

BIRDS OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS, ALASKA



A CHECKLIST

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ST. GEORGE TANAQ CORPORATION
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LEGEND

- A abundant** species occurs repeatedly in proper habitats, with available habitat heavily utilized, and/or the region regularly hosts great numbers of the species.
- C 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.
- U uncommon** species occurs regularly, but utilizes some or 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.
- R rare** species occurs, or probably occurs, regularly within the region, but in very small numbers.
- CA casual** species has been recorded no more than a few times, but irregular observations are likely over a period of years.
- AC accidental** a species so far from its normal range that further observations are unlikely; usually occurs singly.
- m migrant**
- sr summer resident**
- b breeder**
- w winter visitor**
- ** formerly found, but no records this century**

CHECKLIST

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
_____ Red-throated Loon	R-m
_____ Arctic Loon	CA
_____ Pacific Loon	CA
_____ Common Loon	CA
_____ Yellow-billed Loon	R-m
_____ Horned Grebe	R-m
_____ Red-necked Grebe	R-m
_____ Short-tailed Albatross	**
_____ Northern Fulmar	C-b
_____ Short-tailed Shearwater	U-m
_____ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	R-m
_____ Leach's Storm-Petrel	R-m
_____ Double-crested Cormorant	AC

_____ Pelagic Cormorant	R-b
_____ Red-faced Cormorant	C-b
_____ Black-crowned Night Heron	AC
_____ Tundra Swan	R-m
_____ Whooper Swan	CA
_____ Bean Goose	CA
_____ Greater White-fronted Goose	CA
_____ Snow Goose	CA
_____ Emperor Goose	R-m
_____ Canada Goose	CA
_____ Green-winged Teal	U-m, R-b
_____ Baikal Teal	CA
_____ Falcated Teal	CA
_____ Mallard	R-m
_____ Northern Pintail	U-m, R-b
_____ Garganey	CA
_____ Northern Shoveler	U-m
_____ Gadwall	CA
_____ Eurasian Wigeon	R-m
_____ American Wigeon	R-m
_____ Common Pochard	CA
_____ Canvasback	CA
_____ Redhead	AC
_____ Ring-necked Duck	CA
_____ Tufted Duck	R-m
_____ Greater Scaup	U-m
_____ Lesser Scaup	AC
_____ Common Eider	CA-sr
_____ King Eider	R-sr
_____ Spectacled Eider	CA
_____ Steller's Eider	U-sr
_____ Harlequin Duck	C-sr
_____ Oldsquaw	C-m, U-b
_____ Black Scoter	AC
_____ Surf Scoter	CA
_____ White-winged Scoter	C-w
_____ Common Goldeneye	U-m
_____ Barrow's Goldeneye	CA
_____ Bufflehead	U-m
_____ Smew	CA
_____ Hooded Merganser	AC
_____ Common Merganser	R-m
_____ Red-breasted Merganser	R-m
_____ Osprey	CA
_____ Bald Eagle	CA

_____	Steller's Sea-Eagle	AC
_____	Rough-legged Hawk	CA
_____	Northern Hobby	AC
_____	Peregrine Falcon	CA
_____	Gyr Falcon	CA
_____	Eurasian Coot	AC
_____	Sandhill Crane	U-m
_____	Black-bellied Plover	CA
_____	Lesser Golden-Plover	U-m
_____	Mongolian Plover	R-m
_____	Semipalmated Plover	U-b
_____	Killdeer	AC
_____	Black Oystercatcher	AC
_____	Common Greenshank	CA
_____	Greater Yellowlegs	CA
_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	R-m
_____	Spotted Redshank	CA
_____	Wood Sandpiper	R-m
_____	Solitary Sandpiper	AC
_____	Wandering Tattler	U-m
_____	Gray-tailed Tattler	R-m
_____	Common Sandpiper	CA
_____	Terek Sandpiper	CA
_____	Eskimo Curlew	**
_____	Whimbrel	R-m
_____	Bristle-thighed Curlew	R-m
_____	Far Eastern Curlew	CA
_____	Black-tailed Godwit	CA
_____	Bar-tailed Godwit	U-m
_____	Ruddy Turnstone	C-m
_____	Great Knot	AC
_____	Red Knot	CA
_____	Sanderling	CA
_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	CA
_____	Western Sandpiper	R-m
_____	Rufous-necked Stint	R-m
_____	Little Stint	CA
_____	Temminck's Stint	CA
_____	Long-toed Stint	CA
_____	Least Sandpiper	R-b
_____	Baird's Sandpiper	R-m
_____	Pectoral Sandpiper	U-m
_____	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	U-m

_____	Rock Sandpiper	C-b
_____	Ruff	R-m
_____	Dunlin	R-m
_____	Curlew Sandpiper	CA
_____	Stilt Sandpiper	CA
_____	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	CA
_____	Short-billed Dowitcher	CA
_____	Long-billed Dowitcher	R-m
_____	Jack Snipe	AC
_____	Common Snipe	R-m
_____	Red-necked Phalarope	R-b, U-m
_____	Red Phalarope	R-m
_____	Pomarine Jaeger	U-m
_____	Parasitic Jaeger	U-m
_____	Long-tailed Jaeger	U-m
_____	Franklin's Gull	AC
_____	Bonaparte's Gull	AC
_____	Common Black-headed Gull	R-m
_____	Herring Gull	R-m
_____	Thayer's Gull	CA
_____	Slaty-backed Gull	R-m
_____	Glaucous-winged Gull	U-b
_____	Glaucous Gull	R-sr
_____	Black-legged Kittiwake	A-b
_____	Red-legged Kittiwake	A-b
_____	Ross' Gull	CA
_____	Sabine's Gull	CA
_____	Ivory Gull	CA
_____	Common Tern	CA
_____	Arctic Tern	R-m
_____	Aleutian Tern	CA
_____	Dovekie	CA
_____	Common Murre	A-b
_____	Thick-billed Murre	A-b
_____	Pigeon Guillemot	C-w, R-sr
_____	Marbled Murrelet	CA
_____	Kittlitz's Murrelet	CA
_____	Ancient Murrelet	R-sr
_____	Parakeet Auklet	A-b
_____	Least Auklet	A-b
_____	Crested Auklet	C-b
_____	Tufted Puffin	C-b
_____	Horned Puffin	C-b
_____	Common Cuckoo	AC
_____	Oriental Cuckoo	AC

_____	Snowy Owl	R-sr
_____	Short-eared Owl	R-m
_____	Boreal Owl	AC
_____	Northern Saw-whet Owl	AC
_____	Chimney Swift	AC
_____	Common Swift	AC
_____	Fork-tailed Swift	AC
_____	Belted Kingfisher	AC
_____	Northern Flicker	AC
_____	Eastern Kingbird	AC
_____	Eurasian Skylark	CA
_____	Horned Lark	AC
_____	Purple Martin	AC
_____	Tree Swallow	R-m
_____	Violet-green Swallow	AC
_____	Bank Swallow	R-m
_____	Cliff Swallow	CA
_____	Barn Swallow	CA
_____	Common House-Martin	AC
_____	Common Raven	R-sr
_____	Winter Wren	C-b
_____	Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler	AC
_____	Arctic Warbler	CA
_____	Golden-crowned Kinglet	AC
_____	Siberian Rubythroat	AC
_____	Northern Wheatear	R-m
_____	Eye-browed Thrush	CA
_____	Gray-cheeked Thrush	AC
_____	American Robin	AC
_____	Yellow Wagtail	R-m
_____	Gray Wagtail	AC
_____	White Wagtail	AC
_____	Black-backed Wagtail	AC
_____	Olive Tree-Pipit	AC
_____	Red-throated Pipit	AC
_____	Water Pipit	R-b
_____	Bohemian Waxwing	AC
_____	Orange-crowned Warbler	CA
_____	Yellow Warbler	CA

_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	CA
_____	Wilson's Warbler	CA
_____	Savannah Sparrow	R-m
_____	Fox Sparrow	CA
_____	Song Sparrow	AC
_____	Golden-crowned Sparrow	CA
_____	White-crowned Sparrow	CA
_____	Dark-eyed Junco	CA
_____	Lapland Longspur	A-b
_____	Rustic Bunting	AC
_____	Snow Bunting	C-b
_____	McKay's Bunting	R-b
_____	Rusty Blackbird	CA
_____	Brambling	AC
_____	Rosy Finch	C-b
_____	Pine Grosbeak	AC
_____	Common Rosefinch	AC
_____	Red Crossbill	AC
_____	White-winged Crossbill	CA
_____	Common Redpoll	R-m
_____	Hoary Redpoll	CA
_____	Pine Siskin	AC
_____	Hawfinch	AC

UNSUBSTANTIATED LIST

Species that have appeared on earlier lists but the source of the record is not currently known.

Common Ringed Plover

Black Turnstone

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Northern Shrike

Eurasian Bullfinch

Phylogenetic sequence and English names of species follow the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) checklist of North American Birds (6th edition, 1983. Thirty-fifth supplement [Auk 102(3): 680-686, 1985.]

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Statistical data compiled by Vernon Byrd, Dan Gibson, and Bill Rodstrom; winter 1986.

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PRIBILOF BIRDLIFE

Alaska's Pribilof Islands support some of the most outstanding marine wildlife spectacles in North America. The islands' rich birdlife has been of interest to wildlife enthusiasts since Henry W. Elliott first published information about them in 1881. Over the years, the Pribilofs have come to be recognized as a "world class" attraction to visitors interested in the natural history of Bering Sea marine birds and mammals.

Over 2.8 million seabirds nest on the four main Pribilof Islands (St. Paul, St. George, Otter and Walrus), the vast majority of which are found on the steep cliffs of St. George. The most abundant species are Thick-billed Murres, Common Murres, Least Auklets, Parakeet Auklets, Horned Puffins, Tufted Puffins, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Red-legged Kittiwakes.

The Pribilofs provide landing sites for numerous wind-blown migrant birds from North America and Asia. Of the 208 species on this checklist, over half are casual or accidental sightings. The most likely time to see these infrequently observed species is during periods of migration in spring (mid-May to early June) and fall (early August to mid-September).

St. Paul has more diversified habitat than St. George, and wetlands like Salt Lagoon and Webster Lake often attract migrants. The immense colonies of breeding seabirds are best observed on St. George at such places as First Bluff, the High Bluffs, or Ulakaia Ridge. The reader should keep in mind that the status indicated on this checklist for a particular species may not apply equally on St. George and St. Paul.

Because they fully recognized the sensitivity of the seabird nesting areas to disturbance, the islands' Aleut residents sold the major nesting areas to the U.S. Government in 1984 for inclusion in the national wildlife refuge system. These lands are now part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors are encouraged to view the seabird rookeries, but care must be taken not to disturb the birds by approaching them too closely or making unnecessary noise.

The annual summer gathering of almost one million Northern Fur Seals on their island breeding rookeries also constitutes a wildlife spectacle unique to the Pribilof Islands.

REPORT NEW OR UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

There is still much to learn about the birds of the Pribilof Islands, and you can help. If you see birds not on this list, or record additional sightings of accidental or casual species, please send details of your observations to Refuge Manager, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, 202 Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK 99603 (907) 235-6546.