



Birds of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula
Northwest Territories
Canada

by

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I was contracted by the Canadian Wildlife Service to do an ornithological reconnaissance of parts of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula during the summer of 1970. On the advice of Dr. T. Barry, June 23 - July 8 were spent on Banks Island at Castel Bay and Sachs Harbour. Work done on Banks Island is covered in a separate report. The survey of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula was conducted between July 9 and August 31, 1970. Logistic support for the work was obtained through the courtesy of the Polar Continental Shelf Project, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Activities were therefore governed by their operations schedule and priorities. My itinerary was as follows:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 9 - 11	Tuktoyaktuk
July 12 - 26	Atkinson Point - accommodation was provided by Imperial Oil
July 27 - 29	Tuktoyaktuk
July 30 - August 5	Richard's Island - to be covered in a separate report
August 6	Inuvik
August 7	Tuktoyaktuk
August 8 - 11	Toker Point area - camp 1 mile west of North Peak
August 12	Tuktoyaktuk
August 13	Flight to Hershel Island - aerial watch for flocking seabirds
August 14	Cape Dalhousie
August 15 - 17	Tuktoyaktuk
August 18 - 19	Shore Summit - Triple Summit area
August 20	Saviktak Point
August 21	Area 10 miles south of Tuktoyaktuk

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
August 22	Flight to Atkinson Point - aerial watch for flocking birds - ground fog
August 23	Tuktoyaktuk
August 24	Flight to Atkinson Point - aerial watch for flocking birds - clear
August 25	Franklin Bay - aborted attempt to land at rig sites 2 and 4 SW of Atkinson Point
August 26 - 31	Tuktoyaktuk
September 1 - 2	Inuvik
September 3	Edmonton

Most of the survey was made on foot, a few aerial observations were made, however. Observations were made with 7 x 35 binoculars and a 20 x spotting scope.

Description of Areas Investigated

The landscape at Toker Point and Triple Summit is dominated by pingoes. These pingoes sit in a basin surrounded by a lake or sedge marsh or both. The salinity of the water is dependent upon the distance to the seacoast. The land around the pingoes is either flat or rolling, and contains many lakes and ponds. It is shaped by frost action, and high and low center polygons seem to dictate the vegetation found in a given area. Vegetation in low center polygons is dominated by sedges and grasses. Small ponds and mud flats are frequently found in these polygons. On the high center polygons willow, birch, heaths, and Dryas sp. hummocks are common. In such areas the plants tend to form a tangled mat or vegetation about one foot deep. This type of vegetation also predominates on hillsides and on pingoes. Willows four or five feet high are found growing along streams in this region.

The coast line in the Toker Point area is sandy with driftwood piled up along the storm tide lines. Styrofoam cups, paper, and plastic is also found along the beaches, much of it presumably brought with the tide from Tuktoyaktuk and perhaps more distant settlements. Driftwood blinds built by waterfowl hunters are frequently found along the coast. Sand dunes are present, though not extensive. A coarse grass, Elymus arenarius is commonly found on these dunes. Salt marshes are frequently found on the landward side of the dunes.

The area around Tuktoyaktuk is very similar to the Toker Point region, but human activity in the areas has caused the scarcity of some birds and the concentration of others in the area.

The Atkinson Point region is flatter than the Toker Point region, and areas of low center polygons are more extensive. The nearest pingoes are about 10 miles away, and appear mirage-like on the horizon on a clear day. Willow and heath on the high center polygons is less than six inches high. There is no high vegetation in the area. Small ponds are more common than in the Toker Point region. The beaches are sandy, except for a stretch of about 100 yards along the west shore which is of puff (peat, wood chips, etc.).

The area at Cape Dalhousie lacks standing fresh water and its associated habitats. Brackish ponds and mud flats are common and a large salt marsh is in the area. Vegetation on high center polygons is rarely more than two or three inches high.

The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula bears the marks of extensive oil exploration. Seismic lines are seen in all the regions I investigated and are easily and frequently sighted from the air. The summer lines (Imperial Oil, 1965) caused the most damage, and now form trenches and small canals everywhere

they were made, including the Toker Point and Triple Summit areas. The winter lines, on the other hand, are frequently unnoticed by foot travellers except for the occasional turfing of vegetation. Also, many of the shot holes have not been filled, and detonation wire and litter are frequently found along the lines. These winter lines are easily seen from the air as their vegetation differs in color from that of the surrounding landscape. Exploration and drilling are continuing on the peninsula and there are rigs in the Atkinson Point and Hutchinson Bay regions.

A mammal survey of the Toker Point region was conducted by Stevens and Macpherson in July, 1970 (Macpherson, 1970). The vegetation of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula has been documented by Cody (1965). Kevan (1970) did a survey of the plants of the Toker Point region.

Gaviidae - Loons

Common Loon - Gavia immer (Brünnich)

Two common loons were seen by Capt. V.L.E. Dale Johnston of the C.S.S. Richardson at Tuktoyaktuk on June 13, 1970. He sighted a pair of common loons with two young between Toker Point and Pullen Island on July 24, 1970. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Yellow-billed Loon - Gavia adamsii (Gray)

One loon was sighted by Capt. Johnston near Tuktoyaktuk on July 23, 1970. Two of these loons were sighted on July 24, 1970 between Toker Point and Pullen Island. The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula is not included in Godfrey's (1966) breeding distribution map for these birds. Bent (1919) refers to a set of eggs collected on an island at the mouth of the Mackenzie River in 1898. MacFarlane (1908) noted this species to be very numerous on the

shores of Liverpool and Franklin Bays.

Arctic Loon - Gavia arctica (Linnaeus)

These loons were found in all areas investigated but were more common in the Toker Point and Triple Summit regions than elsewhere. They were more frequently found on large lakes than on small ponds. A nest with two eggs was found at Atkinson Point on July 14, 1970. The nest was on a small island about two feet wide and twenty feet long. Vegetation on the island was a short sedge and Stellaria sp. The nest was of mud, sedge and mosses. Neither egg was pipped.

Macpherson (1970) found Arctic Loons common in the Toker Point region and found nests on lakes and ponds as small as an acre or so in area. He saw birds displaying on 8 July, 1970.

At Toker Point, August 8 - 11, 1970, there was much vocalizing by Arctic loons and I saw groups of five frequently in flight and on lakes. Pairs were seen at sea as well.

Red-throated Loon - Gavia stellata (Pontoppidan)

These loons were noted in all areas investigated on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. They were often heard, and seen in flight. They were found on small ponds - some with emergent vegetation, some without. One pair had a nest in July, 1970 at Atkinson Point on a small pond near the air-strip. Loons were seen at Toker Point, though Arctic Loons were more common there. I saw an immature Red-Throated Loon on a small fresh water pond surrounded by a sedge marsh near camp at Triple Summit on August 18, 1970. It would not leave the lake, although I flushed an adult still in breeding plumage from the lake.

Podicipedidae - GrebesHorned Grebe - Podiceps auritus (Linnaeus)

This grebe was not noted during the summer. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the bird's breeding range.

Anatidae - Swans, Geese, and DucksWhistling Swan - Olor columbianus (Ord)

While flying surveys, I saw many paired swans on lakes in all areas of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula examined. Nesting pairs were found in all areas investigated. A pair of swans with two cygnets was seen at Toker Point on August 8. A pair with four nearly full grown cygnets was seen on the lake by Triple Summit on August 19, 1970. Most paired swans were by fresh water lakes and ponds and sedge marshes. Single birds and small flocks of 10-33 presumed non-breeders were often seen on brackish water ponds. They were noted feeding on Carex salina L. var. subspatacea (Wormsk.) Tuckerm. Macpherson (1970) saw a flock of 33 presumed non-breeders at Toker Point on July 8, 1970.

Canada Goose - Branta canadensis (Linnaeus)

These birds were not found nesting in the areas visited on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Helen Gruben of Tuktoyaktuk reported seeing a flock of these geese at Tuktoyaktuk at the end of August, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding distribution of the Canada Goose.

Black Brant - Branta bernicla nigricans (Linnaeus)

Black Brant were found nesting at Atkinson Point. A hen with one young was seen July 12, 1970 on a lake near the old DEW line site. A nesting pair was found on an island in a fresh water lake a mile east of the DEW line site. Glaucous and Sabine's Gulls were also nesting on the island. A flock of 50 birds, some with young, were seen on July 13, 1970 on islands in a tidal basin near McKinley Bay. Carex salina var. subspathacea grow profusely on the islands and shores of this basin. Birds were noted feeding on this sedge. McKinley Bay is a staging area for these geese (Barry, pers. comm.). On July 19, 1970, I found many feathers which appeared to be those of Brant washed up on the shores of Louth Bay at Atkinson Point. Large flocks of migrating Brant were noted along the Beaufort Sea coast of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula between Tuktoyaktuk and Atkinson Point on August 24, 1970.

White-fronted Goose - Anser albifrons (Scopoli)

These birds were not noted on the peninsula. Godfrey (1966) includes the area in their breeding distribution.

Snow Goose - Chen caerulescens (Linnaeus)

These birds were not noted nesting in the area of the peninsula investigated. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding distribution of this species. Flocks of adult and immature snow geese were seen at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970. Large flocks were seen from the air on a trip from Tuktoyaktuk to Atkinson Point on August 24, 1970, and on a trip from Tuktoyaktuk to Franklin Bay on August 25, 1970.

Mallard - Anas platyrhynchos (Linnaeus)

These ducks were seen occasionally on small lakes, ponds, and marshes around Tuktoyaktuk. I did not see nests or broods. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding distribution.

Pintail - Anas acuta Linnaeus

These ducks were commonly seen in all areas of the peninsula investigated. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding distribution. Single birds, some of which were drakes still in breeding plumage, were seen in early July near Tuktoyaktuk. Ten Pintails, either hens, immatures or drakes in eclipse, were flushed from a pond near Tuktoyaktuk on July 9, 1970. Fifty Pintails in similar plumage were seen on a fresh water lake at Atkinson Point on July 26, 1970. Pintails were most frequently seen on lakes that were edged with marsh areas or had emergent vegetation.

Green-winged Teal - Anas carolinensis Gmelin

These birds were seen in the Toker Point, Triple Summit and Tuktoyaktuk areas of the peninsula. They were found on sloughs and small ponds with emergent vegetation. A hen and eight feathered chicks were seen swimming in a deep cut seismic line (Imperial Oil, summer 1965) on August 10, 1970 at Toker Point. I flushed two fully feathered immatures at the edge of a lake near Triple Summit on August 19, 1970. They swam out into the lake peeping. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range. These birds nest in marshes and grass (Peterson, 1961).

American Widgeon - Mareca americana (Gmelin)

I first saw these birds on August 14, 1970, at Cape Dalhousie when a flock of 23 was flushed from a tidal pond. Flocks of 30 and 40 were seen at Tuktoyaktuk on August 15, 1970 and at Triple Summit on August 18, 1970. Widgeons were also seen with flocks of Pintails at Tuktoyaktuk in salt water ponds and inlets. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Greater Scaup - Aythya marila (Linnaeus)

Lesser Scaup - Aythya affinis (Eyton)

I did not see drake scaup on the peninsula. I saw several hens, some with broods, but I was unable to flush the birds to determine their species.

A hen scaup with a brood of seven was seen at Toker Point on August 9, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding range of the Greater Scaup, but not that of the Lesser Scaup; however, the Mackenzie Delta and Anderson River Delta are in the range of the latter.

Old Squaw - Clangula hyemalis (Linnaeus)

This was the most commonly seen duck on the peninsula. Small flocks (5-10) of drakes were seen in bays and on large ponds at Tuktoyaktuk and Atkinson Point in early July. Nesting hens were found at Atkinson Point and Toker Point (Macpherson, 1970). I found one nest at Atkinson Point in a high center polygon area several hundred yards from any body of water. Twelve Old Squaw nests were found on an island in a lake by the old DEW line site at Atkinson Point. Four of these nests were found in a sedge and grass meadow on the island. The other nests were found along the edge of the island within inches of the water. Clutch sizes of Old Squaw ducks nesting on the island averaged 6.6 eggs. Also nesting on the island were Arctic Terns and Sabine's

Gulls. In some cases Old Squaw nests were as close as four feet from tern and gull nests. No depredated nests were found. On July 13, 1970 at Atkinson Point, an Old Squaw nest was found that was only six inches from an Arctic Tern's nest. Both the tern and the Old Squaw were incubating. The tern flushed and attacked while the Old Squaw remained on the nest. On July 26, 1970, a nest with newly hatched chicks was found on the above mentioned island and two Old Squaw hens with three chicks each were seen on the lake. A hen with three young was seen at Triple Summit on August 19, 1970.

Common Eider - Somateria mollissima (Linnaeus)

On July 21, 1970, a dead Common Eider drake was found in the Atkinson Point area. Twelve empty Eider nests were found on the island where Old Squaw ducks were nesting. Whether these were Common Eider or King Eider nests was uncertain. Common Eiders tend to nest gregariously, but islands often attract nesting ducks (Long, 1970), and the nests may have been those of King Eiders. No live Common Eiders were seen during the summer. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding distribution. The peninsula may be along the migration route for birds nesting on Banks and Victoria Islands, and other more easterly nesting areas.

King Eider - Somateria spectabilis (Linnaeus)

Two drakes were captured in mid-July, 1970 at Atkinson Point. Both were unable to take off from land, though they had all their flight feathers. They were released on lakes and swam out to deep water rather than attempting to fly. Hen King Eiders were seen in flight and on small fresh water lakes in the Atkinson Point area. Empty Eider nests were found at the edges of lakes and on islands in lakes, but I was uncertain which species had made them. Vegetation around the nests was short, varying from grasses and sedges

to low growing willow and birch. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species' breeding distribution.

White-winged Scoter - Melanitta deglandi (Bonaparte)

A White-winged Scoter and eight downy young were seen August 19, 1970 on a lake by Triple Summit. The young appeared to be about one week old.

A hen and five half grown young were seen on a lake about ten miles south of Tuktoyaktuk on August 27, 1970. Another group of four hens or immatures was seen on the same day on another small lake in the area. I found no nests as they are usually well hidden in shrubbery (Godfrey, 1966). Capt. Johnston reported seeing three large flocks of White-winged Scoters near Hershel Island on August 9, 1970.

Surf Scoter - Melanitta perspicillata (Linnaeus)

Small flocks of drakes (3-7) were seen on the small bays and coastal ponds around Tuktoyaktuk. Capt. Johnston saw a flock of 1,000 or so Surf Scoters on a trip from Tuktoyaktuk to Hershel Island on August 3, 1970. I did not find nesting hens on the peninsula. Godfrey (1966) does not include the peninsula in their breeding distribution, but states that actual breeding data are few, and that the species summers along the Arctic Coast of Yukon and Western Mackenzie.

Red-breasted Merganser - Mergus serrator (Linnaeus)

I did not find this species. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in its breeding range. He says they usually nest near water and are found on both fresh and salt water during the breeding season.

Accipitridae - Hawks

Rough-legged Hawk - Buteo lagopus (Pontoppidan)

A Rough-legged Hawk was seen "wheeling over camp area" July 9, 1970 at Toker Point (Macpherson, 1970). On August 8, 1970, I saw one hovering over a marsh in the Toker Point area. No nests were found. The species is known to nest on flat ground as well as cliffs and rocky outcrops (Godfrey, 1966). Pingo's may provide nesting sites. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species breeding distribution.

Falconidae - Falcons

Gyr Falcon - Falco rusticolus (Linnaeus)

On August 11, 1970, a dark phase Gyr Falcon was seen soaring around North Summit. The bird landed on a navigation aid tower and used it for a lookout for a few minutes before flying off. No nests were found in the area. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the species breeding range. These birds usually build on cliffs, sometimes in trees, and sometimes they use the nests of Rough-legged Hawks (Godfrey, 1966).

Strigidae - Owls

Snowy Owl - Nyctea scandiaca (Linnaeus)

I did not see any Snowy Owls in the areas of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula I investigated. Godfrey (1966) includes the area in their breeding distribution. The absence of Snowy Owls may have been due to the low population of small mammals in the area (Macpherson, 1970).

Short-eared Owl - Asio flammeus (Pontoppidan)

Capt. Johnston saw a Short-eared Owl near Tuktoyaktuk on June 20, 1970. Macpherson (1970) saw one near his camp at Toker Point on July 8, 1970. These owls nest on the ground in open areas (Godfrey, 1966). Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Tetraonidae - Grouse and Ptarmigan

Willow Ptarmigan - Lagopus lagopus (Linnaeus)

Rock Ptarmigan - Lagopus mutus (Montin)

Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding distribution of both these species of ptarmigan. On the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, I had difficulty distinguishing the two species. Willow Ptarmigan were readily identified on Richards Island where the cocks were very red, and hens with broods usually were accompanied by cocks. On the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, I saw only one red cock - near Tuktoyaktuk on August 27, 1970. Other ptarmigan I flushed were grayish brown. Hens with broods were usually not accompanied by other adults. Ptarmigan were numerous in all areas investigated.

Macpherson (1970) found a ptarmigan nest with unpipped eggs at Toker Point on July 8, 1970. I found a ptarmigan nest with ten hatched eggs on July 12, 1970 at Atkinson Point. Hens with downy broods and with fledged broods were seen within the next week at Atkinson Point. Flocks of four and five adult ptarmigan were seen during this time. At Toker Point between July 8 and 10, Macpherson (1970) flushed flocks of up to thirteen Willow Ptarmigan from sunny slopes. I flushed flocks of 15-20 birds at Toker Point and Triple Summit in August, 1970. The birds were generally found in high center polygon areas, in heath, birch and willow.

Gruidae - CranesSandhill Crane - Grus canadensis (Linnaeus)

Sandhill Cranes were observed in all areas of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula investigated except Cape Dalhousie. They were the shyest birds observed on the peninsula. Six were seen in fresh water marshes near small lakes at Atkinson Point. Their tracks were seen on mud flats around brackish water ponds and in salt marshes near the coast. Macpherson (1970) saw one crane performing distraction displays at Toker Point on July 8-9, 1970. I flushed a pair from a low center polygon sedge meadow at Toker Point on August 8, 1970. Cranes were also seen along a channel south of Tuktoyaktuk harbour. Nests were not found on the peninsula, but the birds probably breed there.

Charadriidae - Plovers and TurnstonesSemipalmated Plover - Charadrius semipalmatus Bonaparte

These birds were seen at Atkinson Point and Tuktoyaktuk in sand and gravel areas. One bird was seen performing distraction displays on July 9, 1970 near the airstrip at Tuktoyaktuk. I was unable to find a nest or chicks. This species was not seen in the Toker Point region, though the sandy beaches should offer good nesting sites. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding distribution of this species.

American Golden Plover - Pluvialis dominica (Müller)

These birds were seen in all the areas investigated on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. I found no nests or downy chicks, and assumed that nesting was over when I arrived on the peninsula since I found nests and newly hatched chicks at Sachs Harbour, Banks Island on July 4, 1970. Five plovers in breeding plumage were seen feeding on insects in the sedges along the shores of a tidal basin at Atkinson Point. Individuals were seen feeding with Pectoral Sandpipers on chironomids in grass and sedge meadows at Atkinson Point. At Toker Point, a pair with three juveniles were seen on August 8, 1970. The adults were still in breeding plumage. The birds were in a high center polygon area near a small stream. They were seen feeding in the area. Two immatures and/or adults in winter plumage were seen feeding along the sea shore at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970. Three more were seen feeding in a high center polygon area vegetated with Dryas. A flock of four immatures and/or adults in winter plumage were seen at Saviktok Point on August 20, 1970. They were in a high center polygon area vegetated with birch, heath, and willow.

Black-bellied Plover - Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus)

This species was noted twice - one individual at Atkinson Point on July 13, 1970 and a flock of six at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970. The bird seen at Atkinson Point was near a small pond. It chased a Glaucous Gull out of the area. It also followed me, calling, for about 100 yards. Though Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species' breeding range, the behavior of this bird seemed to indicate that it had a nest or young in the area. The flock seen at Cape Dalhousie was feeding along the sandy shore. They were still in breeding plumage.

Scolopacidae - Snipe and Sandpipers

Common Snipe - Capella gallinago (Linnaeus)

These birds were heard winnowing at Tuktoyaktuk on July 9, 1970. Birds were occasionally flushed from sedge marshes surrounding small fresh water and brackish water ponds around Tuktoyaktuk. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding range of this species. These birds were not noted elsewhere on the peninsula although similar marsh habitats are abundant.

Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew) - Numenius phaeopus (Linnaeus)

One individual was seen near Shore Summit (Triple Summit area) on August 18, 1970. The bird was evidently a juvenile as its beak was quite short. The bird's legs were bluish gray and it gave a soft clear "whoo loo" call.

It was feeding along the sandy shore of a tidal basin.

Whimbrels were seen at Tuktoyaktuk by Capt. Johnston at the end of May, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range. Macpherson (1970) noted "a curlew" defending a territory in a pingo basin near Toker Point between July 8 and 10, 1970.

Lesser Yellowlegs - Totanus flavipes (Gmelin)

One individual was seen feeding in the shallows of a brackish water pond at Tuktoyaktuk on August 16, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Pectoral Sandpiper - Erolia melanotos (Vieillot)

These birds were common in the Toker Point, Triple Summit and Atkinson Point regions. They were also seen at Cape Dalhousie and Tuktoyaktuk. Breeding pairs were found at Atkinson Point in sedge and grass meadows by small fresh water ponds. A small downy chick was found on July 12, 1970 at Atkinson Point. It was hiding in a crack in a Dryas hummock. Both adults flew around me calling, attempting to lead me away.

Flocks of fifty or more Pectoral Sandpipers fed on chironomids in the sedge and grass meadows at Atkinson Point July 15-18, 1970.

At Toker Point, Macpherson (1970) tentatively identified a Pectoral Sandpiper at a possible breeding territory in a sedge marsh. I saw flocks of 10-20 of these sandpipers feeding in the shallows and probing the mud along the shores of brackish ponds close to the coast at Toker Point on August 8, 1970. Small flocks were also seen on August 19, 1970 along the coast near Shore Summit where they fed in marshes at the base of pingoes and in the mud of a deep cut seismic line (Imperial Oil, summer 1965).

White-rumped Sandpiper - Erolia fuscicollis (Vieillot)

Capt. Johnston found this bird nesting near Tuktoyaktuk on June 15, 1970. On July 30, 1970, he saw a large mixed flock of White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers near Tuktoyaktuk. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species breeding range, however, Franklin Bay is included.

Baird's Sandpiper - Erolia bairdii (Coues)

Capt. Johnston saw these birds near Tuktoyaktuk at the end of May, and found them nesting on June 20, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Least Sandpiper - Erolia minutilla (Vieillot)

One individual was tentatively identified feeding in a marsh near the garbage dump at Tuktoyaktuk on August 17, 1970. At Triple Summit, a single bird was seen with a flock of Northern Phalarope and Semipalmated Sandpipers along the beach. Capt. Johnston reported seeing a large flock (ca. 100) of these sandpipers at Tuktoyaktuk on July 30 and August 2, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Dunlin - Erolia alpina (Linnaeus)

Capt. Johnston saw one bird on June 15, 1970 at Tuktoyaktuk. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding range of this species.

Long-billed Dowitcher - Limodromus scolopaceus (Say)

Capt. Johnston saw one bird in the Tuktoyaktuk area on May 31, 1970. These birds breed in the Anderson River area (Godfrey, 1966), but the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula is not included in their breeding distribution (Godfrey, 1966).

Stilt Sandpiper - Micropalama himantopus (Bonaparte)

These sandpipers were commonly seen at all the areas investigated, but were not as numerous as Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers. On July 9, 1970 an adult in breeding plumage was seen feeding in the shallows of a brackish pond at Tuktoyaktuk. A pair with one chick was found in a grassy meadow by a big lake at Atkinson Point on July 17, 1970. The chick was at least a week old.

At Toker Point on August 8, 1970 a Stilt Sandpiper in partial winter plumage was seen feeding in a grassy meadow. On August 14, 1970 at Cape Dalhousie two flocks of three and four sandpipers in winter plumage were seen feeding, with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers, on a mud flat. These Stilt Sandpipers may have been immatures.

Semipalmated Sandpiper - Ereunetes pusillus (Linnaeus)

Semipalmated Sandpipers were numerous in all places investigated. They were found nesting at Atkinson Point and were presumed breeding at Toker Point (Macpherson, 1970) and at Tuktoyaktuk. On July 9, 1970 at Tuktoyaktuk, I saw a bird perform a distraction display in a dry, grassy area near a large fresh water lake. At Atkinson Point on July 13, 1970, two small chicks were found in a grassy meadow near a lake. Three adult birds were in the area performing distraction displays. Another pair and two chicks were found in a similar area on the same day. On July 14, 1970, a pair with four chicks were seen. A chick with wing feathers and a short tail was seen on July 15, 1970; it could not fly. Adults were seen with Pectoral Sandpipers feeding on chironomids in grassy meadows July 15-18, 1970 at Atkinson Point. They were also found feeding on mud flats around tidal pools and brackish water ponds at Atkinson Point, Toker Point, and Triple Summit. On August 14, 1970, a flock of 25 birds was seen at Cape Dalhousie. The birds were also seen with a large flock of Northern Phalarope. The sandpipers were feeding on mud flats around a brackish water lake.

Hudsonian Godwit - Limosa haemastica (Linnaeus)

A flock of six birds was seen at Atkinson Point on July 17, 1970. These birds were feeding on chironomids in a grassy meadow by a lake, as were Sabine's Gulls, Stilt, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers. The Godwits were not seen the next day. Godfrey (1966) indicates that one breeding

area of this species is just south of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the Mackenzie and Anderson River deltas, but the breeding range of these birds is not fully known.

Sanderling - Crocethia alba (Pallas)

Capt. Johnston found some Sanderlings nesting near Tuktoyaktuk by a fresh water lake on July 3, 1970. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species' breeding range. Six Sanderlings in winter plumage were seen feeding along a gravel bar along the sea coast at Tuktoyaktuk on August 15, 1970.

Phalaropodidae - Phalaropes

Red Phalarope - Phalaropus fulicarius (Linnaeus)

One pair was seen at Atkinson Point on July 19, 1970. The birds behavior indicated that there was a nest or brood in the area, but neither was found. The birds were seen by fresh water lakes foraging in emergent vegetation near the shore. They were occasionally flushed from the grasses and sedges in low center polygons. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the breeding range of the birds.

Northern Phalarope - Lobipes lobatus (Linnaeus)

This phalarope was common everywhere on the peninsula where there are lakes or ponds with some emergent vegetation. Downy chicks were found at Atkinson Point on July 12, 1970 by a fresh water lake. A flock of about 150, in winter plumage, was seen on a tidal lake at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970. Small flocks of about 20 birds were seen in the shallows of the Beaufort Sea and along the beach near Shore Summit on August 19, 1970.

StercorariidaeParasitic Jaeger - Stercorarius parasiticus (Linnaeus)

These Jaegers were seen at Atkinson Point, Toker Point, Triple Summit, and Tuktoyaktuk. Dark phase birds were more frequent than light phase ones. Mixed pairs were seen at Atkinson Point and Toker Point. No nests were found, but the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula is in their breeding range (Godfrey, 1966). Macpherson (1970) saw two dark phase Jaegers at Toker Point on July 8 and 9, 1970. They repeatedly dove at a Curlew (Macpherson, 1970). I saw a fledged immature at Toker Point on August 9, 1970.

Parasitic Jaegers are reported to feed primarily on lemmings (Maher, 1970).

On July 15, 1970 at Atkinson Point a dark phase Jaeger was seen taking a Lapland Longspur after a long chase. A pair of light phase Jaegers was seen chasing a Yellow Warbler at Triple Summit on August 19, 1970. The warbler escaped by flying into a willow thicket growing at the base of the pingo.

Long-tailed Jaeger - Stercorarius longicaudus Vieillot

One bird was seen at Toker Point on July 9 (Macpherson, 1970). One pair was seen at Atkinson Point on July 15, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range. The main diet of the Long-tailed Jaeger is lemmings (Maher, 1970). Small rodents were scarce at Toker Point in July, 1970 (Macpherson, 1970), and appeared to be scarce in other areas of the peninsula as well. It is possible that competition with the larger Parasitic Jaegers during this time has forced Long-tailed Jaegers into other areas.

Laridae - Gulls and TernsGlaucous Gull - Larus hyperboreus (Gunnerus)

These gulls were common on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. I found them nesting at Atkinson Point, and Macpherson (1970) found them nesting at Toker Point. They were found nesting near fresh water lakes or on islands in lakes. They were usually nesting as single pairs. A colony of about fifty pairs was found on an island in a fresh water lake near McKinley Bay. Pairs with chicks were seen on July 15, 1970 at Atkinson Point. A fledged immature was found dead at Saviktok Point on August 20, 1970. It was coated with diesel fuel.

Thayer's Gull - Larus thayeri (Brooks)

Capt. Johnston found a dead bird on the ice at Tuktoyaktuk harbour on June 6, 1970. He carefully examined the bird. This species nests on Banks Island and Victoria Island and other Arctic islands. It has been treated as a subspecies of the Herring Gull, but has been found breeding sympatrically with the Herring Gull (Macpherson, 1961), and is probably a separate species.

Mew Gull - Larus canus (Linnaeus)

One pair was seen at Tuktoyaktuk August 15, 1970. The pair had three fledged young. The young were giving calls similar to the begging calls of Herring Gulls. Capt. Johnston saw a Mew Gull at Tuktoyaktuk on June 13, 1970. This species was not common at Tuktoyaktuk, and was not seen in other areas of the peninsula. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species breeding range.

Sabine's Gull - Xema sabini (Sabine)

These gulls were seen at Atkinson Point and Cape Dalhousie. At Atkinson Point these birds were found nesting in small colonies (ten pairs) in cotton grass marshes on islands in fresh water lakes and along the shores of fresh water lakes. Arctic Terns and Old Squaw ducks were often nesting in the same areas. The nests of Sabine's Gulls were unlined scrapes between clumps of sedges or grasses. Chicks were first seen on July 12, 1970 at Atkinson Point. Fledglings were seen at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970.

Arctic Tern - Sterna paradisaea Pontoppidan

This species was found nesting at Atkinson Point and was seen at all areas I investigated. A small colony of ten pairs was found on an island in a fresh water lake. Single pairs were found nesting on islands and lake shores. Nesting habitat varied from dry areas in cotton grass marshes to rocky areas. Arctic Terns were often found nesting near Sabine's Gulls, Glaucous Gulls and Old Squaw ducks. On July 13, 1970 at Atkinson Point one nest was found six inches from an Old Squaw nest. Some ducks have been found to prefer nesting near terns, presumably because the territorial behavior of the terns protects the ducks nest as well as the terns (Long, 1970). I saw chicks on July 13, 1970. A flock of about 100 adult and immatures terns was seen at Toker Point on August 9, 1970. The birds were feeding in the shallow waters along the coast.

Alaudidae - LarksHorned Lark - Eremophila alpestris (Linnaeus)

I did not see these birds on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Godfrey (1966) includes the peninsula in their breeding distribution.

Corvidae - RavensCommon Raven - Corvus corax Linnaeus

Ravens were seen in flight over high center polygon ground at Toker Point and Triple Summit in August, 1970. Only two were seen. Capt. Johnston saw Ravens in Tuktoyaktuk on June 19, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Turdidae - ThrushesAmerican Robin - Turdus migratorius Linnaeus

Robins were seen in the Tuktoyaktuk region. Capt. Johnston found them nesting on June 13, 1970. The birds were not common. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Motacillidae - PipitsWater Pipit - Anthus spinoletta (Linnaeus)

Water Pipits were seen at Toker Point and Triple Summit. At Toker Point I observed a Pipit feeding on insects on the east side of North Summit on August 11, 1970. The vegetation on the pingo was low willow and Dryas. A Water Pipit was seen in the sand dunes along the beach at Triple Summit on August 18, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Laniidae - Shrikes

Northern Shrike - Lanius excubitor Linnaeus

Capt. Johnston saw a Shrike at Tuktoyaktuk on June 1, 1970. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in this species' breeding range.

Parulidae - Wood Warblers

Yellow Warbler - Dendroica petechia (Linnaeus)

These birds were seen at Tuktoyaktuk, Toker Point, and Triple Summit. They were found in willow and birch thickets close to lakes and streams. On August 17, 1970, I observed a bird in fall plumage at Tuktoyaktuk. It was picking insects out of willow catkins and off the leaves and bark. Macpherson (1970) saw a male at Toker Point on July 8, 1970. I saw a Yellow Warbler escape from two Parasitic Jaegers by darting into a willow clump on the side of Triple Summit on August 19, 1970 (see Parasitic Jaeger). Godfrey (1966) includes the western portion of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Blackpoll Warbler - Dendroica striata (Forster)

These warblers were not seen in the areas investigated. Godfrey (1966) includes the western portion of Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding distribution.

Northern Waterthrush - Seiurus noveboracensis (Gmelin)

I saw one bird along the shore of Tuktoyaktuk Harbour on August 12, 1970. It was feeding on insects along the shore, and flew into a willow thicket. Godfrey (1966) includes the western portion of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Fringillidae - Sparrows and Buntings

Hoary Redpoll - Acanthis hornemanni (Holboell)

These birds were seen at Tuktoyaktuk but were not as common as the Common Redpoll. They were found in willow and birch two to six feet high. In August, they were seen feeding on the seeds of Senecio congestus. A female with fledged young was seen on August 17, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Common Redpoll - Acanthis flammea (Linnaeus)

These birds were common at Tuktoyaktuk, Toker Point and Triple Summit in willow and birch two to six feet high. In August, they were seen feeding on the seeds of Senecio congestus at Tuktoyaktuk. Fledged young were seen at Tuktoyaktuk on August 17, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Savannah Sparrow - Passerculus sandwichensis (Gmelin)

These sparrows were common in all areas of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula I investigated. I observed a pair feeding nestlings at Tuktoyaktuk on July 9, 1970. I flushed a newly fledged Savannah from a sedge and grass meadow on the same date. The Savannahs around Tuktoyaktuk were seen in cotton grass marsh, willow, dune grass, and driftwood along the beaches. At Atkinson Point, they tended to be in the sand dune areas close to the sea. Macpherson (1970) noted them to be common in willow clumps at Toker Point, but well distributed and not confined to dense cover. I saw very few Savannahs at Toker Point August 8-11, 1970, although they were seen in the Tuktoyaktuk region as late as August 20, 1970. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Tree Sparrow - Spizella arborea (Wilson)

These sparrows were seen at Tuktoyaktuk and Toker Point in willow and birch thickets along streams and lakes, and on hillsides. On July 9, 1970 I saw an adult male with a beak full of food. The bird was very agitated and I assumed that it had a nest or fledged young in the area. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Chipping Sparrow - Spizella passerina (Bechstein)

Capt. Johnston saw this sparrow at Tuktoyaktuk on July 3, 1970. Macpherson (1970) saw two males in tall willows at Toker Point, July 8-10, 1970. Godfrey (1966) states that the central Yukon and central Mackenzie are the northern limits of this species' breeding range in western Canada.

White-crowned Sparrow - Zonotrichia leucophrys (Forster)

These sparrows bred at Tuktoyaktuk, but I did not see them in other areas of the peninsula. They were found in willow and birch thickets two feet or more high. A newly fledged White-crowned Sparrow was seen July 9, 1970 in a willow thicket on the slope of a small pingo at Tuktoyaktuk. Adult birds were in the area chipping and feeding the fledgling. Godfrey (1966) does not include the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Fox Sparrow - Passerella iliaca (Merrem)

I saw three Fox Sparrows at Tuktoyaktuk on August 16, 1970. They were in willows growing at the base of a small pingo by a lake. One bird was observed bathing in the lake. They were not seen earlier in the summer and it is uncertain whether or not they were breeding in the area. Godfrey (1966) includes the western portion of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Lapland Longspur - Calcarius lapponicus (Linnaeus)

This was the most common passerine on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. It was numerous in all of the areas investigated. A presumed Lapland Longspur nest was found destroyed at Atkinson Point on July 14, 1970. The nest was in the side of a sedge hummock. The grass and feathers lining had been jerked out, perhaps by a gull or a jaeger. I saw a fledgling being fed by a male still in breeding plumage on July 16, 1970 at Atkinson Point. Adult birds were molting in late July and were seen in winter plumage in August. Macpherson (1970) found this species to be common and ubiquitous at Toker Point. I found the birds in low center polygons and high center polygons with low growing vegetation. I did not see them in willow

thickets. Flocks of 20-30 Lapland Longspurs were seen ten miles south of Tuktoyaktuk on August 27, 1970.

Smith's Longspur - Calcarius pictus (Swainson)

I did not see this species on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Godfrey (1966) includes the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in their breeding range.

Snow Bunting - Plectrophenax nivalis (Linnaeus)

I saw Snow Buntings at Tuktoyaktuk, Atkinson Point and Cape Dalhousie. Males were seen singing on telephone poles at Tuktoyaktuk on July 9, 1970. A fledgling was sitting on a driftwood log nearby, and adult birds were bringing it food. At Atkinson Point the birds were found around the empty buildings of the DEW line station. I saw adults and fledglings feeding on flies that were swarming around reindeer carcasses on July 16, 1970. An immature was seen on a sand dune at Cape Dalhousie on August 14, 1970. On August 15, 1970, I saw an adult in winter plumage at Tuktoyaktuk.

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