SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA BIRD OBSERVATIONS:
Summer: June–July 2016

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This report summarizes bird sightings from Southeast Alaska for the summer season, June–July 2016, 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)—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.

Birding highlights were dominated by observations at Hyder this summer, which hosted a slew of interesting birds including Veery, Magnolia Warbler, Swainson’s Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Black-and-white Warbler, Bullock’s Oriole, Cassin’s Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Least Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, and Black-throated Gray Warbler (1st documented Alaska record). A Red-necked Stint at Taylor Bay, the 2nd documented record for Southeast Alaska, was easily the most unexpected find elsewhere in the region. Other highlights included Red-eyed Vireos at Wrangell and Juneau (4th consecutive summer), a great showing of Tennessee Warblers at Juneau, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Ketchikan, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Gustavus and Juneau, and a Least Flycatcher at Juneau.

I would like to thank the people who shared observations and photographs and answered inquiries about their sightings, all of whom are cited below. I particularly appreciated reports from Matt Goff (Sitka), Bonnie Demerjian (Wrangell), and Elaine Furbish (Skagway). This report also benefited from access to sightings entered into eBird (www.ebird.org)—at least 75% of the sightings included here had been entered in eBird. I would like to thank Gus van Vliet for reviewing the eBird data from Juneau, and Gus, Nat Drumheller, Andy Piston, and Matt Goff provided information and reviews that improved the final draft of this summary. Past seasonal reports (since fall 2008) have been archived at the Juneau Audubon website (http://www.juneau-audubon-society.org/SE%20AK%20Birding.html).

Southeast Alaska: The biogeographic region “Southeast Alaska” was defined by Kessel and Gibson (1978) as all of Alaska east of Cape Fairweather and south to Dixon Entrance.

Checklist of Alaska Birds: A list of all the species of birds known in Alaska (510 species as of 1 January 2016) is compiled and maintained by the Alaska Checklist Committee and is available free online at http://www.universityofalaskamuseumbirds.org/products/checklist.pdf.

Names and Initials of observers cited in the text or who reported sightings: Debbie Ackerman (DA), Beverly A. Agler (BAA), Gwen S. Baluss (GSB), Lynn E. Barber (LEB), R. Brad Benter (RBB), Kent Bovee (KB), Peter Branson (PB), Ian Bruce (IB), Keith O. Bruce (KOB), Angus Bruce (AB), Amy C. Courtney (ACC), Bonnie H. Demerjian (BHD), John Doty (JD), Terry J. Doyle (TJD), Nat K. Drumheller (NKD), Louann Feldmann (LF), Betsy Fischer (BF), Scott Fischer (SF), John Forbes (JF), C. Elaine Furbish (CEF), Matt R. Goff (MRG), Joe Hanfman (JHa), Steven C. Heinl (SCH), Debbie Hemenway (DH), Steven F. Hemenway (SFH), Kathe Goria-Hendrickson (KGH), John Hendrickson (JH), Rich Howard (RH), Jerrold F. Koerner (JFK), Mike G. Konsler (MGK), Kitty L. LaBounty (KLL), Kris R. Larson (KRL), James D. Levison (JDL), Jim H. Lewis (JHL), Tania M. Lewis (TML), Scott McArthur (SM), C. L. Millsaps (CLM), Cody Millsaps (CM), J. A. Millsaps (JAM), J Millsaps (JM), Daniele Mitchell (DM), Bruce Pauley (BP), Bruce B. Paige (BBP), Andrew W. Piston (AWP), Kathy M. Ripley (KMR), Kyle Farley-Robinson (KFR), Patty A. Rose (PAR), Jeffrey F. Sauer (JFS), Stefan Schlick (SSc), Mark W. Schwan (MWS), Sandra K. Shaw (SKS), Owen Squires (OS), Cinda Stough (CS), Shelby Surdyk (SS), Chuck P. Susie (CPS), Mike Taylor (MT), Karen Taylor (KT), Sooney Viani (SV), Gus B. van Vliet (GBV), Michael A. Wood (MAW).
SPECIES ACCOUNTS:

BRANT: Very rare mid-summer Brant included six at Little Island, Lynn Canal, 23 June 2016 (GBV), and one that lingered at Eagle Beach, near Juneau, to at least 2 July 2016 (PAR, BAA; m.obs.).

WOOD DUCK: The drake Wood Duck found at Sitka last February was present through the entire summer (MRG).

REDHEAD: Late Redheads included up to five at Gustavus Lake 1−12 June 2016 (BBP) and, as mentioned in the spring report, up to three in the Mendenhall Forelands through 6 June 2016 (GBV, PAR, MWS). This species is a very rare summer visitant to Southeast Alaska.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: A Long-tailed Duck was reported at Skagway 20 June 2016 (SS, CEF). This species is a rare summer visitant in Southeast, but non-breeders occur annually in summer in the Glacier Bay area.

BARROW’S GOLDENEYE: A female Barrow’s Goldeneye with downy chicks was found at Beaver Lake, near Sitka (BP, photo), probably the 2nd year in a row the species has nested there (fide MRG). The breeding status of this species is not well known over much of Southeast Alaska, and it was not known to nest in the Alexander Archipelago (Gibson et al. 1987) until recently.

HOODED MERGANSER: A female Hooded Merganser with two chicks was observed 2 June 2016 in the Mendenhall Forelands, near Juneau (KFR, OS), where this species is a rare breeder. This species has been considered an uncommon resident and breeder in Southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978; Johnson et al. 2008); most breeding records have been from mainland sites.

HORNED GREBE: A Horned Grebe at Scout Camp, near Juneau, 10 July 2016 (BAA, PAR, MWS) provided a rare mid-summer report.
RED-NECKED GREBE: A Red-necked Grebe at Eagle Beach, near Juneau, 4 June 2016 (ACC) was within normal late timing for this species; however, two reported near Haines 25 June 2016 (DM) were very late. Like the Horned Grebe, the Red-necked Grebe is a rare, non-breeding summer visitant to Southeast Alaska.

OSPREY: An Osprey at Skagway 6 June 2016 (SS, CEF) added to summer reports of this species around the region. It is a rare breeder in Southeast Alaska (Hughes 1982).

NORTHERN HARRIER: A female or immature Northern Harrier was observed at the Mendenhall Wetlands 31 July 2016 (PAR, BAA). This hawk is very rare in most of Southeast Alaska during the summer—there are at least two Southeast breeding records, at Juneau in 1994 (Field Notes 48:977) and Gustavus in 2011 (North Am. Birds 65:673).

SWAINSON’S HAWK: A Swainson’s Hawk that circled high above Hyder 12 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 3) established a 1st local record. In Alaska, this species is found primarily in the eastern Interior, where it is rare (Tobish 2004)—it is casual in Southeast, where there are around 10 reports, most of which are from the Juneau area. This hawk is very rare in British Columbia north of the southern interior of the province, but it occurs locally in the Bulkley Basin, only about 125 miles southwest of Hyder (Campbell et al. 1990b).

Figure 2. Red-throated Loons have nested for many years on a surprisingly small muskeg pond (left; photo by Steven C. Heinl) located along Revilla Road, near Ketchikan. This adult and chick (right; Photo by Jim H. Lewis) were observed there 9 July 2016.

Figure 3. Light morph Swainson’s Hawk at Hyder 12 June 2016. Sure, the photo is horrible, but the bird is readily identifiable by its long, narrow, pointed wings, and white underwing coverts, which contrast with dark primaries and secondaries. Photo by Steven C. Heinl
SORA: A Sora was heard (and seen) at a marsh near mile post 16 on the Haines Highway 15 July 2016 (LEB), the 2nd consecutive summer at that location. This species is a rare migrant, summer visitant, and local breeder on the Southeast mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER: An estimated 80 Black Oystercatchers at Portland Island 30 July 2016 (JD) represented the largest number ever reported in the Juneau area. Oystercatchers nest regularly at Portland Island, but this count may have included subadults or failed breeders from other locations (fide GBV).

KILLDEER: Another breeding record for the Juneau area included an adult Killdeer with four nearly-grown juveniles at a gravel parking lot near Auke Bay harbor 22 July 2016 (GBV). Nesting was first documented in the Juneau area in 1951 (Kessel and Gibson 1978). A Killdeer nest in a gravel parking area outside the Gustavus airport fence was also successful (the nest was flagged to prevent disturbance; fide NKD), and marked the third year in the past four that Killdeer nested successfully at that location. A Killdeer at Sitka in early July (SM, photo) was of interest as there are few prior summer reports for that location (fide MRG). The Killdeer is a rare or uncommon migrant and summer and winter visitant throughout most of Southeast Alaska. It can be found on beaches but favors extensive open disturbed ground, such as gravel lots, industrial areas, and airports (Heinl and Piston 2009).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Hudsonian Godwits were reported in below average numbers. One at Gustavus 28 June 2016 was followed by four there 12 July 2016 (BBP), and another was reported at the Mendenhall Wetlands 4 July 2016 (PAR). Most Southeast reports of this rare migrant are from the Gustavus and Juneau areas.

RED-NECKED STINT: A surprise Red-necked Stint at Taylor Bay, on the north side of Cross Sound, 15 June 2016 (MRG, KLL, SFH, DH, KB; Figure 4) provided only the 2nd documented Southeast Alaska record. This primarily Asian species is a regular migrant to the western Aleutian (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and Bering Sea (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Lehman 2005) islands, but is casual east along the Alaska Pacific Coast. DeCicco et al. (2013) documented nesting on the Seward Peninsula in 2012 and provided a nice overview of Alaska breeding records, most of which are also from the Seward Peninsula.

Figure 4. A Red-necked Stint was nicely documented at Taylor Bay 15 June 2016. *Photos by Matt R. Goff*
WILSON’S PHALAROPE: A female Wilson’s Phalarope was reported at Gustavus 12 June 2016 (BBP). This shorebird is a rare migrant and summer visitant to Southeast Alaska, where it has occurred almost exclusively (and nearly annually) in the Gustavus and Juneau areas.

SABINE’S GULL: Two Sabine’s Gulls in Icy Strait 1 June 2016 (ACC) were likely late migrants, and one at Gustavus 3 July 2016 (BBP) added to what appears to be the annual summer occurrence of this normally pelagic species in the Glacier Bay area.

CASPIAN TERN: As usual, Caspian Terns were most numerous in the Glacier Bay−Gustavus area. Glacier Bay Caspian Terns attempted to nest at both Flapjack Island (30 birds) and Boulder Island (60+ birds) in May; however, those efforts failed (TML, fide NKD; see spring report). The maximum count at Gustavus, only about 15 miles away, was 57 adults 27 June 2016 (BBP). No juveniles were reported there or anywhere else in Southeast. Small numbers of Caspian Terns were present the entire summer in the Juneau area (m.obs.), where maximum was eight at Eagle Beach 21 July 2016 (PAR). Among the interesting sightings elsewhere was one at Hyder 20 July 2016 (TJD).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported in low to modest numbers at nearly every location where birders were present. The maximum one-day count was 14 at Wrangell 27 July 2016 (RH), and around 30 birds total were accounted for in the Juneau area (m.obs.; maximum, seven at Auke Bay 8−9 July 2016, GBV). Noteworthy Eurasian Collared-Doves sightings included two that survived the winter and were present into summer at Skagway (CEF, DA; Figure 5); one observed carrying a stick into a spruce tree at Ketchikan 3 June 2016 (AWP, SCH), which added to the few prior observations of nest building in Alaska; and one off the beaten track at Warm Springs Bay, Baranof Island, 23 June 2016 (KGH, JH). One at Gustavus 1−8 July 2016 was the first recorded there after a two month absence (BBP). Other local maximum counts included three at Hoonah 12 July 2016 (ACC), and four at Hyder 19 July 2016 (TJD).

Figure 5. Two Eurasian Collared-Doves that survived the entire winter at Skagway were still present 3 June 2016 (left; photo by Debbie Ackerman). The Great-horned Owl is a rare or uncommon resident throughout most of Southeast Alaska—breeding was nicely documented by this downy juvenile at Farm Island, Stikine River, 2 June 2016 (right; photo by Cinda Stough).
ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD: Multiple Anna’s Hummingbirds were reported at Ketchikan (male and female, KRL, photo; JFK, AWP), Juneau (where up to seven were accounted for), and Sitka (MRG; m.obs.). Noteworthy was a report of two at Skagway 6 July 2016 (JHa).

DOWNY WOODPECKER: A female Downy Woodpecker in the Mendenhall Forelands 10 June 2016 (MWS) provided a rare summer report. The nesting status of the Downy Woodpecker in Southeast Alaska is poorly known; indeed, the nesting range of subspecies glacialis, the dingy-gray breasted race to which most coastal specimens have been ascribed, is not known (Gibson and Withrow 2015). There is at least one nest record for the Juneau area (June 1998; eBird).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: A roving female Black-backed Woodpecker in brushy alders at the edge of the Hyder tidal flats 13 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 6) provided a 1st local record. This interior species is casual in Southeast Alaska.

![Figure 6. Female Black-backed Woodpecker at Hyder 13 June 2016. Photo by Steven C. Heinl](image)

NORTHERN FLICKER: A seemingly pure male Yellow-shafted Flicker at Mile 33 north of Juneau 30 July 2016 (GBV) provided a rare sighting for the Juneau area, where nearly all of the few flicker sightings tend to be of intergrades—the area is just a little too west and south for the yellow-shafted subspecies, yet too far north for the red-shafted subspecies. Red-shafted Flickers in the southern part of Southeast Alaska also tend to show signs of intergradation with Yellow-shafted Flickers (Heinl and Piston 2009).

MERLIN: Merlins nested in the vicinity of Thimbleberry Lake, near Sitka, for the 2nd consecutive year: a pair of adults was first observed in the vicinity 25 April 2016, and at least three, but possibly four, young birds fledged on 30 July 2016 (CPS; Figure 7). Four together at Skagway 26 July 2016 (MGK), where “several pairs” have been observed in recent summers (fide CEF), almost certainly also represented fledged siblings.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a rare breeder in the Gustavus area (fide NKD), so a singing bird was noteworthy there 13 June 2016 (MT, KT, recording). This species and the Western Wood-Pewee were reported to be virtually absent in the Juneau area (fide GBV); conversely, five adults in fairly recent clear cuts in the Leask Lake drainage 10 July 2016 provided the highest one-day count ever for Revillagigedo Island (AWP, SCH).
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: Singing Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported at Hyder 10 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 8), the Mendenhall Forelands 12 June 2016 (MWS), and Gustavus 25 June 2016 (BBP). This species is casual in Southeast Alaska (where there are now about 15 reports). It is a rare to uncommon local summer visitant and breeder as close as east-central and northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997), and it is also a rare fall migrant, summer visitant, and breeder in east-central Alaska (Benson et al. 2000, Martin et al. 2006).

Figure 7. Merlins nested successfully near Sitka for the 2nd consecutive year. These photos show juveniles observed 3 August 2016 (left; still some down protruding from its crown feathers; photo by Chuck P. Susie) and 20 August 2016 (right; eating a dragonfly; photo by Matt R. Goff). Identifying Merlins to subspecies in the field or from photos is problematic at best (Dickerman 2013), though both birds exhibit the dark upperparts and very dark ventral streaking of subspecies suckleyi, which nests in Southeast Alaska (Gibson and Withrow 2015).

Figure 8. A good showing of rare flycatchers at Hyder included a one-day-only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 10 June 2016 (left; Photo by Steven C. Heinl) and a Willow Flycatcher 8 July 2016 (right; Photo by James D. Levison), one of two singing males present there most of the summer.
ALDER FLYCATCHER: A territorial Alder Flycatcher at Sitka 27 June–10 July 2016 (MRG; Figure 9) was unusual for the outer coast. This species is an uncommon migrant and breeder on the southeast Alaska mainland and a locally rare probable breeder in the Alexander Archipelago (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

![Alder Flycatcher](image)

Figure 9. This Alder Flycatcher at Sitka 27 June 2016 stayed through at least 10 July 2016. *Photo by Matt R. Goff*

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Multiple singing Willow Flycatchers were found at Hyder for the second summer in a row, beginning with one 7–8 June 2016 (IB, KOB, AB) and two 9–13 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF). At least one singing bird was heard there 20 June 2016 (RBB, photo), 8–11 July 2016 (JDL; Figure 8), and 19–23 July 2016 (TJD). Two were found together on 1 August 2016, but no indication of nesting was found (AWP, SCH, photo). This species nests as close as southern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997); it is casual in Alaska and there are now at least 15 reports from the Southeast mainland between mid-June and early July.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Two Least Flycatchers sang on adjacent territories at Marx Creek, near Hyder, 9–12 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 10); at least one was still present 21 June 2016 (RBB), 7 July 2016 (JDL), and 20 July 2016 (TJD). A Least Flycatcher was also heard calling and singing at the Mendenhall Forelands 15 June 2016 (GBV, MWS, PAR). This species is a rare possible breeder along the mainland river systems in Southeast (Johnson et al. 2008); it occurs annually or nearly so in the Hyder area.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: Three Eastern Kingbirds were found at the Hyder tideflats this summer, likely the result of extensive coverage—singles 9 June 2016 (IB, KOB, AB; et al.; Figure 10), 21 June 2016 (RBB, photo), and 18 July 2016 (TJD). The Eastern Kingbird is a rare migrant and summer visitant in Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

CASSIN’S VIREO: At least two Cassin’s Vireos were found in the Hyder area. One singing bird located in town 11 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; photo), was followed by sightings in the same general area 8 July 2016 (JDL; Figure 11) and 1 August 2016 (AWP, SCH, photo). Another was singing on territory north of Hyder at Marx Creek 11–12 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; photo), where probably the same bird was found 20 July 2016 (TJD). This vireo is a very rare annual visitant to mainland Southeast Alaska (DeCicco and Hajdukovich 2008), and Hyder has been a great place to look for this species.
Figure 10. More rare flycatchers at Hyder included a Least Flycatcher (left; photo by Steven C. Heinl), one of two singing males at Marx Creek 12 June 2016, and an Eastern Kingbird 9 June 2016 (right; photo by Lynn E. Barber), one of several reported there this summer.

Figure 11. Cassin’s Vireo at Hyder 8 July 2016; one of at least two that were present in the Hyder area this summer. Photo by James D. Levison

RED-EYED VIREO: Red-eyed Vireos were reported in the Mendenhall Forelands for the 4th consecutive summer, where two were present 14–15 June 2016 (MWS, PAR, GBV, JFS; LEB), at least one of which was observed through 28 July 2016 (m.obs.). Another Red-eyed Vireo at Rainbow Falls trailhead, Wrangell Island, 23 June 2016 (BHD) may have provided a 1st local report. This vireo is very rare in Alaska, and nearly all records are from the Southeast mainland during summer (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Johnson et al. 2008).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: A Black-billed Magpie at Haines 6 July 2016 (JF) provided an unusual summer report. This species is primarily a migrant and winter visitant to Southeast, and nesting has been documented only at the Alsek River and upper Chilkat River valleys (Johnson et al. 2008).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was reported at Gustavus 1 June 2016 (BBP), where casual, and six was maximum at Hyder 18 and 20 July 2016.
(TJD), where this species occurs annually. This swallow is a rare migrant and breeder in Southeast Alaska, primarily on the mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978) and islands near the mainland.

BANK SWALLOW: The Wrangell Bank Swallow colony reported in 2013 was still active and included 100 or more birds this summer (PB, BHD). The Bank Swallow is a locally uncommon to fairly common breeder along mainland river systems in Southeast Alaska where cut-banks provide natural nesting substrate (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Johnson et al. 2008). This Wrangell colony, however, is located in a large mound of old wood chips with a flat face toward saltwater at the 6-Mile mill. Bank Swallows have been documented nesting in human-made substrates, including sawdust piles, elsewhere in North America (Garrison 1999).

VEERY: The Veery was reported in the Hyder area for the first time since 1991. A territorial bird sang in the Marx Creek woods near the USFS Bear Observatory 9−12 June (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 12), and two were singing in that area 21 June 2016 (RBB, photo). Another Veery sang about ¾ of a mile away, just north of the head of Marx Creek, 11−12 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; photo); it was still present 9 July 2016 (JDL; Figure 12) and 19 July 2016 (TJD). Finally, a probable migrant was heard briefly singing and calling from thickets near the Hyder dump 11 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF).

The only prior Alaska reports of the Veery are from Hyder in 1990 and 1991 (Gibson and Kessel 1992) and the Mendenhall Forelands, near Juneau, 15−19 June 2014 (North American Birds 68:544). It occurs regularly in south-central British Columbia and is locally rare or uncommon west and north to the Skeena and Nass rivers (Campbell et al. 1997) and Stewart (pers. obs.). It is remarkable that there were no confirmed reports at Hyder in the past 25 years, despite the regular presence of this species within two miles of the Alaska border at Stewart!

Figure 12. The first photographs of the Veery in Alaska were obtained in the Hyder area this summer (The Veery had previously been documented only by audio recordings). Two different birds are illustrated here 11 June 2016 (left; photo by Lynn E. Barber) and 9 July 2016 (right; photo by James Levison). The birds are identified as Veeries by the warm reddish-brown color of the head (and upperparts which aren’t visible), fine, reddish-brown spotting on the upper breast, clean white underparts, and plain face with incomplete whitish eyering. The Southeast Alaska breeding Swainson’s Thrush, subspecies ustulatus, can also be “bright cinnamon colored” on the upperparts (Gibson and Withrow 2015), but that species also exhibits a distinctly buff-colored and complete eyering and loral stripe that imparts a very different face pattern.
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: A singing Gray-cheeked Thrush at Hoonah 5 July 2016 (ACC) provided one of few Alexander Archipelago reports of this species. The Gray-cheeked Thrush is found locally at mainland rivers, becoming more numerous in extensive appropriate habitat in Glacier Bay and in the Alsek River drainage to the northwest (Johnson et al. 2008). It is casual in the Alexander Archipelago.

![Gray-cheeked Thrush](image1)

Figure 13. It is not unusual to see American Robins with patches of white feathers, but this juvenile at Juneau 29 July 2016 appeared to be a complete albino. *Photo by Sandra K. Shaw*

EUROPEAN STARLING: A European Starling at Hyder 20 June 2016 (RBB) provided a rare local report.

CEDAR WAXWING: One of our latest arriving passerines, two Cedar Waxwings at Ketchikan 4 June 2016 (SCH) represented the first “spring” arrivals. Maximum counts of 50 at Hyder 20 June 2016 and 75 there 21 June 2016 (RBB) were some of the largest June counts ever for Alaska. This species was reported from most port towns on the inside passage (m.obs.), but were present in lower than average numbers at Juneau (GBV) and Ketchikan (SCH)—and even at Hyder, where the next largest count was only seven birds (m.obs.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: A male Black-and-white Warbler at Hyder 1 August 2016 (AWP, SCH; Figure 14) provided the 2nd local record and only the 6th Alaska record. The bird was in heavy molt and repeatedly sang in response to recordings, despite the late date, suggesting it had probably been present for some time. This species breeds as close as northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: At least four Tennessee Warblers were found in the Mendenhall Forelands, near Juneau, beginning with one near Moose Lake 14 June 2016 (GBV, m.obs.; photos and recordings, GBV, MWS, PAR, LEB; Figure 15). Two were located there 19 June 2016 (MWS), and at least one of those birds was present through 28 June 2016 (m.obs.). Two singing males were found at widely separated locations in the forelands 26 June 2016 (GSB, recording; PAR; Figure), and another singing male was found 8 July 2016 (MWS). Elsewhere, a singing male near Ketchikan 29 June 2016 (AWP, SCH; recording) provided an unusual summer report for the Alexander Archipelago, whereas one near Hyder 4 July 2016 (SSc, photo) was at a more typical mainland location. This warbler is a rare migrant and local breeder on mainland southeast Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
Figure 14. Among the interesting finds at Hyder this summer were Alaska’s 6th Black-and-white Warbler, a molting male, 1 August 2016 (left; photo by Andrew W. Piston), and a Magnolia Warbler 12 June 2016 (right; photo by Steven C. Heinl), the first singing male documented there in more than 20 years.

Figure 15. Multiple Tennessee Warblers sang in the Mendenhall Forelands this summer, including these two 15 June 2016 (left; photo by Lynn E. Barber) and 26 June 2016 (right; photo by Patty A. Rose).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: A male Magnolia Warbler was reported in the town of Hyder 7–8 June 2016 (IB, KOB, AB; minimal details), and a singing male was located in mixed deciduous-spruce woods along Fish Creek, near Hyder, 12 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 14); the latter bird could not be relocated in later weeks. This species has been considered a rare migrant and breeder along major river corridors on the Southeast Alaska mainland (Johnson et al. 2008). Small numbers were found nearly annually in the Hyder area from the late 1980s to early 1990s, including maximum counts of six in June 1991 (including a pair) and June 1992; however, no territorial males had been reported there since the mid-1990s. It occurs regularly as close as central and northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: A female Blackpoll Warbler was reported at Hyder 9 June 2016 (SCH), where there are few reports. This species is a rare migrant along the Southeast Alaska mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978).
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: Certainly one of the birding highlights of the summer was the presence of multiple Black-throated Gray Warblers in the woods along the west side of the town of Hyder. A male 12–13 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 16) provided the 1st documented Alaska record. Subsequent observations included a male 21–22 June 2016 (RBB; Figure 16), a female that accompanied another Black-throated Gray Warbler 10 July 2016 (the second bird was not seen well enough to identify its sex; JDL; Figure 16), and finally a female 19 July 2016 (TJD). This warbler nests north to southwestern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001). A sight record at Mitkof Island, a male 5 July 1989, is the only other Alaska report of this very distinctive warbler (Peter J. Walsh; Am. Birds 43:1357).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang incessantly in a patch of 2nd-growth red alder at the White River, just north of Ketchikan, 10–17 July 2016 (AWP, SCH, m.obs.; Figure 17). There are at least 15 Alaska records of this species, which breeds as close as northeastern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

Figure 16. The Black-throated Gray Warbler was documented in Alaska for the first time with multiple birds at Hyder, including a male 12 June 2016 (right; photo by Steven C. Heinl), presumably the same male (?) 22 June 2016 (middle; photo by R. Brad Benter), and a female 10 July 2016 (right; photo by James D. Levison).

Figure 17. Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak belting out its song at the White River, near Ketchikan, 10 July 2016 (left; photo by Jim H. Lewis) and 11 July 2016 (right; photo by James D. Levison).
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: Three male Black-headed Grosbeaks sang vigorously at Hyder 10–11 June 2016 (SCH, LEB, LF; Figure 18); however, none were subsequently relocated, indicating they were likely all transients. A female visited a feeder on Farm Island, Stikine River, 12 June 2016 (CS; Figure 18). This grosbeak is a rare, annual migrant and summer visitant to Southeast Alaska.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Two pairs of Rusty Blackbirds observed gathering insects in the Mendenhall Forelands 19–20 June 2016 became agitated at the approach of observers (BF, SF; Figure 19) indicated nesting there. Small numbers were observed flocked up at Hyder 21–24 July 2016, including a maximum 20 adults and juveniles on 24 July 2016 (TJD). This species is a rare or uncommon local breeder on the mainland (Kessel and Gibson 1978; Johnson et al. 2008).

Figure 18. Black-headed Grosbeak reports included singing males at Hyder 11 June 2016 (left and middle; photos by Steven C. Heinl) and a female at a Farm Island feeder 12 June 2016 (right; photo by Cinda Stough).

Figure 19. Adult male Rusty Blackbird carrying food (dragonfly larva?) in the Mendenhall Forelands 19 June 2016. The Rusty Blackbird population has declined as much as 90% since the 1960s—specific causes are not well understood but likely include loss of wetlands on wintering grounds, contaminants and disturbance on breeding grounds, blackbird control programs (with the Rusty as an incidental victim), and warming climate (Greenberg and Matsuoka 2010, Avery 2013). Photo by Scott Fischer
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: Following an impressive showing in southern Southeast this spring, Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to be observed in good numbers well into the summer. Single males were reported at Hyder 9 June 2016 (IB, KOB, AB) and 23 June 2016 (RBB, photo), and up to two were observed there 22–23 July 2016 (TJD). Reports at Ketchikan included one 3 June 2016 (AWP, SCH), a pair 9 July 2016 (AWP), and up to five each at three different feeders through June (JFK, MAW) and into July (KMR; Figure 20). A juvenile appeared at one of those feeders with a flock of siskins 12 July 2016 (KMR; Figure 20); although the cowbird followed the siskins around, the siskins never fed it. A lone juvenile was also observed at Ketchikan 29 July 2016 (SCH).

Figure 20. Ketchikan was crazy with cowbirds this summer. At least five adults visited these feeders well into July (left; 9 July 2016). A juvenile showed up with siskins 12 July 2016 (right). Photos by Kathy M. Ripley

BULLOCK’S ORIOLE: A subadult male Bullock’s Oriole at Hyder 10 June 2016 (SCH, LEB; Figure 21) established the 1st local record and only the 9th Alaska record. This species breeds north to southern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

Figure 21. Subadult male Bullock’s Oriole at Hyder 10 June 2016. Photo by Steven C. Heinl
RED CROSSBILL: Very small numbers of Red Crossbills were reported in most areas; observations at Hoonah 27 June 2016 (ACC) and Gustavus 30 June 2016 (BBP) were the first reports at both locations in at least a year.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were reported in the Juneau area all summer (m.obs.; maximum, 36 on 9 July 2016, GSB), but six at Hoonah 5 July 2016 (ACC) and 30 at Gustavus 15 July 2016 (SV) were the only others reported.

COMMON REDPOLL: A Common Redpoll at Ketchikan 4 June 2016 (JHL; Figure 22) provided the 1st local summer record. It would have been more expected following a large winter incursion of redpolls, which certainly didn’t occur in 2016. Redpolls are known to nest in upper Glacier Bay (Wik and Streveler 1968) and along the coast to the northwest (Johnson et al. 2008), but summer records are scarce elsewhere in Southeast Alaska.

HOUSE SPARROW: House Sparrows have officially disappeared from Ketchikan, where the species nested annually from 2009 to 2014. Despite nesting by multiple pairs, some of which apparently pulled off double-broods, the population never seemed to increase from one year to the next and never expanded beyond the one building where nesting took place. The last local sighting was 6 June 2015 (SCH).

![Figure 22. Common Redpoll at Ketchikan 4 June 2016. Photo by Jim H. Lewis](https://example.com/image.jpg)

**LITERATURE CITED**


Martin, P. R., Bonier, F., and Gibson, D. D. 2006. First nest of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher for Alaska, with notes on breeding biology. Western Birds 37:8–22.

