

Pictorial Highlights



This impressive flock of 88 Sabine's Gulls, the largest ever for the Yukon, was seen 25 May 2005 at Judas Creek, cementing its reputation as the southern Yukon's premier hotspot. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*



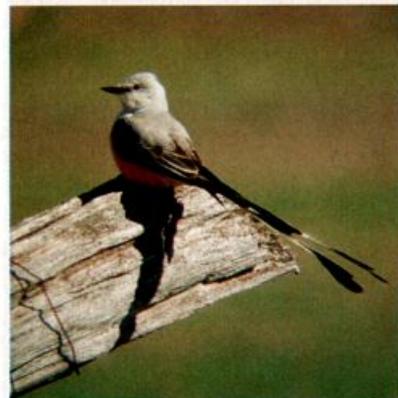
A record-high number of Sandhill Cranes—twenty or more—passed through New England in spring 2005, including this heavily stained individual that put down on a golf course in Nahant, Massachusetts 24 April. *Photograph by Rob Kipp.*



This male Prothonotary Warbler was New Brunswick's most cooperative ever, staying 17-29 May 2005 on Grand Manan Island, photographed here on the first day. *Photograph by Alain Clavette.*



An Eared Grebe (left, here with Horned Grebe) was found at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County, Maryland 14 (here 23) May 2005 and remained through 1 June; the species is quite rare in late spring in the Middle Atlantic region. *Photograph by George M. Jett.*



A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Brooklyn, Prince Edward Island, was present 1-4 (here 4) May 2005, for the first provincial record. *Photograph by Dwaine Oakley.*



Philadelphia Vireo is an uncommon breeder in northern New England and is seldom detected during its spring passage through Massachusetts. This outstanding portrait was captured at Plum Island 21 May 2005. *Photograph by Erik Nielsen.*



One of two California Gulls in Massachusetts in spring 2005, this adult in immaculate breeding plumage frequented Lynn 29 (here 30) April-5 May and represented the fourth record for the state and the New England region. *Photograph by Erik Nielsen.*



This apparent Mourning Warbler x Common Yellowthroat hybrid was photographed at Garret Mountain, New Jersey 14 May 2005 and remained there through 31 May. This hybrid combination has been reported on at least one occasion in the past, according to *Warblers* by Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett. Photograph by Scott Elowitz.



This apparent Sutton's Warbler (Northern Parula x Yellow-throated Warbler hybrid) visited Fabyan Forest Preserve, Kane County, Illinois from 22 (here 29) April through 16 May 2005. Its song was noted as being similar to that of a Northern Parula. Photograph by Eric E. Secker.



This warbler, banded at Metro Beach Metropark, Macomb County, Michigan 14 May 2005 (here), was widely thought to have Black-and-white Warbler as one parent; Chestnut-sided Warbler or Golden-winged Warbler may have been the other parent. Amazingly, the bird had been observed and audio-recorded prior to its capture, and it gave an unusual buzzy song. More on this bird can be accessed at: http://www.amazilia.net/images/Birds/NewWarblers/Hybrid_Warbler.htm. Photograph by Allen T. Chartier.



Perhaps the best photograph ever taken of a flying Bermuda Petrel, this image was captured with a digital camera off Hatteras, North Carolina 27 May 2005. Including several early June records, at least six "Cahows" were seen off North Carolina in spring 2005, more than in any previous season. Photograph by J. Brian Patteson.



The spring of 2005 was exceptionally productive for Fea's Petrels, with nine off the North Carolina Outer Banks (up to three per trip). This bird stood out as distinct from others by virtue of its small size, small bill, and dirty gray uppertail coverts; it was identified by the photographer as a Zino's/Fea's Petrel as opposed to Fea's Petrel. Photograph by J. Brian Patteson.



This Purple Gallinule was found at Fort Monroe, Hampton Virginia 7 April 2005 and seen again once, briefly, in June there. Records of the species are inexplicably few in the state. Photograph by Robert L. Anderson.



One of six recorded off the North Carolina coast this spring (on five boat trips), this European Storm-Petrel was photographed 30 May 2005 off Manteo; at that time, the state had only one prior report, and the only other North American record was a 1970 specimen from Nova Scotia. Photograph by George L. Armistead.



This female Wilson's Phalarope was a good spring find at the E. L. Huie Land Application Facility ponds in Clayton County, Georgia; it was present 28 April through (here) 1 May 2005. Photograph by Dan Vickers.



Scott's Oriole is rare anywhere in the Central Southern Region. Discovered in Montgomery County, Arkansas 15 February 2005, this state first was beautifully documented there 28 March. *Photograph by Charles Mills.*



This brilliant male Hooded Oriole—at least 2500 km beyond its range—was at Marsh Lake, Yukon 12 May 2005. It provided a first Yukon record and one of just a few for Canada. *Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.*



This Bullock's Oriole was present on 16 May 2005 at Hancock, Houghton County, Michigan, furnishing just the third record of this species for the state. *Photograph by Joe Kaplan.*



Two Whooper Swans splashed down on Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 18 May 2005 (here), and both remained through at least the 29th. Another Whooper was reported on the Susquehanna River in mid-May. *Photograph by Carl Reader.*



A Hooded Oriole present 6-10 (here 7) May 2005 at the photographer's residence in Clare County, Michigan provided a first state record. Interestingly, a Hooded Oriole was reported from Ontario within days of this bird's departure. *Photograph by Roger Carey.*



Although Scott's Oriole is now known to nest in extreme western Colorado, the state's first was a vagrant found by Van Remsen at Red Rocks Park near Denver in May 1975. Providing another rare Front Range record, this male Scott's was first noted at feeders in south Boulder during a blizzard 30 April 2005; it lingered for about a week (here 4 May). *Photograph by Bill Schmoker.*



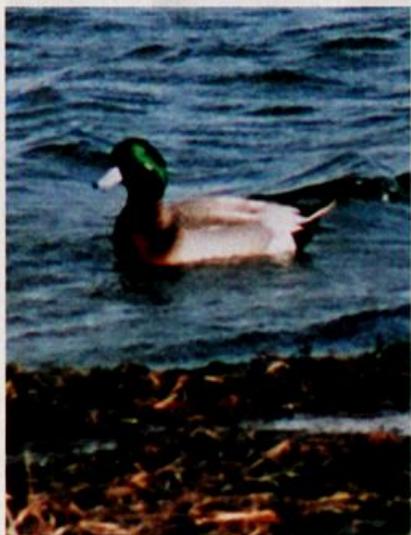
Furnishing the third verifiable record for Florida was this female Kirtland's Warbler at Fort De Soto Park 10 May 2005; the other records were from 17 October 1999 and 27 April 1896! *Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.*



Merlins of the subspecies *richardsoni* are unusual in Illinois. This one was nicely documented at Chicago's Montrose Point 25 April 2005. Photograph by Robert Hughes.



Alabama's second White-winged Crossbill was a male discovered by the photographer on 7 (here 8) through 21 April 2004 in Lauderdale County, the same county in which the first state record was discovered in spring 2002. Photograph by Robin Ackley Kelsa.



This Mallard x American Wigeon hybrid was near Stavely, Alberta 13 March 2005. Notice the wigeon-like bill, intermediate head shape, and small gray cheek spot. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



Across much of the central and southern United States, Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal hybrids were well reported in spring 2005. This one was present at Chaney Lake, Warren County, Kentucky 9-27 (here 21) April. Photograph by David Roemer.



This Mottled Duck, apparently a male, was present in western Henderson County, Kentucky 20 May 2005, potentially a first for the state, and close on the heels of Tennessee's third. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



This Swainson's Thrush of the russet-backed coastal Pacific subspecies group *ustulatus* was banded 23 May 2005 at Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso County, Colorado—only the second time this form has been documented in the state. Photograph by Brian Gibbons.



Though vagrant Glossy Ibis have been turning up across western North America in recent years, few birders would have anticipated the appearance of one with White-faced Ibis (also a vagrant in Washington) at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, where these birds were noted 30 May 2005. Photograph by Keith Brady.



This male Eurasian Siskin made irregular visits to a Winnipeg, Manitoba feeder between 13 (here) and 24 March 2005. Like the European Goldfinch seen nearby later in spring 2005, its provenance is unknown. Photograph by Brian Huebert.



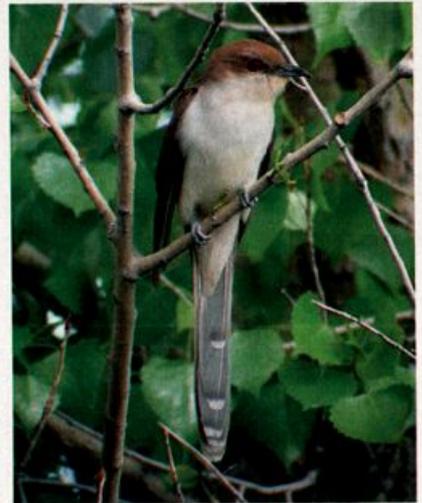
This Northern Cardinal in Gig Harbor, Pierce County, Washington 7 and (here) 8 May 2005 would provide the first record for the state and the Oregon & Washington region. A substantial proportion of vagrant records northwest of this species' usual range has come from the April-May period, which may support the argument for this bird being a wild vagrant. Photograph by Fulton Desler.



Representing the first record for South Dakota, this Eurasian Tree Sparrow (with male House Sparrow below) was found dead in a Purple Martin house near Huron 29 April 2005. Photograph by Dan Tallman.



Outside the normal northwestern migration corridor for the Southern Great Plains region, this female Red-necked Phalarope appeared on a day of significant shorebird movement at the Leonard Sod Farms in Tulsa County, Oklahoma 14 May 2005. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.



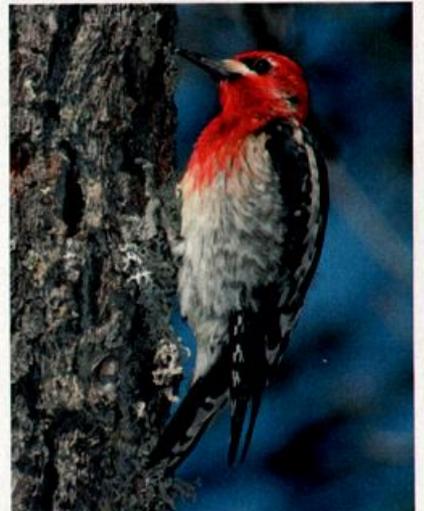
The Crow Valley Campground on the Pawnee National Grasslands in Weld County, Colorado has a history of attracting eastern rarities. This Black-billed Cuckoo found by John Vanderpoel 22 May 2005 provided one of the season's highlights there. Photograph by Steve Messick.



Part of a pulse of records in the eastern part of the Southern Great Plains was this fine male Lazuli Bunting in Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma 24 May 2005. Photograph by Steve Metz.



A team of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory monitoring technicians had an unexpected bonus 7 May 2005 when this Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared with a flock of foraging White-crowned Sparrows at Lathrop State Park, Huerfano County, Colorado. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.



Perhaps the bird of the season in Texas, this Red-breasted Sapsucker frequented piñons and Emory Oaks in the upper Davis Mountains 10-28 (here 17) March 2005. Amazingly, this is the third individual of this species to be documented in the state. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.



Two Red-breasted Flycatchers frequented beachside habitats on Shemya Island in Alaska's Aleutians 29 May through (here) 5 June 2005. This bird is clearly of the subspecies *albicilla*, now recognized as a full species, Taiga Flycatcher, in Eurasia (see *Birding World* 12: 460-468, 16: 153-155 and 429-432). The all-dark bill, brown (not gray) cap, and gray plumage surrounding the truncated but rich red-orange throat identify this as Taiga. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.



Every spring eastern parulids find their way to southern California. Butterbred Spring, in Kern County, turned up this male Magnolia Warbler (here 6 June 2005, lower left), plus a Northern Parula and a Kentucky Warbler (right) on 17 May. The first to be found on San Clemente Island in spring, this male Black-throated Green Warbler (upper left) sang there 31 May 2005. Photographs by Ken Kyle and Jimmy M. McMorran (upper left).



A male Eurasian Bullfinch at Shemya Island, Alaska (here 5 June 2005) was one of several reported from the western Aleutians after passage of a late-May low-pressure system. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.



Establishing the first record for Central America (and first south of northern Mexico and Florida) was this White-throated Sparrow on Half Moon Caye, 75 km off the coast of Belize, 18 May 2005. Photograph by Kerem Boyla.



This Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid at Lagunas de Chametla, Baja California Sur 23 March 2005 was first found 26 January. There is just one state record of a pure Eurasian. Photograph by Oscar Johnson.



This male Flame-colored Tanager, here with a female, returned to Madera Canyon for its third summer 14 April 2005 (here); the pair was feeding at least one fledged young by the end of May. Photograph by Christie van Cleave.



This Slate-throated Redstart was discovered 26 May 2005 at Comfort Spring, Carr Canyon, Arizona and subsequently found dead 3 June, providing only a sixth record of this striking species from Arizona. Photograph by Keith Kamper.



Providing a second record for the island, this Artic Tern was 3 km east of La Désirade, off Guadeloupe, French West Indies on 1 May 2005. *Photograph by Anthony Levesque.*



Part of the nearly annual Newfoundland "catch" of spring migrant European Golden-Plovers, this bird at Cape Spear 30 April 2005 was unusually approachable. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*



This adult Red-billed Tropicbird, the first documented in the state of Tamaulipas (and one of very few records for the Mexican part of the Gulf of Mexico), was found foraging on a brackish lake away from the ocean at Los Ébanos Ranch 12 May 2005 and stayed for a week. It was fortunately discovered during a bird photography tour. *Photograph by Arturo Caso.*



Reported infrequently in Alaska, with very few records coming from areas east of the Near Islands in the Aleutians, Far Eastern Curlew was found at Shemya Island this season, on 30 May 2005—a single individual, as is typical. *Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.*



Though increasingly recorded north of normal range in spring in some areas, Vermilion Flycatcher is rare in Iowa; this male found 15 (here 23) May 2005 at Whiterock Conservancy, Guthrie County, Iowa was the state's fifth and the first since 1997. *Photograph by Jay Gilliam.*



As more Glossy Ibis are found in Colorado, so too are apparent Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrids. This photograph from 23 April 2005 at Beebe Draw, Weld County provides an excellent comparison of an adult Glossy Ibis (right) and possible hybrid, with red eye, at left. *Photograph by Tony Leukering.*



This King Rail was a rare sight at Cumming wetlands, Warren County, Iowa 19 May 2005. Formerly more widespread, this species has all but disappeared from much of its former range in the interior and is now a very rare migrant and nester in Iowa. *Photograph by Jay Gilliam.*