

# SIGHTINGS

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"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:** A Eurasian Wigeon and a Cinnamon Teal, both drakes, were in *Brevard*, FL, in late Nov. A Yellow-billed Loon was in *Pulaski*, AR, in late Nov. A Least Grebe was reported from *Little River*, AR, in early Dec. A female Calliope Hummingbird was visiting a *Pulaski*, AR, feeder in early Dec. A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird returned to a *Cobb*, GA, feeder for a second winter. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen in *Henry*, GA, through late Nov, while the state's first **Green-breasted Mango** persisted until month's end.

Mid- and late November found 1 to 4 Cave Swallows in DE, MD, and VA. Part of the continuing irruption continent-wide, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was south to *Gulf*, FL, in late Nov. Single Townsend's Solitaires were in *Montgomery*, MD, and *Bedford/Botetourt*, VA, at month's end. Single Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers visited KY and *Cherokee*, GA, in mid-Nov. A MacGillivray's Warbler was in *Monroe*, FL, in late Nov.

**Northeast:** A Barnacle Goose and a **Pink-footed Goose** continued into early Dec on eastern Long Island; another Barnacle Goose arrived in Cape May in late Nov. A Western Grebe was at MA's Plum Island in late Nov, while an unidentified *Aechmophorus* grebe had

been on the southern ME coast mid-month. An Eared Grebe spent the last half of the month in coastal NH. A Brown Pelican was inland to central NJ's Merrill Creek in late Nov. A Swainson's Hawk passed over eastern MA in late Nov. Ottawa, ON, birders discovered a Northern Gannet, a California Gull, and a Slaty-backed Gull in mid-Nov. CT's first **Common Ground-Dove**



**Fork-tailed Flycatcher.** *Tama County, Iowa; 23 November 2007.*  
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remained in East Haven until late Nov. A **Lesser Nighthawk**, NJ's first if accepted, roosted for 1 day at Cape May in late Nov. An immature Calliope Hummingbird lingered at a *Morris*, NJ, feeder until late Nov.

A potential first for CT, a "**Western**" Flycatcher was photographed at Osbornedale SP in early Dec. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher lingered into early Dec on Long Island. The first documented record for the state, a Bell's Vireo spent the last week of Nov in central RI. A Gray Jay continued in late Nov in eastern MA. Single Townsend's

Solitaires were reported in ME, MA, and NJ. Two to 4 Cave Swallows visited MA, CT, and RI in early Dec; the last reports from Cape May, where the autumn's peak count reached 98, were in early Dec. A Yellow-throated Warbler was in *Niagara*, NY, in early Dec. Single Painted Buntings were at NJ's Island Beach and on Cape Cod in early Dec. Single Bullock's Orioles appeared in *Juniata*, PA, and on PEI in late Nov; the latter was photographed for a first provincial record. Another Bullock's continued with a flock of 19 Baltimore Orioles in *Canso*, NS, while the Cape May Bullock's was last seen in early Dec.

**Mid-continent:** A family of Masked Ducks continued to be seen in early Dec in *Live Oak*, TX; others were on the King Ranch. A juvenile Northern Gannet was over *Erie*, OH, in early Dec. A Yellow-billed Loon was photographed in *Polk*, IA, in late Nov. An adult Harris's Hawk photographed in *Fremont*, WY, in late Nov will be a first state record if questions of origin can be resolved. A Prairie Falcon was photographed in *Ottawa*, OH, in late Nov. Two Purple Sandpipers were in Chicago in late Nov. A beautifully photographed potential state-first adult **Black-tailed Gull** arrived in *Polk*, IA, in mid-Nov, and was still present in early Dec. A juvenile Mew Gull visited *Marion*, IA in mid-Nov. *Osage*, OK, hosted an

adult Little Gull in early Dec. MN's first Inca Dove remained through the end of Nov.

An adult **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, a first for the state, was a great find in *Tama*, IA, in late Nov. A Gray Kingbird spent several Nov days near Corpus Christi, TX. Single Northern Shrikes were unexpected in *Warren* and *St. Charles*, MO, in late Nov and early Dec, while 1 in KY provided that state's 2nd record. A Common Raven passed a *Pottawattamie*, IA, hawkwatch in mid-Nov. Late Nov saw single Cave Swallows in *Lake*, *Huron*, and *Erie*, OH. A **Pygmy Nuthatch** photographed in *Texas*, OK, was said to be that state's first in more than 30 years. A Townsend's Solitaire visited Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in mid-Nov. The first for decades in the area, 2 Pine Grosbeaks were south to *Lucas*, OH, in early Dec.

**Southwest:** An unbanded Barnacle Goose in *Colfax*, NM, in early Dec was of unknown origin. A Brant visited *Broomfield*, CO, in early Dec. Four Bewick's (Tundra) Swans were photographed at UT's Bear River NWR in Nov. A White-winger Scoter was in *Maricopa*, AZ, in mid-Nov. Single **Red-throated Loons** wandered to southern NV and *Graham*, AZ, in early Dec; at least 5 were in Colorado. A Red-necked Grebe was noteworthy in *Yuma*, AZ, in mid-Nov. A Red-shouldered Hawk spent late Nov along AZ's lower Santa Cruz River; a very late juvenile Common Black-Hawk was there mid-month. Another Red-shouldered Hawk appears to be wintering in *Yuma*, AZ. A **Northern Jacana** in *Pinal*, AZ, the state's 4th, was said by locals to have been present for at least a year. An immature **Little Gull** pho-

tographed at NV's Key Pittman NWR in late Nov was a state first. Single immature Mew and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Sunland Park, NM / El Paso, TX, in early Dec. Madera Canyon's **Eared Quetzal** was last detected in mid-Nov. Startlingly late, Elf Owls were heard in AZ's Santa Rita and Chiricahua Mountains in mid-Nov.

*Yuma*, AZ's, faithful Thick-billed



**Black-tailed Gull.** Polk County, Iowa; 18 November 2007.  
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Kingbird has returned for its 6th winter. A White-eyed Vireo was in *Santa Cruz*, AZ, in early Dec. One to 2 Black-capped Gnatcatchers frequented Madera Canyon and Patagonia Lake, AZ, through the period. AZ hosted single Rufous-backed Robins in *Yuma*, Madera Canyon, and the Huachuca Mountains, while Madera also featured a male **Aztec Thrush** into early Dec. Remarkable AZ parulids included a **Golden-winged Warbler** and a **Crescent-chested Warbler** in Madera Canyon and a **Pine Warbler** at Peña Blanca; single Tennessee Warblers were in Tucson and at Phoenix's Gilbert Water Ranch in mid-Nov. A **Pine Warbler** beautifully photographed at UT's Lytle Ranch in late Nov will be a first for that state if accepted; a Palm Warbler was at that site the same day as well. A male Scarlet

Tanager visited a *Larimer*, CO, feeder in early Dec. A female-plumaged Painted Bunting was in *Maricopa*, AZ, in late Nov. An adult White-crowned Sparrow in *Maricopa*, AZ, in early Dec showed characters of one of the Pacific Coast races. Two **Common Grackles** were in *La Paz*, AZ, in late Nov. A **Streak-backed Oriole** at a *Larimer*, CO, feeder delighted more than 300 observers in early Dec; the wintering bird at AZ's Gilbert Water Ranch has returned. A **Common Redpoll** photographed in late Nov and early Dec in *Taos* will be a first for NM if accepted.

#### **West Coast and Northwest:**

An immature Roseate Spoonbill was photographed in *Orange*, CA, in Dec. The *Mendocino*, CA, wintering Laysan Albatross arrived in late Nov for a 15th year. A gadfly petrel recovered in interior BC in early Dec has been tentatively identified as Canada's first Cook's Petrel. An apparent juvenile Gyrfalcon was photographed in *Kings*, CA, in late Nov; another was in *Humboldt*. A 4th-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was in *San Mateo*, CA, in late Nov. A Glaucous-winged Gull was inland to *Lewis and Clark*, MT, in mid-Nov. A Northern Hawk Owl was photographed in *Madison*, ID, in mid-Nov. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was near Portland, OR, in late Nov.

Single Pine Warblers lingered in *San Diego* and *Santa Barbara*, CA, in late Nov and early Dec. A Yellow-throated Warbler was notable in *Orange*, CA, in early Dec. An unprecedented 5 Scarlet Tanagers were in *San Diego*, CA, in mid-Nov. Three Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were in *San Diego*, CA, in late Nov. *Glenn*, CA, hosted a Snow Bunting in early Dec. A Bobolink was on Vancouver Island in late Nov.