single otter was seen repeatedly in West Cove. Fourteen otters were noted in Karab Cove on 12 June, and another 14 were seen near Nilé Point on 29 June. Pups were noted occasionally during the summer. The present population is probably between 30 and 50 animals.

Alopex lagopus, Arctic Fox. Introduced to Agattu in 1923, the Arctic fox is the only terrestrial mammal found on the island. This species has been treated in detail in another report.

Enmetopias jubata, Steller's Sea Lion. Sea lions breed in colonies at Cape Sabak, Gillon Point and West Cove. The Gillon Point colony contained approximately 1,000 animals, while 50-75 were present at West Cove. We made no estimates of the Cape Sabak colony this year, but it has previously been estimated at 8,000+ animals. Approximately 10,000 sea lions breed on the beaches of Agattu.

Phoca vitulina, Harbor Seal. Harbor seals are abundant around the coast of Agattu. The largest concentrations were noted near Krugloi Point, where extensive offshore reefs are exposed by low tide. On 27 May, groups of 2, 13, 17, 200 and 17 seals were seen on the south side of Krugloi Point, and on 28 May 60 more were seen on the north side. On 15 and 16 June separate groups of 30 and 50 seals were noted just west of Otkriti Bay. The total population of the island is probably on the order of 500-700 or more.

Phocoenoides dalli, Dall Porpoise. Porpoise are occasionally noted close to shore during the summer. On 24 July the carcass of a newborn porpoise was found on the beach at Armeria Bay.

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