



BIRDS OF ROUND ISLAND, ALASKA

**WALRUS ISLANDS
STATE GAME SANCTUARY**

A CHECKLIST

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH
AND GAME, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

PHONE (907) 267-2180

LEGEND

- C Common - species occurs in all or nearly all proper habitats, but some areas of presumed suitable habitat are occupied sparsely or not at all or the island regularly hosts large numbers of the species.
- U Uncommon - species occurs regularly, but uses only some or very little of the suitable habitat or the island regularly hosts relatively small numbers of the species; not observed regularly even in proper habitats.
- R Rare - species occurs, or probably occurs, regularly on and near the island, but in very small numbers.
- A Casual/Accidental - species has been recorded no more than a few times, but irregular observations are likely over a period of years or a species so far from its normal range that further observations are unlikely.
- * Nesting - known or probable nesting species on Round Island.

SPECIES

STATUS

FAMILY: Gaviidae

_____ red-throated loon <u>Gavia stellata</u>	A
_____ Pacific loon <u>G. pacifica</u>	A

FAMILY: Podicipedidae

_____ horned grebe <u>Podiceps auritus</u>	A
_____ red-necked grebe <u>P. grisegena</u>	A

FAMILY: Procellariidae

_____ northern fulmar <u>Fulmarus glacialis</u>	R
_____ short-tailed shearwater <u>Puffinus tenuirostris</u>	R

FAMILY: Phalacrocoracidae

_____ double-crested cormorant <u>Phalacrocorax auritus</u>	R
_____ pelagic cormorant <u>P. pelagicus</u>	C*
_____ red-faced cormorant <u>P. urile</u>	R

FAMILY: Anatidae

_____ emperor goose <u>Chen canagica</u>	R
_____ brant <u>Branta bernicla</u>	A
_____ green-winged teal <u>Anas crecca</u>	R
_____ mallard <u>A. platyrhynchos</u>	A
_____ northern pintail <u>A. acuta</u>	R
_____ American wigeon <u>A. americana</u>	R
_____ common eider <u>S. mollissima</u>	A
_____ king eider <u>Somateria spectabilis</u>	U
_____ Steller's eider <u>Polysticta stelleri</u>	R
_____ harlequin duck <u>Histrionicus histrionicus</u>	U
_____ oldsquaw <u>Clangula hyemalis</u>	R
_____ black scoter <u>Melanitta nigra</u>	A
_____ white-winged scoter <u>M. fusca</u>	R
_____ bufflehead <u>Bucephala albeola</u>	A

FAMILY: Accipitridae

_____ bald eagle <u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	U*
_____ northern harrier <u>Circus cyaneus</u>	R
_____ rough-legged hawk <u>Buteo lagopus</u>	R

FAMILY: Falconidae

_____ peregrine falcon <u>Falco peregrinus</u>	R
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FAMILY: Phasianidae

_____ rock ptarmigan <u>Lagopus mutus</u>	A
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FAMILY: Gruidae

_____ sandhill crane <u>Grus canadensis</u>	R
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FAMILY: Charadriidae

_____ semipalmated plover <u>Charadrius semipalmatus</u>	A
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FAMILY: Scolopacidae

_____ wandering tattler <u>Heteroscelus incanus</u>	U
_____ spotted sandpiper <u>Actitis macularia</u>	A
_____ whimbrel <u>Numenius phaeopus</u>	R
_____ ruddy turnstone <u>Arenaria interpres</u>	R
_____ black turnstone <u>A. melanocephala</u>	R
_____ surfbird <u>Aphriza virgata</u>	A
_____ western sandpiper <u>Calidris mauri</u>	R
_____ rock sandpiper <u>C. pilocnemis</u>	R
_____ dunlin <u>C. alpina</u>	R
_____ short-billed dowitcher <u>Limnodromus griseus</u>	A
_____ common snipe <u>Gallinago gallinago</u>	U*
_____ red-necked phalarope <u>Phalaropus lobatus</u>	A
_____ red phalarope <u>P. fulicaria</u>	A

FAMILY: Laridae

_____ pomarine jaeger <u>Stercorarius pomarinus</u>	A
_____ mew gull <u>Larus canus</u>	A
_____ glaucous-winged gull <u>L. glaucescens</u>	C*
_____ glaucous gull <u>L. hyperboreus</u>	U
_____ black-legged kittiwake <u>Rissa tridactyla</u>	C*

FAMILY: Alcidae

_____ common murre <u>Uria aalge</u>	C*
_____ thick-billed murre <u>U. lomvia</u>	R
_____ pigeon guillemot <u>Cephus columba</u>	C*
_____ marbled murrelet <u>Brachyramphus marmoratus</u>	A
_____ parakeet auklet <u>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</u>	C*
_____ least auklet <u>Aethia pusilla</u>	U*
_____ crested auklet <u>A. cristatella</u>	U*
_____ tufted puffin <u>Fratercula cirrhata</u>	C*
_____ horned puffin <u>E. corniculata</u>	C*

FAMILY: Strigidae

_____ short-eared owl <u>Asio flammeus</u>	R
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FAMILY: Picidae	
___ woodpecker (hairy or downy) <u>Picoides</u> sp.	A
FAMILY: Hirundinidae	
___ tree swallow <u>Tachycineta bicolor</u>	R
___ bank swallow <u>Riparia riparia</u>	R
___ cliff swallow <u>Hirundo pyrrhonota</u>	A
FAMILY: Corvidae	
___ black-billed magpie <u>Pica pica</u>	A
___ common raven <u>Corvus corax</u>	C*
FAMILY: Paridae	
___ black-capped chickadee <u>Parus atricapillus</u>	A
FAMILY: Cindidae	
___ American dipper <u>Cinclus mexicanus</u>	A
FAMILY: Muscicapidae	
___ ruby-crowned kinglet <u>Regulus calendula</u>	A
___ hermit thrush <u>Catharus guttatus</u>	C*
___ American robin <u>Turdus migratorius</u>	A
___ varied thrush <u>Ixoreus naevius</u>	A
FAMILY: Motacillidae	
___ yellow wagtail <u>Motacilla flava</u>	R
___ American pipit <u>Anthus rubescens</u>	C*
FAMILY: Emberizidae	
___ orange-crowned warbler <u>Vermivora celata</u>	U*
___ yellow warbler <u>Dendroica petechia</u>	U*
___ yellow-rumped warbler <u>D. coronata</u>	R
___ Wilson's warbler <u>Wilsonia pusilla</u>	U*
___ American tree sparrow <u>Spizella arborea</u>	U*
___ savannah sparrow <u>Passerculus sandwichensis</u>	C*
___ fox sparrow <u>Passerella iliaca</u>	U*
___ song sparrow <u>Melospiza melodia</u>	R
___ golden-crowned sparrow <u>Zonotrichia atricapilla</u>	C*
___ white-crowned sparrow <u>Z. leucophrys</u>	U
___ dark-eyed junco <u>Junco hyemalis</u>	A
___ Lapland longspur <u>Calcarius lapponicus</u>	C*
___ snow bunting <u>Plectrophenax nivalis</u>	R
___ western meadowlark <u>Sturnella neglecta</u>	A
___ rusty blackbird <u>Euphagus carolinus</u>	A
___ brown-headed cowbird <u>Molothrus ater</u>	A
FAMILY: Fringillidae	
___ rosy finch <u>Leucosticte arctoa</u>	R
___ white-winged crossbill <u>Loxia leucoptera</u>	A
___ common redpoll <u>Carduelis flammea</u>	U*

REPORTING NEW OR UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Any birds listed as "rare" or "casual/accidental" on this list, and any evidence of nesting (nest or chicks) for a bird not listed as a breeding species, should be shown to Round Island staff for verification. If a bird not included in this checklist is seen, it should also be verified.

To document a sighting you may take a photograph, using a telephoto lens. Whether or not a photo is taken, you should take a very careful look at the bird, remembering as much detail as possible. Point out the bird to others without saying what you think it is. If possible, compare notes while looking at the bird after other observers have had a chance identify it. Before checking a field guide, write a brief description and sketch the bird showing the pattern of markings and labeling colors. Then check your field guide to confirm your sighting. Report unusual sightings to Round Island staff as soon as possible.

MAMMALS

(seen on or from Round Island)

- _____ dusky shrew Sorex monticolus
- _____ tundra vole Microtus oeconomus
- _____ brown lemming Lemmus trimucronatus
- _____ red fox Vulpes vulpes
- _____ arctic fox Alopex lagopus
- _____ Steller sea lion Eumetopias jubatus
- _____ Pacific walrus Odobenus rosmarus
- _____ harbor seal Phoca vitulina
- _____ bowhead whale Balaena mysticetus
- _____ gray whale Eschrichtius robustus
- _____ humpback whale Megaptera novaeangliae
- _____ orca (killer whale) Orcinus orca

Bird species inhabiting Round Island are relatively well known. Lists of birds observed during summer field seasons have been compiled by the following researchers and staff residing on the island: E. H. Miller and B. Hines (1972), L. Aumiller and D. Irons (1977), J. Sherburne (1985, 1986), J. Sherburne and B. Lipchak (1987), P. Hessing and J. Brandt (1988), and P. Hessing and G. Sheffield (1989, 1990). The lists were generally compiled from May to August.

Relative abundance is less well known. Only Miller, Aumiller, P. D. Arneson and D. McDonald (1976, 1977), and R. J. Sinnott (1990) have attempted to quantify abundance. Hence, this checklist should be considered provisional. Similarly, additional nesting attempts and casual/accidental vagrants are likely to be observed. Hopefully, this list will focus future attention on the birds of Round Island, and it will be updated periodically as new observations are collected.

Round Island seems to attract fewer unusual birds than islands in the western Aleutians, and many of the species on this list are casual or accidental vagrants that are unlikely to be encountered by visitors. If you are hoping to see some of the more typical birds of western Alaska (such as jaegers), plan to spend at least a few hours birding in the vicinity of Togiak Cannery and Dillingham.

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Compiled by Rick Sinnott and Polly Hessing, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage. Spring 1991.

