SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS:
SPRING SEASON—March to May 2010

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This report summarizes bird sightings from Southeast Alaska for the spring season, which covered March to May 2010, and is intended to provide interesting observations for inclusion in an Alaska-wide column written by Thede Tobish for the journal *North American Birds* (published by the American Birding Association http://www.aba.org/). April and May were dry and sunny much of the time, which probably facilitated rapid movement of migrants through the area and resulted in a lack of interesting fallouts and concentrations of migrants and relatively few unusual finds. Highlights included the first documented Southeast Alaska record of the Northern Wheatear, the third Southeast Alaska record of the Purple Martin, and the 10th Alaska record of the Little Gull.

We would like to thank all of the people that directly sent us observations, shared their photographs, and answered our inquiries about their sightings, all of whom are cited below. We were particularly pleased to again receive extensive reports from Bonnie Demerjian, Rich Gordon, Nat Drumheller, and Matt Goff. We also greatly benefited from access to sightings entered into eBird (www.ebird.org) which we’ve incorporated into this report (nearly all of the information from the Juneau area was obtained from eBird). We also forwarded all of the notes and photographs that we received to Thede as well.


Names and Initials of observers cited in the text or who reported sightings: Beverly A. Agler (BAA), Gwen S. Baluss (GSB), Jim Beal (JB), Ron Chadwick (RC), Lucas H. DeCicco (LHD), Bonnie H. Demerjian (BHD), Nat K. Drumheller (NKD), Cheryl A. Fultz (CAF), Matt R. Goff (MRG), Richard J. Gordon (RJG), Nick R. Hajdukovich (NRH), Steven C. Heinl (SCH), Brad Hunter (BH), Jerold F. Koerner (JFK), Miranda Kreb (MK), Jim H. Lewis (JHL), Bill Neumann (BN), Julien Norwood (JN), Paul H. Norwood (PHN), Bruce B. Paige (BBP), Bill H. Pawuk (BHP), Andrew W. Piston (AWP), Julie Reynolds (JR), Kathy M. Ripley (KMR), Patty A. Rose (PAR), Carol L. Ross (CLR), William F. Rotecki (WRF), Mark W. Schwan (MWS), Gary Smith (GS), Justin Smith (JS), Dennis Strom (DS), Paul M. Suchanek (PMS), Andrew Thoms (AT), Brian Uher-Koch (BUK), Julie Vathke (JV), Gus B. van Vliet (GBV).

SNOW GOOSE: The first arriving Snow Geese were observed overhead at Wrangell 15 March 2010 (the same arrival date as 2009) and they continued to be observed through the 23rd (BHD). Migration typically peaks mid-April to early May; however, several very late flocks were observed simultaneously on 15 May 2010 at widely separated locations: flock of 60 at Ketchikan (SCH), 100 at Juneau (GBV), and 140 at Gustavus (BBP). A straggler at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 30 May 2010 was the latest reported (GBV).

BRANT: Migrant Brant were recorded at various locations from mid-April through the end of the period. Two at Point Bridget, near Juneau, 14 April 2010 provided one of the earliest local records (PMS). High counts at Gustavus, where this species is often found in good numbers in the
spring, included an incredible 2,125 birds along the beaches east of town on 9 May 2010, which doubled the previous high count for the area (BBP) and was one of the highest counts ever for Southeast Alaska. On 20 May 2010 there remained an estimated 500 birds east of town (BBP) and the next day there was an estimated 400 birds west of town (NKD).

CACKLING GOOSE: Cackling Geese were recorded in Southeast Alaska between 25 April 2010 (one at Juneau, PMS) and 25 May 2010 (24 at Gustavus, NKD, BBP; Figure 1). Numbers of migrants were noted passing overhead at Ketchikan during the first week of May, e.g., 150 on 3 May 2010 and 350 on 5 May 2010 (SCH). Small numbers of Cackling Geese were found on the ground at Ketchikan, Mitkof Island, Sitka, Gustavus, and Juneau (m.ob.), with maximum counts of 40 at Gustavus on 15 May 2010 (BBP) and 35 at Juneau on 18 May 2010 (PAR). Since being split from the Canada Goose, careful observations of small white-cheeked geese have shown that the Cackling Goose is an uncommon to fairly common spring migrant in Southeast Alaska, with peak movement from late April to mid-May (often with Greater White-fronted Geese).

Figure 1. Cackling Geese at Gustavus 8 May 2010. These birds exhibit the classic features of subspecies minima, including the very small bill and overall dark bronzy-brown underparts and dark breast. Note that birds of this subspecies frequently exhibit a small white collar at the base of the neck as shown by the bird on the right. Photo by Nat K. Drumheller

EURASIAN WIGEON: This species is a rare, regular spring migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). In the Juneau area, two were at the Mendenhall Wetlands 10 April–8 May and a male was at Eagle Beach 18–25 April 2010 (m.obs.). In the Gustavus area, a pair was found near the Salmon River on 3 April 2010 (NKD), one of which remained through 25 May 2010, and another bird was observed near Bartlett Cove on 26 April 2010 (NKD). Singles were also reported at Sitka 14 April–1 May 2010 (m.obs.) and near Haines 7 May 2010 (NRH).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A count of 14 males on the Salmon River, near Gustavus, 25 May 2010 provided a new high count for that location (BBP). This species is an uncommon migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978); there have only been a few larger counts for Southeast, including 29 at Juneau 26 May 2002 (North American Birds 56:344).

CINNAMON TEAL: This species is a rare spring migrant and summer visitant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and is generally found annually in May and June. A male at Juneau’s
Mendenhall Wetlands 28 March 2010 (PAR), and relocated on 4 April 2010 (m.obs.; Figure 2), however, was extremely early and likely provided one of the earliest records for Alaska.

![Image](image1.jpg)

Figure 2. Cinnamon Teal at Juneau’s Mendenhall Wetlands 4 April 2010. *Photo by Nick R. Hajdukovich*

GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Single drake Eurasian Green-winged Teal were found in the Juneau area at the Mendenhall Wetlands 12–17 April 2010 (PMS; Figure 3) and Eagle Beach 19 April 2010 (PMS). The Eurasian subspecies *Anas crecca crecca* breeds in the Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Kessel 1997) and is a rare, regular migrant and winter visitant along the Pacific Coast south of Alaska (Campbell et al. 1990, Marshall et al. 2003).

![Image](image2.jpg)

Figure 3. This drake Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), on the right, was found at Juneau 12 April 2010. *Photo by Paul M. Suchanek*

CANVASBACK: Juneau’s wintering Canvasback was last noted 21 March 2010 (GBV). Small numbers of migrant Canvasbacks were observed in northern Southeast Alaska between 21 April 2010 (two at Juneau, PMS) and 17 May 2010 (one at Gustavus, BBP). Nine birds flying north in Glacier Bay 5 May 2010 (NKD) and eight at Haines 7 May 2010 (NRH) were large counts for Southeast
Alaska, where this species is typically a rare migrant (Kessel and Gibson 1978). In addition, two were found at Mitkof Island 16 May 2010 (BH).

Figure 4. The duck on the left exhibited the classic features of a drake Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid. Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 12 April 2010. Photo by Paul M. Suchanek

REDHEAD: This species is a rare spring migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Bruce Paige reported five birds at the Salmon River, near Gustavus, 10 May 2010 and five east of the Gustavus airport 20 May 2010. Very small numbers were also found in the Juneau area 29 April–22 May 2010 (m.obs.), with a maximum of six at Auke Lake 29 April 2010 (NRH).

RING-NECKED DUCK: A count of 44 Ring-necked Ducks at the Mendenhall Wetlands 6 May 2010 (PMS) provided a nice high count for Southeast Alaska, where the species is typically uncommon.

RUDDY DUCK: Two drakes at Norton Lake, in Juneau’s Mendenhall Glacier Forelands, 29–30 May 2010 (BAA, PAR) were a very rare find. This species is a casual migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978); there are only a few prior spring reports as most Southeast records are from the fall.

Figure 5. Subadult male King Eider (center) with Surf Scoters, near Juneau 9 March 2010. Photo by Paul M. Suchanek

KING EIDER: An immature King Eider was found at Juneau’s Outer Point 8–19 March 2010 (PMS, BUK, JR; Figure 5). This eider is a casual visitant in Southeast Alaska, primarily in winter and spring, and most Southeast records have come from the Juneau area. In addition, an unidentified eider among a raft of scoters at Tarr Inlet, in Glacier Bay’s upper west arm, 23 May 2010 was also thought to be most likely a King Eider (NKD).
WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN: A White-tailed Ptarmigan was a surprise at tidewater at Point Bridget, near Juneau, 25 April 2010 (PMS). This species is an uncommon resident in the mainland alpine adjacent to Juneau and is also occasionally found in the lowlands during the winter near the termini of mainland glaciers (fide GBV).

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A Pied-billed Grebe at Norton Lake, at the Mendenhall Glacier Forelands near Juneau, 24 May 2010 was very late (RJG). Pied-billed Grebes have very rarely been found in potential breeding habitat in Southeast Alaska and there are only two published breeding records for the state (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Heinl and Piston 2009).

Figure 6. This sick Yellow-billed Loon was found at Juneau on 17 April 2010 and taken to a rehab facility. The white spots on the wing coverts and scapular feathers, blackish upperparts, and dark brown coloration on the head, show this bird to be in its 2nd spring—very different than the pale buff-colored plumage of 1st winter/spring birds which make up the majority of the Yellow-billed Loons that are found in Southeast Alaska. *Photo by Mark W. Schwan*

BRANDT’S CORMORANT: At least one Brandt’s Cormorant was observed from the Ketchikan roadsistem 17 and 23 April 2010 (SCH, LHD). This species is an uncommon winter visitant in the Ketchikan area and a few typically linger into late April or early May.

RED-TAILED HAWK: Juneau’s wintering “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk was observed through at least 28 March (GBV, photo). Single migrants were also reported there 4 and 18 April 2010 (GBV). This race breeds from central Alaska, through the Yukon, to northern British Columbia (Preston and Beane 2009) and is a rare migrant through mainland northern Southeast Alaska where they are probably also rare, local breeders. A Red-tailed Hawk that wintered in Sitka remained through most of the spring (MK).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: A Rough-legged Hawk at Mt. Verstovia, near Sitka, 17 May 2010 was both late and a very rare migrant on the outer islands of the Alexander Archipelago (PHN).

AMERICAN COOT: Juneau’s wintering American Coot was observed through 10 April 2010 after surviving the winter on the waterfront at a local fish hatchery (m.obs.). Although this species is a rare fall migrant and winter visitant to Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), most true
winter records have come from southern Southeast Alaska and this bird was one of few to have successfully overwintered in the Juneau area. The American Coot is a casual spring migrant in Southeast Alaska; thus, a coot at Juneau’s Pioneer Marsh 5–7 May 2010 (PAR et al.) was also of note.

SORA: Single Soras were found at Gustavus 5 May 2010 (BBP) and at two different locations in Juneau 26 and 29 May 2010 (GBV, BAA). The Sora is a rare migrant and local summer visitant and breeder on mainland Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Figure 7. One of the surest ways of seeing a Northern Goshawk in Southeast Alaska is to raise chickens. This adult goshawk was photographed inside a chicken coop at Pennock Island, Ketchikan, 25 April 2010. Note the blood-stained chin and crop bulging with chicken meat. Photo by Justin W. Breese

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Nine at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, 13 April 2010 were early and the first reported this spring (NRH; Figure 8). An estimated 500 at Gustavus made a nice high count 9 May 2010 (BBP).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Small numbers were noted in northern Southeast Alaska from mid- to-late May, including two at Juneau 17–21 May 2010 (PAR), and two near Gustavus 18 May 2010, followed by singles 20 and 25 May 2010 (BBP, NKD).

PACIFIC-GOLDEN PLOVER: Small numbers were reported at Ketchikan, near Wrangell, Juneau, and Gustavus from 6 May 2010 (singles at Ketchikan and Juneau; SCH, PMS, PAR) to 16 May 2010 (one at Juneau; PAR, PMS); maximum, two birds at Ketchikan 12 May 2010 (JHL).

WHIMBREL: A flock of 56 Whimbrel at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, 18 May 2010 (GBV) was one of the largest flocks ever observed there.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: This species is a rare, regular spring migrant to northern Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Small numbers were again found in the Gustavus area 2–16 May 2010, with a maximum of eight on 9 May (NKD), and up to two were at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 17–18 May 2010 (GBV, PAR, RJG).
MARBLED GODWIT: Marbled Godwits were found at Sitka 26 April–12 May 2010, with a maximum of five birds (m.obs.). Two near Gustavus 4 May 2010 (NKD) were followed by one there 9 May 2010 (BBP), and a single bird was reported at Juneau 16 May 2010 (PAR, RJG). This species is a rare spring migrant in Southeast Alaska.

RED KNOT: The Red Knot is a rare spring migrant in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Two birds were observed near Ketchikan 6 May 2010 (SCH) and a single bird was found 9 May 2010 (AWP). At Gustavus, this species was observed 8–22 May 2010, with maximum counts of five birds on 8 May 2010 (NKD) and four birds at a different location on 9 May 2010 (BBP). One at Mendenhall Wetlands 24 May 2010 provided the only report in the Juneau area (RJG).

Figure 8. Part of an early flock of nine Black-bellied Plovers at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, 13 April 2010. Photo by Nick R. Hajdukovich

DUNLIN: An estimated 3,000 Dunlin near Gustavus 15 March 2010 had wintered in the area (NKD). By late April, however, large flocks of migrant shorebirds were noted in the Gustavus area and the following estimates were made for aggregations that were primarily Western Sandpipers and Dunlin: 5,000 west of town on 28 April 2010 (NKD), 10,000 east of town on 29 April 2010 (NKD), 5,000 east of town on 9 May 2010 (BBP), and 1,000 west of town on 10–12 May 2010 (NKD, BBP).

WILSON’S PHALAROPE: One Wilson’s Phalarope was found at Juneau’s Mendenhall Wetlands 19–20 May 2010 (PAR, GBV). This species is a rare migrant and summer visitant in Alaska and has been found nearly annually in the Juneau area since 2002.

LITTLE GULL: A 1st-cycle Little Gull was well-documented at Ketchikan 23 April 2010 (LHD; Figures 9 and 10). This species is a casual migrant and summer visitant to Alaska (Gibson et al. 2003); the Ketchikan bird represented only the 10th report for Alaska, and the earliest from the spring. Another 1st-cycle bird was reported at Juneau 21–22 May 2010 (RJG).
Figure 9. First-cycle Little Gull at Ketchikan 23 April 2010 (left), compared to a similar-aged Bonaparte’s Gull (right). In addition to the smaller bill and distinct black cap, the Little Gull has much more extensively blackish colored wing coverts and tertials, and white showing along the inside edges of the primaries. Photos by Lucas H. DeCicco

Figure 10. First-cycle Little Gull at Ketchikan 23 April 2010 (left), compared to a similar-aged Bonaparte’s Gull (right). The Little Gull exhibits blackish-brown outerwebs on all of its primaries and much more extensive blackish-brown coloration on the primary coverts and lesser wing coverts compared to the Bonaparte’s Gull, which has reduced brown on the lesser wing coverts and blackish limited to the three outer-most primaries and trailing edge to the wing. Photos by Lucas H. DeCicco

CALIFORNIA GULL: Singles at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, 20 April and 11 May 2010 (PMS) were rare in spring in northern Southeast Alaska.

THAYER’S GULL: Herring spawning events at Point Bridget S.P., north of Juneau, annually attract very large numbers gulls including the largest aggregations of migrant Thayer’s Gulls in the state. This year’s peak count was an estimated 6,000 Thayer’s among the 20,000 gulls feeding on herring spawn in the Point Bridget area 3 May 2010 (PMS).
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: The adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Mendenhall Wetlands 19 and 22 April 2010 (PMS) was presumably the same individual that has summered annually in the Juneau area since the summer of 1991.

SLATY-BACKED GULL: Single adult Slaty-backed Gulls were found on three different dates at Sitka 31 March–14 April 2010 (PHN, MRG; photos). Photos showed that at least two different birds were present. This species is a rare migrant along the south coast of Alaska.

SABINE’S GULL: Four Sabine’s Gulls at Gustavus 25 May 2010 and a single in Glacier Bay 30 May 2010 (NKD) were the only reports. This gull is a rare spring migrant on inside waters in Southeast Alaska.

ALEUTIAN TERN: Small numbers of Aleutian Terns were observed in Glacier Bay 13 May 2010 through the end of the period; maximum, five on 13 and 25 May 2010 (JS, NDK). This is the first time that Drumheller has noted this species prior to June in Glacier Bay, where it was only recently found nesting (North American Birds 59:641).

CASPIAN TERN: Small numbers of Caspian Terns were reported at Ketchikan, Juneau, and Gustavus, beginning with two at Juneau 28 April 2010 (MWS); maximum was seven at Gustavus 18 May 2010 (NKD).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON: The first spring arrivals were noted at a Ketchikan feeder 12 April 2010 (three birds, CAF), with up to 12 birds observed there 28 May 2010 (CAF; Figure 11). A single bird visited a feeder at nearby Metlakatla, Annette Island, 20 April 2010 (JB, photo).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: After wintering at several Southeast Alaska locations for the first time ever, collared-dove numbers started to increase in late May. At Ketchikan, at least 13 birds were present by the end of the period (JFK, KMR, WFR, AWP, SCH). Birds were singing and performing display flights by early April and one Ketchikan observer described activity that sounded like attempted copulation (KMR). A single bird showed up at a feeder in Metlakatla, Annette Island, 20 April 2010 (JB); a location where the species had not yet been recorded, and two collared-doves were found at Sitka 28–31 May 2010 (AT, MRG). At Juneau, four birds that
wintered in the area were possibly reduced to a single bird by the end of the period (GBV). The summer report will describe the collared-dove invasion that reached full force in June.

Figure 12. *NOT* a Eurasian Collared-Dove—this Mourning Dove was found at the Stikine River 29 May 2010. *Photo by Bill Neumann*

MOURNING DOVE: A Mourning Dove at Sitka 20 April 2010 (PHN) was very early, while one at the Stikine River delta 29 May 2010 (BN; Figure 12), and a pair at Wrangell 29–31 May 2010 (BHD) exhibited more typical timing. Most records of this species in Alaska are from the fall and it is very rare to casual in the spring (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: A calling Northern Hawk Owl was found at the Eaglecrest ski area, near Juneau, 25 April 2010 (GSB; Figure 13). This species is very rare in Southeast Alaska, but is reported more regularly in northern Southeast where it is a very rare breeder.

Figure 13. Northern Hawk Owl at Eaglecrest ski area, near Juneau, 25 April 2010. *Photo by Gwen S. Baluss*
ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD: Following last fall’s excellent showing of Anna’s Hummingbirds, singles were found at feeders in Juneau 21 and 26 March 2010 (PAR, Figure 15) and Wrangell 19 March 2010 (RC).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: This species arrived on schedule in southern Southeast Alaska, on 28 March 2010 in Ketchikan (JHL), and 31 March 2010 in Wrangell (RC). One at Juneau 31 March 2010 was very early for northern Southeast Alaska (GBV).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: A singing Least Flycatcher was found at Ketchikan 31 May 2010 (SCH; Figure 16). This interior species has been found nearly annually in deciduous habitats along the
mainland river systems in Southeast Alaska, particularly near Hyder, but this bird provided only the 2nd record for the Alexander Archipelago (both from Ketchikan).

HAMMOND’S FLYCATCHER: Three Hammond’s Flycatchers in the Juneau area 9 May 2010 (GBV, PMS) were early and more than expected away from mainland river systems where they are typically uncommon during migration and summer (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Another was found at Juneau 26 May 2010 (GBV).

Figure 16. This Least Flycatcher at Ketchikan 31 May 2010 was identified by its snappy, monotonously repeated “chip-it, chip-it, chip-it, chip-it…” song. Note also the bird’s proportionately wide bill. Photo by Steven C. Heinl

CASSIN’S VIREO: One singing male at Juneau (Basin Road) 13 May 2010 (PAR) was the only report. This vireo is a rare spring and summer visitant to mainland Southeast Alaska and has been found nearly annually at Juneau over the past decade.

WARBLING VIREO: A Warbling Vireo at Ketchikan 14 May 2010 was slightly early (SCH). A Warbling Vireo at Gustavus 18 May 2010, however, was not only early for northern Southeast Alaska, but also provided the first local record of a vireo of any kind (NKD).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: A flock of 58 Black-billed Magpies were counted at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, on 21 March 2010 (GBV). This species is a common winter visitant to the northern Southeast mainland, but the number of birds in this one flock appears to be a local high count. Van Vliet pointed out that the largest counts of magpies in the Juneau area are made during late March–early April, coinciding with the time that this species departs towards breeding areas that are largely away from Southeast Alaska. Magpies are rare breeders in Southeast Alaska, with breeding records known only from the Alsek River and upper Chilkat River valleys (Johnson et al. 2008).

HORNED LARK: A single bird observed on top of Mt. Edgecumbe, Kruzof Island, near Sitka, 29 May 2010 (PHN; Figure 17) provided one of only a handful of observations of this species in the area.
PURPLE MARTIN: A female Purple Martin at Juneau 21–22 May 2010 (GBV, PAR) provided only the 3rd Southeast Alaska record of this swallow. It is a casual spring and summer visitant to Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), with 15+ records scattered across the entire state. It breeds as close as Vancouver Island, B.C. (Campbell et al. 2001).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Single Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Gustavus 12 May 2010 (BBP) and 18 May 2010 (NKD) were very rare. This swallow is a rare migrant and breeder in Southeast Alaska, primarily on the mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and islands near the mainland.

CLIFF SWALLOW: A Cliff Swallow at Juneau 28 April 2010 (PMS, MWS) was the earliest ever there by one day, though there are four prior Juneau records for 29–30 April. This swallow is a rare migrant and breeder in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and is generally found in small numbers during May. A few were found in Juneau in mid-May (maximum three, 14 and 21 May 2010; GBV, PAR), and a single bird was found at Gustavus 15 May 2010 (BBP).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: A Northern Wheatear photographed on the rocks under the O’Connell bridge at Sitka 3 May 2010 provided the first documented record of this small thrush for Southeast Alaska (PHN, JN; Figure 18). A wheatear at Juneau 21 Oct 1896 (Cantwell 1897) provided the first report of this species in Southeast Alaska, and the only other reports were three in the 1960s from Juneau and Haines (Kessel and Gibson 1978). It is a probable breeder as close as the Chugach and Kenai mountains (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Kessel and Gibson 1978) and has been found in summer in the St. Elias Mountains of southwestern Yukon, just north of Southeast Alaska (Sinclair et al. 2003). The fact that this bird was found in spring was unusual in itself—of the 15+ records of this species from the Pacific Coast to the south, only two have been found outside the fall season, singles in June in Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003) and California (Hamilton et al. 2007).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: In Southeast Alaska, this species occurs primarily on the mainland where it is a locally uncommon spring migrant, though a few in the Juneau area were the only reports in 2010—one to two at the Mendenhall Wetlands 11 April–1 May 2010 (GBV; m.obs.; Figure 19) and one at Point Bridget 25 April 2010 (PMS).
Figure 18. This Northern Wheatear was well documented at Sitka 3 May 2010. Note the white rump (top photo) and white sides to the base of the black tail (bottom right photo). Photos by Paul H. Norwood

Figure 19. Pair of Mountain Bluebirds at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 18 April 2010. Photo by Mark W. Schwan
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: A wintering White-throated Sparrow lingered at a Ketchikan feeder until at least 3 April 2010 (KMR).

RUSTIC BUNTING: The Rustic Bunting that wintered at a Ketchikan feeder was last observed 2 May 2010 (JFK).

WESTERN TANAGER: A Western Tanager at Gustavus 23 May 2010 (BBP) provided one of few local records of this species, which is found primarily on the mainland river systems in Southeast Alaska.

Figure 20. This partially albinistic White-crowned Sparrow was found at Wrangell. In addition to the extensively white head, note the white lines on the back and the bright white wingbars. *Photo by Bill Neumann*

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH: Three Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were observed on Bear Mountain, Baranof Island, near Sitka, 22 May 2010 (PHN). This species has been described as
probably a fairly common migrant and breeder in the high mountains of Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978) including the northern islands of the Alexander Archipelago.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: The Rusty Blackbird flock that wintered in Juneau lingered through late March, with high counts of 47 on 22 March 2010 and 35 on 29 March 2010 (GBV). A few were found in the Juneau area through the end of May (m.obs.). A pair of Rusty Blackbirds was also observed at the Wrangell golf course on 27 April 2010 (CLR).

BREWER’S BLACKBIRD: A female Brewer's Blackbird was found at Orton Ranch near the mouth of the Naha River, Revillagigedo Island, 27–28 May 2010 (SCH; Figure 21). This blackbird was first recorded in Alaska at Barrow 25 June 1942 (Bailey 1948) but it has since been found only in Southeast Alaska where it is a casual migrant and winter visitant. More than half of the 15 Alaska records come from the Ketchikan area. It is an uncommon local resident along the adjacent coast of northern BC (Campbell et al. 2001).

Figure 22. This aggressive male Brown-headed Cowbird was photographed at Juneau 24 May 2010. Photo by Gus B. van Vliet

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: This species occurs annually in very small numbers in Southeast Alaska, primarily after mid-May. Single birds were observed at Ketchikan 12 May 2010 (JHL) and Gustavus 24 May 2010 (JV), and at least three were found at Juneau 22–28 May 2010 (GBV, RJG; Figure 22),

PURPLE FINCH: Three brown-plumaged birds that had been present all winter lingered at a Ketchikan feeder until at least 3 April 2010 and one remained until 9 April 2010 (KMR).
HOUSE SPARROW: At least four birds, and likely more, were present through the period in Ketchikan, and two active nests were found by the end of May (AWP, SCH).

LITERATURE CITED: