

Pictorial Highlights



1 • This Terek Sandpiper found by Frank Haas on Sweeper Creek, Adak Island, Alaska 30 May 2007 stayed through the next day. *Photograph by John Puschock.*

2 • This Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed 23 May 2007 on St. Pierre. *Photograph by Roger Etcheverry.*

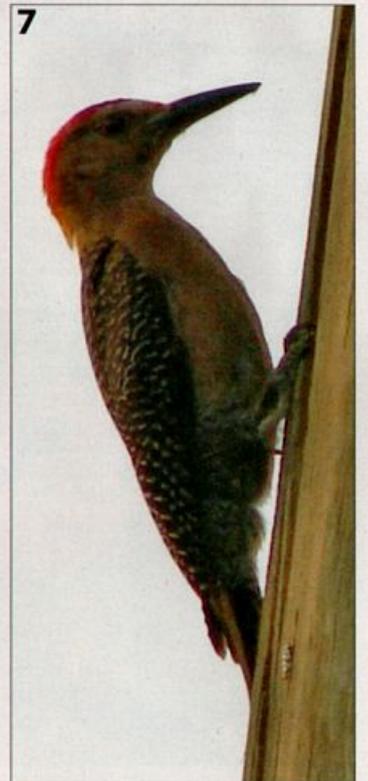
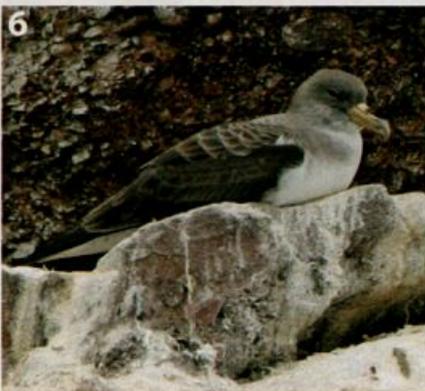
3 • This Black-banded Woodcreeper furnishes a first record for El Salvador. It was netted in the cloud forest at Montecristo National Park, Santa Ana Department on 6 April 2007. *Photograph by Vicky Galán.*

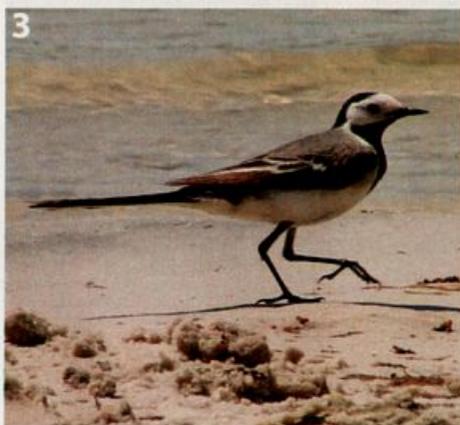
4 • Two Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids (front birds) were noted at Stearns Lake, Boulder, Colorado 25-26 (here 26) April 2007. *Photograph by David Waltman.*

5 • Two nests of Mangrove Warbler were found along the Lower Laguna Madre, Cameron County, Texas in May 2007 (here 27 May); these represent the first nest of this distinctive subspecies of Yellow Warbler for the United States. *Photograph by Scarlet Colley.*

6 • Baja California's Cory's Shearwater returned to Islas Los Coronados for a third year, 20 March–11 June 2007, and was photographed there on the initial date. *Photograph by Matt Sadowski.*

7 • This male *Melanerpes* woodpecker at Río Torola, Morazán Department, El Salvador on 8 March 2007 shows characteristics of both Hoffman's and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. There is one previous record of a hybrid in El Salvador and one record of an apparently pure Hoffman's. Hybrids have been reported in nearby Honduras since the 1960s, and Hoffman's has been expanding its range in Costa Rica in recent years. *Photograph by J. Tobias Guevara.*





1 • This Yellow-billed Loon found by Cameron Rutt at Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania 4-7 (here 5) May 2007 represented a first state record. It spent most of its stay catching and eating crayfish. Photograph by Christopher Bohinski.

2 • This *Progne martin* at Key West, Florida 28 March 2007, tentatively identified as a Caribbean Martin, is under review by the state committee. Key West has old records of Cuban Martin (9 May 1895) and Southern Martin (14 August 1890); this record would give the island a remarkable four-martin score, if approved! Photograph by Carl Goodrich.

3 • Found by three birders from St. Louis, Missouri, this first-alternate male White Wagtail (of the nominate subspecies) at Moon Lake Park, New Port Richey, Florida was present 18-19 and 22 (here 18) March 2007. It furnishes the first record for the state (accepted by state committee as species #500) and the fifth for the Southeast; none has lingered longer than six days after discovery. Photograph by David Faintich.

4 • This Black-tailed Godwit in Cornwall, Vermont 29 and 30 (here) April 2007 furnished the first state record and just the fifth for the New England region. How remarkably fortuitous it was that a birder bumped into this bird "in the middle of nowhere" (at least 16 kilometers from the nearest Lake Champlain shoreline) and that he recognized it as something unusual! Imagine how many such vagrants go undetected. Photograph by Hector Galbraith.

5 • Rare at any season in the Hudson-Delaware region, this Black-headed Grosbeak at Newfane, New York 5-11 (here 10) May 2007 is at least two years old, as indicated by the solidly black primaries. Photograph by Celeste Morien.

6 • This Red-necked Stint, a first for Indiana, was discovered by a group of birders while looking for the Curlew Sandpiper at Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility 23 May 2007. Photograph by John Cassidy.

7 • The adult Black-headed Gull found late in the winter season remained through most of March 2007 at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, through 25 March. During that time it began to molt in its dark hood, as seen in this image from 15 March. It marked Illinois's first record of this species since November 1995. Photograph by Emil Martinec.



1 • During an unusually lengthy visit in Newburyport, Massachusetts 8 April through 5 May 2007, this Ruff provided a rare opportunity to observe the rate and tract sequence of a portion of its molt from basic to alternate plumage. Photographs by, from left to right: Jeremiah Trimble (10 April) and Phil Brown (23 and 30 April).

2 • This White-faced Ibis, Connecticut's fifth, was at Hammonasset Beach State Park, in Madison 18-22 (here 21) April 2007. Photograph by Paul Fusco.

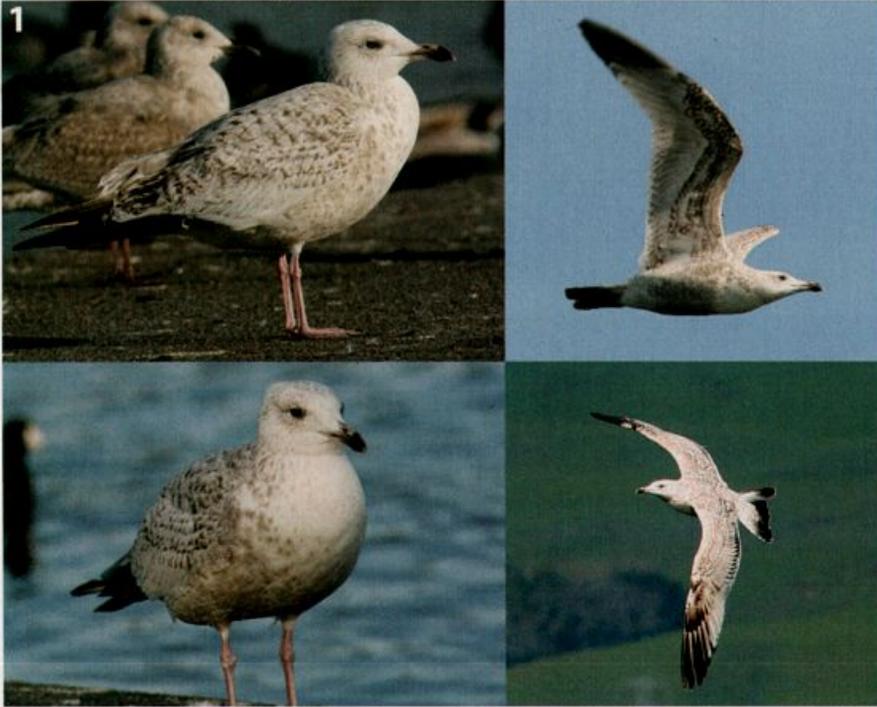
3 • This aberrant Baltimore Oriole caused a stir on 9 May 2007 in Boone County, Iowa; it is thought that carotenoids from introduced (exotic) fruiting plants are the source of rich color in some aberrant orioles but probably not in this one. Photograph by Jim Moreland.



4 • The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross first found at Cape Neddick, Maine was released offshore at Stellwagen Bank, roughly 48 kilometers east of Boston, Massachusetts 2 June 2007—its second release. Photograph by Craig Gibson.

5 • This *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher (at right with Long-billed Dowitchers) graced Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, Washington 17 May 2007, providing the first record for western Washington. Note the virtually unmarked underparts, which help distinguish this taxon from alternate-plumaged Long-billed Dowitchers and other Short-billed Dowitcher taxa. Also, compare the brightly marked upperparts with those of the nearby Long-billeds. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.





1 • This bird, dubbed the "Petaluma Gull," was found at Luchesi Park, Petaluma County, California 8-11 March 2007. Its striking pale white ground color and finely patterned mantle and coverts suggested first-cycle Mongolian Gull (*Larus [argentatus] mongolicus*) to the original observers. Upon closer examination, the age of the bird came into question, and others thought it might be in its second cycle. Vega Gull (*Larus [argentatus] vegae*) can become very pale when worn, and the ultimate conclusion after consulting Asian experts was that this bird is likely the pale extreme of a first-cycle Vega Gull. The tail pattern is more typical of Mongolian Gull, though little is known about variation in Mongolian Gull. Mongolian Gull is a relatively poorly known taxon and is rare in winter in Japan. A pale Vega Gull is the most likely explanation for such a bird in North America, but more research on differentiating these two taxa is required. Photographs by Brian L. Sullivan (standing bird 8 March) and John Sterling (11 March).

2 • Golden-crowned Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow hybrids are being found at a rapidly escalating rate in Oregon and Washington, but few have been documented as nicely as this one in Portland on 25 April 2007. Photograph by Shawneen Finnegan.

3 • Furnishing the first record of Eurasian Whimbrel on Bermuda since 1995, this individual was at Stock's Harbour 17 (here) through 20 March 2007. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

4 • California's first Wood Sandpiper was always expected on the coast in fall, so this one, photographed on the first day of its 22-23 May 2007 stay at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, Kern County, defied those expectations by showing up in the Mojave Desert in spring. Photograph by Bob Steele.

5 • Among 22 White-faced Ibis was Minnesota's third Glossy Ibis (left) near Madison, Lac Qui Parle County, which stayed 29 April through 1 May (here) 2007. It was appreciated and photographed by many observers. Photograph by James P. Mattsson.