

Pictorial Highlights



Careful scrutiny of northeastern coastal sites has turned up more and more records of Midwestern and Far Western species in springtime. This Bell's Vireo of the nominate subspecies was banded 20 May (here 21 May) 2003 at Monhegan Island, Maine, a productive migrant trap. Photograph by G. Dennis.



A rare sight at any season but especially unusual in spring, this Say's Phoebe made an appearance 17 and (here) 18 May 2003 at Bedford, Massachusetts. Photograph by Frank Gardner.



The second of two male Red-legged Honeycreepers found on islands in national parks this spring (the first was at Biscayne National Park 25–27 March), this bird was found inside Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas National Park 29 April to 3 May 2003. Although these birds were likely to have been vagrants from the Yucatán or from Cuba, Red-legged Honeycreepers are also found in aviculture, obscuring the source (and perhaps significance) of these records. Photograph by John Puschok.



This White-tipped Dove was one of several mega-rarities found at Dry Tortugas National Park this spring, appearing 19 April and departing 3 May 2003. Probably a vagrant from the Yucatán Peninsula, it represented only the second verifiable record east of the Mississippi River—the first also was from the Tortugas, in April 1995! Photograph by John Puschok.



A hybrid combination rarely well documented, this Chipping Sparrow x Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed at Rondeau Provincial Park, Ontario 3 May 2003. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



This drake teal, patterned like a Blue-winged but showing the rich red coloration of a Cinnamon Teal (and with a red iris), was photographed 10 April 2003 at the Kingsbury Federal Wildlife Area, Indiana. Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.



This Hudsonian Godwit was found 15 May 2003 at The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands Project, Indiana. *Digital photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.*



A wildly out-of-range male Hooded Oriole was photographed 25 May 2003 at a feeder in Blackhawk County, Iowa. *Photograph by Judy Meinecke.*



This male Painted Bunting in Fulton County 29 April (here 30 April) to 31 May 2003 provided Kentucky with a first fully documented record. The closest breeding population is about 200 km to the south in Shelby County, Tennessee. *Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.*



This Fulvous Whistling-Duck (at right), seen here 25 May 2003, the day of its discovery, was present at Calgary, Alberta until at least 31 May, a provincial first. As with many out-of-range waterfowl, its origin could not be determined, but the context of the widespread 2003 "flight" of whistling-duck species suggests that it was a wild bird. *Photograph by Terry Korolyk.*



A male Calliope Hummingbird was present for a few days at Garden City, Finney County, Kansas in early April (here 8 April) 2003; it provided the second spring record for the Southern Great Plains Region. *Photograph by Marie Osterbuhr.*



A smartly-photographed male Prairie warbler at a private residence in Missoula, Montana provided a second record for western Montana. *Photograph by Caleb Putnam.*



Two Slate-throated Redstarts made their way to Texas in spring 2003. One was in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in mid-March, and this male was near Boot Spring in Big Bend National Park 2-3 May (here 3 May). There are now seven records for the state. *Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.*



This Colima Warbler was located in the Davis Mountains Preserve, Texas 21 May 2003. The bird was netted, and measurements confirmed the identification. This is only the second Colima Warbler documented in the Davis Mountains, although there appears to be some hybridization between Colima and Virginia's Warblers in the range. *Photograph by Kelly B. Bryan.*



A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers nested at Patagonia Lake State Park, Arizona in 2003. This female was photographed in January 2003. Photograph by Jim Burns.



Jason Beason found this Gray Vireo at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso County, Colorado on 9 May 2003. The bird represents the most northerly record in eastern Colorado and only the fourth record in eastern Colorado of a migrant Gray Vireo. Photograph by Tony Leukering.



This adult Tricolored Heron provided Wyoming its first state record at Douglas, Converse County 4 May 2003. Photograph by Bruce & Donna Walgren.



The highlight of a banner spring in the Bering Sea region, this Black-winged Stilt found on St. George Island in the Pribilofs on 15 May 2003 furnished the second record for North America. Based on the pattern of the head and hindneck, it is most likely of the nominate race—indeed a warm-latitude bird in a very cold climate. Photograph by Carol Erwin.



This male Flame-colored Tanager appeared in Madera Canyon, Arizona 2 May 2003 (here 26 May) and paired with an apparent pure female Flame-colored Tanager. Photograph by Bob Fogg.



Gambell is perhaps the best location to look for Great Knot in North America. This subadult was photographed there 30 May 2003. Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.



This male Siberian Rubythroat was one of three different males found at Gambell, Alaska 28 May through 5 June 2003 (here 28 May). Photograph by Gary H. Rosenberg.



This distinctive drake Tufted Duck found on a pond near Cataldo, Kootenai County, Idaho provided the state's second record. Photograph by Wayne Tree.



This male Sedge Wren was the first for the Oregon & Washington Region. First found on 30 May (here 8 June) 2003 at the North Spit of Coos Bay, Oregon, it sang persistently on its misplaced territory until at least 10 July. Photograph by Trent Bray.



This adult Great Gray Owl with nestling near Shaver Lake, Fresno County, California (here 26 May 2003) was one of two nests found in that area. These nests shift the known breeding range significantly southward, both in North America and the world. Photograph by Doug Drynan.



This apparent American Avocet x Black-necked Stilt hybrid, affectionately dubbed an "avostilt," was a notable find during a San Francisco Bay Snowy Plover survey in Alameda County 29 May (here 17 June) 2003. This combination has been rarely reported previously, although photographs of a similar bird come from Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County. Photograph by David Cardinal.



This striking female Black-backed Wagtail at Deep Springs, Inyo County California 10 May 2003 was unprecedented in the interior, as well as being one of the few Siberian passerine vagrants to be found in spring in the Southern Pacific Coast Region. Photograph by Chris Howard.



This Southern Lapwing was photographed in March along the Rio Colorado, in the Golfo Dulce area in Costa Rica. This species is increasingly found north of expected range. Photograph by John Hunter.



Utterly unexpected was the discovery of a nesting pair of Double-striped Thick-knees, found while conducting point-transect surveys of Bahama Parrots in the interior forests of Great Inagua Island on 14 May 2003. The species is known from the Bahamas only from subfossil and fossil remains. Photograph by Garth Herring.



A probable subadult Salvin's (Shy) Albatross (left) was photographed with Laysan Albatrosses on Sand Island, Midway Atoll N.W.R. 8 April 2003. The identity of the bird remains somewhat controversial, but whatever its identity, the bird represents a new species for the Hawaiian Islands and the first albatross from the southern hemisphere for the Region. Photograph by Rich McCarthy.