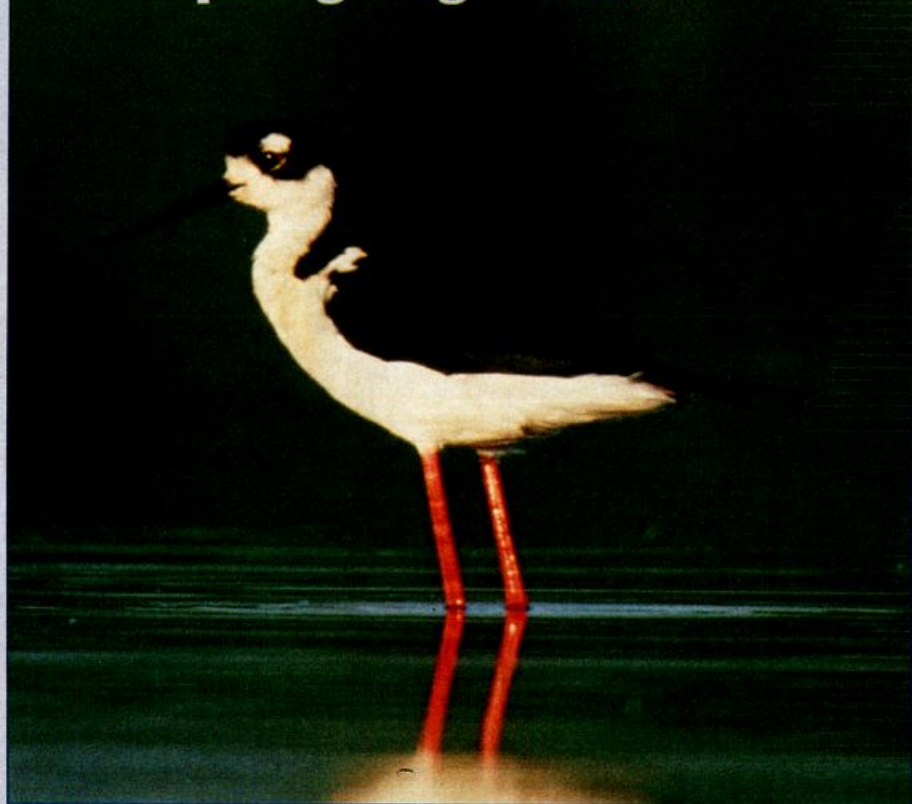


# pictorial highlights

## Spring Migration



A number of Black-necked Stilts appeared north of their usual range around the western Great Lakes. This male (sexed by the black mantle, matching the nape color) was at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin, 28 May 1999. The few older, browner feathers visible in the wing coverts indicate a first-spring bird. Photograph/Jack R. Bartholmai



This immature male Black-headed Grosbeak (aged and sexed by the rich orange underparts and black head pattern) wintered at a Goshen, New Jersey, feeder, where it lingered until 6 March 1999 and where this image was captured 9 February 1999. This species is quite scarce on the Atlantic Coast. Photograph/Clay and Patricia Sutton



The handsome Lark Sparrow is noteworthy in much of the East. This male was seen at Rock Springs, Pennsylvania, 10 May 1999 into June, the first for the State College area since 1931. This image was taken on 15 May. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut



Two images, taken 11 April, of North America's second Eurasian Oystercatcher at Eastport, Newfoundland, 3 April–2 May 1999. The black upperparts and the extensive white on the rump and wings are good distinctions from the American Oystercatcher. Photographs/Bruce Mactavish

## pictorial highlights



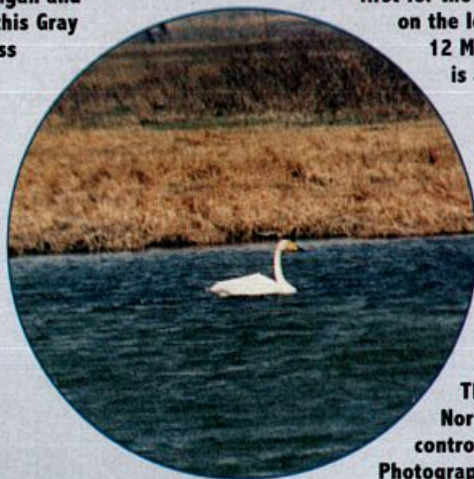
The *gambelii* subspecies of the White-crowned Sparrow is a bird of the West and is thus rare in the East. This individual, banded as an immature at Chino Farms 5 March 1999 (left), not only provided the first well-documented record for Maryland, but was recaptured 25 April 1999 in adult plumage (right)! Photographs/Jim Gruber.



Although well known for wandering far afield, with many records for the Atlantic Coast and north to Michigan and even British Columbia, this Gray Kingbird was nonetheless an exciting State first at Carlyle Lake, Illinois, 15 May 1999, and a Regional first for the Middlewestern Prairie. Photograph/Mike Seiffert



Despite their tendency to appear well outside their normal range, this adult male Painted Bunting was still a surprise at Kennedy, Saskatchewan, 1–13 May 1999, and provided first for the Province and Region. This photo, with a male House Sparrow on the left and an adult Harris's Sparrow on the right, was taken 12 May. Given the bunting's prevalence in captivity, natural occurrence is always a concern in this gaudy species. Photograph/John Triffo



This Whooper Swan, identified by the extensive yellow on the bill jutting forward to a distinct point, was a first for the Prairie Provinces at Irricana, Alberta, 17–18 April 1999 (the photo was taken on the former date). The natural occurrence of individuals in North America away from Alaska remains controversial (see the Regional Report). Photograph/Terry Korolyk



This female Rose-throated Becard at Anzalduas Park 24 April 1999 was part of a pair that stayed through the summer beginning that date. Their nesting effort was the first in Texas in over 20 years. Photograph/Bob Metzler



This immature (or female) Green-breasted Mango at Los Fresnos, Texas, 22-23 May 1999 provided the 7th record for Texas and the United States, a remarkable total given that the first was only a decade ago. The photo was taken on 23 May. Photograph/Bob Honig



Another first for the burgeoning State List of Texas, this singing male Buff-breasted Flycatcher was at the Davis Mountains Preserve 5 May 1999. Note the rich-buff wash to the throat and breast and the distinct eyering. It was first discovered on 3 May, and shortly thereafter a copulating pair was observed. See the summer report for details about the nesting effort. Photograph/Mark Adams



The Ross's Gull was long predicted to occur at Point Pelee, Ontario, one of the most popular birding Meccas in all of North America. Yet who would have predicted that when their first finally came of this delicate Arctic waif that it would be in spring? This bird, still in fresh first-winter plumage, was enjoyed by hundreds of observers 17-18 May 1999, with this photograph taken the first date. Photograph/Stephen T. Pike



The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is rare anywhere in the West, so this adult was a nice find at Boulder, Colorado, 22 May 1999. Photograph/Tony Leukering

## pictorial highlights



This Wood Thrush near Pep on 26 April 1999 was one of few ever found in New Mexico. This species is extremely scarce throughout in the West, and is likely to remain so as numbers in the East decline. Photograph/Larry Sager



This adult male Painted Bunting, with House Finches photographed on 30 April, was far less adventurous than the bird that strayed to Saskatchewan, but was nevertheless well north of its usual range, near Aztec, New Mexico, 28 April–2 May 1999. Photograph/Tim Reeves



Black-chinned Sparrows, like this one at Foresthill on 31 May 1999, continued their northward push in the Sierra Nevada range, California. (See the Middle Pacific Coast Region for details.) Photograph/Ed Harper



An endemic breeder to the Gulf of California, the Yellow-footed Gull normally occurs in the United States only at the Salton Sea, California. It has wandered to the southern California coast, and north to eastern California and southern Nevada, and northern Utah, and east to Texas, so this second-summer bird at Wahweep on Lake Powell 21–23 April 1999 provided an "overdue" first for both Arizona and Utah, as the bird frequented both sides of the lake. This image of the bird with Ring-billed Gulls is from the final date. Photograph/Mark Stevenson