

From: "alaskabirder" <akbirder@eagle.ptialaska.net>
Subject: [AK Birding] 17th Edition Checklist of Alaska Birds- 2011
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To: AKBirding@yahoogroups.com

Greetings Alaska Birders,

The 17 edition of the Checklist of Alaska Birds has been posted online by the Ornithology Department from the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This list follows the American Ornithological Union's (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds up to the 51st supplement. The URL to the Checklist of Alaska Birds is: www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/bird/checklist.pdf

There are now 492 naturally occurring species of birds in Alaska (up from 489 as of 1 January 2010) and 24 species on the "unsubstantiated" list. This checklist is the only list of Alaska birds that I know of that is updated annually and is the "go to source" of what birds we have here in Alaska and what their status is. Some of the changes/additions to the checklist that occurred in 2010 are listed below:

ADDITIONS TO THE CHECKLIST:

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) from a bird photographed from Shemya Island Status: Accidental

Solitary Snipe (*Gallinago solitaria*) from a bird collected at Attu Island Status: Accidental (moved from the unsubstantiated list)

Laughing Gull (*Luecophaes atricilla*) from a bird photographed at Kodiak Island Status: Casual (moved from the unsubstantiated list)

ADDITIONS TO THE UNSUBSTANTIATED LIST

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

STATUS CHANGES

From Accidental to Casual:

Brown Pelican
Gray Heron
Black-winged Stilt
Jack Snipe
Pin-tailed Snipe
Rufous-tailed Robin

From Casual to Rare:

Franklin's Gull
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Purple Finch

From Rare to Unassigned

American Bittern

TAXONOMIC NAME CHANGES

Eastern Whip-poor-will from Whip-poor-will (species split)

Pacific Wren from Winter Wren (species split)

ADDITIONS TO THE CHECKLIST COMMITTEE

Jack J. Withrow joins Daniel D. Gibson, Steve C. Heintz, Aaron J. Lang and Theodore G. Tobish on the Alaska Checklist Committee

Side Note: Interestingly a bird photographed at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island on 9 September 2010 and believed to be a Blyth's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) did not make it onto the Checklist or the Unsubstantiated list?

Enjoy...and find some great birds in 2011.

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