

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 9

"Sightings" appears monthly, alternating between *Winging It* and *Birding*, with the latest news, reports, and rumors from the ABA Area and Mexico. Sightings are compiled from online discussion groups and RBAs, with valuable contributions from a growing network of informants continent-wide. Readers should note, however, that none of these reports has yet been vetted by a records committee. All birders are urged to submit documentation of rare sightings to the appropriate state or provincial committees. For full analysis of these and other bird observations, subscribe to *North American Birds*, the richly illustrated journal of ornithological record published by the ABA <aba.org/pubs/nab>. Italicized place names denote counties or parishes.

Compiled by Michael L. P. Retter
with special thanks to Paul Lehman,
Rick Wright, and Steven W. Cardiff

Summary: A would-be first for Canada, a probable Solander's Petrel was photographed off BC. Provincial/state firsts this period included Pink-footed Goose (ME), Red-shouldered Hawk (B. Columbia), European Golden-Plover (DE), Black-tailed Gull (ON), Chimney Swift (OR), Green Violetear (IN), Mangrove Cuckoo (AL), and Seaside Sparrow (QC). A Brown Shrike turned up in CA, and a Brown-chested Martin was in MA. AZ's Sinaloa Wren persisted. Orange Rose-breasted Grosbeaks inevitably cause confusion across the eastern half of the continent each autumn, and observers there are reminded to be careful when identifying any potential vagrant Black-headed Grosbeak. Increased knowledge of wood-pewee identification is likely responsible for the relatively large number of out-of-range reports of Western Wood-Pewee, but few if any of the records have been substantiated.

Southeast: A Neotropic Cormorant was at St. Mark's NWR, Wakulla, FL 9/8–10. At least 1 Least Grebe has returned to Boca Raton, Palm Beach, FL, where the species nested last year. Henderson, KY hosted a White-faced Ibis 10/10. WV's 2nd Swainson's Hawk was in Preston 9/19. A review species in KY, a Hudsonian Godwit was present 9/17–22 in Ballard. A Ruff was at Navarre Beach, Columbia, FL 9/12. Jefferson, KY hosted both Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. A Sabine's Gull ap-

peared in Memphis, TN 9/13; 2 more were on Pickwick L., Hardin, TN 9/25. AL's 1st Mangrove Cuckoo was banded 9/17 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin, offshore of Mobile. A Say's Phoebe was in Trigg, KY 9/26. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was in Franklin, FL 9/17–18. Both adult and fledgling Western Spindalis continue to be seen in Everglades NP, Miami-Dade, FL.

Mid-Atlantic: A Roseate Spoonbill continued at Brigantine in Atlantic, NJ. A Swallow-tailed Kite flew over Cornwall, Berks, PA 9/20. A European Golden-Plover was found in Kent 9/14; if accepted, this will represent a 1st

Dove appeared in Cape May 10/6. A Northern Wheatear was in DeKorte SP, Bergen, NJ through 9/17, and another was in Bucks, PA 10/2. A Townsend's Solitaire appeared in Berks, PA 9/20. A Western Tanager was at Liberty SP, Hudson, NJ 10/5.

Northeast: A Pink-footed Goose was in North Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME 10/1. A juv. Common Ringed Plover and a Least Tern were found near Cape Race, NL 9/15. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was in MA. Odiorne SP, NH played host to a Bell's Vireo 10/1–5. A Brown-chested Martin was photographed at Cumberland Farms, MA 10/12. North-



Mangrove Cuckoo. Fort Morgan, Alabama; 17 September 2009. © Mason Cline—The Migratory Bird Research Group at the University of Southern Mississippi.

record for DE. (A bird from July 2001, thought by many to be a European Golden-Plover, was subsequently accepted as DE's 1st Pacific Golden-Plover.) NJ's 3rd Common Ground-

ern Wheatears were present in Saint-Basile-le-Grand, QC 9/26–10/8 and Hartford, CT 10/1–4. There was a Worm-eating Warbler on the Avalon Peninsula, NL 9/15. QC's 1st Seaside



Green Violetear. *Perry County, Indiana; 2 October 2009.* © Todd and Angela Albin.

Sparrow was at Port-Daniel 9/20–22. A noteworthy 8 Clay-colored Sparrows were found on ME's Monhegan I. 10/2. A Brewer's Blackbird photographed 10/7 at Bergeronnes was one of few documented records for QC.

North-Central: A White Ibis was in Whitby, ON 10/3, and what may have been the same bird flew by Prince Edward Pt. 10/6. A Roseate Spoonbill was in *Fayette*, IL 9/22–10/2. Port Burwell, *Elgin* briefly hosted ON's 1st **Black-tailed Gull** 9/28–29. An early Glaucous Gull was at Carre-Hogle Park, *Racine*, WI 10/1. An Arctic Tern was found in *McLean*, ND 10/11. Long-tailed Jaegers were seen in *Lake*, OH, in *Douglas*, WI, at Whitefish Pt., MI, and at Carlyle L., IL. IN's 1st **Green Violetear** appeared briefly in *Perry* 10/2–3; another violetear, MI's 5th, was in *Kent*, 9/26. Headlands Beach SP, *Lake*, OH hosted a Vermilion Flycatcher 10/2. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at *Chippewa*, MI's Whitefish Pt. 10/8. Birders flocked to *Holmes*, OH 9/12–15 to see a Northern Wheatear. A Kirtland's Warbler was at East Harbor SP, *Erie*, OH 9/18.

South-Central: A Brown Booby was noted 10/1 from a fishing boat about 28 miles off Port Aransas, TX. A Sooty Shearwater was photographed 9/19 on a pelagic out of South Padre I., TX. A

Jabiru was discovered near San Benito, *Cameron*, TX 9/20. A dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk appeared over Estero Llano Grande SP, *Hidalgo*, TX 10/12. AR's 1st Red Phalarope in 20+ years was at Big Lake WMA, *Mississippi* 10/4–6. TX's trans-Pecos area hosted a Royal Tern 9/13 at

Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth*. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in TX's Chisos Mts. 9/29.

Mexico: A Pinnated Bittern was found on the Pacific Slope of Oaxaca near La Ventosa 9/30. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was photographed at Ensenada, BC 9/17. A 9/27 pelagic trip to waters off Salina Cruz, Oax. produced Red-footed and Brown Boobies, Sabine's Gull, and Black and Least Storm-Petrels. Three Pectoral Sandpipers and a Wood Stork were photographed 9/15 at Estero San José, BCS. While (successfully) searching for Altamira Yellowthroats near Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas, lucky birders stumbled across a Ruddy Crake. A juv. Sabine's Gull was photographed at the Cerro Prieto Geothermal Ponds, BC 9/24. A Banded Wren was observed feeding a fledgling Groove-billed Ani 8/28 just south of Tacambaro, Michoacán; this may be the first observed instance of brood parasitism by Groove-billed Ani. La Salina, BC hosted an Ovenbird 9/15. A Prairie Warbler was noted 10/4 near Nazanda, Oax., on the Pacific slope of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. A Prothonotary Warbler was at La Bufadora, BC 9/26; a Mourning Warbler was reported from El Rosario, BCS 4 days later. An Orchard Oriole was near Santo Tomás, BC 9/15.

Interior West: A male Dusky Grouse was a surprise in a Hillcrest, YT backyard 9/25; uncommon at treeline in southern YT, the species is exceptionally rare in the lowlands. A Blue-footed Booby spent 9/18 in *Yuma*, AZ. A Swallow-tailed Kite was in Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*, NM 9/19–20. A Short-tailed Hawk was seen 9/22 in AZ's Santa Catalina Mts., where a Broad-winged Hawk was photographed 4 days later. An Aplomado Falcon was located north of Hachita in *Grant*, NM 9/24. A juvenile Red Knot visited *Cochise*, AZ 9/11. Conchas Lake, NM held a Red Phalarope 9/10. Multiple Vaux's Swifts were noted in *Hidalgo*, NM. Single Ruddy Ground-Doves were in *Eddy*, NM 9/20 and *Yuma*, AZ



Apparent **Solander's Petrel.** *Off Tofino, British Columbia; 6 October 2009.* © Sharon Toochin.

in early Oct. A Common Ground-Dove turned up in NV. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Las Vegas, NV 9/21–25; others were in *Maricopa* and *Pima*, AZ. A Cave Swallow was in *Maricopa*, AZ 9/19. A **Red-throated Pipit** reported from Las Vegas 9/24 would be NV's 1st record if accepted. A Carolina Wren was in Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*, NM



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Franklin County, Washington; 30 August 2009. © Michael Woodruff.

9/20. Meanwhile, the congeneric **Sinaloa Wren** was still at Patagonia, AZ. Single **Rufous-backed Robins** turned up at Percha Dam SP, NM 10/10 and at Green Valley, AZ 10/2. NV's 4th **Blue-winged Warbler** was in Storey 9/19. A male **Golden-winged Warbler**, MT's 4th, was photographed at Ft. Peck 10/4. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was in Wasatch, UT 9/19. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was found in Washington, UT 9/29. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was in Cochise, AZ 10/6. An impressive list of vagrants recorded in NM included **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Eastern Wood-Pee-wee**, **Philadelphia** and **Yellow-throated Vireos**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and the following warblers: **Tennessee**, **Prairie**, **Kentucky**, **Worm-eating**, **Prothonotary**, and **Hooded**. Probably more common than records suggest, 6 **Le Conte's Sparrows** were found in Yuma, CO 10/3. Two **Rufous-winged Sparrows** were singing at Cochise, AZ's Fort Huachuca 10/6. An adult male **Baltimore Oriole** visited Maricopa, AZ 9/19. Perhaps a sign of the coming winter, Lawrence's

Goldfinches appeared in AZ's Santa Cruz Valley in mid-Sep.

Pacific Coast: **Blue-footed Boobies** were at Dana Point, Orange and Anacapa Island, Ventura, CA. What is likely Canada's 1st **Solander's Petrel** was photographed off Vancouver I., BC 10/6. A **Manx Shearwater** was in Lincoln, OR waters 9/12. A remarkable 900+ **Least Storm-Petrels** were off San Diego, CA 10/3, and an amazing 80 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were off San Luis Obispo, CA on

9/11. BC's 1st **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Rocky Point BO near Victoria 9/17. Continuing the season's excep-



Brown Shrike. Southeast Farallon Island, California; 24 September 2009. © Matt Brady.

tional numbers, single **Hudsonian Godwits** were in Humboldt and Mendocino, CA 9/19, and another tarried in Lincoln, OR through 9/18. Thousands

of **Ross's Gulls** were reported flying by Barrow, AK. OR's 1st **Chimney Swift** appeared in Linn 9/23, while another visited San Mateo, CA 9/19. Only HI's 3rd record, an **Eared Grebe** was at Kealia NWR, Maui in early Oct. Unusual migrants in Kahuku, Oahu, HI included a **Curlew Sandpiper** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Another **Bar-tailed Godwit** was in Humboldt, CA 9/24. Remarkably, a juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was photographed offshore in Monterey Bay, CA on 9/20. A very early **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen in Kelowna, BC in late Sep. AK's 2nd **Great Crested Flycatcher** was in Juneau in late Sep. A **Black Phoebe** was in Richmond, Greater Vancouver, BC 9/7–10/4. An **Eastern Phoebe** turned up in Deschutes, OR 10/5. Overlooked until photos were posted online, WA's

1st **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Windust Park, Franklin 8/30. A **Northern Wheatear** in Tillamook 9/17–19 provided OR with its 4th record. **Curve-billed Thrashers** were found in Los Angeles and Riverside, CA. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was in Mendocino, CA 9/26. Monterey, CA hosted a **Blue-winged Warbler** 10/10. A **Prairie Warbler** found in Tofino, Vancouver I., BC 9/28 stayed through 10/3+. A survey on Mt. Haleakala, Maui, HI turned up several very rare **Maui Parrotbills** and a number of 'Akohekohe. Vagrants found at SE Farallon I., CA included **Connecticut Warbler**, **Painted Bunting**, and **Brown Shrike**. The shrike, an adult female present 9/24–25, was the 3rd record for CA and the lower 48, but the 2nd record for SE Farallon I.; there is a Canadian record from NS. AK's Adak I. hosted **Dusky Warbler**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, and **Common Cuckoo**. A **Little Bunting** turned up at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., AK.