Lopez (JO) and Radium Springs (MS, JZ) 9 Jul; earliest Rufous returnees were singles at Los Alamos 27 Jun (JT), Manzano Mts. 27 Jun (TH) and Coyote Cr., Mora 30 Jun (CR). A totally green-backed male Selasphorus hummingbird at Luis Lopez 24-26 Jul (JP, vt. JO) may have been an Allen's; a mostly green-backed Rufous was present at the same time.

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting at Carlsbad 28 Jun produced one young by 30 Jul (fide SW), apparently the first successful Eddy breeding in many years. Noteworthy for the Manzano Mts. were one to 3 Acorn Woodpeckers 18 Jun-17 Jul (TH). Three-toed Woodpeckers are resident in the higher reaches of the Mogollon Mts.; remarkably low, however, was an ad. male near San Francisco Hot Springs 14 Jul (HW). A Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet pair was adding lining to a Guadalupe Canyon nest 11-13 Jun (SOW). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HS), where summer residency is possible but not proven. There was good news for endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatchers in the middle R.G.V., with a record 12 territories in the La Joya-Sevilleta area, three territories in new areas n. of Bosque, and a record 56 territories near San Marcial Jun-Jul (Bureau of Reclamation); elsewhere, four pairs on Ponil Cr. 14 Jun—24 Jul (DC) furnished a Colfax summer first, beavers created new habitat for a pair at Blackrock near Zuni in Jun (S. Albert), and a single was on the Pecos R. at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM). Now widespread in summer in n. New Mexico, 2-6 Gray Flycatchers were found s. to Reserve (JO), Vick's Peak (HS), White Oaks (SOW), and Pinon (WH) 2-16 Jun. A vocal Dusky Flycatcher was s. to Pumphouse Canyon near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (SW). Far n. and a Colfax first was a Black Phoebe nest near Cimarron that produced fledglings by 13 Jul (ph. DC); a reported 40 Black Phoebes were feasting on flies at a Peralta horse barn 13 Jun (KC). There are few verified Eastern Phoebe nests for New Mexico, so noteworthy was a nesting pair at Mills Canyon, Harding 25 Jun (HS, DC) that produced at least one fledgling by 16 Jul (ph. DC). Noteworthy for the high elevation were 2 Say's Phoebes at Sandia Crest 9 Jun (BV), where one was reported in May. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was ne. to Santa Rosa 7 Jun (JO). A Great Crested Flycatcher near Portales 10 Jul (LS) provided the only report. Thick-billed Kingbirds were notably scarce in Guadalupe Canyon, with but one there 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 2 noted 5 Jul (JP, JO). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher strayed w. to Sumner L. 16 Jul (M. MacRoberts). An ad.

male Rose-throated Becard was reported at Las Cruces 6-7 Jun (J. Green, L. Schulte); never verified in New Mexico, this was the first to be reported since 1984.

#### VIREOS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

A strong showing by White-eyed Vireos produced singing singles on the Cimarron R. near Cimarron 8 Jul (ph. DC) and on the Gila R. near Gila 17 Jun (HW, DF); another (or the same) was on the Gila R. above Mogollon Cr. 24 Jun (HW). Encouraging were 10 Bell's Vireos at Redrock 4 Jun (RW), and Bell's was described as more plentiful than usual in the Cliff-Gila Valley (SS). Noteworthy Gray Vireos were singles singing in the Caja del Rio area, Santa Fe 23 & 28 Jun (JO, JP), 10 at seven sites in the Quebradas area, Socorro 6 Jun (fide NC), and at least one in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW). Unexpected for the date and location were one to 2 Hutton's Vireos in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 5 Jul (IP, JO). A Red-eved Vireo was near Gila 1 Jul (KB, DF).

Blue Jay reports have increased recently in Colfax, this season one summered at Maxwell 12 Jun—21 Jul, where it was joined by another 22-31 Jul (ph. DC). Peripheral Black-billed Magpies were singles s. to Peralta 16 Jun (KC), Canyon Blanco, sw. San Miguel 29 Jun (JO), and Mills Canyon 16 Jul (DC). Chihuahuan Ravens have only recently been found nesting n. to Mora and Colfax; this season, nests were documented n. of Wagon Mound (B. Willard) and at several Colfax sites, including e. of Springer (B. Willard), s. of Abbott 12 Jun and 11 Jul (DC), and n. of Maxwell 4 Jun (K. Granillo), Additional evidence of Purple Martin colonization of the Sangre de Cristo Mts. was provided by 15 on the Sapello R. at San Ignacio, San Miguel 27 Jul (WW) and one near Rowe 8 Jun (CR). Far e. were 2 Violet-green Swallows at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CR). Owing to construction disturbance, w. Albuquerque's Calabacillas Arroyo Bank Swallow colony was reduced to about 175 nesting pairs 7 Jul (WH). A family group of at least 4 Mexican Chickadees was in Indian Creek Canyon, Animas Mts. 14 Jun (SOW, AC). A Juniper Titmouse at the Mosquero escarpment was far e. of expected. Brown Creepers where seldom reported were singing singles at P.O. Flats, Zuni Mts. 12 Jun (HS) and the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HS); noteworthy were 12 near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (WH).

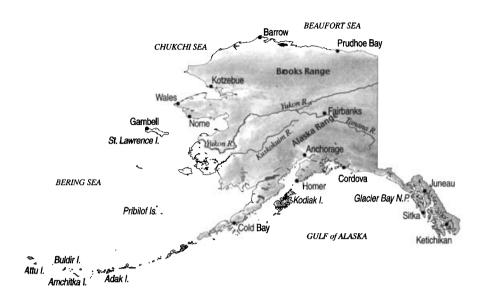
Cactus Wrens on their ne. frontier were one in s. *Harding* 21 Jun (DC), 3 e. of Pastura 4 Jun (WH), and one near Rogers, *Roosevelt* 10 Jul (LS). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in the

sw. were 3 at Redrock 4 Jun (RW) and singles there 4 Jul (JO) and at San Simon Cienega 5 Jul (JP) and Guadalupe Canyon 12 Jun (SOW). Two Townsend's Solitaries were in the Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HS), where the species is a regular but rare breeder; noteworthy was a vocal one in the Manzano Mts 16 Jun (TH). A single Veery near Vadito, Taos, 2 Jul (WW) furnished the only report of this scarce breeder; 2 vocal Swainson's Thurshes were in that same area 29 Jun (JP) and 2 Jul (WW). The Wood Thrush found at N.R.T. 31 May lingered until 9 Jun (JP, DE, BN, WH, JO, SW). Gray Catbirds in the middle and lower R.G.V. included 2 at Sevilleta 11 Jul (WH) and singles at Bosque 21 Jul (CR) and Radium Springs 24 Jul (JZ). Single Brown Thrashers were near Cimarron 30 Jul (DC) and at Boone's Draw 23 Jul (LS). A pair of Bendire's Thrashers in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe 11 Jun (WW) produced at least one fledgling by 23 Jun (vt. JO). Late were 2 Cedar Waxwings at Dawson Cemetery near Cimarron 5 Jun (DC). A Phainopepla wandered n. to Bluewater Cr, Zuni Mts. 11 Jun (HS); another was e. to near Mayhill 18 Jun (SW).

#### **WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Several unusual warblers livened up the season, including single singing Northern Parulas at Corrales 25 Jun (DK) and Quarai 16 Jun (NP), an ad. male Magnolia Warbler at N.R.T. 2 Jun (DE, BN), a Yellow-throated Warbler at R.S. 21 Jul (BV), a female Baybreasted Warbler at Eagle Cr., Lincoln 17 Jun (SW), and single Black-and-whiteWarblers at N.R.T. 4 Jun (WH) and near Gila 17 Jul (KB). At Corrales on 25 Jun were a singing American Redstart, a singing Ovenbird, and 3 singing Hooded Warblers (DK); single Hoodeds were also there 16 Jun and 16 Jul (DK). Most remarkable was a probable Canada Warbler, described as a female, on the Gila R. above Cliff on the very early date of 22 Jul (HW); there are but eight previous New Mexico records and none in fall earlier than 11 Sep. A Red-faced Warbler was n. to Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts. 29 Jun (J DeLong); in the se., 6 Red-faceds were along the Rio Penasco near Cloudcroft 15-16 Jun (WH). Hepatic Tanagers are scarce in the Manzano Mts., so noteworthy were one near Cedro 30 Jun (JO), a pair in Tajique Canyon 19 Jun (HS), and one at Quarai 16 Jun (NP), early for the lowlands was one at R.S. 21 Jul (BV). Summer Tanagers in the ne. included singles at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM) and near Sabinoso 16 Jun (CR). Western Tanagers were conspicuous in lowland areas by mid-

# Alaska



### Thede Tobish

2510 Foraker Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99517 (tgt@alaska.net)

collowing a rather uneventful spring passage support 2000 sage, summer 2002 unfolded in classic form, with rarities from the peripheries supplemented by new or locally unusual breeding finds from scattered locales. Weather seemed to have a mixed influence on Alaska breeding conditions and success, with noted late breeding and/or failures reported from the Northwest and portions of Southern Coastal areas. As is often the case in this season, unusual sightings and extralimitals came from the Southeast Mainland and the North Slope, wherever and whenever visitors had opportunities to spend time in the field. June and early July highlights continued to include passerine overshoots of breeding populations from adjacent Yukon Territory and northwestern British Columbian habitats, with waifs spread widely from the eastern Interior to the Mainland Southeast (see Juneau and Haines reports especially). The Haines area's 25-Mile Marsh continues to produce remarkable and consistent summer season rarities. This extensive freshwater Carex/Scirpus marsh lies isolated and well up the Chilkat R. valley within the northern Coast Range. Most of the Southeast Mainland specialties and vagrants have shown up at this little-visited site, and anyone visiting northern Southeast must make a stop here.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); SE (Southeast Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet). References to physical evidence of bird records indicates archived material at the University of Alaska Museum. Italicized place names denote especially unusual locations for the noted species.

## SPHENISCIDS THROUGH CRANES

A single Pied-billed Grebe was again located in the productive 25-Mile Marsh near Haines 25 Jul (ADM, PP, PS), possibly a regular summer site for this rare visitor. Late-season birders turned up a Bean Goose at Gambell 27 Jun (RD, SP, GW, JZ), the latest of the Region's few summer reports. Another Ross's Goose turned up on the North Slope, where casual in summer, at the periphery of the Howe I. Snow Goose colony near Prudhoe Bay 17 Jun (KB ph., DMT, BG). The season's only notable Trumpeter Swan highlight was a single ad. reported from Ketchikan 28 Jul (SCH, AWP), a first local midsummer record. Following the spring's widespread Blue-winged Teal distribution, noteworthy summer finds included 2 drakes at Kenny L 11 Jun (GHR, TT) and 3 around Ketchikan, where rare, 7 & 16 Jun (SCH, AWP) Waterfowl highlights were otherwise slim, including a drake Canvasback n. and w. to Kotzebue 25 Jun (LC), a drake Common Pochard well n. and rare for the Mainland at Nome 9 Jun+ (fide RAM ph., MM), 2 male Lesser Scaup, irregular on the North Slope, with Greaters at Barter I. 4-5 Jul (DS) and one at Barrow 24-25 Jun (FIELD GUIDES), an accidental-in-summer drake Steller's Eider in Juneau 4 Jul (RJG), 2 imm. male King Eiders off Kodiak 17 Jun (RAM ph.)-summer oddities there—a group of 4 Common Goldeneyes, rare offshore in the Bering Sea at Gambell 26 Jun (RD, SP, GW, JZ), and a female Smew, previously unreported for the

SAOne scarcely knows what to make of the documented record of Humboldt Penguin (Spheniscus humboldtii) caught by fishermen in their nets aboard the vessel Chirikof 18 Jul while fishing off Noyes Island, near of Prince of Wales Island (Guy Demmert et al., ph.). The bird, which put up a struggle with crewmembers before calming down enough to be photographed, was released apparently unharmed.

Clear heads offer several comfortable scenarios: an escapee from a collection on North America's West Coast (where almost 100 are known in collections; no escapees known); a refugee from a fishing vessel, itself from South America; or a practical joke. The less comfortable alternative, that the bird was borne northward on currents from the Pacific Coast of South America, would seem laughable, and utterly implausible, were it not for vagrancy records of the closely related Magellanic Penguin (*S. magellanicus*) in excess of 10,000 km from core range—single records from as far as Australia and New Zealand, as well as various subantarctic islands. Humboldt Penguins have strayed as far north as Ecuador on rare occasions, but there are only a few records north of the equator. Naturally, the currents between northwestern South America and southern Alaska do not line up neatly to bring the penguin to this Region unimpeded, though in times of Southern Oscillation, one cannot rule out such transportation. The most plausible, and conservative, position would be that this bird was brought by humans to the northern hemisphere, lost at the coast or at sea, and then recaptured—the ornithological equivalent, nonetheless, of a massive lottery win.

which was of the less-common North American race *erythrogaster*, and Gambell 25 Jun (JZ), and 2+ n. to Prudhoe Bay 22 Jun—11 Jul (BG, DMT).

A Gray-spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa griseisticta) found by Armistead 11 Jun (ph. GLA, ST PAUL) remained through the next day to be seen by many (JLD, WINGS, m. ob.). This constitutes the first record of the species away from the w. Aleutians and was a first for the Pribilofs; the easternmost previous record was from Amchitka I. A Siberian Rubythroat at St. Paul 12 Jun (Max Berlijn, ST PAUL) was the only one reported. Nome area birders were again disappointed with few and fleeting White Wagtail observations all season. The only extralimital was one n. to Barrow 25+ Jun (FIELD GUIDES). A late Red-throated Pipit was at St. Paul I. 12 Jun (FIELD GUIDES).

#### **WARBLERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS**

Warblers were unusually quiet this season, save for the American Redstart in *Anchorage* 23 Jun (TT, NS, GJT), U.C.I.'s first and one of few away from the SE Mainland breeding populations. Extralimital Common Yellowthroats were in the e. Interior at Scotty Cr. 11 Jun (TT, GHR) and in Anchorage 12 Jul (DWS et al.). The Interior yellowthroat closely matched the n. and Interior nesting campicola/yukonicola. Still casual in summer and typically in SE was a singing Black-headed Grosbeak in Juneau 11 Jun (GVV). A male House Finch appeared briefly at a Ketchikan feeder 2 Jul (PH ph.), the Region's first midsummer report and approximately the 5th overall. The female McKay's Bunting on St. Paul, first discovered 23 May, was photographed 12 Jun feeding 3 fledgling young produced with a male Snow Bunting (ST PAUL, FIELD GUIDES).

Contributors and observers: A.B.O. (N. DeWitt et al.), B. Alger, R. Armstrong, P. J. Baicich, K. Bardon, P. Bartley, A. M. Benson, L. Cole, D. Copps, R. Davis, J. Dearborn, L. DeCicco, D. F. Delap, A. DeMartini, R. Dodelson, FIELD GUIDES, Inc. (A. Jaramillo, J. Pierson, D. Stejskal, M. E. Crewe et al.), R. M. Fowler, K. Gentalen, B. Gibbons, D. D. Gibson, J. Gilbert, R. E. Gill, R. J. Gordon, T. L. Goucher, H. Griese, S. C. Heinl, P. Hunt, J. Johnson, J. F. Koerner, A.

Lang, M. & R. A. MacIntosh, D. MacPhail, B Micklejohn, T. McKinnon, L. J. Oakley, A Palmer, S. Phelan, A. W. Piston, P. Pourchot, C. & B. Ratzat, C. Reiser, G. H. Rosenberg, D Rudis, K. Russell, S. Savage, R. L. Scher, J Schoen, M. A. Schultz, W. Schuster, M Schwan, N. Senner, S. Senner, D. Shaw, D Sibley, D. W. Sonneborn, ST PAUL (St. Paul Tours; G. L. Armistead, G. Bieber, R. Knight et al.), P. Suchanek, A. Swingley, M. E. Tedin, T Tobish, D. M. Troy, R. Uhl, VENT (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours; D. Wolf et al.), G. Van Vliet, M. L. Ward, T. Webber, G Wenzelburger, WINGS (Wings, Inc.; J. L Dunn et al.), M. A. Wood, J. Zamos, G Zerbetz, S. Zimmerman.

Assist in bird conservation, research, and outreach in the Neotropics by donating your used but still functional birding equipment to Birders' Exchange.

We collect binoculars, spotting scopes, neotropical field guides, and backpacks for distribution to research and education organizations in the Neotropics. We also accept financial contributions to support the program.

Please send your donations to: Birders' Exchange, American Birding Association, 720 West Monument Street, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.

http://americanbirding.org/programs/consbex.htm