This paper summarizes the results of our studies of birds of the arctic coastal plain of Alaska from 1971 to 1993 and numerous published and unpublished reports. Our objective is to synthesize the considerable data accumulated since oil extraction began in the Prudhoe Bay area and to provide a detailed account of all species within three contiguous regions so that future changes in species composition and status may be assessed.

Our primary sources of information were ecological studies of impacts of petroleum resource development undertaken at Prudhoe Bay from 1971 to 1973 as part of the Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline Company's effort. From 1974 to 1981, additional study sites were established on the coastal plain, near Franklin Bluffs, and in the coastal foothills under U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (now U.S. Department of Energy) sponsorship. Several biologists and an increasing number of birders have continued to communicate to us their observations in the Prudhoe Bay area.

REGIONAL SETTING

The area covered by this paper extends from the Arctic Ocean on the north to the crest of the Brooks Range on the south, from the Canning and Ivishak rivers on the east to the Itkillik and Colville rivers on the west. We have divided this sector into three north–south regions: Prudhoe Bay, Franklin Bluffs, and Central Foothills (Figure 1). The Central Foothills region extends from the Brooks Range north to the Sagwon Bluffs and White Hills. The Franklin Bluffs Region includes the area bounded by the northern edge of Franklin Bluffs, which form the east bank of the Sagavanirktok River in that area, and the Itkillik and Shaviovik rivers. The
Figure 1. Prudhoe Bay, Franklin Bluffs, and Central Foothills regions. The dashed line from north to south shows the path of the Dalton Highway and Trans-Alaska pipeline. A, Atlantic Richfield Company's Prudhoe Bay operation center; B, British Petroleum's main operation center; C, Point Storkerson; D, Endicott Causeway; E, Atigun Valley; F, Oliktok Point; G, Deadhorse; H, Point McIntyre; I, West Dock; J, Point Brower; K, Galbraith Lake; L, Toolik Lake; M, pump station 3; N, pump station 4.
Prudhoe Bay Region extends south to the northern end of Franklin Bluffs and east to the confluence of the Kavik and Shaviovik rivers. In the Beaufort Sea, the region extends offshore about 55 km to include pelagic, nearshore, and littoral habitats of the continental shelf; it is bordered on the west by the Colville River and on the east by Flaxman Island.

Central Foothills Region

In this the most southern of the three regions, the Brooks Range dominates the landscape. Peaks range from 2134 to 2438 m in elevation, with rugged ridges extending east–west (Figure 2). The low, sparse alpine tundra vegetation of these mountains is composed of lichens, mat and cushion plants, and dwarf shrubs. The northern part of this region is characterized by numerous east–west ridges rising to about 360 m, interspersed with rolling plains and braided streams (Sage 1974). The dominant habitat is tussock-heath tundra, characterized by cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), mountain avens (*Dryas integrifolia*), dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), cranberries and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), Labrador tea (*Ledum decumbens*), and other shrubs. Willow (*Salix* spp.) thickets along streams and rivers and local patches of tall brush provide important habitat for passerines. Many areas away from the Dalton Highway, such as the White Hills, remain poorly explored from an avifaunal standpoint.

Figure 2. Spring break-up along the Dalton Highway and Trans-Alaska pipeline, in the Central Foothills region, Brooks Range, Alaska.  

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*
Franklin Bluffs Region

This region is a narrow transitional area between the wet coastal plain and rolling plateaus and mountains of the Central Foothills. The dominant physiographic feature is the Franklin Bluffs, which rise to 293 m and extend 32 km from north to south (Figure 3). Moderate slopes and relief have produced a mixture of well-drained xeric and mesic tundra and low, wet tundra. Drier areas are vegetated by Dryas, Eriophorum tussocks, and shrubs. Poorly drained terrain is characterized by wet sedge meadows covered by pioneering herbaceous plants. These mesic habitats are characterized by polygonized and frost-scar tundra. Polygons are low-lying ridges, rising to heights of 0.5 meters, formed from the cyclic arctic freezes and thaws. Frost scars are roughly circular, slightly convex, and composed of fine sandy loam that heaves under certain moisture and freezing conditions.

Dwarf willows are common on rises, and shallow ponds rimmed with the sedges Carex aquatilis and Arctophila fulva are sparsely distributed throughout the region. From 1976 to 1981, this region's birds were studied by Hanson and Eberhardt (1977-1981), Brink (1978), Jones et al. (1980), Garrott et al. (1981), and McCaffery et al. (1982), at a 100-ha site located 69 km south of Deadhorse (69°41' N, 148°42' W), 0.5 km west of the Sagavanirktok River, and 1.5 km west of the bluffs.

Prudhoe Bay Region

With a relief of <10 m, the coastal plain in the Prudhoe Bay Region is poorly drained, characterized by wet meadows, lakes, and ponds 1–2 m deep (Britton 1957). Walker et al. (1980) thoroughly described the area's landforms, soils, and vegetation. In general, water covers 50–75% of the region (Black and Barksdale 1949), and the land surface is covered by a mosaic of low-centered polygons and wet tundra dotted with ponds 1–2 m deep.

The plain's terrestrial vegetation is dominated by sedges mixed with Eriophorum, saxifrages, and louseworts (Pedicularis spp.) and underlaid by mosses. Several decumbent and dwarf willows are common on higher ground but are too low for nesting of many passerines. Well-drained sites with lichens, Dryas, and heather (Cassiope tetragona) are found along stream and river terraces, elevated lake shores, and on pingos (ice-cored hills). Salt marshes, dominated by Puccinellia phryganodes and Carex subspathacea, and grassy beaches are found intermittently along the shores of Prudhoe Bay and the Beaufort Sea (Figure 4) (Jeffries 1977, Broad et al. 1980, Taylor 1981).

Bergman et al. (1977) distinguished eight types of wetlands and documented their use by loons and waterfowl. Derksen et al. (1981) expanded that data base and demonstrated the applicability of the classification system across the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska to the west. Connors et al. (1979), Myers and Pitelka (1980), Jones (1980), and Connors (1984) described these habitats' use by shorebirds. Lagoons and barrier islands of sand, gravel, and tundra border the outer coast of the Prudhoe Bay region discontinuously. Barrier islands occasionally support high densities of nesting marine birds (Divoky 1978a, b) and provide impor-
Figure 3. Representative habitat, characterized by *Dryas* and *Eriophorum*, along Franklin Bluffs and the Sagavanirktok River.

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*

Figure 4. An abandoned native dwelling in wet tundra of the coastal plain, adjacent to the Beaufort Sea.

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*
important habitats for molting, feeding, and staging birds (Schamel 1978, John-
son and Richardson 1980, Divoky 1984). The central Beaufort Sea coast
supports lower diversity and densities of breeding birds than do coasts of
other northern seas, such as the Chukchi Sea, because it has few suitable
nesting areas and the sea is relatively shallow and unproductive (Divoky
et al. 1974).

The Prudhoe Bay Region is by far the most thoroughly studied of the
three regions. We studied a Prudhoe Bay site from 1971 through 1980
(Hanson and Eberhardt 1976–1981) and a 100-ha site 20 km south of
Johnson and Herter (1989) summarized the 249 bird species recorded in
the Alaskan and Canadian areas of the Beaufort Sea.

ANNOTATED LIST

One hundred seventy-four species of 28 families had been recorded from
our study area as of 1993. The terms we use in describing the status of a
species are those of Kessel and Gibson (1978): Resident—a species present
throughout the year. Migrant—a seasonal transient between wintering and
breeding ranges; in spring, includes species that have overshot their normal
breeding range. Breeder—a species known to breed; prefixed by “possible”
or “probable” if concrete breeding evidence is unavailable. Visitant—a
nonbreeding species; also, in fall, a species not directly en route between its
breeding and wintering ranges. Abundant—species occurs repeatedly in
proper habitats, with available habitat heavily utilized, and/or the region
regularly hosts great numbers of the species. 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. 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 hosts substantial numbers of the
species. Uncommon—species occurs regularly, but utilizes little of the
suitable habitat, and/or the region hosts relatively small numbers of the
species; not observed regularly even in proper habitats. Rare—species
within its normal range, occurring regularly, but in very small numbers.
“Very” rare is used for species that occur less regularly, not every year, and
usually in very small numbers. The regions are abbreviated as PB (Prudhoe
Bay), FB (Franklin Bluffs), and CF (Central Foothills). Early and late observa-
tion dates are given when significant, but are not available for every species
because of sparse observer coverage in early spring and late fall. If a region
is not listed in a species account, there are no records for that species in that
region.

Initials and names of contributors of original observations are as follows:
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Divoky (GJD), L. E. Eberhardt (LEE), G. Elliott (GE), H. Fine (HF), E. Fiscus


Podiceps auritus. Horned Grebe. PB: Three records, of single birds seen near East Dock in Prudhoe Bay on 9 June 1980 (TCR), near PBOC 1-14 June 1987 (DRH et al.), and at Flaxman Island at the eastern edge of the region in July 1930 (Bailey 1948). CF: Rare breeder; for example, a nest with two eggs found between PS 3 and 4 on 7 and 8 July 1981 (JH).


Puffinus tenuirostris. Short-tailed Shearwater. PB: Bodfish (1936) reported large concentrations in the autumn near shore near Flaxman Island, yet we have only two recent records, of a bird near Prudhoe Bay 11 August 1983 (DRS) and a mummified carcass (not preserved) found near Point Storkersen 5 July 1984 (PDM, DRH, CJH, BAC). No fewer than 10 million Short-tailed and Sooty (P. griseus) move into the Bering Sea each summer (Sanger and Baird 1977). A very small proportion of the Bering Sea population of P. tenuirostris migrates through the Bering Strait into the Beaufort Sea from late July through September, but the species is rarely seen east of Pitt Point (Divoky 1983).


Cygnus buccinator. Trumpeter Swan. PB: Two records, of two molting adults seen 0.5 km offshore near the east side of West Dock on 22 July 1981 (DRS) and one adult seen on a freshwater pond 30 September-2 October 1989 (EEB). The only other records for Alaska’s north slope come from the Simpson Lagoon, Camden Bay, and Canning River regions, where the species is a rare breeder (Kessel and Gibson 1978).


Chen caerulescens. Snow Goose. PB: Locally common on islands in the Sagavanirktok River delta, especially Howe Island, where a substantial colony regularly nests (SJH, RMB). In the spring of 1993, 475 pairs attempted to nest on Howe and Duck islands (SRJ); 408 of these nests successfully fledged young. Approximately 1700 adults and goslings were banded in the Sagavanirktok River delta in late July 1993 (SRJ, CJH). Earliest arrival date (30 birds) 20 May 1990 (EEB). FB: Common migrant; for example, on 27 May 1981, 100 birds were seen near the bluffs (CJH et al.). CF: Common migrant (SRJ).

Chen rossii. Ross’ Goose. PB: One record of a pair in the Howe Island Snow Goose colony in summer 1983 and single adult male seen in the same location in late July of the same year. The pair nested, the first confirmed breeding by Ross’ Goose in the U.S. (Johnson and Troy 1987).
**BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY**

*Chen canagica*. Emperor Goose. PB: One record, of a bird in a flock of Brant in the Colville River delta 26 July 1988 (Johnson and Herter 1989).


*Arias formosa*. Baikal Teal. PB: One record. One male found 14 June 1993 near Milne Point near the Kuparuk River mouth and stayed into mid-July (TM et al.; photo UAM). The only other record for Alaska's north slope is of one bird at Cape Sabine 28 May 1959 (Maher 1960).


*Arias discors*. Blue-winged Teal. PB: Rare visitant; for example, a pair was at Deadhorse 24–26 June 1981 (DPR, CJH) and a male was near PBOC 3–6 July 1993 (RF, NW, et al.). FB: Rare; for example, a pair 17–25 July 1979 (CJH, SGJ, MAP, AH). CF: Rare; for example, a pair at Galbraith Lake 7 July 1980 (JH) and one bird in Atigun Valley 5 June 1980 (GE, PK, JK, CM, DRS).


*Arias strepera*. Gadwall. PB: Rare visitant. A carcass was found 8 June 1971 (Childs 1972), a male was seen near West Dock 2 June 1984 (DMT, DRH, et al.), three birds were seen in the same location 11 June 1984 (DDG, DW), two pairs were
in Deadhorse 2–3 June 1987, a pair was seen there 1–2 June 1990 (KK, DR, NW), and a male was observed near PBOC 8 June 1991 (RR, NW). CF: One record, of a bird between TAPS PS 3 and 4 in July 1980 (JH).

Anas penelope. Eurasian Wigeon. PB: Two records, of a pair on a small pond near Kuparuk Base Camp near MOC 22 May 1981 (AG) and a male seen near Deadhorse 14 June 1989 (RR).


Aythya americana. Redhead. CF: One record of a male between TAPS PS 3 and 4 on 7 July 1980 (JH). There are two other published records for Alaska's north slope, both from Umiat on the Colville River, of a pair 13 June 1953 (Kessel and Cade 1958) and a single male 6 June 1964 (West and White 1966).

Aythya collaris. Ring-necked Duck. CF: Two records, of one male and one probable female at the junction of the Lupine and Sagavanirktok rivers 24 May 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and a male near TAPS PS 3 on 31 May 1980 (DPR, CJH).


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*Somateria fischeri*. Spectacled Eider. PB: Uncommon breeder, restricted primarily to the outer coast. Nesting populations throughout Alaska have fallen 96% since 1971 (USFWS). In June of 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as threatened. Earliest arrival date 31 May 1972 and 1973 (AG).

*Polysticta stelleri*. Steller’s Eider. PB: Rare. Seen sporadically along the outer coast; for example, near West Dock, one bird on 21 June 1976 (TCR), three pairs on 10 June 1984 (CJH), one pair 23 June 1990 (CJH), and three males and one female 12–14 June 1993 (RF et al.). Probable breeder but no confirmed breeding records.

*Histrionicus histrionicus*. Harlequin Duck. PB: Three records, of one male and a pair on the Sagavanirktok River near Prudhoe Bay summer 1969 (AG), a male observed off West Dock 5 July 1991 (NW), and two males and one female seen there again 28 June 1992 (RM). CF: Rare; for example, one male near the mouth of the Ribdon River in the upper Sagavanirktok basin 5 June 1970, and another on a lake in same valley 27 June 1970 (Sage 1974). Several reports from Atigun Valley in June 1980 (GE, PK, JK, DRS). Probably a regular local breeder.

*Clangula hyemalis*. Oldsquaw. PB: Abundant breeder, alternating with the Northern Pintail as the most common duck of the region. By mid- to late July, up to 50,000 molting birds, mostly males, gather on the leeward sides of offshore islands. Females gather to molt in early August, and by late September over 100,000 birds may be staging on Simpson Lagoon (Johnson and Richardson 1980). Earliest spring record 20 May 1991; latest fall record 26 October 1991 (EEB), both at Prudhoe Bay. FB and CF: Common breeder.

*Melanitta nigra*. Black Scoter. PB: Rare migrant; for example, four flocks totaling 127 birds migrating west off Point McIntyre 30 June 1976 (TCR), and a female found dead at Oliktok Point 14 June 1971 (Hall 1975). CF: One record, of one in Atigun Valley 11 June 1980 (GE, PK, JK, DRS).

*Melanitta perspicillata*. Surf Scoter. PB: Uncommon migrant, occurring primarily offshore and on outer coast. Most onshore sightings are from the Point Storkersen area. Schamel (1978) saw a group of 200–300 in Harrison Bay near Oliktok Point in August 1971. Earliest arrival date 7 June 1971 (Bergman et al. 1977). CF: Rare migrant; for example, reported from a single lake during late July and early August 1969 (Sage 1974), and one was seen in Atigun Valley 13 June 1980 (GE, PK, JK, CM, DRS).

*Melanitta fusca*. White-winged Scoter. PB: Uncommon, breeding rarely on offshore islands. Earliest record 1 June 1984 at Colville River delta (North et al. 1984). FB: Rare migrant and possible breeder. CF: Rare breeder; for example, female with eight young near Sagwon in mid-August 1974 (JC, UAM) and female with four young 14 km south of TAPS PS 3 on 9 August 1977 (WDS, JPM).

*Bucephala clangula*. Common Goldeneye. PB: Three records, of one bird at Prudhoe Bay drill site 2 June 1980 (AG), a female near MOC 29 September 1989 (EEB), and a female near PBOC 11 June 1991 (JL et al.). CF: One record, of a female between TAPS PS 3 and 4 in July 1980 (JH). The only other records for Alaska’s north slope are from the Colville River, where Kessel and Cade (1958) listed the species as accidental.

*Bucephala islandica*. Barrow’s Goldeneye. PB: One record, of a female observed near Prudhoe Bay on 10 July 1991 (RF, NW).

**BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY**


*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Bald Eagle. PB: One record, of one immature seen near Prudhoe Bay 10 June 1993 (KTK). CF: One record, of an adult reported at the east end of Atigun Valley 8 May 1970 (Sage 1974).


*Lagopus lagopus*. Willow Ptarmigan. PB: Fairly common breeder. Less common in coastal areas than inland. Earliest record 2 March 1989 (EEB), but, according to oil-field personnel, some birds remain throughout the winter (Sage 1974). FB and CF: Common breeder. Large flocks in spring (150 birds) and fall (400 birds) (Sage 1974).
**BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY**


*Fulica americana*. American Coot. PB: One record, of a carcass found in the Colville River delta 10 June 1970 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

*Grus canadensis*. Sandhill Crane. PB: Uncommon migrant and visitant. One breeding record, for the spring of 1971, 30 miles north of Umiat on the east side of the Colville River (AG). Earliest arrival date 10 May 1971 (AG). Examples of other records: one pair at Prudhoe Bay study site 26 June 1973 (WCH), one adult at Point Storkersen 26 July 1977, a single juvenile at the same location 2 June 1980 (TCR), and single adults seen on Erodicott Causeway 24 May 1991 and 23 May 1992 (EEB). FB and CF: Rare visitant; for example, a single adult seen at Sagwon Bluffs 2 May 1973 (TCR).


*Charadrius vociferus*. Killdeer. PB: Four records, of one bird reported from Colville River delta 19 June 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), one seen at Oliktok Point 12 June 1977 (Johnson and Richardson 1980), one at Prudhoe Bay 9 June 1984 (DMT), and one near West Dock 10–11 June 1993 (KTK).

*Charadrius morinellus*. Eurasian Dotterel. PB: Two records, both for near Point Storkersen, of pairs 10 June 1983 (BAC, DMT) and 10 June 1992 (RF).

*Tringa flavipes*. Lesser Yellowlegs. PB: Rare visitant; for example, single birds noted at Point Storkersen 6 June 1973 (Bergman 1974) and at Prudhoe Bay 27 July 1979 and 8 June 1980 (TCR). FB: Rare visitant. CF: Uncommon visitant. Sage (1974) reported the Lesser Yellowlegs once, about 48 km south of Franklin Bluffs on 26 July 1969. DPR and CJH recorded seven between TAPS PS 3 and 4 on 7 July 1980, while GE, PK, JK, and DRS saw the species frequently in Atigun Valley from late May to early August 1980.

*Heteroscelus incanus*. Wandering Tattler. PB: One record, of a single bird in the Colville River delta on 6 June 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). CF: Uncommon probable breeder; for example, single birds seen near the end of Atigun Valley 2 July 1970 (Sage 1974) and in upper Atigun Valley 30 May 1981 (DPR, CJH, DRS). Tattlers were observed regularly in Atigun Valley 26–28 June 1979 (Rothe 1979) and from 10 June to late July 1980 (GE, PK, JK, DRS).
**BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY**

*Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper. CF: Uncommon breeder; for example, a pair seen displaying in Atigun Valley 23 June 1970 (Sage 1974), one bird observed between TAPS PS 3 and 4 on 10 July 1980 (JH), and adults with flightless young observed in Atigun Valley during spring 1980 (GE, PK, JK, CM, DRS). Kessel and Cade (1958) reported this species to be fairly common in the Colville River valley.


*Limosa limosa*. Black-tailed Godwit. PB: One record, of one bird seen along lake shore near PBOC on 24 July 1993 (RF). This is the first record for Alaska’s north slope, though the species is casual in western Alaska.

*Limosa haemastica*. Hudsonian Godwit. PB: Six records, four for Prudhoe Bay, of one on 6 August 1977 (WDS, JPM), one on 6 and 8 June 1978 (CJH), one on 31 May 1979 (CJH), and two on 8 August 1979 (CJH, AG). In 1986 near the Colville River, three birds were reported 6 and 18 August (Garner and Reynolds 1986). One juvenile was seen near West Dock 4 August 1993 (RF).

*Limosa lapponica*. Bar-tailed Godwit. PB: Rare visitant, primarily in spring and fall; for example, one bird was at the Prudhoe Bay study site 9 June 1972 (WCH), one was at Point Storkersen 16 June 1977 (TCR), and another was at PBOC on 2 September 1990 (EEB). We have no evidence of breeding although in spring 1981 two pairs displayed and defended territories 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay (CJH, DPR). FB: Uncommon breeder. Earliest arrival date 26 May 1979 (CJH). CF: Uncommon probable breeder; for example, single birds seen at Galbraith Lake 20 May 1970 (Sage 1974) and in Atigun Valley 31 May 1980 (GE, PK, JK).

*Arenaria interpres*. Ruddy Turnstone. PB: Fairly common breeder and migrant, restricted primarily to the outer coast, including offshore islands. For example, a pair had a nest with two eggs at the Prudhoe Bay study site on 7 June 1975 (WCH, KLB). Earliest arrival date 19 May 1979 (AG); latest date 16 September 1991 (EEB). FB and CF: Rare spring migrant; for example, a pair was at Toolik Lake during late May 1978 (DRS) and a single bird was in Atigun Valley 30 May and 3 June 1980 (DPR, WCH, CJH, GE, PK, JK).

*Arenaria melanoccephala*. Black Turnstone. PB: Three records, of single birds seen in the Colville River delta 29–31 May 1979 (JWH), at the mouth of the Kuparuk River 3 June 1980 (RHM, GEK), and at Point Gordon just west of the Canning River delta 9 June 1980 (SRJ). FB: One record of a bird near Franklin Bluffs 9 June 1980 (DGR). This species is very rare north of the Brooks Range.

*Aphriza virgata*. Surfbird. PB: One record, the first for Alaska’s north slope, of a bird seen on the MOC gravel pad on 20 August 1981 (EEB).

*Calidris canutus*. Red Knot. PB: Rare visitant and migrant; for example, two juveniles were seen on the beach east of Point Storkersen 16 August 1977 (WDS, JPM), one bird was seen at Point Storkersen 21 June 1978 (DBM, UAM), and one was seen near West Dock during mid-June 1982 (DPR). The Red Knot is a rare migrant on the Chukchi Sea coast and was unknown east of Barrow until recently (Pitelka 1974). It is a rare breeder on Cooper Island and at Barrow (Bailey 1948, Pitelka 1974).

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**Calidris alba.** Sanderling. PB: Uncommon migrant. Two summer records, of a pair actively displaying at the study site 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 1–8 June 1981 (CJH, DPR), and one bird observed near Oliktok Point 8 July 1993 (PDM, JB, USFWS). Latest record 16 September 1991 (EEB). FB: One record, of one bird along the Sagavanirktok River 28 July 1969 (Sage 1974). The Sanderling’s nearest breeding sites (irregular) are at Barrow to the west (Pitelka 1974) and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the east (Garner and Reynolds 1986).

**Calidris pusilla.** Semipalmated Sandpiper. PB: Abundant breeder, the most numerous shorebird in the region. Earliest arrival date 10 May (AG); latest record 25 August 1991 (EEB). Peak migration of juveniles along coast is about 29–30 July each year (Connors and Risebrough 1978). FB: Fairly common breeder. CF: Uncommon breeder. Not recorded by Sage (1974) but observed regularly along Dalton Highway (CJH, DPR, WCH RMB, BJM) and at Toolik Lake in May and June 1981 (DRS).

**Calidris mauri.** Western Sandpiper. PB: Uncommon migrant; one record of breeding. A nest found 21 June 1992 on the outer coast near Point Storkerson constitutes the first breeding record east of the Meade River (NW). FB: Rare migrant.

**Calidris ruficollis.** Rufous-necked Stint. PB: Ten records. This species is now being recorded nearly annually. One bird on 9 June 1969, a pair on 12 June 1975 (JWH), and a pair on 2 June 1977 (Johnson and Richardson 1980) were all in the Colville River delta. A single bird was near Point Storkerson 28 June 1990 (RF, JL, et al.). On the west side of Prudhoe Bay, one was seen 20 June 1991 (NW, RF), a second was seen 20 July 1991 (RF), and in 1992 there were four separate sightings of up to three individuals from 6 to 22 June (RF, JL, et al.). One bird was found near West Dock 14 June 1993 (KK, DPR). The species’ nearest breeding locality is Barrow (Pitelka 1974).

**Calidris minuta.** Little Stint. PB: One record, the third for Alaska’s north slope, of a bird on the west side of Prudhoe Bay 19 June 1991 (RF, NW, DMT, et al.).

**Calidris minutilla.** Least Sandpiper. PB: Rare migrant and visitant. FB: Rare visitant; for example, two juveniles seen at study site 8 August 1979 (CJH, SGJ, MAP, AH). CF: Uncommon breeder. Sage (1974) reported at least nine pairs from a census of 10 km² in the Ribdon Valley in the upper Sagavanirktok basin, with one nest with eggs on 29 June 1970. Rothe (1979) reported one bird in Atigun Valley on 27 June 1979. GE, JK, PK, CM, and DRS discovered a nest with eggs in Atigun Valley during spring 1980. BJM and RMB found several nests at Sagwon Bluffs during spring 1981 and subsequently confirmed regular nesting of small numbers at that location.

**Calidris fuscicollis.** White-rumped Sandpiper. PB: Rare, breeding irregularly and at variable densities (SGJ, DMT). The Prudhoe Bay region appears to be at the western end of the White-rumped Sandpiper’s normal breeding range, though the species has nested as far west as Barrow.

**Calidris bairdii.** Baird’s Sandpiper. PB: Fairly common breeder, mainly along the outer coast and in the Sagavanirktok River delta (DMT, Johnson and Herter 1989). In 1980, Baird’s Sandpiper was one of the commonest breeding shorebirds at Point Storkerson (DRS). Earliest arrival date 28 May 1982 at Colville River delta (Simpson et al. 1982). FB and CF: Uncommon breeder.

**Calidris melanotos.** Pectoral Sandpiper. PB: Common to abundant breeder. One of the most widespread and conspicuous birds of the region. Earliest arrival date 21 May 1991 (EEB). Most adult males depart the region by the first week of July; latest record 13 September 1991 (EEB). FB: Fairly common breeder. CF: Uncommon migrant. Pairs have been observed but we have no nesting records.
BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY

*Calidris acuminata*. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. PB: Two records, of one immature in the Colville River delta 7 August 1982 (Simpson et al. 1982) and another immature photographed near MOC on 11 September 1991 (EEB; photo UAM).

*Calidris alpina*. Dunlin. PB: Common breeder. Found primarily along the coast, although the species nests at least 13 km inland south of Prudhoe Bay. Earliest arrival date 24 May 1979 (TCR); latest record 23 September 1993 (EEB). FB: One record, of a bird seen near study site 12 July 1981 (BJM, RMB).

*Calidris ferruginea*. Curlew Sandpiper. PB: Three records, of three juveniles seen near Oliktok Point 8–9 August 1972 (Kessel and Gibson 1978), one at Deadhorse 5 June 1984 (KDR), and one adult at Endicott 3 June 1993 (SRJ). The Curlew Sandpiper is a very rare breeder at Barrow (Pitelka 1974, Kessel and Gibson 1978).


*Tryngites subruficollis*. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. PB: Fairly common breeder. Nesting densities vary widely from year to year; in 1978 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were common and widespread, but subsequently their numbers have varied greatly. Earliest arrival date 23 May 1985 (EEB). Males emigrate about the first week of July; flocks of fall migrants have been noted in the Canning River delta during early August (Martin and Moitoret 1981). FB: Fairly common breeder. CF: Rare migrant and visitant; for example, Sage (1974) saw one bird near the confluence of the Sagavanirktok and Lupine rivers on 9 June 1970. Pamplin (1979) recorded this species in Atigun Valley in spring 1979.

*Philomachus pugnax*. Ruff. PB: Eleven records. This species is now being recorded almost annually. A male near Prudhoe Bay study site 18–28 June 1978 was presumably the same seen there again 20–21 June 1979. A different male at the same location 14–21 June 1980 chased female Pectoral Sandpipers and was repeatedly chased by other shorebirds (WCH, CJH, DPR, SGJ, TCR; photo UAM). One male in breeding plumage was seen near Kuparuk River 5 July 1982 (DMT), a single male was near the Prudhoe Bay study site 11 June 1984 (WDM), a juvenile male was near Sagavanirktok River delta 13–15 August 1989 (CTS, KK, RF), and two males were near Point Storkerson 12 June 1992 (JL, RF), and two males were near PBOC 24 June 1992 (NW et al.). To the west of the region, one bird was seen in the Colville River delta 17 August 1978 (JWH).


*Gallinago gallinago*. Common Snipe. PB: Uncommon migrant (probable breeder); for example, single birds were noted 30 May 1979, 13 June 1980 (TCR), and 17 June 1991 (EEB). Each spring, snipes display in the region, but no nests have been found. FB and CF: Uncommon migrant (probable breeder).

*Phalaropus lobatus*. Red-necked Phalarope. PB: Common breeder (Figure 5). Earliest arrival date 20 May 1991 (EEB); latest record 3 October 1993 (EEB). Large flocks of females congregate on tundra ponds and along the coast in late June. By late July and early August, males begin migration staging, and juveniles reach peak numbers in mid-August along the outer coast. FB: Common breeder. CF: Fairly common breeder.
Figure 5. Male Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) brooding young at a nest on the wet coastal plain.

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*

Figure 6. Male Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) brooding young at a nest on the wet coastal plain.

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*
Phalaropus fulicaria. Red Phalarope. PB: Common breeder (Figure 6). Status similar to that of *P. lobatus* except during fall, when migrating flocks of *P. lobatus* greatly outnumber *P. fulicaria* along the outer coast. The Red Phalarope is rare, mainly a visitant, inland. Earliest arrival date 29 May 1982 in the Colville River delta (Simpson et al. 1982); latest record 9 October 1991 at West Dock (EEB). FB and CF: Rare visitant.


Stercorarius longicaudus. Long-tailed Jaeger. PB: Fairly common but scattered; probably breeds at southern edge of coastal plain. No confirmed nesting records from this region. Earliest arrival date 25 May 1979 (CJH). Long-tailed Jaegers constituted 10% of all birds seen offshore from 3 to 15 August 1969 (Frame 1973). FB and CF: Fairly common breeder.


Larus canus. Mew Gull. PB: Rare migrant and visitant; for example, one bird at Prudhoe Bay study site 13 June 1975 (KLB), two individuals near Oliktok Point 13 July 1977 (Johnson and Richardson 1980), one adult near MOC on 11 May 1990 (EEB), and an adult near PBOC 11 June 1992 (CJH, DR, JL, RF). CF: Uncommon breeder. Sage (1974) found it scarce in his study area, but DRS found several, including nests, from May to August in 1977, 1978, and 1979. JH found a few nests and saw many birds between TAPS PS 3 and 4 during 1980, while GE, PK, JK, and DRS confirmed nesting in Atigun Valley the same year.

Larus californicus. California Gull. PB: One record, of an adult carefully studied near Deadhorse after strong southern storm on 7 July 1981 (DPR, BJM, RMB, CJH).

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. PB: Uncommon migrant and visitant, being fairly common in September during some years (LGL). The nearest breeding record is from the Colville River in 1964 (West and White 1966). Latest fall record 27 September 1990 (EEB). Divoky (1983) reported large gulls with dark wing-tips on 3% of all pelagic surveys. FB: Rare visitant.


Larus schistisagus. Slaty-backed Gull. PB: Rare visitant; for example, subadults were in Prudhoe Bay 31 July 1977 (WDS, JPM) and 26–27 June 1990 (KK, NW), and another was 13 km south of there 15 June 1981 (CJH, DPR). One third-year bird was near West Dock 13–16 June 1993 (RF), and an adult was there 17 June 1993 (RF, KTK). One was recorded in the Colville River delta August 1977 (Kessel
and Gibson 1978). At West Dock, an individual was seen from 8 July to 18 August 1991 (DWi, NW, RF) and two birds were observed on 11 June 1992 (JL, RF). FB: One record, of a bird flying north along Dalton Highway 20 June 1981 (DPR, CJH).


*Rissa tridactyla*. Black-legged Kittiwake. PB: Common visitant offshore, rare onshore. Most kittiwakes recorded during pelagic surveys of the Beaufort Sea (Frame 1973, Watson and Divoky 1974a,b; Divoky 1983, Johnson and Herter 1989) were subadult or nonbreeding, although Divoky (1983) reported that about half were adults. The species is more common in the western Beaufort Sea than farther east. Small numbers were in the Beaufort Sea of central Alaska (Simpson Lagoon to Barter Island) 18 September–7 October 1985 (LGL).

*Rhodostethia rosea*. Ross’ Gull. PB: Rare visitant in our study area but a common fall migrant in the far western Beaufort Sea between Cape Halkett and Point Barrow (GJD). One immature female was at the Prudhoe Bay study site 9 August 1975 (KLB), and another bird was near the same area 25 August 1975 (AG). Two birds were in the Colville River delta 21–22 June 1978 and again 8 May 1981 (JWH); one bird was there 15 June 1982 (LGL). A group of 21 adults and 8 immatures was at West Dock 29 and 30 September 1990 (EEB). An immature was in Prudhoe Bay 25 July 1991 (RF), and a breeding-plumaged bird was near the Kuparuk River 15 June 1992 (CJH, KTK).

*Xema sabini*. Sabine’s Gull. PB: Uncommon breeder on barrier islands and locally along the coast but makes little use of nearshore or pelagic zones of the Beaufort Sea during the nesting season (Divoky 1983, Johnson and Herter 1989). Sabine’s Gulls move to the open sea in August and are most common in the Beaufort Sea east of Barrow. Frame (1973) reported the species to be the second most common migrant offshore. Its westward migration is most pronounced during late August and early September. Latest date 28 October 1991 (DT). FB: Two records, of one bird at the north end of the bluffs 31 July 1969 and a flock of seven there 9 June 1970 (Sage 1974).

*Pagophila eburnea*. Ivory Gull. PB: Uncommon migrant offshore. Frame (1973) encountered two birds about 86 km northeast of Oliktok Point 14 August 1969. Watson and Divoky (1972) and Divoky (1976) considered the Ivory Gull an uncommon pelagic migrant in the Beaufort Sea and an uncommon summer visitant associated with leads in pack ice in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. There is little evidence of concentrated migration by this species in Beaufort Sea area (GJD, Johnson and Herter 1989). One record from Colville River delta (Anderson 1913).


*Uria lomvia*. Thick-billed Murre. PB: Four records of single birds, three near Point Storkersen, 20 July 1971 (Bergman et al. 1977), 18 July 1976 (TCR), and 20 May–
CEPPHUS GRYLTE. Black Guillemot. PB: Uncommon migrant and breeder. Observed offshore (Egg Island) 20 May–early August 1972 (Schamel 1978). Since 1978 Black Guillemots have nested annually on barges in Prudhoe Bay, with up to 50 on barges along West and East docks (AG, DRS, et al.). At the eastern edge of the region, two birds were at Flaxman Island 6 August 1972 (Divoky et al. 1974). The species is an uncommon local breeder in burrows and beach flotsam along the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea coasts from the Seahorse Islands and Barrow east to Igalik Island (MacLean and Verbeek 1968, Divoky et al. 1974, Kessel and Gibson 1978, Divoky 1984).

AETHIA PUSILLA. Least Auklet. PB: Three records, of one bird near Atigaru Point just west of the Colville River delta in summer 1988 (RR), a pair near Point Brower 9 September 1988 (Johnsson and Herter 1989), and two birds near Point Brower 7–14 September 1989 (RR).

FRATERCULA CIRRHATA. Tufted Puffin. PB: Two records, of one bird at Point Storkersen 12 August 1972 (Bergman et al. 1977) and one bird near West Dock 12 August 1981 (KP). The species is accidental along the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea coasts (Pitelka 1974, Johnson and Herter 1989).

FRATERCULA CORNICULATA. Horned Puffin. PB: Two records from barges offshore Prudhoe Bay, of a pair on 15 August 1981 (DRS) and one bird on 22 August 1981 (DMT). West of the region, Divoky (1982) found a few pairs occupying Black Guillemot nests and incubating their eggs on Cooper Island (east of Barrow). From 1986 to 1988 several pairs attempted to nest in boxes installed there for Black Guillemots, and one pair fledged one young in 1986 (Johnsson and Herter 1989).

NYCTEA SCANDIACA. Snowy Owl. PB: Highly cyclic breeder, closely correlated with lemming populations; fairly common in some years. Nested in region in 1969 (AG), 1972 (WCH), 1988, 1989, and 1992 (Figure 7). Earliest arrival date 5 May 1971 (AG). Seen annually but only a few birds present some years. FB: Uncommon occasional breeder; for example, four birds south of bluffs 17 September 1969 (Sage 1974). CF: Uncommon occasional breeder (Sage 1974).

SURNIA ULULA. Northern Hawk-Owl. PB: Two records, of one bird in the Colville River delta 8 May 1981 (JWH) and another photographed at Endicott Island on 21 August 1991 (DT; photo UAM).

STRIX NEBULOSA. Great Gray Owl. PB: One record, of a bird at Prudhoe Bay 29 May 1989 (PS, EF). This species is very rare north of the Brooks Range.


CHORDEILES MINOR. Common Nighthawk. PB: Two records, of one female hawking insects near Point Storkersen 4 and 6 July 1984 (CJH, DPR, REH, PM, BAC) and one bird at Prudhoe Bay 17–21 June 1990 (JW, KK).


COLAPRES AURATUS. Northern Flicker. PB: One record, of a carcass found at a fox den 1 June 1979 (HF, PSG). CF: One record, of a bird at the eastern end of Atigun Valley 21 May 1970 (Sage 1974). Kessel and Cade (1958) recorded this species along the Colville River in 1937.
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*Contopus sordidulus.* Western Wood-Pewee. PB: One record, of an individual calling near Oliktok Point on 1 July 1993 (PDM, JB, USFWS). This constitutes only the fourth record for Alaska’s north slope.


*Eremophila alpestris.* Horned Lark. PB: Rare breeder; for example, nest and fledglings in 1989 in the Sagavanirktok River delta (RMB). Single birds were seen at Point Storkersen 6 June 1973 (Bergman et al. 1977) and 25 July 1977 (TCR), at West Dock 20 June 1978 (CJH), and near MOC 2 July 1991 (EEB). FB: Rare visitant; for example, single birds were at the study site 24 June and 30 June 1981 (BJM, RMB). CF: Uncommon but widespread; probably breeds (Sage 1974, GE, PK, JK, CM, DRS).

*Progne subis.* Purple Martin. PB: The single record, of a female near Deadhorse 12 June 1986 (DMT), is the only record for Alaska’s north slope.

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**Figure 7.** Female Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) at a nest in tundra of the wet coastal plain.

*Photo by Craig Hohenberger*
BIRDS OF PRUDHOE BAY

Tachycineta bicolor. Tree Swallow. PB: Three records, of two birds at Point Storkersen 21 June 1976 (TCR), one bird near Deadhorse 7 June 1984 (DMT), and one at Prudhoe Bay 20 June 1991 (KK). FB: Two records, of a juvenile at study site M12 on 7 August 1979 (CJH, SGJ, MAP, AH) and an adult at the same location on 10 June 1981 (BJM, RMB). CF: One record, of several birds seen perched on antenna at Toolik Lake camp in late May and June 1979 (DRS).

Riparia riparia. Bank Swallow. PB: Seven records, of one along the Canning River during spring 1970 (AG), one near the Kuparuk River 30 May 1971 (AG), single birds at Point Storkersen 9 June 1972 and 5 June 1975 (Bergman et al. 1977), one 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 6 June 1981 (DPR, CJH), one at Prudhoe Bay 21 June 1990 (KK), and one near Prudhoe Bay 2 June 1993 (KTK et al.). FB: One record, of a bird at the study site 29 June 1981 (BJM, RMB). CF: One breeding record, the only one for Alaska's north slope. A colony of 8–10 birds was discovered on 4 July 1989 nesting near Sagwon Bluffs along the Sagavanirktok River (CTS, TAC), where none had nested from 1986 to 1988.

Hirundo pyrrhonota. Cliff Swallow. PB: Seven records, of single birds at Point Storkersen 7 June 1971 and 7 June 1975 (Bergman et al. 1977), near Deadhorse in early June 1978 (SGJ), near West Dock 12 June 1984 (DPR, DMT, PDM, REH), 8 miles east of Prudhoe Bay 9 June 1993 (MI), and in the Colville River delta 27 May 1964 and 4 May 1975 (JWH; photos UAM). CF: Rare breeder, known from two sites. Irving (1960) reported that during the winter of 1908 or 1909 Simon Paneak of Anaktuvuk Pass found frozen young birds in over 100 nests built against cliffs near the end of the west fork of the Kuparuk River at 68°35' N, 149°20' W. Sage (1973, 1974) located a colony of 7–10 pairs on a tributary of the Atigun River on 24 June 1970.

Hirundo rustica. Barn Swallow. PB: Ten records. Single birds were reported at Oliktok Point 15 June 1971 (Hall 1975), at Point Storkersen 14 and 20 June 1978 (DBM; photos UAM), near West Dock 12 and 24 June 1984 (PDM, DPR, BAC) and 10 June 1992 (RF, JL, et al.), near the PBOC 7 July 1992 (KTK, CJH), and at Prudhoe Bay 21 June 1990 (KK), 19 June 1991 (RF), and 16 July 1991 (JL).

Delichon urbica. Common House Martin. One record, of one bird observed at Spy Island just east of the Colville River delta on 11 June 1983 (SRJ). This is the first record for Alaska's north slope and one of four total for the state (D. D. Gibson pers. comm.).

Perisoreus canadensis. Gray Jay. CF: One record, of a bird seen near TAPS Happy Valley camp 25 May 1976 (WCH). West and White (1966) reported, "It is reasonable to believe this species is not rare along the Colville River, and probably breeds there."


Corvus corax. Common Raven. PB: Fairly common resident, nesting uncommonly on buildings and other man-made structures throughout the oil field. FB and CF: Fairly common breeder; for example, a pair nested on the trans-Alaska pipeline near TAPS PS 3 during summer 1980 (CJH).

Phylloscopus borealis. Arctic Warbler. CF: Rare and local breeder; for example, a pair was feeding four young in a nest on the east bank of the Sagavanirktok River 24 July 1970, and another was nesting 3 km from that site 5 July 1971 (Sage 1974). The Sagavanirktok River is probably at the eastern edge of the species' breeding range.
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_Luscinia svecia._ Bluethroat. PB: One record, of a female 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 9 June 1980 (CJH). FB: Rare and local breeder; for example, one female with a juvenile was near the Toolik River just west of Franklin Bluffs 16 July 1981 (BJM). CF: Rare and local breeder. A breeding colony of eight to ten pairs discovered at Mile 368 along the Dalton Highway, near Happy Valley, during the mid-1980s has been monitored annually since. The Bluethroat’s breeding locations become progressively rarer east of the Sagavanirktok River (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Johnson and Herter 1989).

_Oenanthe oenanthe._ Northern Wheatear. PB: Five records, of single birds at Point Storkersen 8 June 1972 and 1 July 1975 (Bergman et al. 1977), at Prudhoe Bay 23 August 1981 (DMT), and in the Colville River delta 7 June 1975 and 28 May 1976 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). FB: Rare visitant; for example, one bird at the study site in late July 1980 (WCH, RAG, DAG). CF: Uncommon local breeder; for example, Sage (1974) reported a pair above 900 m elevation near Section Creek, a tributary of the upper Sagavanirktok River, on 29 July 1969 and two pairs at different locations in Atigun Valley 20 June 1970. DRS reported several sightings and nests in the Toolik Lake area and numerous sightings at the headwaters of the Atigun River from May to August in 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1981. WDS and JPM reported Wheatears to be common in Atigun Valley on alpine tundra, 9 August 1977.

_Catharus minimus._ Gray-cheeked Thrush. PB: Rare visitant; for example, single birds were seen 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 7 June 1972 (WCH) and 31 May 1976 (WCH, KLJ); another was in an oil-company camp early in June 1980 (SGJ). FB: Rare local breeder; for example, one adult with a juvenile near the Toolik River 16 July 1981 (BJM). CF: Rare (probable breeder). Breeds regularly in willows along many streams draining Alaska’s north slope (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

_Catharus ustulatus._ Swainson’s Thrush. PB: Two records. One bird first seen at an oil-company camp 3 June 1978 was found dead 7 June (SGJ); another was at Prudhoe Bay 31 May 1990 (KK et al.).

_Turdus migratorius._ American Robin. PB: Rare visitor, observed primarily in spring. For example, a pair was at an oil-company camp 2 June 1972 (WCH), one bird was at Point Storkersen prior to and on 30 May 1973 (Bergman et al. 1977), apparently one bird was seen repeatedly at an oil-company camp 31 May–4 June 1978 (SGJ), and one was observed at Oliktok Point from 9 June to 16 July 1993 (PDM, JB, USFWS). CF: Uncommon breeder (Sage 1974, DPR, CJH).

_Ixoreus naevius._ Varied Thrush. PB: Rare visitant; for example, one bird was seen at Point Storkerson 22 July 1978 (RCK, DBM, UAM) and another was at Simpson Lagoon 7 September 1977 (Johnson and Richardson 1980).


_Anthus cervinus._ Red-throated Pipit. PB: Two records, of one female seen near Point Storkerson 15 June 1992 (JL) and a male observed at Heald Point 10–15 June 1993 (KTK et al.). The Red-throated Pipit is very rare on Alaska’s north slope, breeding uncommonly only in western Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

_Anthus rubescens._ American Pipit. PB: Rare visitant. Late records for the Canning River delta 25 August 1979 and 28 August 1980 (Martin and Moitoret
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Sturnus vulgaris. European Starling. PB: One record, of a bird that summered in the Colville River delta in 1979 (JWH).


Dendroica petechia. Yellow Warbler. PB: Two records, of two birds in the Colville River delta 6 June 1974 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and one bird at Simpson Lagoon 5 September 1977 (Johnson and Richardson 1980). CF: One record, of a male at Mile 68 of the Trans-Alaska pipeline 23 June 1981 (LGB, TGT, UAM).

Dendroica coronata. Yellow-rumped Warbler. PB: Three records, of one bird near Deadhorse 7-13 June 1975 (WCH, KLB), one female at Oliktok Point 17 June 1971 (Hall 1975), and one Myrtle Warbler at Oliktok Point 9 June 1993 (PDM, JB, USFWS).

Dendroica palmarum. Palm Warbler. PB: Two records, of one bird at West Dock 24-25 September 1991 (Gibson and Kessel 1992) and one bird on the outer coast near Point Storkerson 3 June 1992 (MB, JY).

Dendroica striata. Blackpoll Warbler. PB: Three records, of one bird in the Sagavanirktok River delta 10 September 1981 (RLS), one adult male near West Dock 11 and 15 June 1984 (DMT, CJH, DPR), and another male at Oliktok Point 6 July 1993 (PDM, JB, USFWS).

Mniotilta varia. Black-and-white Warbler. PB: One record, of an immature bird seen in the Colville River delta 10-12 October 1977 and found dead a week later (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Setophaga ruticilla. American Redstart. PB: One record, of one in the Colville River delta 21 September 1979 (SRJ, JWH).

Seiurus aurocapillus. Ovenbird. PB: Two records. One Ovenbird seen in Sagavanirktok River delta 10 September 1981 was the first for Alaska (Gibson and Kessel 1992). Another was reported near Prudhoe Bay 29 June 1992 (RM).

Seiurus noveboracensis. Northern Waterthrush. PB: Two records, of one bird in the Colville River delta 19-25 May 1974 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and another near West Dock 30 May 1984 (DMT, PDM).

Wilsonia pusilla. Wilson’s Warbler. PB: Two records, of one bird at Point Storkersen 1 September 1973 (Bergman et al. 1977) and a female near Prudhoe Bay 11 August 1993 (RF). Probably breeds in tall shrubs along the Colville River (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
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*Spizella arborea*. American Tree Sparrow. PB: Rare visitant; for example, single birds 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 3-6 June 1975 (WCH, KLB) and 3-4 June 1976 (WCH), and at West Dock 23 September 1991 (EEB) and 16 June 1993 (RF). Anderson (1913) reported a nest in the Colville River delta in the early 1900s. FB and CF: Uncommon breeder.


*Passerella iliaca*. Fox Sparrow. PB: Three records, of single birds at Point Storkersen 9 June 1972 (Bergman et al. 1977), at the oil-company camp 31 May 1978 (SGJ), and at Prudhoe Bay 30 September 1989 (EEB). Hall (1975) reported the Fox Sparrow to be common in dense brush between Umiat and Ocean Point on the Colville River from 23 to 27 June 1971.

*Melospiza lincolnii*. Lincoln’s Sparrow. PB: Three records, of one bird in the Colville River delta 21 July 1982 (Simpson et al. 1982), one at West Dock 25 and 29 September 1991 (EEB), and another near West Dock 12 June 1992 (RF).

*Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow. PB: Two records, of an adult photographed in the Colville River delta 5 July 1973 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and another observed at Brownlow Point at the eastern edge of the region 17-28 August 1980 (PDM).


*Zonotrichia querula*. Harris’ Sparrow. PB: Two records, of a female in the Colville River delta 19-25 June 1958 (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and a bird observed on Spy Island just east of the Colville River delta 4 and 6 June 1983 (SRJ).

*Junco hyemalis*. Dark-eyed Junco. PB: Rare spring and fall migrant and visitant. Most records are for spring, with earliest date 24 May 1981 (EEB).


*Plectrophenax nivalis*. Snow Bunting. PB: Abundant to common breeder. Especially abundant in construction camps, which offer numerous nest sites. Earliest


*Leucosticte tephrocotis*. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. CF: Uncommon breeder; for example, several were seen in the upper Atigun Valley during the summers of 1979, 1980, and 1981 (CJH et al.).

*Carduelis flammea* and *hornemanni*. Redpoll. PB: Uncommon breeder. The unsettled status of redpoll taxonomy (Troy 1985, Knox 1988) and inconsistent separation of the two species suggested lumping of reports. Single males were 13 km south of Prudhoe Bay 21 June 1973 (WCH) and 15 June 1976 (WCH). FB and CF: Fairly common breeder.

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LITERATURE CITED


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