SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS:
Winter: December 2012–February 2013

Sub-regional Compilers:
Steven C. Heinl, 2603 4th Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Andrew W. Piston, P. O. Box 1116, Ward Cove, AK 99928

This report summarizes bird sightings from Southeast Alaska for the winter season, December 2012–February 2013, 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/nab). Generally we report on sightings of birds that are out of range or out of season or occur regularly in small numbers, noteworthy breeding records, unusually large or small numbers of a particular species, unusual migration dates, etc., and so on, and so forth.

December was colder and drier than average across the region and marked the 9th consecutive month that temperatures were below average. That changed, however, when a large shift in the weather pattern in January led to persistent onshore flow over Southeast Alaska that resulted in warm, wet weather in January and February. It was the 7th wettest February on record at Juneau (6.61 inches of precipitation) and Ketchikan received 88% more rain than average (19.75 inches). February snowfall in Juneau was the 7th lowest on record since 1943.

By all accounts, this winter was considered a slow one for birds. Perhaps as a result of the cold fall, fewer semi-hardy passerines (particularly sparrows) attempted to overwinter. Observers in Juneau and Ketchikan also reported very low numbers of loons and grebes, and it was generally slow for waterbirds around Ketchikan. On the other hand, Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were widely noted and in numbers. A Black Guillemot at Ketchikan was completely unexpected and provided the 1st Southeast Alaska record.

We would like to thank the people who sent us observations, shared their photographs, and answered our inquiries about their sightings, all of whom are cited below. We particularly appreciated the extensive reports from Nat Drumheller (Gustavus), Matt Goff (Sitka), and Bonnie Demerjian and Carol Ross (Wrangell). We benefited from access to sightings entered into eBird (www.ebird.org) which we’ve incorporated into this report, and we thank Gus van Vliet for reviewing Juneau eBird data. Gus van Vliet, Nat Drumheller, Mark Schwan, and Matt Goff provided information and reviews that improved the final draft of this summary. Our past seasonal reports (since fall 2008) have been archived at the Juneau Audubon website (http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html).

Names and Initials of observers cited in the text or who reported sightings: Reggie Adkinson (RA), Beverly A. Agler (BAA), Robert H. Armstrong (RHA), Paul Barnes (PB), Ruth Booth (RB), Nate Borson (NB), Dena Bruchu (DB), Ryan Carpenter (RC), Jennifer A. Cedarleaf (JAC), Kaylauna L. Churchill (KLC), Amy C. Courtney (ACC), Bonnie H. Demerjian (BHD), Philip S. Doherty (PSD), Nat K. Drumheller (NKD), Steve Gilbertson (SG), Connor P. F. Goff (CPFG), Matt R. Goff (MRG), Nick R. Hajdukovich (NRH), Steven C. Heinl (SCH), Wayne Howell (WH), Brad L. Hunter (BLH), Jeff Jarvis (JJ), Merrill Jensen (MJ), Emma H. Johnson (EHJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), J. Doug Jones (DJ), Mary Lou King (MLK), Jerrold F. Koerner (JFK), Art Kolter (AK), Hank Lentfer (HL), Jim H. Lewis (JHL), Richard E. Lowell (REL), Paul H. Norwood (PHN), Tana O’Leary (TO), Eric Parker (EP), Andrew W. Piston (AWP), Lucy Pizzuto-Phillips (LPP), Patty A. Rose (PAR), Carol L. Ross (CLR), Jim F. Saracco (JFS), Mark W. Schwan (MWS), Sandi Shaw (SS), Greg P. Streveler (GPS), Chuck P. Susie (CPS), Floyd Tomkins (FT), Lori M. Trummer (LMT), Gus B. van Vliet (GBV), Tom VandenBerg (TDV), Phoebe B. S. Vanselow (PBSV), E. L. “Butch” Young (ELY), Will T. Young (WTY).
SPECIES ACCOUNTS:

TUNDRA SWAN: Tundra Swans, rare in Southeast in winter, were found at several locations: two at Sitka 12 December 2012–17 February 2013 (MRG, LPP; Figure 1), one at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 2 December 2012–31 January 2013 (PAR, BAA, NRH), and a young bird at Gustavus 22 December 2012 (JFS).

Figure 1. Tundra and Trumpeter swans are certainly much easier to identify when they are found together at close range as illustrated by these birds at Sitka 17 February 2013. In the top photo, the smaller size of the Tundra Swan on the left is readily apparent compared to the two Trumpeter Swans on the right (note how much thinner the neck and legs of the Tundra Swan are compared to the stouter Trumpeters’). Up close (bottom), the Tundra swan shows a yellow loral spot in front of the eye, and the top of its bill (culmen) is concave rather than straight as in Trumpeter Swan. Photos by Matt R. Goff
GADWALL: A flock of 49 Gadwall at Juneau 11 February 2013 (GBV) provided a new local high count. This species is a rare to locally uncommon winter visitant in Southeast Alaska.

EURASIAN WIGEON: A male Eurasian Wigeon at the Mendehnall Wetlands 15 December 2012–10 February 2013 (m.obs.) provided the only report. This species is a very rare winter visitant to Southeast Alaska, and most records come from this location.

MALLARD: Large concentrations of Mallards included 1,500 at Neka Bay 7 December 2012 (NRH), 2,500 at the Mendenhall Wetlands 15 December 2012 (NRH, ACC).

NORTHERN SHOVELER: Rare in winter, single Northern Shovelers were found at the Mendenhall Wetlands 15–17 December 2012 (NRH, ACC) and Ketchikan 21 January–17 February 2013 (AWP, SCH).

Figure 2. This apparent male American Wigeon × Northern Pintail (right) returned to the harbor in Petersburg for its 3rd consecutive winter; here photographed 6 December 2012. The bird has the body plumage (including black wing coverts) and long, narrow bill and bill pattern of a Northern Pintail, but has the head pattern and pinkish breast of an American Wigeon. Photo by Richard E. Lowell

NORTHERN PINTAIL: Amongst the large numbers of waterfowl at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, were 18 Northern Pintail 27 February 2013 (NRH), a high winter count for Southeast.

CANVASBACK: Single Canvasbacks at Bartlett Cove 12–15 December 2012 (NKD, TDV) and the Mendenhall Wetlands all winter (m.obs.) were the only birds reported.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: The maximum winter count of 70 Long-tailed Ducks on the Ketchikan waterfront 15 December 2012 (AWP) represented the poorest showing at that location in more than 20 years.

RED-THROATED LOON: The Red-throated Loon is a typically a rare winter visitant in Southeast Alaska, so counts of nine at Bartlett Cove, near Gustavus, 12 December 2012 and 9 January 2013 (NKD) were of interest.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A rare winter visitant in Southeast Alaska, single Pied-billed Grebes were found at Ketchikan 17 December 2012 (WTY, et al.) and Sitka 24 January–22 February 2013 (m.obs.).
WESTERN GREBE: The Western Grebe is locally common on inside waters from Sumner Strait south (Kessel and Gibson 1978), and is a rare, annual visitant in northern Southeast Alaska north of Sumner Strait. As has been typical over the past several years, Western Grebes were found in the Gustavus area, with one–two 15 December 2012+ and maximum three on 2 January 2013 (PBSV, N KD, GPS). Maximum counts of flocks at traditional Ketchikan wintering sites included 380 at Settler’s Cove 28 December 2012 (AWP), 160 in Tongass Narrows 24 February 2013 (SCH, WTY), and 150 near Mountain Point 17 February 2013 (SCH, AWP).

FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL: Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found near the mouth of Glacier Bay 15 December 2012 (GPS) and at Sitka 21 December 2012 (PHN). Another bird was found grounded at Gustavus 15 February (DB, JJ; Figure 3). This storm-petrel is known to winter offshore in the Bering Sea and in the Gulf of Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Boersma and Silva 2001), and Day (2006) considered it to be rare in the Gulf of Alaska in December and March. Sightings in recent winters suggest it might also be expected more frequently on inside waters than was previously known.

![Figure 3. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel prior to its release on the Gustavus beach after spending the night in town. _Photo by Dena Bruchu and Jeff Jarvis_](image)

BRANDT’S CORMORANT: Brandt’s Cormorants were present in typical small numbers in the Ketchikan area, with a maximum count of 10 birds at Mountain Point 21 January 2013 (AWP, SCH, WTY).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Thirteen Great Blue Herons on the Bartlett Cove fuel dock 9 January 2013 (NKD) followed last fall’s high counts at that location.

RED-TAILED HAWK: Very rare in winter, a Red-tailed Hawk was reported at Juneau 4 January 2013 (dark-morph bird; GBV), and singles were observed on three dates in the Ketchikan area: 22 December 2012 (AWP), 15 February 2013 (PSD), and 23 February 2013 (WTY).

AMERICAN COOT: Single American Coots were found at Sitka harbor 28 December 2012+ (MRG, LPP, RC) and Petersburg 11–22 February 2013 (ELY).

WILSON’S SNipe: Wilson’s Snipe were widely reported this winter. Maximum count was eight at Juneau 12 February 2013 (NRH, GBV), where singles were reported on only three other dates. Small numbers of snipe were present all winter at Ketchikan (m.obs.), with maximum three on 6
January 2013 (AWP, WTY, SCH), at least five were found in the Gustavus area (JFS, WH, NKD), and at least one was found at Sitka (MRG).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed off Lemesurier Island, Icy Strait, 15 December 2012 (HL), and more than 100 were observed flying with Mew Gulls in high winds at Bartlett Cove 16 February 2013 (NKD). This species is sparsely distributed in the Bering Sea and throughout Gulf of Alaska in winter (Hatch et al. 2009) and is a rare winter visitant to inside waters. Drumheller noted that while this species is considered a rare winter visitant at Gustavus/Glacier Bay, they are found regularly in winter in Icy Strait and Cross Sound (HL et al.) and “it seems likely that these kittiwakes come into lower Glacier Bay in winter where strong tides and shallow waters create feeding opportunities and that the birds are either not reported or not observed.”

CALIFORNIA GULL: Two California Gulls at Sitka 5 December 2012 (MRG) represented very late fall migrants. This species typically departs the region by late November, and there are few Alaska winter records after mid-December.

WESTERN GULL: A 3rd-cycle Western Gull was present at Ketchikan 16 December 2012–17 February 2013 (AWP, m.obs.; Figure 4). This gull is a casual migrant and winter visitant in Alaska.

Figure 4. Third-cycle Western Gull at Ketchikan 16 December 2012. *Photo by Andrew W. Piston*

THAYER’S GULL: A flock of 75 Thayer’s Gulls provided a large winter count for the Juneau area at Eagle Beach 29 December 2012 (GBV).

BLACK GUILLEMOT: Barbara Morgan took photographs of a curious little white bird swimming around a Ketchikan harbor 13 December 2012—Andy Piston saw Barbara’s photos posted on the Ketchikan Birders’ website and identified the bird as a Black Guillemot! The bird was last observed 17 December 2012 (Figure 5). This Arctic nester is a locally common winter visitant on the Bering Sea as far south as the limit of pack ice advance, occurring in leads in the pack (Kessel and Gibson 1978); it occurs irregularly south to the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands (Tobish 2006), nearly 1,500 miles from Ketchikan. There are at least four records for the Interior (see Am. Birds 43:355), and a pair of Black Guillemots at Valdez Arm, Prince William Sound, 17 July–1 August 2005 (*North Am. Birds* 59:641) represented the only prior record for the eastern North Pacific.
Figure 5. Black Guillemot at Ketchikan 17 December 2012. Note the nearly all white head and neck, lack of a black bar across wing coverts (left), and the white underwings (right), all of which distinguish this bird from the Pigeon Guillemot. *Photos by Steven C. Heinl*

MARBLED MURRELET: Large counts of Marbled Murrelets at Clover Passage, near Ketchikan, included 1,120 on 28 December 2012 and 1,400 on 20 January 2013 (AWP). Clover Passage is a well-known concentration area for this species (Heinl and Piston 2009).

SNOWY OWL: Three Snowy Owls were found this winter in Southeast Alaska: one at Juneau 15 December 2012 (NRH), one at Gustavus 16 and 21 December 2012 (NB, photo; JJ), and one at Petersburg 4–8 February 2013 (REL, ELY, et al.; Figure 6). A photo of the Petersburg bird was featured in the Petersburg Pilot newspaper on 7 February 2013. These birds followed three reports from Sitka during the fall period. This species is an irregular visitant to Southeast Alaska (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), primarily in late fall.

Figure 6. Snowy Owl at Petersburg 4 February 2013. *Photo by Richard E. Lowell*
SHORT-EARED OWL: Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were found this winter at Juneau (1 on 17 December 2012, NRH) and Gustavus (singles on 6 and 11 December 2012, 12 January 2013, and late January; NKD, PB).

ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD: The Anna’s Hummingbird is a very rare fall and winter visitant to southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), but numbers have increased over the past few years. Anna’s made an incredible showing this winter at Ketchikan, where at least a dozen birds overwintered (m.obs.). One at nearby Metlakatla 4–5 February 2013 (RB, RA) may have provided a first report for Annette Island. The relatively mild winter in southern Southeast Alaska presented few survival challenges for these birds. In northern Southeast Alaska, one lingered to 7 December 2012 at Juneau (PAR).

Winter Anna’s Hummingbirds sometimes cause angst for the owners of hummingbird feeders they visit once freezing weather sets in, which requires thawing the feeder daily or putting heat tape or a heat lamp on the feeder. Several people in the Juneau area who recently faced this situation were apparently told by the local bird rescue group that it was their fault the hummingbirds didn’t migrate or were “trapped” here, because they left their feeders out! This is a common misconception. Nearly all Rufous Hummingbirds migrate south by the end of August and, despite the hundreds of feeders that are left hanging up in fall, there are fewer than 10 records after September and no mid-winter records. Small numbers of Anna’s Hummingbirds, on the other hand, regularly appear in Southeast Alaska as part of normal northward dispersal that extends into late fall. Nearly all Anna’s Hummingbird records are associated with feeders, which certainly help them survive freezing weather but they do not keep the birds from “migrating.”

Sandi Shaw summed up this situation well: “After some in-depth research and numerous contacts with bird experts and ornithologists, we learned that it is a myth, that leaving feeders out doesn't keep them from migrating, that Anna's don’t migrate like Rufous do, that they are dispersers rather than migrators, and that taking down feeders doesn’t do anything other than take away one of their few, if only, food resources especially during winter.”

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER: A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Juneau 23 December 2012 provided only the 5th winter record for Juneau (GBV), while another at Sitka 26 December 2012 provided the only other Southeast report. Observers in Sitka and Ketchikan have noted in the past that major cold-snaps sometimes result in large influxes of sapsuckers to low elevations, often to the woods immediately lining the beach. Perhaps the lack of such observations in January–February 2013 was the result of warmer-than-average temperatures? Perhaps there were just fewer sapsuckers around?

NORTHERN FLICKER: A Northern Flicker at Juneau 2 January 2013 (MWS) was rare for the winter at Juneau. This species is regular in the winter in southern Southeast Alaska, but is very rare in the northern half of the region.

PEREGRINE FALCON: A Peregrine Falcon was observed at the Mendenhall Wetlands, near Juneau, 2 December 2012 (PAR, BAA), two were at Lemuerier Island, Icy Strait, in mid-February 2013 (HL), and what appeared to be a male/female pair was found at Eagle Beach 21 January 2013 (NRH, GBV). This species is very rare in the winter in Southeast Alaska.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: A Large flock of at least 45 Black-billed Magpies was observed at Juneau 25 January 2013 (NRH).
HORNED LARK: Three Horned Larks lingered at Gustavus to 6 December 2012 (NKD), while four at the Mendenhall Wetlands 5 January 2013 (GBV) provided only the third mid-winter record for Juneau, and one at Sitka 7–24 December 2012 provided the first local winter report (MRG, CPFG, EP, FT, PHN; Figure 7).

![Horned Lark](image)

Figure 7. This late Horned Lark provided the first local winter record at Sitka 7 December 2012. *Photo by Matt R. Goff*

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE: A flock of 28 Chestnut-backed Chickadees (!) associated with a Juneau feeder was a tremendous count for one yard (GBV).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Small numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found this winter at Juneau 22 December 2012 (GBV) and 20–27 January 2013 (NRH), at Ketchikan, where one or more birds were observed on several dates through 22 January 2013 (AWP, SCH, WTY), and at Wrangell in late January (CLR). This species is casual in mid-winter in Alaska.

TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE: A Townsend’s Solitaire at Ketchikan 5 January 2013 (JHL et al.; Figure 8) provided a first local winter report.

![Townsend’s Solitaire](image)

Figure 8. This Townsend’s Solitaire at Ketchikan 5 January 2013 provided the first local winter record. *Photo by Jim H. Lewis*
HERMIT THRUSH: Single, late-lingering Hermit Thrushes were found at Juneau 1–2 December 2012 (GBV), Sitka 1 December 2012 (PHN), and Ketchikan through 30 December 2012 (SCH, WTY, AWP).

AMERICAN PIPIT: One late-lingering American Pipit was observed at Ketchikan 22 December 2012 (SCH).

CEDAR WAXWING: Single Cedar Waxwings were found at Ketchikan 15 December 2012 (AWP, ph.) and 6 January 2013 (AWP, SCH, WTY). This species is casual in Alaska during the winter, and there were only four prior Ketchikan winter records.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Lapland Longspurs were found at Gustavus 6 December 2012 (one; NKD) and 15 December 2012 (three; EHJ, LMT). Small numbers of Lapland Longspurs often linger in areas of suitable habitat into December but they are typically absent by the end of the month.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: A late-lingering Orange-crowned Warbler at Ketchikan was last observed 2 December 2012 (WTY).

PALM WARBLER: A Palm Warbler at a Ketchikan neighborhood 1–15 December 2012 (AWP; Figure 9) followed three reports from the fall. This species breeds as close as northeastern B.C. (Campbell et al. 2001) but is casual in Alaska where nearly all records are from the fall (Gibson and Kessel 1992).

Figure 9. Palm Warbler at Ketchikan 9 December 2012. Photo by Jim H. Lewis

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: An Audubon’s Warbler lingered at Ketchikan 8–15 December 2012 (AWP, ph.).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: Eighty American Tree Sparrows near the town dock at Gustavus 12 January 2013 (NKD) provided a new local high count and was likely one of the highest counts ever at a single location in Southeast Alaska. This species has been found regularly in the winter at this location and in recent years Drumheller has been able to better determine the true abundance through the strategic use of seed.
LINCOLN’S SPARROW: A Lincoln’s Sparrow at Juneau 12–20 February 2013 (MLK, NRH, GBV) and at least two at Sitka all season (MRG, LPP) provided the season’s only reports.

SWAMP SPARROW: Following a strong fall showing, Swamp Sparrows continued in above average numbers into the winter. Singles from the fall lingered at Juneau to 20 February 2013 (NRH et al.; ph.) and Sitka to 12 December 2012 (MRG; Figure 10). Three Swamp Sparrows lingered through December and early January at Ketchikan, with at least one remaining through 25 February 2013 (AWP, SCH, WTY; Figure 10). This species is a casual winter visitant in Southeast Alaska.

Figure 10. Swamp Sparrows made a nice showing this winter, including these two photographed at Sitka 12 December 2012 (left; photo Matt R. Goff) and Ketchikan 23 December 2012 (right; photo by Jim H. Lewis).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Although White-throated Sparrows made an excellent fall showing at Ketchikan, only two remained throughout the winter (SCH, AWP). Another White-throated Sparrow at Sitka wintered to at least 22 February 2013 (MRG, LPP). This species is a rare migrant and winter visitant in Southeast Alaska.

HARRIS’S SPARROW: Last fall’s Harris’s Sparrow at Klukwan spent the entire winter (CPS; Figure 11) and provided the season’s only report. This species is a very rare or casual migrant and winter visitant in Southeast Alaska.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: A flock of up to 13 Red-winged Blackbirds at Juneau most of January–February 2013 (GBV, NRH, ACC, AK) provided one of the highest mid-winter counts for Alaska—surpassed only by counts of up to 20 at Juneau in January–February 2011 and 2012.

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH: A single Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was found at Sitka 30 December 2012 (JAC; Figure 12), and two were found near the Mendenhall Glacier, near Juneau, 14–15 January 2013 (NDH, MWS, JDJ, RHA, SG; Figure 12). In addition, the Juneau birds were identified as brown-cheeked subspecies tephotocotis, which breeds in the Brooks Range (Gibson and Kessel 1997) and interior mountains of Yukon and British Columbia (Macdougall-Shackleton et al. 2000), rather than the expected gray-cheeked subspecies littoralis, which is a fairly common breeder and uncommon to rare local winter visitant to Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Kessel 1997). Rosy-finches have seldom been reported in winter in recent decades, however, which makes the tremendous numbers of rosy-finches at Juneau
during winter/spring of 1948, including up to 25 *tephrocotis* amongst 1,000+ *littoralis* in late March–early April, seem incredible (Williams 1949).

Figure 11. This immature Harris’s Sparrow spent the winter at Klukwan (here photographed 10 December 2012). *Photo by Chuck P. Susie*

Figure 12. These Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch turned up at Sitka 30 December 2012 (left; photo Jennifer A. Cedarleaf) and near Juneau 14 January 2013 (right; photo Doug Jones). The Sitka bird exhibited the gray hood of subspecies *littoralis*, which breeds in Central, Southcoastal and Southeast Alaska. The Juneau bird exhibited the gray cap and brown cheeks of subspecies *tephrocotis*, which breeds in the Brooks Range and interior Yukon and British Columbia, and is a casual winter visitant to Southeast Alaska.

**PURPLE FINCH:** A female/immature type Purple Finch was photographed at Wrangell 8 December 2012 (KLC; Figure 13) and a male was present there 30 January 2013+ (CLR; Figure 13). A female/immature bird was found at Ketchikan 30 December 2012–1 January 2013 (SCH, AWP; ph.). This species is a very rare, but annual, fall migrant and winter visitant at Ketchikan (Heinl and Piston 2009) and likely elsewhere in southern Southeast Alaska.
Figure 13. Two Purple Finches were found at Wrangell this winter—a brown bird 8 December 2012 (left; photo Kaylauna L. Churchill) and a red male 30 January 2013 (right; photo Carol L. Ross).

RED CROSSBILL: Red Crossbills were present throughout the region in modest numbers all season.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: White-winged Crossbills were common in northern Southeast Alaska at Gustavus (NKD; 674 on the Gustavus CBC) and Juneau (m. obs.) through the period. Few were reported from the southern part of the region, but a few small flocks were noted at Ketchikan into late January (AWP, SCH).

COMMON REDPOLL: Common Redpolls made a tremendous showing throughout much of the region this winter and were reported as common at most communities from Gustavus to Ketchikan. At Ketchikan, where this species is typically rare, flocks were widespread through the period with several counts of more than a hundred birds (m.obs.). At Juneau, Mark Schwan reported standing still at the Eagle Beach picnic area while a flock of redpolls, estimated to be approximately 1,500 birds, swarmed around him picking seeds off the ground at his feet.

HOARY REDPOLL: Single Hoary Redpolls were reported at Juneau 21 December 2012 (GBV) and 15 February 2013 (MJ). This species is casual or very rare in Southeast Alaska, with most reports from the Juneau area.

PINE SISKIN: Very large numbers of Pine Siskins were found in southern Southeast Alaska, with several single flocks of up to 1,000 birds encountered at Ketchikan in late December and January (m.obs.). This species was also common at Wrangell (BHD) and Juneau (m.obs.) throughout the period. Few siskins were present at Gustavus, were there were only scattered observations of small numbers (NKD).

HOUSE SPARROW: A male House Sparrow at Petersburg 13 December 2012–28 February 2013+ (BLH, ph.; TO) provided the second local record (Alaska’s first House Sparrow record was at Petersburg 23 October 1987; Gibson and Kessel 1992) and added to recent records at Wrangell, the Stikine River, and Juneau. At Ketchikan, where the species is established in small numbers, at least 12 birds were present throughout the winter (m.obs.).
LITERATURE CITED


