

# Pictorial Highlights



1 • Regular in fall across the western Aleutian Islands, Red-necked Stint can be a subtle identification in juvenal plumage; this bird, located at Attu's productive Alexai Point beach 20 September 2006, shows this plumage's characteristic lightly fringed, pale gray-brown wing covert panel. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iliiff.*



2 • This adult Little Stint in worn alternate plumage at Louisville, Kentucky 16-21 (here 17) August 2006 represents a first confirmed record for the Tennessee & Kentucky Region. *Photograph by David Roemer.*



3 • One of the more surprising finds this season in western Alaska was this Philadelphia Vireo present in the Gambell middens on 18 September 2006. It establishes just the fourth record for the state and the first anywhere close to the Bering Sea region. A surprising number of far-flung North American vagrants originating from well outside Alaska have been found at Gambell during autumn in recent years. *Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.*



4 & 5 • These images capture Alaska's third ever Yellow-browed Warbler, an elusive skulker in the riparian ravines of remote Etienne Valley at the west end of Attu Island 21 September 2006. *Photographs by Marshall J. Iliiff.*



6 • The Gambell middens hosted a cooperative Pallas's Bunting from 24-26 (here 25) September 2006. This establishes the fifth record of this "almost mythical" species in Alaska and North America and the first for fall. Field marks differentiating this individual from the only slightly less rare Reed Bunting include grayish-sandy-brown (versus rufous-brown) lesser coverts, bill with straight culmen and mostly pale lower mandible, Brewer's Sparrow-like crown pattern lacking obvious lateral crown stripes, dark area along lower border of auriculars, very faint flank streaking (bolder in Reed), and a single-syllable *chip* or *cheep* call-note (Reed typically gives a thin, downslurred *see-uu*). *Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.*





1 • This South Polar Skua 400 kilometers northeast of St. John's, Newfoundland on 14 August 2006 is separated from Great Skua by the smooth unstreaked back and upperwing coverts and pale nuchal area. The worn, somewhat reddish brown upperwing coverts and secondaries are being replaced by darker, chocolate brown feathers. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

2 • Great and South Polar Skua are regular in offshore waters rarely visited by birders in Atlantic Canada. Adult Great Skuas are the easiest skua to identify because of the golden streaks and spots in the back and upperwing coverts; their bills appear heavier than South Polars' as well. These two adults photographed 400 kilometers northeast of St. John's, Newfoundland 22 September 2006 are in heavy wing molt. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

3 • The first for Mississippi, this Rock Wren cooperated well for appreciative observers at G. P. Cossar State Park, Yalobusha County 15 (here 21) October through 4 November 2006. *Photograph by Nicholas Winstead.*

4 • This peculiar hummingbird, identified as a Violet-crowned Hummingbird x Broad-billed Hummingbird hybrid (once called "Salvin's Hummingbird") was found at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Arizona on 4 September 2006 (here 22 October) and remained through the end of the season. *Photograph by Richard Ditch.*

5 • This hybrid male duck at Lagunas de Chametla, Baja California Sur, Mexico 28 November 2006 seems to best match a male Northern Shoveler x Gadwall hybrid, rarely reported. *Photograph by Victor Ayala.*

6 • The immature male Pine Warbler, found southeast of Maneadero 13 October 2006, is only the fourth to be confirmed on the Baja California Peninsula. *Photograph by Peter A. Gaede.*

7 • This cooperative Ferruginous Hawk was enjoyed by many birders near Kamloops, British Columbia 1-10 (here 9) September 2006. The species is considered casual in the province, and this bird was the first in recent history to be seen by many observers. *Photograph by Donald G. Cecile.*

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



1 • Hard to overlook was this subadult Jabiru seen by many in Tocumen Marsh, Panama 18-26 (here 19) September 2006. It was the first seen in Panamá Province in over 40 years and only the eighth ever recorded in the country. *Photograph by Rosabel Mirá.*

2 • A first record for El Salvador, this immature Veery captured on 24 October 2006 at Montecristo National Park was of the Rocky Mountain subspecies. *Photograph by Lety Andino.*

3 • On 30 September 2006, this immature Purple Gallinule was discovered in a retention pond near a housing development just north of the town of Macungie, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania by Lee Levengood, a first for the county. It was last seen 12 (here 6) October. *Photograph by Bob Moul.*

4 • Representing just the third record for El Salvador, this Prothonotary Warbler was captured at Playa Salamar, Jucuarán along the coast of eastern El Salvador. *Photograph by Jesse Fagan.*

5 • One of many great warblers found in autumn 2006 in the Great Basin, this Prothonotary Warbler lingered from 31 October through 5 (here 2) November in Morgan, Morgan County, Utah. *Photograph by Paul Higgins.*

6 • Although Oregon Junco is found on average four times per year in the Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley Region, it is rarely so nicely documented as this male 30 October 2006 at Maumee Bay State Park, Lucas County, Ohio. *Photograph by Brian Zweibel.*

7 • A Red-necked Grebe made a rare appearance in the Great Basin from 28 September (here) through 3 October 2006 at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, Nevada. *Photograph by Marshall J. Iiff.*





1 • Utah's first confirmed Pacific Golden-Plover was discovered 25 August (here 2 September) 2006 at the Great Salt Lake along the Causeway to Antelope Island State Park, Davis County. Fortunately, it lingered until 16 September, providing hundreds of birders the opportunity to study and photograph it. *Photograph by Paul Higgins.*

2 • This female Painted Bunting was found 4-11 (here 11) September 2006 at Corn Creek, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County—one of Nevada's many migrant traps and vagrant hotspots. *Photograph by Greg Scyphers.*

3 • In a season that boasted a great many flycatchers out of range, two Say's Phoebes were found in Illinois in fall 2006; this bird entertained hawk counters at Illinois Beach State Park 22 and 23 (here) September. *Photograph by Steve Huggins.*

4 & 5 • This Cook's Petrel landed on a cruise ship and was brought to shore on Kauai Island, Hawaii. The bird was photographed and released 1 September 2006 (here). The status of migrant gadfly petrels in the islands remains poorly known, which makes photographic documentation very valuable. *Photographs by Jim Denny.*

6 • A rarity in migration anywhere on the East Coast, this Henslow's Sparrow was an especially prized find in Central Park, Manhattan, New York City, New York on 31 October 2006. *Photograph by Lloyd Spitalnik.*

7 • Indiana's first Black-chinned Hummingbird, present in Gibson County 29 October 2006 through the season (here 9 December), was initially identified as a female Ruby-throated. In this excellent photograph, the diagnostic broad tenth primary (p10) of Black-chinned is clearly visible, as is the extensive primary molt (p1–p6 are new), also indicative of Black-chinned. *Photograph by Michael Brown.*



1 • Buff-breasted Sandpipers very rarely reach the Hawaiian Islands. This individual was on tiny French Frigate Shoals 13 (here 18) October through 2 November 2006. *Photograph by Cory Gregory, U.S.F.W.S. Volunteer.*

2 • Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in Northern California in fall 2006, 28 August–3 October, including two at Abbotts Lagoon, Marin County 19 September through 3 October (here) 2006. *Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.*

3 • Iowa's second record of Green Violet-ear graced Sioux City 12-19 (here 14) September 2006. *Photograph by Paul Roisen.*

4 • Increasingly rare on the eastern peripheries of its range, Burrowing Owl is a welcome visitor anywhere; this bird was photographed at Seven Cities Sod Farm, Scott County, Iowa 15 September 2006. *Photograph by James Scheib.*

5 • New England's second Western Reef-Heron, and the first for Maine and New Hampshire, was seen from 9 August through 20 September 2006, mostly in Kittery, Maine and New Castle, New Hampshire, where this photograph was taken on 9 September. North America's first was found on Nantucket 23 years previously. *Photograph by Eduardo del Solar.*

6 • This American Woodcock near Parque Estanzuela in Monterrey, Nuevo León 28 January 2006 was the first for that state and one of few documented for Mexico. The date was erroneously published in this journal as "early February," but this photograph and the corrected date were recently received. *Photograph by José Ignacio Granados Peón.*

7 • A wave of redpolls swept into southern Yukon in October 2006, providing plenty of opportunities to study their finer points. This Hoary Redpoll, photographed at Shallow Bay on 27 October 2006, shows a suite of features typical of the species: very pale rear scapulars, a broad white margin across the greater upperwing coverts, pristine undertail coverts, a small red cap, and faintly streaked sides. Its broad-based bill is also typical of Hoary, although viewing angle and extent of nasal tufting can further accentuate the appearance of a "pushed-in" bill in this species. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*





1 • An excellent portrait of a very shy bird, this Le Conte's Sparrow at Avondale, Rhode Island on 4 (here) and 5 November 2006 was one of three in New England for the autumn, the first season with multiple reports since autumn 2000. Photograph by Carlos Pedro.

2 • Few reports of Philadelphia Vireo in New Mexico are as well documented as this one at Ute Lake State Park, Quay County 7 September 2006. Photograph by David J. Cleary.

3 • Two Bar-tailed Godwits reported from northern California this fall included this juvenile, seen by many at Virgin Creek Beach in McKerricher State Park, Mendocino County 6-16 (here 13) August 2006. This flight shot shows the heavily barred underwing coverts of the expected Pacific subspecies *baueri*, as well as the lack of rusty coloration typical of Marbled Godwits. Photograph by Matthew A. Matthiessen.

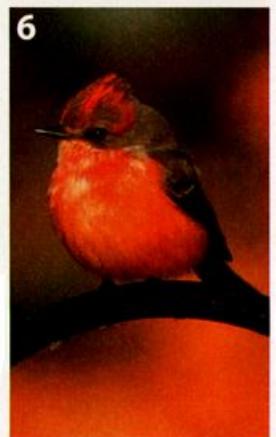
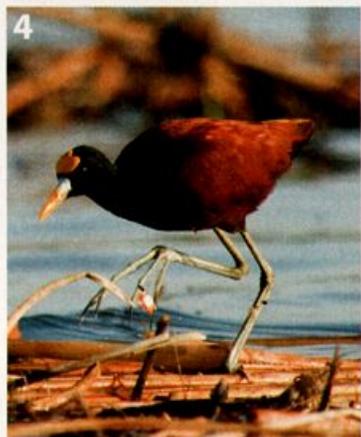
4 • This view of the McKerricher State Park Bar-tailed Godwit (again on 13 August 2006) shows the barred rump and tail and the characteristic short, rather straight bill of the species as compared to other godwits. Photograph by Matthew A. Matthiessen.

5 • A marvelous and subtle find, this Taiga Flycatcher, discovered by John Sterling and Scott Terrill at Putah Creek, Solano and Yolo Counties, California on 25 October 2006, furnished a first North American record south of Alaska and just the second fall record for the continent. Photograph by John Sterling.

6 • Providing a sixth record for Montana, this juvenile Yellow-billed Loon was in Billings 18 through 26 (here) November 2006. Photograph by Bob Martinka.

7 • Bell's Vireo, known only from a few sight records in North Carolina, was finally documented with photographs in the state when this fresh-plumaged bird of the nominate subspecies showed up 21 September 2006 (here) at Carolina Beach State Park. Photograph by James F. Parnell.

8 • A vagrant to southern Ontario and an exciting find anywhere inland, this basic-plumaged Black Guillemot lingered on the Spanish River in Massey 14-25 (here 18) November 2006. Photograph by John Lemon.



1 - This female Black-throated Gray Warbler spent more than two months at Île Sainte-Hélène, Montréal, Québec. First discovered 4 November 2006 (here 4 December), it was still present in mid-January 2007. *Photograph by Pierre Bannon.*

2 - Washington state's first Smith's Longspur surprised all by appearing in suburban Marymoor Park, King County on the early date of 30 August 2006 (here). *Photograph by Ollie Oliver.*

3 - This young Mississippi Kite was photographed on the first day of its four-day stay in Imperial Beach, San Diego County, California 6-9 September 2006; it used utility lines in a residential area from which to catch large scarab beetles. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski.*

4 - A Northern Jacana had not been documented in Texas since 1994, but in autumn 2006, three were present in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, including this stunning adult at Estero Llano Grande State Park, Hidalgo County 5-19 (here 6) August and again 3 September through 14 November. *Photograph by Erik Breden.*

5 - This stunning male Streak-backed Oriole drew many admirers to the oasis of Zzyzx, San Bernardino County, California during its 9-15 (here 14) October 2006 stay. *Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.*

6 - This Vermillion Flycatcher, the third for Michigan but the first to be documented photographically and seen by multiple observers, appeared 11 (here 26) October 2006 at Big Bay, Marquette County. It remained through the fall season but succumbed in early December. *Photograph by Tom Auer.*

7 - Ringed Kingfishers have expanded their range onto the Edwards Plateau of Texas over the past decade, but this adult female at San Angelo State Park, Tom Green County 7 October 2006 was still well north of where its species is expected. *Photograph by Jay Packer.*

8 - This young Black-billed Cuckoo, providing the third record in Guadeloupe, and first record to be confirmed, was at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve 18 October 2006 (here). *Photograph by Anthony Levesque.*

