

Pictorial Highlights



Purple Gallinule, a very rare vagrant to coastal New York, was found three times in upstate New York this season, an unprecedented influx here. This one remained at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge from 22 September to (here) 12 October 2002. Photograph by Kevin McGowan and Jay McGowan.



The finding of this warbler by Andrew Block at Jones Beach, New York 28 November 2002 initiated much debate over its identity, but digiscope documentation provided sufficient evidence to conclude that this was indeed a hybrid Hermit x Townsend's Warbler. The bird remained until 1 December (here 30 November). Photograph by Kevin McGowan and Jay McGowan.



A White Wagtail at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, North Carolina spent just one day there, 22 October 2002, but it was sufficient for local birders to confirm it as being of the nominate subspecies *alba*, first of its kind for United States and only the third for North America (Québec and Newfoundland have records). Photograph by Will Cook.



Records of Swallow-tailed Kite north of typical range are on the distinct increase in recent years, and northern appearances during the normal fall migration window, formerly almost unheard of, are also on the rise. This bird was a long-staying visitor to the Marriott Ranch in Fauquier County, Virginia 29 July to 11 August 2002 (here 2 August). Photograph by Todd M. Day.



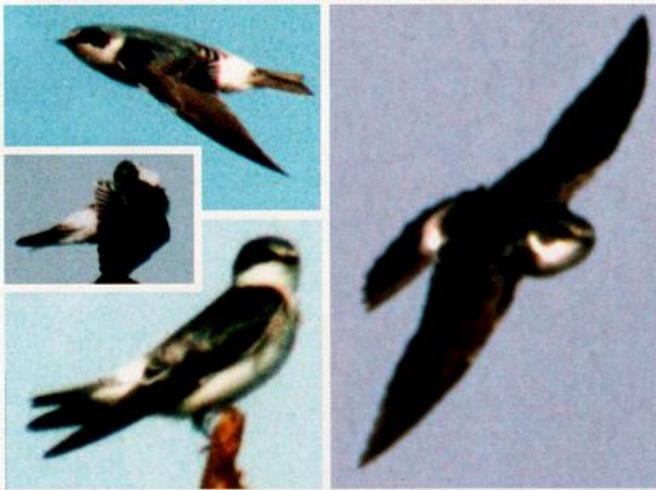
One of the most exciting birds to be found in Colorado in recent years was this adult Arctic Loon on a gravel pit pond at Franktown, Douglas County. First discovered on 17 November 2002 (here 19 November), the bird stayed at least three days—not only a first state record but a second interior record for the Lower 48 states. Photograph by Rachel Hopper.



This Scott's Oriole at Thomaston, Georgia 3 (here) to 8 November 2002 provided a first record for the Southern Atlantic Region and a first for the southeastern United States overall. The increase in backyard offerings of fruit and nectar may in part explain the apparent increase in vagrant western orioles to the East. Photograph by Eric Boehm.



This adult male Hooded Oriole, a vagrant scarcely known east of the Mississippi River, frequented a feeder 22-26 October 2002 in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Photograph by Betty Ann Smith.



This Mangrove Swallow at Viera Wetlands, Florida appeared with a group of up to 13 southwestern Cave Swallows on the big November front (here 20 November) and remained to be seen by scores of observers, a first North American record. Photographs by John Puschock (right) and Lyn Atherton (all others).



Despite the single record of the species from Brownsville, Texas, Slaty-backed Gull was not on the list of anticipated vagrants to Key West, Florida, where birders expect waifs from the Caribbean rather than Siberia or Alaska. This bird, a state first, was present from 21 September (here) to 17 October 2002. Photographs by Gerard Phillips.



The first confirmed Tropical Kingbird for Ontario was found by Irene Woods and Anton Van Eerd near Rondeau Bay 26 October 2002 and enjoyed by a host of birders until 30 November, its diagnostic call heard by many. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.

Although lying outside our regular area of coverage, the islands of the Azores have received an increasing amount of attention from birders in the Western Palearctic, who have found the archipelago productive for Nearctic/Neotropical vagrants. In a stunning discovery, one of North America's most critically Endangered endemic species—Bermuda Petrel—was found

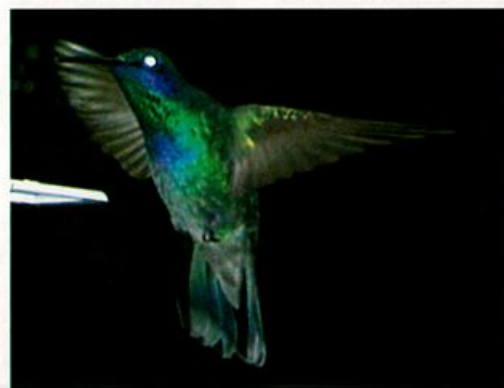


prospecting nest sites here in November 2002, at just the time when courting "Cahows" are most active at Bermuda, heretofore their only known nesting area. Dr. Joël Bried of the Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas, Centro do IMAR da Universidade dos Açores, writes: "This Cahow was captured in a burrow by Maria Carvalho Magalhães on 17 November 2002, by day, during reconnaissance for a study of nesting Band-rumped Storm-Petrels that we were conducting. The bird was banded, measured, photographed, and released back into its burrow. The examination in hand enabled me to identify it as a Bermuda Petrel, *Pterodroma cahow*, which was thereafter confirmed by Drs. David Wingate and Bernard Zonfrillo. I recaptured the same individual in the same burrow on 21 November 2002 at 22:00, after hearing a call of *Pterodroma*, apparently in response to the vocalizations of a neighboring Little Shearwater. The burrow was situated on an offshore islet of the Azores archipelago, in an area occupied by breeding Cory's Shearwaters, Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, and Little Shearwaters (depending on the season)." In the context of



recent discoveries of Swinhoe's Storm-Petrels from the Atlantic islands through Norway, and in our own backyard, the prospecting of Herald (Trinidad) Petrels on Culebra, off the coast of Puerto Rico, the out-of-range Azorean Cahow is a little less startling, but it is another of many reminders that seabirds like to travel—and that chance favors a prepared mind!

A Mountain Plover at an Elkhart County, Indiana water treatment plant 22 August 2002 remained sufficiently long to provide this photograph and the Region's first record; vagrancy to the East and eastern Midwest is almost unknown in this declining species. Photograph by Daniel Stoltzfus.



This Green Violet-ear, amazingly Michigan's second, was near Topaz, about eight kilometers east of Bergland, Ontonagon County 11 (here) to 14 August 2002. Photograph by Robert Seasar.



A dapper Painted Redstart afforded Michigan its third record at Rogers City, Presque Isle County, 15 to (here) 16 November 2002. Photograph by Adam M. Byrne.



This Townsend's Solitaire at Sabine N.W.R., Cameron Parish 16 November 2002 provided a first record for Louisiana. Photograph by Michael A. Seymour.



A Common Ground-Dove was found in Fulton County, Kentucky on 23 November 2002, furnishing a long-awaited first for the state; it remained through 30 November. Photograph by David Roemer.



This exhausted Brown Noddy was another remarkable find in the wake of Hurricane Isidore. It was found resting on a dock in Bon Secour, Baldwin County, Alabama on 26 September 2002. Photograph by Wendy Jess.



This *Buteo* discovered on 7 November 2002 in southwestern Tarrant County, Texas, is thought to be a Swainson's x Rough-legged and would be the first documented hybrid between these species. (In fact, there have only been three instances of *Buteo* hybrids documented in North America.) The bird remained through the remainder of the season. Photograph by Martin Reid.



Montana's birding event of the season was this juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper discovered near Somers, Montana 2 November 2002 by Dan and Susannah Casey. This hardy bird persisted for nine days, despite temperatures that dipped to near 0 degrees F, furnishing a first record for Montana and a second record for the Idaho-Western Montana Region. Photograph by Tom Ullrich.



A juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (front) found by Dominic Sherony at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, New York 10-12 October 2002 was part of a major influx into the Hudson-Delaware Region: three others were seen between New Jersey and Delaware. Photograph by Willie D'Anna.



As if to emphasize increasing presence in New Mexico, these two Prothonotary Warblers appeared together at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. 28 November 2002. The state has recorded an average of four to five individuals per year since 1996, and the species has been almost annual in New Mexico for almost two decades. Photograph by Luis Granillo.



This Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was at Adobe Creek Reservoir 19 September 2002, a first documented record for Colorado. Photograph by Tony Leukering.



Utah's first documented Lawrence's Goldfinch was found at Chekshani Cliffs, Iron County, foraging in a sunflower field with a large flock of Lesser Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. Found 2 October 2002, it was photographed the next day (here) but could not be relocated afterward. Photograph by Rick Fridell.



The fall of 2002 produced a bumper crop of three Siberian Accentors at Gambell, Alaska, between late August and the beginning of October. The two birds in late August and early September were recorded early; this bird was videotaped on 8 or 9 December. Gambell now has five records in just the past four fall seasons. *Photograph from videotape by Paul E. Lehman.*



Reed Bunting is a casual spring vagrant to the western Aleutians, with very few records in the past 15 years. There had never been any records for fall or from elsewhere in Alaska until 2002, when this bird was found at Gambell, Alaska, 28-30 August. At Gambell, the very similar Pallas's Bunting would be much more likely to occur on distributional grounds. Reed Buntings from eastern Asia are smaller-billed and paler above than birds from farther west, and thus are even more similar to Pallas's Bunting. This bird—very likely a male—was identified as a Reed rather than a Pallas's on the basis of its entirely dark bill, distinct pale supercilium and pale central crown, heavier side and flank streaking, gray rump, and, especially, by its thin, whistled 'see-uu' call. *Photograph by George L. Armistead.*



This female Yellow Grosbeak visited a feeder in woodlands southeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico, 18-21 October 2002. Although a wary, unworn bird, the "unseasonal" date may complicate its acceptance as a wild bird. *Photograph by Dennis Erhart.*



Yellow-green Vireos have become annual fall vagrants to southern California in recent decades. This bird, photographed 18 September 2002 at Lemon Tank, San Clemente Island, represents a first for the island and falls within the expected range of dates for this species in coastal southern California. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*



Only the second record for the Cayman Islands, this Acadian Flycatcher near White's Garden Development, Grand Cayman 30 October 2002 was also unexpectedly late. *Photograph by Bruce Hallett.*



This Little Stint, still mostly in juvenal plumage, was found and photographed on 22 October 2002 at Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, where it defended a small territory through at least 30 October 2002. It represented the first record for Mexico. *Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.*



Fall 2002 was a modest season for vagrant landbirds on the Baja California Peninsula, but this immature male Black-throated Green Warbler southeast of Maneadero, Baja California 14 October 2002 was the first to be photographically documented on the peninsula. *Photograph from video by Robert A. Hamilton.*



Short-tailed Hawks continue to be present in the high Chiricahua and Huachuca Mountains of Arizona (as they have been since 1999), and nesting is suspected. This bird was photographed 30 August 2002 in Barfoot Park, Chiricahua Mountains. *Photograph by Jim Burns.*