

Wildlife Inventory Plan  
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge  
Protocol #24

Version 1.2

Parameter: Annotated list of incidental observations

## PURPOSE

To summarize presence and record incidental or anecdotal observations of birds and marine (and terrestrial at some sites) mammals at islands.

## PROCEDURES

**Data collection.**—Throughout the summer, keep a daily checklist of bird and marine mammal observations. In addition, record incidental observations of behaviors, distribution, abundance, breeding status, locations of nests, clutch or brood sizes, and appearance of first fledglings for all species, etc. It's a good idea for each crew member to carry a Rite-in-the-Rain notebook at all times for recording observations during the course of other work. Record data on appropriate forms (Figures 1 and 2) or directly onto similar computer spreadsheets. You will use this information to write an annotated list of all species at the end of the season, so include anything you think might be applicable (it is helpful to look at annotated lists from past years' reports to get an idea of what types of things to record). Keep in mind that you will need to be able to classify *both* abundance and breeding status for each species observed, using the following codes:

### Abundance categories:

Abundant: annual, sure to see many  
Common: annual, sure to see some  
Uncommon: annual, likely to see some  
Rare: annual but not guaranteed to see any  
Irregular: not annual but numerous records  
Casual: not annual, only a few records  
Accidental: only one or two records

### Breeding status codes:

Breeder: evidence of breeding, either confirmed (observations of current nests, eggs, or chicks; adults carrying nesting material or food to nests or chicks; recently fledged young; distraction displays) or probably (observations of pairs or territorial behavior)  
Resident non-breeder: occurs throughout season but does not breed at site  
Migrant: through-migrant, recorded regularly but only during migratory period  
Vagrant: recorded outside known breeding, wintering, and migrating range

If you see any rare birds, document observations as best as you can using an Alaska Site Record report (Figure 3) and try to get photos.

**Data analysis.**—Create an annotated list summarizing observations from throughout the field season (Figure 4), and present species breeding status categories in a table in the report (Figure 5). If applicable, send a copy of any *Alaska Site Record Reports* to the appropriate recipients (see Unit Biologist).

Spelling and order of species listed in the annotated list and breeding status table should follow the AOU taxonomic list for all birds and the University of Alaska Museum taxonomic list for mammals (with the exception that "Steller sea lion" should be spelled as such following NOAA/ADFG notation). For the annotated list, make sure to include an abundance and breeding status designation for each species.

Any photos should be referenced and put in an appendix at the end of the report; do not put photos embedded in the text in the annotated list.

Do not include any species that was only observed as a dead specimen in the current year in the annotated list or breeding status table. If you wish to record these species, you can do so in the "Interesting Observations" section of your report.

Daily Observations	SAMPLE DATA																															
	Island: <u>Buldir</u>														Month: <u>June</u>						Year: <u>1998</u>											
Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Common loon												1																				
Pacific loon																																
Red-throated loon																																
Red-necked grebe																																
Horned grebe																																
Laysan albatross																																
Northern fulmar					1				3					1																		
Shearwater spp.																																
Fork-tailed storm-petrel			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Leach's storm-petrel			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pelagic cormorant			2											59																		
Red-faced cormorant														37																		
Unspecified cormorant														102																		
Whooper swan																																
Aleutian Canada goose			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	495	340	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Emperor goose														1																		
Mallard			4												1										1	1		2	2			
Pintail			2										2	3	2	2			1	1	2			2	2	1		2	2			
Aleutian green-winged teal			4	6	dead		6	10	10	4			2	6		8		6	12	8		4	10	2	3							
Eurasian wigeon			4				1	4		6			14	12		2		2	1	4												
Northern shoveler																																
Canvasback																																
Common pochard																																
Greater scaup																																
Tufted duck														1																		
Common goldeneye																																
Bufflehead																																
Oldsquaw																																

✓ = birds were seen, but numbers were not documented

Figure 1. Example of data on daily bird and marine mammal observations (note: this example shows only a partial list of species). You can also record this information directly into a similarly-designed spreadsheet.

INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS			Island: <u>Buldir</u>	Year: <u>2000</u>
Date	Location	No. birds	Behavior/comments	
Species: <u>Winter Wren</u>				
28 May	Petrel Valley CK → W Gull Slide	5+	Many wrens seen along the beach in this stretch	
29 May	Camp	1	Wren exhibiting posturing behaviors - wings above back arched; tail up and flared, scolding	
18 June	Main Talus		Adult carrying food	
20 July	Main Talus	1	Fledgling seen	
Species: <u>Aleutian Canada Goose</u>				
27 May	Camp	flock of ~100	in flight around camp, very vocal	
28 May	Duff's slope → Camp		9 nests found in various stages of incubation very vocal!!	
13 June	Spike Camp	2 adults 4 chicks	First young of the year seen!!	
18 July	Glissade Valley	1 adult	Molt underway 1 molting adult and feather's everywhere	
9 August	Buldiels	Flocks of 10-100	Flying + vocal again. Most molting complete	
Species: <u>Mongolian Plover</u>				
11 June	Camp Beach	1 ♀	visual of bird	
12 June	N. Bight Beach	1 ♀	above bird hanging out with RUTU	
16 June	Camp Beach	1	Still with RUTU and MOPL	

Figure 2. Example of data on incidental observations of bird and marine mammal species. You can also record this information directly into a similarly-designed computer file.

## ALASKA SIGHT RECORD REPORT

Please fill out as accurately as possible. Include only those details of which you are certain and only those observed in the field; leave blank details not observed. Attach any additional comments or details on separate sheets. Please print clearly or type.

Species	Accipiter soloensis - Chinese Sparrowhawk		Date(s)	8-9 June 1995	
Location	West Point, Nizki I., Alaska				
	Elevation				Sea level
Observer	Jeff Williams		Number of birds		1
Time of day	1830 (8 June)	1000 (9 June)	Light conditions		
			Overcast, but good		
Distance to bird	10 m + 20 m		Optical equipment		Leitz 10x40
Length of time observed	30 min (8 June)	3 min (9 June)	Sex		Male
Plumage (e.g., Breeding)	Full breeding plumage				
Overall appearance and relative size	Small kestrel-sized bird (12 in, bird was holding a Song sparrow and appeared 2-2.5 x larger) uniformly slate gray on crown, wings, + back; white on throat, lower breast + belly. Pale rusty wash on sides + extending across upper breast. Yellow cere + eyering w/ reddish eye. Most notable was brownish tail w/ black horizontal bars + black wing tips				
Bill	small kestrel-like, black bill w/ yellow cere very noticeable				
Crown and forehead	slate gray				
Nape	slate gray				
Face	slightly darker patch (2vez) around eye				
Eye	Reddish w/ yellow eyering				
Throat	white. Appeared (but was not) lighter than belly due to sharper demarcation between rusty band on breast + throat than rusty breast band + belly which was gradual wash				
Breast and sides	Breast with pale rusty-colored wash around sides and which extended out in a band across breast. Sharp edge w/ throat, gradual fade w/ belly				
Belly and flanks	white				
Undertail coverts	Not seen clearly				
Back	uniformly slate gray				
Wings	Uniformly slate gray w/ darker (blackish) wing tips Did not appear to be longer than tail				
Underwings	Not seen too well, but appeared mostly white w/ some rust wash				
Rump	Uniformly slate gray				

Figure 3. Example of Alaska Sight Record Report form.

Uppertail coverts	Unsure, did not get a good view but appeared slate gray
Upperside of tail	Brownish w/ about 4-5+ black horizontal bands
Underside of tail	
Legs	Bright yellow and appeared "long"
Behavior	Flew to nearby cliff face and perched w/ dead song sparrow ( <i>Melospiza melodia maxima</i> ) in the grasp of its rt. foot/talon + stay on cliff 5 min. Later flew w/ sparrow to tangle log wedged in overhanging sea arch. Bird flew when I tried to take photo, but was later seen w/o sparrow. Took 3 photos @ 12-15 m (90m) † 3me. observed flying: reddish wash, black wing tips, whiteness obvious. flight fast w/ several wing beats + occasional glides. Always close to nearby cliffs. Obs bird in "flight dive"; wing collapsed high speed, on a TUPU. Observed w/ same section of cliff on both days
Voice	Not heard
Habitat	Rocky sea cliffs w/ no vegetation. Sandy beaches and intertidal area surrounding.
How identification was decided - elimination of similar species	Size was estimated by comparison w/ song sparrow Rusty breast and sides plainly visible } eliminated <i>Accipiter gularis</i> black wing-tips obvious Brownish tail w/ black bars unique in conjunction w/ white belly/throat No bars or striping or mottling which eliminated all potential N.A. species Lack of supercilious line and any barring on breast + underwings eliminated <u>A. nisus</u>
Prior experience with this species	None
This description written from	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> notes made during observation <input type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation <input type="checkbox"/> memory
Other observers (plus addresses)	Colin Studds PSC 486 Box 5251 FPO AP 96506
Signed	Jeff  Date 8(19) June 1995

Figure 3 (continued). Example of Alaska Sight Record Report form.

## Annotated list of wildlife species observed at Buldir Island, Alaska in 2016 (29 May to 28 August).

## Abundance categories are defined as follows:

Abundant: annual, sure to see many  
 Common: annual, sure to see some  
 Uncommon: annual, likely to see some  
 Rare: annual but not guaranteed to see any  
 Irregular: not annual but numerous records  
 Casual: not annual, only a few records  
 Accidental: only one or two records ever

## Status categories are defined as follows:

Breeder: evidence of breeding, either confirmed (observations of current nests, eggs, or chicks; adults carrying nesting materials or food to nests or chicks; recently fledged young; distraction displays) or probably (observations of pairs or territorial behavior)  
 Resident non-breeder: occurs throughout season but does not breed at site  
 Migrant: through-migrant, recorded regularly but only during migratory period  
 Vagrant: recorded outside known breeding, wintering, and migrating range (category added in 2012)

**Birds**

**Aleutian cackling goose** (*Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*). Abundant breeder. Frequently observed during May and June; geese become much less conspicuous between mid-July and early August, however, when they are flightless and seek cover in dense vegetation. During this time, many leave low-lying areas in favor of higher elevation sites.

**Eurasian wigeon** (*Anas penelope*). Uncommon to common spring migrant. Birds were observed at Bean Goose Pond, South Marsh and ponds near camp. A maximum of 18 birds were seen on 31 May and the last record was on 26 June.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Uncommon migrant and resident non-breeder. A maximum of four individuals were seen on 6 June and the last record was on 26 June.

**Northern shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*). Irregular migrant. Two birds were seen on 30 May near camp.

**Northern pintail** (*Anas acuta*). Uncommon spring migrant and rare summer resident non-breeder. Birds were seen on Bean Goose Pond and flying by North Marsh early in the season. A maximum of two birds were seen in June and the last record was 3 July.

**Aleutian green-winged teal** (*Anas crecca nimia*). Common migrant and rare summer resident breeder. Birds were common throughout June with only two records in July and August. A maximum of nine were seen on 31 May and the last record was 22 August. A dead duckling was found in an inland trail.

**Tufted duck** (*Aythya fuligula*). Irregular migrant. One individual was seen with two Greater scaup between North Bight Beach and Crested Point on 6 June.

**Greater scaup** (*Aythya marila*). Uncommon migrant. Birds were seen infrequently in between North Bight Beach and Crested Point. A maximum of three birds were seen through mid-June and the last record was 16 June.

**Common eider** (*Somateria mollissima*). Common breeder. Birds were seen regularly throughout the season. Young chicks were observed into mid-August. Multiple broods of four to six were seen around the north of the island as well as from Spike Camp.

Figure 4. Example page of an annotated list written for an AMNWR annual report. Note the format and that abundance and status categories are indicated for each species.

Table 91. Observations and breeding status of birds and selected mammals at St. George Island, Alaska. Data represent observations made during the monitoring season only (see dates at end of table) and may not include sightings made by other researchers or community members on the island. Information comes from annotated lists, which were not included in reports prior to 2002, although incidental observations of wildlife were undoubtedly made 1975-2001. Dashes indicate species not recorded that year but may not necessarily indicate absence from the island during the time period (e.g., species not observed although present, or species not recorded although observed).

Codes: B=confirmed breeder, P=probable/possible breeder, X=observed non-breeder X/B?=bred in other years but not specified in current year										
Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bean goose	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-
Greater white-fronted goose	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	X
Emperor goose	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-
Snow goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Brant	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Aleutian cackling goose	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
Trumpeter swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Whooper swan	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Eurasian wigeon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American wigeon	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X
Mallard	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	X
Northern shoveler	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
Northern pintail	B	P	P	X/B?	-	-	X/B?	X/B?	X	X
Eurasian green-winged teal ( <i>A. c. crecca</i> )	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Aleutian green-winged teal ( <i>A. c. nimia</i> )	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American green-winged teal ( <i>A. c. carolinensis</i> )	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Green-winged teal (unspecified subsp.)	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked duck	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Tufted duck	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Greater scaup	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Lesser scaup	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Steller's eider	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spectacled eider	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
King eider	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X
Common eider	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-
Harlequin duck	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
White-winged scoter	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	X
American (formerly black) scoter	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X
Long-tailed duck	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	P
Bufflehead	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	X
Common goldeneye	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X
Barrow's goldeneye	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Red-breasted merganser	X	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	X
Pacific loon	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common loon	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Yellow-billed loon	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X
Red-necked grebe	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	X
Northern fulmar	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Short-tailed shearwater	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X
Fork-tailed storm-petrel	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Storm-petrel ( <i>Oceanodroma</i> ) sp.	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested cormorant	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X
Red-faced cormorant	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pelagic cormorant	X	X	X	B	-	-	X	X	-	X
Black-crowned night-heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Bald eagle	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Rough-legged hawk	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gyr Falcon	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine falcon	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Sandhill crane	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
American golden-plover	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacific golden-plover	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser sand-(Mongolian) plover	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated plover	X/B?	X/B?	B	B	-	-	B	B	B	B
Black-winged stilt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common sandpiper	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Spotted sandpiper	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Gray-tailed tattler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X

Figure 5. Example breeding status table in an AMNWR annual report.

**Protocol Revision History Log**

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Revision Date	Changes made	New version #
April 2017	Specified what order to follow and that dead things were not included, made photos go at end of report and not in-text in annotated list, renumbered protocol from #26 to #24	1.2
April 2014	Changed font to Arial, added revision history log, replaced revision date with version # on first page, added protocol # to first page, changed page number format to include protocol #, made minor grammatical edits	1.1
May 2013	Protocol developed in standardized format from historic protocols	1.0

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