

SIGHTINGS

M I D - S E P T E M B E R T O E A R L Y O C T O B E R 2 0 0 7

"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>.

Compiled by Rick Wright, with thanks to Paul Lehman and Jon Dunn

Southeast. Single eclipse Cinnamon Teal were in *Gordon*, GA, and *Kent*, DE, in late Sep. Four Greater Flamingos were seen at the end of Everglades NP's Snake Bight Trail in late Sep. An Anhinga was seen over DC in mid-Sep. An apparent **Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*) photographed at a *Monroe*, FL, hawkwatch in late Sep will be a first ABA-area record if accepted; there is a single record for Iceland of this abundant and wide-ranging Old World species. Thirty-two Buff-breasted Sandpipers provided a notable count for *Washington*, NC, in late Sep.

A vocal Tropical Kingbird arrived in *Pinellas*, FL, in late Sep. A strong movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches was recorded as far south as GA. An Audubon's Warbler, potentially a first for KY, was in *Jefferson* in late Sep. A Shiny Cowbird visited GA's Jekyll Island in mid-Sep.

Northeast. A mid-Sep pelagic trip from NJ to Hudson Canyon discovered a White-faced Storm-Petrel. Brigantine NWR's Roseate Spoonbill was still present in early Oct. Single Swainson's Hawks were discovered in eastern MA and in *Lebanon*, PA, in Sep. A Curlew Sandpiper was at NY's Jamaica Bay in late Sep. A male Calliope Hummingbird visited a Cape May feeder in early Oct.

Single Say's Phoebes visited NS and *Westchester*, NY, in mid-Sep; another was on ME's Monhegan Island in late Sep. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was pho-

tographed in coastal ME in late Sep. A **Western Wood-Pewee** banded at *Westmoreland*, PA's, Powdermill banding station will be a first state record if accepted. Single Northern Wheatears were on ON's Wolfe Island and NS's Brier Island in Sep.

Mid-continent. An Anhinga soared on the thermals generated by a *Trumbull*, OH, steel mill in mid-Sep. A Swallow-tailed Kite spent much of Sep in *Davison*, SD. An adult Long-tailed Jaeger at OK's Salt Plains NWR in late Sep will be a first record for that state if accepted. A **Green-breasted Mango** at *Beloit*, Wisconsin, was well-photographed and seen by many.

A Say's Phoebe was near *Duluth* in late Sep. A potential first state record, a **Black Phoebe** spent a single mid-Sep day in *Polk*, IA. The first for IA since 1996, a **Clark's Nutcracker** in *Guthrie* in mid-Sep will be a seventh state record if accepted. A Townsend's Warbler at *Bismarck*, ND, in mid-Sep was said to be a first for the location. A Western Tanager was in *Duluth* in late Sep. A phenomenal 37 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were counted in mid-Sep in *Saunders*, NE. A first-winter **Black-throated Sparrow** was found in *Cass*, MN, in late Sep.

Southwest. Single Reddish Egrets were in *Colfax*, NM, and *Yuma*, AZ, in late Sep. At least 20 White-tailed Kites in

AZ's San Rafael Valley in early Oct provided a phenomenal single-day count. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in *Colfax*, NM, in late Sep; another in *Maricopa*, AZ, at month's end was that state's fourth for the fall. A juvenile Black-billed Cuckoo was notable in *Colfax*, NM, in late Sep. An apparent female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** strayed to NM's Melrose Migrant Trap in mid-Sep, while two well-photographed at Marion Paton's feeders in *Santa Cruz*, AZ, later in the month will provide the state's second and third records.

Casual but apparently increasingly frequent in AZ, a Red-eyed Vireo was in *Maricopa* in late Sep. CO birders noted a major influx of Mountain Chickadees into the eastern lowlands.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Patagonia, Arizona; 24 September 2007. © Mark Stevenson.

A male **Golden-winged Warbler** was an excellent find in *Roosevelt*, NM, in late Sep. An early Oct Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Yuma* was CO's first in 34 years, and an early Oct Eastern Meadowlark, also in *Yuma*, was a county first.

West Coast. Late-Sep pelagic trips off *Sonoma* and *Marin*, CA, recorded 3 Short-tailed Albatrosses, including a “wonderfully friendly” juvenile. A light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater was reported off *Del Norte*, CA, in mid-Sep. A Brown Booby wandered to *Santa Clara*, CA, in mid-Sep. A subadult Mississippi Kite was photographed in *Los Angeles*, CA, in mid-Sep. A Common Black-Hawk was photographed in *San Bernardino*, CA, in mid-Sep. A Pacific Golden-Plover was photographed inland in BC’s Okanagan Valley in late Sep. Continuing the autumn’s excellent showing, mid-Sep found 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Ventura* and 2 in *Imperial*, CA; late Sep saw 2 more in western OR and 1 in *Alameda*, CA. Notable shorebirds in *San Diego* in late Sep included a juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit and an **Upland Sandpiper**.

Single Least Flycatchers were in *San Diego*, *Ventura*, and *Yolo*, CA, in mid-Sep. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was photographed in *Los Angeles*, CA, in mid-Sep. A White-eyed Vireo was in *Marin*, CA, in mid-Sep. An **Arctic Warbler**—CA’s third this fall—was in *Los Angeles* in mid-Sep. A Red-throated Pipit was in *Marin*, CA, in late Sep. A first-winter **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** was photographed at CA’s Malibu Lagoon in mid-Sep. A Worm-eating Warbler was at CA’s Point Reyes in late Sep. A Kentucky Warbler was in western OR in mid-Sep. OR’s Malheur NWR hosted a Cape May Warbler in mid-Sep. A Painted Redstart and a Red-faced Warbler visited *San Diego*, CA, in mid-Sep. A Lawrence’s Goldfinch was visiting a Portland, OR, feeder in late Sep. A juvenile **Common Rosefinch** banded and photographed

on Southeast Farallon Island, CA, will be a first for North America outside of western AK.

Alaska. Two Baikal Teal were on Shemya Island in Sep. A Garganey visited Adak in mid-Sep. An unprecedented 22 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen at Gambell in mid-Sep. A **Gray Heron**



Green-breasted Mango. *Beloit, Wisconsin; 17 September 2007. © Nick Anich.*

photographed on St. Paul Island in early Oct will be a second ABA-area record. A Eurasian Hobby was on Shemya in mid-Sep. An adult female Northern Harrier was on St. Paul in late Sep; an Aleutian Tern there mid-month provided a first autumn record for the Pribilofs. Adak’s 2 Marsh Sandpipers lingered to late Sep. A mid-Sep Belted Kingfisher on St. Paul provided a fifth Pribilofs record.

Two Siberian Accentors and at least 10 Sky Larks were on St. Paul in mid-Sep; Gambell saw 2 Siberian Accentors in late Sep. Gambell recorded 3 Pechora Pipits during the period, while a late-Sep bird on St. Paul was a first record there. An Olive-backed Pipit on St. Paul in mid-Sep was followed by 4 on Shemya in late Sep. At least 7 Gray-streaked Flycatchers were on Shemya in late Sep and 8 on St. Paul. 2 Red-flanked Blue-tails and 2 Siberian Rubythroats were on St. Paul, while at least 3 Siberian Rubythroats were on Shemya in late Sep; a Siberian Rubythroat was also

recorded on Adak. More than 20 Eyebrowed Thrushes were on Shemya in late Sep; St. Paul tallied at least 7, while singles visited Adak and Gambell. Single American Robins visited St. Paul and Gambell. A late-Sep Swainson’s Thrush provided a second record for St. Paul. An apparent **Sedge Warbler** photographed at Gambell at the end of Sep will be an unexpected first North American record if accepted. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** photographed on St. Paul in mid-Sep furnished a fourth record for the ABA Area; another arrived in early Oct. Gambell’s fourth Dusky Warbler of the season appeared in late Sep. St. Paul’s fourth Townsend’s Warbler was found in late Sep. A

Northern Waterthrush in late Sep was a second record for St. Paul. Casual anywhere in AK, an Ovenbird at Gambell in late Sep was a first for the Bering Sea region. Two American Redstarts at Gambell this fall doubled the number of fall records there. Three Chipping Sparrows visited St. Paul in Sep; there had been only one previous record. A *maxima* Song Sparrow was a rare sight on St. Paul in late Sep. The ABA Area’s first **Yellow-browed Bunting** was photographed at Gambell in mid-Sep. A Rustic Bunting was on St. Paul Island in late Sep; at least 4 were on Shemya in late Sep. A late-Sep Little Bunting furnished a second St. Paul record. Gambell recorded 10 Little Buntings this fall; a Pallas’s Bunting there in mid-Sep was the sixth for North America. Three Bullock’s Orioles, the first to be photographically documented in AK, were present at Gambell this fall. A Common Rosefinch was on Gambell in mid-Sep. Two Oriental Greenfinches visited Adak in Sep.