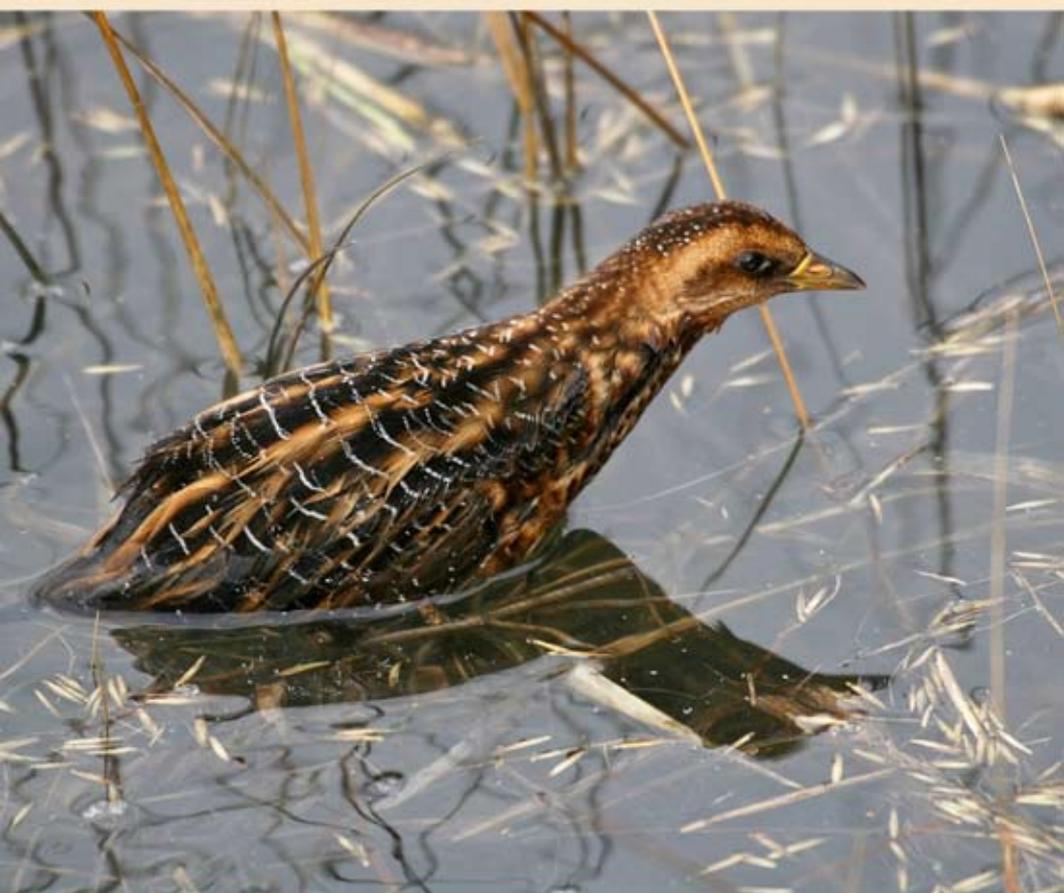


WESTERN BIRDS



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Volume 39, Number 4, 2008

Report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 2003–2007	Daniel D. Gibson, Steven C. Heinl, and Theodore G. Tobish, Jr.	189
The Changing Status of the Gray Hawk in New Mexico and Adjacent Areas	Sartor O. Williams III and David J. Krueper ...	202
An Apparent Hybrid Black × Eastern Phoebe from Colorado	Nathan D. Pieplow, Tony Leukering, and Elaine Coley	209
NOTES		
Observations of Adult Peregrine Falcons Capturing Stoneflies	Jay Sumner and Kate Davis	220
A <i>Fregatta</i> Storm-Petrel off Western Mexico	Rich Pagen, Peter Pyle, and Lisa T. Ballance	225
Book Reviews	Michael A. Patten and Peter Pyle	228
Featured Photo: Hybridization of a Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Heron in Southern California	Mary F. Platter-Rieger, Tiffany M. Shepherd, and Marie Molloy	233
Outgoing President's Message	Dave J. Krueper	242
WFO's 33rd Annual Conference: Retrospective	Jay Withgott	243
Index	Philip Unitt	246

Front cover photo by © David E. Quady of Berkeley, California: Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland, Alameda County, California, 21 January 2008. Before 1940 the Yellow Rail was apparently a regular winter visitor to the San Francisco Bay area. Since then it has been recorded there only about 10 times. Like other rails, it is most accessible to birders and predators during the highest tides of the year, as when this individual was photographed.

Back cover "Featured Photo" by © Mary F. Platter-Rieger of San Diego, California: Hybrid Yellow-crowned Night-Heron × Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea* × *Nycticorax nycticorax*), Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, San Diego County, California, 24 June 2007. Second known occurrence of this hybrid combination in the wild and first observation of an active nest of a hybridizing pair.

Western Birds solicits papers that are both useful to and understandable by amateur field ornithologists and also contribute significantly to scientific literature. Particularly desired are reports of studies done in or bearing on the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states and provinces, including Alaska and Hawaii, western Texas, northwestern Mexico, and the northeastern Pacific Ocean.

Send manuscripts to Kathy Molina, Section of Ornithology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007; kmolina@nhm.org. For matters of style consult the Suggestions to Contributors to *Western Birds* (at www.wfo-cbr.org/journal.html).