

SIGHTINGS

EARLY MARCH TO EARLY APRIL 2007

"Sightings" provides the most up-to-date summary of ABA-area birding news available; the column appears monthly, alternating between publication in *Birding* and in *Winging It*. Reports are compiled from online discussion groups and local and regional Rare Bird Alerts, with valuable contributions from our growing network of informants continent-wide. Note that nearly all of the sightings listed here have not yet been evaluated by state or provincial records committees, and that observers are urged to submit full documentation of any rarities to the appropriate committee. Full analysis of these and other notable bird records is provided four times a year by **North American Birds**, the American Birding Association's authoritative and richly illustrated journal of ornithological record. Subscription information is available at the ABA website <americanbirding.org/pubs/nab>.

Southeast: Sixteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks returned to GA's Altamaha WMA in early Apr. Two Red-necked Grebes in *Columbia*, GA, in late Mar were part of a very good showing for that species in the state

tail, thought to be continental European *alba*, was photographed in *Pasco*, FL, in mid-Mar. Two male Western Tanagers continued at a *Leon*, FL, feeder in late Mar. The green-backed male Western Spindalis was refound

thought to be a Little Egret was photographed at DE's Bombay Hook in early Apr. Two Black Vulture reports came from southern ME in late Mar and Apr. Early and far north, a Swallow-tailed Kite was over eastern MA in late Mar. Two Yellow-legged Gulls and a Slaty-backed Gull continued at St. John's, NL, in late Mar. A White-winged Dove was in Cape May in early Apr, following a Eurasian Collared-Dove there in late Mar.

A Townsend's Solitaire was in *Erie*, PA, in Mar. A Gray Catbird, presumably overwintering, was in Ottawa in late Mar. The wintering Townsend's Warbler in eastern MA was still present in early Apr. A Western Tanager reappeared at a NS feeder on the eve of an early-Apr snowstorm. *Montgomery*, PA, hosted a male Lazuli Bunting into early Apr, the state's third if accepted. A potential third state record, a **Smith's Longspur** was photographed at CT's Sherwood Island State Park in late Mar. The *Cumberland*, PA, **Scott's Oriole** continued into early Apr.

Midwest: Accidental in IA, two Harlequin Ducks continued into early Apr on the Mississippi River in *Scott*; single Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls were also there in mid-Mar, while an adult Black-headed Gull was last reported from Chicago's Montrose Harbor in late Mar. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in Fargo, ND, for the fourth year in a row. Three Whimbrels welcomed April in *St. Charles*, MO. An adult Black-headed Gull was last reported from Chicago's Montrose Harbor in late Mar.

The *Cottonwood*, MN, Green-tailed



White Wagtail. Moon Lake Park, West Pasco, Florida; 18 March 2007. © Dave Faintich.

this winter. A Western Grebe continued to mid-Mar in *Forsyth*, NC; another was reported off GA's Cumberland Island in late Mar. A second-cycle Iceland Gull was in *Volusia*, FL, in early Apr. An immature male Calliope Hummingbird wintering in *DeKalb*, GA, was still present in early Apr. A Swainson's Hawk wintered at NC's Alligator River NWR. The *Monroe*, FL, **Loggerhead Kingbird** was last reported March 27; this will be a first ABA-area record if accepted.

A potential state-first **White Wag-**

in *Broward*, FL, in early Apr. A second-year male Lazuli Bunting was in *Seminole*, FL, in early Apr. *Franklin*, FL, hosted a Spotted Towhee in Mar.

Northeast: A Black Brant at Sandy Hook, NJ, in late Mar had been present on and off all winter. Barnacle Geese were reported in VT, NH, and western MA in Mar. A **Pink-footed Goose** was photographed in PQ in early Apr. A Tufted Duck was in VT in early Apr. Single Pacific Loons were in ME and NJ in mid-Mar. A bird

Towhee was still present in late Mar, and a Spotted Towhee was in *Lucas*, OH, in mid-Mar. Duluth's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were last reported in late Mar. Ten Eurasian Tree Sparrows in *Boone*, MO, were away from that species' normal range.

Southwest: Two Black Scoters were in *Washington*, UT, in mid-Mar. A Broad-winged Hawk appeared on AZ's upper San Pedro River in late Mar. Rare in early spring, 3 Baird's Sandpipers were in *Salt Lake*, UT, in mid-Mar. AZ's Lake Havasu hosted a Black-legged Kittiwake in early Apr. An Iceland Gull was in *Larimer*, CO, in early Apr; two were in nearby *Weld* at the same time. Following notable wintering numbers in southern NM, at least 3 pairs of Long-eared Owls stayed on to nest at lowland sites in the state. A Snowy Owl was late in *Bent*, CO, in early Apr. An extraordinary female Magnificent Hummingbird visited Las Vegas, NV, in mid-Mar.

A Carolina Wren, first seen and heard in late Mar, continued into Apr in *Santa Fe*, NM. The Pine Warbler continued into late Mar in *Cochise*, AZ, while an exceptional wintering Red-faced Warbler was in the Patagonia Mountains in late Mar. A Painted Redstart was north to *Washington*, UT, in early Apr. Madera Canyon's male Flame-colored Tanager arrived punctually in early Apr; no female had been seen at press time. A Pyrrhuloxia on AZ's Verde River in early Apr was north of the species' known breeding range. A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing in *Washington*, UT, in late Mar.



Lawrence's Goldfinch. Dammeron Valley, Washington County, Utah; 20 March 2007. © Bob Lawson.

The Gilbert, AZ, Streak-backed Oriole was still present in early Apr. A male Lawrence's Goldfinch was photographed in *Washington*, UT, in late Mar.

Texas: A female Masked Duck appeared in early Apr south of Kingsville. A Great Kiskadee was in *Bexar* in early Apr; this species is apparently expanding its range in the state. An adult male Hermit Warbler was at Anzalduas Co. Park in early Apr. A Varied Bunting was on South Padre Island in early Apr. A Lark Bunting was notable at Galveston in early Apr.

California: A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck of uncertain origin was in *Marin* in mid-Mar. The Brown Booby in *Santa Cruz* was still present in early Apr;

another continued off the Tijuana estuary. A long-staying Reddish Egret remained in the Tijuana estuary in mid-Mar; another was in *Orange* in late Mar. A White Ibis was reported from *Yolo* in late Mar. Up to 3 Slaty-backed Gulls were near Half Moon Bay in mid-Mar; another was in *Del Norte* at month's end. A dead Horned Puffin was salvaged in *Del Norte* in early Mar, while as many as 4 passed *Monterey* late in the month; 2 were in *Santa Cruz* in early Apr. *Humboldt's* first Snowy Owl since 1978 stayed for a week in late Mar and early Apr. A Greater Pewee was in *Los Angeles* in early Apr. A Pine Warbler was singing in *San Diego* in early Apr. The wintering Painted Redstart in *Santa Barbara* was still present in late Mar; the bird in *San Diego* was still present in mid-Mar. An adult male Hepatic Tanager was in *San Diego* in Mar.

Northwest: The Falcated Duck near Eugene, OR, continued into late Mar. A Manx Shearwater was off Boiler Bay, OR, in early Apr. A Tricolored Heron was seen near Portland, OR, in late Mar. A Crested Caracara was near OR's Cape Blanco in late Mar. A second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was in Calgary in mid-Mar. A Horned Puffin was at the mouth of OR's Siuslaw River in early Apr. A Sage Thrasher was in Vancouver, BC, in early Apr. A female Northern Cardinal was re-found in Calgary in late Mar. A Sage Sparrow was north to Iona Island, BC, in mid-Mar. A Lincoln's Sparrow appears to have successfully wintered in the Fairbanks, AK, area.