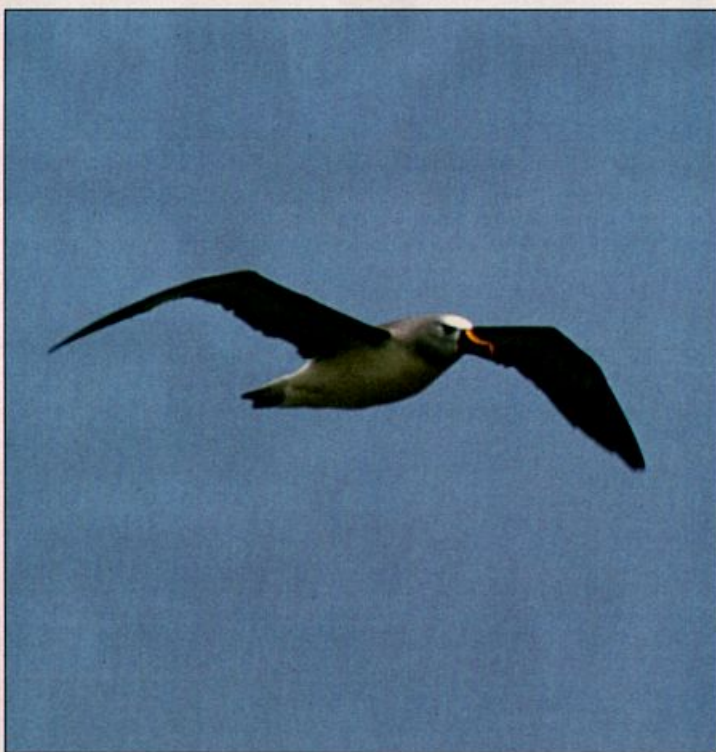


pictorial highlights



The European Golden-Plover remains a true rarity in North America. It is most regularly encountered in the Atlantic Provinces, often in the wake of spring storms. This bird at Cape Race, Newfoundland, 4–7 May 2000, fit the pattern nicely. The photo was taken 6 May. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish*

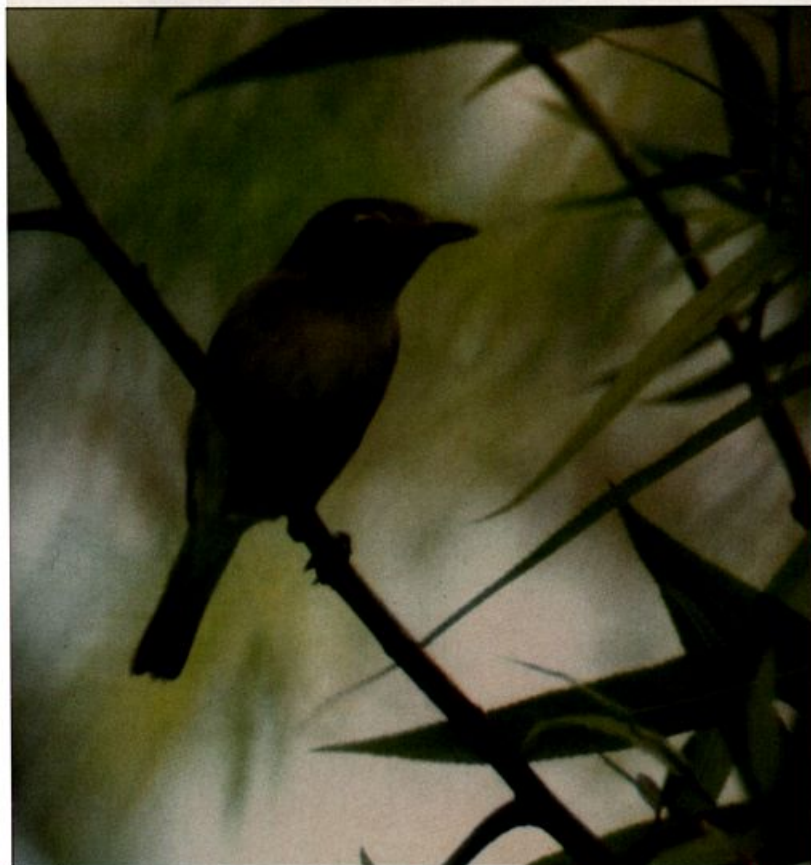


Following appearances off Massachusetts and Maryland and a brief stay at Fire Island, New York, this Yellow-nosed Albatross created a stir during its three days around Cape May, New Jersey, where this image was captured 23 May 2000. It later appeared off Rhode Island and again off Massachusetts. See the S.A. in the Hudson-Delaware region for details. *Photograph by Kevin T. Karlson*



European thrushes continue to find Québec a fine place to visit. On the heels of a Fieldfare in winter 1999/2000, this Redwing appeared at Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Refuge, 9–13 March 2000, providing a first record for Québec and a ninth for North America. This image was captured 11 March. *Photograph by Jean-Marc Giroux*

pictorial highlights



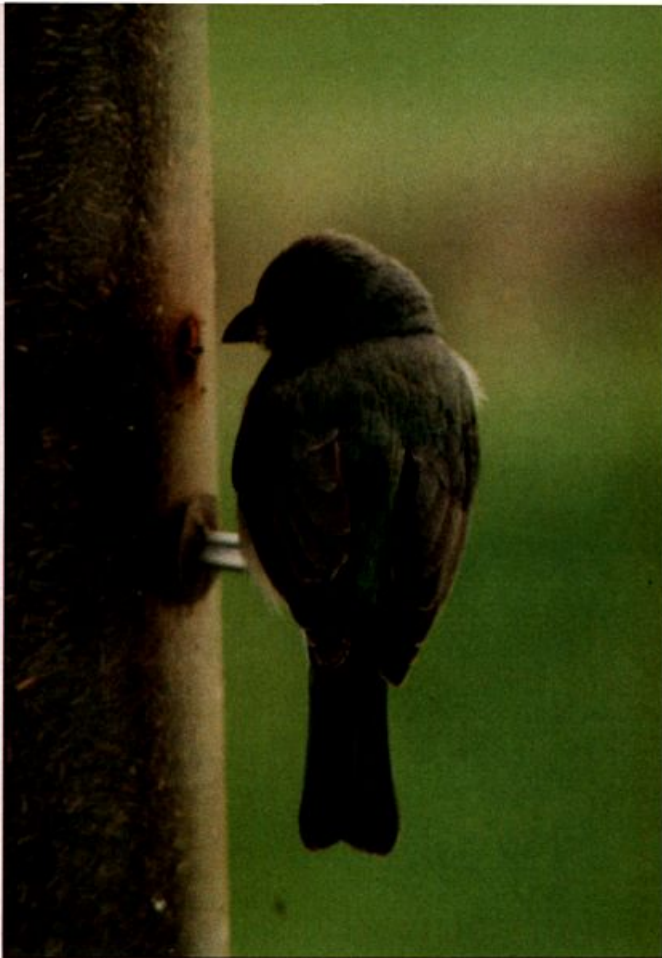
Bell's Vireo is a rare bird on the Atlantic slope (see Patten 1999, *Cardinal* 41). Despite several prior hypothetical reports for Georgia, this Bell's at Oxbow Meadows, Columbus, 26–29 April 2000, was the first physically documented in the state. The photo was taken 27 April. *Photograph by Giff Beaton*



Only about the sixth documented in Texas in the past century, this singing male Gray-crowned Yellowthroat frequented Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge throughout spring 2000, and cooperated for a close-up photo on 5 April. *Photograph by Ray Bieber*

Hybrids are generally rare in nature but they are relatively frequent in some groups of birds. Although not nearly as promiscuous as ducks and gulls, the wood-warblers prolifically interbreed. Indeed, hybrid Blue-winged x Golden-winged and Townsend's x Hermit Warblers are relatively well-known. Other warbler hybrids are far scarcer, such as this male Blackpoll x Bay-breasted at Loggerhead Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, 22 April 2000. *Photographs by Gordon Berkey*





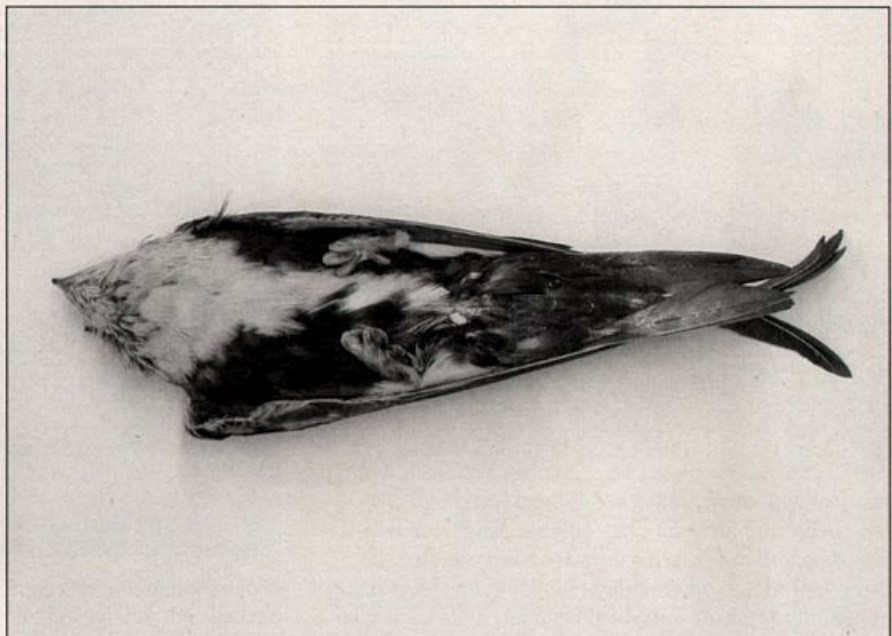
A regular spring stray north of its range, the Painted Bunting can bring excitement to any northerner, even if the bird is not an gaudy adult male. This apparent first spring bird (note the worn remiges and signs of partial molt) at a feeder in Gurnee provided Illinois with its fourth record. The image was captured the first day of its 21–22 April 2000 stay. *Photograph by Bill Mellen*



Away from Alaska, the distinctive Terek Sandpiper has occurred in North America on only three previous occasions (Massachusetts, British Columbia, and California) as an apparent fall vagrant (late June late August). This spring bird (right) at Christchurch, Barbados, 1 May 2000, with a Greater Yellowlegs (left) was thus remarkable and wholly unexpected. *Photograph by Martin Frost*



This adult Common Crane in central Nebraska was apparently a returning bird, as it appeared with staging Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River during March 2000, just as one had a year earlier. *Photograph by Christopher L. Wood*



A surprising first for Minnesota was furnished by this White-throated Swift found exhausted in downtown Minneapolis 10 May 2000. It died shortly thereafter; the specimen was preserved at the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. *Photograph by Robert M. Zink*

pictorial highlights

The Elegant Trogon breeds in southeastern Arizona but it is seldom noted away from breeding locales, or in winter. This striking male at Lake Patagonia, a place the species does not breed, had likely wintered locally. *Photograph by Jim Flynn*



Long known as a breeder in Big Bend National Park, the Lucifer Hummingbird has only recently been detected elsewhere in Texas. Records are increasing for the Davis Mountains, where numerous Mexican strays have appeared in recent years. But this adult male Lucifer in *Gillespie* 14–23 May provided the first spring record for the Edwards Plateau. *Photograph by Heidi Schulz*



A remarkable find, yet perhaps not so unexpected, was this adult Slaty-backed Gull at Loveland, Colorado, 6 March–6 April 2000. North American records (away from Alaska) of this Siberian species have increased dramatically in the past decade, with birds documented south to the southeastern California and southern Texas and east to Québec and New York. *Photograph by Randy Siebert*