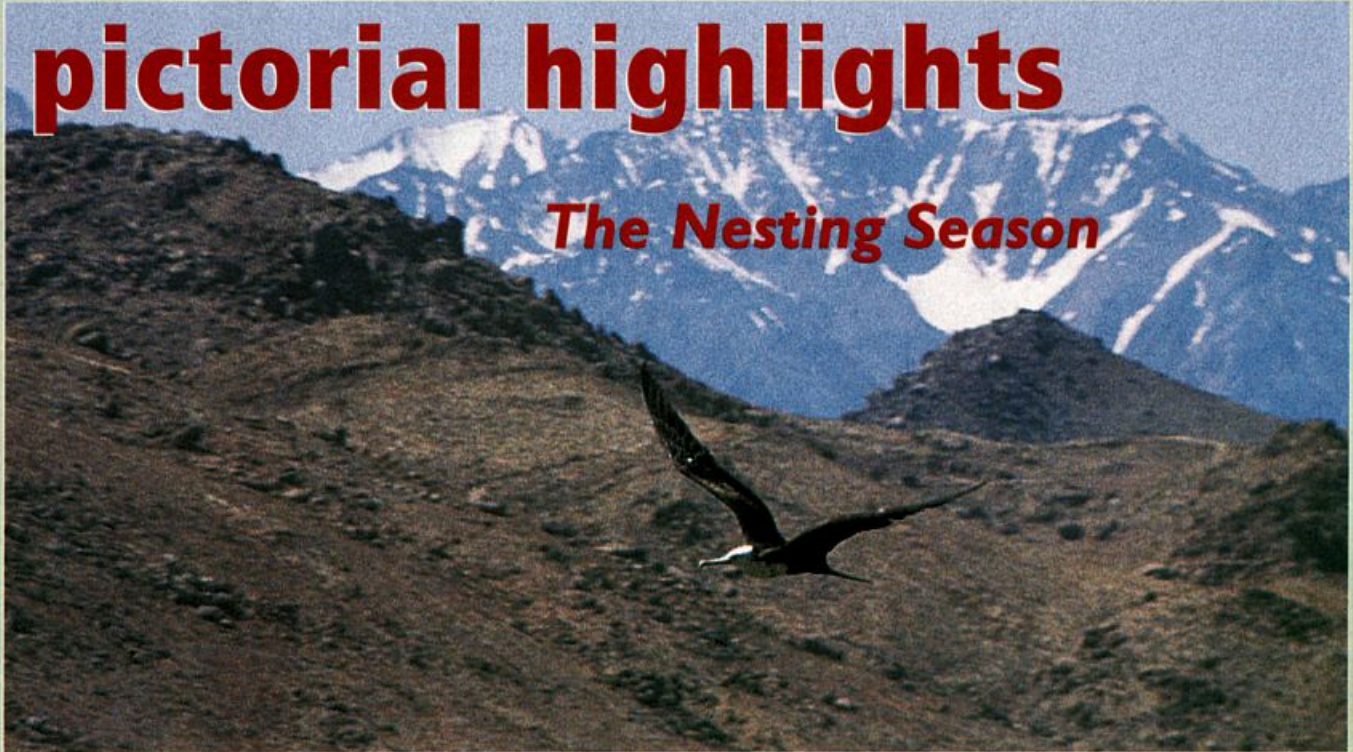
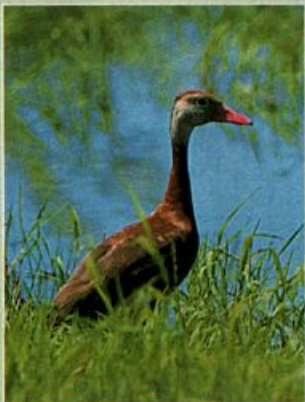


# pictorial highlights

## The Nesting Season



An immature Magnificent Frigatebird over Diaz Lake near Lone Pine, Inyo County, California, with 14,000 foot peaks of the high Sierra in the background, July 6, 1998. There was a major influx of immature frigatebirds from the Gulf of California into southeastern California in late June and early July. Photograph/Matthew T. Heindel



This Black-bellied Whistling Duck, on left, in Steele County on June 22, 1998, was the fifth for Minnesota and one of a few

upper Midwest reports of this tropical duck. El Niño conditions in Mexico may have sent a few of these colorful ducks prospecting to the north. Photograph/Anthony Hertzell.

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Pointe d'Eglise, at right, Digby County, Nova Scotia, arrived in April 1998 and remained through the summer. It represents a first record for the northeast coast and a third for Canada. There have been two previous sightings of flocks in Ontario. The possibility of it being an escape cannot be ruled out completely, but the bird was very wary, and the species does have a track record of occurrence in the upper Midwest. Photograph/Blake Maybank



The third for North Carolina and the first thoroughly documented, this Limpkin is present for 11 days and seen by many at a community built around its golf course near New Bern. This portrait was taken on June 23, 1998. Regional editor Ricky Davis speculated that Florida's serious late spring drought might have pushed this normally sedentary bird up the coast. Photograph/Ricky Davis.



## pictorial highlights

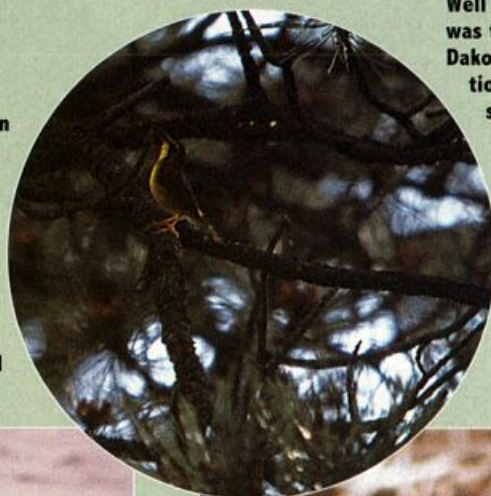


At least the fourth for Louisiana and the fifth for the Central Southern region was this Yellow-green Vireo at Cameron Parish on July 3, 1998. Amazingly enough this bird was apparently a member of a pair at this location hinting at the possibility of breeding. Note that although the apparent malar whisker seems inconsistent with Yellow-green Vireo, all other visible characters, such as the large pale bill, weak head pattern, and bright yellow on the flanks and across the belly support the identification. Photograph/Jason Weckstein



Well beyond the known limits of occurrence was this Acorn Woodpecker in north central North Dakota at Minot on June 8, 1998. Some populations of this generally sedentary species move seasonally in response to food shortage, perhaps explaining this waif. The species had previously occurred no closer than Wyoming. Photograph/Richard E. Dormont

Kentucky Warblers are not usually seen in pines. This apparently territorial male was present at Gregory Canyon, Boulder County, Colorado from June 6 to 27, 1998. It was accompanied by another rare easterner, Hooded Warbler, a pair of which nested at this extralimital outpost. See also the Mountain West regional report. Photograph/Chris Wood



Not only was this Arctic Tern on June 16, 1998, proof of the third occurrence in Montana at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge, it also had a mate with which it unsuccessfully nested. This was the first inland nesting attempt for the contiguous United States, well south of the nearest known sites in northwestern Saskatchewan. Photograph/Stephen J. Dinsmore



Barrow's Goldeneye has always been assumed to nest in eastern North America south of Greenland, but had not been confirmed until this season. Canadian Wildlife Service biologists located breeding lakes in Québec by tracking males outfitted with satellite telemetry during the winter. This hen and downy chicks were found on Lac des Polices on July 3, 1998. Photograph/Christian Marcotte





Perhaps because alternate plumaged birds are relatively easier to spot and identify, Curlew Sandpiper is traditionally a late spring and summer rarity. Colorado's first at Upper Queens Reservoir, Kiowa County, here shown on July 1, 1998, flanked by two Wilson's Phalaropes and a Western Sandpiper, was no exception. Photograph/Chris Wood



Among the most stunning of vagrant parulids and scarce anywhere in the west, this Prothonotary Warbler that spent a month in Missoula, Montana, was only that state's second. This handsome portrait was taken on June 18, 1998. Photograph/W. Edward Harper



The first photograph from North America of Bulwer's Petrel and the first record for California was made in Monterey Bay, Monterey County on July 26, 1998. Note the small bill and head, long tail, and pale wing panel or ulnar bar ("carpal bar"—sic) contrasting with the otherwise very dark brown plumage. Photograph/Bert McKee



Tropical Kingbird at Cap Tourmente, Québec, July 5, 1998. This was the second for the province; the first was also along the lower St. Lawrence on June 16, 1984. The bill/wing index (see M. Traylor, 1979. *Auk* 96: 221–233) calculated from this photo exceeds that of any Couch's Kingbird. See also the S.A. in the Québec regional report. Photograph/Michèle Lafleur



Following the extraordinary Black Noddy from spring 1998, yet another materialized on the Texas coast. This individual was photographed at St. Joseph's Island, Aransas County, on July 27, 1998. The appearance of this species in the Gulf of Mexico is unexpected as it currently nests no closer than the southern Caribbean Sea. Perhaps the source of such birds is similar to that of the small nonbreeding population on the Dry Tortugas in Florida. Pending committee review this would be the third for Texas. Photograph/Craig McIntyre



## pictorial highlights



It is difficult enough to see an active adult nightjar, but it is an achievement to find a nest. This downy Common Poorwill, providing one of the few proven breeding records for Oklahoma, was photographed July 10, 1998 at Fort Sill, Comanche County. Photograph/Joseph A. Grzybowski



Although it is increasing virtually throughout its North American range, presumably due to increasing agricultural development, the White-tailed Kite, unlike Mississippi Kite, is still very seldom found on the eastern seaboard. This one added flair to the annual early June kite show at Cape May, New Jersey, on June 4, 1998. This was the first for the Garden State and the second for the Hudson-Delaware region, the first was in Dutchess County, New York, in late April 1983. Photograph/Alexander Pocek



Long awaited was Brown Pelican nesting within Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. This pelican nest on Spring Island, Dorchester County, on June 21, 1998, was located as part of former Middle Atlantic Coast regional editor H. T. Armistead's annual surveys of waterbird colonies in the Bay. Protection from persecution and the banning of persistent hydrocarbon pesticides have benefited several fish eating birds over the last three decades. Photograph/H. T. Armistead

A good portrait of a normally shy and hard to see bird, this Virginia Rail took up residence on the Washington, D. C. Mall in late July 1998. The bird was apparently injured as indicated by the position of its left wing in this portrait. This public garden haunting rail seems to have subsisted on a diet of worms. Photograph/Jeff Metter

